Ian Christie-Miller

Introduction

In the first place this note is a celebration of the recent decision by the British Library management to allow carefully controlled use of cameras by readers. In addition it is an example of the way in which the use of backlighting of substrates (watermarks in paper in this instance) provides a productive fresh dimension to research.

This note concerns the three British Library copies of *Psalterium in quatuor linguis: Hebraea, Graeca, Chaldaea* [i.e. Ethiopic], *Latina* (Cologne, 1518) (BL, 2.b.6; G.12093; 686.i.1) by Joannes Soter and Joannes Potken.

Potken (c. 1470-c. 1525) was provost of the collegiate church of St Georg in Köln, but his appointment as a papal proto-notary brought him to the Roman curia and there he became acquainted with Ethiopian churchmen. Curious about their worship, he attended services at their church in Rome, the church of Santo Stefano degli Abissini (the Ethiopian community was well established in Rome by the sixteenth century and had been granted a church of their own by Pope Sixtus IV in 1479), and started to learn Ge'ez, the language of the Ethiopian church liturgy. His teacher was an Ethiopian friar, abbas Thomas Walda Samuel, then residing in Rome as the guest of Pope Leo X.

Eventually Potken felt himself competent enough in his command of the language to set about publishing the Psalms and the Song of Solomon in Ge'ez. As no books had been printed in this language before, Potken had to commission the cutting of founts of type in Ge'ez script himself. One of Potken's sources for the text was a manuscript Ge'ez Psalter which still survives in the Vatican Library (Vat. etiop. 20). It is the main sources for his *Psalterium David et cantica aliqua in lingua Chaldea* (Rome, 1513).

Potken's *Psalterium in quatuor linguis: Hebraea, Graeca, Chaldaea Latina* (Cologne, 1518) has the distinction of being the first Polyglot to include Ge'ez,² which he wrongly considered to be the Aramaic or Chaldean language.

A high quality version of *Psalterium* is available on line from Munich: https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=s3vv-g8w3tQC&printsec=frontcover&source=gbs_ge_summary_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q&f=false

For the first printed book to include Ge'ez see Bernhard von Breydenbach, *Peregrinatio in terram sanctam* (Mainz, 1486). For the first book printed almost entirely in Ge'ez see Joannes Potken, *Psalterium David et cantica aliqua in lingua Chaldea (the Psalms, followed by Sacred Canticles and the Song of Songs)* (Rome, 1513). These notes courtesy of King's College London as at http://www.kingscollections.org/exhibitions/specialcollections/psalter1513/

1. Methodology

All the pages of the three British Library copies of the *Psalterium* were examined by the author for watermarks using the electroluminescent light sheet in the Rare Books Room. The physical description of the book is given as 4, 144 leaves; fol. and 4to. The books are folios bound in sixes. There are twenty-three gatherings: a-i, l-u, x, y, ç and &. Each gathering is of three sheets. So for each gathering one watermark is expected on the first or the sixth page; one watermark is expected on the second or the fifth page; one watermark is expected on the third or the fourth page. There is one exception. Neither sii nor siii on copy 686.i.1 has a watermark.

The image capture method called for the light sheet to be placed under each sheet in turn. A transparent rule was laid on the page and the electroluminescent light was turned on. The image of the watermark and rule were then captured, in two sessions, with a hand-held camera. The book is in four languages so the four languages are in separate columns. Consequently the watermarks, being placed centrally in the pages, were between columns and therefore generally not overprinted.

Images were processed off-site (Photoshop) and integrated into a datafile (Filemaker Pro).

2. The watermarks

The following watermarks are found in much the same order in the three books: Shields (various); Jugs; Star with circle; Gothic P; Crown/shield/sun/letter 'h'; Gothic 'y'; Hand; Bull's head; Dog with trefoil; Dog without trefoil; Wheel; (none); Unicorns (various).

The on-line Memory of Paper datafile has been invaluable not only in allowing all the watermarks to be identified but in allowing the known distribution of those watermarks to be mapped.³ For instance, consider the hand watermark (fig. 1).



Fig. 1. Hand watermark from 686.i.1 gathering '1' outer sheet.

In copy G.2093 it appears once in each of gatherings l, n, o and p. In copy 2.b.6 it occurs once in each of gatherings l and m, and in copy 686.i.1 once in each of gatherings l, n and p.

