

ÁGNES T. MIHÁLYKÓ

The Christian
Liturgical Papyri:
An Introduction

*Studien und Texte zu
Antike und Christentum*
114

Mohr Siebeck

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Preface

This book is a revised version of my PhD dissertation defended in 2017 at the University of Oslo, Department of Philosophy, Classics, History of Arts and Ideas. My most heartfelt gratitude is due first and foremost to my supervisors, Anastasia Maravela and Anne Boud'hors. A good supervisor is worth “far more than rubies” and I was so fortunate to enjoy the support of two. I owe the possibility of completing the dissertation in Oslo to Anastasia Maravela and her project “Strengthening research capacity in the papyrus collection of the Oslo University Library (2012–2017),” funded by the Norwegian Research Council. She was an encouraging and attentive guide during each stage of my thesis, read and corrected my text with meticulous precision, and always had an open door for my questions. Her supervision was not only profitable but also immensely enjoyable. I am also grateful for my co-supervisor Anne Boud'hors for her prompt help via e-mail and her ready assistance during my research stays in Paris.¹ Her expertise and advice was indispensable especially for the chapters on paleography and Western Thebes. I am moreover indebted to the members of my evaluation committee, Silvio Bär, Cornelia Römer and Diliana Atanassova, who offered useful criticism and contributed greatly to improving this book.

My work has furthermore benefitted from discussions with Céline Grassien, who kindly agreed to share her unpublished thesis on hymns on papyrus, and whose expert collaboration was indispensable for finalizing the Appendix. The book has also profited from comments by several scholars who kindly agreed to read different parts of the thesis, including Heinzgerd Brakmann, Korshi Dosoo, Harald Buchinger, and Yohanna Youseff. I am also indebted to Naïm Vanthieghem for his prompt help with dating Arabic papyri, and to Lajos Berkes for expert opinion on Greek documents. I thank Céline Grassien, Korshi Dosoo, and Antti Marjanen for trusting me with their in-progress editions of liturgical papyri.

I have furthermore learnt from conversation with the members of the papyrus project, Joanne Stolk and Jens Mangerud, as well as fellow-PhDs Carlos Hernández Garcés, Oana Cojocaru, and Marijana Vukovic. Postdoctoral fellows Christian Bull and Lance Jenott, and the keeper of the papyrus collection, Federico Aurora, also contributed to making my time in Oslo truly enjoyable. I benefitted from the thriving scholarly milieus in and around Oslo; parts of the

¹ These were enabled by generous funding from the Programme franco-norvégien and from the Faculty of Humanities of the University of Oslo.

thesis were presented at the classics seminar of the department, at the Breakfast Club for late antique scholars in Oslo organized by Liv Ingeborg Lied, and at the Nordic Coptic Network meeting in Lund in 2016. I am grateful to all the colleagues for useful feedback.

As with every study of manuscripts, this book too owes a lot to the kind help of colleagues at various collections. I thank Marius Gerhard at the Ägyptisches Museum und Papyrussammlung, Berlin, Bernhard Palme at the Papyrussammlung der Österreichischen Nationalbibliothek, Vienna, Sofia Torallas Tovar at the Abadia de Montserrat Collection, and the colleagues at the British Library, the British Museum, the Ashmolean Museum, the Bodleian and Sackler Libraries in Oxford, and the Metropolitan Museum in New York for facilitating access to the collections and images, as well as the Fundación Pastor, Madrid, the John Rylands Library, Manchester, the Istituto Papirologico “G. Vitelli”, Florence, the Archives de l’Université catholique de Louvain, the Museo Egizio di Torino, and the Papyrussammlung of the University of Heidelberg for kindly supplying images.

I am indebted to the Eötvös József Collegium of the Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, and especially to its director László Horváth, who initiated me into ancient Greek, and provided me with the possibility of studying papyrology through the seminars and supervision of Hermann Harrauer. The Collegium hosted the postdoctoral research project “How the Old Church Prayed: The Earliest Christian Prayers on Papyrus” (PD 128355, financed by the Hungarian National Research, Development and Innovation Office), during the first months of which this book was completed. My work also received support from László Horváth’s research project NN 124539, equally funded by the National Research, Development and Innovation Office. Furthermore, I owe gratitude to Lance Jenott, who was not only an expert proof-reader and editor for this book, but also guided me through the publication process.

Finally, my warmest thanks are due to my parents and my brothers, who supported me and endured the separation my move to Oslo meant, and especially to my husband Károly Tóth, who accompanied me on this enriching journey and shared every moment of it with me.

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Abbreviations

<i>Aeg</i>	<i>Aegyptus</i>
<i>ALW</i>	<i>Archiv für Liturgiewissenschaft</i>
<i>AnPap</i>	<i>Analecta Papyrologica</i>
<i>APF</i>	<i>Archiv für Papyrusforschung</i>
<i>AS</i>	<i>Ancient Society</i>
<i>BASP</i>	<i>Bulletin of the American Society of Papyrologists</i>
<i>BCH</i>	<i>Bulletin de Correspondance Hellénique</i>
<i>BIFAO</i>	<i>Bulletin de l'Institut Français d'Archéologie Orientale du Caire</i>
<i>BAV</i>	<i>Bibliotheca Apostolica Vaticana</i>
<i>BL</i>	<i>British Library</i>
<i>BM</i>	<i>British Museum</i>
<i>BnF</i>	<i>Bibliothèque Nationale de France</i>
<i>Byzz</i>	<i>Byzantinische Zeitschrift</i>
<i>Cavallo and Maehler, GB</i>	Gugliemo Cavallo and Herwig Maehler, <i>Greek Bookhands of the Early Byzantine Period A.D. 300–800</i> . Bulletin Supplement 47. London: Institute of Classical Studies, 1987.
<i>CCSL</i>	<i>Coptus Christianorum Series Latina</i>
<i>CdE</i>	<i>Chronique d'Égypte</i>
<i>CE</i>	<i>The Coptic Encyclopedia</i>
<i>CMCL</i>	<i>Corpus dei Manoscritti Copti Letterari</i>
<i>CQ</i>	<i>The Classical Quarterly</i>
<i>CSEL</i>	<i>Corpus Scriptorum Ecclesiasticorum Latinorum</i>
<i>EchOr</i>	<i>Echos d'Orient</i>
<i>EphThLov</i>	<i>Ephemerides theologicae Lovanienses</i>
<i>JAC</i>	<i>Jahrbuch für Antike und Christentum</i>
<i>JCoptS</i>	<i>Journal of Coptic Studies</i>
<i>JEA</i>	<i>Journal of Egyptian Archaeology</i>
<i>JECS</i>	<i>Journal of Early Christian Studies</i>
<i>JJP</i>	<i>Journal of Juristic Papyrology</i>
<i>JöB</i>	<i>Jahrbuch der österreichischen Byzantinistik</i>
<i>JTS</i>	<i>Journal of Theological Studies</i>
<i>KM</i>	<i>Kunsthistorisches Museum</i>
<i>LSJ</i>	Liddell, Henry George, Robert Scott, and Henry Stuart Jones. <i>A Greek-English Lexicon</i> . 9th ed.

	with revised supplement. Oxford: Clarendon, 1996.
MLM	The Morgan Library and Museum
<i>Mus</i>	<i>Le Muséon</i>
<i>NovT</i>	<i>Novum Testamentum</i>
NTTRU	<i>New Testament Textual Research Update</i>
OCA	<i>Orientalia Christiana Analecta</i>
OCP	<i>Orientalia Christiana Periodica</i>
OLA	<i>Orientalia Lovaniensia Analecta</i>
<i>OrChr</i>	<i>Oriens Christianus</i>
<i>OstkStud</i>	<i>Ostkirchliche Studien</i>
PGL	<i>Patristic Greek Lexicon</i> . Edited by Geoffrey W. H. Lampe. Oxford: Clarendon, 1961.
PO	<i>Patrologia Orientalis</i>
PP	<i>Parola del Passato</i>
PSBA	<i>Proceedings of the Society of Biblical Archaeology</i>
RAC	<i>Reallexikon für Antike und Christentum</i>
RBén	<i>Révue Bénédictine</i>
<i>RecTrav</i>	<i>Recueil de travaux relatifs à la philologie et à l'archéologie égyptiennes et assyriennes</i>
RevScRel	<i>Revue des sciences religieuses</i>
SC	Sources Chrétaines
SPap	<i>Studia Papyrologica</i>
STAC	Studien und Texte zu Antike und Christentum
TM	Trismegistos Database (www.trismegistos.org)
TU	Texte und Untersuchungen
VC	<i>Vigiliae Christianae</i>
WS	<i>Wiener Studien</i>
YCS	<i>Yale Classical Studies</i>
ZAC	<i>Zeitschrift für Antikes Christentum</i>
ZÄS	<i>Zeitschrift für ägyptische Sprache</i>
ZKT	<i>Zeitschrift für Katholische Theologie</i>
ZNW	<i>Zeitschrift für die neutestamentliche Wissenschaft und die Kunde der älteren Kirche</i>
ZPE	<i>Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik</i>

Editorial Note

Papyrus editions, corpora, and series are cited according to the abbreviation in the *Checklist of Editions of Greek, Latin, Demotic, and Coptic Papyri, Ostraca, and Tablets* at <http://papyri.info/docs/checklist>.

The text of papyri cited in this book is transcribed with the critical signs of the Leidener Klammersystem, following B. A. van Groningen, “Projet d’unification des systems de signes critiques,” *CdÉ* 7 (1932): 262–69.

[]	lacuna
< >	omission in the original
()	resolution of symbol or abbreviation
{ }	cancelled by the editor of the text
\ ,	interlinear addition
〔 〕	deletion in the original
... .	uncertain or illegible letters
l.	regularized form
corr. from	corrected from (by the scribe)

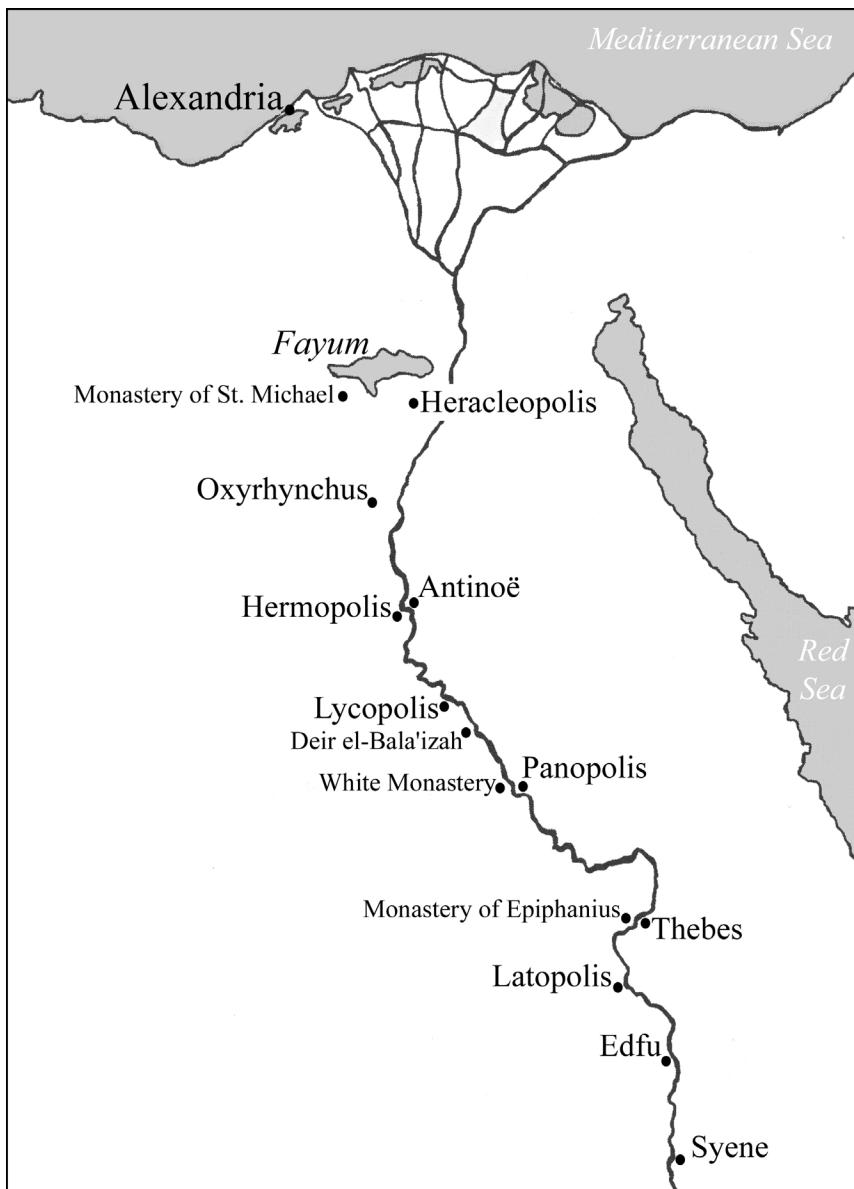


Fig. 1: Egypt in Late Antiquity. Design by Lance Jenott.

