

ARTICLE

Titles in the New Testament Papyri*

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Abstract

In this article I catalogue and analyse every form of the title – inscriptions, subscriptions and *kephalaia* – that appears in the New Testament papyri, bringing together this material for the first time. The titles provide new evidence for examining questions related to traditions of entitling in antiquity more broadly and offer a space to consider the dynamic relationships between medium, materiality, book-forms, paratextuality and interpretation, both in antiquity and in our own scholarly culture that stands between print and digital forms. The material also highlights interesting divergences in labelling strategies between the titles of works in the various New Testament sub-corpora and suggests that the *kat' andra* formula is not the only way to entitle a Gospel.

Keywords: authorship; Gospels; papyri; Pauline letters; paratexts; textual transmission; titles

Introduction

In 1922, George Milligan, Professor of Divinity and Biblical Criticism at the University of Glasgow, published a book called *Here and There among the Papyri*. It was aimed at the interested public, ‘addressed in the first instance to that wide and ever-increasing public who are keenly interested in the study of the New Testament, and are anxious to know more of the bearing of the papyrus discoveries, of which they hear so much, on its language and literature’.¹ The work represents a first attempt at a synthesis of the significance of the mass of papyri that had trickled into European collections since 1862,² focusing on their significance for New Testament exegesis, questions of canon, Greek linguistics and the social world of early Christianity. Milligan concludes that for the student of early Christianity ‘a rich and fruitful field of investigation lies ready to his [*sic*] hand in the new discoveries’.³

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¹ G. Milligan, *Here and There among the Papyri* (London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1922) vii. For an earlier and more technical overview of the New Testament papyri, see A. Bludau, ‘Papyrusfragmente des neutestamentliche Textes’, *BZ* 4 (1906) 25–38.

² See E. J. Epp, *Perspectives on New Testament Textual Criticism*, vol. II: *Collected Essays, 2006–2017* (Leiden: Brill, 2021) 265–304, esp. 266–71.

³ Milligan, *Here and There*, 152.

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A century on, many corners of this ‘rich and fruitful field’ remain untilled, despite the numerous studies that examined the texts, transmission and scribal habits of the papyri. The overgrown patch that I attend to in this article is one that Milligan overlooked altogether: the question of media, paratextuality and early intellectual engagement with the New Testament. As some of the earliest witnesses to the New Testament, papyri offer glimpses at the way these works were conceptualised by those who read and copied them, how they were enumerated and organised into corpora. Their paratexts reflect the earliest layers of scholarly activity on the works that came to form the New Testament, foreshadowing the developed paratextual systems contrived from late antiquity onward, like the Eusebian apparatus for the Gospels and the Euthalian tradition for the Praxapostolos (Acts and Catholic Epistles) and Pauline Letters.⁴ Most obvious among paratexts in the earliest manuscripts are the titles, the inscriptions (beginning-titles), subscriptions (end-titles) and *kephalaia* notations (chapter headings) that became attached to the New Testament works.

As features that are the product of anonymous scribes and readers, not of authors, the New Testament’s titles reflect readerly engagement with these works, communal perceptions of their content, relationship to other works and the personae affiliated with their production. Unlike modern publishing conventions, titles were flexible components of textual transmission that fluctuated, albeit within a set of traditional boundaries.⁵ The titular tradition grew over time in response to interpretive pressure and in conjunction with changing perceptions of the New Testament as a literary text to be organised. The titles provide raw material by which one might structure the works that came to comprise the New Testament, enabling list-making, content organisation and interpretation of various kinds.⁶

The titles of the New Testament preserved in the papyri inform two ongoing critical discussions that I will focus on in this article. The first concerns the place of material

⁴ For recent takes on the critical value of paratexts in the papyri, see e.g. J. Heilmann, ‘Reading Early New Testament Manuscripts: *Scriptio continua*, “Reading Aids”, and Other Characteristic Features’, *Material Aspects of Reading in Ancient and Medieval Cultures* (ed. A. Krauß et al.; Berlin: de Gruyter, 2020) 177–96; J. Coogan, ‘Gospel as Recipe Book: Nonlinear Reading and Practical Texts in Late Antiquity’, *EC* 12 (2021) 40–60. On paratexts in New Testament scholarship more generally, see P. Andrist, ‘Toward a Definition of Paratexts and Paratextuality: The Case of Ancient Greek Manuscripts’, *The Bible as Notepad: Tracing Annotations and Annotation Practices in Late Antique and Medieval Biblical Manuscripts* (ed. L. I. Lied and M. Maniaci; Manuscripta Biblica 3; Berlin: de Gruyter, 2018); M. Crawford, *The Eusebian Canon Tables: Ordering Textual Knowledge in Late Antiquity* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019).

⁵ See B. M. Metzger, *The Canon of the New Testament: Its Origins, Development, and Significance* (Oxford: Clarendon, 1987) 301–4. See also G. Genette, *Paratexts: Thresholds of Interpretation* (trans. J. E. Lewin; Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997) 70, who notes that the laziness of the reader in modern print cultures leads to a ‘reduction – actually, an erosion – of the title’. Further developments in the New Testament’s titular tradition from the second century suggest an engaged intellectual class of readers and scribes. See G. V. Allen, ‘Paratexts and the Reception History of the Apocalypse’, *JTS* 70 (2019) 600–32; E. Nachmanson, *Der griechische Buchtitel: Einige Beobachtungen* (Göteborg: Elanders, 1941) 7 notes that titles often changed at the whim of later readers, a point made also by Galen in *On My Own Books*.

⁶ This process is similar to what A. M. Riggsby says about tables of contents in ancient Rome: ‘they are for miscellanies – that is, for works that have no “structure of their own”’, a characterisation that fits the New Testament as a heterogenous collection of narratives and occasional and fictitious letters (*Mosaics of Knowledge: Representing Information in the Roman World* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019) 28). For other critical questions that titles inform, see e.g. M. Hengel, *Die Evangelienüberschriften* (Heidelberg: Universitätsverlag, 1984); S. Petersen, ‘Die Evangelienüberschriften und die Entstehung des neutestamentlichen Kanons’, *ZNW* 97 (2006) 250–74; S. J. Gathercole, ‘The Titles of the Gospels in the Earliest New Testament Manuscripts’, *ZNW* 104 (2013) 33–76; P. Buzi, ‘Titoli e colofoni: riflessioni sugli elementi paratestuali dei manoscritti copti saidici’, *Colofoni armeni a confronto* (ed. A. Sirinian, P. Buzi and G. Shurgaia; Rome: Pontificio Istituto Orientale, 2016) 203–15; G. V. Allen, *Manuscripts of the Book of Revelation: New Philology, Paratexts, Reception* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2020) 44–73.

and paratextual features in the emerging digital edition and changing media cultures. As the digital edition slowly becomes a reality, offering scholars greater access to images, transcriptions, metadata and rationales behind editorial decisions, we are beginning to reconsider the boundaries of what features these tools should represent. Paratexts, and especially titles, are at the forefront of this conversation and they point to the complexities that face editors and users of future editions alike.⁷

A second area that this discussion informs is practices of entitling in ancient literature. Multiple studies have explored the dynamics of titular traditions of classical literature, but these studies have only obliquely engaged material from the New Testament and the consequences of such studies have not yet been sufficiently considered by New Testament scholars in terms of thinking about the place of the papyri in the larger reading culture of the eastern Mediterranean.⁸ Analysing all titles in New Testament papyri offers a platform for considering broader trends in the labelling of ancient works in the broader Roman world.

