

DEMOSTHENES' SECOND EPISTLE
20-22, 25-26

P. Yale inv. 1540

12.3 x 12.8 cm

p.C.II

This papyrus, a light brown in color, written on in good black ink, on the recto only and with the fibres, contains the last, and a portion of the next to last, column of a text of Demosthenes' second epistle. The original margins are preserved at the top and at the right; 18 lines of writing fully preserved in the column on the right contain the conclusion of the epistle; the ends of 19 lines of writing remain in the column on the left. Some 32 lines of writing will have been required to complete the text between the portions preserved in our fragment, so that the left column will originally have contained 51 lines of writing. Lines of writing are spaced at intervals of about .5 cm., so that the text of the column on the left will have measured some 25 cm. The top margin measures 1.75 cm.; allowing for a larger margin at the bottom, the original height of the papyrus sheet must have been at least 29 cm. These measurements, both the number of lines in a column, and the estimated height of the roll, place this among the taller of the known literary papyri of the Greco-Roman period (cf. Kenyon, *Books and Readers*, pp. 49 and 56).

Lines of writing are not so evenly spaced on this papyrus as to be quite consistent from one column to the next: Line 15 in the column on the right is nearly even with line 14 in the column on the left. This degree of variation might have produced a difference of as much as three lines of writing between one column and the next, so that an estimate of the original length of the papyrus sheet containing the text of this second epistle can only be approximate. Taking our restored penultimate column as a guide, however, and supposing the text to have approximated that of the medieval