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AN OXYRHYNCHUS FRAGMENT OF HOMER, ILIAD 23
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This papyrus of *Iliad* 23, which is currently housed in the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library in Toronto with the inventory number "Oxy. 560 (51 E1)", was described briefly in *P.Oxy*. III (London 1903) by B. P. Grenfell and A. S. Hunt. It was subsequently listed in R. A. Pack's 1952 inventory as #784 and Mertens–Pack as #1010, in *LDAB* as #1856, and in a few publications throughout the last century. Yet no transcription or full discussion of it has ever been published, although the papyrus offers one very interesting new reading, most probably authentic ([υ]περτατο in Ψ 847), and a completely unique feature: a vertical ruling-line running through the first letter of each verse in column II (not mentioned by Grenfell and Hunt).

The fragment (width 18.4 cm at its widest, height 5.8 cm at its highest), consists of two columns of text written on the *recto* along the fibres (the *verso* is blank), and preserves endings of Ψ 775–786 and large parts of Ψ 834–848. The inter-columnar space varies from 3.8 cm at its widest to 1.4 cm minimally. Leading measures ca. 0.5 cm, the line-spacing ca. 0.2 cm. The width of col. II measures 12.2 cm at its widest, and the width from column to column is ca. 13.6 cm – which falls within the average dimensions for rolls with hexameter verse provided by W. A. Johnson. Upper and lower margins are not extant. A column had ca. 59 lines, and the written area was ca. 29 cm in height (W. A. Johnson gives only one example of such a long column, from the second half of the third century CE). Book 23 would have occupied 15 columns and ca. 204 cm in length, with wider side-margins ca. 215–220 cm. Given that there is writing on the *recto* only, we can be fairly confident that the fragment was part of a bookroll, although there are no signs of a *kollēsis*.

A noteworthy feature of this papyrus is that the left margin of the second column is ruled vertically in black ink, creating strict justification. A close examination of the ductus suggests that the scribe is starting his initial stroke from that ruling line (drawn before the text was copied). Since the initial stroke of certain letters does not always begin at the farthest left point (thereby allowing some letters to cross the vertical ruling), "justification" here needs to be qualified on these grounds. The horizontal fibres of the papyrus run perpendicular to the ruling, which indicates that the direction of the writing climbs quickly (cf. the plate). As is well known, scribes of literary papyri rarely ruled their lines and margins, although W. A. Johnson has recently identified a number of examples of literary papyri from Oxyrhynchus containing vertical dots.
An Oxyrhynchus Fragment of Homer, Iliad 23 in Toronto

P.Oxy. III 560. Courtesy of the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library, University of Toronto
that were apparently used for column alignment. It is remarkable to find such a clear and unique example in our papyrus.

The hand is quick, roughly bilinear (except for א, ο, τ, υ, ψ), written without serifs in medium-sized uncial characteristics of the Formal Mixed or Severe Style (i.e. narrow ε, θ, o, c versus broad μ, ν, τ, ω), with cursive elements (e.g. α in Ψ 779). The first two strokes of α form an acute angle. The right-hand oblique stroke of δ projects over the apex. The right stroke of λ is occasionally formed by extending the stroke horizontally in the direction of the writing (see Ψ 776 and 784). μ in three movements, with a deep, rounded middle element. ξ as one zig-zag. ο is small and high. ψ as two strokes at a right angle. ω flat, its vertical hasta being almost non-existent. The initial letters of each line in column II are slightly enlarged. The manuscript carries marks of elision (Ψ 836, 839, 840, 841, 842, 844, 845, 847), punctuation (high dots – Ψ 777, 780, 783, 786, 840), acute accent (Ψ 841), rough breathing (line Ψ 841) and trema (Ψ 839) – all due to the scribe, who also corrects a few spelling errors by superimposition (see notes).

