

[Bible] New Testament Lectionary
In Greek, manuscript on paper
Greece, c. 1520-1570

202 leaves (numbered 2-203), paper folded in 4°, chain-distance 30-35 mm, watermarks (several types): (ff. 2-56, 177-203) similar to <PICCARD www.piccard-online.de> nos. 155867 (attested in Parma in 1525 AD) and 155824 (Naples, 1536 AD), (ff. 57-104) similar to BRIQUET no. 3338 (attested in Rome in 1567 AD), (ff. 105-112) similar to <PICCARD www.piccard-online.de> nos. 123365-6 (attested in Salzburg and Innsbruck in 1506 AD), (ff. 113-176) generally similar to <PICCARD www.piccard-online.de> nos. 123855-8 (attested in Urach, Hildesheim and Innsbruck in 1549-55 AD); quires (signed by the scribe with a cross in the central upper margin and numerals in the central lower margin of their first page): vii (of 8, fol. 1 lost), viii (of 8), viii (of 8), iv (of 4), iv (of 4), viii (of 8), viii (of 8), viii (of 8), viii (of 8), viii (of 8), viii (of 8), viii (of 8), viii (of 8), viii (of 8), viii (of 8), viii (of 8), viii (of 8), viii (of 8), viii (of 8), viii (of 8), viii (of 8), viii (of 8), viii (of 8), viii (of 8), iii (of 6, ff. 4-6 lost); 24 lines per page, ruled in blind, a few nota bene marks (e.g., hands on ff. 153v, 188v, 193v, etc.), justification 155 x 90 mm., capitals in pale red ink usually on two lines. Binding possibly original, of the "Greek" type (raised endbands, boards flush with book block, no ridges on the spine), of blind-tooled brown leather over squared and grooved wooden boards, remains of ribbons, pastedowns and flyleaves lost (some worm holes in first two quires, in margins, not affecting the text). Dimensions 210 x 140 mm.

Good example of a Greek Lectionary, including lections taken from the Gospels and the Epistles and Acts (this in itself is unusual in a Lectionary). Unpublished and not included in Aland's Census, the present manuscript merits further study for the localization of its script and binding, as well as for any liturgical peculiarities. Sixteenth-century Greek manuscripts have been little studied to date.

PROVENANCE

1. Localization is based on the watermarks, most of which are Italian and some of which are German. In the sixteenth century it was common for Greek centers to import paper primarily from Italy. A date in the middle of the sixteenth century indicated by the watermarks conforms generally with the characteristics of the script. There are not, however, enough published examples of sixteenth-century hands to localize this particular scribe.
2. USA Private Collection.

TEXT

ff. 2r-14v, <Readings from Acts the days from Easter through Pentecost
<http://analogion.gr/glt/misc/Apostelos.htm#Pascha>> (beginning lost);

ff. 14v-43v, <Readings from the Epistles for the days from Pentecost Monday through Holy Saturday
<http://analogion.gr/glt/misc/Apostelos.htm#%CE%A0%CE%95%CE%9D%CE%A4%CE%97%CE%9A%CE%9F%CE%A3%CE%A4%CE%97%CE%A3>>;

ff. 42v-144r, <Gospel readings for the days from Easter through Holy Saturday
<http://analogion.gr/glt/misc/Evangelion.htm>>;

ff. 144r-203v, <Epistles/Acts <http://analogion.gr/glt/misc/Apostelos.htm#09>> and <Gospel
<http://analogion.gr/glt/misc/Evangelion.htm#Sept>> readings for the fixed feast days from
September 1 through August 29 (end lost).

The Byzantine Lectionary or the Lectionary of the Orthodox Church (the order in which we read the Bible in worship) is a repeating one year cycle that was developed at the Great Church in Constantinople, which was the very center of Christianity in the Eastern Roman Empire. With a few exceptions, it is unchanged since the seventh century. It contains two cycles: 1) The Movable Feasts (which are based upon the date of Pascha (Easter)) and 2) The Fixed Feasts. The present Lectionary is atypical in having the lections from the Gospels and the Epistles and Acts combined in a single volume: the lections from the Gospels are used for the movable features and those from the Epistles and Acts for the fixed feasts.

The manuscript is unpublished and, as far as can be determined not listed in K. Aland, *Kurzgefasste Liste der griechischen Handschriften des Neuen Testaments*, 2nd ed., Berlin, 1994.

LITERATURE

Briquet, C.-M. *Les filigranes*, 2nd ed., Leipzig, 1923 (repr. New York, 1966).

Engberg, Sysse G. *Les lectionnaires grecs*, Paris, 2005.

Schaefer, L., ed. *Greek Liturgical Texts of the Orthodox Church*, on-line at <http://analogion.gr/glt>.

ONLINE RESOURCES

Wasserzeichenkartei Piccard, on-line at
www.piccard-online.de

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