

AN UNPUBLISHED FRAGMENT OF DEUTERONOMY

CHESTER BEATTY PAPYRUS VI,
FOLIO 105, FRAGMENT 2, RECTO

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1. Introduction

Four fragments of Chester Beatty Papyrus VI folio 105 are extant, two in the Chester Beatty Library and two in the University of Michigan. In 1935 Sanders published the two University of Michigan fragments, listing both as Fragment F as they fit neatly alongside each other.¹ In the same year Kenyon published not only the Chester Beatty fragments but also the University of Michigan fragments.² Both of these editions are without plates and the text is edited in a manner that does not enable the reader to visualise the layout of the folio.

In 1958 the plates were published³ and it became possible to both visualise the layout of the folio and to notice that Kenyon had not published the text found in the fragment at top left of plate 72.⁴ Unfortunately the plates lack sufficient clarity to identify the text.

¹ Henry A. Sanders, 'Some Fragments of the Oldest Beatty Papyrus in the Michigan Collection', *Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society* 75 (1935), 313-24, esp. 323-24. The inventory number of the Michigan fragments is P.Mich.inv. 5554.

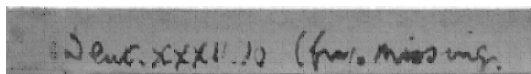
² Frederic G. Kenyon, *The Chester Beatty Biblical Papyri: Descriptions and Texts of Twelve Manuscripts on Papyrus of the Greek Bible: Fasciculus V: Numbers and Deuteronomy* (London: Emery Walker, 1935), 76.

³ R. J. Hayes, *The Chester Beatty Biblical Papyri: Descriptions and Texts of Twelve Manuscripts on Papyrus of the Greek Bible: Fasciculus V: Numbers and Deuteronomy; Fasciculus VI: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ecclesiasticus: Plates* (Dublin: Hodges Figgis, 1958), plates 72-73. The plates include both the Chester Beatty and Michigan fragments. High resolution images of the Michigan fragments have subsequently been published online: http://quod.lib.umich.edu/a/apis/x-2494/5554ro__tif, accessed 1 March 2014.

⁴ Hayes lists the contents of the recto as 'Col. 1 Deuteronomy XXXII 10-11, Col. 2 Deuteronomy XXXII, 11-13', indicating either that he was not aware of the contents

2. Content of Folio 105, Fragment 2 Recto

The recent online publication of high resolution photographs of the manuscript by the Center for the Study of New Testament Manuscripts⁵ includes a number of images of folio 105, fragment 2, recto, including two images where there is an annotation listing the content of the fragment as Deuteronomy 32:10.



Accompanying the photographs are some notes by Daniel Wallace where the contents of folio 105 are listed, the unpublished fragment noted as ‘f. 105:2r = C1 Deut 32:10-11’. As Deuteronomy 32:10-11 is found in the Michigan fragments it is possible this is an error that confuses the contents of the Chester Beatty fragment with the contents of the Michigan fragments.

3. Identification of the Traces of Ink

The recto of this fragment has traces of ink from thirteen lines, the longest lines having traces of ink from up to eight letters. However most of the surface of the fragment is badly degraded: just twelve letters have so far been identified.

Fourth line: Traces of ink from approximately six or seven letters, of which four are identified: $\epsilon\mu\nu\eta$. It is possible part of the right margin is extant.

Fifth line: Traces of ink from approximately seven or eight letters, of which five are identified: $\alpha\omega\nu\omicron\varsigma$. Part of the right margin appears to be extant.

Sixth line: Traces of ink from approximately six letters, of which two are identified: $\epsilon\alpha$. It is unclear if this and subsequent lines include part of the right margin, or if the ink of this and subsequent lines are no

of the unpublished fragment and had not listed its content, or that the unpublished fragment included the beginning of Deut. 32:10, a text included in the Michigan fragment at the bottom of column one.

⁵ Center for the Study of New Testament Manuscripts, *Manuscript: Rahlfs 963 (CBL BP VI)* (2013), accessed 1 March 2014, http://www.csntm.org/Manuscript/View/Rahlfs_963.

⁷ Kenyon, *Chester Beatty Biblical Papyri*, xi.

longer extant on the surface of the papyrus. If the former then this column has some lines slightly shorter than other lines

Eighth line: Traces of ink from approximately five letters, of which one is identified: α.

4. Features of the Manuscript and Reconstruction of Folio 105 Recto, column one

Features of the extant parts of the manuscript permit some assumptions to be made concerning the non-extant parts of folio 105, recto, column one.

1) The Greek text of this manuscript presents ‘no very notable new readings’⁷ and the Greek text of Deuteronomy 32:5-11 presents few textual problems. The text is reconstructed using the text of Rahlfs.

2) The column begins with τεκνα from Deuteronomy 32:5⁸ and the column ends with σκε from Deuteronomy 32:11. The intervening text is slightly over 520 letters.

3) The scribe wrote many words over two lines, wrote *scriptio continua* and used *nomina sacra*. It is assumed column one included κ̄ω, π̄ρ, θ̄υ, κ̄υ, and ῑν̄λ, reducing the text to slightly under 510 letters.

