The current editorial address for the Bulletin of the American Society of Papyrologists is:

Peter van Minnen
Department of Classics
University of Cincinnati
410 Blegen Library
Cincinnati, OH 45221-0226
USA
peter.vanminnen@classics.uc.edu

The editors invite submissions not only from North-American and other members of the Society but also from non-members throughout the world; contributions may be written in English, French, German, or Italian. Manuscripts submitted for publication should be sent to the editor at the address above. Submissions can be sent as an e-mail attachment (.doc and .pdf) with little or no formatting. A double-spaced paper version should also be sent to make sure “we see what you see.” We also ask contributors to provide a brief abstract of their article for inclusion in L’Année philologique, and to secure permission for any illustration they submit for publication.

The editors ask contributors to observe the following guidelines:

• Abbreviations for editions of papyri, ostraca, and tablets should follow the Checklist of Editions of Greek, Latin, Demotic and Coptic Papyri, Ostraca and Tablets (http://scriptorium.lib.duke.edu/papyrus/texts/clist.html). The volume number of the edition should be included in Arabic numerals: e.g., P.Oxy. 41.2943.1-3; 2968.5; P.Lond. 2.293.9-10 (p.187).

• Other abbreviations should follow those of the American Journal of Archaeology and the Transactions of the American Philological Association.

• For ancient and Byzantine authors, contributors should consult the third edition of the Oxford Classical Dictionary, xxix-liv, and A Patristic Greek Lexicon, xi-xiv.

• For general matters of style, contributors should consult the 15th edition of the Chicago Manual of Style or this issue of BASP.

When reading proof, contributors should limit themselves to correcting typographical errors. Revisions and additions should be avoided; if necessary, they will be made at the author’s expense. The primary author(s) of contributions published in BASP will receive a copy of the pdf used for publication.

John Wallrodt and Andrew Connor provided assistance with the production of this volume.
THE BULLETIN OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PAPYROLOGISTS

Volume 44
2007

Editorial Committee:
Peter van Minnen
Timothy Renner, John Whitehorne

Advisory Board:
Antti Arjava, Paola Davoli, Gladys Frantz-Murphy, Andrea Jördens, David Martinez, Kathleen McNamee, John Tait, David Thomas, Dorothy Thompson, Terry Wilfong
P. Vindob. G 26079: A Parchment Codex Fragment of LXX Ecclesiastes 1:14-17

Lincoln Blumell University of Toronto

Abstract

Edition of a fifth-century fragment of a small parchment codex that contained (at least) the book of Ecclesiastes in Greek.

This triangular fragment (H x W = 4.5 x 3.5 cm) preserves the top corner of a page from a small parchment codex that contained the book of Ecclesiastes. On the front side (hair side) the upper outside corner of the page is missing with the tear running diagonally from this corner down to the left margin about two thirds of the way down the page. No pagination can be detected on the front side of the fragment, although it is possible that it was placed in the upper outside corner that is missing. On the back side (flesh side) of the fragment in the upper inside corner an η is readily visible above the first line of text. Given its placement in the interior margin it is unlikely that it represents the page number since pagination was usually placed either in the center or outside edge of the upper margin. It is therefore more likely that the η represents the quire number since such “gathering numbers” were placed in the upper inside margin. However, given that most remains of miniature Greek codices

1 I studied the fragment from photos during the Papyrological Summer Institute at the University of Cincinnati in 2005. I would like to thank Dr. Cornelia Römer for looking at the original and providing help with the transcription.

2 It was acquired by the Österreichische Nationalbibliothek in 1881-1884.

3 E.G. Turner, The Typology of the Early Codex (Philadelphia 1977) 76-77. For a paginated fragment of a miniature codex of 6 Ezra with accompanying discussion of the page numbering see P.Oxy. 7.1010 (IV AD). In this fragment, the pagination is placed in the center of the upper margin and contains a supralinear stroke. If the η on the back side of the present fragment represents the page number it would mean that the preceding seven pages contained the first fifteen verses of Ecclesiastes, which is not unrealistic given that the codex appears to have contained about two verses per page.

4 Turner (n. 3) 77-78. He notes that in instances where quire numbers are placed in the upper inside margins they may be accompanied by page numbers, which usually tend
are extremely fragmentary, only rarely containing more than just a fragment, page, or double page, generalizing about pagination and quire numbering is very speculative.

