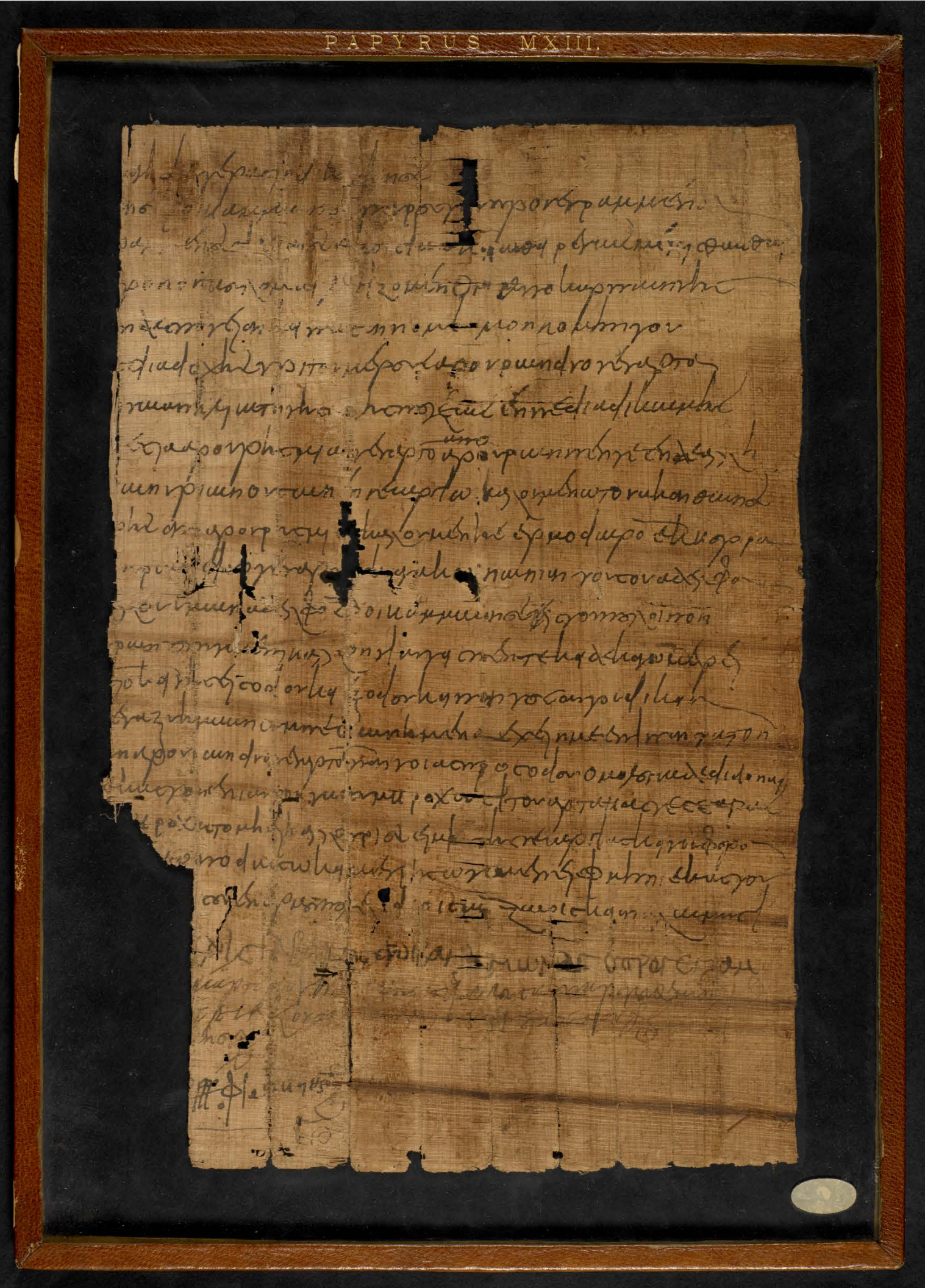
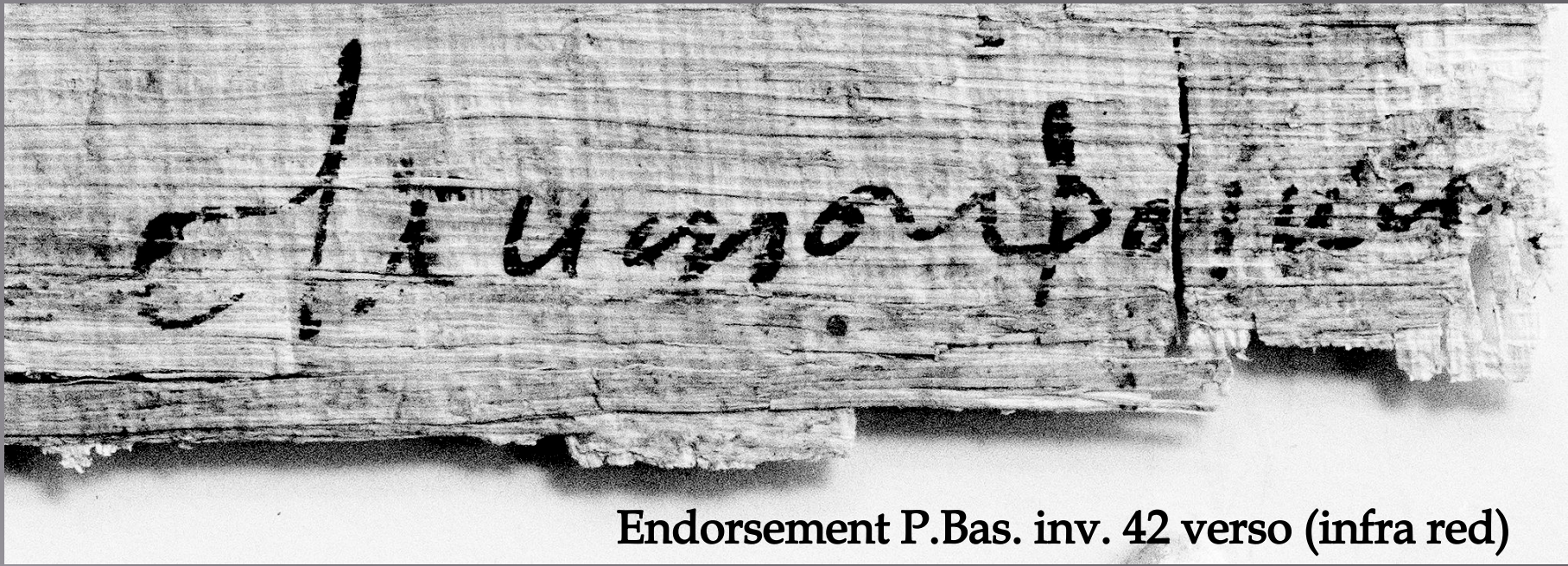