Chapter 1

Introduction

Liturgy had a prominent place in the life of a Christian in late antique and early medieval Egypt. The faithful were expected to attend church twice a day for the morning and the evening prayer, and twice a week for the Eucharist, on Saturday evening and on Sunday morning. Turning points in their lives were marked by church services: baptism; for some, ordination or consecration as a monk; and finally the funeral. It would therefore be expected that whatever they heard, prayed, or sung in church had an effect on them. It influenced their beliefs, was adopted in the verbiage of their protective and healing practices, and left its mark on their literary, epistolary, and other documentary productions. As holidays of the liturgical week or year structured the rhythm of life, they serve as timestamps in documents and literary texts. Liturgical gatherings in the church created communities, and going to a certain church with a certain rite defined one's membership in a congregation.

Despite its importance in people's lives, early Egyptian liturgy remains little known to historians of the church and of religion. This is no coincidence. The usual sources, namely literary and documentary texts, contain only scattered remarks on liturgical practices. Liturgy required little discussion. Changes happened slowly and thus rarely drew the attention of authors. As a rule, one finds only passing remarks, concise descriptions presenting the routines of a holy person, or short notes if anything noteworthy changed in the practice. Only a few types of sources give us more information: mystagogical catecheses, church orders, and travelogues of pilgrims, to whom the liturgy of a foreign land would have been one of the *mirabilia* they saw. But for Egypt, we are poorly informed. A mystagogical catechesis from fifth-century Alexandria, preserved in Ethiopic, is an excellent source of information for how the Eucharist was conducted; but the church orders from Egypt are laden with problems of provenance and date, and pilgrims in Egypt were generally interested in the wisdom of the monks rather than their liturgical practices.¹ Documents on papyri, such as letters, lists, and contracts, also

¹ On the literary sources for the liturgy, see chapter two.

rarely mention the liturgy, and remarks are usually made in passing. Only a few of them contribute significantly to our knowledge.²

Due to the sparsity of descriptions and references in historical sources, researchers must turn to the primary sources of the liturgy – liturgical manuscripts themselves. In this area the Egyptian *chora*³ exceeds every other region for the late antique and early medieval periods. Liturgical manuscripts have been preserved from every part of the world where Christians lived; but since they rarely come from before the eighth and ninth centuries, information about the liturgy in earlier periods depends on these later sources. Such studies face considerable methodological challenges. Although liturgy always draws on tradition, which can be centuries old, it is nevertheless subject to constant changes and variations at different times and places. Because liturgical manuscripts tend to be designed for practical use, they reflect the actual usage of their community, rather than preserve antiquarian versions of texts no longer recited. Although ancient liturgical manuscripts are occasionally transmitted for centuries without significant change (the most famous case being the prayer book of Sarapion, a compilation of fourth-century prayers preserved in an eleventh-century manuscript from Mount Athos)⁴, and some texts were copied even after they had fallen out of use,⁵ liturgical manuscripts have a tendency to be “subject to rewriting and redaction to reflect changing historical and cultural circumstances.”⁶ As copyists did not aim to be faithful to the manuscript they were copying, but rather to the liturgy performed in their communities, they adapted their copies in accordance with contemporary practices.⁷ Thus the liberty of change and the diversity of local customs poses serious challenges to the researcher who wants to reconstruct the late antique form of a rite based on considerably later medieval manuscripts.⁸ The hindrances are even greater when it comes to determining the precise wording of a text for the sake of philological comparison or theological analysis. Very often a particular reading is attested in only one codex, and the variants do not lead us to the reconstruction of an original reading as they

² See Georg Schmelz, *Kirchliche Amtsträger im spätantiken Ägypten nach den Aussagen der griechischen und koptischen Papyri und Ostraka* (München: K.G. Saur, 2002), 77–125; Ewa Wipszycka, *The Alexandrian Church: People and Institutions* (Warsaw: The Raphael Taubenshlag Foundation, 2015), 327–30.

³ For papyrological or liturgical terms see the glossary.

⁴ On the prayer book, see Maxwell E. Johnson, *The Prayers of Sarapion of Thmuis: A Literary, Liturgical, and Theological Analysis* (Rome: Pontificio Istituto Orientale, 1995).

⁵ Paul F. Bradshaw, *The Search for the Origins of Christian Worship: Sources and Methods for the Study of Early Liturgy* (London: SCPK, 1992), 75.

⁶ Bradshaw, *Search for the Origins*, 74.

⁷ Achim Budde, *Die ägyptische Basilius-Anaphora: Text – Kommentar – Geschichte* (Münster: Aschendorff, 2004), 49–51.

⁸ See the methodological discussion in Bradshaw, *Search for the Origins*, 56–79.

would in the case of literary texts. Rather, the manuscripts “witness an individual liturgy anchored in space and time.”⁹

Since the reconstruction of the late antique form of the liturgy from medieval codices is wrought with problems, the value of the late antique manuscripts as direct testimonies to the late antique form of the liturgy is immense. They have been preserved in largest numbers by the sands of Egypt on papyrus, parchment, ostraca, and wooden tablets (which henceforth I will refer to with the papyrologist’s umbrella term ‘papyri’).¹⁰ They were found in archaeological excavations and clandestine digs in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and entered private and public collections in Egypt and the West often through the antiquities trade. Since the publication of the first two pieces by M. Egger in 1887,¹¹ they continue to appear in various papyrological volumes and articles. Many were published in catalogues of collections mingled with other documentary and literary texts. Since their editors were often papyrologists and Coptologists with little expertise in the history of liturgy, they did not frequently draw parallels, attempt to reconstruct lacunae, or provide liturgical contextualization. Other liturgical papyri were published by scholars of liturgy in journals dedicated to early Christian studies, such as the Greek papyrus codex from the monastery of Deir el-Bala’izah, edited by Pierre de Puniet in *Revue Benedictine* in 1909.¹² Yet these editors often lacked the papyrological expertise needed to date the manuscripts or provide geographical and social contextualization. The gap between papyrology and liturgical scholarship was only rarely bridged in the editions. Exceptional are the cases in which editors collaborated with experts of liturgy, as in the case of Walter E. Crum’s work with F. E. Brightman in his editions of liturgical ostraca (O.Crum). Other researchers, such as Cornelia Römer, Céline Grassien, and Kurt Treu, the most productive editor of liturgical papyri,¹³ have specialized in liturgical pieces and combined expertise in both fields.

⁹ Budde, *Die ägyptische Basilius-Anaphora*, 57: “bezeugen sie eine jeweils individuell in Raum und Zeit verortete Liturgie.”

¹⁰ For an overview of writing materials in antiquity commonly treated together by papyrologists, see Adam Bülow-Jacobsen, “Writing Materials in the Ancient World,” in *The Oxford Handbook of Papyrology*, ed. Roger Bagnall (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009), 3–29.

¹¹ M. Egger, “Observations sur quelques fragments de poterie antique qui portent des inscriptions grecques,” *Mémoires de l’Académie des inscriptions et belles-lettres* 21 (1887): 377–408.

¹² Pierre de Puniet, “Le nouveau papyrus d’Oxford,” *RBén* 26 (1909): 34–51.

¹³ Treu edited over sixty liturgical papyri in a series of articles (“Drei Berliner Papyri mit Nomina sacra,” in *Studia Patristica. Vol. X.* ed. Frank L. Cross [Berlin: Akademie, 1970], 29–31; “Neue Berliner liturgische Papyri,” *APF* 21 [1971]: 57–81; “Varia Christiana,” *APF* 24–25 [1976]: 113–27; “Ein altchristlicher Christushymnus,” *NovT* 19 [1977]: 142–49; “Moses πρωτοπροφήτης in P.Jen. inv. 536,” *APF* 27 [1980]: 61–62; “Varia Chris-

So far scholarly efforts have resulted in over three hundred published liturgical papyri. However, these sources have entered liturgical and historical research only selectively and to a limited extent, and multiple challenges continue to prevent scholars from capitalizing on these editions. Because liturgical papyri are fragmentary, good editions with reliable identification and contextualization are essential for further use; but this information is oftentimes absent or incorrect due to the limitations of the editors' expertise. Several of the early editions even lack a translation and a commentary. Furthermore, the fact that the texts are written in Greek and Coptic often prevents scholars specialized in only one or the other language from spotting connections between texts attested in both. Focus on individual texts without an overview of the entire material, together with the uncertainties of palaeographical dating, resulted in unreliable dates. To make matters more difficult, the editions are also often hard to come by, scattered widely in various papyrological volumes and journals.

Repeated attempts have been made to collect the liturgical papyri, starting with the publication of *Monumenta Ecclesiae liturgica, Reliquiae vetustissimae* (1913), which reprinted eighty-six items and mixed liturgical prayers and hymns with texts of private devotion.¹⁴ However, the last extensive collection was Henri Leclercq's article "Papyrus" and "Ostraca" in Volume XIII of *Dictionnaire d'archéologie chrétienne et de liturgie* from 1937. Since then, only one group of liturgical texts has received a corpus. In 1999 Jürgen Hammerstaedt published a collection of Greek anaphoras (Pap.Colon. XXVIII), which presents re-editions of nineteen fragments from Egypt and Nubia dated between the fourth and eleventh centuries with a detailed commentary. Moreover, a corpus of liturgical hymns is in preparation by Céline Grassien. Her thesis, "Préliminaires à l'édition du corpus papyrologique des hymnes chrétiennes liturgiques de langue grecque," defended in 2011, contains a list of over 200 hymns with preliminary editions and an analysis of the entire corpus.¹⁵ Its publication will supply an introduction and easy access to the Christian hymns in Greek preserved on papyrus, including those from Nubia and Palestine, up to the thirteenth century. At present, however, the almost complete lack of accessible liturgical corpora similar to those available for magical texts (e.g., *Papyri Graecae Magicae*, *Supplementum Magicum*, and *An-*

tiana II," *APF* 32 [1986]: 23–31) and in the volume MPER N.S. XVII (with Johannes Diethart).

¹⁴ Fernand Cabrol and Henri Leclercq, *Reliquiae liturgicae vetustissimae. Sectio altera: Ab aevo apostolico ad Pacem Ecclesiam*, vol. 1 of *Monumenta Ecclesiase Liturgica* (Paris: August Picard, 1913), cxxxvii–cclxii.

¹⁵ I am grateful to the author for sharing with me a corrected version of her thesis in October 2015.

cient Christian Magic: Coptic Texts of Ritual Power), has contributed to the relative obscurity of liturgical papyri vis-à-vis their magical counterparts.

In addition to liturgical corpora, lists of liturgical papyri aid researchers in finding relevant publications. The most important is a chapter in Joseph van Haelst's *Catalogue des papyrus littéraires juifs et chrétiens* on “liturgical prayers and private prayers” from 1976. This is a mixture of texts from the liturgy and texts of a more private character, such as amulets, and prayers for healing or protection. Each item is briefly described and accompanied by bibliographical references and basic information concerning the manuscript; references to minor categories, such as hymns, are collected in the indices. The catalogue was continued by Kurt Treu and Cornelia Römer in *Archiv für Papyrusforschung*,¹⁶ but includes only Greek items. On the Coptic side, only Jutta Henner's list of Sahidic anaphoras can be cited.¹⁷ And although most liturgical papyri have been entered into the online databases of Trismegistos¹⁸ and the Leuven Database of Ancient Books¹⁹ with useful information, varia-

¹⁶ Kurt Treu, “Christliche Papyri VI,” *APF* 26 (1978): 149–59; “Christliche Papyri VII,” *APF* 27 (1980): 251–57; “Christliche Papyri VIII,” *APF* 28 (1982): 91–98; “Christliche Papyri IX,” *APF* 29 (1983): 107–10; “Christliche Papyri X,” *APF* 30 (1984): 121–28; “Christliche Papyri XI,” *APF* 31 (1985): 59–71; “Christliche Papyri XII,” *APF* 32 (1986): 87–95; “Christliche Papyri XIII,” *APF* 34 (1988): 69–78; “Christliche Papyri XIV,” *APF* 35 (1989): 107–16; Cornelia E. Römer, “Christliche Texte (1989–August 1996),” *APF* 43 (1997): 107–45; “Christliche Texte (1996–1997),” *APF* 44 (1998): 129–39; “Christliche Texte (1997–1998),” *APF* 45 (1999): 138–48; “Christliche Texte (1998–1999; mit einem Nachtrag aus dem Jahr 1992),” *APF* 46 (2000): 302–8; “Christliche Texte V 2000–2001,” *APF* 47 (2001): 368–76; “Christliche Texte VI 2001–2002,” *APF* 48 (2002): 349–50; “Christliche Texte VII 2002–2004,” *APF* 50 (2004): 275–83; “Christliche Texte VIII (2004–2005),” *APF* 51 (2005): 334–40; “Christliche Texte IX (2005–2007),” *APF* 53 (2007): 250–55.

