

Katelij n Vandorpe/Willy Clarysse/Herbert Verreth: *Graeco-Roman Archives from the Fayum*. Leuven/Paris/Bristol, CT: Peeters 2015 (Collectanea Hellenistica 6). 496 pp. € 105.00. ISBN: 978-90-429-3162-6.

In this volume, Katelij n Vandorpe, Willy Clarysse and Herbert Verreth reconstruct and present 145 archives from the Fayum dating from the Graeco-Roman period up to 400 AD. Most of the archives examined are Greek, but also included are five Demotic, twenty-one bilingual Greek-Demotic, and seven bilingual Greek-Latin archives. These archives have been also uploaded to Trismegistos, the online database dedicated to texts from Late Period Egypt.

The book consists of two main parts: an introduction (15–30) and an individual presentation for each of the 145 archives of the Fayum (31–455). The presentation of the archives is followed by an index of archive types (456–458), an index of places of origin (459–462), an index of Greek, Demotic and bilingual archives (463), an index of personal names (464–493), and a table of concordance between the archives and their ArchID numbers (494–496).

In the introduction, the authors present the essential criteria for reconstructing and classifying the collected archives. For the purposes of this volume, they define an archive as ‘a deliberate collection of papers in antiquity by a single person, family, community (e.g. of priests) or around an office’ (16). Each archive consists of at least three texts. Following the principle that archives should be called after their last holder, the authors call the archives of the Fayum by their common names or rename them where these common names are incorrect.

The introduction also provides a typology of the Fayum Archives, establishing three different categories of classification:

- I) archives of a private nature (including private archives, private correspondence, family archives, professional archives);
- II) archives of an official nature (consisting of official archives, official correspondence);
- III) archives of a miscellaneous nature (encompassing temple archives, temple library archives, tax receipts archives, legal archives).

Special attention is paid to the types of documents held by private persons and officials. These documents are divided into three categories:

- I) incoming documents, which are addressed to or destined for the archive holder;
- II) outgoing documents, such as letters or petitions written by the archive holder;
- III) internal documents, such as petitions that may have been returned to the archive holder after a decision has been made.

The introduction also indicates the different contexts in which the Fayum archives were discovered – residential, temple and cemetery areas – and the role of illicit trade in the dissemination of the archives. Below we use these contexts to organize a presentation of significant archives.

Excavation in residential areas produced a considerable portion of the papyrus and ostraca archives. Between 1924 and 1936, Michigan excavations at the Kom Aushim (Karanis) residential area brought to light the following Roman archives: the family archives of Gemellus Horion, Pakysis' descendants, (Gaii) Iulii Sabinus and Apollinarius, and Satabous son of Pnepheros; the private archives of Peeous son of Ptolemaios and Pnepherous son of Petheus; the private correspondence of Claudius Tiberianus; official archives of the threshold papyri and of tax rolls; the tax receipts archive of Ammonios son of Papeis; and the archive of Sokrates, a tax collector. In 1909, a professional ostraca archive belonging to the Ptolemaic period was found in Gharabet el-Gerza. In 1899/1900, the family archive of Sarapias and Sarapammon dating from the Roman period was found during excavations of Bernard Grenfell and Arthur Hunt in Umm el-Baragat (Tebtunis) as were Ptolemaic period archives: the family archive of the priest Sokonopis son of Sioueris and the professional archive of the oil seller Phanesis. In 1898/1899, the professional archive of Epagathos, an estate manager of the Roman period, was discovered during an excavation by the same archaeologists in a household rubbish dump in Qasr el-Banat (Euhemeria). In 1903, native diggers found two Roman period archives: the family archive of Sakaon and the professional archive of Heroninos, an estate manager, in a rubbish dump near houses in Batn el-Harit. In 1934, Roman private archives of Diogenis daughter of Lysimachos, Kronion son of Cheos, Pakebkis' descendants, and Patron's descendants as well as the professional archive of Turbo, an estate manager, were uncovered from the rubbish of the 'cantina dei papiri' in the Umm el-Baragat (Tebtunis) residential area.

By comparison, archives originating from a temple area are very limited in number, and these date from both the Ptolemaic and Roman periods. In 1895/1896, an official archive of Akousilaos, head of the granary of Bakchias, was found in the temple of Kom el-Atl (Bakchias). In 1931, native diggers discovered the temple library archive of Tebtunis. In 1938 and 2006, Italian excavations produced two temple archives in the temple of Narmouthis in Medinet Madi.

Finally, archives found in a cemetery area date from the Ptolemaic period. These archives were discovered in tombs, such as the tax receipts archive of Lautanis son of Petesouchos found in 1935 in Umm el-Baragat in mummies of humans and crocodiles. Archives in mummified crocodiles were found by Grenfell and Hunt at the same place in 1899/1900. Most of these archives are official (belonging to chief constables of Kerkeosiris, Ptolemaic *grapheion* of Tebtunis, village heads of Kerkeosiris, a village scribe of Magdola, and village scribes of Kerkeosiris). An exception is a single private archive belonging to Maron son of Dionysios of Kerkeosiris.

