Diophanes, governor (strategos) of the Arsinoite nome

ArchID 71. Version 2 (2013) Willy Clarysse

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

Arsinoites (Fayum), Krokodilopolis
222-221 BC
Greek
Papyrus
4 certain, I uncertain
Archive of an official (mixed private - official)

London, British Library; Dublin, Trinity College

Extracted from mummy cartonnage found by Petrie at Gurob in 1889

Bibliography

N. Lewis, Greeks in Ptolemaic Egypt. Case studies in the Social History of the Hellenistic world, Oxford, 1986, p. 56-68.

I

The numbers in **bold** refer to *P. Petr.* III.

Description

Diophanes, *strategos* of the Arsinoite nome between 222 and 218 BC (*Pros. Ptol.* I and VIII 247), is known from three different archives: the petitions (*enteuxeis*) and correspondence of Glaukos, the policeman of Mouchis (ArchID 384), the *enteuxeis* from Magdola (ArchID 80) and a small group of Petrie papyri, found at Gurob in 1889, which are discussed here. Both the *enteuxeis* from Magdola and the Petrie papyri were addressed to and no doubt also kept by Diophanes, but they followed separate ways and should be considered separate archives. The online database of the Prosopographia Ptolemaica lists no less than 171 references to this official, whose activities were studied by Lewis.

With one exception (**28 e**, exact provenance unknown, now in Trinity College, Dublin) the Petrie papyri come from the same mummy case, as appears from the consecutive numbers (H 123-125, 129) in *P. Petrie* II. They all date from years 25 (222 BC) and 26 (222-221 BC) of Ptolemy III.

28 a, b and c are addressed to Diophanes, who is called *strategos* in 28 a and in the docket of 28 c. The petition 28 a concerning problems with the lease of a *kleros* in Euhemereia, accompanies an *enteuxis* to the king; 28 b is an official letter by Moschion, no doubt a village *epistates*, concerning another *enteuxis* to the king. 28 c and 28 d are letters of introduction for a certain Asklepiades. Dioskourides, the son of Diophanes, is the writer of 28 c and he is mentioned in 28 d, as are Diophanes' anonymous daughter and grandchildren.

The position of **28 e** is less clear: the petition to Diophanes about a nightly robbery is imbedded in a covering letter, of which only the final greeting and the address on the verso are preserved. This letter is addressed to Moschion, no doubt the same person as in **28 a**. If the text belongs to the archive of Diophanes, Moschion passed it on to him. It is unclear who wrote the notes, with a list of people accused of crimes, on the verso.

The backs of **28 b** and **28 c** contain a full docket, with Greek and Macedonian dates, name of the sender and subject, very similar to what is found on the back of the *enteuxeis* of Magdola. As the dockets are written on the same day (Apellaios 11 = Pharmouthi 6), the archive may have been ordered chronologically.

Archive texts

P. Petr. III 28 a (= P. Petr. II 2 (1) = Chrest. Wilck. 337); 28 b (= P. Petr. II 2 (2) = Chrest. Mitt. 22); 28 c (= P. Petr. II 2 (3)); 28 d (= P. Petr. II 2 (4)); uncertain: 28 e (= Chrest. Mitt. 45).

Text types

Petitions (2, of which 1 uncertain), official letter (1), letters of introduction (2) = incoming documents, except for $\mathbf{28} \ \mathbf{e} = \mathbf{outgoing} \ \mathbf{document}$.