¹⁷ Jutta Henner, *Fragmenta Liturgica Coptica: Editionen und Kommentar liturgischer Texte der Koptischen Kirche des ersten Jahrhunderts* (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2000), 4–35, to be used along with the extensive review by Heinzgerd Brakmann, “Fragmenta Graeco-Copto-Thebaica. Zu Jutta Henners Veröffentlichung alter und neuer Dokumente südägyptischer Liturgie,” *OrChr* 88 (2004): 117–72, especially 121–28.

¹⁸ “Trismegistos. An interdisciplinary portal of papyrological and epigraphical resources.” www.trismegistos.org. Trismegistos collects information about texts from the ancient world, especially from Egypt, dated between roughly 800 BC and 800 AD and complements it with other useful information about these texts, such as the people and places they mention, the ancient archive they belong to, the modern collection they are kept in, or the ancient authors they report. For each text (inscriptions and manuscripts on papyrus or parchment) a Trismegistos (TM) number is assigned and metadata is collected, i.e., date, provenance, language, material, sides written, bibliography, and inventory number.

¹⁹ “Leuven Database of Ancient Books.” www.trismegistos.org/ladb. An originally independent database, now integrated in Trismegistos, which collects more detailed metadata on literary and semi-literary manuscripts, including not only rolls and codices, but also

tions in how different genres are labelled does not allow researchers as of 2018 to search for and find all ‘liturgical’ papyri, ‘hymns’, or ‘liturgical prayers’ through these databases.

On the whole, editions of the papyri were poorly directed towards the interests of historians of liturgy and religion. This resulted in a selective and uneven use of the published evidence, even though scholars were aware of the existence and usefulness of these sources from their earliest publication at the turn of the twentieth century. Unsurprisingly, it stirred the interest of historians of liturgy in particular, who hoped that the testimony of the papyri, even those from the sixth and seventh centuries, would take them back to the beginnings of the Christian worship, or at least to the third century. It was Theodor Schermann who first tried to integrate the papyri into an overall history of the Egyptian liturgy. Yet he paid little attention to the date or context of the manuscripts, as his focus was on the textual contents, and on ‘the search for origins’. He favored a few select witnesses, especially P.Bala’izah, a papyrus from the sixth or seventh centuries, the contents of which he claimed went back to the early third century.²⁰ The rest of the texts he either discussed in passing or reprinted at the end of the volume without incorporating them into his analysis. Anton Baumstark also paid attention to the editions of papyri, acknowledged their importance and sometimes even proposed corrections of the texts.²¹

This tendency to use select papyri in the search for the origins of Christian worship, rather than as evidence for the period of the manuscripts themselves, has prevailed after Schermann. Some manuscripts have received considerable attention, such as P.Bala’izah and P.Srasb. inv. Gr. 254, the so-called ‘Strasbourg anaphora fragment’ (4–5th c.), which in several publications has served as a key witness to the eucharistic prayer in the third or even second century.²² In studies concerning the development of anaphora, a prominent field in

single sheets and ostraca with literary or semi-literary texts. It contains information on published or on-line images as well. The entries are most conveniently accessible through Trismegistos by searching for the TM number, then clicking on the LDAB number.

²⁰ Theodor Schermann, *Ägyptische Abendmahlsliturgien des ersten Jahrtausends* (Paderborn: Schöningh, 1912), 5–13.

²¹ For an assessment of Baumstark’s work on the liturgical papyri, see Heinzgerd Brakmann, “Zwischen Pharos und Wüste. Die Erforschung der alexandrinisch-ägyptischen Liturgie durch und nach Anton Baumstark,” in *Acts of the International Congress Comparative Liturgy Fifty Years after Anton Baumstark (1872–1948)*, Rome, 25–29 September 1998, ed. Robert F. Taft and Gabriele Winkler (Rome: Pontificio Istituto Orientale, 2001), 324–25.

²² The extensive bibliography on the papyurs has been summarized by Walter Ray, “The Strasbourg Papyrus,” in *Essays on Early Eastern Eucharistic Prayers*, ed. Paul F. Bradshaw (Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 1997), 39–56, for more recent studies see Walter Ray, “The Strasbourg Papyrus and the Roman Canon: Thoughts on Chapter Seven of Enrico Mazza’s The Origins of the Eucharistic Prayer,” *Studia Liturgica* 39

liturgical scholarship, the meager selection of only four manuscripts included in the collection entitled *Prayers of the Eucharist Early and Reformed* – namely P.Strab. inv. Gr. 254, BM EA 54036, P.Bala'izah, and Copt.Lov. 27 – came to dominate the discussion, while other manuscripts have been integrated into research to a much less extent. The early and complete anaphora contained in P.Monts.Roca is only starting to receive the attention it deserves.²³ Other sources, in particular the Coptic ones, have been neglected even more. In addition, many scholars who focus on the ‘search for the origins of Christian worship’, or on fourth- and fifth-century developments, consider the papyri as material for speculation on these early periods. The sixth century and beyond, for which the papyri provide ample evidence, are considered less relevant. The fact that there is only one specimen from the third century, and relatively few from the fourth and fifth,²⁴ poses limits to the ‘search for the origins of Christian worship’ based on the papyri.

Despite these limits, the papyri remain indispensable for studying the origins of Christian liturgy. It is, however, crucial to use as many papyri as possible in such studies, with due consideration of their context and date. The rewards of taking into account a wide range of anaphoras preserved on papyrus can be seen in the studies of Alistair C. Stewart²⁵ and Bryan Spinks.²⁶ With the help of their inclusive source basis they have questioned the prevailing notion that the Alexandrian church had only one typical anaphora structure, that of the anaphora of St. Mark, and have instead demonstrated that anaphora development in Egypt was far from uniform.

The papyri provide an even more valuable source basis for the study of ritual developments in the sixth to ninth centuries. Hans Quecke’s *Unter-*

(2009): 40–62, Bryan D. Spinks, “Revisiting Egyptian Anaphoral Development,” in *A Living Tradition: On the Intersection of Liturgical History and Pastoral Practice. Essays in Honor of Maxwell E. Johnson*, ed. David A. Pitt, Stefanos Alexopoulos, and Christian McConnell (Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 2012), 195–99 and Bryan D. Spinks, *Do This in Remembrance of Me: The Eucharist from the Early Church to the Present Day* (London: SCM Press, 2013), 59–61.

²³ Michael Zheltov, “The Anaphora and the Thanksgiving Prayer from the Barcelona Papyrus: An Underestimated Testimony to the Anaphoral History in the Fourth Century,” *VC* 62 (2008): 467–69; Paul F. Bradshaw, “The Barcelona Papyrus and the Development of Early Eucharistic Prayers,” in *Issues in Eucharistic Praying in East and West: Essays in Liturgical and Theological Analysis*, ed. Maxwell E. Johnson (Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 2010), 129–38; Alistair C. Stewart, *Two Early Egyptian Liturgical Papyri: The Deir Balyzeh Papyrus and the Barcelona Papyrus with Appendices Containing Comparative Material* (Norwich: Hymns Ancient & Modern Ltd, 2010); Walter Ray, “The Barcelona Papyrus and the Early Egyptian Eucharistic Prayer,” *Studia Liturgica* 41 (2011): 211–29, and Spinks, *Do This in Remembrance*, 99–102.

²⁴ On the chronology of liturgical papyri, see chapter three.

²⁵ Stewart, *Two Early Egyptian Liturgical Papyri*.

²⁶ Spinks, *Do This in Remembrance*, 94–120.

*suchungen zum koptischen Stundengebet departed from the edition of the Psalmodia sections of a manuscript from 894/895 (New York MLM M 574), which he complemented with earlier papyrological attestations of the texts included in the codex that predominantly come from the sixth to eighth centuries. This approach allowed him to reconstruct the liturgy of the hours in the ninth century and earlier. Heinzgerd Brakmann drew upon various, also lesser known, papyri in liturgical discussions in a series of articles.²⁷ Achim Budde's study of the history of the Egyptian anaphora of St. Basil used not only all the extant manuscripts of the anaphora in Greek, Sahidic, and Bohairic, but also a wide range of comparative material, including some neglected papyri. Interested in all stages of the anaphora's development in an equal manner,²⁸ he employed the manuscripts as sources for the centuries in which they were written, and was cautious when projecting their testimony into earlier periods. His observations of the material and physical aspects of the manuscripts allowed him to draw conclusions on how the anaphoras were written down.²⁹ Philippe Bernard also discussed liturgical papyri in his article about the psalmody and hymnody in early Christianity, which contains a section about hymns on papyrus with a helpful list.³⁰ Finally, Stig Frøyshov's use of P.Naqlun I 6 to show that the *cursus* of twenty-four selected Psalms in Codex Alexandrinus could have stood behind the twelve daytime and twelve night Psalms recited by the anchorites in Lower Egypt demonstrates how a single papyrus hidden in a papyrological edition can contribute to a long-standing liturgical debate over the validity of the distinction between 'cathedral' and 'monastic' liturgy of the hours.³¹*

While historians of liturgy were aware of the usefulness of papyri and capitalized on them in their research, albeit selectively, theologians, Coptologists, and historians of religion have explored the potential of this material to a much lesser extent. For them, the difficulties deriving from the scattered

²⁷ Heinzgerd Brakmann, "Das alexandrinische Eucharistiegebet auf Wiener Papyrusfragmenten," *JAC* 39 (1996): 149–64 (Pap. Colon. XXVIII 3 and 5); "Der Berliner Papyrus 13819 und das griechische Euchologion-Fragment von Deir el-Bala'izah," *OstkStud* 36 (1987): 31–38 (P.Berol. 13918 and P.Bad. IV 58); "Severus unter den Alexandrinern. Zum liturgischen Diptychon in Boston," *JAC* 26 (1983): 54–58 (SB XX 14591).

²⁸ Budde, *Die ägyptische Basilius-Anaphora*, 34–36.

²⁹ Budde, *Die ägyptische Basilius-Anaphora*, 560–61. My chapter seven scrutinizes and refines his observations on the basis of the entire corpus of liturgical papyri.

³⁰ Philippe Bernard, "La dialectique entre l'hymnodie et la psalmodie, des origines à la fin du VIIe siècle: bilan des connaissances et essai d'interprétation," *Rivista Internazionale di Musica Sacra* 26 (2005): 121–29 and 152–62.

³¹ Stig R. Frøyshov, "The Cathedral-Monastic Distinction Revisited. Part I: Was Egyptian Desert Liturgy a Pure Monastic Office?" *Studia Liturgica* 37 (2007): 198–216. On the terms see Robert F. Taft, *The Liturgy of the Hours in East and West: The Origins of the Divine Office and its Meaning for Today*. 2nd ed. (Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 1993), 32.

state and imperfections of the editions are topped by the complexities of liturgical scholarship in general: the specific terminology, the intricate speculations based on parallels in other rites and in later sources, and the ongoing debates concerning reconstructions of the shape of the liturgy in various periods. In spite of these challenges, there have been some attempts at integrating liturgical papyri in historically oriented research, which hint at the potential hidden in the material. For example, the liturgical papyri have been cited repeatedly in studies concerning the cult of Mary in late antique Egypt. For a long time the only source regularly cited in works on the topic was P.Ryl. III 470, a copy of the Marian hymn ὑπὸ τὴν σὴν εὐσπλαγχνίαν (or *Sub tuum praesidium* as it is known in the Latin tradition).³² This papyrus was originally dated to the third or fourth century, and was therefore considered the earliest testimony to Marian worship until Hans Förster redated it to the eighth or ninth century on the basis of suggestive Coptic parallels.³³ In a more exhaustive survey of the sources Theodore de Bruyn drew on private prayers and anaphoras to present a picture of devotion to Mary, leaving the hymns to the Theotokos, a more numerous and more informative corpus, to later consideration.³⁴ In his book about *Making Amulets Christian*, he furthermore touched upon the interplay of Greek amulets and formulae with the liturgical services, especially in the form of borrowed texts,³⁵ but he did not extend his observations to more subtle interactions between magical and liturgical texts or to Coptic amulets and formulae. Christian identity expressed through prayer in the third and fourth centuries has been explored by Anastasia Maravela.³⁶ Moreover, liturgy could not only express the otherness of Christians from Jews or pagans, but also differences between congregations. Thus it would be possible to observe the affirmation of a Miaphysite identity by studying polemical wording in liturgical papyri.³⁷ These examples highlight

³² For a bibliography, see Theodore de Bruyn, “Appeals to the Intercessions of Mary in Greek Liturgical and Paraliturgical Texts from Egypt,” in *Presbeia Theotokou: The Intercessory Role of Mary across Times and Places in Byzantium (4th–9th Century)*, ed. Pauline Allen, Andreas Külzer, and Leena M. Peltomaa (Vienna: Verlag der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften, 2015), 140 n. 13.

