

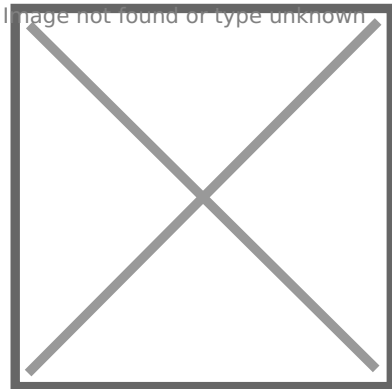
# Letter to Menoikeus translation by Peter Saint-Andre

Post by “Don” of June 3, 2023 at 8:27 AM

Quote

Slaves were often called pais ('boy'/'girl') and its diminutives paidion, paidarion and paidiskē. These words express paternalistic views of slaves and their equivalence to minors in the family, but the slaves thus described are not necessarily children (e.g. Lysias 1.12). Therefore, these words too must be studied in context. The pais-words, especially the vocative form, 'pai', often have a demeaning shade. As words referring to the domestic scene they are most frequently used in comedy (Mactoux 1980: 156-157). In Graeco-Roman Egypt these words were used mainly in private documents, whose addressees knew the legal status of the persons so called; in official documents other terms are generally found.

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[Greek and Roman Terminologies of Slavery](#)

The Greeks had no single generic term for 'slave', but a variety of terms for diverse relations of dependence and unfree people, many of which were also used...

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