

ALIN SUCIU

COPTIC BIBLICAL FRAGMENTS IN THE POSSESSION OF THE TRINITY COLLEGE
IN DUBLIN

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COPTIC BIBLICAL FRAGMENTS IN THE POSSESSION OF THE TRINITY COLLEGE IN DUBLIN

The Trinity College in Dublin possesses a small collection of eight Coptic manuscript fragments. They are currently inventoried under the call numbers 11062/1–8. The fragments were purchased by the Trinity College during an auction in December 1998 from Sotheby's. In January 2012, I have made an investigation of the fragments on the basis of the photographs which were sent to me by Jane Maxwell, the principal curator at the Manuscripts and Archives Research Library of the Trinity College in Dublin. The present report touches on the identification of the Dublin material.

The fragments are written on parchment, being small, irregular in shape and badly deteriorated. All of them are written in the Sahidic dialect. In most cases, only a few words, letters or traces of letters have survived. The description supplied by the auction house did not identify the content of any of the fragments, but stated that some of them may belong to the lives of the saints. However, no such identification was possible upon closer examination.

Thus, fragments 11062/1–2 and 5–8 have been identified as Biblical in character. The fragments 11062/3–4, which are paleographically related and came from the same manuscript, still resist any proper identification of the text. However, the fragmentary rubric which appears on the verso (Flesh side) of 11062/3 suggests that they might have belonged to a *typikon*. The following texts were identified:

fragments 11062/1–2: Psalms 31:7–10, 32:5–9

fragment 11062/5: 2 Peter 2:1–2, 5–7

fragment 11062/6: John 11:44–46

fragment 11062/7: Ecclesiastes 1:9–11

fragment 11062/8: Mark 1:24–26

The comparison of the Dublin material with other Coptic manuscripts which belonged to the White Monastery, in Upper Egypt, had showed that at least two of them come from this location. Moreover, it is possible that all the Trinity College lot came from the White Monastery codices which are scattered today all over the world.

Fragments 11062/1–2: Psalms

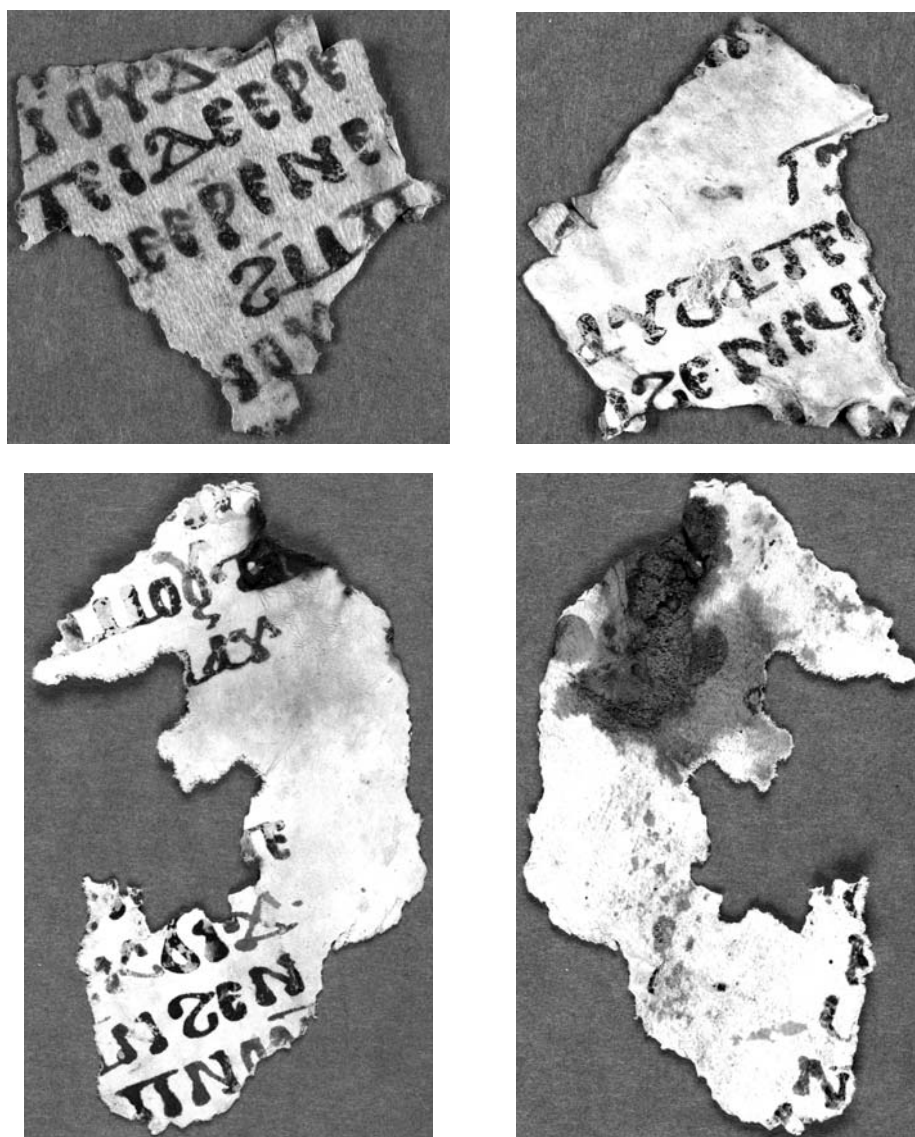
Parchment. 45 × 70 mm; 36 × 44 mm. Hair and flesh sides of the skin clearly distinguishable. On the upper outer corner of the recto (Flesh side) the page number 45 (ⲛⲉ) is clearly visible. One column of text. The two fragments originally belonged to the same leaf. Sahidic dialect.

