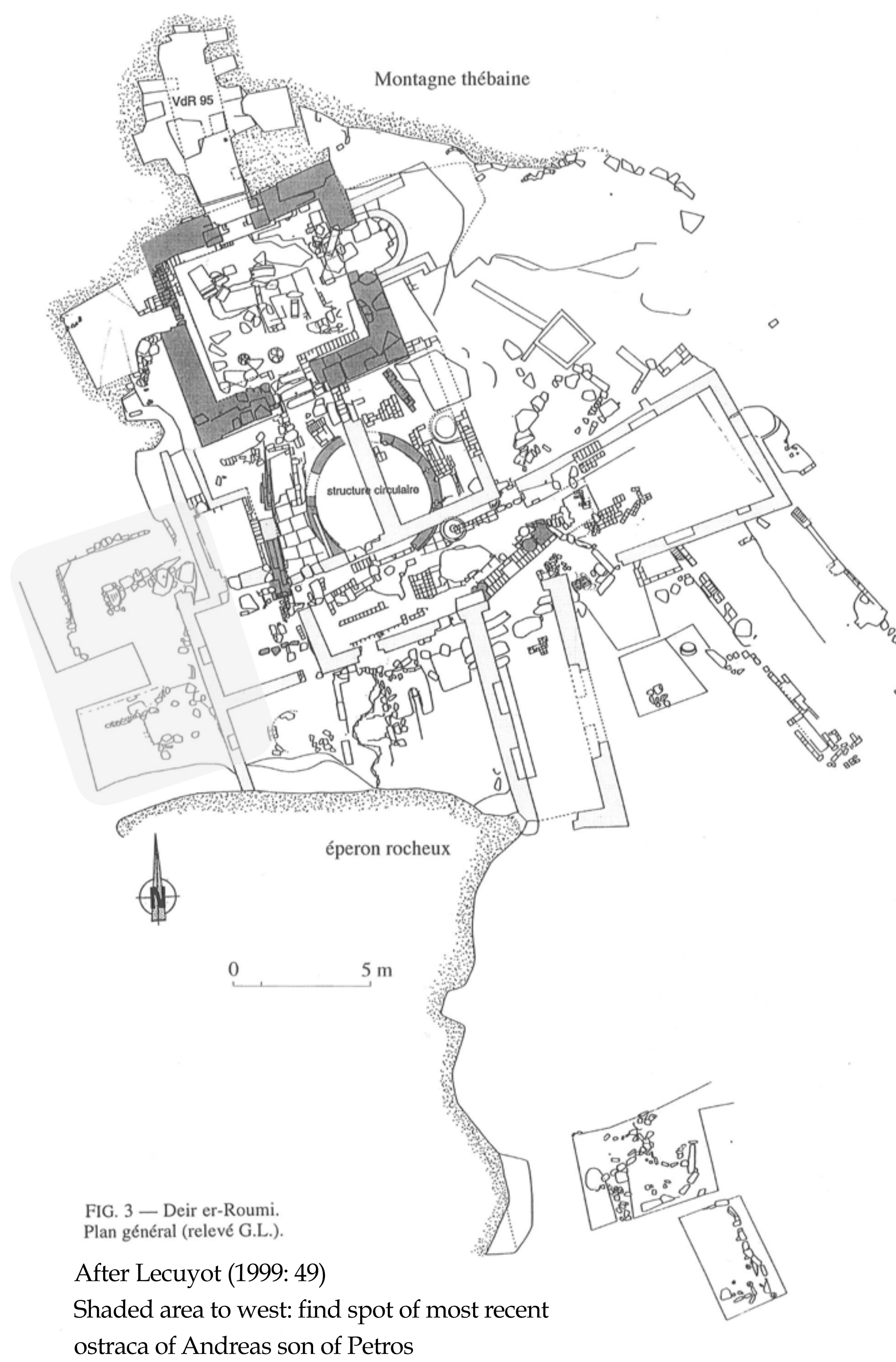


# ANDREAS SON OF PETROS AND THE MONASTERY OF DEIR ER-RUMI: USURIOUS MONK? OR A MONASTIC RECORD VAULT?

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## The Monastery

The monastery known as Deir er-Rumi is situated in the Valley of the Queens upon the hills that divides the said valley into two branches. It overlooks the plain towards the town of Jême, which is about a kilometer away.