AN IMPORTANT FAMILY IN 6TH CENTURY HERMOUPOLIS, NEW LIGHTS FROM THE BASEL PAPYRUS COLLECTION

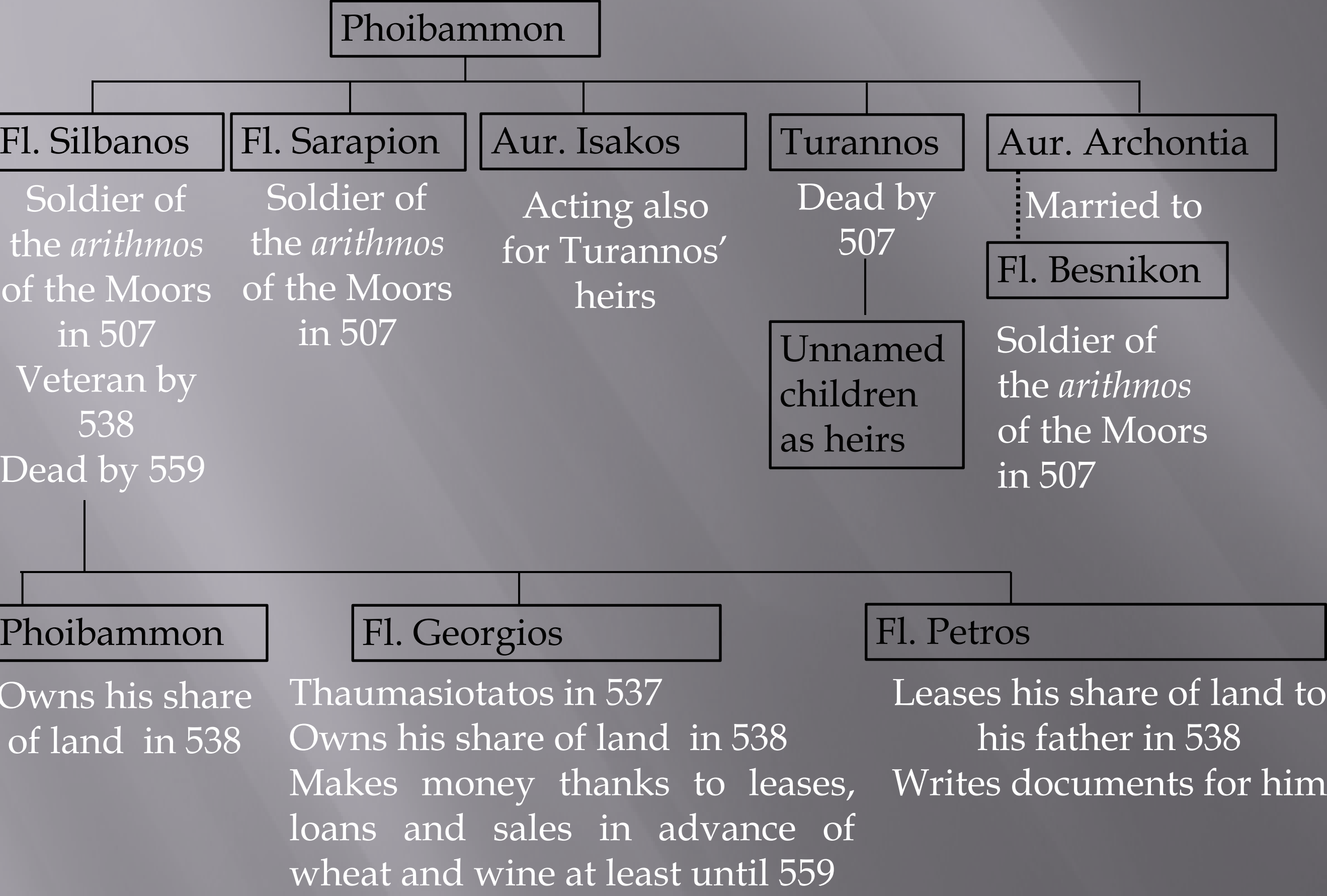
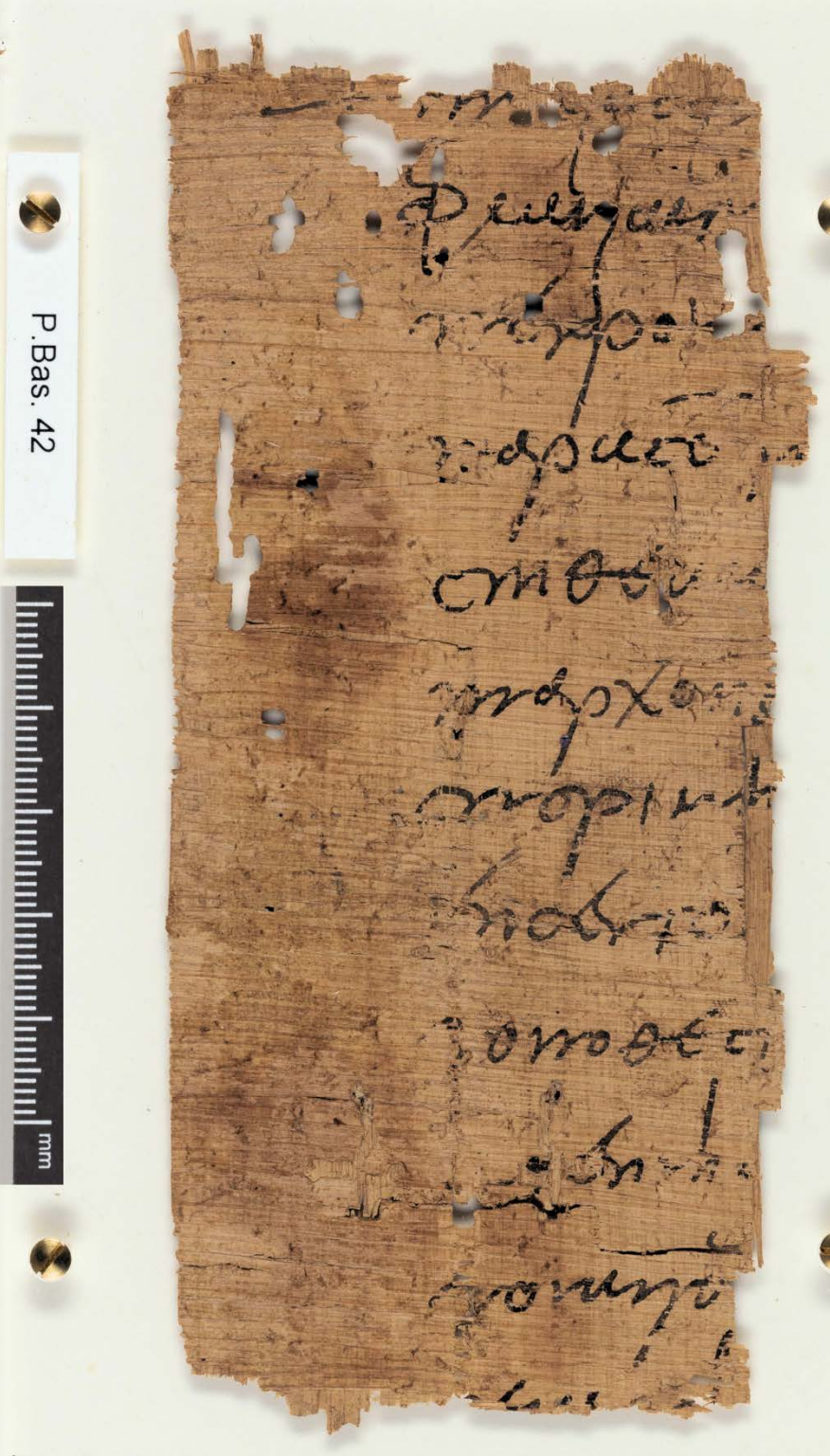


