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Edited by George Edward Day
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(p. 208)

XL—SAMARITAN MANUSCRIPTS.

The *Athenaeum* of June 30, 1866, contains the substance of the Report of Mr. Deutsch, of the British Museum, on the photographs recently made in Palestine under the direction of the Committee of the Palestine Exploration Fund.

The first set of photographs consists of three representations of the most important scroll of the Samaritan Pentateuch used at Nablus—the only one existing in the form of a roll. Although purporting to be written by the great-grand-son of Aaron himself, it has, by modern investigators, together with the Samaritan Recension itself, been placed some centuries after Christ. There can, however, be no doubt as to its being, if not the very 'oldest, yet one of the oldest MSS. of that Recension. The silver case which incloses this scroll is particularly interesting, as representing in raised work the whole ground-plan of the Tabernacle, with all its sacred vessels and implements, together with the much-contested measures, etc., with corresponding inscriptions attached to each minute particle.

Two photographs are taken from different pages of another Samaritan Pentateuch, in quarto, also in sacred use among the Samaritans, and hardly less revered than the scroll. One of the pages taken contains the interesting interpolation which follows the Ten Commandments in the Samaritan Recension, and which refers to the holy mountain of Gerizim.

The most vital discovery, however, which Mr. Deutsch has been able to make has led to his full and complete restoration of probably the oldest Samaritan epigraph in existence. Conjectures and guesses, more or less correct, have been rife about it ever since 1814, when it was first published, by Rodiger, from a drawing made by Schultz. The monument in question consists of a stone immured (upside down) in the southern wall of a minaret belonging to a Mahomedan sanctuary, near Nablus. The last copy taken by Dr. Rosen in 1859 leaves three of its ten lines incomplete. Mr. Deutsch has been able to finish the reading of the whole stone, and thereby corroborates, in some instances, the happy conjectures made by Rodiger against Rosen and Plan. The contents of the stone are, an abbreviated form of the Ten Commandments as found in the Samaritan Recension, and other sentences.

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This reference is not listed 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