



# THE CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF THE JORDANIAN LEAD BOOKS

## Report of the Evaluation Panel: May 2017

When the Centre for the Study of the Jordanian Lead Books was established in 2015, we set ourselves a two year period in which to answer the question: 'Are these objects worthy of further scholarly investigation?' The Centre established an Evaluation Panel which two years later can answer that question in the affirmative. They are worthy of further investigation.

Now that the preliminary work of organizing and analyzing the material has been completed, for which we owe a debt of gratitude to Dr Samuel Zinner, it is easier to recognize and collate various examples of the same pattern. This has enabled us to restore sections that are damaged in one exemplar but clear in another.

As to the lead itself, the most recent tests on two items show that they cannot have been a modern forgery, and once modern forgery techniques have been ruled out, the strong likelihood is that of an ancient origin.

A record of our work over the past two years has been compiled by Jean Claude Bragard in four films which are now on the Centre's website.

The question now is: what historical and cultural situations could have produced these texts and images? They are without parallel or precedent.

In our opinion, their very existence demands further investigation.

Robert Hayward, Chairman

Margaret Barker, Philip Davies Robert Feather, Matthew Hood, Chris Jeynes,, Bernhard Lang, Yuri Stoyanov, Samuel Zinner.

## Text for Menorah Page

**2.** Samuel Zinner noticed a small gold book on-line, advertised for sale. He captured the images.

**3.** Some time later an American tourist in Jordan bought an identical small book as a tourist souvenir. He contacted us, and then loaned the book to the Centre for testing. The tests showed that it cannot have been made in the last 100 years, but beyond that we can only guess.

The central image is a menorah, made of 70 small circles. The 70 is likely to be significant. There are many images of menorahs formed from small circles like this, but I have found none that has 70. Further, the arms of the menorah are separated from each other by 3, then 2, then 1 small circle.

At the top there are two lines each of 6 letters. At the bottom, there is one line of 6 letters. At each side there are lines of 7 letters. The top letters represent heaven, the bottom letters represent the earth.

Five Hebrew letters are not found on this page: there is no *zayin*, *teth*, *kaph samekh* or *pe.*, Since the Hebrew alphabet has 22 letters, this means that only 17 letters are used on this page. Using *gematria*, [ *mispar siduri*] 17 means 'glory' On the whole page there are 34 letters, 17x2.

In Jewish tradition, there were five items missing from the second temple, and so the glory of God was diminished. [ b Yoma 21b]

The menorah was the symbol of the tree of life, and here it is growing again from its base.

**4.** Five of these letters have unusual forms, and between us, Samuel and I discovered what they were. In addition, there are two Greek letters, the rho and the inverted omega.

**5.** The key to reading this page is symmetry. The stem of the menorah divides the pattern.

Ben Sira,[ 200 BCE] said the: God made all his works in pairs, opposite each other. He felt he was the last of the old wisdom teachers, the last on watch, like gleaner after the grape harvest, there are 4 bunches of grapes. .

**6.**The words are found in symmetrical pairs of shapes. These triangles are exactly opposite each other, one side of each intersects at the top node of the menorah- a sign of something significant- and the words are the Lord, my Shepherd.

**7.** Two more triangles, this time springing from the two central letters which say 'Almighty', Shaddai. .David was the Morning Star.

- 8.** Sometimes the words are in pairs of lines. Here on the left, the Father in heaven and then the Son linking heaven and earth. On the right, the Witness in heaven brings the knowledge to earth.
- 9.** Here there are parallel lines across a section of the page that represents the Messiah. The Name goes through all the lights of the menorah. Then there are Witness/knowledge, then light, then life, written defectively. .
- 10.** Two intersecting triangles- a 6-pointed star, crossing the second node. Many words can be read here, for example 'set' and 'seal'.
- 11.** The diagonals of that star read tau, the X, Name, and Living. They intersect at the top node.
- 12.** Jesus, twice, in heaven and coming to earth. Read in reverse = wise teacher. This is another pattern: reading in reverse around a shape.
- 13.** One part of this one was discovered by Samuel. Depending on where you start with each of the identical triangles, you can read Watcher 3 times; ben Sira was the last one to watch. Or it can be Holy three times[ this was Samuel] , or it can be Righteous/. Zadok 3 times. All built from , or held together by, Shaddai, Almighty.
- 14.** An example of a five sided shape. Jerusalem. .
- 15.** Sometimes the letters are interwoven. There is an elaborate interweaving around the Messiah section that gives his titles. Here, the choice vine, and established.
- 16.** Reading round the four corners 'the woman who gives birth to God' Note that Jesus was also formed from the four corner letters. There are several examples where the set of letters is read round three and half times time 'time, two times and half a time [!]. Here the resulting 14 letters would give:
- 17.** Hallelujah, and its mirror is 'transplanted'. This is a reference to 1 Enoch 25: the tree on a high mountain that would be transplanted again to a holy place by the house of the Lord, c.f. Rev 22.

I have so far 162 of these patterns. There will be more.