

# Add Entry – Edit Artefact – Search Database

Ancient Material Evidence and the Future of Transdisciplinary Data Repositories in the Digital Sphere using the Example of the 4CARE Database

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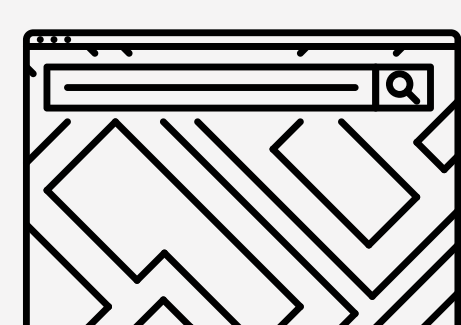
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## About the Project

The ERC-funded project «**Deconstructing Early Christian Metanarratives: Fourth-Century Egyptian Christianity in the Light of Material Evidence**» (DEChriM) investigates Christianity and Christianization in Egypt during the 4th century CE, using both published and previously unedited archaeological sources to reassess current notions of Early Christianity, its emergence across rural and urban communities, and its expression(s) in the surviving evidence.

A key component and generated product of the project's research is the «**4th-Century Christian Archaeological Record of Egypt**» (4CARE) database, an exhaustive inventory of material evidence for Early Christianity in Egypt datable to the 4th century CE. Entries are made available in two archaeological repositories: Sites and Artefacts. Combining movable and immovable traces of a budding religion and community, the database entries of both sites and artefacts can serve a multitude of research perspectives, from a number of fields and disciplines – this transdisciplinary research therefore directly supports future interdisciplinary endeavors, especially in the study of antiquity.



### Interface: 2-Part Database

4CARE Sites  
4CARE Artefacts

«4CARE Sites» records locations with indicators of Christian presence. «4CARE Artefacts» amasses material (textual & non-textual) datable to the 4th century. Entries are provided with an identifier (DEChriM Site ID or DEChriM Artefact ID) and classified:

#### All Artefacts

- Class (architectural element, textual document, domestic object, garment, ...)
- Selection criteria (Christian symbols/gestures, Nomina sacra, onomastics, ...)
- Material (Papyrus, Ceramic, Parchment, Stone, Wood, ...)

#### Textual Artefacts

- Writing medium (sheet/roll, codex, dipinto, inscription graffito, tablet, ostrakon, ...)

#### Sites

- Christian archaeological vestiges (churches, tombs, ...)
- Discovery sites of Christian artefacts



### Location

Findspot  
Provenance  
Collection

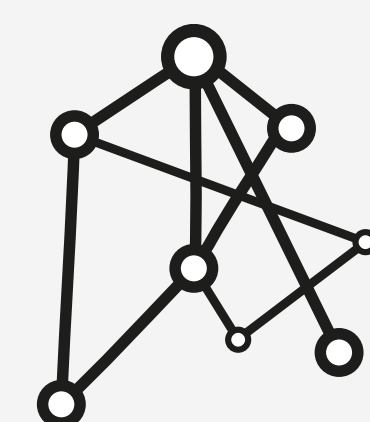
Locating sites associated with Christianity and retracing possible and definite places of origin for Christian artefacts is a central task. Entries include various location-specific elements:

#### Sites

- Place Names
- Internal Links to Artefacts
- External Links
- Site Map & Map Images
- Photo Gallery & 3D Models
- Detailed Site Information (Coordinates, Description, Archaeological Research, Bibliography, ...)

#### Artefacts

- Findspot (DEChriM Site ID)
- Selection criteria include «Archaeological context associated with Christian markers»
- Archaeological Context
- Acquisition Information
- Accession number (Collection)

