

The Masora Quires Appended to the Aleppo Codex — According to a Copy Found in S. Baer's Archives

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The Aleppo Codex — the Bible manuscript vocalized and accentuated by the Masorete Aharon ben Moshe ben Asher — is the most important manuscript dating from the masoretic period. For this reason, any evidence relating to the lost parts of the Codex is extremely significant. According to various descriptions of the Codex, we know that, both at its beginning and end, there were pages of material resembling “Grammar of the Masora” as well as various masoretic lists. There is also evidence of copies having been made of this masoretic material. One of these copies was made for A. Firkovich, and found its way to S. Baer and H.L. Strack, who made use of it in their edition of *Sefer Diquduqe Ha-Te'amim*.

I have recently been successful in locating the archives of Yitzhak Seligman Baer amongst the manuscripts of the Ginsburg Collection in Moscow. These archives contain a complete copy of the masoretic material included in the Aleppo Codex before the Bible text and after it. The paper deals with the content and the history of this copy, and considers in detail an important masoretic note from this material, concerning the spelling of the Aramaic words used in the Bible. A comparison of this note with other masoretic notes in Cod. Sassoon 1053 (S1), leads us to the conclusion that the Masorete of MS. S1 saw the Aleppo Codex, and then copied and compiled masoretic notes from it.

There is good evidence that the quires appended to the Aleppo Codex were already there in the eleventh century. Despite this, the examination of two lists in Baer's copy, dealing with composite words in the Bible and verses containing a *Paseq* sign, arouses doubts as to whether in fact this Masoretic material was really written by Aharon ben Asher, the masorete of the Codex.