THREE NEW FRAGMENTS FROM QUMRAN CAVE 11*

HANAN ESHEL
Bar-Ilan University

S. Talmon recently published three fragments of scrolls that had been kept in Yigael Yadin’s desk drawer. Although Talmon could not identify the scrolls from which these fragments came, he speculated that they might have been discovered in Qumran or in Nahal Ḥever. We know that Yadin succeeded in purchasing several important scroll fragments from Khalil Iskander Shahin (Kando) that had been found in Qumran Cave 11. Documents from the period of the Bar Kokhba revolt that Yadin had acquired in the antiquities market and kept in his desk drawer were published after his death. The new fragments

---


2 Talmon notes the possibility that the first fragment may have been discovered in Cave 32, which is located in Nahal Ṣe’elim and not in Nahal Ḥever (“Unidentified Hebrew Fragments,” 116).

3 Yadin purchased a fragment of the Cave 11 Psalms Scroll (frag. E) (see Y. Yadin, “Another Fragment [E] of the Psalms Scroll from Qumran Cave 11 [11QPs*],” Textus 5 [1996] 1-10) and, of course, the Temple Scroll as well, which all scholars agree was discovered in Cave 11; see Y. Yadin, The Temple Scroll: The Hidden Law of the Dead Sea Sect (Jerusalem: Steimatzky, 1985) 70-71. Yadin also purchased a phylactery that had been found in Qumran. He was careful and therefore labeled them XQPhyl 1-4 and not 11QPhyl or 4QPhyl; see Y. Yadin, “Tefillin (Phylacteries) from Qumran (XQPhyl 1-4),” ErIsr 9 (1969) 60-85 (Heb.). Such caution is justified since either the Bedouins or the antiquities dealer inserted a sheet of parchment which had been discovered separately and came from a different phylactery into the compartment of Yadin’s phylactery; see Yadin, “Tefillin,” 62-63. Up until now, the fragments from Cave 11 that have been published have not included remnants of phylacteries. It is therefore possible that the phylactery compartment that Yadin purchased and the sheet of parchment that was inserted into it are the only fragments from Cave 4 that Yadin acquired. Perhaps fragments of phylacteries from Cave 11 will be published in the future and they will prove that the phylactery compartment purchased by Yadin and the sheet of parchment inserted into it came from this cave.

4 Yadin purchased sections of three documents from the period of the Bar Kokhba revolt that Yadin had acquired in the antiquities market and kept in his desk drawer. Published after his death, these documents included a parchment fragment and a metal box that may have contained additional scroll fragments.
that Talmon published had been preserved together with these documents. The documents from the period of the Bar Kokhba revolt purchased by Yadin belong to “the Seiyal Collection.”5 The Bedouins found these documents in various caves throughout the Judaean Desert, in Israel and in the Kingdom of Jordan, although they claimed that they were all discovered in Nahal Ṣe’elim. Most of the documents belonging to this collection were found in the Cave of Letters and the Cave of Horror in Nahal Ḥever.6 Fragments from Cave 11 that had been purchased by the Jordanian Antiquities Authority and are now housed in the Rockefeller Museum were recently published in their official edition.7 When compared to these Cave 11 fragments, it is apparent that the three fragments published by Talmon had also been found in Cave 11. It can be assumed that Yadin acquired these fragments along with frag. E of the Cave 11 Psalms Scroll during the protracted nego-