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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 had 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 $45 \ (\overline{\text{N}}\overline{\text{E}})$ 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

₩Е

1 [тефлітіс еткште] ерої [пателна сотт евол 2]пнет [2ппакште діата]дна [тнатанок птатсавок ете]2ін ет

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5 [кнавшк йрнтс.]
[†натахре навал еграї ехшк]
[йпррее йнігто мйнімас пор]к
[етемйтоу мйтсаве.]
[сшк й]йо[уообе ниете]е
10 [йсерши ерок ан гноухалі]нос
[йноуштоц.]
[гаг нейнастіх йпрецрно]ве
[пій де накште енетгелпіх]е
[епхоеіс]

[M5]

- 1 ΠΚΑ2 ΤΗ[Ρၛ ΜΘ2 ΜΠΝΑ ΜΠΧΟΘΙΟ]

 ΑΥΨ 2ΜΠ[ΘϤΦΑΧΘ ΝΤΑΜΠΗΥΘ]

 ΤΑΧ[ΡΟ]

 ΑΥΨ ΝΘΥ[ΚΟΜ ΤΗΡΟΥ 2ΜΠΘΠΝΑ ΝΡΨΦ]
- 10 марей[а иім стшт энтд ийоуои] и[ім етоунэ йэнтоу-] хе й[тоц пентацхоос ауфшпе] йт[оц пентацэфши ауф аусфит] п[хоеіс нахффре евол йпфохие] 15 [ййэефнос-]









11062/1 (upper) and 11062/2 (lower)

Fragments 11062/3-4: Unidentified (perhaps fragments of a liturgical codex)

Parchment. 42×42 mm; 42×56 mm. Hair and flesh sides of the skin clearly distinguishable according to the color. No pagination preserved. The similarity of the handwriting suggests that both fragments came from the same manuscript. Written in the Sahidic dialect. Too little text has survived to attempt identification but the fragmentary rubric which occurs on the verso (Flesh side) of 11062/3 seems to suggest that the fragments belonged to a *typikon*.

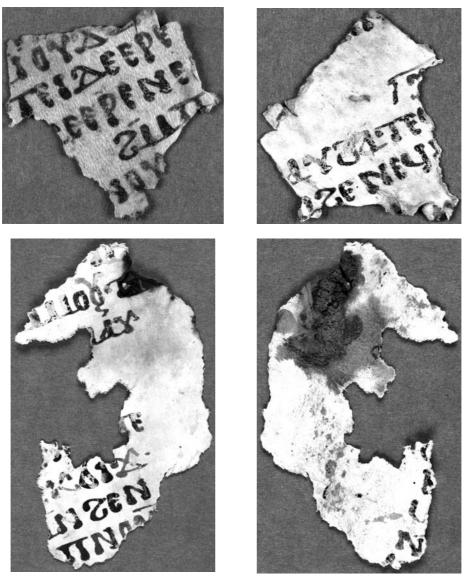
11062/3
recto (Hair side) verso (Flesh side)

[...]ιογλα[...] [...] χ[...]

[...]τει λε ερε[...] [...]αγ2λτε[...]

[...]2ε ερενε[...] [...]ο2ε νειμ[...]

[...]νογ[...]



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

| 11062/4 | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| recto (Flesh side) | verso (Hair side) |
| []a[] | ό[] |
| []имооү п[] | й[] |
| []маү | ó[] |
| [] | <u></u> \overline{N} [|
| [] | й[] |
| []те | |
| []ė́kęız. | |
| []พัชธยก | |
| []пиох | |

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Fragment 11062/5: 2 Peter

Parchment fragment. 69×90 mm. Hair and flesh sides of the skin clearly distinguishable according to the color. Pagination lacking. Traces of two columns of text have survived on both sides. Sahidic dialect. P. Berol. 10.595 is written in a very similar if not identical hand.