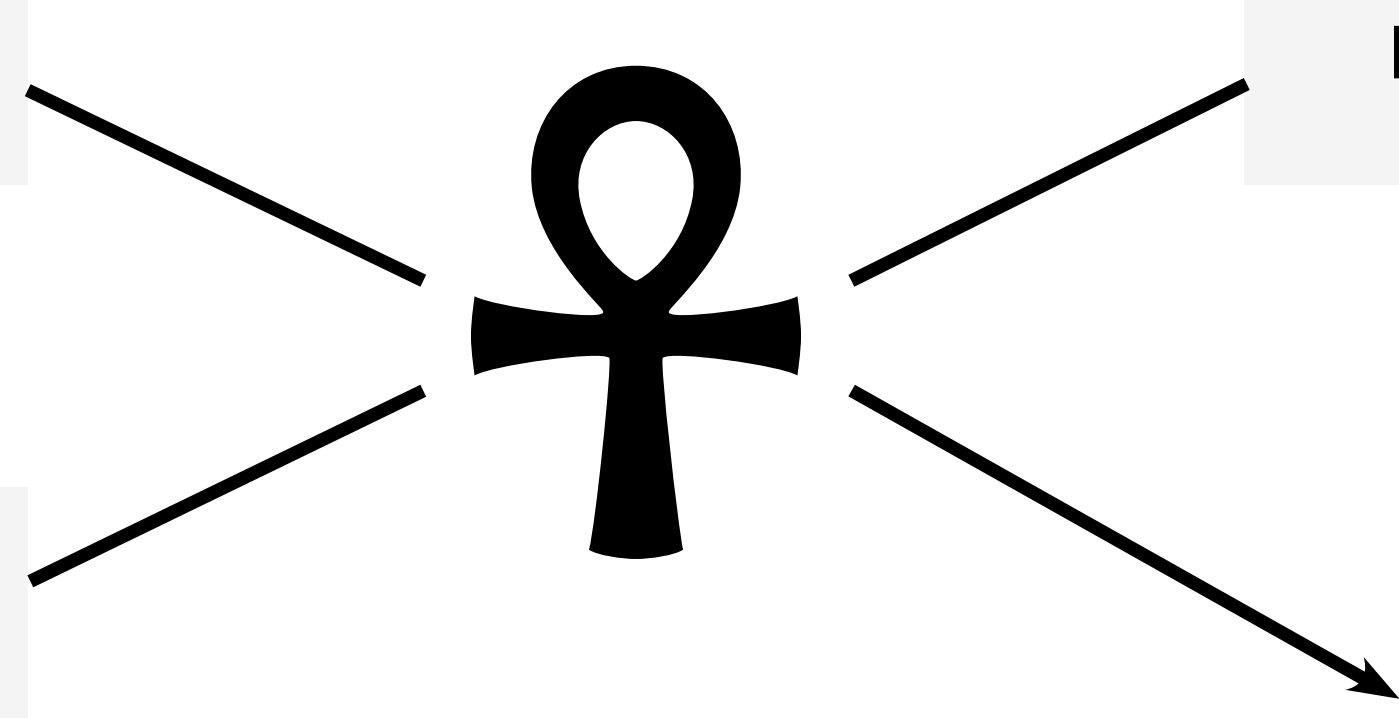


### Links: Networked Knowledge

Repositories  
Platforms  
Resources

Aside from internal links between site and artefact entries, as well as between connected artefacts, external links to repositories, platforms and resources connect the 4CARE database to the wider research network online. These include:

- Gazetteers (Pleiades, PATHs)
- Universal Identifiers (Trismegistos IDs = TM Texts & TM Places)
- Aggregators (Papyri.info, incl. APIS, DDbDP and HGV)
- Institution and Collection Websites (e.g., British Library)
- Related Research Projects (Kyprianos, PATHs, Grammateus, ...)
- Institutional Resources (e.g., NT.VMR of the INTF, CSNTM)
- Digitized Catalogues (e.g., CLA, Mertens-Pack<sup>3</sup>)
- Open Access Non-Specialist Platforms (Wikipedia)



