A Sheet of Parchment from a Fifth or Sixth Century Torah Scroll
Determined in Type among Near Eastern (Oriental, Syrian, Arabo-Sicilian, Yemenite) Scripts
Jordan S. Penkower

Description:
One sheet from a Torah scroll from the last century; sightly damaged upper and lower, empty margins, containing 30-32 words per line, including the Song of the Sea. This sheet was bought by a private collector at Christie's in London in 1989. The text is written in titles and initials, with 35 lines per column, each 35 lines per column, except the first column that has 88 lines. The text is divided into separate and different sections. The text of the Song of the Sea is written in a single line (see below). The first column is slightly damaged, and the first column is perfectly missing in the uppermost right-hand corner.

Jordan S. Penkower
(Bar-Ilan University)
Textus 21
(2002), pp. 235-264 col. 3
col. 5
Bilingual note in Russian and Hebrew:
Presented by Shelomo Beim, Karaite hazzan in the Crimea to Grand Duke Constantine, brother of Czar Alexander II (1863)

With the Torah scroll sheet, not yet conserved, still within its frame, creased from having been folded at some point.
Visit to Library of Congress 30 October 2017

Library of Congress Torah Scroll Sheet
Exodus 10:10 – 16:15

Note in Russian and Hebrew on reverse:
Presented by Shelomo Beim, Karaite hazzan in the Crimea, to Grand Duke Constantine, brother of Czar Alexander II (1863)
Abraham Firkovich (1786–1874)
Karaite ḥakham
Brought numerous manuscripts from the Near East to Russia, including the famous St. Petersburg (Leningrad) Codex

Library of Congress Torah Scroll Sheet
Exodus 10:10 – 16:15

Exodus 15
“The Song of the Sea”
Ein Gedi Synagogue – 5th-7th centuries C.E.

Burnt scroll from the Ark in the Ein Gedi synagogue, c. 600 C.E., discovered during excavations in 1970

High-resolution 3D scan of the scroll, using the Bruker Skyscan model 1176 Micro-CT scanner (2015)

Leviticus 1:1-8
http://vis.uky.edu/digital-restoration/engedi2016/

Composite Scan of the Ein Gedi Leviticus Scroll September 2016 Leviticus, chapters 1-2
Carbon-14 analysis of the scroll
at the Weizmann Institute Radiocarbon Laboratory
88.9% probability = 210-390 C.E. = 300 C.E.

Ein-Gedi Scroll, c. 300 C.E.

Ashkar-Gilson, no. 2
Duke University
fragment
c. 700 C.E.
Exodus 15

David M. Rubenstein
Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Ashkar-Gilson, no. 2
Duke University
fragment
c. 700 C.E.
Exodus 15
More legible through photo enhancement

London Scroll
c. 700 C.E.

Ashkar-Gilson Scroll | Duke University | c. 700 C.E. | Exodus 15
More legible through photo enhancement
Askhar-Gilson Scroll and London Scroll are from the same original Torah scroll, with one sheet missing between these two sections of Exodus.

Ashkar-Gilson, no. 14

Duke University
(David M. Rubenstein Rare Book and Manuscript Library)
c. 900 C.E.

Essentially illegible

An Ancient Scroll of the Book of Exodus: The Reunion of Two Separate Fragments

Edna Engel, Hebrew Palaeography Project, Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities
Mordechai Maisel, Academy of the Hebrew Language

Israel Museum Studies in Archaeology 7 (2015), pp. 24-61

Ashkar-Gilson, no. 14

Deuteronomy 5

C.U.L.
T-S NS 3.21
Torah scroll
c. 800 C.E.

Genesis 13-17
C.U.L. T-S NS 3.21
Torah scroll
Gen. 14:12-13 (close-up)

C.U.L. T-S NS 3.21
Torah scroll
Gen. 14:12-13

C.U.L. T-S NS 4.3
Torah scroll
Gen. 4-6

C.U.L. T-S NS 4.3
Torah scroll
Gen. 4-6

C.U.L. T-S NS 3.21 + T-S NS 4.3 (c. 800 C.E.)
derive from the same Torah scroll
C.U.L. T-S NS 4.8
Torah scroll
c. 900 C.E.
blank verso

Torah Scroll Sheet
Exodus 10:10 – 16:15

MS Florence, Biblioteca Medicea Laurenziana pluteo 74,17
Palimpsest: Greek overtext Hebrew undertext

Six different Torah scrolls used, c. 950 C.E.
Biblioteca universitaria di Bologna, c. 1190 C.E. (via 14C dating)

Biella, Italy c. 1250 C.E. (via 14C dating)

From the Depths of Antiquity:
A Lecture and Power Point Presentation by
Gary A. Rendsburg, Distinguished Professor of Jewish History, Biblical and Early Islamic Law in Jewish History, Hebrew University

Wednesday, May 23, 2018
12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.
Library of Congress
Adjoining the North Eastern Reading Room
Thomas Jefferson Building (2nd Floor)
Washington, D.C.