Fragment of the Month: April 2023

New Pages of Sefer Sagīṭ (TS ENA 2713.14 and National Library of Russia (RU) Box N.91)

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Taylor-Schechter Genizah Research Unit – Fragment of the month – FOTM 2023

Sefer Sagīṭ (Book of Sagīṭ) is a Karaite Hebrew work in the genre of the *Sefer ha-Mitzvot* (Book of Commandments). It was composed by Yefet ben Eli, a Karaite scholar who lived in Jerusalem in the 10th century. Yefet's work is known for its Hebrew translation of Qirqisānī Kitāb al-Anwār, which he completed in 1000 CE. Although Yefet's work is known only in fragments, it was a very popular Karaite work among Karaites and Rabbanites, which contributed to a rise Hebrew as a new medium of Karaite Jewish literary culture.

Sefer Sagīṭ (Sefer Sagīṭ) has been featured in this space more than once in the past: in an article treated which lists our Genizah letters, which mention Abū Ya'qūb Yūsuf Ibrāhīm al-Sijistānī, the author of a lost work on Sagīṭ, and in an article treated which lists our Genizah letters, which mention Sefer Sagīṭ by name. In the second article, we also noted that the letter of Ibrāhīm al-Sijistānī's teacher, Abū Ya'qūb al-Sijistānī, mentioned that Ibrāhīm al-Sijistānī had written a work on Sagīṭ. Although Ibrāhīm al-Sijistānī's work is known only in fragments, it was a very popular work among Karaites and Rabbanites, which contributed to a rise Hebrew as a new medium of Karaite Jewish literary culture. Although Sefer Sagīṭ was preserved very poorly, and almost no copy of the complete work survives, the Sefer ha-Mitzvot genre, which Sefer Sagīṭ represents, was very important, and Mark Richards has even speculated (ab) describing and analyzing Sagīṭ's ab of the Karaite Sefer Sagīṭ fragments from the Taylor-Schechter Genizah Collection (TS) and the National Library of Russia (RU). Although Sefer Sagīṭ was preserved very poorly, and almost no copy of the complete work survives, Sefer Sagīṭ is known for its Hebrew translation of Qirqisānī's Kitāb al-Anwār (Kitāb al-Anwār), which was completed in 1000 CE.