EXTANT MANUSCRIPTS OF THE TARGUM TO PSALMS

AN ECLECTIC LIST

BY
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Extant Manuscripts of the Targum to Psalms

Introduction The present catalogue includes almost all of extant manuscripts of Targum of Psalms, inasmuch as they are described in scholarly literature and library catalogues. This catalogue largely depends on the efforts of authors who described these manuscripts and it is therefore an eclectic work. Inadvertently, many errors will remain since I did not have the opportunity to check most of the manuscripts in situ.

Description In principle the entries have the following structure:

Each entry begins with the classmark of the manuscript, eventually followed by other designations such as the number attributed by Kennicott or De-Rossi or old signatures between brackets.

This signature may be followed by a name, indicating the editor of (part of) the manuscript. Editions will be mentioned fully in the bibliography.

Library and place where the manuscript is being preserved, occasionally with the name of a former owner.

The contents of the manuscript, concentrated on Biblical texts and their languages.

Physical features: writing material, number of folios, size, number of columns and lines, script, vocalisation, gaps. Catchwords and the like, numbering, the number of quires, the folios within a quire and the way of ruling are not included since most catalogues skip these features.

Literary references: scribe, place of origin and date. Often the date is guessed by the author of a catalogue. If various suggestions have been made, these will be noticed.

Catalogues and other relevant literature, including the microfilm signature of the Institute of Microfilmed Hebrew Manuscripts in Jerusalem (if present).

A new edition None of the existing editions of the Targum of Psalms is satisfactory. Most of them lack a critical apparatus. David Stec will publish an English translation of the Targum in the series The Aramaic Bible, while paying much attention to variant readings. An English translation on the basis of De Lagarde’s edition has meanwhile been produced by Dr E. Cook (Cincinnatti).

Thanks are due to dr. B. Richler (the Institute of Microfilmed Hebrew Manuscripts in Jerusalem), who provided me with invaluable photocopies of the card-entries of the microfilmed

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targumic manuscripts in the Jewish National and University Library, and to Prof. Dr L. Diez Merino with whom I discussed many topics concerning these manuscripts. Scrutinizing many catalogues of European libraries, bibliographies, and utilizing the extensive catalogue of the Institute of Microfilmed Hebrew manuscripts, I have gathered as much information as possible; the bulk of this work was carried out in 1991–92. Sometimes indications contradicted each other. Faulty information may not be the only reason. As time passes by, some data may, unfortunately, change. The present catalogue includes more MSS than the most recent (partial) edition of the Targum of Psalms.3

London, April 2, 2003

Willem F. Smelik

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3E. White, *A Critical Edition*, 36-60. White records to have examples of “false leads” in his correspondence files.
1 France

1. MS hébreu 17, 18 (Supplément 6, Cod. De–Rossi Ext. 1), White 5
   Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris. Bilingual: Pentateuch with Targum Onqelos, Prophets with Targum Jonathan and Writings with Targum Writings (all Targums alternating with the Hebrew), the dream and prayer of Mordechai and Esther in Aramaic. 4 2 volumes, German, dated 1512. MS 17: Pentateuch, Job, Proverbs, Psalms, Megillot with their Targumim (including Targum Sheni). 3 cols., Ashkenazi, 13th/14th century. 5 There is no Targum of Chronicles in this MS. This huge and very beautiful MS once belonged to the private library of Pius VI, see I.B. De–Rossi, Variae Lectiones V.T., vol. I, p. cxxvi, but in 1798 his private library has been sold by the French to a Roman bookseller except for some valuable volumes, among which this one, which were claimed for the Bibliothèque Nationale. De Rossi observed many translations of paraphrastic nature. Tg Psalms on folios 517–616.

2. MS hébreu 114 (Kennicott 312 ?), 6
   Bibliothèque nationale, Paris. Bilingual: Psalms with Targum, provided with the commentary of Qimhi and Masorah. 7 Parchment, 150ff, 282 x 200 mm, on the inner margins the Targum which is pointed, written by Levi Halfan in North-Italy (Alessandria della Paglia ?), about 1470–1480. Closely related to the Breslau MS.

