

Klaas Bentein, MEN solitarium in non-literary papyri: A reconsideration.

Mario Capasso, Paola Davoli & Natascia Pellé (edd.), Proceedings of the 29th International Congress of Papyrology. Lecce, 28 July - 3 August 2019 = Quaderni dell'Istituto superiore universitario di formazione interdisciplinare. 2 (Lecce, 2022) I, pp. 154-166.

http://siba-esu.unisalento.it/index.php/29th_ICP/issue/view/1881

Previous scholarship has observed that the occurrence of μέν without a corresponding δέ (so-called μέν solitarium) is not an uncommon phenomenon in Post-classical Greek, including non-literary papyri. It has been suggested that such instances are best captured by considering them “elliptically antithetical” (“prospective”). Shows that when it comes to the papyri, μέν can be found in other contexts, too. Explains the relatively frequent appearance of μέν solitarium by relating it to the semantic and syntactic extension of the μέν ... δέ construction in the post-classical period. Concludes by drawing attention to the importance of taking into account social context when describing such a grammatical feature.

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