

Pylon 6 (2024)
ISSN: 2751-4722

A Property Declaration from Theadelphia

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Funded by:
Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft

Heidelberg: Propylaeum, 2024

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.48631/pylon.2024.6.108252>

Citation

W.G. Claytor, "A Property Declaration from Theadelphia," Pylon 6 (2024)
Article 7. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.48631/pylon.2024.6.108252>.

This edition is based on autopsy and digital images. I thank curator Eric White and the staff of Special Collections of Firestone Library, Princeton University for facilitating access to the papyrus collection. Research for this article was co-funded by Poland’s National Science Centre and the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation program under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement no. [945339](#) (project No. 2021/43/P/HS3/00651).

- §1 This fragment contains a property declaration submitted by a tenant of the estate of Claudia Antonia, daughter of the emperor Claudius. The *terminus ante quem* is her father’s death in 54 CE (see ll. 6–7 n.), which, combined with the formula in l. 8, suggests that the document belongs to the group of declarations submitted in 53–54, the first of their kind in Roman Egypt. These declarations were prompted by the prefect L. Lusius Geta,¹ who ordered a province-wide survey of property holdings.² This initiative would be followed up about 15 years later by the creation of a separate archive of real property (the *bibliothēke enkteseon*) in each nome, which thereafter would handle such declarations.³
- §2 With two recent additions from the Oxyrhynchite nome ([P.Harr. 3 246](#) and [P.Harr. 3 247](#)), the present document is now the ninth declaration connected with this first general survey of property holdings in the province.

P.Mich. 9 539	Arsinoites	23 June, 53
P.Oxy. 47 3332	Arsinoites	24 June, 53
P.Mich. 9 540	Arsinoites	53–54
P.Princ. inv. GD 7650A	Arsinoites	53–54
SB 20 14392, col. 1	Memphites	before 15 July, 53
SB 20 14392, col. 2	Memphites	15 July, 53
PSI 15 1521	Oxyrhynchites	31 Jan. (?), 54
P.Harr. 3 246	Oxyrhynchites	53–54
P.Harr. 3 247	Oxyrhynchites	53–54

[P.Princ. inv. GD 7650 A](#)
Acquired in 1924⁴

8 (h) × 5 (w) cm

[Theadelphia](#)
53–54 CE

- §3 The papyrus is broken at the top, right, and bottom. The left margin measures 1 cm. The writing is with the fibers, and the back is blank.

 Fig. 1: P.Princ. inv. GD 7650 A.

[- - - - -]

βιβλιοθήκ[ης *vac.*]

παρὰ Τέωτο[ς -ca.5-]

τοῦ Τέωτο[ς τῶν ἀπὸ]

Θεαδελφείας [τῆς Θεμί-]

5 στου μερίδ[ος οὐσιακ(οῦ)]

¹ PIR² L 435. Cf. [Faoro 2015](#): 42–43.

² The order is mentioned in the Memphite and Oxyrhynchite declarations, but not those from the Arsinoite. At [PSI 15 1521.1–3 n.](#), the editor unnecessarily speculates about the possibility of two successive orders in Claudius’ year 13 (52/3) and 14 (53/4).

³ See most recently [Clayton 2020](#) and [Kruise 2024](#).

⁴ Part of the large Anglo-American consortium purchase described in H.I. Bell’s “Report on papyri purchased in 1924 from Nahman & others,” copies of which were distributed to the participating institutions. The present papyrus is listed under Box XVIII, no. 59A (p. 68).

γεωργοῦ Ἀντ[ωνίας]
 θυγατρὸς τι[νῶν ἐδαφῶ(ν).]
 ὑπάρχει μοι ἐ[ν τῇ προκει-]
 μένη κώμ[ῃ οἰκία καὶ]
 10 ἀλλήν ἐν ἧ̇ [κατοικῶ]
 [] [] [-ca.7-]
 - - - - -

8 *l.* ὑπάρχει 10 *l.* ἀλλή

... archive ... from Teos, [son of NN,] grandson of Teos, [one of those from] Theadelphia [of the Themistos division, [estate] tenant of certain [fields] of Antonia the daughter. There belongs to me in [the] aforementioned village [a house and] a courtyard, in which I dwell ...