3. MS héb. 110, 8
   Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris. Fragmentary Targum on the Pentateuch, Targum of Job, Proverbs, Psalms (folios 21-62), Megillot, 9 the Dream of Mordechai. 10 ff. 17–121. Parchment, 31 lines, Sefardi cursive script, written by Nathan ben Saadiah HaKohen in Tlemcen (NW Algeria), dated 1455. As White notes, the scribe admits that he has translated some verses himself because they were missing in his copy!

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5 The colophon refers to a revision in Mantua, 1512 CE. The number of pages is not uniform in my bibliographic references. MS 18: Prophets with Targum Jonathan alternating, readings from another MS (or MSS?) in the margins. Parchment, 373 ff., Masorah Magna and Parva, 3 col., 41 lines, dark ink, Tiberian vowels and accents.

6 Described by I.B. De–Rossi, Variae Lectiones V.T. vol. I, p.lxxv, as no. 20 in the “Imperial Library”: Bilingual: Hebrew and Targum, Parchment, provided with the commentary of Kimh. 15th century. Identification seems warranted.

7 Cat. Garel, D’une main forte, p. 170, no. 128; cat. Institute of Microfilmed Hebrew Manuscripts; The Jewish National and University Library, no. 4121 (private copy, p. 111); E. White, A Critical Edition, 56.


9 Esther was published by B. Grossfeld, The First Targum to Esther, New York 1983.

2 Germany

4. MS Or. Fol. 1-4 (Kennicott 150),
Staatsbibliothek Preussischer Kulturbesitz, Berlin. 4 vols. Bilingual: Pentateuch with Targum Onqelos, Prophets with Targum Jonathan, Writings with Targum alternating. White 11 Or. fol. 4 contains Tg Psalms on folios 7-80. Parchment, 140, 208, 243, 293 ff, 50 x 31 cm. 3 columns, 35 lines, with punctuation (including Tg Psalms) which is dated 1455, the MS itself is 13th century (= 1300–1399). Including Somnium Mordechai in Aramaic.

5. Cod. Solger Ms. 1–7 20 (Kennicott 198),
Nürnberg, Stadtbibliothek. Bilingual: OT with Targum (almost all books) alternating, Masorah. White 4 7 volumes, parchment, 2-3 cols., 33 lines, German square, dated 1291. The scribe, Shabbetai according to the colophon, may not have been the naqdan. Many corrections. The name of the client is erased in favour of the name of a later owner. The place of origin has not been mentioned.

MS 6,20, Ruth, Esther, Psalms, Job 1:1–18:11, with Targum and Targum Sheni. Esther 9:23ff (end), Psalms 1:1–5:16, 34:3–35:26 are missing. 127 folios, 36,5 x 48 cm, 2 cols., 33 lines, pointed. Psalm 6 is indicated as Psalm 5, either by mistake or by counting Ps. 1-2 as one psalm. The Bomberg Bible of Jacob ben Haim “obviously used the Nuremberg MS as an important reference” (White). Many marginal readings by a second hand, following a Sefardi text type, whereas the basic text is Ashkenazi.

3 Italy

6. Cod. Urbinati–Vaticano 1 (Kennicott 228),
Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana, Rome. Bilingual: Pentateuch, Prophets and Writings with Targum alternating, provided with the commentary of Rashi (to the Pentateuch only) in the margin; a small midrash on Isaiah’s martyrdom and Somnium Mordechai. White 2 The Penta-

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15Ibidem.
16Following bBer. 9a; see White, A Critical Edition, 44-46.
teuch Targum is that of Onqelos. Parchment, 979 huge folios, 3 columns, 56 x 40 cm, 35 lines, Ashkenazi script, Hebrew and Aramaic pointed, including Targum Sheni and (decorative) Masorah, text written by one scribe, the Masorah by two (one of which was Isaac son of Simeon HaLevi who dated his work in 15 Kislev 5055, December 1294 CE; f. 976). The name of Isaac has been decorated at f. 144a and 479b. Mappiq usually beneath the $h$, not within. Double and triple translations in the Targum to Job have been indicated by ‘l’ with dots above both consonants, a little above the line. \(^{21}\) Variants in Biblia Regia. TgPsalms on folios 669-743.

