

NOVUM TESTAMENTUM ET ORBIS ANTIQUUS

Series Archaeologica – 8a

Jean-Baptiste HUMBERT o.p. / Marcello FIDANZIO (eds.)

Khirbet Qumrân and Aïn Feshkha

IV_A

Qumrân Cave 11Q
Archaeology and New Scroll Fragments

École biblique et archéologique française de Jérusalem
Istituto di Cultura e Archeologia delle Terre Bibliche - Facoltà di Teologia di Lugano

VANDENHOECK & RUPRECHT GÖTTINGEN



Novum Testamentum et Orbis Antiquus

Series Archaeologica 8a

In collaboration with the foundation “Bibel und Orient” of the University of Fribourg/Switzerland
Edited by Martin Ebner (Bonn), Peter Lampe (Heidelberg), Stefan Schreiber (Augsburg),
and Jürgen Zangenberg (Leiden)

Khirbet Qumrân and Aïn Feshkha

IV A

Qumran Cave 11Q Archaeology and New Scroll Fragments

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Bibliographic information published by the Deutsche Nationalbibliothek
The Deutsche Nationalbibliothek lists this publication in the Deutsche Nationalbibliografie;
detailed bibliographic data available online: <http://dnb.d-nb.de>.

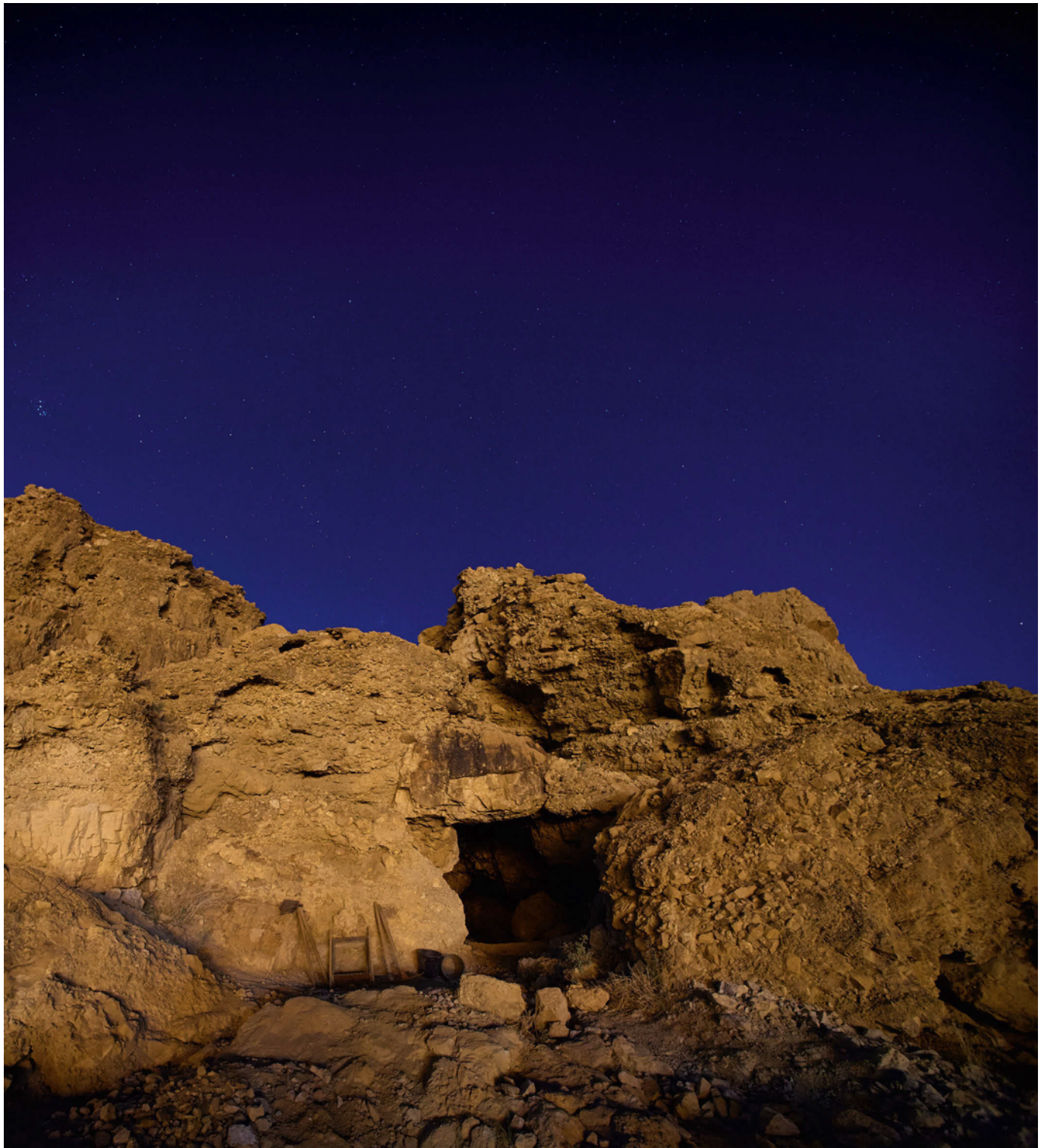
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Typesetting: Luigi Caiafa

Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht Publishers | www.vandenhoeck-ruprecht-verlage.com

ISSN 2566-7254

ISBN 978-3-647-56469-2



Qumran Cave 11Q, March 2017 (Photo by Giorgio Skory)

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Foreword

Florentino GARCÍA MARTÍNEZ

When I was in Jerusalem finalizing the preparation of the publication of the Dutch share of manuscripts from Cave 11Q (published in 1998, DJD 23), I asked Jean-Baptiste Humbert, the archaeologist in charge of Roland de Vaux's excavations at Qumran, if it could be possible to include in the volume the final report on the archeological excavation of the cave prepared by de Vaux. I was assuming that de Vaux has, in fact, completed such a report, because he wrote in 1962, referring to Cave 11Q: "Le rapport détaillé sur la fouille que nous avons faite après cette découverte aura sa place normale en tête de la publication des textes qui proviennent de cette grotte" (DJD 3, 4 n.2). Obviously a "rapport détaillé" would have been more than the two pages de Vaux dedicated to Cave 11Q in the "rapport préliminaire" on the *Revue Biblique* (RB 63 [1956] 573-4). However, Humbert told me that there was no such final report ready for publication, and that due to other commitments it would take a long time to prepare such a document. To avoid delaying any further the already long overdue publication of the texts, I decided to go ahead with the issuing of a volume that did not include the promised publication of the cave excavation.

In retrospect, I think it was a good decision, which somehow has helped to shape the content of this book, making it possible to showcase the progress achieved in archeology and in the analysis of the

different materials sourced from Cave 11Q over the past fifty years.

De Vaux's excavation was followed several years later, in 1988, by the excavation carried out by Joseph Patrich, and more recently, in 2017, by a new excavation carried out by Marcello Fidanzio and Dan Bahat. Both excavations have been duly published and their main results are summarized in this volume, complementing and adding new elements to de Vaux's excavation. In this way, this book not only offers the reader all the extant materials on de Vaux's excavation (forming in this way a "rapport détaillé" of the 1956 excavation), but also all the relevant archaeological data and analysis which may lead to an understanding of the cave in the Qumran period as a repository for manuscripts rather than as a sectarian residence as assumed by de Vaux (DJD 3, 34; ADSS, 51), and asserted by me based on his authority (STDJ 90, 206-8).

Due to the substantial progress made on the study of the textiles and organic materials, new dating obtained by radiocarbon analysis, and the digitization and systematic imaging of scroll fragments with new techniques, this book also offers to the reader a plethora of new insights that were not possible either in de Vaux's time or at the time of the preparation of DJD 23.

The study of the textiles includes those found in de Vaux's excavation, and also those found in the excavations by Patrich and Fidanzio; all of them are examined by digital optical microscope (Dino-Lite). The blue color from one of them has been identified as Indigo and Indurubin using a High Performance Liquid Chromatography method – techniques only recently available. New radiocarbon dating of linen textiles from Cave 11Q, including the wrapper of the Temple Scroll in the Schøyen Collection (run at the Center for Isotope Research, Groningen University in 2015 and 2016) shows that, though the textiles correlate with the occupation of Qumran, they were manufactured over an extended period of time, which would counteract the interpretation of Cave 11Q being exclusively a “young cave” as indicated by the paleography of the manuscripts.

The analysis of the organic materials performed in 2004 with new radiocarbon dating revealed that Cave 11Q was visited several times: a wooden object, clearly man-made, was tested twice, and dated to some time around the 10th century CE, and as such aligned with the date provided by a piece of cotton from Cave 11Q. Two items identified in de Vaux's excavation as possibly made of leather with a cord are now interpreted as “knot amulets” involving animal body parts: the radiocarbon dating carried out in 2015 and 2016 placed its deposition in Cave 11Q in the 18th or 19th century. This clearly shows that Cave 11Q was accessible and was occasionally visited after the deposition of the manuscripts.

