The excavation of Masada, led by the late Yigael Yadin, yielded a considerable number of inscribed materials, among them remains of 15 parchment fragments written in Hebrew square characters, and one papyrus fragment penned in the ancient Hebrew alphabet. Yadin published in full the extant fragments of a Ben-Sira Scroll,1 and a fragment of תִּשְׁאֵרוּ דְּלֵךְ אֶתִּיהָ,2 a work known from more extensive finds in the Qumran Caves.3

Seven additional items stem from copies of biblical books: one scroll each of Genesis,4 Deuteronomy and Ezekiel, and two scrolls each of Leviticus and Psalms. Of six other small pieces which evidently come from non-biblical compositions, some can be identified with a measure of confidence, while others escape identification.5 Yadin recorded these finds in his preliminary excavation report,6 but it was not given to him to publish them.7

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4 I retract the tentative suggestion offered in a preliminary Hebrew publication that the fragment may stem from a copy of the Book of Jubilees. See below.
5 Recently three more items without any identifying sigla turned up in Yadin’s Nachlass (publication forthcoming in Tarbiz). One sliver, measuring 5.6 x 2.4 cm, contains a few letters of three partially preserved lines. On another almost rectangular piece of parchment, which measures 3.5 x 2.0 cm, legible parts of seven written lines are extant. The third item consists of a fragment measuring 5.4 x 5.0 cm, which contains the beginnings of three lines of Ps. 18:26-29. These fragments do not seem to stem from Masada, but rather from Qumran. Yadin probably acquired them on the antiquities market.
7 Their edition was entrusted to me in the framework of the comprehensive Masada
In the present paper, I discuss fragments of a Psalms scroll, discovered "on 20th November 1963 at the southwestern end of the room (viz. casemat 1039, S.T.), near the group of sheqels. On top of it and beside it were three coins of the Revolt... The room was covered with a big heap of debris, including many large stones... numerous fragments of the roof... had fallen and covered many of the finds, including the scrolls," which were found in the same vicinity, namely the above mentioned items MasGen (1039-317) and MasLev (1039-270), the Joshua Apocryphon (1039-211), a small unidentified fragment (1039-274) and a papyrus fragment of Samaritan origin, inscribed recto and verso in Paleo-Hebrew characters (MasSam, 1039-320), together with fragments of the "Songs of the Sabbath Sacrifice" (1039-200). The circumstances of the discovery and the objects found there gave excavations report. For a preliminary publication of the non-biblical items see: S. Talmon, "Hebrew Written Fragments From Masada," DSD 3 (1996) 168-177; "Fragments of a Genesis Apocryphon From Masada," IEJ (forthcoming); rev. translation of "Fragments of Scrolls From Masada," ErI 20, Y. Yadin Volume (ed. by A. Ben-Tor, J.C. Greenfield, A. Malamat; Jerusalem: Israel Exploration Society, 1989) 278-86 (Hebrew); idem, "Fragments of an Apocryphal Book of Joshua from Masada," JJS 47 (1996) 129-39; rev. translation of a paper published in Hebrew Language Studies in Honor of C. Rabin at his 75th Birthday (ed. by M. Goshen-Gottstein, S. Morag, S. Kogut; Jerusalem: Akademon, 1991) 147-57. For the biblical items see idem, "Fragments of a Psalms Scroll From Masada, MPsb (Masada 1103-1742)," Minhah le-Nahum. Biblical and Other Studies Presented to Nahum M. Sarna in Honour of his Seventieth Birthday (ed. M. Brettler and M. Fishbane; JSOTSup 154; Sheffield: JSOT Press, 1993) 318-27; "Fragments of Two Scrolls of the Book of Leviticus From Masada," ErI 24, A. Malamat Volume (Jerusalem: Israel Exploration Society, 1993) 99-110 (Hebrew); "A Fragment of a Deuteronomy Scroll From Masada," FS Cyrus Gordon (in press); "Fragments of an Ezekiel Scroll From Masada," ETL (in press).

Yadin, IEJ 15 (above, n. 6) 81-82, pl. 19 F-G.

Yadin gave a lively description of the find in a popular Hebrew publication (Masada. In Those Days—At This Time [Haifa: Shiqmona Press, 1966, 168-69]: "At a distance of only one meter from the seventeen sheqels the first scroll was found. I remember that moment in all detail. In the early afternoon hours, while I was sitting in one of the northern storerooms, Shemaryahu Gutman and some volunteers who worked with him rushed up to me, holding in their hands a piece of black and crumpled leather on which one could hardly discern anything. But on the spot investigation revealed immediately that we had before us a part of the Book of Psalms. We could also identify chapters and psalms: from 81 and 85... This discovery is of extraordinary importance for scrolls research. This is the first time that a scroll was discovered outside the [Qumran, S.T.] caves. Moreover, in this instance there can be no doubt concerning its non post quem date, viz. 73 CE, the year of the conquest of Masada. The scroll was obviously written earlier—possibly twenty or thirty years before the fall of Masada. It is significant that this fragment of a Psalms scroll, like the other scrolls of biblical books discovered subsequently... is almost entirely identical with the transmitted text (with the exception of a few minor variants). Also the chapter division of the psalms dovetails with the MT, proving the constancy of the Jewish tradition, and providing a