

More Texts from the Archive of Socrates

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More Texts from the Archive of Socrates

Papyri from House 17, Level B, and Other Locations
in Karanis (P. Cair. Mich. III)

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Table of Content

Preface.....	VII
Introduction.....	IX
 A Literary Texts from House B17 and its Environment	
1. Homer, <i>Iliad</i> A 91–96 (House B9)	3
2. Homer, <i>Iliad</i> A 159–167 (House B12)	5
3. Homer, <i>Iliad</i> B 734–759 (House B25)	7
4. Homer, <i>Iliad</i> Δ 356–399 (Houses B2 and B12)	11
5. Homer, <i>Iliad</i> Φ 207–216; 251–262 (House B9)	15
6. Demosthenes, <i>De corona</i> 242–243 (Street BS2)	19
7. Two New Fragments of P. Cair. Mich. II 5: List of Comedies and Satyr-Plays (House B17 and Street BS1)	21
 B Documentary Texts from House B17 and its Environment	
8. Two Wills of Petheus the Elder (House B17)	31
9. Offer to Lease Land (Street BS1)	47
10. Declaration of Mutual Liability Addressed to the <i>Strategos</i> as Part of the Preparations for Hadrian’s Visit to Egypt: New Fragments to P. Cair. Mich. II 14 (House B17).....	53
11. Petition to the Prefect Marcus Petronius Honoratus (or Marcus Petronius Mamertinus) from a Woman from the Arsinoïte Nome (House B17)	61
12. A Revenue Report (to be Made Public ?) (House B17).....	65
13. Lease of Female Pigs between Polion and Sempronius Gemellus, Written by the Hand of Socrates, Registered in the Grapheion of Karanis (House B17)	73
14. Letter to the Tax Collectors of Ptolemais Nea (House B17)	79
15. Petition to the Prefect about Release from a Liturgy (House B17)	85
16. List of Names (House B17)	93
17. Dating from the End of an Official Document (House B17).....	101
18. Declaration of Uninundated Land (Street BS1).....	103
19. A Receipt for ναύβιον κατοίκων and ἀριθμητικὸν κατοίκων (House B17)	109
20. Receipt for Rent of a Date-Palm Orchard, “παραδεικοφοινικῶν” (House B17)	115

21. Extract from a Census Declaration with εἰκονισμός (House B17)	121
22. Offer to Lease Grain Land (Street BS1)	127
23. List of Workers in the Vineyards (of Socrates?) (House B17)	131
24. List of Cleruchs of the 94th Cleruchy (House B17)	137
25. Proceedings of a Meeting of the Boule (of Arsinoe?) (House B17)	139
26. Letter to the Scribes of the Metropolis (House B17)	143

C Documents from Other Locations in Karanis

27. Application for Registration of Membership into the Metropolitans Lower Tax-Rate Class, in Arsinoe (?) (152*)	149
28. Household (or Temple?) Accounts Concerning Grain and Bread (House 25)	155
29. List of Catoecic Land and Vineyards (130*)	161
30. Sale of a House Located in Arsinoe (165*)	167

D Semi-Literary Texts from House B17 and its Environment

31. Oracle Question to the God Soxis Pnephros (House 9)	175
32. Letter of L..es Addressed to Saturnilus or Saturnila (Street BS1)	179
33. Draft of a Private Letter by the Goldsmith (?) Sarapion (House B17) ..	183

Bibliography	189
Indexes	201

Preface

This new volume of Michigan Papyri housed in the Egyptian Museum at Cairo was planned from the beginning to be an edition of texts produced in collaboration with young Egyptian students and scholars. It follows P. Cair. Mich. II that appeared in 2015.

Just as in the first volume, the Michigan papyri published in this volume were excavated by American archaeologists around 1926 in Karanis, went to America as was the custom in those days, and returned to Egypt in the early 50s of the last century. In a cupboard in the Papyrological Rooms of the Museum, they remained nearly untouched until 2010.

When Cornelia Römer started the project in 2010, Mohamed Gaber El-Maghrabi (now University of Marsa Matrouh) joined the team in editing the papyri and as a co-editor of the volumes. Young scholars and students from Ain Shams University, Cairo University, and Mansoura University worked on documentary and literary texts, enhancing their abilities by participating in this international project. Some of them, but not all, had already been part of the team for Volume II. The German Academic Exchange Service in Cairo (DAAD) installed Cornelia Römer as a Professor of Papyrology at Ain Shams University between 2012 and 2019.

