

Berezan. Business letter

Description: private letter written on one side of a lead sheet found rolled in a tube; the address is engraved in the sheet's obverse side (dimensions: h:6.5 w:15.0)

Layout: the writing is left to right

Letters: Milesian alphabet

Origin: Berezan (Black Sea area)

Dating: ca. 500 BC (dated on letters form)

Findspot: Berezan (from the excavations of 1970)

Current location: St. Peterburg, The State Hermitage Museum (inv. 8.70. 322)

Reference edition: Chadwick 1973, 35-37 (cf. SEG 26 845), with changes

Other editions: Ed. pr. Vinogradov 1971 (in Russian with an English summary); Bravo 1974; Pippidi 1974 (in Roumanian, with a French summary); Yailenko 1974 (in Russian, with an English summary); Miller 1975; Merkelbach 1975; Bravo 1977, 52-53, note 6; Kupiszewski 1979, 189-199; Bravo 1980, 880-885; Gallavotti 1987; Gallavotti 1990; Jeffery, Johnston, LSAG², 420, 478, no. 60c, Pl. 80; L. Dubois, IGDOP 23; Bravo 2011 (cf. BE 2012 306); Ceccarelli 2013, 335, no. 1

Photographs: Jeffery, Johnston, LSAG², Pl. 80, 1

Translations: Austin, Vidal-Naquet 1977, 220-223 (English); IGDOP 23 (French); Dillon, Garland 2000, no. 1.64 (English); Marginesu 2007, 138-147 (Italian); Ceccarelli 2013, 335, no. 1 (English)

Bibliography: Yailenko 1975 (Russian, with an English summary); Austin, Vidal-Naquet 1977, 220-223; Gauthier 1982; Lombardo 1988, 159-187; Wilson 1997, 35-40 (with translation); Vinogradov 1998, 153-78; Heinen 2001, 490-492; Henry 2004, 765-767; Marginesu 2007, 138-147; Solovyov 2007, 88, no. 13; Osborne 2008, 291-292; Eidinow, Taylor 2010, no. E1

recto

Ὡ Πρωταγόρη, ὁ πατήρ τοι ἐπιστέλλε ἀδικεῖται
 ὑπὸ Ματάσου, δὸλῶται γάρ μιν καὶ τῷ
 φορτηγεσίῳ ἀπεστέρησεν. ἐλθὼν παρ' Ἀναξαγόρη
 ἀπήγησαι, φησὶ γὰρ αὐτὸν Ἀναξαγόρῳ
 5 δῶλον εἶναι μυθεόμενος· Τάμ' Ἀνα<ξα>γόρης ἔχε, καὶ δῶλος
 καὶ δῶλας κοίκίας. ὁ δὲ ἀναβῶι τε

καὶ οὐ φησιν ἔναι οὐδὲν ἕωυτῶι τε καὶ Ματάσ<υι>
καὶ φησιν ἔναι, ἐλεόθερος καὶ οὐδὲν ἔναι ἕωυτ<ῶ>ι
καὶ Ματά<συ>. <Μα>τάσυ<ι> δὲ τί αὐτῶι κάναξαγόρη αὐτοῖ
10 οἶδασι κατὰ σφᾶς αὐτῶς. ταῦτ' Ἄναξαγόρη λέγῃν
καὶ τῆ γυναικί. ἕτερα δέ τοι ἐπιστέλλῃ. τῆμ μητέρα
καὶ τῶς ἀδε<λ>φεὺς <ο>ἴ ξισ}ιν ἐν Ἄρβινάτησιιν ἄγῃν ἐς τῆμ πόλιν,
αὐτὸς δὲ Ἐξνεορος ἐλθῶμ παρὰ μινθύωρα καταβήσεται.

verso

Ἀχιλλοδώρῳ τὸ μολί-
βδιον παρὰ τὸμ παῖδα
κάναξαγόρην

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