NEW FRAGMENTS OF GENESIS IN SAHIDIC

P. Chester Beatty 2023, which is here published with the kind permission of the Trustees of the Chester Beatty Library and Gallery of Oriental Art, Dublin, consists of 6 fragments (in 2 frames), written in Sahidic and belonging to two folios of a papyrus codex. Unfortunately both the provenance of this text and its date of acquisition by Sir Alfred Chester Beatty are unknown.

In both frames → precedes ↓. Present dimensions of the fragments in frame 1 are c. 8.3 cmB x 23.1 cmH and 2.5 cmB x 2.9 cmH. The smaller fragment forms part of lines 1-4 of col. 1→ and 2-5 of col.2↓ of the larger piece. The four fragments in frame 2 range in size from 2.1 cmB and 2.1 cmH to 18.6 cmB and 12.5 cmH. Their placement in the frame adequately reflects their relationship.

The manuscript was inscribed with two cols. of text to a page with a range of between 5 and 10 letters per line, but typically 7 to 9. Originally each col. had c. 33 or 34 lines. The fragments in frame 1 furnish 40 partial lines of text per side and frame 2 has 43 on each side. Extant lower margins measure 3.8 cm in frame 1→ and 3 cm in 1↓ as well as in both → and ↓ of frame 2.

Apart from the usual syllabic overlining, the manuscript gives examples of the medial/high stop, diaeresis, paragraphos with ekthesis (1→ col. 2,18; cf. 2↓ col. 1,8), enlarged letters in line-initial position (ibid. line 1), oversized letters in medial position (1↓ col. 1,18,21; → col. 1,18; 2→ col. 2,6), overlining for line-final nu (2→ col. 1,11), supra-linear omicron (1→ col. 1,13; 2→ col. 1,8; ↓ col. 1,3) and one instance of the same letter in sub-linear position (2→ col. 2,4). Line-final letters are sometimes reduced in size in an apparent effort to keep the right side of the column reasonably straight.

Contents of frame 1: Gen 7:13–23. Of this chapter three texts have been published: E.O. Winstedt, "Sahidic Biblical Fragments in the Bodleian Library" (Bodl. ms. Coptic d.2), Proceedings of the Society of Biblical Archeology 25 (1903), 317–24 (Gen. 7:13–20); G. Maspéro, Fragments de la version Thébaine de l'Ancien Testament. Mémoires publiés par les membres de la mission archéologique francaise au Caire VI fasc 1, Paris 1892 (Gen. 7:13–24); A. Ciasca, Sacrorum Bibliorum Fragmenta Copto-Sahidica Musei Borgiani iussu et sumptibus S. Congregationis de Propaganda Fide edita 1, Rome
1885 (Gen 7:1–13, 16–24). These three witnesses have been cited below with the numbers employed in J. W. Wevers, *Genesis*, SEPTUAGINTA (Vetus Testamentum Graecum Auctoritate Academiae Scientiarum Gottingensis editum I), Göttingen 1974. Consequently Sa9=W instedt, Sa19=Maspérou, Sa20= Ciasca. Evidence for the Greek text as well as the sigla we employ derives from Wevers' edition; the sole exception is MT=Masoretic Text. The same system of notation is followed for frame 2.

Considerable textual variation among the Sahidic witnesses for Gen 7:13–23 is in evidence and for that reason the addition of P. Chester Beatty 2023 (=Sa22 in continuation of Wevers' numbering) is of great importance. As is clear from the notes, Sa9 is easily its closest textual relative, and, throughout, the new text rarely reads against Gk (Wevers' critical text), a fact which suggests that Sa19 and especially Sa20 have undergone extensive inner-Sahidic alteration. In a number of places the new text can now be used for an improved reconstruction of Sa19. Thus in verse 22 in place of \(\text{πη[\alpha \ μδη]2 \ η2θ[ου \ ΜΝ \ ουο] ιες[Τ21 Χι ι]ονουδ[ου \ \ ου \ \ \ ου] \ ιες[Τ21 ιετ]ονουδ[ου \ \ \ \ ου} \) we might now better read \(\text{πη[οι \ Νδη]2 \ η2θ[ι ουο] ιες[Τ21 ιετ]ονουδ[ου \ \ ου} \) in conformity with P. Chester Beatty 2023. Sa20 has been rewritten in this and the following verse and, consequently, is of no assistance.

In the textual notes to both passages the reading of P. Chester Beatty 2023 is cited consistently to the left of the square bracket, followed by supporting evidence.

