

## Retraction Notice

Dirk Obbink, “Ten Poems of Sappho: Provenance, Authenticity, and Text of the New Sappho Papyri” in: *The Newest Sappho: P. Sapph. Obbink and P. GC inv. 105, Frs. 1–4*, edited by Anton Bierl and André Lardinois, Mnemosyne Supplements Vol. 392, Studies in Archaic and Classical Greek Song, Vol. 2, Leiden: Brill, 2016, pp. 34–54, ISBN (hardback) 978-90-04-31162-6, ISBN (e-book) 978-90-04-31483-2.

The Publisher notifies the readers that the above-mentioned chapter has been retracted, and supports the following statement by the editors of the volume:

In the years following the first publication of this book, serious doubts have been raised about the provenance of the newest Sappho papyri (P. Sapph. Obbink and P. GC inv. 105). Last summer, the Green collection/Museum of the Bible released a statement according to which their fragments (P. GC inv. 105) were acquired from a Turkish dealer on January 7, 2012, without any document proving their legal provenance. Most recently, Mr Green has restituted to Egypt ca. 5,000 papyri, including P. GC inv. 105, on the basis of their illegal acquisition circumstances.

P. Sapph. Obbink appears to have been part of the same bookroll to which P. GC inv. 105 belonged. In an article published in 2017, Simon Burris showed that a fragment found among those of the Green collection physically joined with P. Sapph. Obbink (*ZPE* 201: 12–14). This evidence suggests that P. Sapph. Obbink too came from the same source as P. GC inv. 105. In the meantime, Michael Sampson has published an article that also questions the provenance of the papyri as reported in chapter 2 of this book (*Bulletin of the American Society of Papyrologists* 57 [2020] 143–169). Dirk Obbink, the author of this chapter, was given the opportunity by Brill publishers to respond to this evidence, but so far they have not received a substantive response. He has told them that he is working on an academic article in which he disputes the findings of Sampson, but he has not mentioned a timeline. Considering the above, in consultation with Brill publishers, we therefore have retracted this chapter, although it will remain accessible.

The repatriation of the Green Sappho fragments has restored these papyri to its rightful owner. We hope that they will be made available to the scholarly community in their new location both directly and through online digital reproductions, so they can be studied further. The status of P. Sapph. Obbink

remains problematic, however, not only because its provenance is tainted, but also because the papyrus, which is the main testimony of the Brothers and the Kypris poems, is inaccessible. We sincerely hope that it will also be made available to the academic community soon and its acquisition circumstances will be fully explained. So far we have not seen any evidence to suggest that either P. GC inv. 105 or P. Sapph. Obbink is not authentic.

We as the editors of this volume will continue to monitor the developments around these papyri and we will, in consultation with the publisher, update this postscript or take further measures when necessary, on the basis of new scholarly evidence.

Anton Bierl and André Lardinois

The retracted chapter will remain available in order to maintain the scholarly record, but will be watermarked on each page as 'Retracted', both in print and online.

Brill  
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