Thanks are due to His Excellency, the Minister of Antiquities, Khaled el-Anany, and to the director of the Egyptian Museum in Cairo, Sabah el-Razek, who both followed the work on the Michigan papyri over the last 4 years with great interest. Khalifa Abdel-Qader, head of the papyrological laboratory in the museum, provided support where he could. The tireless team of young restorers of the Museum cleaned and prepared the papyri for glassing under the supervision of Momen Othman, head of papyrus restoration in the Museum. To all of them we are extremely grateful.

This volume could not have been written without the generous support of the German Archaeological Institute in Cairo, which gave Cornelia Römer an office in their premises and provided means for the restoration of the papyri. To that institution, and to its director, Stephan Seidlmayer, thanks are due for the encouragement and the interest in the material. To Huseein el-Zeneiny go our sincere thanks for helping with the logistics of the project in the museum.

In the present volume, Mohamed Gaber El-Maghrabi compiled the index, and Haytham Qandeil assembled the bibliography. William Graham Claytor contributed No. 8.1. We are furthermore deeply indebted to Ute Terletzki, who gave the manuscript its neat and gracious appearance.

Last, but not least, we are grateful to Gabriella Messeri and Rodney Ast for giving ideas and advice in readings and interpretation. To the editors of the *Beihefte zum Archiv für Papyrusforschung*, in particular to Bärbel Kramer, go our sincere thanks.

We are proud of having finished this book despite the health crisis which hit the world whether in Egypt or in Europe in 2020.

We dedicate this volume to the progress of Papyrology in Egypt.

November 2020

Mohamed Gaber El-Maghrabi
Cornelia Eva Römer

Introduction

When we published *P. Cair. Mich. II* in 2015, we were happy to present a majority of texts in that volume which had been found by the University of Michigan excavators of Karanis in House B17, Room F (House 17, Level B, Room F). That house was of particular interest to us because it had produced a combination of literary and documentary texts referring with some likelihood to a known individual. In the title and in the introduction to *P. Cair. Mich. II*, we dared to call those texts “Texts from the ‘Archive’ of Socrates the Tax Collector”, since House 17 had been identified – by the texts previously discovered there – as the dwelling of a certain Socrates, tax collector at Karanis in the 2nd century CE.¹ We used the word “archive” with quotation marks in the book; the quotation marks made it into the title page, but did not make it onto the cover.

It seems therefore appropriate to return briefly to that title and the question whether the group of papyri found in House B17 should be called an archive. The meaning of the word “archive”, and how it should be used in a papyrological context, has been much discussed in recent years. “Archives” are those groups of papyri that have been deliberately selected and collected by an individual in antiquity;² this is one unanimously accepted interpretation of the word. The papyri excavated in House B17, in particular in Room F, and in the streets and houses around B17 do indeed show a homogeneity of dates and contents, which seems to preclude that they were blown into that location by chance over many years. They may have been gathered elsewhere at some point and then dumped together in House B17, but the fact remains that most of them can be dated to the wider middle of the 2nd century CE (with few exceptions, see below), many of them deal with issues related to taxation in the eastern Fayoum, and some had certainly been in the possession of Socrates the tax collector himself or members of his family. This was already known, when P. van Minnen published his article ‘House-to-House Enquiries’ in *ZPE* 100 of 1994, 227–251, where he assigned House 17 to Socrates and his family. The evidence produced in *P. Cair. Mich. II* did not contra-

¹ The connection between the archaeological evidence of that house and the papyri found therein was first made by van Minnen 1994 ‘House-to-House Enquiries’ 237–249.

² So Verhoogt 2012 ‘Papyri in the Archaeological Context’ 507; cf. Vandorpe 2009 ‘Archives and Dossiers’ 216–255. See also Stephan/Verhoogt 2005 ‘Text and Context in the Archive of Tiberianus’; Nevett 2011 ‘Family and Household, Ancient History and Archaeology’; Landvatter 2016 ‘Archaeological and Papyrological Inquiry at Karanis’. G. Claytor continues to call this group of papyri the “dossier” of the family of Socrates; see No. 8.1 with note 2.

dict van Minnen's interpretation, nor do the new texts of P. Cair. Mich. III reveal an essentially different background. Most striking is No. **13** in this new volume, a lease contract between a certain Polion, son of Socrates, and Sempronius Gemellus, the brother of Socrates' wife, regarding 6 female pigs. The first objective part of the contract was most likely written by the hand that has been identified as the hand of Socrates himself; on the basis of the subscription issued in the grapheion of Karanis the contract can be dated to around 150 CE, a date which fits the history of Socrates and his family perfectly.