4) Columns are of fairly even width within each column and the Michigan fragments of folio 105 have nearly the full width of column one extant, including part of the right margin, with approximately sixteen letters per line. It is assumed the rest of column one also has approximately sixteen letters per line.

5) Individual columns vary in the number of lines between thirty-one and thirty-eight, but tend to be about thirty-two in the latter part of the manuscript. Assuming there are slightly under 510 letters on lines of approximately sixteen letters in length, column one has thirty-two lines.

6) Folio 105, fragment 2, verso, includes the left hand margin. The recto is assumed to be from or near the right hand margin.

The twelve identified letters are found in Deuteronomy 32:6-7. Based on the scribal features of the manuscript the identified letters enable the fragment to be placed in column one as the remains of Deuteronomy 32:6-8, the remains of lines six to eighteen.

⁸ Kenyon reconstructs the last line of folio 104, recto, column two, as κ̄ς ημαρτοσα[ν ουκ αυτω.

5. Analysis

The annotation on the plate at the Chester Beatty Library is incorrect: folio 105, fragment 2, recto, does not contain Deuteronomy 32:10 but Deuteronomy 32:6-8.

Although very little of the text of Deuteronomy 32:6-8 has so far been identified, the placement of this fragment opens up the possibility of the reconstruction of all of folio 105, from Deuteronomy 32:5 through to Deuteronomy 32:29. Preliminary attempts to do so have identified a possible problem: if recto column one is correctly or near correctly reconstructed, the non-extant part of verso column two between fragment 2 and the Michigan fragments is too short to fit all of the non-extant part of Deuteronomy 32:25-27. Solutions to this reconstruction problem include lines that are much longer than usual, lines that have the letters crowded together, and squeezing in of two extra lines – but these solutions are contrary to the general evenness of columns and lines elsewhere in this manuscript. Alternative solutions, not yet investigated, include either an expansion in folio 105, recto, column one, or an omission in folio 105, verso, column two, of about thirty-five letters.

1		τεκναμωμηταγενεα	τεκνα μωμητα γενεα
2		σκολιακαιδιεστρα	σκολια και διεστρα-
3		μμενηταυατακ̄ωναντ	μμενη (6) ταυτα κυριω αντ-
4		αποδιδοτεουτωλαος	αποδιδοτε ουτω λαος
5		μωροςκαιουχισο	μωρος και ουχι σο-
6	]..[	φοσουκαυτοσουτος	φος ουκ αυτος ουτος
7	].....[	σουπ̄ρεκτησατο	σου πατηρ εκτησατο
8	].....[	σεκαιεποιησενσεκαι	σε και εποιησεν σε και
9	]....εμνη... [	εκτισενσεμνησθ	εκτισεν σε (7) μνησθ-
10	].....αιωνος [	ητημεραςαιωνος	ητε ημερας αιωνος
11	].....εα..... [	συνετεετηγενεας	συνετε ετη γενεας
12	].....[	γενεωνεπερωτησον	γενεων επερωτησον
13	]...α..... [	τονπατερασουκαιαν	τον πατερα σου και αν-
14	].....[	αγγελισοιτουςπρ	αγγελι σοι τους πρ-
15	].....[	εσβυτερουςσουκαι	εσβυτερους σου και
16	].....[	ερουσινσοιοτεδιε	ερουσιν σοι (8) οτε διε-
17	].....[	μεριζενουπιστος	μεριζεν ο υπιστος
18	].....[	εθνηωςδιεσπειρεν	εθνη ως διεσπειρεν
19		υιουςαδαμεστησεν	υιους αδαμ εστησεν
20		οριαεθνωνκατααρ	ορια εθνων κατα αρ-
21		ιθμοναγγελωνθ̄υκαι	ιθμον αγγελων θεου (9) και
22		εγενηθημεριςκ̄υλ	γενηθη μερις κυριου λ-
23		αοςαυτουιακωβσχο	αος αυτου ιακωβ σχο-
24		ινισμακληρονομιας	ινισμα κληρονομιας
25		αυτουιν̄λαυταρκτησεν	αυτου ισραηλ (10) αυταρκτησεν
25	]ημωε[	αυτονενγηρημωεν	αυτον εν γη ερημω εν-
27	]ικαυματος[	διψεικαυματοςενα	διψει καυματος εν α-
28	]ωεκυκλωσ[	νυδρωεκυκλωσεν	νυδρω εκυκλωσεν
29	]καιεπαιδευ[	αυτονκαιεπαιδευσεν	αυτον και επαιδευσεν
30	]νκαιδιεφυλα[	αυτονκαιδιεφυλαξεν	αυτον και διεφυλαξεν
31	]ονωςκορην[]λ[	αυτονωςκορηνοφθαλ	αυτον ως κορην οφθαλ-
32	]υωσαετοςσκε [	μουωσαετοςσκε	μου (11) ως αετος σκε-

Bottom of column

Bottom of column