ARTEFACT IDENTIFIERS	
Artefact ID	1558
TM ID	TM 1558
Findspot DEChriM ID	13   1st-Syde   1558
Class	Textual
Material	Parchment
Writing medium	Codex
Text content	Literary
Language	Greek
Description	<p>Fragment 1558 (Gregory-Aland 0231; van Heekel 559). Codex page fragment containing the Second Epistle of John (2 John 9).</p> <p>The fragment (23 x 8.8 cm) is the upper remnant of a codex page originally ~6.6 x 8.8 cm, of which the top and side borders are intact. The text (2 John 9:1-10) contains 30 lines. The verso (2 John 8:1-8) of a page originally contained 22 lines, so five and four lines are missing at the bottom of each page respectively. Labels at the beginning of these two pages as well as at the beginning of sections are usually written enlarged. At the top center on each side, the fragment is fairly marked by a second later hand on pages 10r (1558v) and 10v (1558r). For the entry, this page fragment indicates that the Council of John, theodotus, and 1 John were included ahead of this section in the codex. Kruger 2010 diagnoses, considering the codex to have been the first draft to contain all three books on the same sheet. He further states that most manuscripts contain the text of the fragment in the order of the fragments, but that some manuscripts contain the text of the fragment in the order of the fragments, but that some manuscripts contain the text of the fragment in the order of the fragments.</p>
Selection criteria	Literary genre (Biblical); Nomina sacra
Date from	4th
Date to	4th
Dating criteria	Paleography: Letter often vary and there is irregular spelling possibly due to dialect. In the entry, Roberts compares the fragment to 1 John 1:1-10, 1 John 4:1-10 and the Chester Beatty Codex of 1 John and 1 John 1:1-10 dated to the 3rd c. Van Heekel 1998 agrees with the dating but Cranfield-Hecker 1987 places it in the first half or middle of the 4th c. Kruger 2010 states it to be late 4th to the 5th c., comparing it to Gregory-Aland 0231. He further states that most manuscripts contain the text of the fragment in the order of the fragments rather than papyrus.
Absolute/Relative date	Relative date
Archaeological context	Excavations at 1st-Syde, 1558 (Shakh-Ahmed, ancient Antiochian). by John de Moore, Johnson in Winter 1923/1924, funded by the Egypt Exploration Fund.
Accession number	Oxford Sackler Library, Papyrology Rooms P.41.12
BIBLIOGRAPHY	
Sackler papyri 1 Roberts, C. H. Crum (1905). The Antiochian Papyri. London: Egypt Exploration Society. pp. 15, No. 12. Plate 1. 2 Cranfield-Hecker, J. (1987). The Antiochian Papyri. London: Egypt Exploration Society. pp. 15, No. 12. Plate 1. 3 Van Heekel, J. (1998). The Fragment 1558 (Gregory-Aland 0231; van Heekel 559). In: The Fragment 1558 (Gregory-Aland 0231; van Heekel 559). London: Egypt Exploration Society. pp. 15, No. 12. Plate 1. 4 Kruger, A. (2010). The Fragment 1558 (Gregory-Aland 0231; van Heekel 559). In: The Fragment 1558 (Gregory-Aland 0231; van Heekel 559). London: Egypt Exploration Society. pp. 15, No. 12. Plate 1. 5 Johnson, W. (1923). The Fragment 1558 (Gregory-Aland 0231; van Heekel 559). In: The Fragment 1558 (Gregory-Aland 0231; van Heekel 559). London: Egypt Exploration Society. pp. 15, No. 12. Plate 1. 6 Moore, J. (1923). The Fragment 1558 (Gregory-Aland 0231; van Heekel 559). In: The Fragment 1558 (Gregory-Aland 0231; van Heekel 559). London: Egypt Exploration Society. pp. 15, No. 12. Plate 1.	
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SUGGESTED CITATION	
Victoria G. D. Landau 2023, <a href="#">Textual ID 1558</a> , 4CARE Database – Fourth-Century Christian Archaeological Record of Egypt. <a href="#">https://doi.org/10.26907/4caredb/1558</a>	

4CARE Artefact Entry Example (ID1558)

## Towards a Connected Study of Antiquity

Intended as both a project-internal and -external resource, 4CARE has been developed during the first years of the DEChriM project, and will continue to produce linked entries organically during the project runtime. With platforms such as Trismegistos linking their entries to the respective 4CARE IDs, the connection of research outputs across topics and disciplines has generated a network of resources for the study of Early Christianity and Late Antiquity. Entry elements can serve different purposes: the use of gazetteers, standardized IDs and hyperlinks is beneficial to researchers wishing to access information on specific sites and artefacts, while the production and presentation of 3D models is of interest to both an expert and a non-specialist audience.