The identification of other leaves from the same manuscript shows that the Dublin fragments belonged to a lectionary once in the possession of the White Monastery. Related fragments: Rome, Bibliotheca Apostolica, Borg. copt. 109, cass. 23, fasc. 90, ff. 1–2. The same scribe copied another White Monastery manuscript from which some fragments of the Proverbs have been found. These include: Rome, Bibliotheca Apostolica, Borg. copt. 109, cass. 6, fasc. 23, ff. 1–4.

Psalms 31:7–10, 32:5–9

ⲛⲉ

- 1 [ⲧⲉⲑⲁⲓⲧⲓⲥ ⲉⲧⲕⲱⲧⲉ] ⲉⲣⲟⲓ
 [ⲡⲁⲧⲉⲗⲏⲁ ⲥⲟⲧⲧ ⲉⲣⲟⲗ ⲉⲃⲟⲗ ⲉⲃⲟⲗ
 [ⲉⲃⲟⲗ ⲡⲁⲕⲱⲧⲉ ⲁⲓⲁⲧⲁ]ⲁⲓⲁ
 [ⲧⲏⲁⲧⲁⲙⲟⲕ ⲡⲏⲁⲧⲥⲁⲣⲟⲕ ⲉⲧⲉ]ⲉⲃⲟⲗ ⲉⲧ



11062/3 (upper) and 11062/4 (lower)

11062/4

recto (Flesh side)

[]Δ[...]
 [...]ΠΠΟΟΥ Π[...]
 []ΗΔΥ
 []
 []
 []ΤΕ
 []ΕΚΙΔ·
 []ΜΝΖΕΝ
 []ΠΠΟΥ

verso (Hair side)

Ϡ[]
 Η[]
 Ϡ[]
 Π[]
 Η[]

Recto (Flesh side): John 11:44–46. Only a few letters of the left side column are legible. The right side column is lost.

- 1 [ΠΕΧΕ ΙC ΝΑΥ·] ΧΕ
[ΒΟΛΩ ΕΒΟΛ ΝΤΕΤΠ] ΚΑΑΔ
[ΝΩΒΩΚ· ΟΥΝΗ]Η
[ΨΕ ΔΕ ΕΒΟΛ ΖΠΙΟΥ]ΔΔΙ
5 [ΕΝΤΑΥΕΙ ΨΑΝΑΡΙΑ] ΔΥΩ
[ΔΥΝΑΥ ΕΠΕΝΤΑΔΑΔ]Δ ΔΥ
[ΠΙCΤΕΥΕ ΕΡΟΔ· ΖΟΙ]ΗΕ ΔΕ
[ΕΒΟΛ ΠΖΗΤΟΥ ΔΥΒ]ΩΚ
[ΨΑΝΕΦΑΡΙCΑΙΟC ΔΥ]Ω
10 [ΔΥΤΑΜΟΟΥ ΕΝΕΝΤΑ ΙC ΔΔΥ·]

Verso (Hair side): John 12:15–17. Too little is preserved from the left side column to attempt reconstruction.

