

Sources Cited in the Episode + vocabulary key

Bagnall, Roger S., and Raffaella Cribiore. *Women's Letters from Ancient Egypt, 300 BC-AD 800 / Roger S. Bagnall and Raffaella Cribiore; with Contributions by Evie Ahtaridis*. Michigan: University of Michigan Press, 2006. 115-116

Vocab and notes

1. **Mummy cartonnage** – A material made from layers of linen or papyrus and plaster, used to wrap mummies. Reused papyri in cartonnage have yielded important ancient texts.
2. **Abusir el-Malek** – An archaeological site in Middle Egypt where papyri were discovered in mummy cartonnage.
3. **Herakleopolite Nome** – An ancient administrative region (nome) in Middle Egypt, centered around Herakleopolis.
4. **Hermopolis Magna** – An important city in ancient Egypt, known for its religious significance and connections to Thoth, god of wisdom.
5. **Nome** – A territorial division in ancient Egypt, similar to a district or province.
6. **Dossier** – A collection of documents, typically centered on a person or subject (in this case, letters between Isadora and Asklepiades).
7. **Farewell formula** – Standardized closing phrases like “farewell” or “take care of your health.”
8. **Postscript (P.S.)** – A note added after the letter’s official closing; here, you relate “send the child’s sleeping rug” to a kind of ancient postscript. Seen in this specific letter.

9. **The dyer** – A tradesperson who dyes fabrics; Isadora mentions paying a dyer for goods.
10. **Drachma** – a unit of currency used in Ancient Greece. In today’s money one drachma would be about \$25.
11. **Ligature** – When two or more letters are joined together in handwriting.
12. **Minute hand** – Small, compact handwriting, often quick and abbreviated.
 - a. **Connective particles** – Small words in Greek that connect ideas and sentences; important for style and coherence.
 - b. **Docket** – A note added to a document (like “received year three”) to mark administrative details.

Family relationships:

1. **Isadora & Asklepiades (Asklas)** – Sister and brother, main figures in this episode’s correspondence. The name “Asklas” is a **diminutive or nickname** of Asklepiades.
2. **Paniskos** – Another (likely) brother mentioned in the letters, showing a multi-sibling household.
3. **Artemis (the child)** – Likely a child in the household, possibly Isadora’s daughter or a young relative.

Note:

Solid, not empty – Possibly refers to financial solidity or account status; the exact meaning is ambiguous and open to interpretation.