

Discussion on Philodemus Fragments

Post by "Bryan" of February 10, 2024 at 3:45 AM

It seems the other version was made around seven years after the first -- and by then the papyrus had further broken down.

facsimile only. The original, though now more defective in many places than either of the copies, is still sufficiently well preserved to decide the question in numerous cases where the copies differ, and sometimes gives the true reading where both are wrong. Of the copies, Hayter's (Ox.) has the advantage of having been taken immediately after the unrolling, and before the papyrus had suffered much from exposure. This copy is, therefore, more complete than either the original in its present state, or the Naples published facsimile. It probably gives correctly the impressions of a

draughtsman ignorant of Greek. It is full of mistakes which could not have been made by any one acquainted with the language; but the very existence of these mistakes is in one respect a security, as it proves that the facsimile has not been tampered with by other hands.

The Naples published facsimile was not made till seven years later, and it is evident that the original had suffered much in the interval. While for this reason more defective than Ox., the Naples facsimile contains fewer *obvious* mistakes, and has probably therefore been revised by some one with a knowledge of Greek. It is valuable as a check on Ox., and where both agree, the text may usually be considered certain; while of the heads of cols. (pap. 157), Nap. is the only copy in existence.