

**The Letters of Thermouthas, Daughter of Apuleius:
The Case of an Extended Family in Roman Philadelphia**

1) **SB 5 7572**, October 5, 104 CE (APIS trans.):

Thermouthas to Valerias, her mother, very many greetings and continued good health. I received from Valerius a basket in which were twenty pairs of cakes of wheat and ten pairs of loaves of bread. Send me the blankets of the price (agreed on) and fine wool, four shearings. Do you give them to Valerius. We have just been seven months pregnant. I salute Artemis and the little Nikarous and Valerius my lord – I long for him in my heart – and Dionysia and Demetrous, and the little Taesis often, and all those in the house. And send me news of how my father is, since he was ill when he left me. I salute grandmother. Rhodine salutes you. I have put her out at handiwork; I need her again, but I am well. Phaophi 8.

(Verso): Deliver to Philadelphia to Valerias, my mother.

2) **P. Mich. 3. 202**, May 5, 105 CE (Bagnall and Cribiore trans):

Valeria and Thermouthas both together to sister Thermouthion, greeting. As I have asked you on sailing down about the child of Thermouthas to rear it and nurse it, you (will be) happy if you do it. With regard to the two houses you are going to enjoy and be fulfilled. Take 5 staters (or: experience a change from taking 5 staters). If you decide to be a nurse, you are going to find higher wages, because it is a freeborn child, and your fulfillment, and you are going to find parents, if you do it. Sail down in the boat so that you may go upstream with us and the child. Bring from my mother 5 staters if you sail down so that we may go upcountry, or take what you want. I am asking you to sail down in order that you may be happy, for a freeborn child is one thing but a slave is another. Farewell. Year 8 of Trajan the lord.

(Verso): Give it to Thermouthion in Poeso (at the house) of Theodoros from Valeria.

Valerias and Apuleius' Household (Philadelphia)

Valerias	Demetrous
Apuleius	Artemis
Grandmother	Nikarous
Valerius I	Taesis
Valerius II	Others (?)
Dionysia	

Thermouthas' Household (North of the Fayum)

Thermouthas
Thermouthas' Husband (?)
Rhodine

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