Recto (Flesh side): 2 Peter 2:1-2, 5-7

- [йзензайнсю йт]ако [йзензайнсю йт]ако [йоүтако зйоүб]ёшн-
- 5 [йоүтако айоүб]ёпн-[аүш оүй оүннн]фе [иаоүааоү йсан]ёү [сшшц- най ето]ү [иаай оүа етвинтоү]
- 10 [епеооу йтийтрро]

- 1 қү[рѯ йтдікаюсү] мн· [еацеіне йоү] кат[акаүснос е] ҳй[пкоснос ййа]
- ΣΕΒΗ[C· ΑΥΨ ΠΠΟ]
 ΛΙΟ Π[COΛΟΗΑ ΗΠ]
 ΣΟΥ· [ΕΑΥΤ6ΑΕΙΟΟΥ]
 ΣΠΟ[ΥΨΟΡΨΡ]
- 10 еясік[рай ширеці] $\frac{1}{2}$ и пріклюс уті] $\frac{1}{2}$ егі пріклюс уті]

Verso (Hair side): 2 Peter 2:10–11 (only the left side column has survived)

 [Leyoc o ійное] іў 5 н

 [шиу едер] ёйуг

 [шир едер] ёйуг

 [шир едер] ў шра ў шра

 $[T\overline{q}]$



11062/5

Fragment 11062/6: Gospel of John

Parchment fragment. 47×93 mm. Hair and flesh sides of the skin clearly distinguishable. Pagination lacking. Sahidic dialect. Perhaps from the scriptorium of Touton in the Fayyum. Two columns of text, of which only a few lines have survived. On the verso (Flesh side), in the intercolumn space, the number 26 occurs in Coptic characters (κS). The number refers to the division of the text in *kephalaia*.

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

- [то те евоу 5 и 2
- 2 [ФЯНЕФАРІСАЮС АҮ]Ф [ФИТАУЕ ФРОЧ 201]НЕ ДЕ [БИТАУЕ ФАНАРІА] АУФ
- 10 [αγταμοού ενέντα $\overline{\text{ic}}$ ααύ.]

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

- 1 є[хлоусна леіф нецаа] фн[тнс ліоуеіме] ен[аї ліфоріт алла] лт[ерецхі еооу лаїїс]
- 5 тот[е аүр пмеүе же мере]
 ма[і снр етвинті аүш]
 ма[і ме йтауаау мац]
 мец[р мйтре бе йбіп]
 м[инфе етиймац же]





11062/6

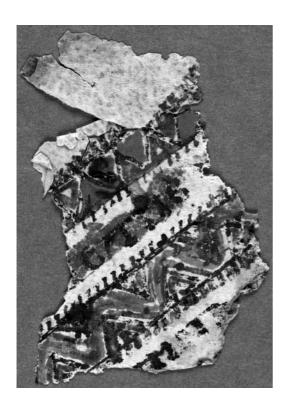
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Fragment 11062/7: Ecclesiastes

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: [ΠΕΚΚΑΗΟΪ]ΑΟΤΗΟ. Only four letters of the first line (Ecclesiastes 1:1) have survived: ΝΑΪ ΝΕ ΠΌΑΧΕ ΠΠΕΚΚΑΗΟΪΑΟ]ΤΗΟ Π[ΦΗΡΕ ΠΑΑΥΕΙΑ·].

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

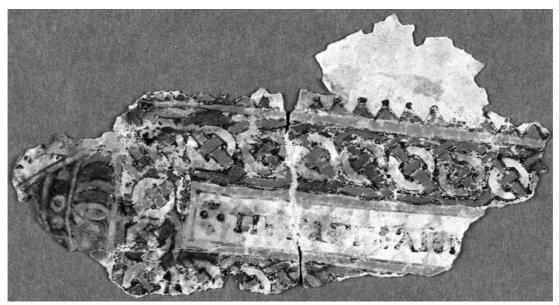
- 1 [αΥ]ω μμγ[ανλ μόσιν μβδρε όνως μπόνη ελος πε εις παι] ολνηθε μ[ε. ετη γλολω ελώωμε όμγι] ων μταλώ[ωμε δατμόιη.]
- 5 [мм]йышееле фф[п ыйфоыц улм ыкелееле] ыталаф[пе батыбін]

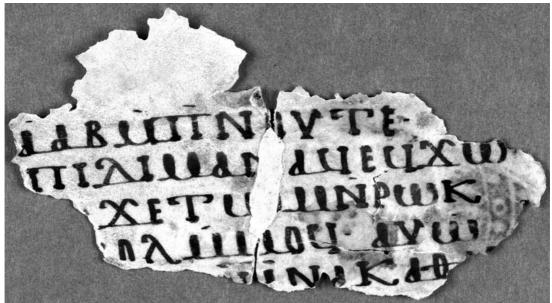




11062/7

Fragment 11062/8: Gospel of Mark





11062/8

Verso (Hair side), Mark 1:24–26:

- 1 [NTK LETOY] 978 MUNOLTE: [VLE E] 807 MHOC! 740 MUNOLTE: [VLE E] 807 MHOC! 740 \times
- 5 [итерепепия] накафар[тон]

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