Articles dealing with the problems of "archives" have on the one hand focussed on the question, whether the papyri were collected deliberately by someone in antiquity, be it in a personal or a public capacity, – and therefore rightly called archives, and on the other hand, they have raised the question, whether we can infer from the findspot of such texts that the person predominantly featuring in the texts lived in the same place, where the papyri were found. To get a clearer picture for House 17, it may help to disconnect these two questions. There is a good chance that the papyri of the "archive" of Socrates were once collected by that person (and his family). So far there are several texts that were written either by Socrates himself,³ addressed to him, or mentioning him.⁴ The complete archive of Socrates – if it existed and if, indeed, he kept an archive, which he as a tax collector is likely to have done – has not been found yet but we have a part of it, and we would like to have more. Whether the group of texts found in House B17 ended up in that Room F while people still lived in the house – whether the descendants of Socrates or any other family – is impossible to know. In *Graeco-Roman Archives from the Fayum* of 2015 (edd. Vandorpe/Clarysse/Verreth) the archive has the identification mark ArchID 109 (pp. 373–378). The editors counted 29 texts as certainly belonging to the archive of Socrates and his family, and 8 uncertain texts. The time range for that archive has been established as 142–185 CE. With P. Cair. Mich. III the number of texts securely belonging to the archive can be augmented by at least one. 19 other texts published in this volume are probably part of the archive, based on their findspots, their dates, and their relevance for tax issues.

To come to the second question: it will never be known with certainty whether the filing of these texts was carried out in House B17, and this was, therefore, the house of Socrates himself.⁵ I would, nevertheless, stress the fact that House B17 was built in a location within the village of Karanis which would fit the high social

³ See van Minnen 1994 'House-to-House Enquiries' 244–245. To these, the first part of P. Cair. Mich. III **13** should be added; cf. the introduction to No. **13** with footnote 1 in this volume.

⁴ Vandorpe/Clarysse/Verreth 2015 *Graeco-Roman Archives from the Fayum* 374.

⁵ The idea that Socrates was residing in House B2 opposite House B17 and used B17 as his office, as proposed by van Minnen 1998 'Boorish or Bookish' 133, has to be ruled out now, because the Socrates mentioned in a text found in B2 is of a later date; see Hagedorn 2008 'Sokrates und Asklepiades, Praktoren in Karanis'.

standing of Socrates very well:⁶ B17 stood in the north-western part of Karanis, at an elevated position in relation to the surrounding village. Since the wind in the Fayoum mostly blows from the west or north-west, this part of the village would have received the fresh air first, and would have been untouched by the smells and the smog from the workshops in the south. This was the quarter which one would have desired to live in, as long as one could afford it. The fact that the testaments of Petheus the elder (Nos. **8.1** and **2**) who bequeathed considerable wealth to his children one generation before Socrates was also found in House B17, may underline the high status of this residential area in Karanis.

The aim of the work leading to this new volume has been to collect as many texts as possible from House B 17 to add to the picture known so far.

P. Cair. Mich. III is – as was P. Cair. Mich. II – the result of an intensive collaboration of scholars and students in Alexandria and Cairo. However, the work in the Egyptian Museum in Cairo was carried out by me alone with the assistance of restorers and responsables there. In the following I try to publish as much information as possible about the presence of the papyri in the Egyptian Museum from House B17 and the area around it, how these papyri are stored now, and what is still to be done. The survey of papyri from House 17 housed in Ann Arbor has been carried out by P. van Minnen⁷ and S. Strassi.⁸

Over the last nine years I have opened c. 230 envelopes of P. Mich. in Cairo that were returned from Ann Arbor in 1953, but only in the last four years, that is after P. Cair. Mich. II was published, has it been possible to ask for special inventory numbers; I tried to focus on papyri coming from House B17.