There are no signs of rulings or prickings on the fragment and the writing on the hair side of the fragment is quite worn and less discernible than the writing on the flesh side. For the most part the letters are formed regularly and written with a clear uncial hand, although in some cases the respective sizes of the letters vary at the end of a line. The letters are round and upright and appear to constitute a late form of biblical uncial. The hand is not earlier than Siniaticus or Vaticanus (ca. AD 350) and probably not later than the Vienna Dioscurides (ca. 513).\(^5\) While it is difficult to assign a precise date to this fragment, given that certain letters display signs of transformation common in the fifth century – the diagonal strokes of Δ, Κ, Μ, Υ, are conspicuously thicker than in other letters and decorative roundels appear at the ends of the cross bar on the Τ – a mid-fifth century date seems most probable.\(^6\)

Another text from the Vienna collection that may have some bearing on the present fragment is P. Vindob. G 3077, which contains Proverbs 26:11, 17-18.\(^7\) The handwriting on this fragment is remarkably similar, it comes from a small parchment codex, and it contains eis thesis (indentation) similar to that found in the present fragment. It has been dated to the mid-fifth century (ca. 475).\(^8\) Despite the many similarities, which suggest that the two fragments may have come from the same codex (Proverbs and Ecclesiastes would have formed a nice pair), the writing on P. Vindob. G 3077 is slightly larger than the writing on the present fragment. This probably indicates that the two pieces did not actually come from the same codex, but it is possible that the present fragment has shrunk or that it came from the end of the codex or quire when the scribe knew he was running out of space and wrote in a smaller hand.

The average letter width in the fragment is 0.275 cm and the line spacing is consistent throughout at approximately 0.4 cm per line. The front side of
the fragment likely contained about 12 lines based on a reconstruction of the missing text between front and back side of the fragment. The left margin is periodically indented with short lines preceding full lines that mark the beginning of a verse or half verse. The same phrasing is also attested in a papyrus codex of the third century that contains the entire book of Ecclesiastes. The top margin of the fragment is 1 cm and side margins 0.5 cm, so that the dimensions of the codex may have been approximately 7.5 cm x 5 cm. These dimensions place this codex within Turner’s Group XIV of miniature parchment codices, where the closest parallel in size is P.Mich. 3.132 (Psalms, V AD?). Given its very small size it is likely that this codex was manufactured and employed primarily for private reading.

That this Ecclesiastes fragment is of Christian, and not Jewish, provenance, is confirmed by the occurrence of a nomen sacrum – apart from the fact that it is written on a codex and not on a roll. In l. 1 on the front of the fragment the nomen sacrum for πνεῦμα (πνς) occurs. In ll. 3-4 on the back of the fragment the first and last two letters of the word ”Jerusalem” are preserved with a lacuna in the middle; however, no supralinear stroke can be detected and based on the spacing of the lacuna it appears that the word was written out in full.

The extant text of Ecclesiastes 1:14-17 preserved on the fragment accords with Rahlfs’ edition of the LXX with no apparent text critical problems. Line 1 on the front side preserves the last part of v. 14 and begins in the middle of προαίρεσις. Verse 15 then occupies most of the front side, and on the final line the first two letters of the first word in v. 16 are visible. While the first half of this verse is largely missing, the second half begins on the back of the fragment. In the final line on the back only one letter from v. 17 is visible.

---

9 B.J. Diebner and R. Kasser, Hamburger Papyrus Bil. 1 (Genève 1989). In this text two horizontal strokes (=) are typically inserted between words where the verse and half verse occurs.
10 Turner (n. 3) 29-30.
12 In the Hamburg papyrus edited by Diebner and Kasser (n. 9), “Jerusalem” is contracted in Ecclesiastes 1:16. J. O’Callaghan, Nomina Sacra in Papyris Graecis Saeculi III Neotestamentariis (Rome 1970) 28-31, 48, notes that the word “Jerusalem” is peculiar and is abbreviated on some occasions but not on others.
13 The Hamburg papyrus edited by Diebner and Kasser (n. 9), which was not used in Rahlfs’ edition, contains no differences and agrees with the text of the present fragment.
Provenance unknown

Hair side

αμφετησις πως [ vacat ]
διεστραμε[νον ου]
δυνης[ται τοι επι-
κοσμηθηναι]
και υστ[ερημα ου δ-]
ηηη[σεται? του]
[αριθμηθηναι]
ελ[αλησα vacat ]

5 και υστ[ερημα ου δ-]
ηηη[σεται? του]
[αριθμηθηναι]
ελ[αλησα vacat ]

5-6 δυνησεται (but note the odd hyphenation)

Flesh side

η
[σοφ]ιαν επι πασιν
[οι εγειντο ημπροσ-
[θεν ] μου εν ιε-
[ρουσαλ]ημ]
και καρδια μ]ου ειδε(ν)
[και καρδια]ν
[και εδωκα καρδια]ν

5 ειδε Perg.