

Place Date Language Material Number of texts Type Collections Find/Acquisition	<p>Contracts of surety</p> <p style="text-align: right;">ArchID 47. Version 2 (2013) Willy Clarysse</p>
	<p>Arsinoites (Fayum), meris of Themistos 229-216 BC Demotic, often with a Greek abstract on the back Papyrus 69 certain; I uncertain. Many more fragments are still unpublished Official archive Paris, Sorbonne Extracted from mummy cartonnage found by Jouguet at Ghoran in 1901/1902</p>
<p>Bibliography</p>	<p>F. DE CENIVAL, <i>P. Lille Dem.</i> II, 1973, p. 136-220 (with a detailed juridical commentary).</p> <p>W. CLARYSSE, 'Notes on some Graeco-Demotic Surety-Contracts', <i>Enchoria</i> 8.2 (1978), p. 5-8.</p> <p>O. MONTEVECCHI, <i>La papirologia</i>, Milano, 1988², p. 249 no. 5a.</p> <p>W. CLARYSSE, 'Sureties in Fayum villages', in H. HARRAUER / R. PINTAUDI (eds.), <i>Gedenkschrift Ulrike Horak (Pap. Flor. 34)</i>, Firenze, 2004, p. 279-281.</p> <p>The numbers in bold refer to <i>P. Lille Dem.</i> II.</p>
<p>Description</p>	<p>The papyri were extracted from cartonnage of human mummies found by P. Jouguet in Ghoran in 1901-1902. They are preserved in the collection of the Sorbonne and can easily be recognised from their format: they are rather narrow (15 cm) and high. They are written in Demotic, in the form of double documents, with a short text above (1-5 lines) and a full text (up to 20 lines) below. After it was written the upper part was rolled and sealed (the lozenge-shaped hole through which the cord was drawn is often clearly visible between upper and lower part) and only the lower part (the <i>scriptura exterior</i>) remained legible. But when the texts were filed, the <i>scriptura interior</i> was perhaps opened; in any case no seals were found with the texts. It is not clear how the texts were kept in the archive. 51 was glued to the left of 50, which gives the impression of an early <i>tomos synkollesimos</i> ('pasted roll'), but none of the other texts shows any signs of being pasted to each other. Moreover, 50-51 are also special in that they are not double documents. Perhaps the other texts were just put together in a box.</p> <p>Seventy texts have thus far been published by H. SOTTAS (<i>P. Lille Dem.</i> I 6-11), F. de CENIVAL (<i>P. Lille Dem.</i> II) and H. CADELL (<i>P. Sorb.</i> I 35-37), but scores of fragments still await publication in the Sorbonne collection. Since many texts are incomplete, it is likely that joins will be possible between the published texts and the new fragments. A few joins between published fragments have already been made by CLARYSSE (2004).</p> <p>The texts are written in Demotic, but most of them have a short Greek text on the back, usually an abstract of the Demotic contract, containing the date, the names of the parties, the type of surety and the amount. The contracts are dated between 229 and 216 BC, but the great majority dates from years 19 to 26 of Ptolemy III (229-222 BC) (see App.). 65, of 236 BC, does not belong to the archive: it precedes the other contracts of surety by ten years and</p>

deals with Oxyryncha in the meris of Polemon, whereas the other texts all deal with the meris of Themistos.

The documents are all contracts of surety for people working in government controlled industries in several villages of the meris of Themistos. Most persons receiving surety are brewers, but some are also oil merchants and washermen. The people offering surety have different occupations (farmers, brewers, policemen, priests). There are two kinds of sureties: sureties for payment (ἔκτισις) usually concern small amounts of money (5 dr.), and sureties for permanence (μονή) i.e. for not running away, deal with larger sums (20 dr. and more). Quite often one person receives surety from many different colleagues and friends, e.g. the payment of Heregebthis, brewer in Apias, is guaranteed by at least seven sureties (six farmers and one herdsman), each for 5 dr., in Mecheir of year 23 = 24.

As usual with Demotic contracts the texts are written by means of a set of fixed formulas. The sureties address two officials, the *oikonomos* of the meris of Themistos (first Apollonios, later Aristokritos) and a ‘royal scribe’, who is sometimes called ‘scribe of the topoi’, no doubt the *topogrammateus* (see CLARYSSE, 1978). The archive was certainly kept by one of these two officials and the Greek abstracts on the back are written in his office.

Archive texts

P. Lille Dem. I 8, 10-11; *P. Lille Dem.* II 6-7 (= I 6-7), 9 (= I 9), 34-96 (except for 40, 42, 65 and 79; including several joins: 43+70, 47+72, 48+67, 56+59, 69+ p. 251 no. 1241); *P. Lille Dem.* II p. 250-257, no. 1200+1238, 1256, 1290, 1369, 1378 b; published Greek abstracts: *SB* III 6312-6313, XVI 12414-12416, XVIII 13635, XX 14524; *uncertain*: *P. Lille Dem.* II 40.

Text type

Contracts of surety = incoming documents.

Appendix

Chronological range of the contract of surety