Altogether, from 2010 to 2019 (with extensive interruptions which occurred for manifold reasons), I have been able to open far more than 50 envelopes of papyri that were found either in House B17 or in the Streets BS1 or BS2, the streets crossing in front of House B17. From within House 17, texts from Rooms E and F turned out, but nothing from Rooms B and G so far which had also yielded archaeological material.⁹

Some papyri belonging to a single inventory number were spread over several envelopes, so that the total of inventory numbers I have seen from B17 and the

⁶ About the high social status of Socrates see van Minnen 1994 ‘House-to-House Enquiries’ 246; Strassi 2001 ‘Le carte di Cωκράτης Cαπαπίωνος, πράκτωρ ἀργυρικῶν’ 1219.

⁷ Van Minnen 1994 ‘House-to-House Enquiries’ 237 calculated that c. 200 papyrus fragments were found in House B17; as we know now, many more came to light in that findspot since many inventory numbers include more than 5 pieces. Van Minnen discusses the archive thoroughly on pp. 237–251, and includes also the archaeological evidence from House B17; there were also faience figurines and ink pots found in Room F of that house, from where most of the papyri come. See below.

⁸ Strassi 2001 ‘Le carte di Cωκράτης Cαπαπίωνος, πράκτωρ ἀργυρικῶν’ 1215–1228.

⁹ See van Minnen 1994 ‘House-to-House Enquiries’ 250–251.

Streets BS1 and BS2 is 49 so far. Because of this distribution of certain inventory numbers over several envelopes I cannot claim that the following list is complete. Further envelopes with the same numbers perhaps still remain in the cabinet. I have been grateful for everything that came out of that cupboard.¹⁰

In the following list, inventory numbers containing texts that are out of the time-range of Socrates the tax collector are indicated with an *asterisk*; they may still belong to one of his descendants, or have remained in the files for unknown reasons (see in particular No. 8). The name of Socrates is highlighted in orange, wherever it appears in a text; dates are given in red, literary texts are highlighted in blue colour.

Inventory numbers coming from *B17, Room E* (3 inventory numbers):

- 4685** Unpublished; five fragments from lists; one is perhaps part of the ledger P. Cair. Mich. II 12 E + F from 170 CE (Glasses 282 + 283).
4792 = P. Cair. Mich. II 15 (Receipt for Rent, 148/149 CE); numerous small pieces remain unpublished (Glasses 63; 116; 117; 120);
4793 = P. Cair. Mich. III 13 (Lease of Female Pigs; family of Socrates; c.150 CE); from the same inventory number is SB VI 9496, a list of workers on the dykes (175–199 CE) that may belong to P. Cair. Mich. II 12 E + F (not found in the cupboard).

Inventory numbers coming from *B17, Room F* (35 inventory numbers):

- ***4686** = P. Mich. VIII 511 (Private Letter; 1st half of 3rd century; Glass 216).¹¹
 ***4687** = P. Cair. Mich. III 14 (Letter to the Tax Collectors; 152 or 175 CE); 21 (Extract from a Census Declaration; after 188 CE).¹²
4691 = P. Mich. VI 391 (Receipt; 139 CE; Glass 179; housed in Cairo, *pace* TM).
4702 = P. Mich. VIII 488 (Private Letter; 2nd century; Glass 216; housed in Cairo, *pace* TM).
4704 = P. Cair. Mich. III 12 (Revenue Report; 148–149 CE); 23 (List of Workers in the Vineyards; 2nd century CE).
4706 = SB VI 9430 (Receipt; 165 CE; was not found in the cupboard).
4707 Unpublished; two larger pieces belonging side by side; writing very faded (Glass 163).

¹⁰ A list of texts known as belonging to the archive before the publication of P. Cair. Mich. II and III is printed in *Graeco-Roman Archives from the Fayum* 378. It has to be stressed that envelopes in the cupboard in the Cairo Museum are not filed in numerical order.

¹¹ This is one of the three papyri to be dated outside the time-range of Socrates.

¹² This second text is certainly outside the time-range of Socrates.