The hand may be compared to P.Oxy. II 223 (Iliad 5, late second/early third century CE), although the stylus responsible for producing the text of this comparandum was sharper and the hand is overall more rapid than the one in our papyrus. P.Oxy. III 560 may also be compared to P.Oxy. III 541 (Iliad 2, third century CE; michigan.apis.1265), which betrays many similarities in the letter-forms as well in the degree with which the letters slope. P.Oxy. III 534 (Iliad 1, third century CE; columbia.apis.p1328) is also strikingly similar to our papyrus (note the following letters: ω, α, c), except that, in the former, the slope of the letters is slightly less pronounced and the spacing between letters is greater. Apart from the finials, the hand of P.Oxy. XXVII 2452 (Sophocles, late second/early third century CE), Johnson’s scribe A24, is also very similar; note here the low, almost absent vertical hasta of ω. Cf. also P.Giss. 3 (Libretto, 117 CE), P.Oxy. VII 1016 (Plato, early third century CE). These and other comparanda suggest that our papyrus is best situated in the third century CE, and probably in the earlier half of that century.

Based on Willy Clarysse’s database, LDAB, and Homer & the Papyri, the other ancient manuscripts overlapping with the text of our papyrus (Ψ 775–85, 834–47) are (chronologically): P.Lond. Lit. 27 (Ψ 402–897; I BCE–I CE; West’s siglum ϒ235), P.Ashm. inv. 100/7(d) (Ψ 827–52; III CE; ϒ113259), P.Ashm. inv. 97/11(a) (Ψ 834–47; III–VII CE; ϒ41528), Ambros. gr. F 205 inf. (1019) (Ψ 765–78; V/VI CE; ϒ315).

We compared our transcript to the edition of M. L. West, in which our papyrus is no. 28 (see the sigla in vol. 1, xxxix). In the lacunae we provide his text and in the commentary we use his sigla. We print lectional signs following the scribe’s practice (i.e. as they occur in the papyrus).

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9 Johnson, Bookrolls, 93–97; for more examples cf. “Addenda and corrigenda”, 251 sqq.
10 We have not found a similar example of a vertical ruling-line.
11 E. G. Turner, Greek Manuscripts of the Ancient World (Oxford 1987) (= GMAW), 6, “Nor can I point to an example of vertical ruling.”
12 The direction of the writing considered.
13 Turner, GMAW, 26–27.
15 http://quod.lib.umich.edu/cgi/i/image/getimage-id?i=apis&entryid=X-1265&vviewid=C0_VIR.TIF&quality=large.
17 Turner, GMAW, no. 27.
18 Roberts, GLH, no. 15a.
19 Roberts, GLH, no. 20a.
21 http://www.stoa.org/homer/homer.pl.
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Column I

1. [..] [..] [..]

Ψ 775 τηι ρα βουων κεχυτ ονθος αποκταμεννον ερμυκαν ους επι Πατροκλα ιεφεν ποδας ακυς Αριλλευς εν δ' ονθου βουων πλητο στομά τε πινας τε

Ψ 780 κρητηρ αυτ αναειρε πολυτας διος Οδηςεευς ος γλαδε φθαμενος ο δ' Βουαι ελε φαιδυμοις Αιας

Ψ 785 ετη δε κερας μετα χερπιν εχων βουων αργυρουλου ονθον αποπτων μετα δ' Αργειωιν ειεπεν οι ποται η' με βλασυν θεα ποδας η' το παρος περ

Ψ 786 μητηρ ας Οδυσσηε χαριτατα η' επαρηγε' ος εφαθ οι δ' αρα παντες επι αυπτοι η' δυ γελασαν

Ψ 785 Αντιλοχος δ' αρα δ' λοιειημον εφερπ εαθλον

Ψ 786 μειδιουν και μυθον εν Αργειωιν ειεπεν·

[47 lines lost]

Column II

Ψ 834 1 χρ[εωμενος ου μεν γαρ οι ατεμβομενος γε εδηνου πομην ουδ αροτηρ ει[ε]ς ες πολιν αλλα παρεξει ως εφατ' ωρτο δ' επείτα μενεντοπεμεμος Πολυυποτις ου δ' Λεοντης κρατερου μενος [αντιθειο]

Ψ 835 5 αν δ' Αιας Τελαμωνιαδης και διος [Επειος εξεις δ' ιεταντο σολον δ' ελε διος Επειος]