³³ Hans Förster, “Die älteste marianische Antiphon – eine Fehldatierung? Überlegungen zum ‘ältesten Beleg’ des Sub tuum praesidium,” *JCoptS* 7 (2005): 99–109.

³⁴ De Bruyn, “Appeals to the Intercessions.”

³⁵ Theodore de Bruyn, *Making Amulets Christian: Artefacts, Scribes, and Contexts* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017), 17–42.

³⁶ Anastasia Maravela, “Christians Praying in a Graeco-Egyptian Context: Intimations of Christian Identity in Greek Papyrus Prayers,” in *Prayer and Identity Formation in Early Christianity*, ed. Reidar Hvalvik and Karl O. Sandnes (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2014), 291–323.

³⁷ Stephen Davis’s study of the impact of Miaphysite theology on liturgical texts (*Coptic Christology in Practice: Incarnation and Divine Participation in Late Antique and Medieval Egypt* [Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008], 86–107) has already taken steps

the hidden potential in this source material, which has so far been neglected due to a lack of mediation between the papyrological editions and the scholars who could avail themselves of these sources.

This book aims precisely to fill the gap between editions and studies and to serve as an introduction to the corpus of liturgical papyri directed towards the broadest range of potential users, including scholars of liturgy, theologians, church historians, historians of religion, Coptologists, and papyrologists editing new items. In being an introduction to the earliest sources of the Egyptian liturgy, it supplements both Diliana Atanassova's 2014 article on the manuscripts of Southern Egyptian liturgy,³⁸ which focuses on late ninth to twelfth-century codices from the monastery of the Archangel Michael in Hamouli and the White Monastery,³⁹ and that of Ugo Zanetti on Bohairic liturgical manuscripts from the second millennium.⁴⁰ An essential part of this book provides the first ever list of all so-far edited liturgical papyri from Egypt from the third to ninth centuries in Greek, Coptic, and Latin, amounting altogether to 323 items (Appendix). It presents an overview of the sources with essential information and useful details, and aims to make access to the editions easier through its bibliographical entries and information on publicly available images.⁴¹ But the list offers more than just a compilation of data from previous publications. My overview of the entire corpus enabled me to revise much of what is written in the editions: to spot connections overseen by the editors, to suggest more precise dates and provenances based on similarities between the manuscripts. The discussions throughout the book clarify my methodology on which the revisions are based. In addition, the book provides background information on the liturgy in Egypt and an overview of general characteristics of the corpus, such as chronology, geography, materiality, and languages, through which existing items and new additions to the corpus can be evaluated.

in this direction, but it would have profited from incorporating liturgical papyri, which preserve the precise verbiage used in the centuries Davis discusses. The papyri would also have helped him avoid the methodological minefield of using liturgical manuscripts from the second millennium as witnesses to late antique texts and practices.

³⁸ Diliana Atanassova, "The Primary Sources of Southern Egyptian Liturgy: Retrospect and Prospect," in *Rites and Rituals of the Christian East*, ed. Daniel Galadza et al. (Leuven: Peeters, 2014), 47–96.

³⁹ The White Monastery of Shenoute of Atrię near Sohag is also known as the Monastery of Apa Shenoute, which is the name preferred by some Coptologists. However, I will call it the White Monastery, as it is widely known in the secondary literature.

⁴⁰ Ugo Zanetti, "Bohairic Liturgical Manuscripts," *OCP* 61 (1995): 65–94.

⁴¹ Reference to the individual papyri throughout the volume will be through their references as given in the Appendix, where the reader can find the information on publications and images.

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Images



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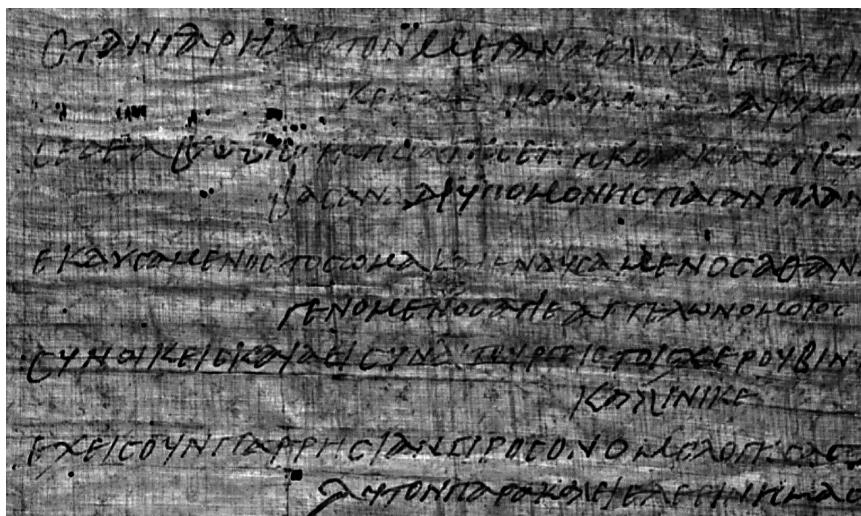


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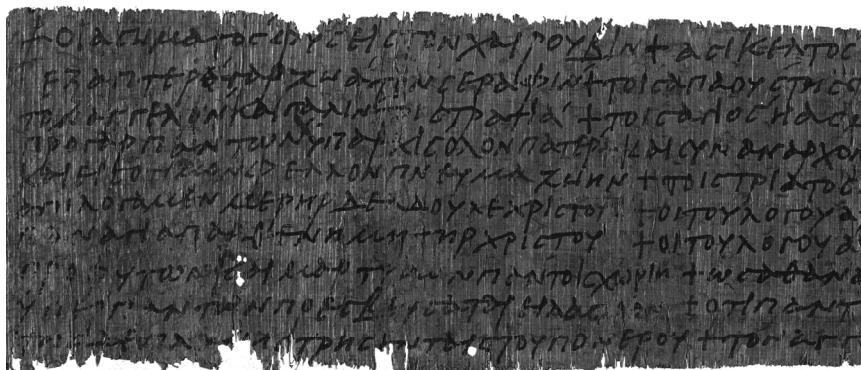


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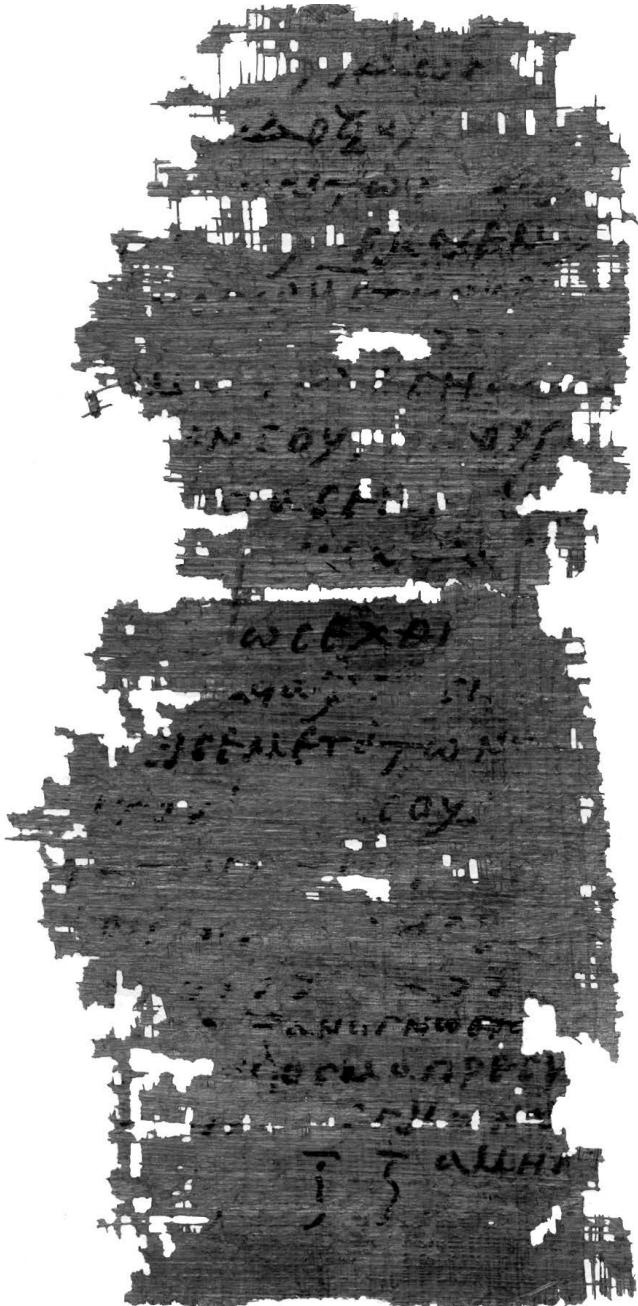


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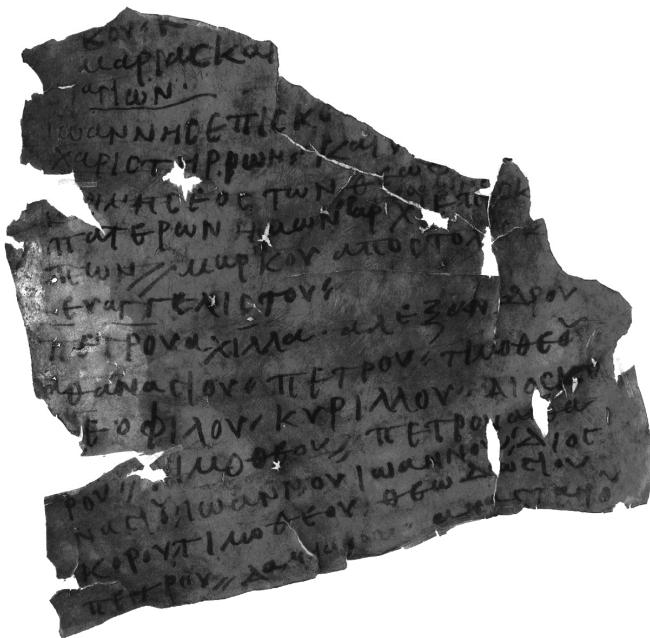


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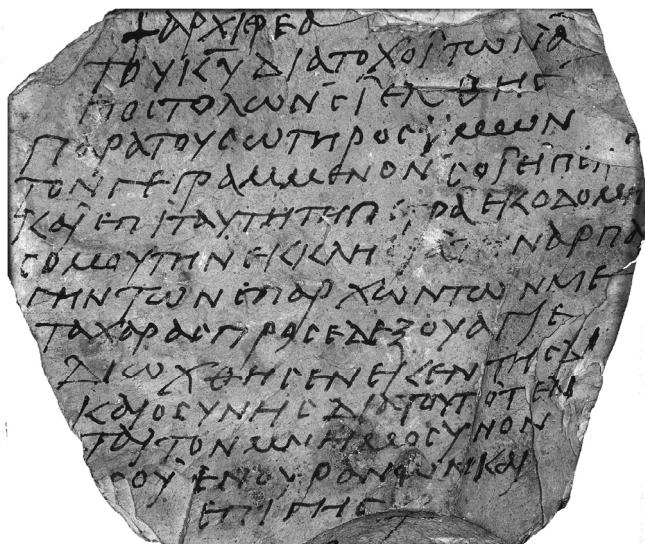