- 4708** = P. Mich. VIII 506 (Letter addressed to **Socrates**; **2nd century CE**; glassed since long ago, not scanned).
- 4710** = P. Cair. Mich. II 13 (Register of Payment in Kind; **mid 2nd century CE**).
- 4712** = P. Cair. Mich. III 15 (Petition to the Prefect; **161–164 CE**); 16 (List of Names; 2nd century CE).
- 4713** = P. Cair. Mich. III 24 (List of Cleruchs; 2nd century CE).
- *4717** = P. Cair. Mich. III 8.1 + 2; some fragments remained in Ann Arbor: 4719 + 4719g1 + 4727e and g (Two Wills of Petheus; **82–96 CE**).¹³
- 4720** Unpublished; with the fibres two columns; list of names and artabai; against the fibres, 22 lines and lower margin (**2nd century CE**; Glass 166).
- 4722** = P. Cair. Mich. III 20 (Receipt for Rent of a Date-Palm Orchard; **169 CE**); 33 (Draft of a Private Letter; **2nd century CE**);
- 4725** Unpublished; six pieces, extensively eaten by worm; not in APIS catalogue (Glasses 161 + 164);
- 4726** = P. Mich. VIII 507 (Letter to **Socrates**; **2nd century CE**; glassed since long time ago, not scanned).
- 4730** = P. Cair. Mich. III 26 (Letter to the Scribes of the Metropolis; **later 2nd century CE**); the penthemeros certificate naming **Socrates** has the same inventory number: P. Mich. VI 419 (**162 CE**; in Ann Arbor).
- 4732** P. Mich. VI 367 (Declaration of Uninundated Land; **168 CE**; not found); unpublished are two small pieces (Glass 203).
- 4734** Unpublished; remains of 4 lines with the fibres (Glass 85).
- 4795** = P. Cair. Mich. II 3 (**Menander**, Epitrepontes); unpublished: numerous small pieces, (Glasses 87; 136; 148–152; 156–157); no further Menander, but pieces of a grammatical treatise (Glass 136) of which other parts remain unpublished in Ann Arbor (inv. 4793 + 4711).
- 4796** = P. Cair. Mich. II 1 (**Homer**, Iliad); 4 (**History or Fiction**).
- *4798** = P. Cair. Mich. II 2 (**Homer**, Iliad); P. Cair. Mich. III 11 (Letter to the Prefect; **147–148 CE**); P. Cair. Mich. III 25 (Proceedings of the *Boule*; early 3rd century CE).¹⁴
- 4799** = P. Cair. Mich. II 12 F (Ledger, part of P. Mich. VI 380; **170 CE**); belonging most likely to SB VI 9496 that was not found in the cupboard; of the same inventory number is P. Mich. VII 449, Latin = C. Pap. Lat. 317, not found; numerous small fragments, many of them belonging to P. Cair. Mich. II 12 (Glasses 209 + 211–213); see below for **4697** that was found in Street **BS1**.
- 4800** Unpublished; four small pieces, none of them belonging to the Menander roll (as some pieces in Ann Arbor do), but perhaps to the other pieces of the same inventory number in Ann Arbor (Glass 54).

¹³ Outside the time-range of Socrates.

¹⁴ Only this last piece is outside the time-range of Socrates.

- 4801** = SB VI 9242c and 9242d (Assignment of Uncultivated Land; 2nd century CE; Glass 79); no other fragments that might belong to the Menander roll as many fragments of that inventory number in Ann Arbor do.
- 4802** Unpublished; **a**: 11 fragments, some of them belonging together (Glass 210); **b**: 21 pieces, all insignificant (Glass 219); **c**: 16 fragments, some of them most likely belonging together; two very small pieces likely to come from the Menander roll (Glass 195); **d**: 13 insignificant pieces (Glass 221); **e**: 7 insignificant pieces (Glass 220); **f**: 13 insignificant pieces (Glass 218); **g**: 15 insignificant pieces (Glass 224); **h**: not found; **i**: 10 insignificant pieces (Glass 225); **j–k**: not found; **l**: numerous very small fragments (Glass 230); all 2nd century CE.
- 4803** = Menander, Epitrepontes, ZPE 196, and five other small pieces (Glass 194). Menander, Epitrepontes ZPE ? 2021, forthcoming (Glass 188); P. Cair. Mich. III 7 = P. Cair. Mich. II 5 (List of Titles of Satyr-Plays, and two more substantial documentary pieces; Glass 86); numerous small pieces (Glasses 191; 192; 208).
- 4804** = Menander, Epitrepontes, ZPE 197 (Glass 189); numerous very small pieces (Glasses 196–202; 205; 207; 217; 223; 227–228).
- 4805** = Menander, Epitrepontes, ZPE 183 (Glass 40) and 196 (Glass 187); P. Cair. Mich. II 17 (Complaint about Robbery; 156–159 CE); P. Cair. Mich. III 7 (List of Titles of Satyr-Plays); 10 = P. Cair. Mich. II 14; 17; two more pieces (Glass 281).
- 5535** Unpublished; copy of a lease of land (?) (148/149 CE; Glass 179).
- 5540** Unpublished; six pieces, writing very faded (Glass 296).
- 5541** Unpublished; one piece; list of numbers (Glass 181).
- 5542** Unpublished; numerous small and very small fragments (Glasses 214; 215; 222; 226; 229).