7. Plut. III.1 (Kennicott 166).
Biblioteca Mediceo–Laurenziana, Florence. Bilingual: Pentateuch with Targum Onqelos alternating, Writings with Targum alternating, provided with the commentary of Rashi. Parchment, 266 ff, 3 cols., 40 lines, unpointed, Spanish or Provencal script, written by Shelomo ben Hisdai in 1397 in Ferrara.\(^{24}\)

8. Cod. Or. 72 (MS A. 1,2 according to di Capua; Kennicott 240).

9. MS parm. 3095 (Cod. De–Rossi 732),
Biblioteca Palatina, Parma. Bilingual: Psalms with Targum, provided with both Masorah’s and the commentary of Rashi. Parchment, I + 46 + Iff, 303 x 236 mm, 30 lines, German square, with both Masorah’s, Targum unpointed and in the inner margin in small


\(^{19}\)E. White, A Critical Edition, 40.
\(^{20}\)With many errors according to L. Diz Merino, private communication.
\(^{23}\)German according to De Rossi, and square Ashkenazi according to D.M. Stec, The Text of the Targum of Job, Leiden 1994, 60.
\(^{24}\)So White, following IMHM; sold in 1428 by the scribe’s ‘filio’; 1414 (5174) according to Stec.
\(^{25}\)I.B. De–Rossi, Var. Lect. I, p lxvi; cat. Antonioli Martelli, Mortara Ottolenghi, Manoscritti biblici ebraici decorati, p. 48ff, no. 7 (erroneously Targum Onqelos mentioned); B. Kennicott, Dissertatio Generalis, p. 90. cat. A. di Capua, Biblioteca Angelica, p. 85, no. 1; Bernheimer, Paleografia Ebraica, p. 386 (who adds that before the Former Prophets a few chapters of Genesis and other items are included in this MS, whereas it concludes with grammatical works; he did not find the dating); cat. Institute of Microfilmed Hebrew Manuscripts; The Jewish National and University Library, no. 11715 (private copy, p. 78 and 109); E. White, A Critical Edition, 49-50.
\(^{26}\)According to Fernández Vallina, El Targum de Job this MS is dated 11 Adar 5173 = 13 February 1413. White mentions 1327 as its date!
\(^{27}\)Cat. Tamani, Elenco dei manoscritti ebraici, p. 85, no. 98; I.B. De–Rossi, MSS Codices, vol. 2, 1803, p.142; I.B.
script, 13th or early 14th century. The beginning, 1:1–7:5, and the end, 119:132–150:6, are missing. The microfilm copy from IMHM is not always legible.

10. MS parm. 3231 (Cod. De–Rossi 31), Biblioteca Palatina, Parma. Bilingual: Writings with Targum “Jonathan” alternating (no Targum to Daniel, Ezra–Nehemiah and Chronicles). Parchment, 126 ff, 1 (long) col., 31 lines, German, both Masorah’s, 13th or 14th century. Many Hebrew variant readings, some of which are reflected in the Targum of Psalms. The Targum shows many mistakes.

11. MS parm. 3232 (Cod. De–Rossi 32), Biblioteca Palatina, Parma. Bilingual: Writings (without Chronicles) with Targum to Psalms, Job and Proverbs. Parchment, 138 + 138 + 1 folios, 357 x 286 mm, 37 lines, German square (Targum in a small script), Hebrew pointed, Targum (in the inner margin) largely unpointed, 13–14th century. There is no colophon. Tg Psalms on folios 4-52.


