

A TIDBIT ON THE PERICOPE ADULTERÆ

courtesy: Mr. Gary S. Dykes

Typically the older Alexandrian manuscripts omit John 7:53 - 8:11, a text known as the "Pericope Adulteræ", or reposition it elsewhere.

For what it is worth, I present this interesting piece of information, here, as it is often overlooked.

It concerns some papyrus fragments from Egypt, published in 1926 in:

The Monastery of Epiphanius at Thebes, Publications of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, N.Y. Walter Crum and H. E. Winlock. H. G. Evelyn-White edited these fragments in volume 2.

The fragments received more attention in 1982 in DUMBARTON OAKS PAPERS: Number Thirty-Six. In an article by Carl Nordenfalk (pages 29-38), with full facsimiles.

These are fragments of Gospel Canon Tables! Found in/near the tomb of Daga (between Medinet-Habu and the Valley of the Kings). There in the sixth century Epiphanius took up residence. Found amongst his personal papers were a Gospel Book, with the Eusebian Harmony, the present fragments. The fragments date in the sixth century or a bit earlier, possibly A.D. 450-550. It is to be noted in the small portion (reproduced below) of the 15 fragments, that in John an extra digit is added to the usual sequence! This is explained in Nordenfalk's own words:

...all the numbers in the row for John are, from some number after seventy and before ninety-one, one digit ahead of the normal sequence. There can be only one explanation. The Gospel text must have contained the apocryphal pericope of the Woman Taken in Adultery (John 7:53-8:11), which was absent in the Gospel Book of Eusebius as well as in practically all the oldest codices which have been preserved. Not only was it included in our manuscript, but also, and more unusually, it was given a section number of its own, with the result that all the following sections had to be renumbered.

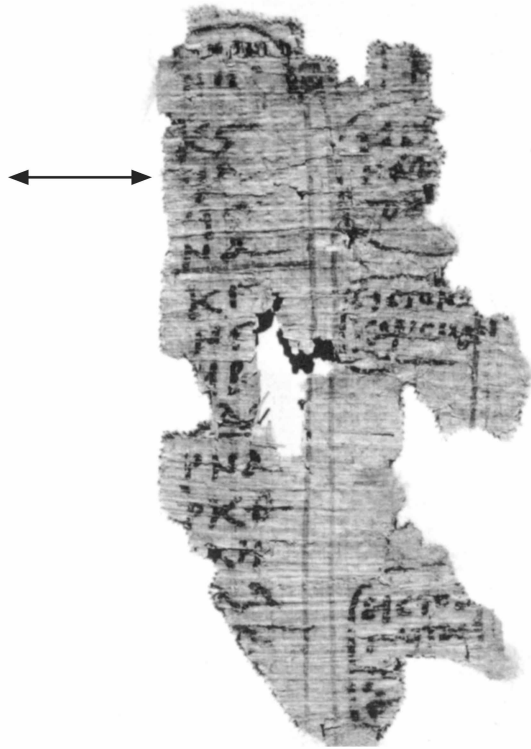
For a full explanation, I suggest you see the full article in DOP, number 36, 1982. From which the above quote comes from.

On the next and final page I have reproduced materials illustrating the canon table (for John) in part.

Reconstructed
Canon table

[καποη̄ επ ω οι τρεις]		
[μαθ- θαιος]	[μαρ- κος]	ιω[α]π- ηης.
.	.	κς
.	.	ϥα
.	.	ϥς
.	.	πα
.	.	κε
.	.	πε
.	.	ϥε̄
.	.	ρ]λς
.	.	ρπα
.	.	ρκθ
.	.	ρ]λη
.	.	ρ]λα
.	.	ϥ]θ
.	.	.
.	.	.
ς]ϥζ	ρον	ο
ςϥθ	ρπ	ρ]α
τζ	ρ]πι	ρ]ζε
τρ[α	σα	ρπα
τρ[ε	ς]α	ρϥε
.	.	ρ]πα
.	.	ρπ]ς
.	.	ρπ]η
[τλϥ	[ςρα	[ςα-]

Actual fragment



The above fragment is a small portion of the original papyrus fragments (GSD)