Archive of Euphron

Kynopolites
199 – 150 BC
Greek
Papyrus
3 certain, 1 uncertain
Official correspondence
Princeton, University
Egypt, 1920's by Garrett

Bibliography

Description

Four Ptolemaic letters in the Princeton collection are addressed to a certain Euphron. Three were bought in Egypt in the 1920's by R.Garrett. These three are very fragmentary, but clearly belong together. Euphron is apparently an official, who dockets his incoming correspondence, but the papyri are too fragmentary to see what his function was. No dates are preserved and the texts are dated on palaeographical grounds to the first half of the second century BC. SB XX 14186 mentions rebels (apostatai) and the Kynopolite nome. For this reason it is tempting to link Euphron with Hakoris son of Hergeus, the Egyptian leader who lined up with the Ptolemies during the great revolt and called his son Euphron, the Greek rendering of this father's name¹. Though *P.Princ*. II 119 deals with family and business matters, it belongs to the same collection and to the same period. Moreover the letter is written against the fibres in a fine official hand (as are SB XX 14184 and 14185) and its author Pasinous may well be identical with the eponymous officer of that name who was active in the Hermopolites in the mid second century BC. In that case the private elements could point to a close relationship between two leading men of the area.

¹ For this man and his family, see now W. CLARYSSE, Hakoris, an Egyptian nobleman and his family, AncSoc. 22 (1991), pp.235-243.