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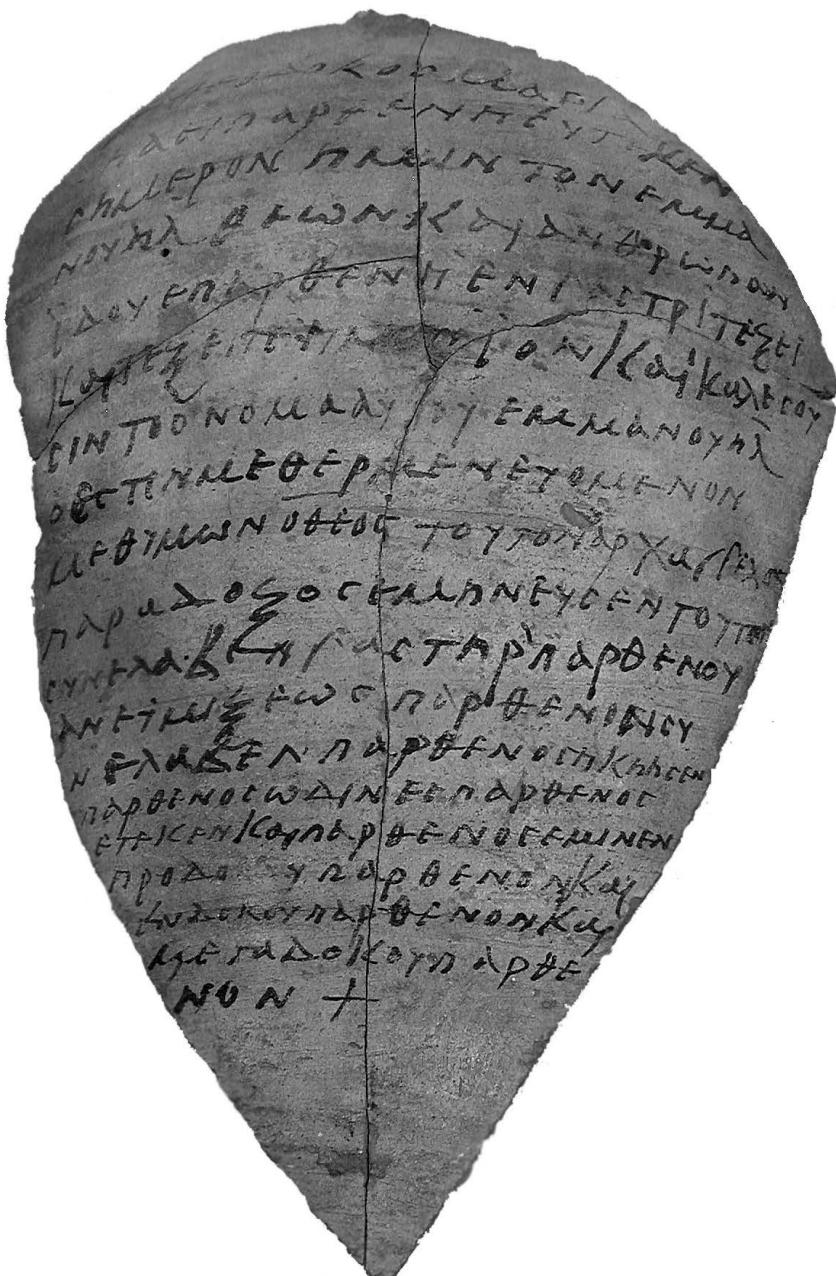


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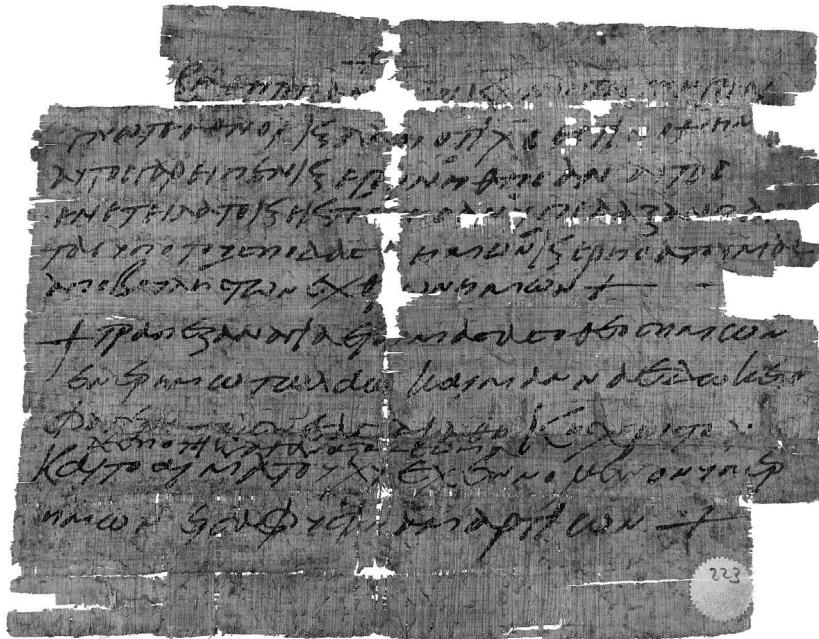


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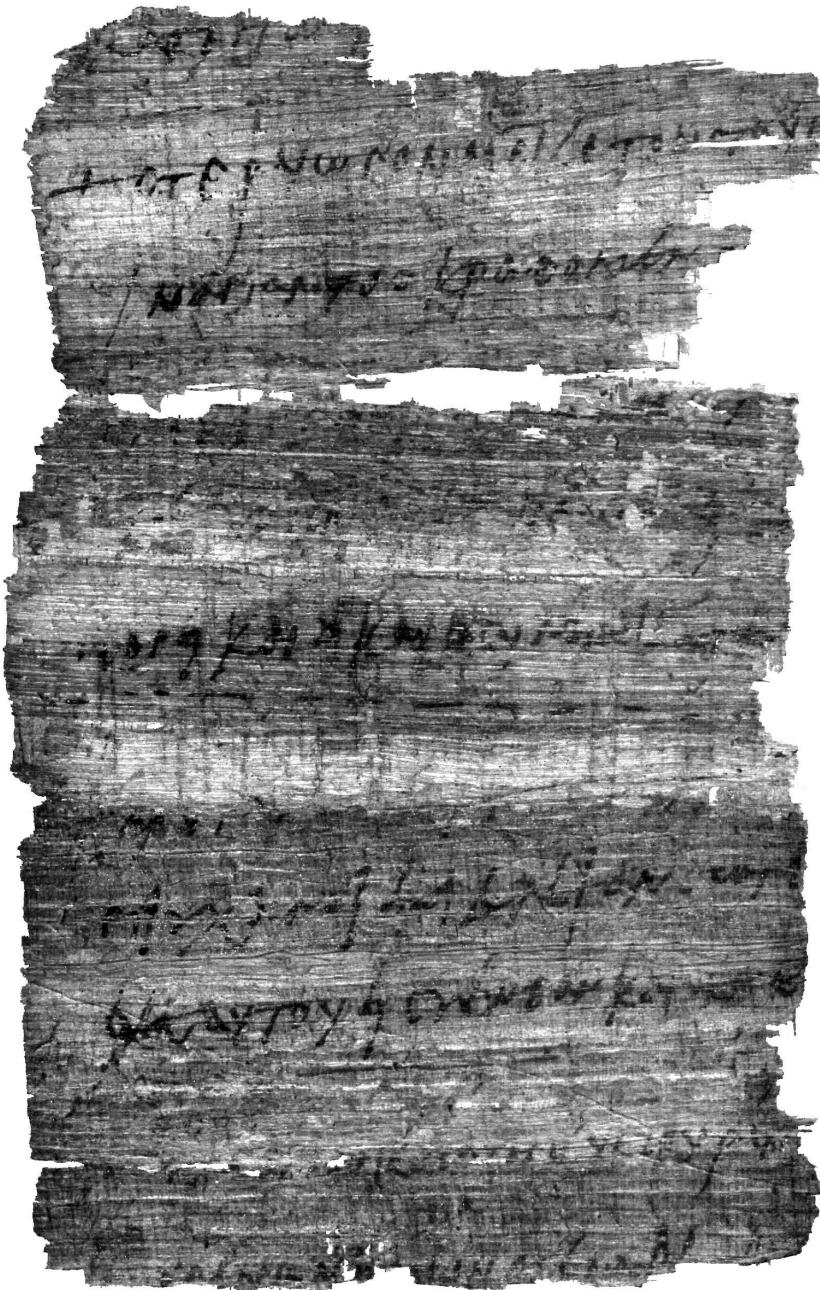


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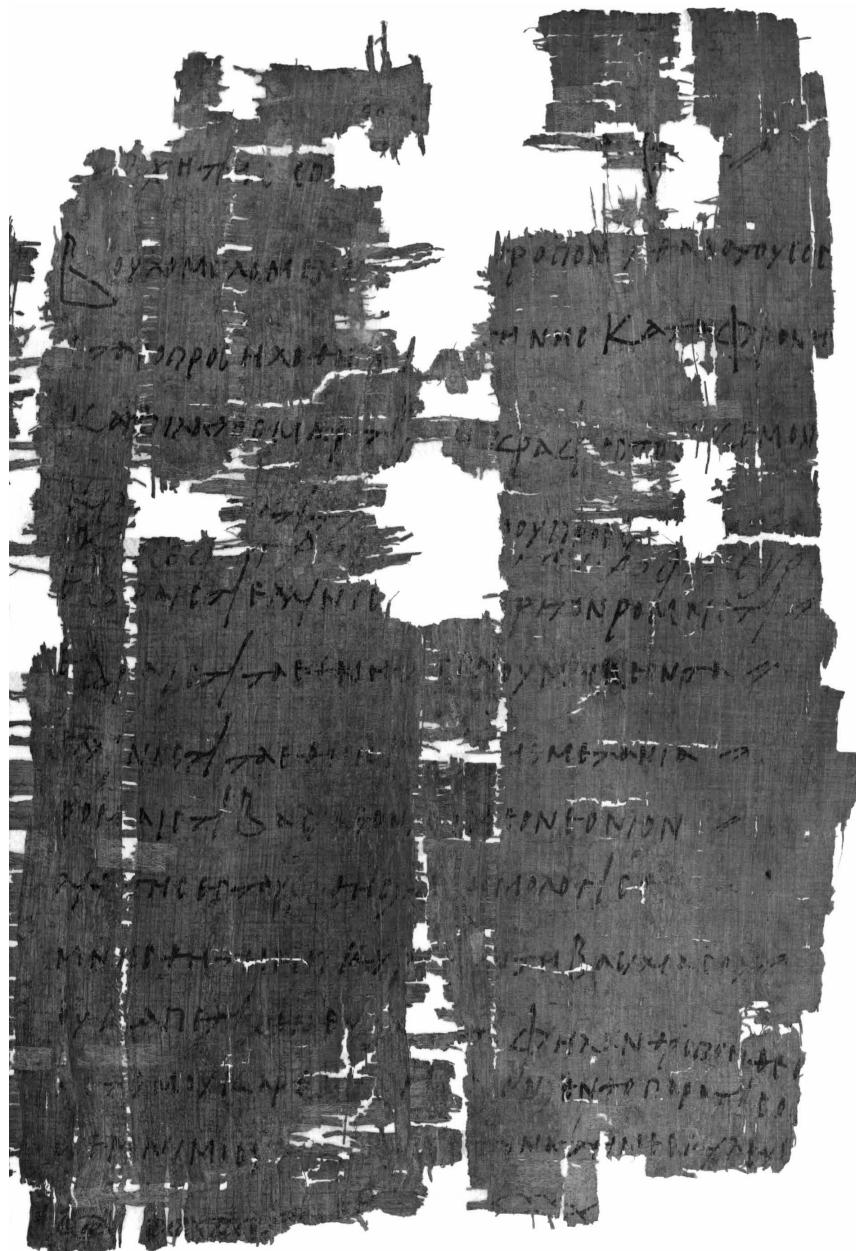


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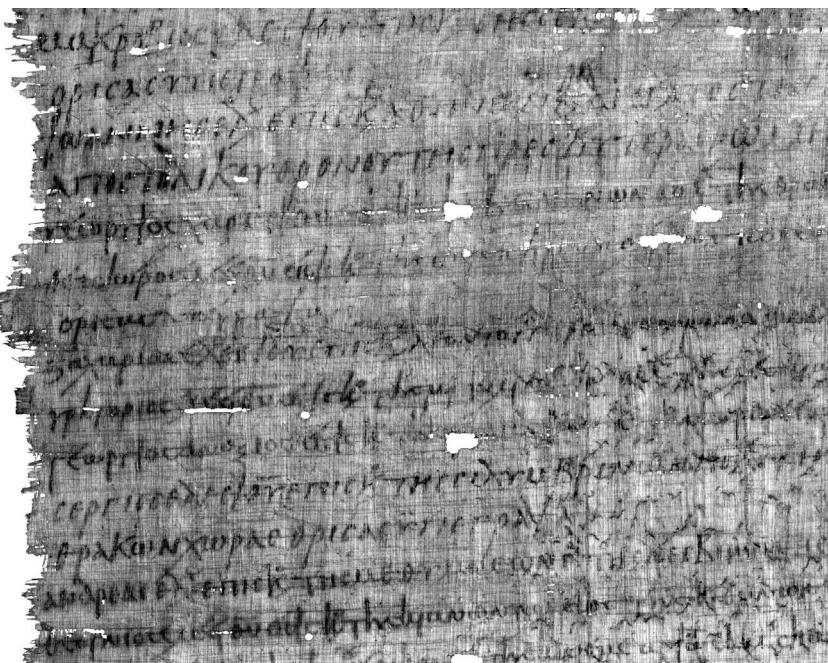