Contents of frame 2: Gen 27:23–25, 27–32. Only one text of chapter 27 has been published: L. Th. Lefort, *Les Manuscrits Coptes de l’Université de Louvain*, Louvain 1940 (Gen 27:1–4, 21–23, 27–29, 41, 42, 46). Since our passage is only partially extant in Sahidic, de Lagarde's edition of the Bohairic text has been consulted and cited (=Bo): *Der Pentateuch Koptisch*, Leipzig 1867. The Bohairic, however, is never cited without additional textual support. Lefort's edition is cited below as Sa3 in conformity with Wevers' critical edition of the Greek. A second Sahidic text was made available to the authors by Professor Dr. Peter Nagel whose edition of BL Or 6954 (=Gen 27:22–25, 2730) is scheduled to appear shortly in "Sahidische Pentateuchfragmente" ZASA. We thank Professor Nagel for his generosity. His text is cited as Sa23. Needless to say this designation serves only convenience.
Frame 1 → (Gen 7:13–17)

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c. 11 lines lost

Notes:
Col. 1, 5 2ραι = Gk] + Δε Sa20  
       πεισηού = Gk] πεισηού ετμαν Sa20  
       6 Ανοκε ευθ ιευον Μη = Gk] ∧υθυκ Gηι ιπείε Μη ιευοκρή Μη Sa20  
       1αφεν Gk] 1αφετ Sa20  10 ινηκρή ιπείε = Gk] om Sa20  13 Αυο  
       ινοκτε Sa9] Μη ινοκτε Sa19 20 (Sa20 – ΜΗΤ-) 16 ΝΜΜΑη Sa9 20 = Gk]  
       om Sa19 = 569 129 346 31 646 AethCG] ετκιβωτος Sa9 = Gk] pr  
       Αυθυκ ευθον Sa19 20; + ΝΜΜΑη Sa20 = 129 646 vss 14–15 om Sa20  18  
       Αυο Sa9] Μη Sa19; pr ινταου Sa19 = 17'72'135' Arm Syh [*] 19 ινταου  
       Sa9 = Gk] om Sa19 Aeth 20 ινοκτ Sa9 = Gk] ινεγινοκτ Sa19 = 82 ι Arab  
       Syh [*] 21 ιντβιννυυε κατα ινοκτ Sa19 (ινεγινοκτ)] om Sa9  
       Col. 2, 1 1α ινοκε Sa9 = Gk] om Sa19  5 ευθον Sa9] ευθον Sa19  
       15ιντα] ιντ Sa9 19 ινοκτε Sa9 = Gk] ινοεινε Sa19 = D M Bo Tar  18  
       Α Sa9] pr Αυο Sa19 20= Gk
20 ἐρῶν ΝΤΚΙΒΩΤΟΣ Ἁ 9 (κυβὸν) = ᾿Γκ] ΝΤΚΙΒΩΤΟΣ ΣΑΒΟΛ ΜΜΟΥ ᾿Α 19 = A 121–424 122 Aeth Bo Pal Ald Sixt; ΜΠΡΟ (= 17/f56* Lat Ruf) ΝΤΚΙΒΩΤΟΣ ἐρῶν ΝΜΟΥ Ἁ 20 = 22 ΔΥΦ = ᾿Γκ] + ΤΑΙ ΝΤΑΤΑΜΙΟΣ ᾿Α = f56*; om Sa 19 ΔΥΦ ᾿Α 9 = ᾿Γκ] λ ...ΟΥΝ ᾿Α 19; om init vs 17 - (λ) ΠΜΟΟΥ ᾿Α 20

Frame 1↓, (Gen 7:17–23)

c. 9 lines lost

σει ἐ]τρ[λι
ΝΤΚΙ]Β[ΩΤΟΣ
ΔΥΦ ΔΑ]ΧΙΣΕ

4 ΕΠΚΑ]Σ ΑΗ
ΕΜΟ]ΜΗΝ[ΕΙ
ΠΜΟΟΥ]Υ ΔΥΦ
ΔΑΧΩΔΙ]Ε ΕΜΑ

8 ΤΕ 21 ΧΜΠΚΑ2
ΤΚΙΒΩΤΟ]Σ
ΔΕ ΝΕ]ΚΩΕ
ΕΙ ΝΕ 2]ΧΗ

12 ΠΜΟΟΥ]Υ
ΠΜΟΟΥ]Υ ΔΕ
ΝΕ]ΚΕ]ΜΕΟΜ
? ΕΜΙΑΤΕ

16 ΕΜΑΤΕ 21 ΧΗ
ΠΚΑ2] ΔΥΦ
ΔΑΚΟΒΙΣ] ΣΙΤΟ
ΟΥ ΝΙΜ] ΕΤΧΟ

20 ΣΕ ΔΥΦ] ΕΤ]ΤΑ
ΠΕΣΗ]Τ ΝΙΠΕ
ΛΙΜΟΟΥ]Υ ΧΙ

24 ΜΗΝΗ ΝΙΜΑ
bottom

(18)