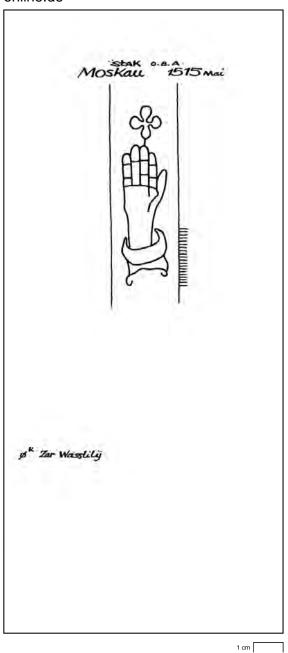
http://www.memoryofpaper.eu:8080/BernsteinPortal/appl_start.disp#

A search for 'quadrefoil' and 'hand' for the years 1515-1521 allowed that hand watermark to be identified. By way of example the Bernstein datafile pdf about the 1515 Moscow watermark is fig. 2.

Wasserzeichen-Informationssystem

DFG

www.wasserzeichenonline.de



Wasserzeichen-Informationssystem

DFG

www.wasserzeichen-online.de

Referenznummer DE4620-PO-155312

Permalink http://www.wasserzeichen-online.de/wzis/?ref=DE4620-PO-155312

Motivgruppe Figuren, anthropomorphe - Hand/Handschuh - mit Beizeichen - Blume/Blatt/Stern - vierblättrig -

ohne weiteres Beizeichen - Manschette dreidimensional - mit Fingerglieder - Manschette zweiteilig

Quelle Deutschland, Königsberg, Staatsarchiv (jetzt in: Geheimes Staatsarchiv Preußischer Kulturbesitz

Berlin), Königsberg, O.B.A.

1515, Moskau

Aussteller: Zar Wasslilij

Papier

Abmessungen || 23 mm, Breite 16 mm, Höhe 61 mm

Piccard-Online http://www.piccard-online.de/?nr=155312

Piccard-Findbücher Online http://www.ksbm.oeaw.ac.at/_scripts/php/loadRepWmark.php?rep=PPO&refnr=17-3-758

(Band 17, Abteilung 3, Nr. 758)

Fig. 2. Entries from Bernstein Memory of Paper site.

Further use of the datafile allows the distribution to be mapped, as in fig. 3.



Fig. 3. Distribution of quadrefoil hand watermark 1515-1521.

The distribution is similar to the posts of the Hanseatic League as in fig. 4.

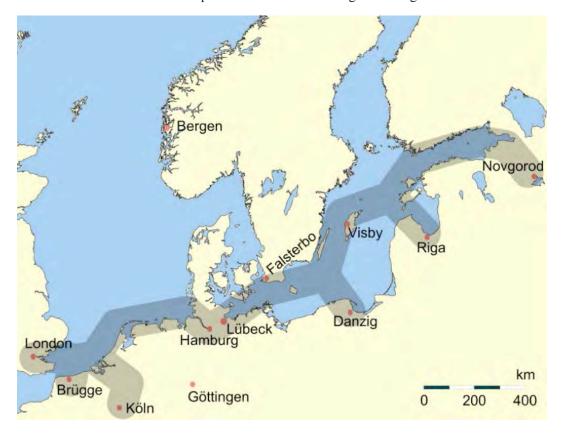


Fig. 4. Hanseatic League posts.

5

This coincidence is even more evident when all the watermarks in the three books are mapped as in fig. 5.

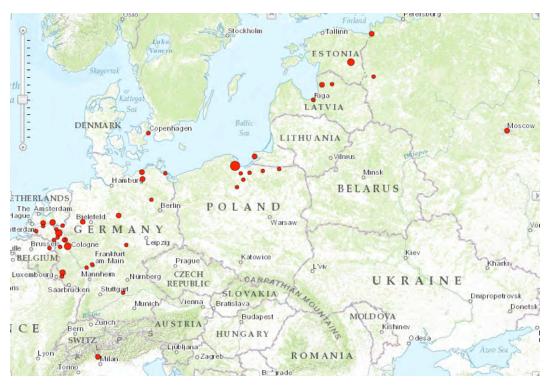


Fig. 5. Map of all watermarks from Psalterium.

In the main the paper has been distributed and come to rest in the area of the Hanseatic League posts. Noteworthy escapees are in Milan and Moscow. Cologne, the place of printing of *Psalterium*, is favourably placed. This highlights the geographical advantage of Cologne for cultural and commercial purposes.

3. Current locations of Psalterium

A search of known locations of *Psalterium* gives numerous locations in Europe, one in Israel and three in the USA (fig. 6).



Fig. 6. Map of known copies of Psalterium.