In order to understand this evidence better, I catalogue every form of every title in the 141 papyri currently included in the *Kurzgefasste Liste*,⁹ using this material to make observations about the place of these manuscripts in the broader context of ancient labelling practices and the significance of paratexts for the emerging editorial agenda. The papyri are not always the earliest evidence for the title, as for example the *kephalaia* to Luke in P3, which postdate the presence of gospel *kephalaia* in Codex Alexandrinus, but it is useful to take the papyri as a group because they come predominantly from the same geographic area (Egypt) and because many of the more fragmentary manuscripts that preserve titles have not received significant scholarly attention.¹⁰ In all, ten papyri preserve a total of twenty-six titles (P3 P4 P26 P46 P61 P62 P66 P72 P74 P75).

1. P3 (Österreichische Nationalbibliothek, Pap. G. 2323, 6–7th cent., diktyon 73498)

P3 is an opisthographic fragment of Luke (recto 7.36–45; verso 10.38–42) that preserves three titles.¹¹ Its first editor, Karl Wessely, suggested that the fragment was once a non-continuous lectionary based on thematic parallels of texts arranged there (the

⁷ On the development of digital editions of the New Testament, see G. V. Allen, 'Monks, Manuscripts, Muhammad, and Digital Editions of the New Testament', *From Scrolls to Scrolling: Sacred Texts, Materiality, and Dynamic Media Cultures* (ed. B. A. Anderson; Berlin: de Gruyter, 2020) 181–211; H. A. G. Houghton et al., 'The Editio Critica Maior of the Greek New Testament: Twenty Years of Digital Collaboration', *EC* 11 (2020) 97–117; G. S. Paulson, 'The Nestle-Aland as Open Digital Edition: Already and Not Yet', *Classics@* 18 (2021), <https://classics-at.chs.harvard.edu/classics18-paulson/> (accessed 12 August 2021).

⁸ See F. Schironi, *TO MEFA BIBAION: Book-Ends, End-Titles, and Coronides in Papyri with Hexametric Poetry* (ASP 48; Durham: American Society of Papyrologists, 2010), who examines the titular features of fifty-five papyri from the third century BCE to the sixth century CE that primarily preserve Homeric works with a few examples for Eratosthenes, Hesiod and Oppian, focusing on subscriptions. M. Caroli, *Il titolo iniziale nel rotolo librario Greco-egizio* (Bari: Levante editori, 2007), esp. 52–60, examines the history of the inscription title in papyrus rolls that preserve classical works, and B.-J. Schröder, *Titel und Text* (Berlin: de Gruyter, 1999) explores titles in classical Latin traditions. See also J.-C. Fredouille et al., eds., *Titres et articulations du texte dans les œuvres antiques* (Paris: Institut d'Études Augustiniennes, 1997).

⁹ <http://ntvmr.uni-muenster.de/liste> (accessed 6 August 2021). This does not include P129 P130 P131 and P135, which are currently inaccessible, and it also excludes most amulets; see comment on P62, n. 35.

¹⁰ On the strained relationship between writing support and significance in New Testament scholarship, see T. J. Kraus, 'Pergament oder Papyrus? Anmerkungen zur Signifikanz des Beschreibstoffes bei der Behandlung von Manuskripten', *NTS* 49 (2003) 425–32.

¹¹ See image here: http://digital.onb.ac.at/RepViewer/viewer.faces?doc=DOD_%2BZ125147102&order=1&view=SINGLE (accessed 20 September 2021).

woman who wept at Jesus' feet and the Mary and Martha episode), but without further codicological information it is difficult to make a sure judgement.¹²

The first title to discuss is a *kephalaion* heading, not an inscription or subscription for the work itself (although it is possible that a further title for Luke's Gospel may have been present at this point). The first two lines of the recto, which preserve parts of Luke 7.36–45, contains the remnants of a *kephalaion* title for a section of text that runs from Luke 7.36 to 8.3, traditionally denoted as *kephalaion* 21 (κ̅α) in Luke's list of 83 *kephalaia*: εὐ[α]γγε[λ]ιο[υ] | [περὶ τῆς ἀλειψ[α]σ[ης] τὸν κ̅ν μυρ[ω] ('go]spel | [regarding she who ano]int[ed] the Lord with ointme[nt']).¹³ The upper portion of the recto is damaged, both in terms of lost papyrus and faded ink, but the first line clearly preserves the latter half of the word 'gospel' in the nominative or accusative case, possibly the remnants of a running title or a label for Lukan material in a non-continuous manuscript.¹⁴ The two gammas in the first line are clearly legible, as is the -ιο[υ] inflected ending. The second line contains the text of the *kephalaion titlos*, the latter half of which is well preserved, including the horizontal line above the *nomen sacrum*. There is an upper margin of about 1 cm above the title.

Competing reconstructions of these two lines have been offered. Wessely's first transcription of the second line of the recto fails to make sense of the textual remains there, reading τὸν κ̅ ἦσο' (perhaps 'gospel | the lord Jesus?').¹⁵ In 1963, J. Neville Birdsall offered an elegant solution, reconstructing line 2 as the *titlos* for *kephalaia* 21, a reading that I have adopted here.¹⁶ More recently, Stanley E. Porter and Wendy J. Porter have read line 2 of the title as α.ρ.τονκ̅ιμ., critiquing Birdsall's reconstruction in three places: the final sigma in ἀλειψασης, the presence of the nu in the *nomen sacrum* and the presence of upsilon rho in μυρῶ.¹⁷ While their more conservative reconstruction reminds us of the underlying uncertainties in working with this material, their observations on letter-forms can be explained by the irregular damage patterns and the irregular hand of the scribe.

Birdsall's reconstruction of the recto also has the benefit of accounting for the two titles on the verso: εὐαγγε[λ]ιο[υ] τοῦ ἁγίου λουκᾶ ('Gosp[el] of Saint Luke'), possibly an inscription, and περὶ μαρθᾶς καὶ μαρ[τ]ίας ('Rega]rding Martha and Ma[ry]'), *kephalaion* 37 (λζ) to Luke (10.38–42). Apart from εὐαγγε[λ]ιον, of which only part of the nu remains, the first line of the verso is legible, preserving an inscription to or some other labelling of Luke's Gospel that appears to lack the preposition κατὰ. No such title is included in the apparatus for the *inscriptio* in NA²⁸ and this formulation resists an overinterpretation of

¹² See K. Wessely, 'Evangelien-Fragmente auf Papyrus', *Wiener Studien* 4 (1882): 198–214, here 206; idem, 'Analekten', *Wiener Studien* 7 (1885) 69–81, at 69–70. Wessely's view is adopted by K. Aland and B. Aland, *The Text of the New Testament* (trans. E. F. Rhodes; Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1987) 85 and S. E. Porter and W. J. Porter, eds., *Mitteilungen aus der Papyrussammlung der Österreichischen Nationalbibliothek* (Papyrus Erzherzog Rainer xxix; Berlin: de Gruyter, 2008) 13. J. N. Birdsall, 'A Further Decipherment of Papyrus G 2323 of the Papyrussammlung der Österr. Nationalbibliothek', *Wiener Studien* 76 (1963) 163–4 remains agnostic about the status of P3 as a lectionary. T. J. Kraus, *Ad fontes: Original Manuscripts and Their Significance for Studying Early Christianity* (Leiden: Brill, 2007) 15 identifies P3 as an amulet.

¹³ Gospel *kephalaia* are widely transmitted, beginning with Codex Alexandrinus (A02). See W. A. Smith, *A Study of the Gospels in Codex Alexandrinus: Codicology, Palaeography, and Scribal Habits* (NTSD 48; Leiden: Brill, 2014) 156–78. Older versions of gospel *kephalaia titloi* were transmitted in Codex Vaticanus, Codex Zacynthius and GA 579. See H. A. G. Houghton and D. C. Parker, 'The Gospel of Luke in the Palimpsest', *Codex Zacynthius: Catena, Palimpsest, Lectionary* (TS 3/21; Piscataway: Gorgias, 2020) 34–9.

