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A Masoretic Reworking of *Maḥberet Menaḥem*

MS. St. Petersburg, Russian National Library, Evr. II C 1, a pentateuchal manuscript with Masorah and Saadya Gaon's Arabic translation of the Pentateuch, contains unique masoretic rubrics that exhibit an ancient and surprising link between an early Hebrew grammarian and a prominent masorete. Shmuel ben Ya'aqov, also the scribe and masorete of the well-known Leningrad Bible (MS. St. Petersburg, Russian National Library, Evr. I B19a), here utilized Menaḥem ben Saruq's *Maḥberet Menaḥem*, incorporating more than one hundred reworked entries from this dictionary in his masoretic rubrics.

In each of the rubrics in question, Shmuel ben Ya'aqov chose a word from the biblical text and identified the matching root from *Maḥberet Menaḥem*. He then recorded the specific root's different meanings, citing one verse to illustrate each connotation. This proved a convenient tactic whenever Shmuel ben Ya'aqov encountered difficulty creating appropriate masoretic comments for the few verses appearing on each page.

Full citations of all the masoretic rubrics based on *Maḥberet Menaḥem* are found in the appendix. The body of the article treats aspects of this phenomenon: its significance, the masorete's techniques of condensing and reworking Menaḥem's entries, the language and linguistic terminology found in the rubrics, and errors made by the masorete.