4. Comparison of layout of Psalterium with the Complutensian Polyglot

Comparison of the layout of the *Psalterium* with its very much grander but contemporary multi-language religious work, the *Complutensian Polyglot Bible*, is indicative of different world views.

The Complutensian Polyglot Bible, under the direction of the Spanish Cardinal Francisco Jiménez de Cisneros (1436–1517), was published in 600 large six-volume sets. Only 123 are known to have survived. It was probably not widely distributed before 1522. Figure 7 shows the layout of versions of one of the Psalms.

Hebrew Latin Greek

Patina be. Tex. beb. poxtviii. Trafla B. Dicro. Traf. Gre. lex. cu interp. latina,

יבנעם יהוה ילכקר י בהיכלוו 'כר 'הבל יצפנני ! נסכה " ניום "רעה 'צפו ספר יסתיהני "נסתר "אהלו , נצור "רוע סייר. ירוכפניו 'ועתה'ירום'ראשיעל ירום 'איבי 'סביבתי," ואז נחה ' לאהלו 'פני 'ומ זבחי 'תרועה 'אשירה 'ואזפרה 'הע לירוה: 'שופע'ירוה'קולי "אברא שור"ופר "וחני 'עוני ו" לך "אפר " לבי "פרא "וחני " עוני ו" לך "אפר " לבי בקשו 'פני , את 'פליך 'יהוה יפנים' 'אבקש: "אל 'תסתר'פניך 'נכני 'נמש' סתר אלתט'באף'עבדה עזרתי היית 'נטה' אלתט'באף אל תששני ואל תעובני שלהי שני ישעיו 'כי "אכי 'ואפי "עזבוני ' ויתוה' ואספניו ' הודני ' יתוח 'אסף'ינה י דרבר בישור 'בארח' מישור 'מח'ישר לפען שולכיו "אל תחנני ננפש יחן 'צַרָי, "כִי 'קֹמו בִי עַדִי 'שֹקר 'וְיבָּח 'צור 'קום 'חמס: 'לולא "האמנתי ' לראות שנד שפו 'בְּטוב'יהוה בֹצִרץ 'הייםו ' קוח ^{'בְּאַה} אל יהוה חוק ניאכץ לפר וקוה אפין אלירורו. בעיווו. לדור אליך יהוה אכרא צורי אל יתא 'תַחַרַשׁ 'מָפֶּנִי, 'פָן ' מָחָשֵׁה 'כְּפָּנִי, 'חְרְשׁ'רְשׁר "ונמשלתי עם יורדי בורו שפע "פשל ינד קול 'תחנוני צשועי איר, ' בנשאר 'תו ידי אל דביר קדשר: אל תפשפני דבר 'פשר עם רשעים ועם פעלי אין דברי שלום "עם רעירם ורעה נלננסו שלם רעה 'תוליהם בפעלם וברע מעדליהם "רג"יהו 'פַפַעשה ' יְדִיהָם 'תן לֹהֶם ' הַשׁב ^{''צְלְל 'עַשַּׁח} שוב' נְפַל ופולם 'לָרֶסוּ 'כִי'לא'יְנִינוּ'אֶל יבִיני פעלת יהוה 'ואל "פעשה " ידיו. יררכם ולא יבנם: 'ברוף ירוה 'פי הכס" מח שבעקול תחנוניו 'יהוה 'עזר'ופנני בנר'תיו בו בטחילבי ונעורתי ויעלו ילבי יעלושור

colorate dois to chief to phe service control to the service control

Relation of the state of the st

Fig. 7. Complutensian Polyglot - Psalm.

וֹכְשִירָו ' אַהוֹדְנוו 'יְהוָה " עז יֹיָה



Fig. 8. Complutensian Polyglot - Prologue.

The Latin is placed prominently in the centre of the page, as is explained in the Prologue:

Mediam autem inter has latinam beati Hieronymi translationem velut inter Synagogam & Orientalem Ecclesiam posuimus: tanquam duos hinc & inde latrones medium autem Iesum hoc est Romanam siue latinam Ecclesiam collocantes. [We have placed the Latin translation of the blessed Jerome between that of the Synagogue and that of the Oriental Church, just as the thieves were hung, one on each side of Jesus, that is, the Roman, or Latin, Church.]

Psalterium, in contrast, gives no such prominence to Latin. All four languages are given equal prominence. It is suggested that this openness is indicative of the more welcoming attitude to scholarship of the age of Erasmus.