De–Rossi, Var. Lect. I, p.cxxi: 13th century; cat. Institute of Microfilmed Hebrew Manuscripts; The Jewish National and University Library, no. 13836 (private copy, p. 111: 54 ff!).

28 According to the Jewish National and University Library; De Rossi did not miss it.


31 So De–Rossi, MSS Codices, 14-15.

32 So Weiss, op.cit., check Stec.


4 Poland

14. MS M.1106 (Cod. De–Rossi Ext. 129 ?; Kalonymus Codex), University Library, Wroclaw (Breslau). Bilingual: Pentateuch with Targum Onqelos alternating, Haftarot (ff. 209(v)-244(v), without Targum Jonathan36), Megillot including Somnium Mordechai, Psalms with Targum, Job with Targum and Proverbs with Targum.37 Parchment, 456 folios, 45,5 x 35 cm or 53 x 39 cm38, 3 cols., 35 lines, Ashkenaze script, written by R. Mešulan in Germany, vocalized by Yoseph bar Kalonymus, 17 colour illustrations, decorative Masorah, dated 1237-1238 (f. 456r).39 The manuscript contains no Hebrew commentaries. Some omissions in Tg Psalms were corrected by a second hand.

5 Spain

15. MS 5, Biblioteca Complutense, Universidad de Madrid. Second volume. Bilingual: Targum to the Writings, provided with a Latin translation and the Aramaic roots in a third column.40 Parchment, 194 ff, made at the wish of Cardinal Ximenez at Alcala de Henares, finished Wednesday, the 8th of April, 1517.

16. MS G-I-5, Biblioteca de El Escorial, Madrid. Bilingual: Psalms and Megillot (without Canticles) with Targum, Daniel and Ezra, provided with the commentaries of Meiri and Kimḥi.41 Parchment, 183 folios, 2 cols., 35,0 x 27,0 cm, Sefardi script, dated 1476. Tg Psalms on folios 1-89 in the inner margin of the Biblical text.

17. MS 2, Biblioteca de la Universitaria, Salamanca. Bilingual: Targum of the Writings with Latin translation.42 Parchment, Sefardi script, written by Alfonso de Zamora, 16th century. This manuscript is probably a copy of either Ms. Villa-Amil n.5 or the Escorial MS G-I-5, both written by De Zamora.

36 I checked this personally on the microfilm copy (of the Haftaroth only) which I obtained from the Biblioteka Uniwersytecka in Wroclaw.


39 See also B. Narkiss, Illuminated Hebrew MSS, Jerusalem: Keter 1884, 43-44 (Hebr.).


42 Cat. Institute of Microfilmed Hebrew Manuscripts; The Jewish National and University Library, no. 7237 (private copy, p. 110); White, A Critical Edition, 55.
6  United Kingdom

18. MS H.116 (Hirschfeld no. 7),
   Jew’s College Library, London. Targum Jonathan with Hebrew lemmata, Targum Psalms, Job, Proverbs. Paper, ca. 30 lines, with many Tosefta’s, only sporadic Tiberian vocalisation, Sefardi script, dated 26 December 1486, written for David ben Nissim HaRofé ben Vivas. Judges and 1 Samuel 1:1–5:10 are missing, 1 Samuel 5:11–17 is badly preserved. Lacuna at fols. 5 and 19. End: Proverbs 31:25. The Targum to the Writings is actually another MS bound together with that of the Prophets, so that the date of Tg Writings need not be the same as that of Tg Prophets.

19. MS Ee. 5.9 (Kennicott 92),
   University Library, Cambridge. Bilingual: Writings (without the Megillot) with Targum alternating (including Targum Chronicles), Rashi and Rambam. Parchment, 555 folios, 12 x 8 3/8 inch, 6–sheet quires, 2 cols., 22 lines, square, fine German Ashkenazi hand, MT and Targum pointed, dated 1347. 3 volumes.