This makes a total of **38** inventory numbers of texts coming from **House B17, Level B** in Karanis, and housed in the Egyptian Museum in Cairo. The vast majority has been found in Room F, only 3 in Room E. All literary texts can be dated palaeographically to the 2nd century CE, and therefore fitting within the time-range of the archive.

Papyri with inventory numbers from the two streets to the south and the east of House B17¹⁵

Street BS1 to the south of B17 (9 inventory numbers):

- 4697** = P. Cair. Mich. II 12 (Fragments of Land and Tax Related Documents; part of P. Mich. VI 380; **170** CE); A (4697b); B (4697, fr. 1); C + D (4697c); E (4697, frgs. 3 + 4) were not found; photos had been provided by the International Photographic Archive.
- 4699** = P. Mich. VI 388 (Receipt for Hay Tax; **172–173** CE; Glass 278).
- *4701** = P. Cair. Mich. III 22 (Offer to Lease Grain Land; **192** CE; Glass 278).
- *4748** Unpublished; 12 pieces, many belonging to one document; **one literary piece** (?) of 7 fragmentary lines (Glass 280 + 281); SB XIV 12082 (Private Letter, **3rd century** CE; Ann Arbor;¹⁶ and more blank papyri in Ann Arbor).
- *4749** = P. Cair. Mich. II 6 (**Homer**, Iliad; Glass 50); P. Cair. Mich. III 18 (Declaration of Uninundated Land; 167–169 CE; Glass 48); P. Mich. VIII 512 (Private Letter; **early 3rd century** CE; not found);¹⁷ numerous small fragments (Glasses 47–53).
- 4750** = P. Cair. Mich. II 16 (Notification of Death; **148–149** CE; Glass 82); P. Cair. Mich. III 7 (**List of Titles of Satyr-Plays**; Glass 292); 9 (Offer to Lease Land; **126** CE; Glass 82); 32 (Private Letter; **2nd century** CE; Glass 82); P. Mich. VIII 505 (Private Letter addressed to **Socrates**; **2nd century** CE; not found); many more fragments (Glasses 82; 287–294).
- 4751** = P. Cair. Mich. II 19 (Register of Land at Patsonthis; **2nd century** CE; Glass 121); 20 (Letter Written by a Woman; **2nd–3rd century** CE; Glass 121); more fragments (Glasses 121; 154–155).
- 4752** = **Menander**, Epitrepontes, *ZPE* 182 (three pieces in Glass 80); 8 documentary pieces (Glasses 80 + 142); P. Mich. VI 366 (Declaration of Uninundated Land; **168** CE; not found); P. Mich. VIII 495 (Private Letter; **2nd century** CE; not found).
- *4882** = P. Cair. Mich. II 18 (Complaint about Violence and Robbery; **187** CE; Glass 78);¹⁸ three more pieces.

¹⁵ See map in van Minnen 1994 ‘House-to-House Enquiries’ 243; P. Cair. Mich. II p. XVI.

¹⁶ This last piece is outside the time-range of Socrates.

¹⁷ Outside the time-range of Socrates.

¹⁸ Text outside the time-range of Socrates.

Street BS2 to the east of B17 (2):

- 4753** Unpublished; numerous small fragments, many uninscribed (Glasses 236 + 237).
4754 = P. Cair. Mich. III 6 ([Demosthenes](#), De corona; belongs to II 9); and 12 more pieces (Glass 232).