Ge'ez Latin Greek Hebrew ማዝው C: HR ዊት:: Ψαλώστο Δαβίλ. κέ (πύσκο απέμε Plalmus ipli Dauid. XXVII. (me: I TI TEN: ANA: KEAN: AGONF: OLTE π Ρος σε κύριε κεκριξοιιαι, ο θεός μα μιλ παράσιο -μισστε παρασιωσικό απείως και ομοιωθισομαι τοις D te dñe clamabo deº meº ne silea: a ohon: thoons: hnor: how: ho. 2.00 ne quando taceas a me: & affirmilabor פון תו שיו שורו מפני וופשלתי E:ውስተ:ግብ:: עם־ירדי בור ו שפע קול החטיני בשועי אל ה בגשאי ידי אל דביר קרשה ו descendentibus in lacum» καταβαίνεοιμεις λάκκομ. (שמו עב הנים סב . Boardi dñe pocê departióis mæ dữ oro adce: 2 ከምህኒያ: እግሊአ: ውስ: ስአለት የ: ዘጃሬ ሚካታ፣ ቤኒክ: Eroanson night his pavile his Achoras me, th ha Acto-ፅብ:ጸኝ/ሠእ፡አደዊያ፡በድርሐ:መቅደስከ:: ኢትስሐባ፡ወስለ:ኃዋልኝ፡ለ≨ፋስያ:: dü extollo manus meas ad replü fanciü tuü. हम नेक वार्त्य मह प्रहेवड मह महेवड प्रकेष कर वर्ष कर . Ne fimul tradas me cum peccatoribus; Μὶ συνελικύσκε με μετα αμαστωλάψ. אלתשכני עם רשעים のえずつかんだ:のかか:つれてす:マのリ:: & cum operatibus iniquitate ne perdas me . κή μεθα ές Γαζομένων αλικίαν μι ονναπολές κε με ... ועם־פעלי און 4 አለ: ይችናገራ:ሰባው:ውስለ:ቢሄው:: Q ui loquifur pacem cum proxmo fuo: mala autem in cordibus corum. Da illis fecundum opera corum: Των λαλώντων ειρίνην μετά τ ω λυοίου άντου-הברי שלום עם־רעינק ወስኩደ:ውስተ:ልቦሙ:: הברי שירם עם כעיקם הער בלכבם י הרלע כעל ליתם הרכע כעל ליתם משב גם לסלקם משב גם לסלקם כ' לא צינו אל בעלות והד ואל העשה בעלות והד ואל העשה היבון υπιά εξενταϊο κας Αίαιο άνταψ ร บกละกาดะดวกผละ Δο કે લેપમાં કે માં મુખ્ય માત્રો મેં માત્ર હોય કે માત્ર હોય કે માન્ય માત્ર કરવા માત્ર મા onno: hnp:ሕሊናሁው:: & secundii nequiria adinmentionii ipsorum. 6 GEP-O: Nho: 7-712: XPEU O:: Secundum opera manuű cos: tribuc illis: Κατά τα τεγα τ χειεομάντ λος αντώς. άπελος το ανταπολομαάντ, αντώς. APPORTERUOS:AVA:CONOS: redde retributione corum ipfis. 7 አስመ: ኢሐላዩ: ውስተ: የብረ: አግዚአብሔር:: Q m no intellexerunt opera dni: Όθι ε συνδιαφει ε τα εξε γα κυξίου. ወኢውስተ: ግብረ: አደዊሁ:: & in opera manuum eius Theo:ortheron: Kabends autos is misiko nomiceis autos. Eunopidos kúgios od elokusce dis podius tiis nekatais mis destrue illos: & no edificabis cos. יחרסם ולא יבנם יְחָרֵ עֵי וּפָנְנִי בַּרוֹךָ שֵׁ כִּי -שָׁבַע קוֹל תַּחַנוֹנֵי וּ ይተባርክ:አግኒአብሱር:አስመ:ሰውህ፤ ቋለ: ስ Benedict das: qm exaudiuit uoce depeationis 8 Evelos Confes us 14 v m soco cos us. ATHAMAC: ZEAP: OOD AOTE:: Das adiutor me9 & protector meus: (mex. 9 ወበቱ:ተወከለ:ልብየ:ወ.