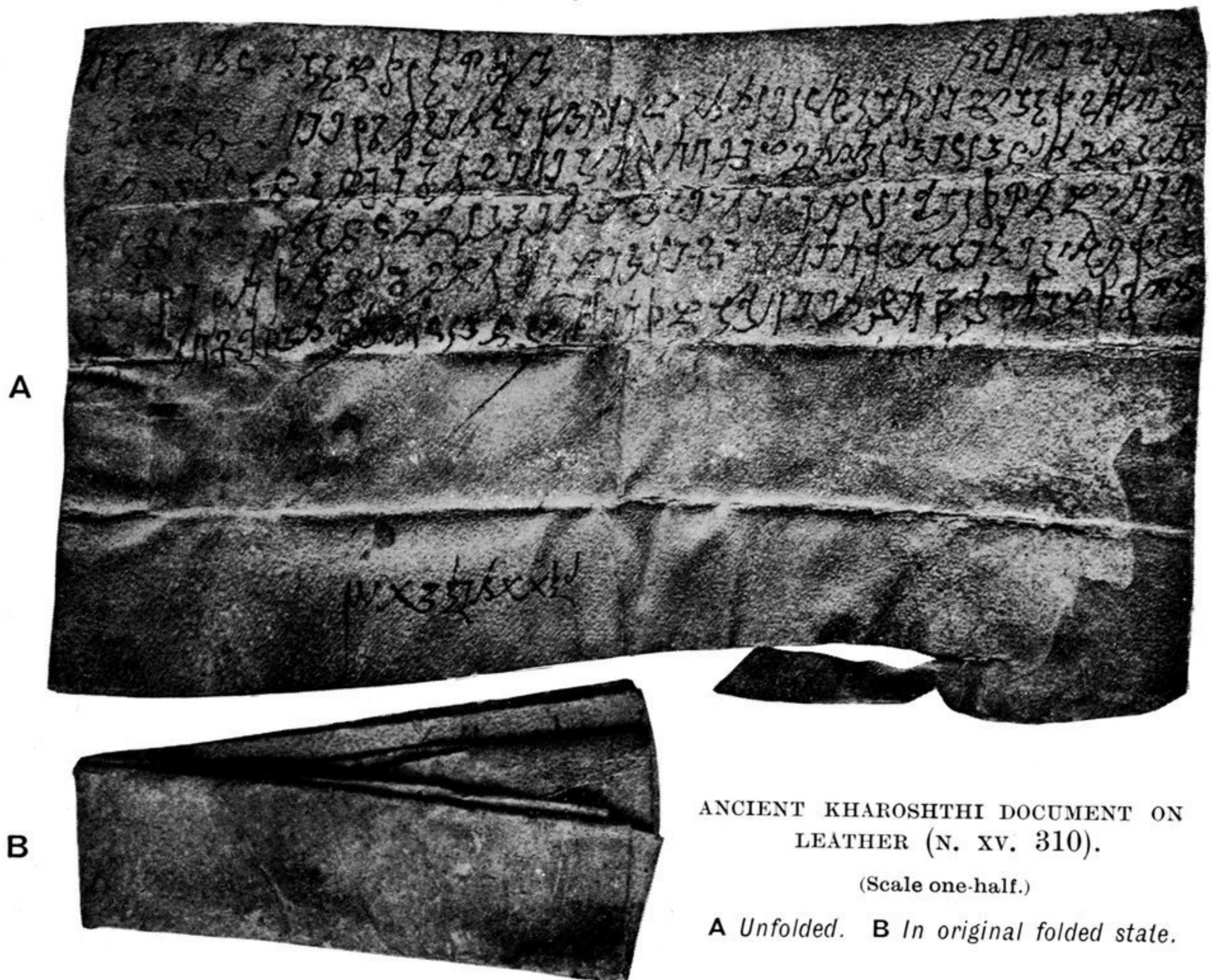


in the full enjoyment of my great antiquarian haul I did not think of these little discomforts.

The diversity in form and material of the documents which came to light from amidst all this ancient litter and dirt, was not less remarkable than their good preservation. The first few hours' work was rewarded by the discovery of complete Kharoshthi documents on leather. The oblong sheets of carefully prepared



ANCIENT KHAROSHTHI DOCUMENT ON
LEATHER (N. XV. 310).

(Scale one-half.)

A Unfolded. B In original folded state.

smooth sheepskin, of which altogether two dozen came to light here, showed different sizes, up to 15 inches in length. They were invariably found folded up into neat little rolls, but could be opened out in most cases without serious difficulty. The Kharoshthi text, which covers the inner surface, is usually written in a neat clerical hand, and its black ink has retained a remarkable freshness. At the head of each document I was now able to read