- §4 1 βιβλιοθήκ[ης vac.]. The preceding lines can be restored from [P.Mich. 9 539](#), [P.540](#), and [P.Oxy. 47 3332](#) as follows: [Θρακίδαί γυμνασιάρχῳ | βιβλιοφύλακι τῆς | ἐν τῷ Ἀρσινοεῖτι] | βιβλιοθήκ[ης]. Nothing is expected after βιβλιοθήκ[ης], even though there is room for about four or five letters. Writers of hypomnemata often left space after the addressee's title and began the next line with *παρά* ([Martin 2007](#): 668).
- §5 The nome archive is called βιβλιοφυλάκιον in the Memphite and Oxyrhynchite declarations of this year.
- §6 2–3 Τέωτ[ος τοῦ δαῖνος] | τοῦ Τέωτ[ος]. An example of the common practice of papyponymy. This individual does not appear to be known from other texts. A large part of Theadelphia texts from the first century of Roman rule belong to the archive of Harthotes ([TM Arch 99](#)), which was acquired in various purchases in the 1920s including some from the same lot as the present papyrus, but the name Teos is not associated with this family.
- §7 5 [οὔσιακ(οῦ)]. For the supplement, cf. [P.Mich. 9 539](#), submitted by an οὔσιακοῦ γεωργοῦ καὶ ἀπολυσίμου Καμηλιανῆς οὔσιας; in [P.Mich. 9 540](#), the declarant is called simply γεωργοῦ | [οὔ]σία Γερμανικιανῆς (ll. 5–6).
- §8 6–7 Ἀντ[ωνίας] | θυγατρὸς. Antonia, daughter of the emperor Claudius, is known in the papyri as Ἀντωνία θυγάτηρ (with θεοῦ Κλαυδίου added after her father's death) to distinguish her from her paternal grandmother, known as Ἀντωνία Δρούσου, the wife of Drusus: see [Hanson 1980](#): 245. The lack of θεοῦ Κλαυδίου following Antonia's name suggests that Claudius is still alive (or thought to be), which would set the end of 54 CE as the terminus ante quem of this text. Claudia Antonia's estate in Egypt ([TM Ousia 5](#)) included an epoikion named after her ([TM Geo 209](#)) and holdings around several villages of the Fayum, to which list Theadelphia can perhaps now be added (the location of the estate land on which Teos worked is not stated): Hiera Nesos ([P.Bour. 42.89](#), 111, 117, and 201), Karanis (?) ([P.Sijp. 44.4](#)), Kerkeesis/Perkeesis ([P.Bour. 42.140–141](#)), and Theoxenis ([P.Fay. 40.7](#)).
- §9 7 τι[νῶν ἐδαφῶ(ν)]: οὔσιας is not consistent with the traces and would not fill out the line. Instead, there is a looped letter most consistent with tau (that of θυγατρὸς in the same line is damaged but might also have been looped), which ligatures into a hasta. This combination suggests τινῶν ἐδαφῶν: cf. in particular [P.Lond. 2 445.4–8](#) (Bakchias, 14–19), γεωργοῦ τινῶν ἐδαφῶν Ἰουλίας | Σεβαστῆς

καὶ Γερμανικοῦ Καίσαρος | ὄντος δὲ καὶ ἀπολυσίμου τῆς αὐτῆς οὐσίας, where τῆς αὐτῆς οὐσίας refers back to τινῶν ἐδαφῶν of Livia and Germanicus.

- §10 8 ὑπάρχι μοι. This formula, taken over from census declarations, only appears in the Arsinoite property declarations from 53. It corresponds to ἀπογράφομαι ... τὸ ὑπάρχον in the Memphite and Oxyrhynchite declarations of this year, a formula followed in later general declarations, including those from the Arsinoite (see ↗ [P.Oxy. 47 3332](#) introduction with l. 4 n. and ↗ [Wolff 1978: 231](#)).