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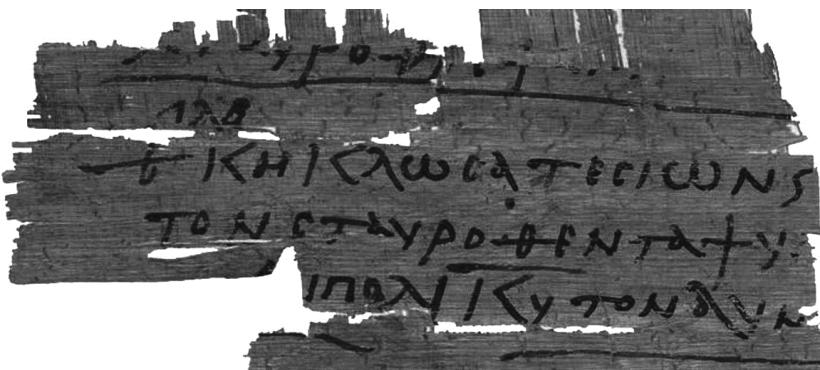


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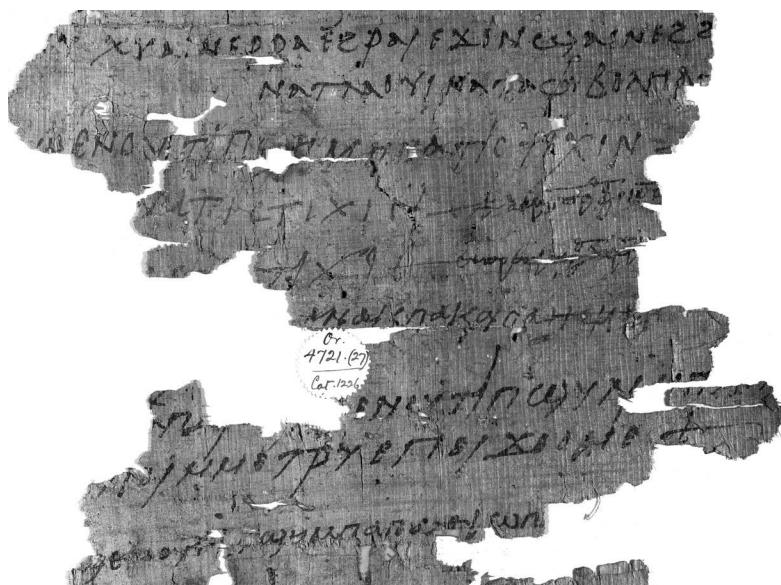


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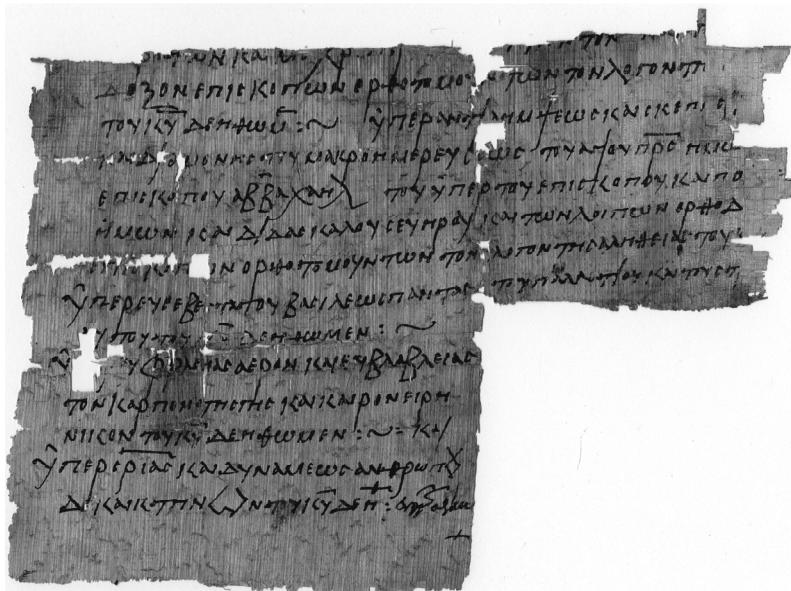


Fig. 21: PSI Com. IX 2 (743–767, Papiri della Società Italiana inv. 534)
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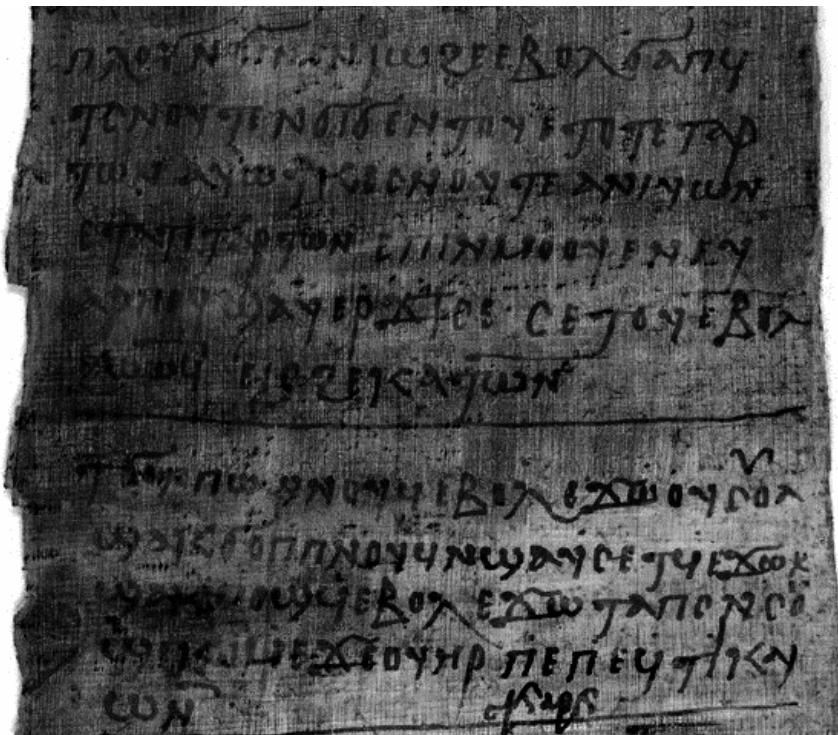


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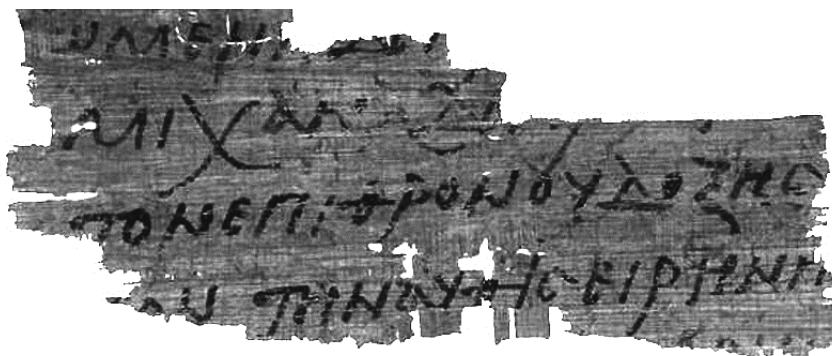


Fig. 23: MPER N.S. XVII 58 (8th c., Papyrussammlung of the Austrian National Library inv. G 42715 recto) © Austrian National Library

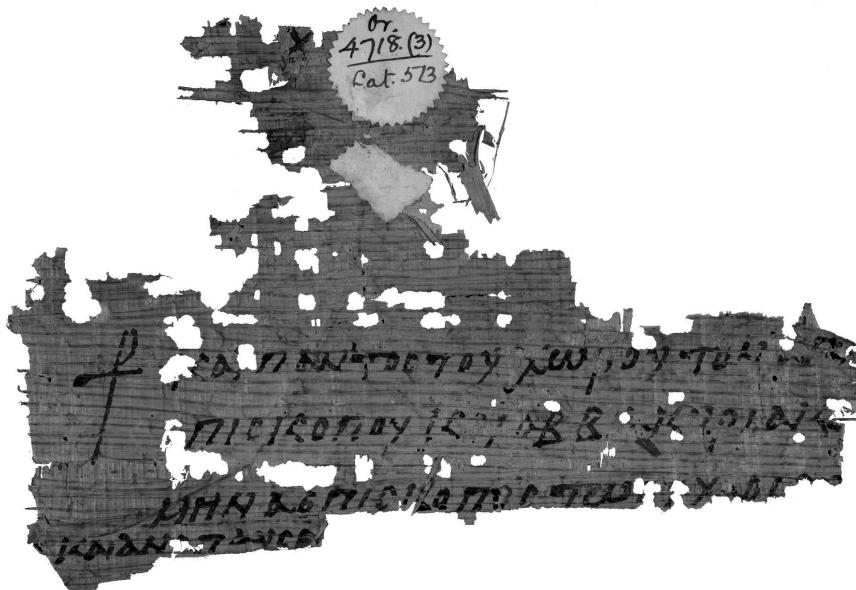


Fig. 24: P.Lond.Copt. I 513 (793–817, British Library Ms Or. 4718(3) recto)
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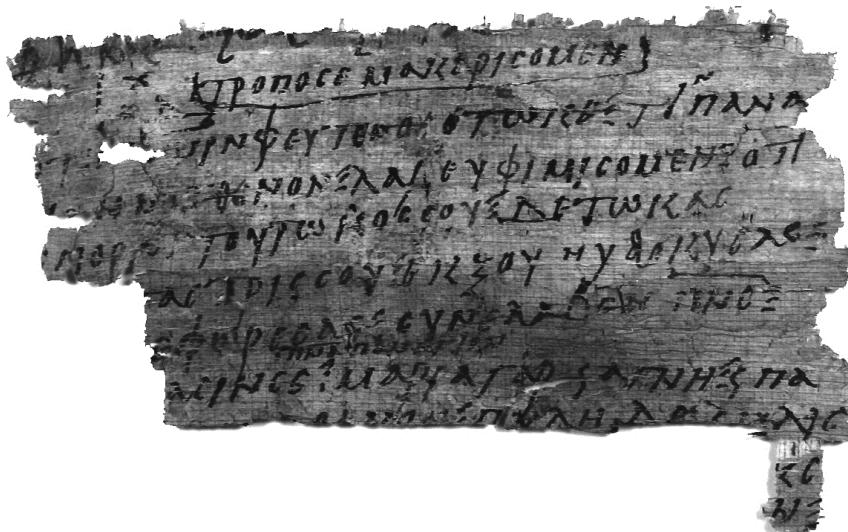


Fig. 25: P.Matr. inv. 46 (late 8th/early 9th c.) © Fondación Pastor de Estudios Clásicos, Madrid

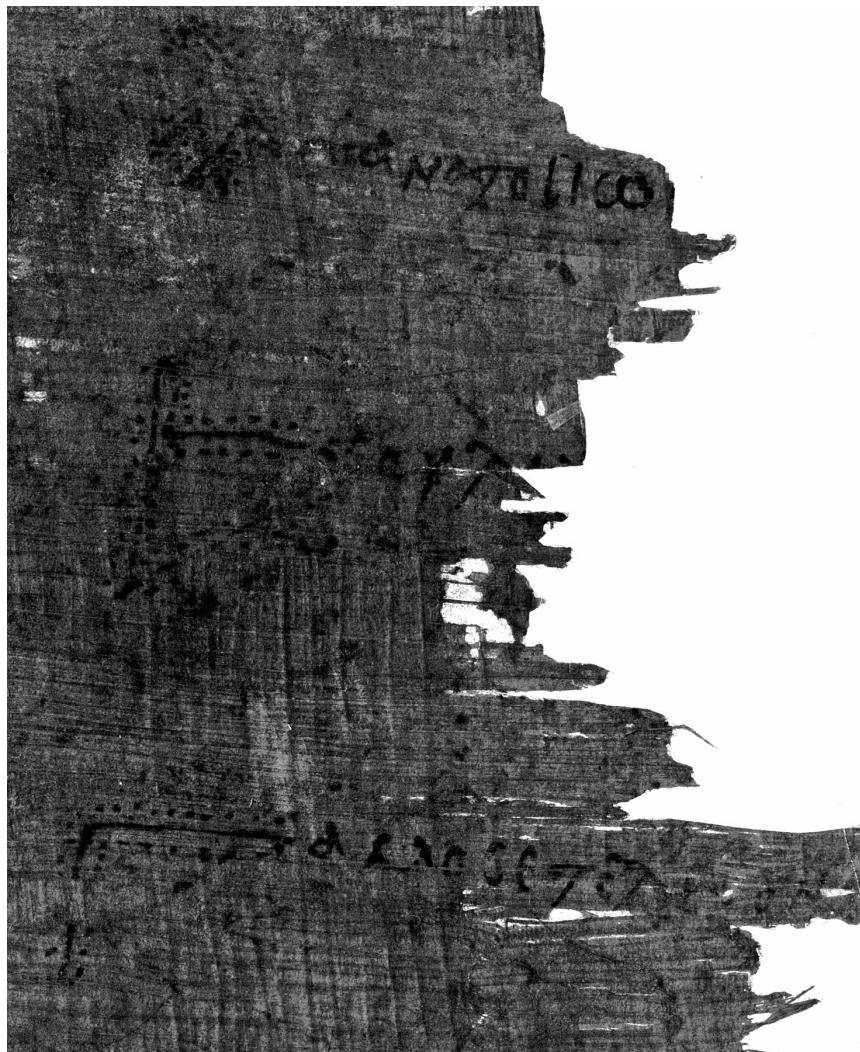


Fig. 26: P.Berol. 5476 recto (mid-8th c.) © Staatliche Museen zu Berlin – Ägyptisches Museum und Papyrussammlung, Scan: Berliner Papyrusdatenbank, P.Berol. 5476