Excavations were undertaken by the Italian mission headed by Ernesto Schiaparelli in the 1920s (Schiaparelli 1924) but the results (of the Coptic installations and finds) have never been published, neither finds nor plans. Fresh examinations of the site and the whole valley by a French mission yielded a more detailed plan of the monastery's building structures (see left) and plenty of new texts in both Coptic and Greek. According to them (e.g., Lecuyot 1996: 158), the monastery has been founded at the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> century over a Roman temple (Lecuyot & Gabolde 1998) and has been occupied at least until the end of the 7<sup>th</sup> century.

Since last year, the presents author works together with Heike Behlmer/Göttingen and Claudia Gamma/Basel as well as Alain Delattre/Brussels on the material stored in Turin (supported by the authorities of the *Fondazione Museo Egizio* in the person of Alessia Fassone). The project attempts to publish all the material transported to Turin (besides the Coptic and Greek texts, also the jar sealings, wooden boards, pottery, lime- and sandstone fragments with votive carvings, etc.) as well as the archaeological records of Schiaparelli's excavations.



After Lecuyot (1989: 61)



Ostracon Torino S. 5913  
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## Andreas son of Petros

No priestly titles; connected to Jême (via designation  $\pi\rho\iota\chi\epsilon\mu\epsilon$  or  $\rho\iota\chi\epsilon\mu\epsilon$  [DRI 83 #28])

*Date:* Texts DRO 7 and 10 mention *lashanes* of Jême(?) (Shenute and Aaron), DRI 85+Torino S. 5917 +5919: *lashane* Mathaios, and SB Kopt. I 46 *lashane* Abraham (not further specified which)

Delattre & Lecuyot (2015) have attributed seven texts to the dossier, to one of which we have been able to identify matching pieces in the Turin collection (see translation to the right). In addition, we can add another text in Turin to the dossier. Since the all the newly found text come from the area west of the Monastery (shaded in the plan above), with its archaeological context heavily disturbed, we can assume a provenance from the monastery without being more specific.

### ► Promises to repay loans to or by Andreas

- SB Kopt. IV 1791 [DRI 83 (#28)]: *1/2 holokottinos plus interest (8 Artabas of wheat) by Eusthatios s.o. Psan of Patubastn*
- DRO 3: *18 bronze še by Komês s.o. Paham of Jême to be paid back in the month Paône*
- Torino S. 5913: *1 Tremissis to be paid back with interest (wheat) in the month Paône*
- SB Kopt. I 46: *1 Artaba and 9 Mace of grain to Joseph to be paid back in Paône*

### ► Field leases by or from Andreas

- SB Kopt. IV 1798 [DRI 84 (#29): *Field lease from Julitta for Andreas*
- SB Kopt. IV 1799 [DRI 85 (#30)]+Torino S. 5917+5919: *Field lease from Julitta's daughter Teulitta for Andreas*
- DRO 10: *Field lease to Matheus from Andreas*
- DRO 7: *Field lease to David from Andreas and Germanos (both without further identification)*

Credited sums are rather low (fractions of solidus), which fits the picture for Thebes (Papaconstantinou 2016: 623), and all due in May/June; since he is renting fields from others but does not seem to let fields from others, he might be from a less affluent family, but still well off enough to do business.

## Torino S. 5913

*It is I, [...], from Jême, who writes to Andreas, son of Petros, from Jême as well:*

*I owe you a tremissis and this, so God will, I am ready to give you in the month of Paône together with its interest, i.e., a ... of wheat, without any objection.*

*I, [...], he asked me and I wrote this sherd on the ...<sup>th</sup> of Paape. ...*

## DRI 85 (#30)+Torino S. 5917+5919

*[It is I, Teulitta, the] daughter of Julitta, from Jême, who writes to Andreas, son of Petros, from Jême as well:*

*I order you to sow my share of field, i.e., the field of drawing water for ... and that has been mortgaged to me.*

*Since you have paid me its tribute for the year ... I am willing that I am liable to you for ... be it someone from Armant or be it whoever will come out for you.*

*I, Teulitta, I agree to the assignment. I, Samuel, (son) of Joseph, she asked me and I wrote it on the 17<sup>th</sup> of Paope. Mathaios, the lashane, I am witness. Germanos, (son) of Johannes, [I am] witness. Jeremias, (son) of Sh..., I am witness. ...*

Note that both translations above are taken from transcripts that are still work in progress.

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