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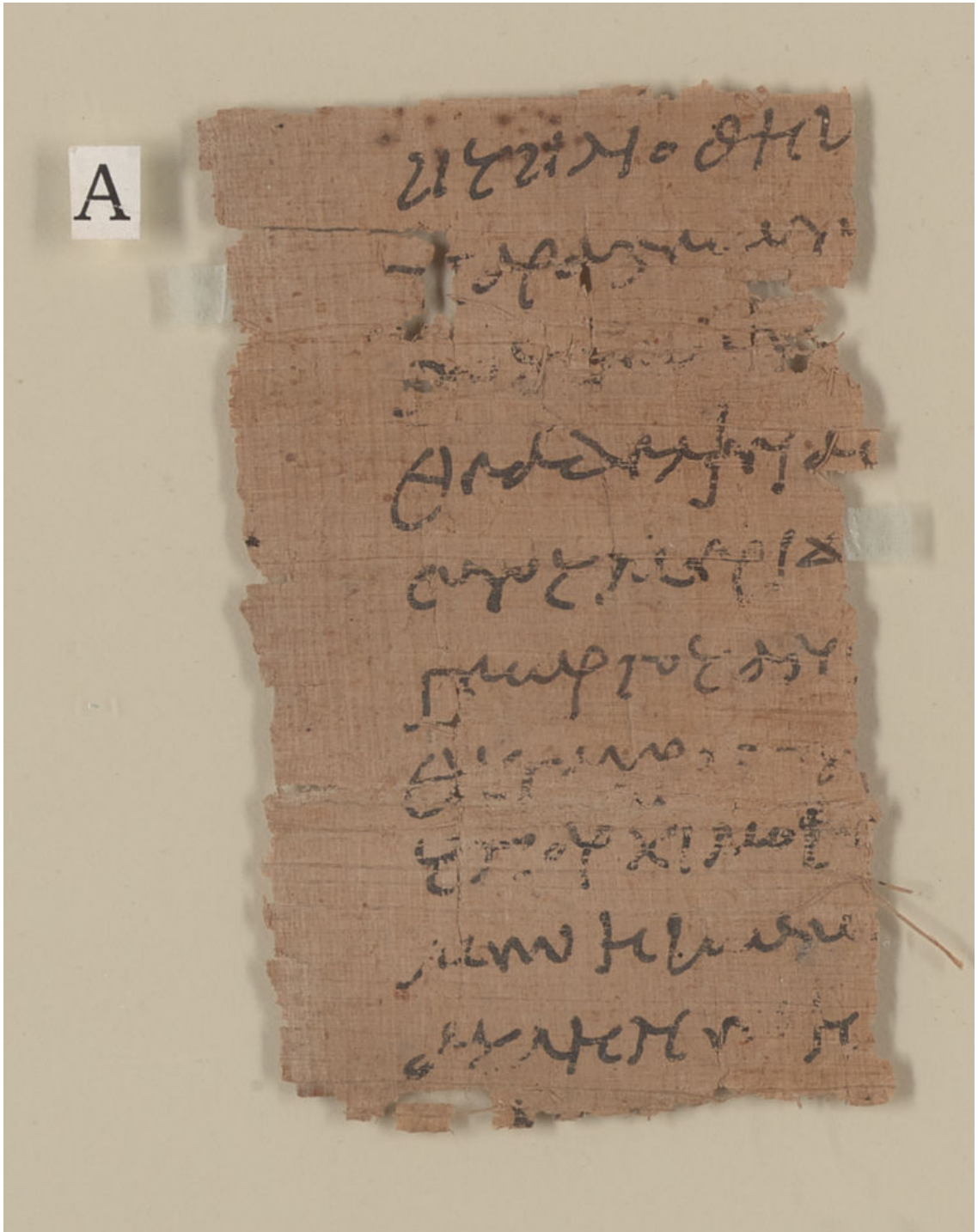


Fig. 1: P.Princ. inv. GD 7650 A.

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