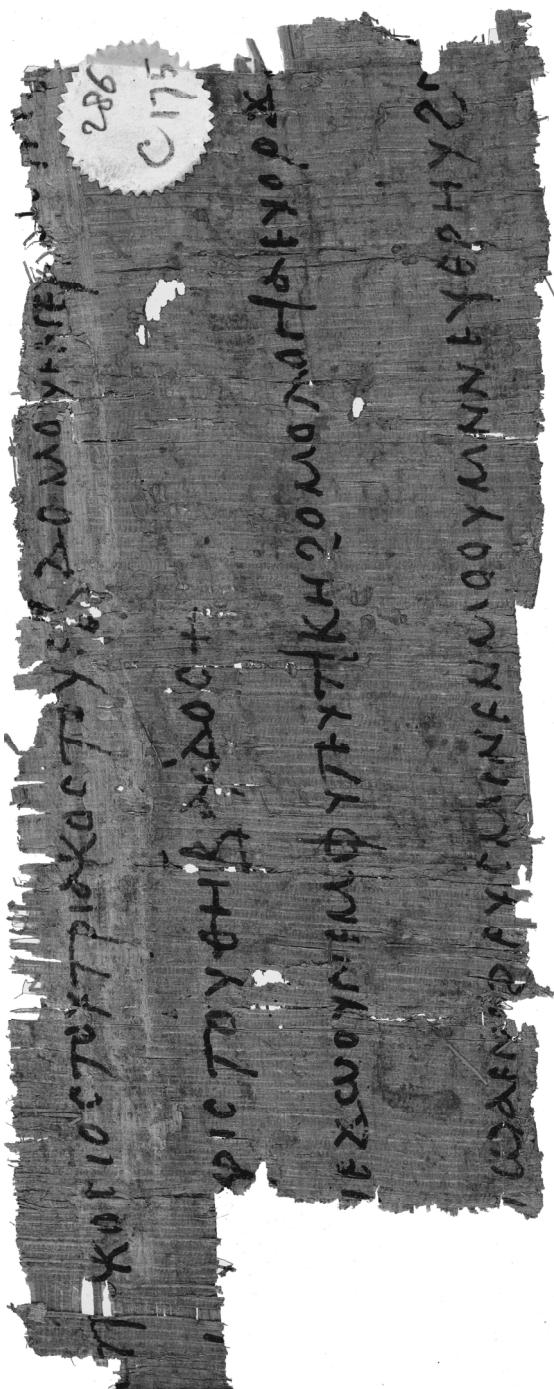


Fig. 27: P.Ryl.Copt. 175 (721, University of Manchester, John Rylands Library, inv. Coptic P 175 recto). Copyright of the University of Manchester.

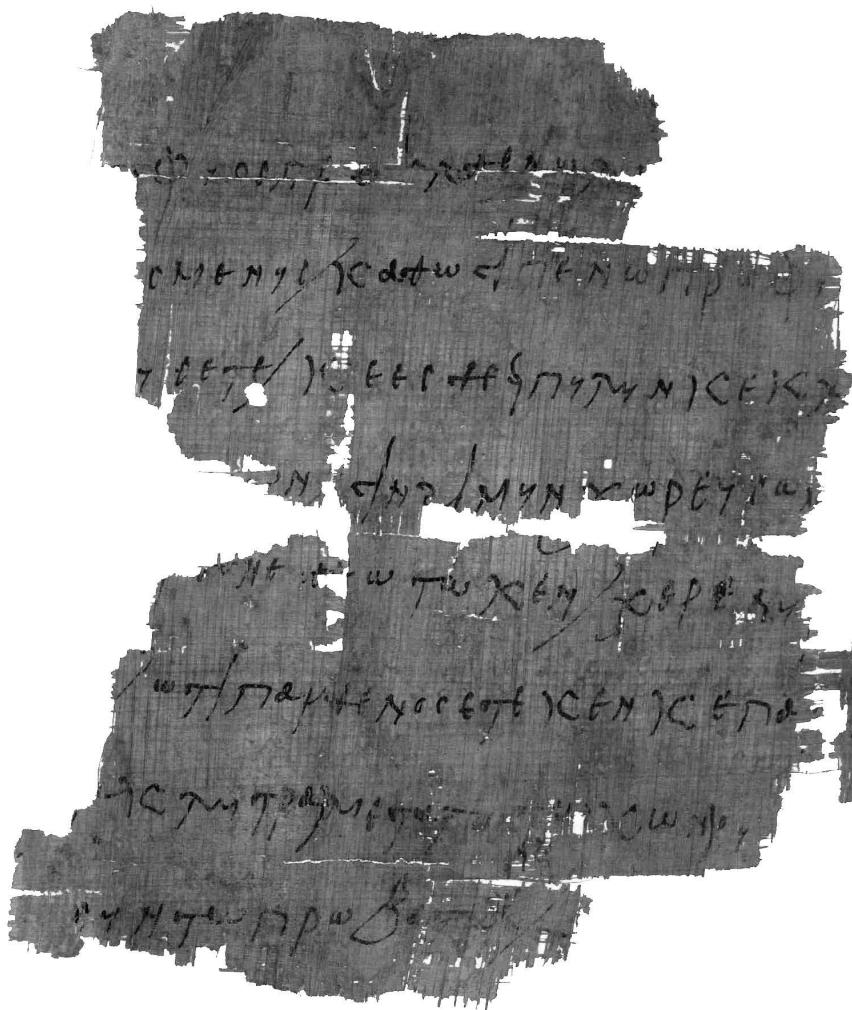


Fig. 28: MPER N.S. XVII 37 (8th c., Papyrussammlung of the Austrian National Library inv. G 26041 recto) © Austrian National Library

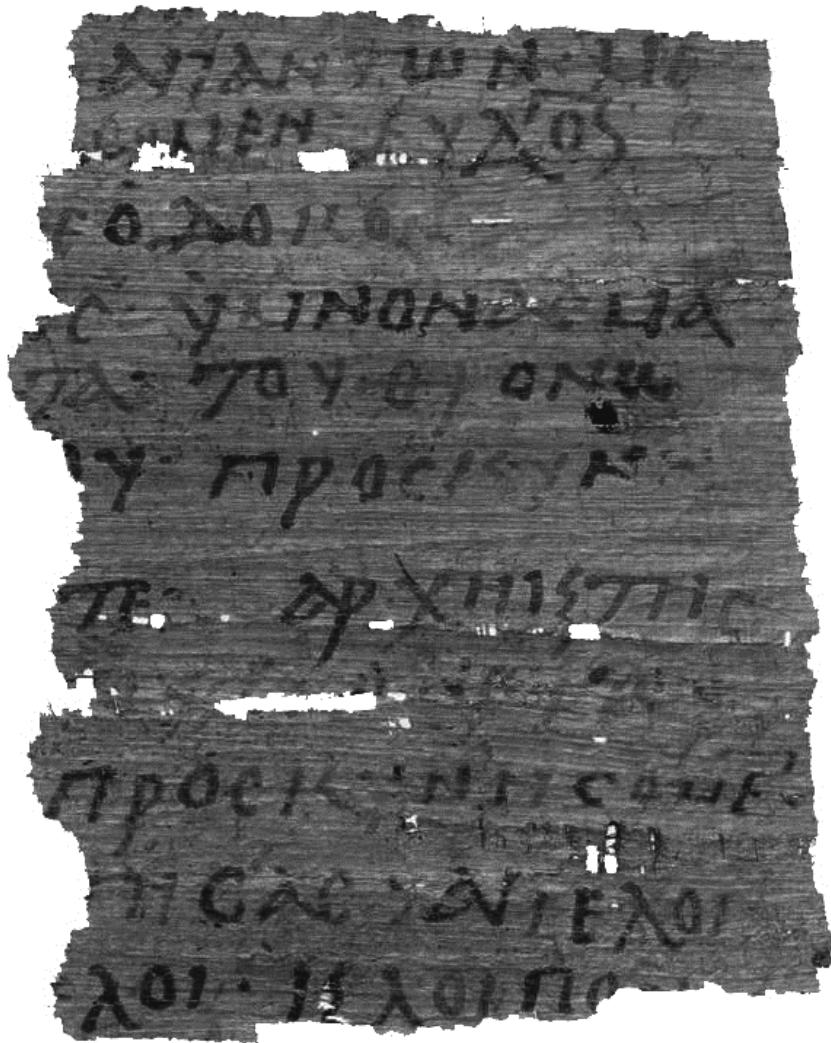


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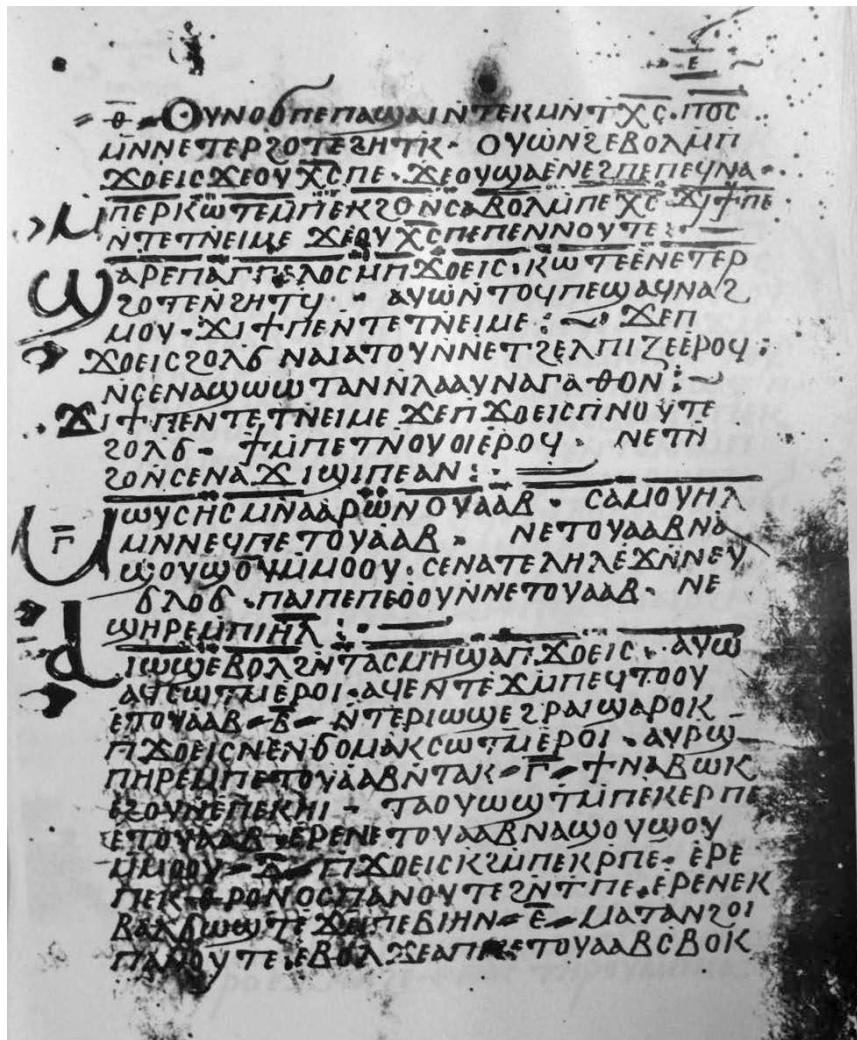


Fig. 30: New York MLM M 574 fol. 2 recto (897/898)

