

SHIN BOOK & PAPER CONSERVATION

TREATMENT REPORT

Item(s):	Three papyrus fragments and three palm leaf manuscripts		
Owner:	Mahn Center for Archives and Special Collections, Ohio University Libraries		
Conservator:	Yungjin Shin	Date of Report:	August 27, 2025
Total Hours:	22.5 hours		

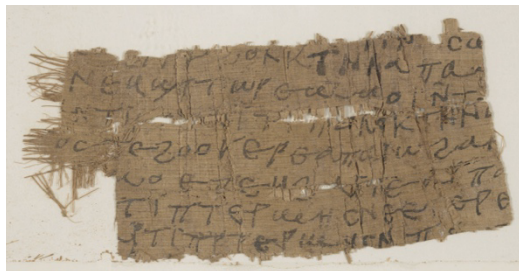
1. Description & Condition



Item #: [Pftp foo3](#)
Title: *Papyrus leaf fragment from Book of the Dead*
Location: Egypt
Date: ca. 1500-1100 BCE
Dimensions: 8.3cm x 22.9cm

Description: A papyrus fragment with black, white, and red media. It is currently housed in a plastic sleeve with a board support.

Condition: The papyrus appears to be in stable condition, although the stability of the media is uncertain.



Item #: [Pftp foo5](#)
Title: *Papyrus leaf fragment*
Location: Egypt or Greece
Date: ca. 100 BCE – 100 CE
Dimensions: 6.4cm x 13.3cm

Description: A papyrus fragment with black media. It is currently housed in a plastic sleeve with a board support.

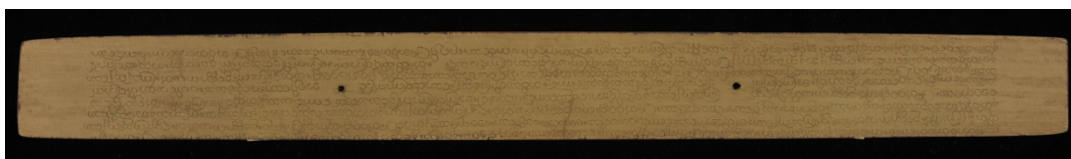
Condition: The papyrus is in poor condition. It has vertical creases and small losses. The edges are frayed with broken fibers. The stability of the media is uncertain.



Item #: [Pftp_f006](#)
Title: *Papyrus leaf fragment*
Location: Middle East
Date: 9th century
Dimensions: 8.3cm x 12.1cm

Description: A papyrus fragment with black media. It is currently housed in a plastic sleeve with a board support.

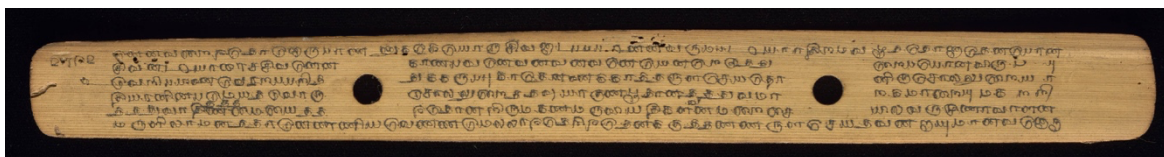
Condition: The papyrus is in poor condition. It has horizontal creases, folded edges, and small losses. The edges are frayed and misaligned. The stability of the media is uncertain.



Item #: [Pftp_f158](#)
Title: *Manuscript leaf from a Paritta*
Location: Myanmar
Date: 1875
Dimensions: 4.4cm x 45.7cm

Description: A palm leaf with inscriptions in black media on both sides and two holes.

Condition: The leaf appears to be in stable condition. Two hinge fragments are attached to the verso.



Item #: [Folio-east_f14a](#)
Title: *Buddhist palm-leaf manuscript*
Location: Sri Lanka
Date: 18th century
Dimensions: 2.9cm x 28.2cm

Description: A palm leaf with inscriptions in black media on both sides and two holes.

Condition: The leaf appears to be in stable condition. It has minor pest damage.



Item #: [Folio-east f14b](#)

Title: *Buddhist palm-leaf manuscript*

Location: Myanmar

Date: 18th century

Dimensions: 5.5cm x 50.0cm

Description: A palm leaf with inscriptions in brown media on both sides and two holes.

Condition: The palm leaf is cleanly split vertically at the center but otherwise appears stable. Some areas of the writing are obscured, possibly due to abrasion.

2. Testing Notes

- Friability was tested using a dry brush under a stereomicroscope. Solubility was tested by adding a small droplet of the solution to each medium and blotting it out, also under a stereomicroscope.

