



Ain Shams University

Faculty of Arts

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# **Unpublished Greek Documentary Papyri from the Egyptian Museum**

## **Study and Investigation**

A THESIS

SUBMITTED FOR THE AWARD OF THE M.A. DEGREE

BY

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**DEDICATED TO THE SOUL OF MY FATHER**

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## ABSTRACT

During the fall of 1924, the University of Michigan's excavations took place at Karanis (KomAushim). The excavations continued for eleven seasons. Hundreds of the papyri found at Karanis were transferred to the Rare Book Collection of the University's Harlan Hatcher Graduate Library, in Ann Arbor city, Michigan, USA<sup>1</sup>. A large number of the University of Michigan collection returned back to Egypt and has been kept in the Egyptian Museum in Cairo.

From the collection of the Michigan papyri in the Egyptian Museum, I have edited 10 previously unpublished Greek documents offering an introduction, transcription of the text, English translation and extensive commentary for each papyrus. They are chronologically extended from the second to the fifth century CE.

- 1. Register of Land and Payments = P. Cair. Mich. II 19:** (135-185 CE) It shows one column, numbered 47. It contains a list of names in non-alphabetical order followed by the land size. It contains 16 incomplete lines. The verso has poor remains of two columns with names and perhaps amounts of artabae with the typically added fractions. It contains 19 incomplete lines. Both sides, written by the same hand, which is

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<sup>1</sup>Detailed information about the collection can be found in <http://www.lib.umich.edu/papyrology-collection/papyrology-collection-history> also <http://www.umich.edu/~kelseydb/Exhibits/Karanis83/KaranisExcavation/KaranisPerspective.html>



identical with the hand of Socrates, the tax-collector in Karanis.

2. **Proposal to Lease Olive and Vineyard:** (2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> century CE) It consists of 21 incomplete lines. It contains agreement between the lessor and the lessee about the yearly works and the rent.
3. **Letter Written by a Woman = P. Cair. Mich. II 20:** (2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> century CE) The preserved part is a conclusion of the letter, in which the sender extends her greetings to her family and may be her acquaintances. It contains eleven lines on the recto. The verso contains three lines: the name of the sender, part of the addressee name.
4. **Petition concerning Epikrisis for Membership of the Gymnasium:** (264-265 or 273-274 CE). The text consists of 13 incomplete lines. It is addressed to Marcus Aurelius Achilleus, alias Ammonius, a former Kosmetes by the declarant (the father of the boy) to select his son to the gymnasium.
5. **List of Names:** (3<sup>rd</sup> century CE) It preserves 16 incomplete lines. It contains Egyptian names, Roman names, Greek names and a Jewish name. The names don't follow alphabetical order.
6. **Contract concerning Catoecic Land and Vineyard:** (3<sup>rd</sup> century CE) It might be a lease or sale. The text consisted of fourteen incomplete lines.
7. **Sale of House:** (3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> century CE) It is a sale of a house, located in the district of the Sekneptynion at

Arsinoe. The document consists of nine incomplete lines.

8. **Account?:** (3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> century CE) It could be an account of corn and bread. It preserves twelve incomplete lines.
9. **Official Letter:** (early 4<sup>th</sup> century CE); It consists of 5 complete lines and an incomplete line. It is addressed from Aurelius Posidonius, a councilor, *prytanis* in office of the city of Arsinoe to Aurelius Geron, *kosmetes*, *eutheniarches* of the same city to ask him to take care of the person who will receive hundred *modii* of the wheat and will deliver forty baskets of something mentioned in the lost part of the papyrus.
10. **Letter to a Monk? = P. CairMich II 24:** (4-5<sup>th</sup> century CE); It preserves 8 incomplete lines. The language and the content of the letter put it into the cultural environment of the archives of P. Lond. 6 and P. Nephros. It is addressed from a person to a venerated man (a monk?) to remember him into his prayers. He also asks him to send 6 mules.

I have published three documents in P. Cair. Mich. II, Texts from the Archive of Socrates, the tax collector and other contexts at Karanis, APF-B 35, 2014: P. Cair. Mich. II 19, Register of Land and Payments, pp.100-106; P. Cair. Mich. II 20, Letter Written by a Woman, pp.107-110; P. Cair. Mich. II 24, Letter to a Monk?, pp.128-132.

The “Letter to a Monk?” is also published in BACPSI, The Third International Congress “The mutual Influence Between The Ancient Civilizations”, pt.3, Cairo, 2012, pp.13-17.

## PAPYROLOGICAL CONVENTIONS USED IN PUBLICATION

$\alpha(\beta\gamma)$	Modern expansion of an abbreviation
$[\alpha\beta\gamma]$	Text lost, restored by the editor
[.....]	Up to 8 characters lost, cannot be restored
$[\pm 4]$	Approximate number of characters lost, cannot be restored
$\langle\alpha\beta\gamma\rangle$	Characters erroneously omitted by the scribe, added by modern editor
$\backslash\alpha\beta\gamma/$	Text added above the line in antiquity
$\{\alpha\beta\gamma\}$	Superfluous letters removed by the editor
$\text{.}\alpha\beta\gamma$	Underdotted by editor to indicate characters ambiguous outside of context, characters damaged, illegible or otherwise uncertain
$\llbracket\alpha\beta\gamma\rrbracket$	Characters deleted in antiquity
vac.	Space left empty
.....	Up to 8 characters illegible
-- -- -- --	Break in papyrus, resulting in unknown number of lost lines

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