Fayum archives discovered in the cartonnage of human mummies merit their own classification by date and place of discovery as well as the diggers' names:

- I) In 1889, Sir William Matthew Flinders Petrie found at Gurob official archives of Python, royal banker at Krokodilopolis; Aphthonetos, governor of the Arsinoite nome; Charmos, an agent of the *oikonomos* Asklepiades and the Greek court of the Arsinoites; Kleon and Theodoros, engineers at the Arsinoite nome; and Diophanes, governor at the same nome. Also found was the legal archive of Lamiske wife of Parmeniskos.
- II) In 1901/1902, Pierre Jouguet discovered at Ghoran official correspondence of Aristarchos, head of the *nomarchia*, and Tesenouphis, district head, as well as official archives of Diogenes, head of the *nomarchia*, and contracts of surety and petitions from the office of the village head.
- III) In the same period, Jouguet found at Medinet an official archive of petitions from Magdola and official correspondence of Nektenibis, village head of Kaminoi. At Ghoran or Magdola, Jouguet also found an official archive of Pankrates, head of the *syntaxis* of the katoikic cavalrymen at the Arsinoite nome.
- IV) In 1901, Grenfell and Hunt discovered at Rubbayat official correspondence of Hermolaos, *oikonomos*, or his agent Apollonios at the same nome.

v) In 1899/1900, Grenfell and Hunt found at Umm el-Baragat official correspondence of Adamas, director of the granary, and official archives of granary directors of the Herakleides meris and the village administration of Oxyryncha.

vi) In 1900, Jouguet found at El-Lahun an official archive of the granary of Pyrreia.

It is noteworthy that a considerable number of cartonnage with official Ptolemaic Fayum archives were bought in 1935 from Maurice Nahman and in the 1970s and 1980s from Anton Fackelmann. Most of these are official archives (the official archives of Apollonios, *oikonomos*; Diagoras and Beroties, directors of the granary of Magais; Dionysodoros, subordinate of the *oikonomos*; granary directors of Oxyryncha; Heliodoros and Apollonios, directors of the granary; Heliodoros, in charge of the oil tax; Peteharpsenesis, director of the granary of Tebtunis; and Peteminis, district scribe; also, tax collectors' registers of the meris of Themistos; and Trophitis notarial archive). Very few are legal archives (that of Menches, goldsmith), tax receipts (that of Pasis son of Semtheus), official correspondence (that of Pnephoros, village head), or private archives (that of Petosiris, falcon breeder).

Fayum archives obtained from illicit trade were partly bought through the Anglo-American cartel in the 1920s. These archives date from the Roman period and belong to the following categories:

- I) family archives (of Aion son of Sarapion and Valerius son of Antiourios, Aurelius Isidoros son of Ptolemaios, Lucretius Diogenes and Aurelius Sarapion, and Harthotes and his brother Marsisouchos, public farmers);
- II) private archives of Aurelia Tetoueis daughter of Hatres and Ptolemaios of Diodoros;
- III) the family correspondence of Saturnila and her sons;
- IV) the legal archive of the Isidoros versus Tryphon lawsuit;
- v) the archive of an official called Kronion son of Apion, head of the *graphbeion* of Tebtunis.

Following the introduction's classifications of the material, the second part of the book is dedicated to the study of the archives themselves. The archives are organized alphabetically by name, and each is presented following the place of discovery, the date, the language, the material, the number of texts, the type, the collection, date of acquisition, and a related bibliography followed by thorough description of the archive. As a result, socio-cultural, economic, and linguistic aspects are briefly mentioned.

In sum, the book is the result of a rigorous, accurate and difficult effort to systematically gather and reconstruct dispersed texts from the Fayum. As such, it offers a useful tool for scholars dealing with papyrological and Egyptological research from both a philological and historical point of view. However, we regret the lack of explanation for the absence of relevant bibliographical references for some records.

---

Hélène Perdicoyianni-Paléologou, Boston, MA  
hperdicpal@gmail.com

**www.plekos.de**

Empfohlene Zitierweise

Hélène Perdicoyianni-Paléologou: Rezension zu: Katelijn Vandorpe/Willy Clarysse/Herbert Verreth: *Graeco-Roman Archives from the Fayum*. Leuven/Paris/Bristol, CT: Peeters 2015 (*Collectanea Hellenistica* 6). In: *Plekos* 20, 2018, 421–425 (URL: <http://www.plekos.uni-muenchen.de/2018/r-vandorpe.pdf>).

---