The Hebrew Version of Shimshon ben Shlomo

1 Manuscripts

The Hebrew translation by Shimshon ben Shlomo, about whom nothing at all is known except for the fact that he completed the translation of the Alexandrian Summaries on the eighth of August 1322,¹ is extant in the following MSS:²

1.1 MS Vienna Oesterreichische Nationalbibliothek Cod hebr. 29 (cat. Schwarz 174, 15)³ (א); fols. 199b-204a; copied in 1452 in a Sephardic script. This manuscript is, except for some minor variations, identical with MS Parma, Biblioteca Palatina Cod. Parma 2919. [see page 94]

1.2 St. Petersburg RNL Heb. I 332 (ב)
Copied in a Sephardic script on 30 August 1322; no foliation. The MS has the following colophon on fol. 267b: “The translation of the Summaries of the Alexandrians of the books of Galen was completed on the eighth of Elul, 5082 (= 30 August 1322) by Shimshon ben Shlomo.” [see page 95]

1.3 Paris Bibliothèque Nationale héb 117 (ג)⁴
Fols. 256a-262a (Hebrew page numbers) or 249a-255a (Arabic numbers); copied in the 14th-15th centuries in a Sephardic script. The MS is incomplete and suffers from fading of the ink. From הנה יכלה ליום העשרים in section 23 the MS has been copied in a different script and becomes increasingly hard to read; the last words that could be read are יחסו עלולים in section 24.

² For the data of the following MSS we consulted the Online Catalog of Hebrew Manuscripts at The Institute of Microfilmed Hebrew Manuscripts in the National Library, Jerusalem, and the relevant printed catalogs. See as well Steinschneider, Die hebräischen Übersetzungen des Mittelalters und die Juden als Dolmetscher, pp. 654-655.
1.4  

*Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale héb m8 (ד)*

Fols. 104a-108b; copied in a Sephardic script in the 15th century. An ever increasing section of the text on fol. 108a, חלושה (ch. 25) until fol. 108b: אמרוב יהי בשתי אל החมวลת (ch. 27) is missing. [see page 93]

1.5  

*Parma, Biblioteca Palatina Cod. Parma 2919 (cat. Richler 1498) (ח)*

No foliation; copied in the 15th century in a Byzantine script; illustration in the right and bottom margin of beginning of *ma’amár* two with Hebrew term: המﺷריר.

1.6  

*Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale héb. 884 (ז)*

Fols. 276a-279a; copied in the 15th century in a Byzantine script. The manuscript suffers from hiatuses (a large section from 14-18 is missing) and is riddled with errors, and its variants have as a rule not been incorporated in our edition. On the other hand, in one place at least (passage [26]) it displays the best reading.

The basic MS used for the edition is Paris BN 1117 until section 24, and from then on MS St. Petersburg. Variants of the other MSS mentioned above have been noted in the critical apparatus.

2  

*Sigla*

Χ = MS Vienna Oesterreichische Nationalbibliothek Cod hebr. 29

1Χ = Note in the margin(s) of MS Vienna Oesterreichische Nationalbibliothek Cod hebr. 29

ך = St. Petersburg RNL Heb. I 332

1ך = Note in the margin(s) of St. Petersburg RNL Heb. I 332

ל = Paris Bibliothèque Nationale héb 1117

ד = Paris Bibliothèque Nationale héb 1118

1ד = Note in the margin(s) of MS Paris Bibliothèque Nationale héb 1118

2ד = Note above the line in MS Paris Bibliothèque Nationale héb 1118

ה = Parma, Biblioteca Palatina Cod. Parma 291

1ה = Note in the margin of MS Parma, Biblioteca Palatina Cod. Parma 291

2ה = Note above the line in MS Parma, Biblioteca Palatina Cod. Parma 291

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5 Cf. ibid., p. 206.
