

Press Release NEW QUMRAN MSS FRAGMENTS

L'Ecole biblique et archéologique française de Jérusalem et son directeur Marcel Sigrist sont heureux d'annoncer la découverte de nouveaux fragments de manuscrits de Qumrân.

On July 5th, 2015, Mireille Belis PhD, a researcher associated with the Ecole biblique et archéologique française de Jérusalem (EBAF) in charge of the study of Qumran fabrics, discovered 25 new small unknown fragments of the Dead Sea Scrolls wrapped in fabric. The new small fragments — the largest measuring about 2cm² — all come from Qumran cave 11Q. The leather fragments are mainly written in Aramaic characters, but at least one is composed in Paleo-Hebrew.

Jean-Baptiste Humbert, o.p. (EBAF) and Professor Marcello Fidanzio, PhD (Istituto di cultura e archeologia delle terre bibliche[ISCAB], FT Lugano) are currently carrying out a project dedicated to the study and publication of the archeological material from cave 11Q. The documentation of archaeological material from cave 11Q found during the excavation conducted by Roland de Vaux, o.p. (EBAF) in 1956 remains unpublished.

The study of the fragments has been entrusted to Professor Emile Puech (Centre national de la recherche scientifique [CNRS] – EBAF). The fragments will be published in the volume dedicated to the documentation of cave 11Q (J.-B. Humbert and M. Fidanzio, editors, NTOA Series, Fribourg Suisse and Göttingen). The volume is expected to be published during the first semester of 2016.

Conservation of the newly-found fragments has been entrusted to the Israeli Antiquities Authority Dead Sea Scrolls Conservation Lab, directed by Pnina Shor.

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