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Damaged, Incomplete, Fragmentary Manuscripts

1 France

1. MS hébræu 115 (Hebr. Supplément 131),
Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris. Targum Psalms 119.\textsuperscript{46} 10 pp., 16-17th century.

2. MS 4105,
Bibliothèque Nationale et Universitaire, Strasbourg. Targum of Psalms 66:4-75:1,\textsuperscript{47} 4 folios, 2 cols., square Sefardi script, poor state of preservation.

3. MS 173,

2 Germany

4. MS Or. Fol. 707 (b34/35),

5. MS Or. fol. 1210, 1211 (Kennicott 160; Erfurt I),
Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin – Preußischer Kulturbesitz. Bilingual: Pentateuch, Prophets and Writings with Targum.\textsuperscript{50} Parchment, 585ff and 548ff (including 7ff of a duplicate of Genesis 1:1–6:1), 3 columns, 30 lines, 610 x 457,5 mm (or: 605 x 445; text: 398 x 302), Ashkenazi script, Germany, punctuation and Masorah (magna and parva) dated in 1343 (vol. II, f. 547r).
Both volumes have suffered from World War II when they were preserved in Berlin. MS or fol 1210 is damaged, MS or fol 1211 displays traces of fire and cannot even be opened due to the (extinguishing) water damage. They will be restored in the coming years (private communication, 13 september 1993).

\textsuperscript{46}Cat. Zotsenberg, Bibliothèque Impériale, p. 12, no. 115; cat. Institute of Microfilmed Hebrew Manuscripts; The Jewish National and University Library, no. 19536 (private copy, p. 111).

\textsuperscript{47}E. White, A Critical edition, 54-55.

\textsuperscript{48}Cat. Institute of Microfilmed Hebrew Manuscripts; The Jewish National and University Library, no. 928 (private copy, p. 111).

\textsuperscript{49}Cat. Institute of Microfilmed Hebrew Manuscripts; The Jewish National and University Library, no. 2028 (private copy, p. 57 and 111). Known to White, A Critical Edition, 49, who did not use it.

6. MS Fragn. Hebr. 6,
Stadtbibliothek und Staatsarchiv, Friedberg (Germany). Bilingual fragment: Psalm 29:3–31:13 with Targum alternating. 1 f, pointed, Ashkenazi, 14–15th century.\(^{51}\)

3 Russia

7. MS Ebr. II B 1581,
The Second Firkovitch Collection, Saltykov–Shchedrin State Public Library, Leningrad. Targum Psalms (with Hebrew lemmata).\(^{52}\) 24 folios (11 bifolia), parchment, 27.5 x 22.5 cm, 2 cols., 24 lines, Spanish square, unpointed, ciphers in margins to number Psalms, Psalms 1–74 missing.

4 United Kingdom

8. MS West. Coll. Misc.94,

5 Additional sources

9. MS B 286 (280, 1188),
Institute of Oriental Studies, Leningrad. \(lh\)m \(v\)\(\text{š}m\)\(lh\) by R.B. Berkowitz Sokers, commentary on Targum Jonathan and Targum Writings.\(^{54}\) Hebrew, paper, 525 pages, 20.5 x 17.5 cm, 1 col., lines not recorded, European cursive script.

\(^{51}\) Cat. \textit{Hebräische Handschriften} (VOH VI, 2), Wiesbaden 1965, no. 110; cat. \textit{Institute of Microfilmed Hebrew Manuscripts; The Jewish National and University Library}, no. 27930 (private copy, p. 111).


Uncertain Contents

1. Reuchlin 1 (Kennicott 155),
   Karlsruhe, Badische Hof– und Landesbibliothek. Bilingual: Pentateuch with Targum Onqelos alternating, Prophets (no Targum Jonathan\textsuperscript{55}) and Writings with Targum (?).\textsuperscript{56} Parchment, 688 large folios, 510 x 370 mm, both Masorah’s, end 13th century (De–Rossi) or 12–13th century (Cat. Karlsruhe, 1892).

