

Application to Lease of Vineyard*

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Abstract

This article presents a new edition to previously unpublished papyrus, preserved in the Egyptian Museum, Cairo. The papyrus contains a part of an application to lease a vineyard, and perhaps also an olive grove. The location of which is unknown; however, it could be located in the village of Karanis or the modern Kom Aushim in Fayum; as this papyrus was found in Karanis during an excavation conducted by the University of Michigan in 1932. The text dates to the Roman period, particularly to second–third century CE.

Some of the formulas which are mentioned in text are common in applications to lease vineyards. The article discusses these formulas. The text also mentions the adjective ‘καλογενῆς (l. καλογενεῖς)’ for the first time. In the context of the present text, it likely means ‘good sort or kind’ as it describes layers of vine. Generally, this edition enriches the knowledge of leases of vineyards from the Roman period.

Keywords

Lease of Vineyard, Olive Grove, Karanis, University of Michigan, Roman Period, καλογενεῖς.