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MULTIPLE COPIES OF LITERARY PAPYRI, FIBER PATTERNS, AND P. OXY.  
XLVIII 3376 FR. 44

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### Multiple Copies of Literary Papyri, Fiber Patterns, and P.Oxy. XLVIII 3376 fr. 44

Scholars interested in ancient book production will have made a note of T. Brunner, "P.Oxy. XLVIII 3376 fr. 44," *ZPE* 69 (1987) 229-230, in which Professor Brunner deduces two copies of Herodotus Book 2 in the same format by the same scribe. Unfortunately, this very interesting example must now be set aside. Brunner, working from a photograph, correctly locates P.Oxy. 3376 fr. 44 (previously unplaced) at Herodotus 2 § 101, but concludes that the fragment derives from a different roll than fr. 11-16, which contain part of the same chapter. Both sets of fragments are manifestly in the same hand, and very similar in leading and width of column. Brunner's conclusion follows from the fact that both fr. 44 lines 7-13 and fr. 11-16 col. ii lines 1-8 cover the same text yet both also contain line ends and a right margin. Fr. 44 is vestigial in this area, but the right margin and the sigma (line 9) are quite definite. The two texts align then as follows:

fr. 44 top of column		fr. 11-16 col. ii
[νην τε ορυξαι] της η [περιδος οων ε]στι στα- [διων υτερον δηλ]ωσω 4 [πυραμιδαα τε εν αυ]τηι [οικοδομησαι των] του [μεγαθεοα περι ομ]ου ταυ- [ ] m 8 [ ] a [ ] c r [ ] g [ ] i 12 [ ] n [ ]		----- [ ] [ ] [τηι τηι λιμνηι επιμ]νη- m [κομαι τουτον με]ν το- a 4 [αυτα αποδεξαα]θαι των r δ[ε αλλων ουδεν]α ουδεν· g παρ[μειψαμεν]οα ων i τουτ[ουα του επι] τουτοι- n 8 αι γεν[ομενο]υ βααααα-

Reexamination of the papyrus shows however that fragment 44 is in fact two pieces. The larger piece contains all of lines 1-6 and the far right margin for the lines following. The smaller piece contains the line ends and near margin for lines 9-13, that is, the very section which overlaps fr. 11-16. Removal of the smaller piece allows a convincing join of fr. 44 at the top and to the right of fr. 11-16 col. ii, and the trace at the top of col. ii can now be recognized as the tail of the tau in fr. 44 line 6. The top margin, which is just visible in fr. 44, is

expected at exactly this point given that the previous line is partly extant at the foot of the preceding column (fr. 11-16 col. i).

The text of fr. 44 + fr. 11-16 can now be transcribed as follows:

fr. 44 lines 7-13	fr. 44 lines 1-6 + fr. 11-16 lines 1-8
	[νην τε ορυξαι] της η
	[περιοδος οων ε]τσι στα-
	[διων υτερον δηλ]φω
	4 [πυραμιδαc τε εν αυ]τηι
	[οικοδομησαι των] του
	6/1 [μεγαθεοc περι ομ]ου ταυ-
	[τηι τηι λιμνηι επιμ]νη-
	[κομαι τουτον με]ν το-
8 [ ]	4 [καυτα αποδεξαc]θαι των
[ ]	δ[ε αλλων ουδεν]α ουδεν·
[ ]	παρα[μειψαμεν]οc ων
12 [ ]	τουτ[ουc του επι] τουτοι-
[ ]	8 ci γεν[ομενο]υ βασιλε-

We should perhaps draw a lesson regarding the limits to our current technology. The original constitution of fr. 44, conjoined by matching fibers along a vertical break, was unasailable even when viewed under a 20X microscope. As it happens, that coincidence was assaulted by the logical requirements of another join; and the happy existence of some vertical strands in fr. 11-16, which matched gaps in the back of fr. 44, helped to confirm the join beyond any doubt. Yet barring the circumstance of an extant work, we should never have detected the imposture.

Warm thanks are due to Dr. R.A. Coles, who at my suggestion inspected the fragments and expertly effected the new join.