2. MS 19,2-3,
   Wien. Targum Onqelos, Haftarot with Targum Jonathan, Targum Writings (Esther only?).\textsuperscript{57} 14th century.

3. MS parm. 2189 (Cod. De–Rossi 480),
   Biblioteca Palatina, Parma. Writings, at f. 102 Lamentations 4:21–22 with the Targum in which the prophecy about the destruction of Edom has been applied to Constantinople.\textsuperscript{58} Italy, 16th century.

\textsuperscript{55}Contrary to the impression given by De Rossi; private communication B. Richler, April 12, 1994.
\textsuperscript{57}Cat. \textit{Institute of Microfilmed Hebrew Manuscripts; The Jewish National and University Library}, no. 1306 (private copy, p. 15 and 113: Targum Esther); Díez Merino, private catalogue no. 536. Is this MS 13 according to Krafft’s catalogue (= MS 19 according to Schwarz’s cat.)? This MS is not included in the TJon-catalogue, due to different descriptions.
\textsuperscript{58}Institute of Microfilmed Hebrew Manuscripts no. S’ 14263; private catalogue Díez Merino, no. 698.
Unidentified and Lost Manuscripts

1 Unidentified Manuscripts

BUB MSS 2209, 2208 (Kennicott 531; ex Bibliotheca S. Salvatoris 871, olim 646, 872 olim 646),
Bibliotheca Universitaria, Bologna. Parchment, German, 2 volumes, Masorah, dated 1193.
The signatures 871–872 have been attributed to the MSS during the period they were
to the impression given by De Rossi, this MS does not contain Targum Jonathan to the
Prophets or the Writings—but I am not entirely certain that the identification with Ken-
nicott 531 is correct.
I.B. De–Rossi, Variae Lectiones V.T. vol. I, p. lxvii; L. Modona, Catalogo dei codici
ebraici della Biblioteca della R. Università di Bologna, nos. 5a and 5b.

Kennicott 471,
Bibliotheca Barberina, Rome (now in the collection of the Biblioteca Apostolica Vatic-
ana, but this MS seems not to be there). Bilingual: Hebrew and Targum (all books) al-
ternating.59 Parchment, German, 4 vols., dated 1297. The Barberini library was bought
by the Vatican library in 1902, but none of the 13 Hebrew MSS (Barb. Or. 1, 14, 38, 44,
53, 82, 85, 88, 98, 101, 110 and 119) that are catalogued by Allony nos. 724–736 seems
to be this MS.

2 Manuscripts Now Lost

Cod. XXII A.II.2,
Turin. Bilingual: Pentateuch, Psalms, Job, Canticles, Daniel, Esther, Lamentations, Ecc-
clesiastes, Proverbs, Ezra, with the Targum to Proverbs and the Megillot, Psalms and Job
(ff. 172b–238) and “The words of the days of Moses our lord”.60 Parchment, 240ff, 14th
century. According to Guiseppe Gabrieli, the Hebrew collection of this library was des-
stroyed in a fire in 1904, except for MS A. VI 34 (197).

MS A.46 (Kennicott 598),
Sachsisiche Landesbibliothek, Dresden. Bilingual: Pentateuch, Prophets and Writings with
Targum alternating.61 Parchment, 645 folios, 3 cols., Masora—at times in decorations,
Italian script, no date (14th century according to De Rossi). This MS is extant only in the
form of a carbon block, destroyed in 1945 by bombing.

60Cat. B. Peyron, Codices hebraici manu exarati, 1880, p. 28f, no. XXII.
61Cat. H.O. Fleischer, Catalogus codicum manuscriptorum orientalium Bibliothecae Regiae Dresdensis. Lipsiae,
1831, 74 (no. 442); I.B. De–Rossi, Variae Lectiones vol. I, p. xci; Kennicott, Dissertatio Generalis, p. 106; D.M.