

## Terminology of Palaeographic Descriptions

(with the assistance of Eugen Han)

A complete study was made of the scribal hands in the Baalrim dossier (A1) and a sporadic analysis in the dossiers of Qoši, Al(i)baal, and Yehokal (A3–5). All of the 57 chits of the Baalrim dossier were written by professional scribes, all but one in a cursive hand, and one in a lapidary script style. It is possible to identify 11 scribes who wrote more than one text each, for a total of 34 texts. Scribe 7 wrote 14 texts (A1.15–24 [except A1.24a], 2.7–8, 10.7); Scribe 9 wrote 11 (A1.33–37, 2.21–24a, 47.3); and eight more scribes wrote two texts each. Scribe 2 is represented by one text in this dossier, but his hand is easily recognizable in five other texts (A1.5, 10.25–26, 12.21, 73.5, 300.5.25). Studies in the dossiers of Qoši, Al(i)baal, and Yehokal reveal five more scribes: Scribe 12 (A4.1, 3–5, 15), Scribe 13 (A4.9, 49.4), Scribe 14 (A4.11, 13–14), Scribe 15 (A3.5, 4.17, 5.7), and Scribe 16 (A3.15, 4.25, 96.1, 224.1, 270.3). A dozen criteria, both graphic and contextual, have been established to distinguish the main features of these sixteen scribes, though only a few will apply to each scribe. It is indeed striking that there remain 23 texts in the Baalrim dossier, no two of which seem to share common graphic features.

The criteria are:

### A. Graphic:

1. Graphic appearance of key words and numerals
2. Angle of writing (upright, slanted down to left, mixed)
3. Line spacing
4. Size of letters
5. Letter- and word-spacing
6. Thickness of strokes
7. Unique letter shapes

### B. Contextual:

8. Date
9. Terms and formulas
10. Orthography (plene, defective spelling)
11. Non-abbreviation of commodities and measures and complete spelling of numbers
12. Layout

## Numeration Legend

TAO = Textbook of Aramaic Ostraca

A1.1-ISAP728, A1.2-ISAP1579, A1.3-ISAP5, etc. = chapter (commodity chits), dossier (Baalrim), document number (1–55), ISAP registry number (ISAP1–2669)

(EN, L1, L2, L3, L4, L5, AL 1, 2 et al.) = publication (Eph'al and Naveh, Lemaire et al.)

[BLMJ, HW, IA, IM, JA, JTS, LWo, M, YR et al.] = location/collection [Bible Lands Museum, Jerusalem; Haim Weissman; Institute of Archeology; Israel Museum; Jeselsohn Aramaic; Jewish Theological Seminary; Leonard Wolfe; Moussaieff; Yigal Ronen et al.]

{GCh et al.} = source (Gil Chaya et al.)