

common use. From the Aram. it was borrowed into Eth. as ቀርባን (Nöldeke, *Neue Beiträge*, 37), and the ܩܪܬܐ of the S. Arabian inscriptions is doubtless of the same origin.¹

Hirschfeld, *Beiträge*, 88, would derive the Arabic word from the Hebrew,² but Sprenger, *Leben*, i, 108, had already indicated that it was more likely from the Aram. and the probabilities seem to point to its being from the Syriac.³ It must have been an early borrowing as it occurs in the early literature.

قِرطَاس (Qirtās).

vi, 7, 91.

Parchment, or papyrus.⁴

In both passages the reference is to the material on which the Divine revelations were written down.

The Muslim authorities make little effort to explain the word. Some recognized it as a foreign word,⁵ a fact which indeed is apparent from the uncertainty that existed as to its spelling.⁶ It was evidently an early borrowing, for it occurs in the old poetry, and probably came to the Arabs from their more cultured Northern neighbours. Von Kremer suggested that it was from the Gk. χάρτη,⁷ but Sachau⁸ and Fraenkel⁹ are nearer the mark in thinking that χάρτης is the form behind قرطاس, especially as this form is found also in the Arm.

թղթաւ,¹⁰ and the Aram. ܩܪܬܐ.¹¹

It is not likely that the word came directly from the Greek, and Fraenkel, *Fremdw*, 245, thought that it came through the Aram. ܩܪܬܐ¹² meaning a *paper* or *document*, as in Levit. Rabba, § 34.

¹ ZDMG, xxx, 672; Rossini, *Glossarium*, 234. The verb ܩܪܬ means to approach a woman sexually.

² So Fraenkel, *Vocab*, 20. Ahrens, *Christliches*, 32, favours a Jewish origin.

³ Schwally, *Idioticon*, 84; Mingana, *Syriac Influence*, 85; Wensinck, *EI*, ii, 1129. See Cheikho, *Nasrāniya*, 209, for early examples of the use of the word.

⁴ Mingana, *Woodbrooke Studies*, ii, 21.

⁵ al-Jawāliqī, *Mu'arrab*, 125; as-Suyūṭī, *Itq*, 323; al-Khafājī, 159.

⁶ *LA*, viii, 54, notes قِرطَاس; قِرطَاس; قِرطَاس; قِرطَاس and قِرطَاس.

⁷ *Kulturgeschichte des Orients*, ii, 305.

⁸ Notes to the *Mu'arrab*, p. 57.

⁹ *Fremdw*, 245, cf. also Vollers, ZDMG, l, 617, 624; li, 301.

¹⁰ Hubschmann, ZDMG, xlvii, 253; Brockelmann, ZDMG, xlvii, 11.

¹¹ Krauss, *Griechische Lehnwörter*, ii, 567 (also ܩܪܬܐ, *ibid.*, ii, 297).

¹² In *Vocab*, 17, he suggests ܩܪܬܐ, on which see Levy, *Wörterbuch*, ii, 398.