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"Les Archives de Sarapion et de ses fils. Une exploitation agricole aux environs d'Hermouopolis Magna (de 90 à 133 p. C.), Jacques Schwartz, Le Caire 1961: [recenzja]

The Journal of Juristic Papyrology 15, 415-416

1965

Artykuł został zdigitalizowany i opracowany do udostępnienia w internecie przez Muzeum Historii Polski w ramach prac podejmowanych na rzecz zapewnienia otwartego, powszechnego i trwałego dostępu do polskiego dorobku naukowego i kulturalnego. Artykuł jest umieszczony w kolekcji cyfrowej bazhum.muzhp.pl, gromadzącej zawartość polskich czasopism humanistycznych i społecznych.

Tekst jest udostępniony do wykorzystania w ramach dozwolonego użytku.
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by Zoilus, lessor of the land farmed by Isidorus (see Nos. 99, 117, 118, 120, 121).

Section VII brings two small inventories (Nos. 136 and 137), unpublished till now and in section VIII there are found descriptions of 9 Cairo fragments of texts belonging to the same Archive.

We are deeply grateful to the Editors for giving us in this splendid publication the whole of the Archive of Aurelius Isidorus, together with the most useful commentaries which not infrequently give an exhaustive discussion of the most important problems and formulate new conclusions (e.g. see pp. 101 ff. and p. 117, pp. 255/256, p. 310, pp. 332/333 etc.).

The reeditions of the texts, published previously elsewhere, show the well known masterful touch of Professor Υούτιε, handling skillfully the seemingly insolvable problems of textual criticism.


Professor J. Schwartz presents the Archives of Sarapion and his sons, publishing the texts edited previously together with the inedita, the whole preserved in seven different collections (Berlin, Würzburg, British Museum, New York, Heidelberg, Strasbourg and Wien). The subtitle of the publication („Une exploitation agricole aux environs d’Hermouplis Magna“) gives the characteristics of the Sarapion’s Archives and points to its significance.

In his introduction the Editor describes the actual situation of the texts belonging to Sarapion’s Archives and presents his own method of attributing them to the Archives (the negative criteria being the date, geography and collection, the positive ones — onomastics, topography and the category of document) and reconstructs the history of its discovery.

The texts themselves are published in three sections: Documents officiels et contrats privés; Pièces de comptabilité interne; Letters privées.

There are only 7 official documents, among them one complaint addressed to the strategus, some declarations and receipts. The private contracts are a few contracts of sale, contracts pertaining to money-business, land leases (in which the members of Sarapion’s family appear partly as lessees and partly as lessors, the leased parcels being from 2½ to 25 arouras) and contracts made with the harvesters.

The Nos. 42–79 bring different accounts and Nos. 83–103 private letters written to the members of the Sarapion’s family, and mostly by them.
The Appendix contains 5 texts which may or may not belong to the Archives. As „Supplément” the Editor gives 10 new documents found by him in Wien already when the publication of the whole material was in preparation, the second Appendix presenting the description of some texts from London, Heidelberg and chiefly Strassbourg; the fact of their being part of Sarapion’s Archives is only probable.

The Excursus No. 1 summarizes the Editor’s conclusions about the topography of the Hermopolite nome and the situation of the grounds belonging to Sarapion and his sons or leased by them.

In the Excursus No. 2 the Editor making use of the economic data contained in the published texts traces the development of the prices of one artaba of wheat and that of the pay of an agricultural worker till the Byzantine times.

The Conclusion brings brief characteristics of the Sarapion’s family and their members subsequently picturing their principal activities.

The volume closes with the Indices and 9 plates which show some of the texts presenting more complicated problems.

The publication of the Archives of Sarapion and his sons is a result of many years of strenuous work, on which one may sincerely congratulate Professor Schwartz.

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