¹⁴ The running title split over an opening, e.g. εὐαγγε[λ]ιον | κατὰ λουκᾶν, is not preserved in any early manuscript, even though the codices Sinaiticus and Vaticanus preserve running titles split over an opening, using the shorter forms κατὰ | λουκᾶν. On running titles, see D. C. Parker, *Codex Bezae: An Early Christian Manuscript at its Text* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1992) 10–22.

¹⁵ Wessely, 'Evangelien-Fragmente', 198–9, 212.

¹⁶ Birdsall, 'Further Decipherment', 163–4.

¹⁷ Porter and Porter, *Mitteilungen*, 13–14.

the *κατά* + evangelist formula that has characterised some recent arguments, even if the reading and its function in P3 are uncertain.¹⁸

The text of the third title in P3, the *kephalaion titlos* in line 2 of the verso, is fairly certain, even though the beginning and end are lost due to damage. The clarity of this formulation supports Birdsall's reconstruction of the *kephalaion* title in line 2 of the recto.¹⁹

2. P4 (Bibliothèque Nationale de France, suppl. gr. I 120, 3–4th cent., LDAB 2936, diktyon 53778)

The title in P4 is probably an inscription to Matthew.²⁰ It appears on a flyleaf, alongside material from Luke, of a codex that contains two works by Philo. Recycled from a previously disassembled manuscript, it is perhaps the earliest inscription to Matthew's Gospel.²¹ Simon Gathercole dates the Matthew and Luke material to the late-second or early-third century CE.²² Following Gathercole's transcription, I read the title as *εὐαγγέλιον | κατὰ μαθ' θαιον*.²³ The first epsilon in *εὐαγγέλιον* is slightly effaced but still visible, and the upsilon has a long vertical stroke that extends down to the next line. In the second line of the title, both alphas in *κατὰ* are visible (especially the final one), while the kappa and tau are only partially legible: remnants of the tau's vertical stroke are visible and (possibly) the upper vertical diagonal stroke of the kappa. The upper halves of both thetas in *μαθ' θαιον* are partially abraded.

The spelling of Matthew with two thetas (*μαθ' θαιον*) is adopted as the *Ausgangstext* for the inscription to Matthew in NA²⁸ (KATA ΜΑΘΘΑΙΟΝ), even though the short form without *εὐαγγέλιον* is preserved in only a few early manuscripts, and even there it is sometimes corrected.²⁴ In the titular tradition beyond the papyri, *ματθαιον* is the predominant spelling.²⁵

¹⁸ For example, Petersen, 'Evangelienüberschriften', 252 suggests that the *εὐαγγέλιον κατὰ* + evangelist formula (meaning 'das Evangelium in der Fassung nach xy') is a way to preserve the idea of a single, but multifaceted ('vieltalig'), Gospel. She is right that this formula is dominant in the tradition from its earliest stages but, as P3 shows, it is not the only way to label a Gospel. M. D. C. Larsen, 'Correcting the Gospel: Putting the Titles of the Gospels in Historical Perspective', *Rethinking 'Authority' in Late Antiquity: Authorship, Law, and Transmission in Jewish and Christian Tradition* (ed. A. J. Berkovitz and M. Letteney; London: Routledge, 2018) 78–103 moves in another direction, arguing that the *kat' andra* formula was meant as a way to denote a corrector or editor, not author. His observation that the gospel titles in the papyri (with the exception of the Luke title in P3, which he does not analyse) tend to place *εὐαγγέλιον* on a separate line or distinguish *εὐαγγέλιον* from the *kat' andra* formula by other means is interesting, but not the strongest evidence he musters for his innovative argument.

¹⁹ Although they do not reconstruct lines 1–2 of the verso in their reading text, Porter and Porter, *Mitteilungen*, 15 view Birdsall's reconstruction of these lines as plausible. They also offer an alternative of *Ἰησοῦθεις κωμη*, following Wessely's reconstruction of the final word of line 2 as *κωμη* ('Evangelien-Fragmente', 199).

²⁰ Image available at https://manuscripts.csntm.org/manuscript/View/GA_P4 (accessed 20 September 2021).

²¹ On the history of the codex and research on it, see S. Gathercole, 'The Earliest Manuscript Title of Matthew's Gospel (BnF Suppl. gr. 1120 ii 3 / P4)', *NovT* 54 (2012) 209–35, at 209–12. Some scholars have linked P4 with P64 and P67, meaning that the title in P4 would in some way head the text of Matthew in P64 + 67; see T. C. Skeat, 'The Oldest Manuscript of the Four Gospels?', *NTS* 43 (1997) 1–34 and P. M. Head, 'Is P4, P64 and P67 the Oldest Manuscript of the Four Gospels? A Response to T. C. Skeat', *NTS* 51 (2005) 450–7. The Philo texts in the codex are *Quis rerum divinarum heres sit* and *De sacrificiis Abelis et Caini*.

²² Gathercole, 'Earliest Manuscript', 224. P4 was first published in V. Scheil, 'Varia', *Revue biblique trimestrielle* 1 (1892) 113–17. The title on the flyleaf is not mentioned. It is first mentioned, as far as I can tell, by Jean Merell, 'Nouveaux fragments du papyrus 4', *RB* 47 (1938) 5–22, at 6, which he transcribes as *κατὰ μαθθαιον*.

²³ Gathercole, 'Earliest Manuscript', 214.

²⁴ It is preserved in the inscription/running titles to Matthew in Codex Sinaiticus, inserted by a second hand. The inscription and subscription to Matthew in Codex Vaticanus has been corrected from *κατὰ μαθθαιον* to *κατὰ ματθαιον*, even though the running titles on the recto of each opening preserve *μαθθαιον*. The spelling *μαθθαιον* is preserved in W and 565, but with the longer title *εὐαγγέλιον κατὰ μαθθαιον*.

²⁵ See Petersen, 'Evangelienüberschriften', 254–5.

3. P26 (Southern Methodist University Library, Pap. I, 7th cent., LDAB 3055)

The title in P26 is another highly fragmentary inscription, this time to Romans, that was found at Oxyrhynchus.²⁶ A single opisthographic fragment, it contains parts of Rom 1.1–16, the recto preserving most of the right-hand edge of the column and the verso the left side of the column. On the recto above the first line of text appears the inscription $\pi\rho\varsigma \rho[\omega\mu\alpha\iota]\o\upsilon\varsigma$, probably indented from the left margin. The $\pi\rho\acute{\omicron}\varsigma$ + destination formula for Pauline inscriptions and subscriptions is well attested in the early papyri and majuscule pandect manuscripts, even though more effusive titles develop within the tradition. The three horizontal dashes framing the title (two above and one below) reflect common practices in the papyri and other early manuscripts to separate the titular form from the main text (see the examples from P46 below). There is a slightly larger space between the title and the first line of text, signalling a desire to distinguish text from paratext.

4. P46 (The Chester Beatty, CBP BP II + University of Michigan Library, Inv. Nr. 6328, 3–4th cent., LDAB 3001)

P46 is a remarkably well preserved codex of the Pauline Epistles and Hebrews. It is probably the earliest instance of a Pauline collection of some kind bound in a single codex, although the Pastoral Epistles are not present. This manuscript has received significant scholarly attention from its first editor, Frederick Kenyon, onward, including careful studies of its text, scribal habits and copious corrections.²⁷ Of all the Greek papyri that preserve parts of the New Testament, it contains the most titular formulations, with a total of nine.

$\pi\rho\varsigma \epsilon\beta\rho\alpha\iota\o\upsilon\varsigma$. As in P26, the inscription to Hebrews is centred in the column and set apart from the surrounding text (Rom 16.23 above and Heb 1.1 below) by a string of horizontal lines and a *paragraphos* that extends above the title into the left margin.²⁸ A stichometry notation is also present, added by a later hand.²⁹

$\pi\rho\varsigma \kappa\omicron\rho\iota\nu\theta\iota\o\upsilon\varsigma \bar{\alpha}$ (Fig. 1). The aesthetics and layout of this inscription to 1 Corinthians are identical to the Hebrews inscription: it is centred, distinguished by horizontal lines and a *paragraphos*, and a stichos notation for Hebrews is present, added by the same second hand.