The digitization and systematic imaging of the scroll fragments began in 2011. The uploading of the multispectral images obtained to the Leon Levy Dead Sea Scrolls Digital Library, together with new photographic tools that make it possible to read the text on different layers of wads of fragments, have enabled the inclusion in this volume of new fragments from Cave 11Q not published in DJD 23, and have led to the correction of some of the readings of the DJD edition based on the PAM photographs available at that time.

The new minute leather and tiny papyri fragments published here by Emile Puech were discovered in 2015 by, respectively, Mireille Bélis, when studying the textiles from Cave 11Q, and by Mauro Rottoli when examining a box of organic material selected by Oren Ableman. The new leather fragments published by Ableman are a selection of the materials found

in box 1032A with debris from Cave 11Q. In 1996, E. Tigchelaar examined this and other boxes with materials from Cave 11Q (*RdQ* 18/70 [1998] 326-7 n.5) containing, among other things, hundreds of tiny unphotographed fragments; Tigchelaar selected the fragments and the wads on which writing was visible to the naked eye to undergo infra-red photography, and these photographs are included in DJD 23. The ongoing project of the Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA) to catalog and process all these fragments has allowed Ableman to examine some of the them with a Dino-Lite digital microscope and put them in a new plate where the images have been captured with the multispectral imaging system. A few have been selected for publication here.

Eibert Tigchelaar offers in this volume an evaluation of all manuscripts material attributed, rightly or wrongly, to Cave 11Q, concluding that out of all the fragments that have already been published after DJD 23, only one can be assigned to Cave 11Q with certainty – the Vatican Paleo-Hebrew fragment published by Giancarlo Lacerenza, which belongs to 11Q22. After reviewing the major publications of Cave 11Q manuscripts, Tigchelaar corrects some occasionally erroneous assignments to manuscripts or placements of fragments appearing in DJD 23 and enhances several readings of that publication thanks to the high-quality IAA photographs now available. He also contributes to the publication of new fragments. Of the remaining as yet unpublished fragments of 11Q19, the Temple Scroll, published by Yigael Yadin, Tigchelaar, in an Appendix to his contribution, offers readings of the new plates of the “Cigar Box” and of both the photographs taken by Ira Rabin in 2000 from “LXII (15)” as well as the new IAA plates X78-X79.

This volume clearly improves our understanding of Cave 11Q in relation to what was possible with the summary reports on the archaeology published by de Vaux, but it also enhances our knowledge of the texts found in the Cave. Of course, we will never know what de Vaux would have told us in a final report. Nevertheless, one thing is entirely clear: the way archaeology is done these days and the way in which the results of the excavations are presented are very different than in de Vaux's time. The editing of the texts also differs. The availability of new technologies has modified the way we look at the remains uncovered and also how we present them. The new imaging and digitizing of the scroll

fragments have enhanced the possibility of editing them correctly. But one element that the present volume makes fully clear is that today, presenting archaeology and texts is a large, collaborative

exercise: no less than 30 different authors from several institutions in various countries have contributed the chapters of the book, all for the benefit of the reader.

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Abbreviations

ANGSBA	Annual of the Nelson Glueck School of Biblical Archaeology
ANYAS	Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences
AASOR	Annual of the American Schools of Oriental Research
<i>ATN</i>	<i>Archaeological Textiles Newsletter</i>
ATS	Ancient Textiles Series
<i>ATR</i>	<i>Archaeological Textiles Review</i>
BAIAS	Bulletin of the Anglo-Israel Archaeological Society
<i>BASOR</i>	<i>Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research</i>
BETL	Bibliotheca Ephemeridum Theologicarum Lovaniensium
BKAT	Biblischer Kommentar Altes Testament
<i>CAL News</i>	<i>Comprehensive Aramaic Lexicon Newsletter</i>
<i>COMSt Bull</i>	<i>Comparative Oriental Manuscript Studies Bulletin</i>
CRFJ	Centre de recherche français à Jérusalem
CSCO	Corpus Scriptorum Christianorum Orientalium
<i>DHA</i>	<i>Dyes in History and Archaeology</i>
DJD	Discoveries in the Judean Desert
<i>DSD</i>	<i>Dead Sea Discoveries</i>
<i>EI</i>	<i>Eretz Israel</i>
<i>HA-ESI</i>	<i>Hadashot Arkheologiyot - Excavations and Surveys in Israel</i>
HBM	Hebrew Bible Monographs
HdO	Handbook of Oriental Studies
<i>Hen</i>	<i>Henoch</i>
HSS	Harvard Semitic Studies
<i>HUCA</i>	<i>Hebrew Union College Annual</i>
IAA Reports	Israel Antiquities Authority Reports
ICOM-CC	International Council of Museums - Committee for Conservation
<i>IEJ</i>	<i>Israel Exploration Journal</i>
ISCAB.SA	Istituto di Cultura e Archeologia delle Terre Bibliche. Serie Archeologica
<i>JASR</i>	<i>Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports</i>
<i>JEMAHS</i>	<i>Journal of Eastern Mediterranean Archaeology and Heritage Studies</i>
JRASS	Journal of Roman Archaeology. Supplementary Series

