

Alexander of Thessalonica to Athanasius (CPG 2123.18)

<i>Reference:</i>	Mel. 20, CPG 2123.18, FNS 58
<i>Incipit:</i>	Συγχαίρω τῷ βελτίστῳ Σαραπίωνι
<i>Date:</i>	ca. 333
<i>Greek Text:</i>	Athanasius, Apol. Sec. 66
<i>English Translation:</i>	NPNF ² vol. 4, p. 134-135, adapted for FCC by SMT

This letter written by Alexander of Thessalonica to Athanasius shows that the Meletian controversy was known outside of Egypt. Athanasius reports that Bishop Alexander was familiar with the plot to convict Athanasius of killing Arsenius from reading John Arcaph's own letters. He then confirms for Athanasius that the plot had been found out, and that John Arcaph was disgraced. Athanasius then claims that there are many other letters written to him of a similar nature.

The Greek text below is that of Opitz as found in AW 2.4:66. The English translation has been adapted from NPNF² vol. 4, p.134-135 by SMT for FCC.

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Κυρίῳ ἀγαπητῷ υἱῷ καὶ ὁμοψύχῳ συλλειτουργῷ Ἀθανασίῳ Ἀλέξανδρος ἐπίσκοπος ἐν κυρίῳ χαίρειν.	To his dearly beloved son and fellow like-minded minister, the lord Athanasius, Alexander the Bishop sends health in the Lord.
Συγχαίρω τῷ βελτίστῳ Σαραπίωνι οὕτως ἱεροῖς ἑαυτὸν ἤθεσι κοσμεῖν ἀγωνιζομένῳ καὶ τὴν [τε] τοῦ πατρὸς μνήμην ἐγκωμιαστικώτερον ἐπαύξοντι. «ἐτελεύτησε γάρ», ὡς πού ἡ ἱερά φησι γραφή, «ὁ πατήρ αὐτοῦ καὶ ὡς οὐκ ἀπέθανε», κατέλιπε γὰρ τῷ βίῳ μνημόσυνον.	I congratulate the most excellent Sarapion that he is striving so earnestly to adorn himself with holy habits, and is thus advancing to higher praise the memory of his father. For, as the Holy Scripture somewhere says, 'though his father die, yet he is as though he were not dead;' for he has left behind him a memorial of his life.
ὅπως μὲν οὖν διεκείμεθα περὶ τὸν μνήμης ἄξιον Σώζοντα, οὐδ' αὐτὸς ἀγνοεῖς, δέσποτα, τὴν περὶ ἐκεῖνον ἱεράν μνήμην καὶ τὴν προσοῦσαν τῷ νεωτέρῳ ἐπιείκειαν. μίαν μόνην τὴν διὰ τοῦ νεωτέρου τούτου ἐδεξάμην παρὰ τῆς σεμνότητός σου ἐπιστολήν. ἐδήλωσα οὖν σοι αὐτὸ τοῦτο, ἵν' εἰδέναι ἔχῃς, δέσποτα.	What my feelings were towards the very memorable Sozon, you yourself, my lord, are not ignorant, for you know the sacredness of his memory, as well as the goodness of the young man. I have received only one letter from your reverence, which I had by the hands of this youth. I mention this to you, my lord, in order that you may know.
ὁ ἀγαπητὸς ἡμῶν καὶ συνδιάκονος Μακάριος εὐφρανέ με ἀπὸ τῆς Κωνσταντινουπόλεως γράψας, ὅπως Ἀρχάφ ὁ συκοφάντης ἠσχημόνησε τὸν ζῶντα ὡς φονευθέντα παρὰ πᾶσι κηρύξας. ὅτι γὰρ τὴν ἐπὶ τοῖς τολμηθεῖσιν αὐτῷ ἄξιαν εἴσπραξιν κομιεῖται παρὰ τοῦ δικαίου κριτοῦ μετὰ τοῦ ὁμοτρόπου στίφους, αἱ ἀψευδεῖς ἀναφωνοῦσι γραφαί.	Our dearly beloved brother and deacon Macarius afforded me great pleasure by writing to me from Constantinople, that the false accuser Archaph had met with disgrace for having given out before all men that a live man had been murdered. That he will receive from the righteous Judge, together with all the tribe of his associates, that punishment, which his crimes deserve, the infallible Scriptures assure us.

ὁ τῶν ὅλων διατηροῖ σε ἐπὶ μῆκιστον δεσπότης, κύριε πάντων χάριν χρηστότατε.	May the Lord of all preserve you for very many years, my lord, in every way most kind.
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