$\pi\rho\varsigma \kappa\omicron\rho\iota\nu\theta\iota\o\upsilon\varsigma \bar{\beta}$ (Fig. 2). This inscription to 2 Corinthians is nearly identical in composition to the other titles in this manuscript, with horizontal lines above and below the title.

²⁶ Published first in B. P. Grenfell and A. S. Hunt, *The Oxyrhynchus Papyri*, vol. xi (London: Egypt Exploration Society, 1915) 6–9; image available at https://manuscripts.csntm.org/manuscript/View/GA_P26_MS1 (accessed 20 September 2021).

²⁷ See F. G. Kenyon, *The Chester Beatty Biblical Papyri*, 4 vols. (London: Emery Walker, 1933–41) and, on the Michigan leaves, H. A. Sanders, *A Third-Century Papyrus Codex of the Epistles of Paul* (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1935). On its scribal habits, see J. R. Royse, *Scribal Habits in the Early Greek New Testament Papyri* (NTTSD 36; Leiden: Brill, 2008) 199–358. On corrections, see J. W. Peterson, ‘Patterns of Correction as Paratext: A New Approach with Papyrus 46 as a Test Case’, *The Future of New Testament Textual Scholarship: From H. C. Hoskier to the Editio Critica Maior and Beyond* (ed. G. V. Allen; WUNT 417; Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2019) 201–29.

²⁸ See Schironi, *TO ΜΕΓΑ ΒΙΒΑΙΟΝ*, 16–20.

²⁹ On the scribal hands and correctors in P46, see Peterson, ‘Correction as Paratext’, 201–29 and E. B. Ebojo, ‘A Scribe and his Manuscript: An Investigation into the Scribal Habits of Papyrus 46 (p. Chester Beatty ii – p. Mich. Inv. 6238)’ (PhD diss., University of Birmingham, 2014). For images of the Michigan portion of P46, see https://quod.lib.umich.edu/a/apis?rgn1=apis_inv&select1=regex&q1=6238&op2=And&rgn2=ic_all&select2=all&q2=&op3=And&rgn3=ic_all&select3=all&q3=&rgn4=apis_year_range&op4=And&q4=&q4=&view=thumbnail&type=boolean (accessed 18 October 2021).

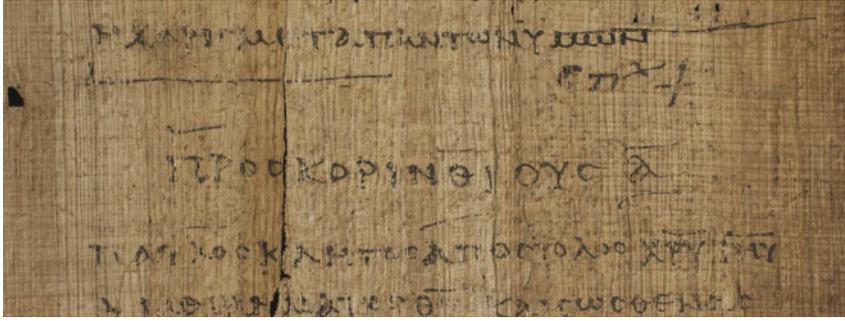


Figure 1. P46, 38r. Inscription to 1 Corinthians. © The Trustees of the Chester Beatty Library, Dublin. Photographed by CSNTM (CBL BP ii fol. 38)

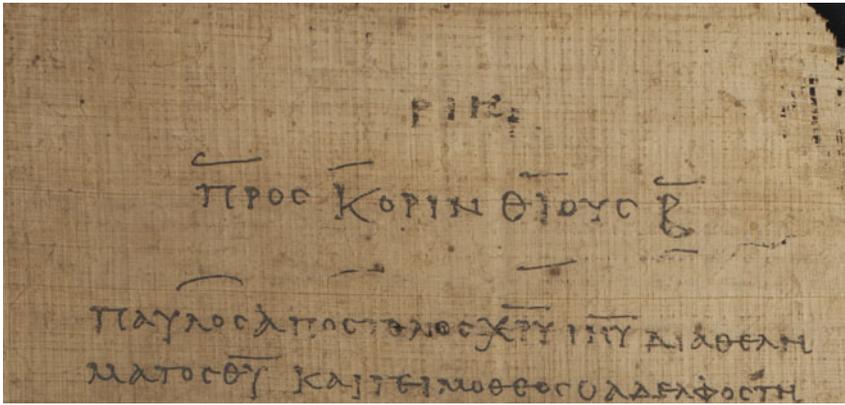


Figure 2. P46, 61r. Inscription to 2 Corinthians, with page number (ρ̄ιη). © The Trustees of the Chester Beatty Library, Dublin. Photographed by CSNTM (CBL BP ii fol. 61)

π]ρος κορινθιους | β̄. Although damaged, the text of the subscription to 2 Corinthians, located in the lower margin, is probably identical to the inscription. The only letter of which no trace is present is the pi in προς. The numeral abbreviation β̄ is centred on a second line and the upper curve of the letter is visible, along with the vertical abbreviation bar. Like the inscription, this formulation is separated by horizontal lines above and below the title and by a long *paragraphos* immediately below the text and above the title.

προς εφεσιους. Ephesians begins on a new folio and the inscription is centred at the top of the page and separated from the text by its justification vis-à-vis the main text and the use of horizontal bars. It is preceded only by a page number (ρ̄μς).

προς γαλατας. The features of the inscription to Galatians are consistent with the rest of the manuscript. Because Galatians begins about halfway down the folio, a *paragraphos* is present, along with the horizontal lines, different justification and use of negative space. A stichos notation was added by the same hand that added the other notations at the end of letters.

προς φιλιπησιους (Fig. 3). Although the final two letters are partially lost due to damage, the reading remains clear, following the same pattern in text, positioning and separation as the other titles in the manuscript when the title appears amid the column with text from two different works. In this case, the folio preserves the end of Galatians (without a subscription) and the first two lines of Philippians.

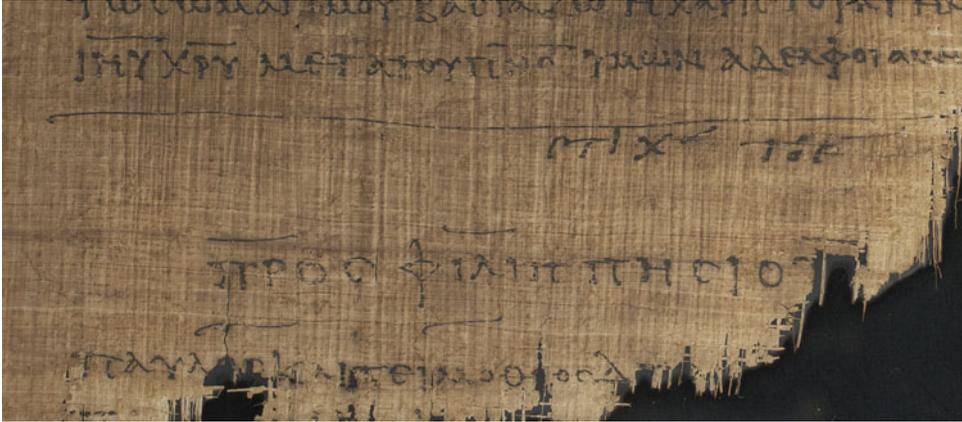


Figure 3. P46, 86r. Inscription to Philippians. © The Trustees of the Chester Beatty Library, Dublin. Photographed by CSNTM (CBL BP ii fol. 86)

προς κολασσαιοις (Fig. 4). This inscription to Colossians is distinguished from the main text by features standard across the manuscript, especially when two works share the same folio:³⁰ negative space, horizontal lines framing the title, a long *paragraphos* that extends nearly the entire width of the writing block and a secondary stichos notation.