- 1 Ε[ΧΠΟΥCΗC ΠΕΙΩ· ΠΕΦΝΑ]
ΘΗ[ΤΗC ΠΠΟΥΕΙΝΕ]
ΕΗ[ΔΙ ΠΨΟΡΠ· ΑΛΛΑ]
ΠΤ[ΕΡΕΔΧΙ ΕΟΟΥ ΠCΠΙC]
5 ΤΟΤ[Ε ΔΥΡ ΠΜΕΥΕ ΧΕ ΠΕΡΕ]
ΝΑ[Ι CΗΖ ΕΤΒΗΗΤΩ ΔΥΩ]
ΝΑ[Ι ΠΕ ΠΤΑΥΔΑΥ ΝΑΔ]
ΠΕΔ[Ρ ΗΠΤΡΕ ΔΕ ΠCΠ]
Η[ΗΗΨΕ ΕΤΠΠΝΑΔ ΧΕ]

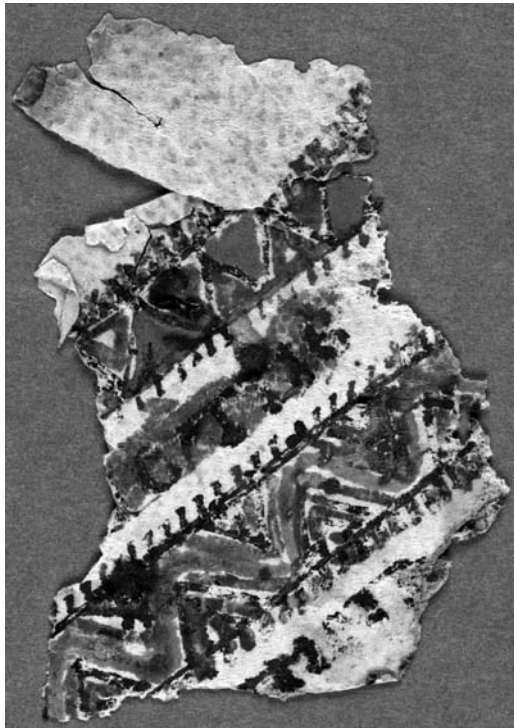


Fragment 11062/7: Ecclesiastes

Parchment fragment. 63 × 77 mm. Hair and flesh sides of the skin clearly distinguishable. No pagination. Sahidic. One column of text. The recto (Flesh side) has a few letters from the title: [ΠΕΚΚΛΗΣΙ]ΔΣΤΗΣ. Only four letters of the first line (Ecclesiastes 1:1) have survived: ΠΑΙ ΝΕ ΠΩΔΧΕ ΠΠΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑΣ]ΤΗΣ Π[ΩΗΡΕ ΠΔΔΥΕΙΑ].

Verso (Hair side), Ecclesiastes 1:9–11:

