Acquired before 1908

## Psenesis son of Sokonopis, village scribe

ArchID 540. Version I (2013) Willy Clarysse

Place
Date
Language
Material
Number of texts
Type
Collections
Find/Acquisition

Arsinoites (Fayum), meris of Polemon, Tebtynis? 216-215 BC Demotic Papyrus 12 Official archive Cairo, Egyptian Museum

## **Bibliography**

A. MONSON, Agriculture and Taxation in Early Ptolemaic Egypt. Demotic Land Surveys and Account (P. Agri.), Bonn, 2012 = P. Agri. Dem.

I

## Description

Two large papyri and five fragments which entered more or less together in the Cairo museum before 1908 (without explicit origin), all written on both sides (see App.), contain land registers, accounts and tax lists from about 216-215 BC for the villages Tebtynis (?) and The-village-of-Semtheus. They clearly belong together as one group.

Accounts and lists registering land and persons for taxation purposes fit the functions of the village scribe. This is confirmed by the header of *P. Agri. Dem.* 1 and 4, which states that the texts were written by the village scribe Psenesis, son of Sokonopis. The texts are therefore internal documents belonging to an official archive, a Demotic counterpart to the well-known land lists written by the village scribes of Magdola and Kerkeosiris (ArchID 128 and 140).

The name of the main village for which Psenesis was responsible was read as *T3-'ny* by Monson and tentatively identified with Tanis. He therefore places the archive in the meris of Herakleides, near Philadelpheia. *T3-'ny* is an unexpected rendering of Tanis, however, and different from that in the other Demotic text where this village is mentioned (*JEA* 72 (1986), p. 161-162 and *P. Zen. Dem.* 9 and 10; see Monson 2012, p. 61). One would expect an Egyptian town like Tanis to keep its proper Egyptian name *D'n.t* when becoming a Fayum village. Moreover, the personal names Paophis and Sokonopis, which are the most popular name in these lists, are also far more common in Tebtynis and the surrounding villages than in the meris of Herakleides. I therefore prefer Spiegelberg's original reading of the placename as *T3-Tn(y)*, i.e. Tebtynis. A similar orthography is often found in the divine name *Sbk-nb-t3-Tn* (e.g. *Rev. d'Eg.* 60 (2009), p. 160-161). Many papyri in *P. Cairo dem.* II do indeed come from Tebtynis.

Archive texts

P. Agri. Dem. 1-12.

Text types

Lists of land and persons; accounts = internal documents.

Appendix

Survey of the texts

Papyri	P. Agri.	Type of text	Villages
Pap. 1	1 (recto) 2 (verso) 3 (verso; upside down)	survey of royal land accounts + land survey survey of cleruchic land	T3-Tny and P3-`.wy-Sm3- t3.wy
Pap. 2	4 (recto) 5 (verso)	report of crops and rents accounts concerning land	T3-Tny and P3-`.wy-Sm3- t3.wy
Pap. 3	6 (recto and verso)	accounts of seed	P3-`.wy-Sm3-t3.wy
Pap. 4	7 (recto) 8 (verso)	summary of crops tax list for salt tax	
Pap. 5	9 (recto and verso)	house-to-house register	P3-`.wy-Sm3-t3.wy
Pap. 6	10 (recto) 11 (verso)	land and rents in kind register of payments by women	
Pap. 7	12 (recto and verso)	register of payments by women	