προς [θεσσαλονικειοις] (Fig. 5). The final title in P46 is an inscription to 1 Thessalonians. The *προς* is clearly visible, along with the upper vertical stroke of the kappa and the final -εις. Despite the loss of material, similar separation strategies are present, including the use of negative space after the end of Colossians, a long horizontal line dividing the two works and a secondary stichos notation.

The composition of titles in P46 is largely consistent throughout what remains of the manuscript, both in terms of the text (*πρός* + recipient) and separation strategies. Already at this stage, titles are an ingrained part of the tradition and work to simultaneously distinguish one work from another and link the works into a defined sequence through their consistent characteristics. The consistency of the titles creates coherence across a miscellaneous set of occasional letters, using paratexts to construct the Pauline Epistles as a work abstracted from the quotidian realities of letter circulation.³¹

5. P61 (The Morgan, Colt Pap. 5.1–4, 8th cent., LDAB 3063)

The next title also comes from what was once probably a codex of (at least) the Pauline Letters.³² P61 contains parts of Romans, 1 Corinthians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 Thessalonians, Philemon and Titus. The only visible part of any titular form is the subscription to Titus: *προς* [τιτον]. Following the final line of Titus, a line of *diploi* (→) is visible, distinguishing the main text from the title.³³ Below this line, the parts of the each of the

³⁰ In this case, the first four lines of Colossians share a folio with the end of Philippians.

³¹ The collection of these texts within a codex has regularly been noted as proof of the circulation of the Pauline corpus, but the titles and their consistency in text and aesthetics have not been noted as a key strategy for the production of the corpus. See L. W. Hurtado, ‘Early Christian Manuscripts as Artifacts’, *Jewish and Christian Scripture as Artifact and Canon* (ed. C. A. Evans and H. D. Zacharias; London: T&T Clark, 2009) 66–81, at 72.

³² Images available at <http://corsair.themorgan.org/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibid=351510> (accessed 20 September 2021).

³³ In addition to distinguishing text from paratexts, *diploi* also mark quotations and distinguish text from commentary in multiple manuscript traditions. See, for example, M. Sigismund, ‘Die Diplé als Zitatmarkierung in den

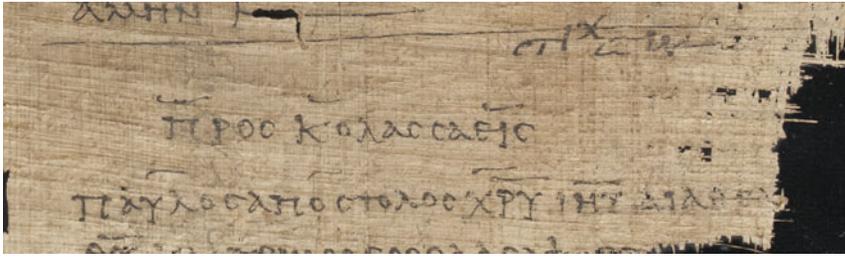


Figure 4. P46, 90r. Inscription to Colossians. © The Trustees of the Chester Beatty Library, Dublin. Photographed by CSNTM (CBL BP ii fols. 15 & 90)

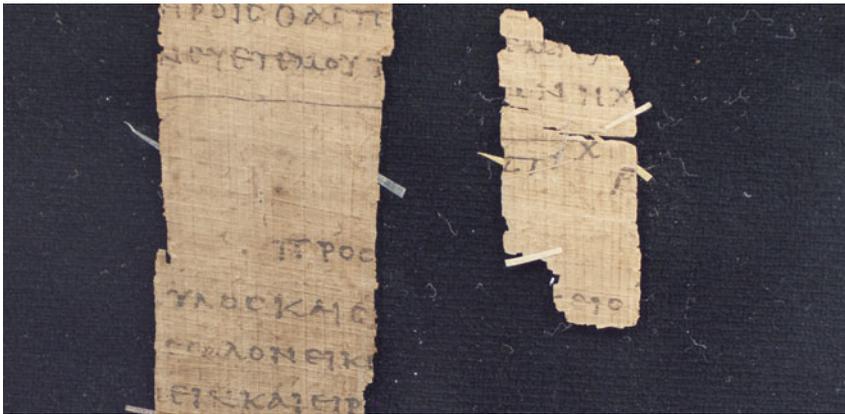


Figure 5. P46, 94r. Fragmentary inscription to I Thessalonians. © The Trustees of the Chester Beatty Library, Dublin. Photographed by CSNTM (CBL PB ii fol. 94)

letters in *προς* are visible, although the title is difficult to read due to the loss of papyrus and faded ink.

6. P62 (University of Oslo Library, P.Osloensis 1661, 4th cent., LDAB 2993, diktyon 76007)

P62 is a Graeco-Coptic (Akhmimic) excerpted manuscript that contains Matt 11.25–30 and Dan 3.50–5.³⁴ The verso of fragment 1 (the recto is blank) includes a title to Matthew with a peculiar spelling: *π|εγα[γ]γελιον | [πκα]τρα μαθαιος | [ευαγ]γελιον | [κατα μαθηταιον?]*. The situation is complicated by the fact that the scribe’s hand is identical for the Coptic and Greek portions of the manuscripts and that Greek usually precedes the Coptic on the other fragments.³⁵ If we assume that the title follows a similar pattern to

“großen” Unzialcodices – Versuch eines Fazits’, *Von der Septuaginta zum Neuen Testament: Textgeschichtliche Erörterungen* (ed. M. Karrer, S. Kreuzer and M. Sigismund; Berlin: de Gruyter, 2010) 149–52.

³⁴ See L. Amundsen, ‘Christian Papyri from the Oslo Collection’, *Symbolae Osloenses* 24 (1945) 121–40. Images available at https://manuscripts.csntm.org/manuscript/View/GA_P62 (accessed 20 September 2021).

³⁵ See Gathercole, ‘Titles of the Gospels’, 39–40. Alternatively, some Greek amulets that preserve titles of the Gospels preserve the *κατά* + nominative form, as for example P.Oxy. 16.1928: *κατα ιωαννης, κατα λουκα, κατα μαρκος, κατα μαθηας*. Amulets often contain titles and incipits for the Gospels, but the quantity of this evidence requires a separate discussion, including questions relating to the identity of some of these texts as either

the rest of the manuscript, then we encounter two issues in the text: Matthew is spelled with one theta and in the nominative case following κατὰ. These two issues probably suggest that the first two lines constitute the Coptic title, followed by a now lost Greek version of the title that began with εὐαγγέλιον, part of which is preserved in the third line of text on the fragment below a string of glyphs that follows the second line of the first title.