Item #	Media	Friability	Solubility in Water	Solubility in 50:50 Water:Ethanol
Pftp_foo3	Black, Red, White, Yellow	All pigments are flaking and friable	Insoluble	Insoluble
Pftp_foo5	Black	Slightly friable	Insoluble	Insoluble
Pftp_foo6	Black	Slightly friable	Insoluble	Insoluble

3. Treatment & Rehousing Report

Item #	Treatment & Rehousing Report	Treatment Hours
Pftp_foo3	- Consolidated the flaking media using 1% gelatin. - Re-adhered lifting papyrus fibers using 1% methylcellulose. - Trimmed a 4-ply matboard to the same size with the Gorilla Glass sheets. Then, cut a window to the size of the papyrus + 0.25" around. - Attached strips of Usu Mino Thin as hinges to the edges of papyrus verso using wheat starch paste. - Attached the other ends of the hinges to the back of the mat board using paste. - Assembled all three layers, [glass – window mat with papyrus – glass], and sealed the edges using Tyvek tape.	2 hours

Pftp_foos	1. Straightened the creases and folded fibers preliminarily by local humidification, applying water+ethanol (50:50) solution using a small brush. 2. Blotter-washed the papyrus in water+ethanol in five rounds, 1-hour and then 30-minute each, total of three hours. 3. Realigned and reattached loose fibers using 1% methylcellulose. 4. Reinforced areas with losses and tears using 1% methylcellulose and acrylic-toned Tengujo (9gsm) tissues. 5. Humidified for 1 hour and then dried/flattened for 12 days. 2 hours <i>* Dimensions after treatment: H 8.2cm x W 11.8cm</i> 6. Trimmed a 4-ply matboard to the same size with the Gorilla Glass sheets. Then, cut a window to the size of the papyrus + 0.25" around. 7. Attached strips of Usu Mino Thin as hinges to the edges of papyrus verso using wheat starch paste. 8. Attached the other ends of the hinges to the back of the mat board using paste. 9. Assembled all three layers, [glass – window mat with papyrus – glass], and sealed the edges using Tyvek tape.	7 hours
Pftp_foo6	1. Straightened the creases and folded fibers preliminarily by local humidification, applying water+ethanol (50:50) solution using a small brush. 2. Blotter-washed the papyrus in water+ethanol in three rounds, 1-hour and then 30-minute each, total of three hours. 3. Realigned and reattached loose fibers using 1% methylcellulose. 4. Reinforced areas with losses and tears using 1% methylcellulose and acrylic-toned Tengujo (9gsm) tissues. 5. Humidified for 1 hour and then dried/flattened for 12 days. <i>* Dimensions after treatment: H 8.8cm x 10.1cm</i> 6. Trimmed a 4-ply matboard to the same size with the Gorilla Glass sheets. Then, cut a window to the size of the papyrus + 0.25" around. 7. Attached strips of Usu Mino Thin as hinges to the edges of papyrus verso using wheat starch paste. 8. Attached the other ends of the hinges to the back of the mat board using paste. 9. Assembled all three layers, [glass – window mat with papyrus – glass], and sealed the edges using Tyvek tape.	7 hours
Pftp_f158	1. Removed the tapes on verso using 4% methylcellulose poultice. 2. Created a double sink mat made of Volara foam and mat board with Mylar windows. The mat is secured with two magnets on one side and Tyvek tape on the other.	2.5 hours
Folio-east_f14a	1. Created a double sink mat made of Volara foam and mat board with Mylar windows. The mat is secured with two magnets on one side and Tyvek tape on the other.	2 hours

Folio-east_f14b	1. Created a double sink mat made of Volara foam and mat board with Mylar windows. The mat is secured with two magnets on one side and Tyvek tape on the other.	2 hours
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4. Photo Documentation

All treated items were photo documented. Before and after treatment images are available in the following [shared drive](#). Photos will be retained for 30 days from the report date—make sure to download them before then. Please reach out if you have any trouble accessing the images.

5. Materials Used:

- Water + Ethanol 50:50 mix
- 1% gelatin (photographic grade)
- 1% & 4% methylcellulose
- Zen Shofu wheat starch paste
- Jade 403 PVA Adhesive
- Golden acrylics
- Tengujo machine-made ggsm
- Uso Mino Thin 12gsm
- Volara foams (1/8" thickness)
- Mat boards (4-ply)
- 10pt. Heritage Archival Bristol Boards
- 3-mil Mylar sheets
- Scratch-Resistant Corning Gorilla Glass, Impact-Resistant (0.0472" thickness)
- Rare earth magnets
- Tyvek tape
- 3M 415 double sided tapes