

ABSTRACT

The Manichaean Codices of Medinet Madi

THE SEVEN MANICHAEAN PAPYRUS codices of the fourth or fifth century were found in illicit excavation in 1929 in the desert in the ruins of Τερενοῦθις near Medinet Madi at the southern end of the Fayyum. They were acquired in about equal halves by A. Chester Beatty for his library then in London, now in Dublin, and by Carl Schmidt for the Papyrussammlung (papyrus collection) of the Staatliche Museen of Berlin. The status of the seven codices follows:

CHESTER BEATTY LIBRARY CODEX A, *THE PSALMS*

Beatty acquired the front part of the codex from the Cairo dealer Maurice Nahman in 1931, and he had acquired the back part in 1930. The back part was conserved in Berlin by Hugo Ibscher and published by Charles R. C. Allberry in 1938. As Ibscher conserved each leaf of the front part, H. J. Polotsky transcribed each in Berlin. Copies went to both Beatty and W. E. Crum, for use in his *Coptic Dictionary*. Since the edition was never completed, it was not published, but in 1986/1988, Søren Giversen published a few lines of Psalm 119 he derived by Polotsky. The front part of the codex was put on loan at the Royal Library of Copenhagen in 1984 for Giversen to publish in facsimile and critical editions. He published both parts only in facsimile edition in 1988.

CHESTER BEATTY LIBRARY CODEX B,
THE SYNAXEIS

Beatty acquired this codex from a Fayyumic dealer in 1930 (except for 31 residual leaves that Schmidt acquired in 1931, P¹⁵⁹⁹⁵). Beatty turned it over to Ibscher to conserve. By 1939 only thirteen leaves of Beatty's part had been conserved and returned to London. They moved with the library to Dublin in 1953 and to Copenhagen in 1984. Giversen published a facsimile edition in 1986. Beginning in 1934, the rest of Beatty's part of the codex was kept in Hugo Ibscher's home in Kleinmachnow, near Berlin, for conservation. But after Ibscher's death in 1943, his son Rolf Ibscher reported putting Beatty's parts of the codex in a reinforced concrete bunker at the Zoo Train Station of Berlin for safekeeping. After the bombing of that bunker in 1944, Rolf Ibscher reported having his assistant P. Seidel remove the codex so that Ibscher could take it to the home of his father-in-law, Wolf Henry Doering, in Schondorf on the Ammersee in Bavaria. From time to time Rolf Ibscher worked at conserving the leaves there. The West German authorities took control of the codex and engaged Carsten Colpe to edit it in 1956–1957. So the codex was taken to Göttingen. When he died in 1967, Rolf Ibscher had conserved only about half this material. When the Egyptian Museum was created in West Berlin in 1967, the material was deposited there. In 1985 the curator of the papyrus collection in that museum, William Brashear, asked me to investigate this material. There are 125 extant unpublished leaves plus the unconserved remainder of the book block. I reported on it to the Fachkommission Byzantinistik of the Historiker-Gesellschaft of the German Democratic Republic in Halle in 1986. Both museums authorized me to organize an edition of all the Manichaean material in Berlin. The transcription of the scarcely legible conserved leaves was begun in 1985. Gesine Schenke Robinson worked on the thirty-one leaves on the Museums-Insel of East Berlin, and others (especially Wolf-Peter Funk and Paul Mirecki) worked on those leaves in West Berlin. The photographing took place in Berlin in preparation for a facsimile edition of all the Manichaean material in Berlin, Vienna, and Warsaw, planned to be published by the Akademie-Verlag of Berlin.

CHESTER BEATTY LIBRARY CODEX C,
VOLUME TWO OF THE *KEPHALAIA*

Beatty acquired this codex from the Fayyumic dealer prior to Schmidt's talking to that dealer in the spring of 1931. It was conserved by Rolf Ibscher after World War II and published in facsimile edition by Giversen in 1986. A committee of Søren Giversen, Rodolphe Kasser, and Martin Krause held exclusive rights to publish a critical edition of the Dublin–Copenhagen material. Kasser was entrusted with organizing the publication of the critical edition of this codex.

