Author

**DESCRIPTION:**

**General Remarks**

This is a parchment manuscript scroll that contains the story of Ester written in Hebrew. The scroll's construction shows influences of a Torah's traditional assembly but is markedly different.

**Binding**

The edges of each section are folded over approximately 1/4 inch and sewn together along the folds with linen thread. There are 10 sewing stations on the fold of each sheet where each section is joined (a Torah contains 12). The stitch is NOT a traditional butterfly stitch that is usually sewn through the folded edge. Instead, each sheet is pierced through the side of the folds (like a side stitch) and linked to the adjacent sheet with another side stitch that is pierced through the folded edge of the other sheet. As the thread advances to the next sewing station, it rests along the outside seam of the two sheets rather than resting inside the folded edge as a Torah is sewn.

**Textblock**

The scroll consists of 5 parchment sheets.

**Primary Support**

The parchment is a medium thick skin, with two distinctly different colored sides. It is written on the softer white side of the skin. The backs of many parchment sheets are deep yellow in tone. Both sides are scraped.

**Medium**

Handwritten brown ink. The text is written in a style similar to a Torah but contains fewer lines of writing per column. There are three columns of text per sheet of parchment. The columns are written on lines that are faintly scratched into the skin. There are 29 lines of text per column.

**Attachments | Inserts**

There are no dowels.

**Housing**

The scroll was received in a single roll in a custom-made green flip top box.

**CONDITION:**

Wednesday, February 17, 2016
Summary
The scroll contains heavy dirt accumulation and tideline staining, but is in poor condition due to tears in the parchment along the edge of the back of the scroll. The top back corner is in danger of becoming lost. It is in severe need of an appropriately fitting enclosure.

Binding
The scroll appears to have been rolled backwards for many years, with the end of the scroll on the outside of the roll. As a result, the front of the scroll is tightly rolled and not easily accessible without putting the parchment as risk of creasing or tearing. The sewing is dirty from being exposed along the outside of the seams where the sheets are joined, however, it appears strong.

Textblock
There are 3-4 holes throughout the last two parchment sheets that appear to be indicative of the parchment making process and are not in eminent danger of further tearing. The parchment is creased and cockled throughout.

Primary Support
There is accumulated dirt and grime throughout the parchment support. It is particularly heavy at the last two sheets and along the tightly rolled front margin of the first sheet. The two sheets at the end of the scroll contain water damage that resulted in gelatinization of the skin, making it translucent, as well as tideline staining. The water damaged areas are still flexible and able to be gently rolled. The last parchment sheet that contains water damage also suffers from numerous tears along the edge of the parchment.

Medium
On the last two sheets, the ink is faded from water damage, however, the ink appears to be stable and not flaking.

Housing
Cloth clamshell

Housing Narrative
The enclosure is extremely tight fitting. It is constructed to the exact dimensions of the scroll. The flip-top lid has become detached. The only point of entry is from the top of the box which causes severe abrasion of the scroll when removed.

Attachments/Inserts
N/A

Previous Treatment
The first parchment sheet contains three parchment patches on the back of the scroll, located along the edge. These patches are coated in a layer of dirt and appear to be original to the construction of the scroll.

Materials Analysis
Much of the dirt accumulation is embedded into the parchment, especially in areas with water damage.

TREATMENT:

Proposal
1. Construct archival roll supports for handling.
2. Relax the front sheets of the scroll so they can be accessed.
3. Surface clean the parchment to remove loose dirt that might easily transfer.
4. Repair tears in the parchment along the edge of the last sheet.
5. House the scroll in an easily accessible enclosure.

**Housing Need**
Cloth clamshell

**Factors Influencing Treatment**
Because much of the parchment contains embedded dirt and grime, the scroll will appear dramatically cleaner after removing loose dirt.

**Performed Treatment**
1. Archival rolls were constructed out of Dove Gray paper, Jade 403 PVA, library board and 2” archival blue textile rolling tubes.
2. The front sheets of the scroll were gently relaxed open over a period of a few months onto the archival covered tubes.
3. The parchment was surface cleaned along the margins around the text and along the back overall with Absorbene smoke sponges.
4. The tears in the parchment along the edge of the last sheet were repaired with Sekishu tissue toned with Golden Acryics and Zen Shofu wheat starch paste.
5. A cloth covered clamshell was constructed to fit the scroll while rolled around two archival tubes.

**Housing Provided**
Cloth clamshell created by Chris Voynovich

**Housing Narrative**
Two archival 2” diameter tubes were covered in Dove Gray paper for storing with the scroll long-term. The tubes prevent the scroll from being too tightly rolled, as well as assist with handling. The cloth covered clamshell was modified to contain two Tyvek covered Ethafoam supports for the tubes to rest on at the top and bottom. The scroll is rolled onto the tubes and is suspended inside the enclosure so the scroll does not rest flat in any one place. Please see attached photograph documentation.

**Storage Recommendations and Handling notes**
It is recommended to view the scroll inside the opened enclosure by rolling the tubes within the Tyvek covered supports.

**TOTAL Treatment Time**
18.75
The Preservation Lab

Treatment Report Cont'd

i37044631_1021_A01N, Before Treatment

i37044631_1021_D01N, After Treatment

i37044631_1021_A07N, Before Treatment, tears along edge, verso

i37044631_1021_D04N, After Treatemnt, repaired tears, verso

thepreservationlab.org

Treatment Photography By: Jessica Ebert
Before Treatment, tears along left edge, recto

After Treatment, tears repaired, recto
Before Treatment, showing heavy dirt accumulation

Before Treatment, parchment is tightly rolled

After Treatment, parchment is relaxed