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Forum Antike

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Übungraum Alte Geschichte, Hauptgebäude

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The Archive of Philoxenus, Wine-Steward

The so-called Apion archive is one of the largest groups of papyri recovered from the sands of Egypt. It consists of hundreds of documents relating to a wealthy and influential aristocratic family that owned a large estate in the city of Oxyrhynchus from the mid-fifth to the early seventh century. This paper will present an unpublished 'sub-archive' of the Apion archive centred on the estate's viticultural sector in the late fifth century. The bulk of it consists of receipts (*entagia*) in which the wine-steward (*oinocheiristes*) Philoxenus acknowledges the receipt of rent payments from vine-dressers. The quantities of wine and place-names in the archive allow some interesting observations to be made on this early period of the Apion estate, otherwise poorly documented. An account of pitch distributed to village potteries provides an indirect means of estimating the scale of wine production in different localities.