ደረዮአኒ:: בּה מעדמ אֹא הוסבף א צמן אוֹמ עצ אַן בּ למוּאָיִּשְּׁיף. בו בטה לבי וגעורתי & in ipfo sperause cor meum & adiutus sum . ויעלוו לְבֵי to owan:xpp:: Καιανέθαλεμκοαςξμε. Et refloruit caro mea: ዘλφι. ቀድΡ: አለመና:: או בא שבאות מיס עם בלפעם אם או אסטומו מידים. & ex uoluntare mea confitebor ei. ומשירי ארדנו ו ዘ እግዚልብሎር፡ኃይሎው፡ው አተ፡ስሕዝብ። ውመአመኝ፡ውድ ዓኒት፡ሙሴሁ፡ው አቱ። Evels Realaisma 95 das avis, Dominus fortitudo plebisfuse: & procedior faluationii christifui est. (et tue: भू पत्रह्वकाओर के कामानिक मह प्रशास्त्र वर्ग है है। ובעון ישועות בשיחו הוא ו Σώσου το λαύμ σε κή εν λόγκουμ δην κληςονομία ν σε, και απόμα την καντές εως θε αιώνος. 12 APAT: MHAN: OACH: CATh:: הושיעה את עקר וכרך את יבדלתר ורש וגשאם ער בעולם ו פובור לבר Saluti fac populti tuti dhe & benedic heredica ፈለዮው:ወለልዕሎው:አስክ:ሰላለው:: ውዝሙር:ዘደዊት:ዘበያላተ:ተዕደንት:: & rege eos & extolle illos usque in æternum. Pfal. Da. i columnatione tabernacl's XXVIII. Yakuos ka Datin efons orogins. Kh I TT APEN: ANTHANAC: DAR: ARAN a afferte domino filij dei: NECKOTE TO KVOIO VID SES. አውጽት:ስእ?ዚልብሔር:አፕለ:ሐራጌት: 2 አውጽት:ስእ?ዚልብሔር:ክብረ:ወስብሔት:: כו ליהני הני אלים הבי ליהני בכור עו ז הבי ליהני בכור עו ז השתרוו ליהני בכוכת קוש ז קול יהני על בסים Afferte domino gloriam & honorem: Ενέγκατελο κυρίο διοξαρκού τιμήν, እውጽ ት: ስእ ጊዜ ልብ ሴር: ስብ ሴተ: ስስሙ :: ενέγκατε το κυρίο Λοξαμονοματι άννδ. προσκυνίσετε νο κυρίο εμάν λικά για άννδ. afferte domino gloria nomini eius: ስማደ:ሰእየዚልብሴር:በ⊽ጸደ:መቅደሱ:: adoratedomínum in aerio fancto eius. 3 ቀስ:እሚዚልብሔር:ሳዕስ:ብያት:: Vox domini super aquage שמוא אניפוצ בחו ד לאמישין. ልምሳክ:ስብሐት:ልንጉድጉድ:: אל הבבור הרעים deus maiestaris inconuit : O SEES THE SLOSHS EGEOVENOE, እግዚልብሔር:ሳዕለ፡መያት፡ብዙላ። 4 ቃለ፡እግዚልብሔር፡በኃይል። יהתי על בים רבים ו קול יהר בבח dominus fuper aquas multas. κύριος επί νλάθου πολλου. Vox domini in uirrute: uox domini in magnificentia. Povin Kveis in ioxvi. ። ተሰቡሰ: ዴብ∇በ: ኃሐቡ አምና: ላቂ קול יהור בהדר : Φωίν κυδιος επτελαγομές κεγιδας. קול יהוד שובר ארוים 5 ቃለ:እዚፋብሔር:,ይቀጠቅጥ:ልርዘ። ወደቀጠቅጥ:እዚፋብሔር:ለፋርዘ:ሊባናስ:: Vox domini cofringentis cedros: וַשְׁבֵר יְהֹנֶדְ אֶת־אַרְוּי הַּלְבְנוּן ז & confringer dominus cedros libani. Mannteifer Kneise Tas Kenese Te nicaven .

Fig. 9. Psalterium in quatuor linguis - 1518 - Psalms.

9

Conclusions

The research in this note has only been possible because of the recent British Library management decision to allow the personal use of cameras together with access to an electroluminescent light sheet. The author hopes that, in addition to adding to the store of knowledge about the 1518 *Psalterium in quatuor linguis: Hebraea, Graeca, Chaldaea* [i.e. Ethiopic], *Latina*, a convincing case has been made for the practical use of backlighting e.g. for watermark research. The concluding comparison of the layouts of *Psalterium* and of its contemporary the *Complutensian Polyglot*, together with revelations about the trade patterns linked to *Psalterium*, contribute to our understanding of the European Reformation.