A DESCRIPTION OF THE SINAI SYRIAC MS. 35

The American Expedition to the St. Catherine's Monastery at Mount Sinai, in 1949-1950 microfilmed more than 1600 of the extant 3300 MSS in 11 languages. Not the least interesting part of this collection, consists of 159 (out of a total of 276 items) filmed Syriac MSS. The data concerning these MSS found in the catalogue by Agnes Smith Lewis 3), are very summary. A comparison of K. W. Clark's list and Miss Lewis'—where the same numbering is valid—shows us much difference.

The collection of Syriac MSS includes some ancient O.T. manuscripts (viz., no. 28; no. 35—see below; no. 41). These MSS can with profit be used in a future critical edition of the Peshitta O.T. Of these MSS no. 35 is likely the oldest (according to Clark, op. cit., p. 17, 7th cent.), and deserves further attention, because Miss Lewis' description is very brief.

It appears that this MS—as in Miss Lewis' description, still consisting of 109 vellum leaves)—includes a good part of 1 Samuel and more than half of 2 Samuel. Further it appears that the MS is put together out of parts of 2 different manuscripts.

To the first hand (cf. photo I = fol. 2b: 1 Sam. i 25-ii 1)—20 lines per page—belong folios 1-5 and 7. Fol. 1a has some much effaced notes. Fol. 1b consists of 1 S. i 1-4 to [קְהֵןָ לֹא לֹא]. After a lacuna of 1 or 2 leaves, fol. 2a follows with 1 S. i 21 from [לָא לֹא]. The first hand continues to fol. 7b 5) (1 S. iii 8 to [כְּתַנְתָּנְת]).

1) I would like to acknowledge my indebtedness to my assistant, Mr. W. Baars, for preparing this note for the printer during my illness.


4) With nearly all the other MSS in Clark's list the number of the folios differs from Miss Lewis' catalogue. Probably many loose leaves have disappeared from the MSS. For the present-day depositary of MSS(fragments) originating at Mount Sinai cf. e.g., A. Mingana, Catalogue of the Mingana Collection of Manuscripts, Pt. III, p. xxi and J. B. Charbon "Inventaire des fragments des MSS syriaques conservés à la Bibl. Ambrosienne à Milan" Le Muséon 49 (1936), p. 37-54.

5) On fol. 2b and 7b are traces of the running title.
Fol. 6 is later (10th cent.?), comparable to Plate LXXII [= 928/9 A.D.] in H. W. Hatch, An Album of dated Syriac Manuscripts [Boston, 1946] replacing a lost sheet consisting of 1 S. ii 27-35.

Fol. 8 to the end (fol. 109) originates from a second—more slender—hand (cf. photo II = fol. 68b: 1 S. xxviii 1-7), each page consisting of 22-23 lines. Folios 8a-11b consist of 2(!) S. xxiii 10 (א תָּרִיָּה) to 2 S. xxiv 20 (תָּרִיָּה). Fol. 12 consists of 2 S. xx 22 (תָּרִיָּה) to 2 S. xxi 7 (וֹדֵעַ). Fol. 13a continues, after another lacuna of 1 sheet, with 2 S. xxi 16 (וֹדֵעַ). Fol. 14b ends with 2 S. xxi 26 (וֹדֵעַ).

Fol. 15 resumes the 1 Samuel text. From fol. 15a: 1 S. iv 2 (וֹדֵעַ) the text continues with some lacunae to 2 S. xv 20 (וֹדֵעַ). After fol. 18b (ending with 1 S. vi 7) there is a lacuna of 1 sheet. Fol. 19a begins with 1 S. vi 17 (וֹדֵעַ). After fol. 22b (ending with 1 S. ix 2) there is a lacuna of 2 sheets. Fol. 23a begins with 1 S. ix 21 (וֹדֵעַ). After fol. 60b (ending with 1 S. xxiv 4) there is a further lacuna of 2 sheets. Fol. 61a begins with 1 S. xxv 5 (וֹדֵעַ). Finally, after fol. 68b which ends with 1 S. xxviii 7 (וֹדֵעַ), one leaf is missing. Fol. 69a begins with 1 S. xxviii 18 (וֹדֵעַ).

The running title וֹדֵעַ occurs at the top of fol. 9b, 26b, 31b, 36b, 41b, 46b, 51b, 56b, 64b, 73b, 78b, 84b (this being the only exception to the rule of an interval of 5 pages between the running titles), 89b, 94b, 99b, 104b, 109b.

A collation of 2 extensive sections from both parts of the MS based on A. M. Ceriani. Translatio syra Pescitio veteris testamenti ex codice Ambrosiano ..., Mediolani, 1876-1883 will give us an impression of the textual character of this MS.

1: 1 S. i 1-4; i 21-iii 8 = fol. 1-7

1 S. ii 1 rubric א תָּרִיָּה + א תָּרִיָּה
2 א תָּרִיָּה omis.
7 א תָּרִיָּה omis.

6) A title must have stood on the first of the 2 leaves following fol. 60.
7) A title must have stood on the lost fol., following fol. 68.
8) On fol. 6 see above.