(19)

(22)

(23)

(20)

bottom
Notes:


Frame 2→ (Gen. 27:23-25, 27-29)

ΔΙΣΙΗΠΟΥ

ΕΡΙΟΥ ΠΕ (24) ΠΕΣ[ΣΟΙ]Ν (27) ΕΡΙΟΥ ΠΕ (24) ΠΕΣ[ΣΟΙ]Ν (27)
ΧΑΙ ΝΑΙ ΧΕ
4 ΝΙΝΕ ΝΤΟΚ ΠΕ ΠΑΦΗΡΕ ΝΕΛΤΟΚ ΝΤΟΚ ΔΕ ΝΕΛΧΑ
8 ΝΑΙ ΧΕ ΔΗΝΟΚ ΠΕ ΠΕ (25) ΝΑΙ ΧΕ ΝΑΙ ΧΕ 2ΘΗ ΕΒΟΥ
12 ΕΡΟΙ ΤΑΟΥ ΩΜ Ε[Θ]ΑΛ ΗΜ ΠΕ ΕΚΕΩΡΕ Ο ΠΑΦΗΡΕ ΧΕ ΕΡΟΙ
16 ΕΡΕΤΑΙΓ ΧΗ ΚΜΟΥ ΕΡΟΙ [Κ ΔΗ] ΩΗΛ ΑΕ Ε ΖΟΥΝ] ΕΡΟΙ
12 ΤΑΙ ΕΝΤΑΙΧΟ ΕΙΣ ΣΜΟΥ Ε ΡΟΙ [ΜΑΡΕ (28) ΠΗΟΤΕ ΤΕ
16 ΕΡΟΙ ΕΒΟΛ Ε[ΡΟΙ ΕΒΟΛ 2Ν] ΤΩΓ[Ε ΝΤ ΠΕ ΑΥ[Θ ΕΒΟΛ 2Μ] ΠΗΗ[ΗΕ
20 [Mνκλας ΝΟΥ]  
\[ΔΦΗ ΝΟΟΥΟ\]  
\[ΣΤΗΡΙΝΣΙΜΕΡ\]  
2Μ2ΛΛ] ΝΑΚ  
24 Ναίνιν2] ΕΘΝΟΣ  
ΔΥΦ ΝΕ] ΕΟΥ[Ω  
bottom

Notes:
Col. 1, 2 πεξαπ Sa23] pr ΟΥΟ2 Bo = Gk 3 Ναι Sa231 om Bo = Gk χε]  
X Sa23 4 Νηε] om Sa23 = Bo Gk  8 Ναι] om Sa23 Bo = Gk  9 πε Sa3 =  
Bo 30 619 Arab Arm] om Gk  Νπεξαπ] pr ΟΥΟ2 Bo = Gk  10 Ναι Sa23 =  
527 Aeth Arab Latcod 100] om Bo = Gk  14 πεκσωρέ] πιντακσωρ] Sa23  
0] om Bo = Gk  
Col. 2, 3 ΔΥΣΜΟΥ] pr ΟΥΟ2 Bo = Gk  5 Ναι Sa3 Cyri] om Bo = Gk  12  
ΕΠΑ-] ΝΠΑ- Sa3  13 εροι Sa3 23] + ΟΥΟ2 Bo = Gk  16 ΜΑΡΕ Sa22vid =  
Gk] ερε Sa3me 23 = b 129 Chr LatAug Ps Phil εποκ] ΝΑΚ Sa3 23 (Bo)  19  
ΠΚΑΙΝΕ] πωτ Sa3 (πωοτ) 23  24 ΕΘΝΟΣ] ΕΘΝΟΣ Sa23

Frame 2↓ (Gen 27:29–32)
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Notes:
Col. 1, 1ocrates - PET Sa 23 9 PET Sa 23 10 }\Delta\lambda\kappa|
\epsilon1\Delta\lambda\kappa Sa 23 15 "PET" = 961 15-17'-58-135" C" (c var) 44-370 n s-
730 318-424 z 55* 509 Phil] om Bo = Gk
Col. 2, 3 (PET) = Bo A 911 15'-135'-426-708 Arab Arm Syh MT]
om Gk 13 e\varkappa\eta pr OYO2 Bo = Gk 19 N\lambda\eta = 413 Aeth] om Bo = Gk
PLATE I: P. Chester Beatty 2023, Gen. 7:13–17
PLATE II: P. CHESTER BEATTY 2023, GEN. 7:17–23
PLATE IV: P. CHESTER BEATTY 2023, GEN. 27:29–32