

Catalogue of
COPTIC
LITERARY MANUSCRIPTS
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Bentley Layton

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London

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WITHOUT ATTRIBUTION

Apocalypse of Elijah. See No. 1

Apocalypse of Paul. See No. 158

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Apocryphal Work

Or.6954(44)(45). — Parchment; 2 fragments now joined to form a conjugate pair of leaves of a codex, apparently the innermost double leaf of a quire; 338 × 409 mm; the complete leaf was *c.* 338 × *c.* 260 mm. Mounted in PETP film. Ancient pagination wanting. Faded; brown stains.

CONTENTS: *Apocryphal Work* (fragments). The harrowing of hell, in which Jesus commands the forces of hell to open their gates. (Smaller leaf, recto) 'Thy force has [dissolved], thy pride been undone, thy boasting removed from the face of the earth, painfully ...' (Verso) The forces of hell cry out because the *parousia* of the Lord is nigh. Even Adam ... (Larger leaf, recto) He says again, 'Take up your gates (πόλεις), o rulers (ἄρχοντες)', and commands the Holy Forces to withdraw from the wicked doorkeeper; thereupon the Authorities (ἐξουσίαι) reply brazenly, 'Break our iron chains ...' (Verso) It is not him that he threatens, but rather you (plur.) as being base servants, so that you take up the foundations of the eternal gates that they might be overturned and forgotten.

COLLATION: ? No remains of signatures, quire ornaments, monograms, headlines, or catchwords.

PARCHMENT: F and H distinguishable by colour; ruled (Leroy No. ?; horizontal lines and vertical justifying lines ruled); no prickings.

LAYOUT: Written area, *av.* *c.* 252 × 176 mm. In 2 columns, max. w. *c.* 81 mm, of *c.* 31 lines. Paragraphs usually begin with a new line, set off by ekthesis, initials, and marginal signs. SCRIPT (Pl. 6.2): Upright,

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tending towards thick-and-thin style; with 3-stroke *μ*, narrow *ε* *ο* *ς*, and short *ρ* *ϕ* *γ*. 10 lines = *c.* 80 mm. Non-standard superlineation (very short strokes, points); apostrophes; logical punctuation (raised points, decorative marks); tremas. DECORATION: Initials enlarged, painted with colour(s), standing in the margin, decorated with painted obelus and budded dipole signs. Also painted is punctuation. Extended letters, beginning of line *λ μ π τ ω χ*, end of line *α μ γ*. Colour(s) faded, possibly reddish orange and/or yellow.

HISTORY:

[Horner]

1. Horner (Patriarch) Nos. 17ⁱ and 17ⁱⁱ. See Introduction, XXX-XXXIII.
2. Found at the White Monastery of Sohāg (Akhmīm) in 1898 in the course of restoration work; a remnant of earlier finds by Henry Wallis and by Budge (now Or.3367 and Or.3579-3581). Subsequently claimed by the Coptic Patriarch. Studied by Crum in December 1908. [Crum BM, p. X. Hebbelynck, *Muséon* xxx (1911), 97 n. 1; xxxi (1912), 275 n. 1. CrPap Notebook 106.]
3. Purchased on 14 January 1909 from Revd George Horner, together with the other parts of Or.6954. [ROM. ER.]

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Apocryphal Work

Or.7027, f. 75. — Parchment; a single leaf fragment, imperfect at the bottom; 192 × 175 mm. Inlaid in paper. Bound with a paper codex (No. 161), from whose ancient binding it was extracted (BMis xxxviii). Ancient pagination: *κθ/λ*. Verso faded.

CONTENTS: *Apocryphal Work* (fragment). A lament of the Virgin Mary, addressing accusations to Pilate and the High Priest. 'Had you judged according to law, o *hēgemōn*, they would not kill the royal son ... Had you judged well, o *hēgemōn*, you would not crucify my son in place of Barabbas ... Had you judged well, o High Priest, you would not put a noble thief to death and slay one who is faithful. Had you judged well, you would not kill a powerful man (*dynatos*) ... Had you judged well, o High Priest, you would not be immoderate(?) towards your teacher'. Partly ed. by Budge in BMis xxxviii-xxxix.

COLLATION: ? No remains of signature or catchword; no quire ornament, monogram, or headlines.

PARCHMENT: F and H distinguishable by colour; ruled?; no prickings.

LAYOUT: Written area, *av.* ? × *c.* 148(?) mm. In a single column, max. w. *c.* 155 mm, of ? lines. SCRIPT (Pl. 18.6): Upright, tending towards thick-and-thin style; with 3-stroke *μ*, wide *ε* *ο* *ς*, tall *ρ* *ϕ*, and short *γ*. 10 lines = *c.* 96 mm. Single-letter superlineation; apostrophes; logical punctuation (raised points, decorative marks); tremas. DECORATION: No initials survive. Citation marks. Extended letters,

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