The editor of BGU XI 2086 (Arsinoe, A.D. 235) rightly labels this document as an "Epikrisis-Eingabe". Unfortunately, the first column is very much mutilated, but it is obvious from parallels that the opening formula followed the usual pattern "To A from B". The question remains - to which persons or to which officials is this document addressed?

The opening of the papyrus is printed as follows:

1 [--- -] m,e v 'Αρσινοειτῶν
2 πόλεως καὶ [--- -] Ἀλκίμων [γε]γε[(μασιαρχηκότι)] ἐνάρχη πρώ-
3 καὶ πρὸς τῇ ἐπικρίσει
4 Παρὰ Αὐρηλίου Εὐπάρου Δεοντᾶ τοῦ Χαλρήμονος κτλ.

The editor's translation of the first two lines betrays his uncertainty, as to what preceded the name of Alkimos (line 2): "(An ..., ... der Stadt) Arsinoe, (und ...) Alkimos, gewesenen Gymnasiarchen und amtierenden Pryta-

A check of the original has enabled me to suggest some new readings and to offer a new interpretation. The remains of the word preceding 'Αρσινο-

The remains of the word preceding 'Αρσινο-

In favour of the latter solution one may refer to the conclusion of V. Martin (Aegyptus 13, 1933, 294-98), that before A.D. 244 documents addressed to the archontes / town council of a city normally seem to start with an

1) I should like to thank W.M. Brashear for his hospitality during my stay in Berlin and for his correcting an earlier version of this article.
ethnic). At the same time it should be remarked, however, that it is difficult to guess what should have preceded Πτολεμαῖῶν, if this version is adopted. As the epikrisis declaration seems to have been written by several hands it is obvious that col.1 is not a copy and that a restoration like [Ἀντ.γραφών ἐπικρίσεως. Πτολ]εμαῖῶν Ἀρσινοεῖτων, κτλ. is out of the question.

Alkimos as officiating prytanis should be the intermediary between the archontes/town council and the sender of the document in question, and his name and functions should stand in the genitive preceded by διά (cf. e.g. the numerous documents addressed to the town council of Hermopolis as published in SPP V; for a list cf. A.K.Bowman, The Town Councils of Roman Egypt, Toronto 1971, 164ff.). A check of the original has in fact confirmed this hypothesis. Read in line 2: [- - διά - - Ἀλκίμου [γε]γο(μνασωρχηκότος) ἐνδόχου πρυτ(δνως). It seems likely that Alkimos' name was at least preceded by an Αὐρηλίου, but one cannot be certain whether the man was simply named Aurelius Alkimos, or Aurelius N.N. alias (ὁ καὶ) Alkimos. This uncertainty is enhanced by the fact, that there seem to be various possibilities of restoring lines 1 and 2. With regard to line 3 the tables of Oxyrhynchite prytaneis (cf. Bowman, op.cit., 131ff.) show, that such an addition of καὶ προς τῇ ἐπικρίσει after the title of prytanis is unparalleled, and one could equally well assume that this line was left blank on the papyrus.

C.A.Nelson (Status Declarations in Roman Egypt, Amsterdam 1979 [= ASP 19], 12) informs us that Arsinoite epikrisis declarations were usually addressed to two officials (always former gymnasiarchs) who were members of the commission specifically in charge of the epikrisis. If the restorations suggested here for lines 1-2 find acceptance this papyrus is remarkable for being not only the latest epikrisis declaration from Arsinoe (cf. BGU XI 2086 Introd.), but also apparently the only one which is addressed not to a commission of former gymnasiarchs, but to the town-council (and archontes?) of the metropolis of the Arsinoite nome.

2) But cf. PSI IX 1067 from A.D.235.