Ψ 840 10 ηκε δ' δυνηκας γελασαν δ' επι παντες Αρχαιον δευτερος αυτ' αφητε Λεοντης [οςος Αρης] το τριον αυτ' ερρυει μεγας Τελα[μονιος Αιας]

Ψ 845 χειρος απο στιβαρας και υπερβο[α]λε σηματα παντων αλλ' οτε δι ουλην ε[ι]λε μενηντολεμ[η]ς Πολυποτις

Ψ 848 15 [αντικταντες δ' εταροι Πολυποταιο κρατεροι]ο

Commentary

Column I

1. [..] [..] [..]. Only a few, non determinable specks of ink, first perhaps the lower tip of the shank of a letter descending below the line (γα) of Ψ 774?.

2. αποκταμεννον. Above οι two strokes at a right angle, a clumsy grave accent or more probably a shadow of the image.

13. ειεπευν·. The high dot is well preserved, but of the ε only part of the upper horizontal survives (however the traces are doubtful).

23 Assuming the transmitted text.

24 West's sigla: Ω = codices A (X AD), D (X), B (XI), C (XI–XII), E (XI; these three last codd., BCE, have a common ancestor, h), F (XI), T (AD 1059), Y (fragments, XI), R (XII), W (XII), G (XIII); so-called h family: M (XIII AD), N (XII–XIII), P (XIV); and codd. H (XIII), O (XIII), V (XIII), X (fragments of Δ), Z (lemmata and scholia).
Column II

2. οὐδ. The δ seems to be crossed out by mistake, οὐδ’ (so the tradition) is needed.
3. εφέτε. The τ corrected from an oval letter (θ).
7. οὐδ. The δ seems to be crossed out by mistake, οὐδ’ (so the tradition) is needed.
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3. εφέτε. The τ corrected from an oval letter (θ).
7. οعطاء. Above ε faint traces, compatible with a rough breathing, perhaps even with an acute accent. A rough breathing above ε also in Ψ. 13.
10. This line, present in the papyrus and in the whole paradosis, was athetized by Aristarchus, because there should be ‘ἀμφοτέρων’ not ‘πάντων’, since only two persons throw. He suspected that the verse was borrowed from Θ 192, where it belongs.
απο. So Ψ 13. It cannot be determined if the scribe read ἀπό, as the medieval tradition (Ω and Λεμμα) or ἄπο, as conjectured by Wolf (and accepted by West).
παντων. So Ψ 13 and the majority of the medieval tradition (Ω, Λεμμα scr.). Codices M N P (so called ‘h’ family) and W G give πάντα – probably to ‘improve’ the text, since πάντων does not suit here, as only two persons throw; similar variae lectiones in Θ 192.
11. δη. So Ψ 13 and the vast majority of the tradition (Λεμμα Λεμμα scr. Ω*), cf. e.g. ἄλλα ὥτε δή in Λ 483, Γ 216. Codex A in the main text has μέν.
Πολύποιτης. The η corrected from a letter that is not clear.
12. ὁ(ε)φιόν. Read ὄφιόιν. Codex A reads ὄφιόν.
14. ὑπερπάτησε. The papyrus offers a completely new and correct reading (preferred by West), cf. Θ 192 τὸ (i.e. δίσκος) δ’ ὑπέρπατο σήματα πάντων. Ν 413 = χ 280 τὸ (i.e. ἔγχος) δ’ ὑπέρπατο. Ψ 13 and the whole medieval tradition (Ω) have ὑπέρβαλε, however ὑπέρβαλεν is always followed by the accusative in Homer.
Grenfell and Hunt read υπερπάτησε, but traces of the initial π are clearly visible on the papyrus. Moreover, there are traces of ink to the right of the lacuna that can be taken as the back stroke of α.
δ’ εβοησάν. So the vast majority of the tradition (Ω*); cf. Ρ 607 and Α 15, Θ 92, 305 (= ω 537), 1 403. Only codex G gives δ’ βοησάν (preferred by Leaf). Ψ 13 has δεβοησάν.
15. κρατεροῖο. Only the top of an upright stroke can be seen – the vertical alignment of letters suggests that it belongs to ι of κρατεροῖο of Ψ 848.