7. P66 (Bibliotheca Bodmeriana, P.Bod. II + The Chester Beatty, BP XIX, 3–4th cent., diktyon 76008)

P66 is a substantial copy of John's Gospel, including the inscription to the work, which is possibly the earliest title for any Gospel: εὐαγγέλιον κατὰ ἰωαννῆν.³⁶ The title appears centred in the upper margin of the column, running near to the end of the right margin and separated from the main text by horizontal lines above and below the title (like P46), negative space between the writing block and the title, and the title's centre justification. A small glyph (similar to the > siglum with a horizontal line extending right at the point of the triangle, perhaps a *paragraphos*) separates εὐαγγέλιον and κατὰ. The title was added by a subsequent hand, but not significantly later.³⁷

8. P72 (Bibliotheca Bodmeriana, P.Bod. VIII + Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana, P.Bod. VII, 3–4th cent., LDAB 2565)

P72, the Bodmer Miscellaneous Codex, has received significant scholarly attention due to the order of its works, the importance of their texts and the multiple production layers present in the now disassembled manuscript. Since it was first edited by Michel Testuz, numerous theories have emerged that explain the bibliographic context of a manuscript that preserves parts of the Catholic Epistles (1–2 Peter and Jude) and a series of other works, including Melito's *Homily on the Passion* (P.Bod. XIII), the *Apology of Phileas* (P.Bod. XX), 3 Corinthians (P.Bod. X), the *Protoevangelium of James* (P.Bod. V), the 11th Ode of Solomon (P.Bod. XI) and Ps 33.2–34.16 (P.Bod. IX), produced by various scribes and brought together into a single codex secondarily.³⁸ In fact, the codicological relationship between 'biblical'

Coptic or Greek. See the list of texts in T. de Bruyn, 'Papyri, Parchments, Ostraca, and Tablets Written with Biblical Texts in Greek and Used as Amulets: A Preliminary List', *Early Christian Manuscripts: Examples of Applied Method and Approach* (ed. T. J. Kraus and T. Nicklas; Leiden: Brill, 2010) 145–89, who describes P62 as 'possibly' an amulet.

³⁶ Edited by V. Martin, ed., *Papyrus Bodmer II. Evangile de Jean chap. 1–14* (Cologny-Geneva: Bibliotheca Bodmeriana, 1956); V. Martin and J. W. B. Barns, eds., *Papyrus Bodmer II supplement. Evangile de Jean chap. 14–21* (Cologny-Geneva: Bibliotheca Bodmeriana, 1962). On its text, see G. D. Fee, *Papyrus Bodmer II (P66): Its Textual Relationships and Scribal Characteristics* (Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 1968); L. D. Bell, *The Early Textual Transmission of John: Stability and Fluidity in its Second and Third Century Greek Manuscripts* (NTTSD 54; Leiden: Brill, 2018). On the title in P66, see J. Zumstein, 'Quand l'exégète rencontre le manuscrit: Le P⁶⁶', *Reading New Testament Papyri in Context* (ed. C. Clivaz and J. Zumstein; BETL 242; Leuven: Peeters, 2011) 221–39, at 223–6. Images available at <https://www.artmyn.com/explore/viewer/119> (accessed 20 September 2021).

³⁷ Martin, *Papyrus Bodmer II*, 21–3. See also Gathercole, 'Titles of the Gospels', 37–8; G. N. Stanton, 'The Fourfold Gospel', *NTS* 43 (1997) 317–346, at 333.

³⁸ M. Testuz, *Papyrus Bodmer VII–IX* (Cologny-Geneva: Bibliotheca Bodmeriana, 1959). For an overview of the codex and the complexities surrounding its codicology, bibliographic context and history of research, see K. Junack and W. Grunewald, *Das Neue Testament auf Papyrus*, vol. 1: *Die Katholische Briefe* (ANTF 6; Berlin: de Gruyter, 1986) 17–25; T. Wasserman, *The Epistle of Jude: Its Text and Transmission* (CB 43; Stockholm: Almqvist & Wicksell, 2006) 30–50. The purpose of its secondary bibliographic context remains mysterious: see T. Nicklas and T. Wasserman, 'Theologische Linien im Codex Bodmer Miscellani?', *New Testament Manuscripts: Their Texts and their World* (ed. T. J. Kraus and T. Nicklas; Leiden: Brill, 2006) 161–88. On its text, see Roysse, *Scribal Habits*, 545–614. Images available at https://digi.vatlib.it/view/MSS_Pap.Bodmer.VIII (accessed 20 September 2021).

material in the manuscript, 1–2 Peter (*P.Bod.* viii) and Jude (*P.Bod.* vii) is secondary, a reality that questions the logic of their classification in the *Liste*.³⁹ In any case, a total of six titles are preserved for 1–2 Peter and Jude, an inscription and subscription for each work.⁴⁰

πετρον επιστολη ᾱ. The inscription to 1 Peter appears in the first line of text on the folio, separated from the text of 1 Peter by its justification (centred) and the use of horizontal lines above and below the title. The composition of this title is similar to the aesthetics of the titles in P46, but more informal. A page number (ᾱ) is preserved above the title.⁴¹

The text of the subscription to 1 Peter is identical to the inscription: πετρον επιστολη ᾱ. Unlike the inscription, this form is ornamented with a string of *diplai/paragraphoi* to fill the line it occupies. The subscription is further set off from the main text by two large *coronides* below it that further frame a colophon which reads, ‘peace to the one who writes and the one who reads’.⁴²

The third title in P72 is the inscription to 2 Peter: πετρον επιστολη β̄. The text of the title follows a pattern identical to that in 1 Peter. It is distinguished from the main text only by its justification: it is indented in from the left margin and the line is left blank after the numeral abbreviation. The text is the same size as the main text and there are no glyphs or lines to set off the title from the text. A page number appears directly above it (β̄γ̄).

As in 1 Peter, the text of the subscription is identical to the inscription: πετρον επιστολη β̄. And, like 1 Peter, the design of the subscription is more complex, incorporating two *coronides* and the colophon. Unlike the 1 Peter subscription, however, the title here is centre-justified on its own line and completely encased in a penwork box.

Moving to Jude, the form of the title text is similar to that of the Petrine titles, but the aesthetics differ, as does the scribal hand. First, the inscription has a correction by the first hand: ιουδα επειστολη] ιουδα επειστολη. Initially, the scribe omitted the upsilon in ιουδα, placing the missing grapheme above the line between the omicron and delta. Another anomaly that was not corrected is the spelling of ἐπιστολή with a fuller orthography, adding an additional epsilon after the pi.⁴³

Unlike the Petrine inscriptions, Jude does not begin on its own folio, following instead the final two lines of Odes of Solomon 11. The title is separated from Odes by a penwork geometric headpiece that traverses the folio and the rest of the line that follows the title is blank, setting off the inscription from the text of the work that follows.

The subscription to Jude, ιουδα επειστολη, is identical to the corrected version of the inscription. The subscription occupies its own line, is centre-justified and followed by an irregular penwork tailpiece.

Despite the codicological and bibliographic complexities of the manuscript, the titular traditions in the Petrine letters and Jude follow consistent patterns. The texts of the

³⁹ D. C. Parker, *Textual Scholarship and the Making of the New Testament* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012) 32–40; B. Nongbri, ‘The Construction of P.Bodmer viii and the Bodmer “Composite” or “Miscellaneous” Codex’, *NovT* 58 (2016) 394–410.

⁴⁰ Titles are preserved for the other works in the codex, including γενεσις μαριας | αποκαλυψις | ιακωβ (subscription to *P.Bod.* v), a title each time the governing voice changes in 3 Corinthians (*P.Bod.* x), e.g. κορινθιοι προς παυλον (inscription to *P.Bod.* x, page ν) and παυλος κορινθιοις περι σαρκος (page να), ωδη σολομωντος (inscription to *P.Bod.* xi), μελιτωνος | περι πασχα (on a blank sheet of *P.Bod.* xiii, repeated as a subscription).

⁴¹ On P72’s pagination, see Wasserman, *Epistle of Jude*, 33 n.14.

⁴² ειρηνη τω γραψαντι | και τω αναγνωσκοντι. An identical notation appears after 2 Peter and the *Nativity*, and similar colophons appear in Melito and the *Apology of Phileas*. See Wasserman, *Epistles of Jude*, 39. Schironi, *TO MEFA BIBAION*, 82 notes that subscriptions tend to be more highly ornamented than inscriptions. This holds true for the Petrine letters in P72.

⁴³ This spelling is silently corrected in the apparatus of *ECM* iv and it is not noted in the ‘List of Errors in Greek Manuscripts’ in *ECM* iv/2.2.32.

inscriptions and subscriptions match for each work (if the corrected text of Jude's inscription is considered), a reality that is not always reflected in the titular tradition,⁴⁴ and the subscriptions are given further ornamental emphasis compared to the inscriptions.