Papyri found in houses neighbouring House B17, or directly attached to it, or located across the streets

Papyri found in *House B16* neighbouring House B17 to the north:

I did not have the chance to search in particular for pieces from that house.

Papyri found in *House B18* neighbouring House 17 to the west:

- 4806** Unpublished; many insignificant pieces, one list of names and payments, very similar to other fragments from the archive ([2nd century CE](#); Glasses 231; 234 + 235).

Papyri found in *House B2* across Street BS2 to the east:¹⁹

- 4759** Unpublished; insignificant pieces (Glass 137).
4760 Unpublished; three small pieces, one [literary](#) (Glass 57).
4821 = P. Cair. Mich. III 4 ([Homer](#), Iliad); of the same roll are fragments (Inv. 4788) from House B12.

Papyri found in *House B25* across Street BS1 to the south:

- 4836** = P. Cair. Mich. III 3 ([Homer](#), Iliad); more documentary fragments (Glasses 268 + 269).
4840 Unpublished; seven documentary fragments (Glass 265 + 267).
4842 = P. Cair. Mich. II 7 ([Homer](#), Iliad); six more documentary fragments (Glass 56).

¹⁹ This is the house, in which the tax roll with the spectacular citation of a Callimachean word has been found; see van Minnen 1994 'House-to-House Enquiries' 245–246.

4843 = P. Cair. Mich. II 8 ([Homer](#), Iliad); numerous documentary fragments (Glasses 115 + 118–119 + 124 + 128–129).

Papyri found in *House B12* across Streets BS1 and BS2:

4788 = P. Cair. Mich. III 4 ([Homer](#), Iliad; Glasses 254 + 258).

4829 = P. Cair. Mich. II 10–11 ([Surgical Treatise](#) and [Epictetus](#), Discourses; Glass 59).

Papyri torn, pieces found in different locations:

- The roll of [Menander](#)'s Epitrepontes was found between House B17, Room F, and Street BS1.
- The single sheet of the [Titles of Satyr-Plays](#) was found between House B17, Room F, and Street BS1.
- The unpublished [Grammatical Treatise](#) was found between House B17, Rooms E and F (inv. 4711; inv. 4793; inv. 4795).
- Part of the [Ledger](#) P. Cair. Mich. II 12 was found in Room E of House B17, the rest in Room F.

Inventory numbers that according to the APIS list of the papyrus collection in Ann Arbor are housed in Cairo, but were not found in the cupboard, are (whether published or unpublished): Inv. 4697 (P. Cair. Mich. II 12); inv. 4706 (SB VI 9430); inv. 4732 (P. Mich VI 367); inv. 4749 (P. Mich. VIII 512); inv. 4752 (VIII 495); inv. 4799 (Mich. VII 449); inv. 4802 h + j–k (unpublished); inv. 5539 (SB XXII 15831).

Since most of the envelopes which I opened contained not only one papyrus, but usually 5–10 objects, sometimes more than 30, the overall number of papyri from House B17 and its environment, registered, restored and put under glass is far more than 400.²⁰ This number might be reduced, when fragments are joined in the future.²¹

As far as I could see, all papyri from this group date to the 2nd century CE, with the exception of the two wills which are (re)-published in this volume as Nos. **8.1** and **2**.²² They date to the period of AD 82–96, far before the lifetime of

²⁰ Cf. the 29 pieces included in the archive by the editors of *Graeco-Roman Archives from the Fayum* in 2015.

²¹ The situation is exemplified in Inv. No. 4802 from House B17, Room F (see above).

²² Van Minnen had already observed that **8.2** which is re-published here, did not fit the span of life that can be attributed to Socrates ('House-to-House Enquiries' 237, footnote 41).

Socrates. Both wills are copies or drafts of the same text and belong to the archive of a certain Mikkalos from Karanis; other texts of his archive came to the papyrus collections in Berlin and London through the antiquity market.²³

Another foreign body in this archive is No. **25**, Proceedings of the Boule, which cannot be dated earlier than to the beginning of the 3rd century because of historical and palaeographical reasons.²⁴ The private letters SB XIV 12082; P. Mich. VIII 511; P. Mich. VIII 512, and P. Cair. Mich. II 20 are all dated by palaeographical grounds to the early 3rd century, but may have to be re-dated.

