

Tiziano Boggio, P.Oxy. 77.5105.1-7 (Leonidas of Alexandria): A Dionysiac Procession?

BASP 60 (2023) pp. 239-254, figg.

New interpretation of the first seven lines of the so-called "Poppaea Papyrus" (P. Oxy. LXXVII, 5105 [= MP3 1984.27; LDAB 140274]). Challenges the idea that the fragmentary incipit of the papyrus, which mentions various animals and mythological figures, depicts a Dionysiac procession. Instead claims that these verses use poetic imagery connected with Nero and Poppaea, hinting at the symbols of Neronian propaganda after the emperor's victory over Armenia in AD 63. Also suggests that the opening of the text describes the celestial journey of Aphrodite, who flies to the earth to guide Poppaea towards the heavens.

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