9. P74 (Bibliotheca Bodmeriana, PBod. xvii, 7th cent., LDAB 2894)

A copy of Acts and the Catholic Epistles, preserving parts of each work in the corpus, P74 preserves one titular form: a subscription to Acts on fol. 188: $\pi\rho\alpha\zeta\iota\varsigma$ [$\alpha\pi$]οστολων.⁴⁵ The title is distinguished from the main text by a dividing glyph string and small *coronides* that frame what remains of the formulation. Parts of each grapheme are preserved apart from the alpha and pi in $\alpha\pi\sigma\tau\omicron\lambda\omega\nu$, which extend into the break in the fragment below the final line of text. The singular (or defective plural form?) of $\pi\rho\alpha\zeta\iota\varsigma$, instead of $\pi\rho\alpha\zeta\epsilon\iota\varsigma$, is unusual but not unattested in the titular tradition. GA 2412, for example, a twelfth-century copy of Acts, Paul and the Catholic Epistles, preserves the damaged title $\pi\rho\alpha\zeta\iota\varsigma$ των [$\alpha\pi\sigma\tau\omicron$]λων συγγραφεις παρα του ευαγγελιστου λουκα ('Act of the Apostles, written by Luke the Evangelist').⁴⁶ Nonetheless, the prevalence of the plural form in the tradition suggests that $\pi\rho\alpha\zeta\iota\varsigma$ in P74 represents a scribal omission of the epsilon ($\pi\rho\alpha\zeta\epsilon\iota\varsigma$).⁴⁷

10. P75 (Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana, Pap.Hanna. I, 4th cent., LDAB 2895)

P75, renowned in New Testament textual criticism for its supposed early date and close textual affiliation with Codex Sinaiticus, remains an important witness to the early texts of Luke and John.⁴⁸ The manuscript preserves two titles on the folio that the Gospels share (44r): a subscription to Luke – $\epsilon\upsilon\alpha\gamma\gamma\epsilon\lambda\iota\omicron\nu$ | $\kappa\alpha\tau\alpha$ | $\lambda\omicron\upsilon\kappa\alpha\nu$ – and an inscription to John – $\epsilon\upsilon\alpha\gamma\gamma\epsilon\lambda\iota\omicron\nu$ | $\kappa\alpha\tau\alpha$ $\omega\alpha\nu\eta\nu$. Immediately following the end of Luke, the subscription appears in three lines, followed by 2–3 lines of negative space that precede the inscription to John, written in two lines.⁴⁹ Noteworthy here is the spelling of John with only one nu between the alpha and eta ($\omega\alpha\nu\eta\nu$). Although the predominant spelling for John is $\omega\alpha\nu\eta\nu\eta\nu$ in the titular tradition and elsewhere, the shorter spelling certainly exists. For example, the subscription to the book of Revelation in Codex Sinaiticus and GA 386 and the inscription to 1 John in Codex Vaticanus and GA 468 each preserve the spelling without the double nu.⁵⁰ Both spellings co-exist in the main text of P75.⁵¹ When we

⁴⁴ See Allen, *Manuscripts of the Book of Revelation*, 53.

⁴⁵ First edited by R. Kasser, *Papyrus Bodmer xvii* (Cologne-Geneva: Bibliotheca Bodmeriana, 1961).

⁴⁶ This is reading w in ECM III/1.1.1, which is marked as grammatically erroneous.

⁴⁷ The reading in the subscription is silently corrected to $\pi\rho\alpha\zeta\epsilon\iota\varsigma$ in the apparatus in ECM III/1.2.1088.

⁴⁸ On the history of research and date of P75, see B. Nongbri, 'Reconsidering the Place of Papyrus Bodmer xiv-xv (P75) in the Textual Criticism of the New Testament', *JBL* 135 (2016) 405–37, who argues for the probability of a fourth-century date, against the prevailing view of a second- or early third-century date. This manuscript first appeared in V. Martin and R. Kasser, eds., *Papyrus Bodmer xiv* (Cologne-Geneva: Bibliotheca Bodmeriana, 1961); *idem*, *Papyrus Bodmer xv* (Cologne-Geneva: Bibliotheca Bodmeriana, 1961). Images available at https://manuscripts.csntm.org/manuscript/View/GA_P75 (accessed 20 September 2021).

⁴⁹ Larsen, 'Correcting the Gospel', 86–9 makes much of the line breaks in these titles, suggesting that having 'Gospel' in one line and the $\kappa\alpha\tau\alpha$ formula in subsequent lines means that the scribe thought of these named individuals not as evangelists but as correctors. However, the lineation is not unusual in titular formations, which are made to stand apart from the main text. The title to John in P66 occurs on a single line, which Larsen identifies as an 'exception that proves the rule', pointing to the *paragraphos* between $\epsilon\upsilon\alpha\gamma\gamma\epsilon\lambda\iota\omicron\nu$ and $\kappa\alpha\tau\alpha$ $\omega\alpha\nu\eta\nu$ (88).

⁵⁰ See also inscription and subscription to 2 John and the inscription to 3 John in Codex Vaticanus, among other witnesses.

⁵¹ See B. M. Metzger, 'The Bodmer Papyrus of Luke and John', *ExpTim* 73 (1962) 201–3, at 202.

set aside these few exceptions, it is no surprise that the editors of NA²⁸ have silently corrected $\omega\alpha\nu\eta\nu$ to $\omega\alpha\nu\eta\eta$ in the apparatus to John's inscription.

II. Conclusion

What, then, can we say about the titular traditions of the New Testament in the papyri, as reflected in Table 1, and their value for textual scholarship? The first thing to note is that these titles show that readers were tolerant towards paratextual variation and that scribes did retain some level of freedom to develop paratextual traditions. Even though the texts of these forms tend to be concise and formulaic, offering very little by way of paraphrase or literary content and focusing on letter recipients, attribution and generic designations (letter and gospel),⁵² there are still multiple ways in which titles can vary, including the spelling of proper names (26), corrections within titles (22), orthographic variations that lead to unusual spellings or morphological uncertainty (24), ambiguous bilingualism (16) and titles that deviated from early traditions (2).

These textual peculiarities pale in comparison with the variety of ways in which the titles are designed and laid out vis-à-vis the main text. In cases where the material is sufficiently preserved, multiple strategies distinguish titles from the texts they label. For example, the two inscriptions to John (P66 and P75) share essentially the same text but are presented in different ways and were added at different stages in each manuscript's history of usage. The title in P66, added by a secondary hand, is centred above the first line of text on a new folio and set off from the gospel text by negative space and horizontal dashes that frame the title. It is composed in one line and preserves a glyph between $\epsilon\upsilon\alpha\gamma\gamma\epsilon\lambda\iota\omicron\nu$ and $\kappa\alpha\tau\alpha$. The aesthetics of the inscription in P75 are not wildly different from P66, but notable differences are present. The title in P66 is also centre-justified and framed by horizontal dashes, but it shares page space with the end of Luke. The titles on this folio were also executed by the same scribe who copied the main text. They are pre-planned parts of the first production layer. The early titular tradition of the New Testament is far from unconstrained but numerous textual, aesthetic, scribal and design variables exist that make the titles a continuing locus of change throughout the New Testament's transmission. Among other factors, it is these variables that underwrite the complex titular and paratextual developments which become central to the New Testament's transmission from late antiquity onward.

Within these possibilities of variation, there are also examples of consistent scribal execution, the prime example being the nearly identical inscriptions and subscriptions to the Petrine Letters and Jude in P72, even though they were produced by different scribes. P46 too is largely consistent in its titles, preserving inscriptions for every extant Pauline letter (except Romans, where the start of the work is lost) and following a mostly consistent set of segregation, layout and design techniques. The inclusion of a subscription to 2 Corinthians, the only subscription present in P46, can be explained as a way to fill the end of the folio since the next work (Ephesians) begins on a new sheet. But even in manuscripts where paratexts are largely consistent, variation exists due to bespoke scribal, aesthetic or material issues specific to a particular codex and its contexts of production and subsequent use.

