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(p. 446) *THE OLDEST BIBLE.*

THE most ancient found volume of the Bible, containing, of course, only the Old Testament, is probably one in the possession of the Samaritans. It is written on sheets of papyrus, which are pressed smooth and strongly bound together, making a book nearly four inches thick. The cords across the back are stout and firmly fastened, and additional strength is imparted by wooden frames at either end the outside cover, which does not go across the back, and is simply papyrus, like the leaves (which are in this case really, leaves), only thicker. The book is supposed to have been written earlier than B. C. 263, more than two thousand years ago. It was certainly bound B. C. 241, for it was found in that year just as it is now, except that it is now somewhat the worse for wear. It has since been guarded with jealous care by the Samaritan chief priest. It was shown in 1866, by Selameh, to an American lady, Mrs. Eliza Rogers, who looked with great interest upon this precious relic.

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This reference is not located in *A Bibliography of the Samaritans, Third Edition, Revised, Expanded, and Annotated*, by Alan David Crown and Reinhard Pummer, ATLA Bibliography, No. 51, **The Scarecrow Press, Inc.** Lanham, Maryland, Toronto, Oxford. 2005

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