In 1989, P. J. Sijpesteijn published an article entitled "An Important Family in VIth Century Hermupolis" describing an archive in the British Library collection, the archive of **Fl. Silbanos son of Phoibammon**, soldier of the *arithmos* of the Moors in Hermoupolis, and his son Fl. Georgios. J. Keenan showed the importance of this documentation for our understanding of soldiers acting as landowners and businessmen and N. Kruit has underlined technical aspects of some of these texts.



Endorsement P.Bas. inv. 42 verso (infra red)

Among the papyri belonging to the University of Basel, it appears that the small fragment P.Bas. inv. 42 belongs to the same document as *P.Lond. III 1013* descr., a lease published in 1986 as *SB XVIII 13584* which had not yet been identified as part of this archive. The edition of the whole text gives the opportunity to know more about this family and to sum up the data of the 12 texts forming the archive.



The next generation?

P.Bas.inv.42 shows the family owned land in the village of Enseu where they bought wine in advance in two other texts. They also had properties in two other Hermopolite villages, Senilais and Nagogis where Georgios owned a big house (*oikidia megala*) in *P.Lond. V 1872* (548). Another Basel papyrus is about this village: in *P.Bas.Copt.1* a villager rents irrigation equipment from the Hermopolite inhabitant, Phoibammon son of the blessed Georgios in which it is tempting to see Silbanos' grandson. An Aurelius bearing this name and patronymic is attested in two texts from *P.Lond.III* dated from 576 and 583 which would nicely add a more recent chapter to the family's chronology. Further investigation, mainly in the British Library collection, is required.

Silbanos and his sons

Information on Silbanos, his three brothers and his sister are given by *P.Lond. III 992* (507), a famous *compromissum* about division of family properties. P.Bas.inv.42 + *SB XVIII 13584* (538) tells us more about the following generation: Silbanos rents from his son **Petros** the third share of land Petros owns, the rest belonging to Petros' two other brothers, **Phoibammon** (yet unknown) and **Georgios**, most likely from maternal inheritance.

Petros was already known from *SB XX 14457* (541), a rent receipt that he wrote in place of his illiterate father. N. Kruit identified the same hand in *SB XX 14465* (between 507 and 533/534), showing that Petros was helping his father in his accounting while he was still an active soldier. Two other texts complete our knowledge of Silbanos' business when he was already a veteran.

Georgios probably inherited his father's papers, he was in close business relation with him: N. Kruit showed that *SB XXII 15597* (537) a sale of wine for future delivery contracted by Georgios was then used as a model by Silbanos for his own contract *SB XVI 12488* (538). Five other texts show Georgios leasing properties, granting loans and buying in advance wheat and wine.

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