More broadly, this material offers a vantage point from which to compare the production of early manuscripts that preserve the New Testament with other literatures that were copied on papyrus. For example, Francesca Schironi notes that the name Homer ($\text{OMHPO}\Sigma$) never appears in the titular formulations attached to papyri of the *Iliad* and *Odyssey*. Instead, most subscriptions are composed in two lines with the name of

⁵² The *kephalaia* titles in P3 are obvious exceptions.

Table 1: Summary of Titles in the Papyri

#	GA	Type	Work	Text	Initial Production Layer?
1	P3	<i>keph.</i> 21	Luke	[ευ]αγγελιον [περι της αλει]ψα[σης] τον κ̄ν μυρ[ω]	yes
2	P3	inscription?	Luke	ευαγγελιο]ν του αγιου λουκα	yes
3	P3	<i>keph.</i> 37	Luke	πε]ρι μαρθας και μαρ[ιας	yes
4	P4	inscription?	Matthew	ευαγγελιον κατα μαθ'θαιον	?
5	P26	inscription	Romans	προς ρ]ωμα[ι]ους	yes
6	P46	inscription	Hebrews	προς εβραιους	yes
7	P46	inscription	1 Corinthians	προς κορινθιους ᾱ	yes
8	P46	inscription	2 Corinthians	προς κορινθιους β̄	yes
9	P46	subscription	2 Corinthians	προς κορινθιους β̄	yes
10	P46	inscription	Ephesians	προς εφεσιους	yes
11	P46	inscription	Galatians	προς γαλατας	yes
12	P46	inscription	Philippians	προς φιλιππησιους	yes
13	P46	inscription	Colossians	προς κολασσαεις	yes
14	P46	inscription	1 Thessalonians	προς [θεσσαλονι]κεις [ᾱ]	yes
15	P61	subscription	Titus	πρoς [τιτον	?
16	P62	inscription?	Matthew	π]εγα[τ]ηλιον [πκα]τ]α μαθαιος [ευαγ]γγελιον [κατα μαθθαιον?]	?
17	P66	inscription	John	ευαγγελιον κατα ιωαννην	no?
18	P72	inscription	1 Peter	πετρου επιστολη ᾱ	yes
19	P72	subscription	1 Peter	πετρου επιστολη ᾱ	yes
20	P72	inscription	2 Peter	πετρου επιστολη β̄	yes
21	P72	subscription	2 Peter	πετρου επιστολη β̄	yes
22	P72	inscription	Jude	ιουδα επειστολη] ιουδα επειστολη	yes
23	P72	subscription	Jude	ιουδα επειστολη	yes
24	P74	subscription	Acts	πραξις [απ]οστολων	yes
25	P75	subscription	Luke	ευαγγελιον κατα λουκαν	yes
26	P75	inscription	John	ευαγγελιον κατα ιωαννην	yes

the work followed by a book number, located below the final line of text ‘after a significant interlinear space’.⁵³ A nearly identical composition of the titles occurs in the Pauline corpus: Paul is never mentioned by name, the only subscription to Paul (2 Corinthians in P46) preserves the book number on a second line, and nearly every title to Paul is separated from the text by negative space and glyphs of various kinds.

Schironi suggests that ‘Homer’ is absent from titles because the ‘the two poems themselves clearly overshadowed that of their author (or authors) for ancient readers ... the title alone was sufficient for identifying the work’.⁵⁴ This observation may, at least in part, explain the early forms of the Pauline letters. The scribes responsible for P46 probably viewed Paul’s authorship of the letters as an uncontested question, even for Hebrews, which is located between Romans and 1 Corinthians. Explicit identification of Paul in the title is then unnecessary since his name is the first word in each letter preserved in P46 except Hebrews. Nonetheless, it is striking that neither Paul’s nor Homer’s name is associated in their early titular traditions, even though the names of purported authors of the other New Testament works like the Gospels and Catholic Epistles are entrenched parts of the traditions, as is the case with other classical works such as the writings of Hesiod and many grammarians.⁵⁵ The early forms of titles in the New Testament are constrained by broader traditions of entitling present in the eastern Mediterranean, but even within this framework different approaches to identifying purported authors are preserved alongside one another, with the Gospels (focusing on authorial personae) and Paul (lacking any mention of the author) on either end of the spectrum.

Most of the titles I have catalogued here are inscriptions. Schironi notes that inscriptions, what she calls ‘beginning-titles’, are rare in papyrus scrolls that contain hexametric poetry, even if they are more prevalent in prose texts.⁵⁶ She attributes the development of inscriptions to the invention of the codex, a form that also influenced the titular traditions in later Homeric scrolls.⁵⁷ Although Schironi overplays the significance of the connection between book-form and paratextual traditions, there is little doubt that the codex enabled new opportunities for paratextual development as the late ancient work of the likes of Origen and Eusebius shows. The titles in the papyri represent early experiments with paratextuality in the context of the codex, precursors to more developed paratextual systems that define the New Testament’s transmission, even if the relationship between book-form, paratext and text layout are not simple to define.

The complexity of the titles in these manuscripts, produced in a period where the codex form was slowly overtaking the prevalence of the roll, which enabled new opportunities to cultivate and change paratextual traditions, also offers insight into our current moment when it comes to the medium through which scholars engage the New Testament. Like the scribes of P46 and P72, for example, we straddle two distinct but overlapping cultures, this time the print and the digital. In this space, we are still only beginning to grapple with the digital form of scholarly tools and outputs like the critical edition. At least when it comes to the New Testament, the printed critical edition is a powerful tool, honed in an ever-developing culture of print, the *Editio Critica Maior* being the most sophisticated and recent iteration. Modern critical editions of the New Testament are concerned primarily with purely textual issues: the reconstruction of an initial text or some other early text form, cataloguing the significant points of variation and offering access to the textual tradition without having to consult far-flung

⁵³ Schironi, *TO MEFA BIBAION*, 22–4, at 23.

⁵⁴ Schironi, *TO MEFA BIBAION*, 22–3.

⁵⁵ See Schironi, *TO MEFA BIBAION*, 63–8.

⁵⁶ See also Caroli, *Il titolo iniziale*, 52–60.

⁵⁷ Schironi, *TO MEFA BIBAION*, 24.

manuscripts. But images of most of the New Testament's manuscripts are available online, and scholars are nowadays privy to the open secret that editions are, by definition and necessity, highly selective, bracketing out for the most part the paratexts endemic to the manuscript tradition and (rightly) ignoring most manuscripts and their features altogether. Now more than ever it is clear that our modern critical editions do not represent *the* text of the New Testament but are important tools that function as guides to accessing the textual and manuscript traditions of these works. And tools can be changed or supplemented to meet new demands.

In the digital realm, the critical edition is becoming a resource that is potentially more powerful in its multimodality because images, transcriptions and other metadata can contextualise the textual choices of editors encoded in printed editions. The mass digitisation of manuscripts and the development of collaborative editorial platforms like the New Testament Virtual Manuscript Room have created a situation where we can now turn our editorial attention to the liminal but omnipresent features of the tradition to locate the past 300 years of textual scholarship within the material spaces from which these texts were initially abstracted. Features like the titles are one vector for considering the future of the critical edition, the critical value of paratexts for interpretation and reception, and the many anonymous people who read, annotated and copied sacred traditions from the second century onward. One thing is for sure: just as we continue to work with this material a century after Milligan, so too will scholars of future generations continue to read the papyri, even if it is not yet clear in what medium they will be doing so.

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