CHESTER BEATTY LIBRARY CODEX D,
THE *HOMILIES*

Beatty acquired the bulk of this codex from Nahman with an option to buy in 1930. But Beatty released it to Carl Schmidt for Berlin in 1932 (P¹⁵⁹⁹⁹). It was not considered conservable but was put on display as a showpiece for how impossible this task was. The unconserved book block is thought to have been among the materials stored in the bunker at the Zoo train station. From there it was thought to have been taken to the Soviet command post at the castle Friedrichsfelde in 1945–1946, and then to Leningrad in 1946, though it was not found when the material was returned to Berlin in 1958. A smaller part of the codex was acquired by Beatty in 1931, conserved by Ibscher, edited by Polotsky, and published in 1934. Giversen published a facsimile edition of the codex in 1987.

BERLIN PAPYRUS COLLECTION P¹⁵⁹⁹⁵,
THE *SYNAXEIS*

See Chester Beatty Library Codex B above.

BERLIN PAPYRUS COLLECTION P¹⁵⁹⁹⁶,
VOLUME ONE OF THE *KEPHALAIA*

Schmidt acquired this codex from Nahman in 1930. Ibscher conserved most of the leaves. H. J. Polotsky and Alexander Böhlig edited them. They were published in fascicles—by 1940, a first volume through page 244, line 20. Böhlig published through page 291 in 1966, and

through page 292 in 1985. Professor Grohmann of Prague acquired three unpublished remains for the Austrian National Library, where they are still extant. Five unpublished Berlin leaves are in Warsaw, where they were brought after having been lost in transit between Berlin and Leningrad in 1946. In Berlin there are some ninety extant unpublished leaves, equaling 180 pages.

The total of unpublished extant leaves then becomes $3 + 5 + 90 = 98$ leaves or $6 + 10 + 180 = 196$ pages. Wolf-Peter Funk is preparing a critical edition. Polotsky has put at Funk's disposal for the critical edition his transcriptions and translations located at the Academy of Sciences in Berlin, at the Griffith Institute of the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford, and at the Chester Beatty Library in Dublin.

BERLIN PAPYRUS COLLECTION P¹⁵⁹⁹⁷, THE ACTS

This codex with its covers (which were photographed and published) was sold by a provincial dealer to Nahman, who sold the codex to Schmidt in 1931. One leaf that Ibscher conserved was returned to London, was moved with the library to Dublin, and was included in the material put on deposit in Copenhagen. Giversen published it in facsimile in 1987.

There are seven or eight unpublished leaves still in Berlin. Part of one unpublished leaf may be at the Institute for Papyrology of Warsaw University. There may thus be nine or ten extant leaves, eighteen or twenty pages. The unconserved book block and wooden covers did not return from Leningrad to Berlin in 1958. None of the leaves of this codex in Berlin or Warsaw have been published.

BERLIN PAPYRUS COLLECTION P¹⁵⁹⁹⁸, THE LETTERS

This codex was also sold by the provincial dealer to Nahman, who sold it to Schmidt in 1931. There are six unpublished leaves that were returned from Leningrad to Berlin in 1958 and three unpublished leaves in the National Museum in Warsaw. There are also fifteen containers with eighteen leaves (three secondarily assigned to the *Kephalaia*) among those that probably lay half-conserved in the Ibscher home throughout the war that may belong to this codex. A leaf originally

labeled as belonging to the Letters but reassigned to the Acts probably should be counted as belonging to the Letters. This would make a total of twenty-eight leaves or fifty-six pages. The book block did not return from Leningrad to Berlin in 1958. Hence none of the leaves of this codex were published.

BERLIN PAPYRUS COLLECTION P¹⁵⁹⁹⁹,
THE *HOMILIES*

See Chester Beatty Library Codex D above.

SAMPLE