

Derda, Tomasz

The village of Philoxenos : a note

The Journal of Juristic Papyrology 31, 15-16

2001

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.

Tomasz Derda

THE VILLAGE OF PHILOXENOS: A NOTE*

The documents dating from the VII-VIIIth cent., published a hundred years ago by Carl Wessely, unanimously call the locality Philoxenou *chôrion*: SPP III 123; X 15; X 193; X 276; and XX 229. In one document, SPP X 154, the name of the village could originally have been preceded by the designation of *chôrion* as were the toponyms in the following lines. In SPP X 105 and in SB I 5338 the name Philoxenou appears alone. The same village is, however, labelled *kôme* in three documents of the Byzantine period: SB I 4658, P. Grenf. II 88 (AD 602) and SB XX 14535.¹

The village of Philoxenos is also known from two Berlin papyri of a much earlier date: BGU XIII 2281 (AD 189/90, without further designation) and BGU I 144 (IIIrd c. AD) where it is designated as *epoikion*.

P. Oslo III 154 should be considered separately. The document dated by the editors to the IIrd c. AD, seems to be a business letter but its state of preservation is by no means good enough to understand its contents in detail. In line 13 the editor reads:] . . . Φιλοξεναπόλεως κτλ. with a note:

“(ἀπὸ) Φιλοξεναπόλεως for Φιλοξενοπόλεως (cf. Mayser, I, p. 61, for the differentiation the three successive ο’s may have been important), elsewhere Φιλοξένου κώμη, χωρίον, ἐποίκιον, see Preis, *Wtb.*, III, p. 337 and P. Tebt. II, p. 407. The former ‘πόλις’, as so many others, apparently in the course of time declined into a κώμη, thereupon into a χωρίον (ἐποίκιον).”

* The present paper was written in Leuven in the academic year 2000/1 during the tenure of a fellowship in Instituut Klassieke Studies of Katholieke Universiteit Leuven.

¹ SB XX 14535 = P. Vindob. G. 28694, published by Birgitta EDER, “Gemüsesamen und Flachs im Vorverkauf” [in:] Mario CAPASSO, Gabriella Messeri SAVORELLI & Rosario PINTAUDI (a cura di), *Miscellanea Papyrologica in occasione del bicentenario dell’edizione della Charta Borgiana*, I = *Papyrologica Florentina* XIX, 1 (Firenze, 1990) pp. 153-157 with pl. XV). Note that the document is referred to in *DARIS, Diz. Suppl.* II, p. 232 only by its inventory number!

But we cannot be sure that the reading of the document is correct, as can be seen from the photograph,² part of which I reproduce here:



The reading suggested by the editors seems acceptable, at least the characters printed undotted. There is a space in front of πόλεως which may suggest a word break in this place. It is, therefore, not obvious whether we are dealing here with the name of a city.

Let us notice that, even if the reading is accepted, the Philoxenapolis of *P. Oslo III 154* and Philoxenou *epoikion* of *BGU I 144* are unlikely to be one and the same village. It seems impossible to find in the Roman period a locality labelled at the same time both *epoikion* and *polis*. If the identity of the two localities is given up, there is no evidence for assuming the Arsinoite provenance of *P. Oslo III 154* (see the editors' note to line 7). If so, the village of Ταλοῦ (line 7, reading uncertain) was not necessarily located in the Arsinoite.

The village of Philoxenos belonged to the *meris* of Herakleides.³ It has been suggested that the village is to be identified with that of Abuksa in Markaz of Ibshawai, 15 km NW from Medinet el-Fayum.⁴ But this suggestion is not upheld by S. Timm. However, the tenor of the Timm's article is by no means clear: he quotes the evidence for Philoxenou from Greek papyri *sub voce* "Abuksa" but at the same time he did not fill up the field "Griech[ische Name]" of the locality and said that the identification itself was wrong!

Tomasz Derda

Department of Papyrology
 Institute of Archaeology
 University of Warsaw
 Krakowskie Przedmieście 26/28
 00-927 Warszawa 64
 POLAND
 e-mail: derda@mercury.ci.uw.edu.pl

² I obtained a digitized photograph via e-mail from Dr. Gunn HAALAND whom I would like to thank.

³ See *P. Tebt. II*, p. 357

⁴ M. RAMZĪ, *al-Qāmūs al-ġuġrafiya li-lbilād al-miṣriya min 'ahd qudamā' al-miṣriyīn ilā sana 1945*, Cairo 1963, vol. II (3), p. 72, cit. apud S. TIMM, *Das christlich-koptische Ägypten in arabischer Zeit*, Bd. I, Wiesbaden 1984, pp. 48-49.