Beside the texts coming from House B17 and its environment, the oracular question No. **31** has been included into this volume. It dates to the earlier 1st century CE, and was found in House B9 which is located next to House B12 (see above).

Four more texts are published in this volume that were part of the MA thesis of Fatma E. Hamouda (Nos. **27–30**). They all come from different locations and date to the 3rd century CE, or somewhat later.

Cornelia E. Römer

²³ See G. Claytor in the introduction to **8** in this volume.

²⁴ Theoretically, the Boule of Antinoopolis or Alexandria could be meant, but the handwriting certainly belongs to the 3rd century.

A

Literary Texts from House B17 and its Environment

1. Homer, *Iliad* A 91–96

4778/26/B9S/E/e

11 × 6 cm

2nd century CE

Glass 305

The papyrus has preserved 6 lines and the lower margin; the hand is very round, and vertical strokes show extensive serifs, in particular at the lower ends (see *iota*, *kappa*, *tau*), which are not found in the fragment which is No. 2 in this volume. The text is written with the fibres, the back is blank. There are no lectional or other signs.

This is the 4th papyrus found at Karanis containing lines from *Iliad* A: vv. 159–164 (No. 2 in this volume); vv. 292–297 in P. Cair. Mich. II 1;¹ vv. 283 et al. in P. Mich. inv. 2810;² vv. 273–362 in P. Fay. 141.³

The text has been collated with the edition by M. L. West, Stuttgart/Leipzig 1998. No special readings were detected in the new fragment.

1	[οc νυν πολλον αριστο]c ενι cτρατω[ι ευχεται ειναι]	91
	[και τοτε δη θαρcηce] και ηυδα μαντιc [αμυμων]	
	[ουτ αρ ο γ ευωληc επ]ιμεμφεται ου[δ εκατομβηc]	
4	[αλλ ενεc αρητηροc ον η]τειμηc Αγαμ[εμνων]	
	[ουδ απελυce θυγατρα και] ουc απεδεξατ αποινα	95
	[τουνεκ αρ αλγε εδωκε]ν εκηβολοc ηδ [ετι δω]cει	
	margin	

4 l. ητιμηc

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¹ LDAB id. 382542; photo on p. 4.

² LDAB id. 1644; photo at APIS of Michigan Collection.

³ LDAB id. 1436; photo at <http://ipap.csad.ox.ac.uk/4DLink4/4DACTION/IPAPwebquery?vPub=P.Fay.&vVol=&vNum=141>; last accessed 21.4.2021.



2. Homer, *Iliad* A 159–167

4828/26/B12L/Ad

4 × 5 cm

2nd century CE

Glass 243

The findspot of this fragment is House B12, opposite the “House of Socrates” B17.

The papyrus contains 9 fragmentary verses written along the fibres; no margins are preserved; the back is blank. Letters are carefully drawn and strictly bilinear; in particular the εθoc-letters fit into squares. There are no lectional signs or punctuation marks, except an organic *diaeresis* above the *iota* in line 7. The meaning of a dot above the alpha in line 4 is not clear.

The hand is not the same as other fragments of *Iliad* A from the second century found at Karanis; see list in No. 1 above (vv. 91–96).

The text has been collated with the edition by M. L. West, Stuttgart/Leipzig 1998. No special readings were detected in the new fragment.

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- | | | |
|---|--|-----|
| 1 | [τιμην αρνυμενοι Μεν]ελαω[ι κοι τε κυνωπα] | |
| | [προς Τρωων των ο]ν τι με[τατρεπε ουδ αλεγιζεις] | 160 |
| | [και δη μοι γερας] αυτος αφαιρησε[σθαι απειλεις] | |
| 4 | [ωι επι πολλ εμογη]σα' δοσαν δε μ[οι υιες Αχαιων] | |
| | [ου μεν κοι ποτε ισο]ν [ε]χω γερας [οπποτ Αχαιοι] | |
| | [Τρωων εκπερσως ευ] ναιομεν[ον πτολιεθρον] | 164 |
| | [αλλα το μεν πλειον π]ολυαϊκο[ς πολεμοιο] | |
| 8 | [χειρες εμαι διεπους ατ]αρ ην π[οτε δαςμος ικηται] | |
| | [κοι το γερας πολυ μεζο]ν εγω [δ ολιγον τε φιλον τε] | |
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Shaymaa Moussa