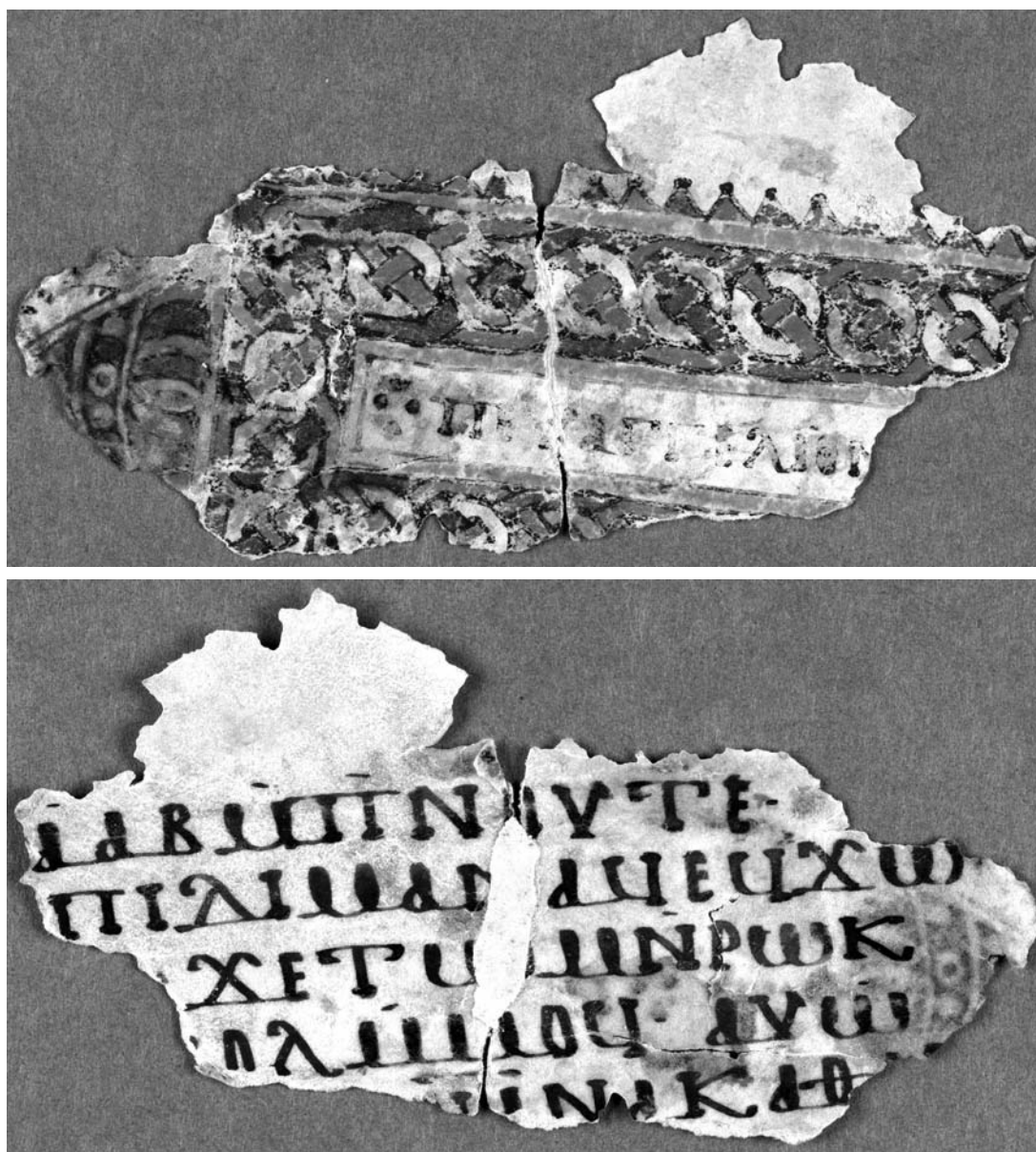
- 1 [ΔΥ]Ω ΗΠΑ[ΔΔΥ ΠΖΩΒ ΠΒΡΡΕ ΖΑΡΩϞ ΠΠΡΗ]
 ΕΡΕ ΠΡΩ[ΜΕ ΝΑΩΔΧΕ ΕΡΟΟΥ ΠΩΧΟΟΣ ΧΕ ΕΙΣ ΠΑΙ]
 ΟΥΒΗΡΕ Π[Ε· ΕΔΗ ΔΥΟΥΩ ΕΥΩΩΠΕ ΖΠΑΙ]
 ΩΗ ΠΤΑΥΩ[ΩΠΕ ΖΑΤΠΖΗ·]
 5 [ΗΗ]ΗΡΠΜΕΕΥΕ ΩΩ[Π ΠΠΩΟΡΠ ΔΥΩ ΠΚΕΖΔΕΕΥΕ]
 ΠΤΑΥΩΩ[ΠΕ ΖΑΤΠΖΗ]



11062/7

Fragment 11062/8: Gospel of Mark

Parchment fragment. 97 × 49 mm. Hair and flesh sides of the skin clearly distinguishable. No pagination. Sahidic dialect. Perhaps from the scriptorium of Touton in the Fayyum. Originally the manuscript had two columns of text but only a few lines of the right side column have survived on the verso. The recto (Flesh side) partly preserves the title, which can be reconstructed perhaps as ΠΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΟΝ [ΠΚΑΤΑ ΜΑΡΚΟΣ].



11062/8

Verso (Hair side), Mark 1:24–26:

- 1 [HTK PETOU]ΔΔΒ ΠΠΠΟΥΤΕ·
 [ΑΥΩ ΙΤΕ ΔΕ]ΠΙΔΙΝΑ ΝΑΔ ΕΦΧΩ
 [ΠΜΟΣ]· ΧΕ ΤΩΗ ΠΡΩΚ
 [ΠΓΕΙ Ε]ΒΟΛ ΜΜΟΦ· ΑΥΩ
 5 [ΠΤΕΡΕΠΕΠΠΙΔ] ΝΑΚΑΘΑΡ[ΤΟΗ]

Alin Suciu, Faculté de théologie et de sciences religieuses, Université Laval, Québec
 al_suciu@yahoo.co.uk