<i>JSJ</i>	<i>Journal for the Study of Judaism</i>
JSJSup	Journal for the Study of Judaism. Supplement Series
<i>JSRS</i>	<i>Judea and Samaria Research Studies</i>
LSS	Levant Supplementary Series
LSTS	Library of Second Temple Studies
<i>MdB</i>	<i>Le Monde de la Bible</i>
MSSMNIA	Monograph Series of the Sonia and Marco Nadler Institute of Archaeology
<i>NIM B</i>	<i>Nuclear Instruments and Methods in Physics Research Section B</i> <i>Beam Interactions with Materials and Atoms</i>
NTOA.SA	Novum Testamentum et Orbis Antiquus. Series Archaeologica
OIP	Oriental Institute Publications
PACT	Journal of the European Study Group on Physical, Chemical and Mathematical Techniques Applied to Archaeology
<i>PEQ</i>	<i>Palestine Exploration Quarterly</i>
PMB	Publications of Museum of the Bible
RB	<i>Revue Biblique</i>
<i>RdQ</i>	<i>Revue de Qumrân</i>
SBL RBS	Society of Biblical Literature. Resources for Biblical Studies
SBT	Studies in Biblical Theology
STDJ	Studies on the Texts of the Desert of Judah
<i>RTL</i>	<i>Rivista Teologica di Lugano</i>
<i>VHA</i>	<i>Vegetation History and Archaeobotany</i>
<i>VT</i>	<i>Vetus Testamentum</i>
VTSup	Vetus Testamentum Supplements

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Introduction

Marcello FIDANZIO

Cave 11Q was discovered in early 1956. It is the only cave that has remained unpublished out of all those excavated under the direction of Roland de Vaux in the vicinity of Qumran. This volume presents the final report on the excavations of the Cave, bringing to completion the first publication about the caves of the Qumran area. At the same time, this is also the first volume in what is a larger initiative (the Qumran Caves Publication Project) concerned with the comprehensive publication of the material and documentation relating to the de Vaux excavations at the caves of Qumran. Storerooms and archives still contain such a quantity of unpublished material and documentation as to justify an operation on this scale.

During the work on the archaeological material from Cave 11Q carried out for this volume, many tiny fragments of manuscripts were found in the storerooms; these fragments, most of which were collected during the 1956 excavation, had not been known so far. These, too, are published in the volume, which as such presents the final report on the 11Q excavations as well as the edition of these new fragments, followed by a reevaluation of the entire set of texts found within the cave. The purpose of this volume is to make these data available and to allow such data to be studied. The legacy of those who led the way will thus enable others to pursue the work.

History of the research – Situated at x: 243652.818; y: 629357.345; z: -282.992 (entrance point according to the Israeli Grid),¹ Cave 11Q is located around 1.5 km north of Khirbet Qumran and 500 m north of Cave 1Q. The cave was designated as 11Q, since it was the eleventh cave in which manuscripts had been discovered in the twentieth century.² The Bedouins, who were at the forefront of the main discoveries at Qumran, were the first to enter the cave, and they looted it in early 1956. Having received the news, Gerald Lankester Harding and Roland de Vaux decided to excavate it during the fifth and final excavation of excavations at Khirbet Qumran, already scheduled for the month of February. The excavations were carried out on behalf of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan (DAJ), the École Biblique et Archéologique Française (EBAF) and the Palestine Archaeological Museum (PAM). Several years later, in 1988, the cave was excavated again by Joseph Patrich on behalf of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and

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1. Survey by Gabriel Levi, Mabat 3D Technologies, March 2017.
 2. In Cave 10Q only a fragment of inscribed pottery was found, with two Hebrew letters. M. Baillet, “Textes des grottes 2Q, 3Q, 6Q, 7Q à 10Q,” in Id., J.T. Milik, and R. de Vaux, *Les ‘petites grottes’ de Qumrân: Exploration de la falaise. Les grottes 2Q, 3Q, 5Q, 6Q, 7Q à 10Q. Le rouleau de cuivre* (DJD 3; Oxford: Clarendon, 1962), 45-164, on p. 164.