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 Καρος αγιος μονικαδηλούχης του εικόνιας = ΣΥΝΙΝ
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 Καρος φίλες διάκονου = ΣΥΝΙΝ
 Καρος δεσμοτάτου για παράδικονου = ΣΥΝΙΝ
 Καρος ευσεβες αναγνωριστης = ΣΥΝΙΝ
 Καρος φιλοπούνου γρου για = ΣΥΝΙΝ
 Καρος φιλούχρις λαονσου συχρυστή = ΣΥΝΙΝ
 Καρος κύριος αββαϊκής αρχιερεας ευχυ = ΣΥΝΙΝ
 Καρος κύριος αββαϊκής ιεραειστατου γεπτικοτού
 αποτησπολεοσαρσινης ΣΥΝΙΓΓΕΝΕΣ ΣΥΝΙΝ
 Καρος κύριος αββαϊκής ηγετησιανης αποτησπολεοσαρσινης
 Καρος κύριος αββαϊκής οπρις τεκατηνων αποστόλων ΣΥΝΙΝ
 Καρος κύριος αββαϊκής βορβονικης χιτρασοφρανοικης
 πολεος χρονις επιρρηνης χρονις

Fig. 31: P.Lond.Copt. I 514 recto (ca. 880–907, British Library Ms Or. 4718(4) recto)
 © By permission of the British Library

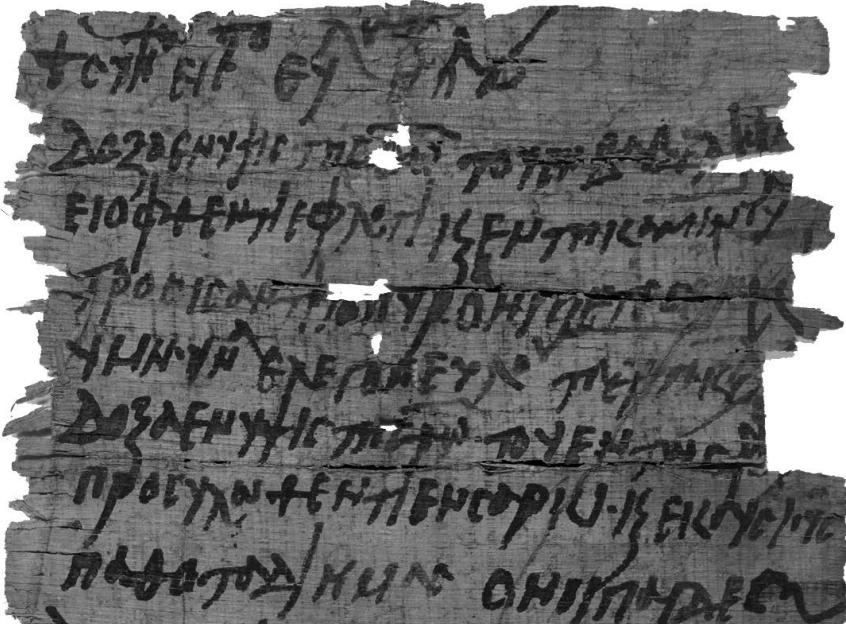


Fig. 32: P.Ryl. III 466r.1–8 (9th/10th c., University of Manchester, John Rylands Library, inv. Greek P 466 recto). Copyright of The University of Manchester

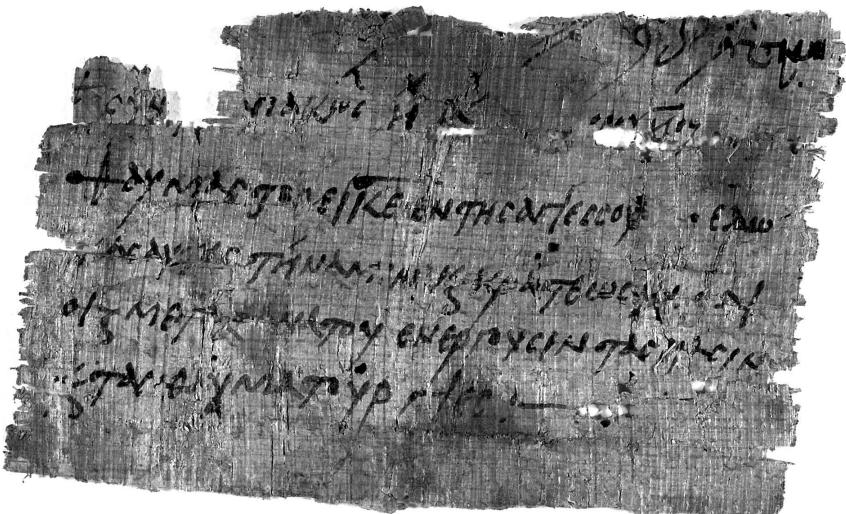


Fig. 33: PSI IX 1096 (9th/10th c., Florence Biblioteca Medicea Laurenziana inv. 18866 recto) © Biblioteca Medicea Laurenziana

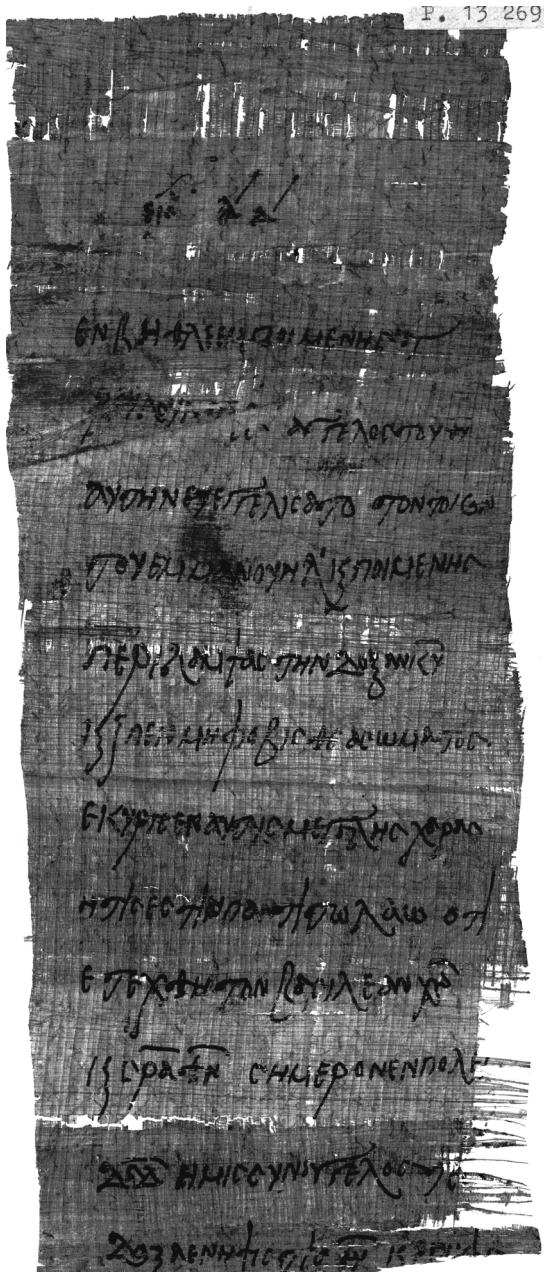


Fig. 34: BKT VI 6 2 (second half of 9th/10th c., P.Berol. 13269 recto)

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Berliner Papyrusdatenbank, P.Berol. 13269

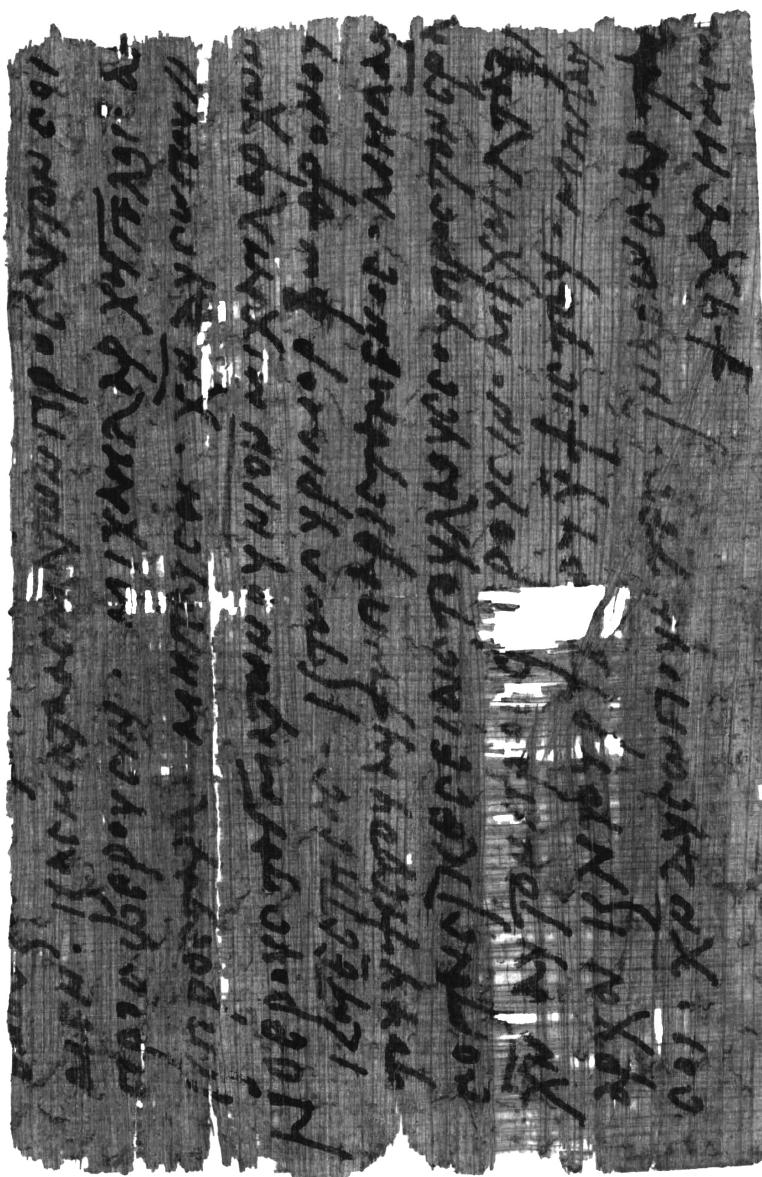


Fig. 35: P. Vindob. G 19879 recto (9th c.) © Austrian National Library

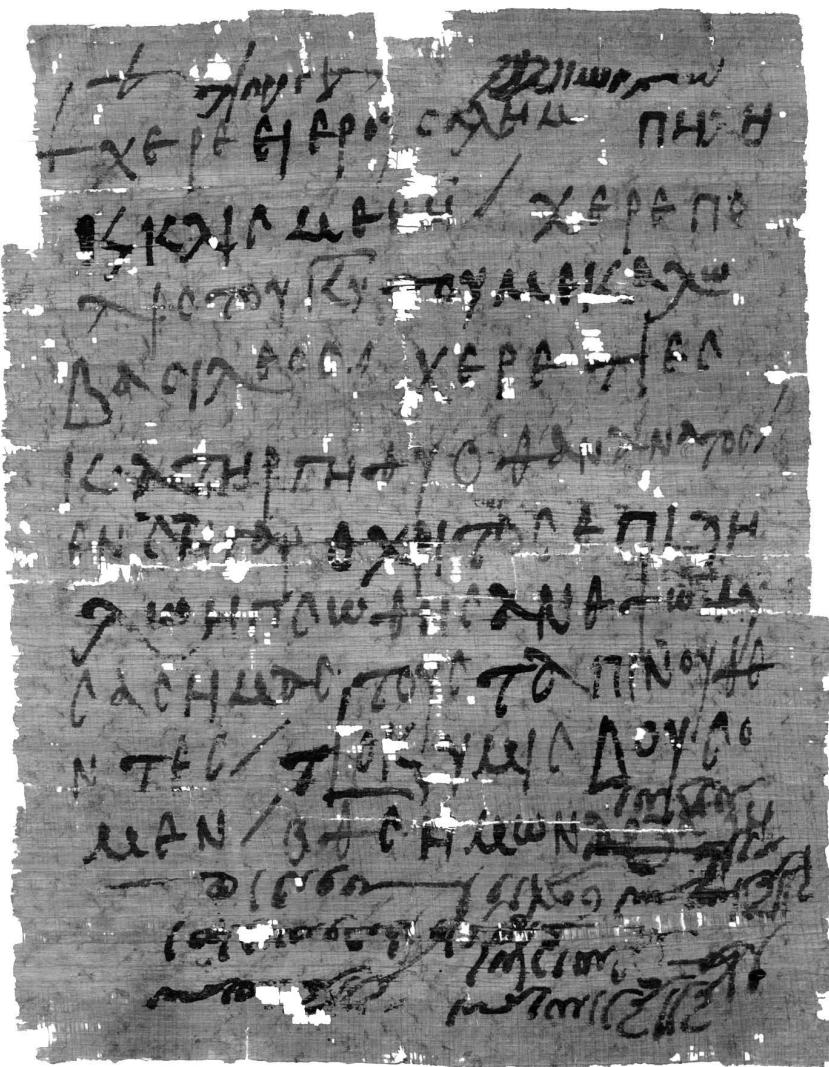


Fig. 36: : P.Vindob. G 42377 recto (9th c.) © Austrian National Library