

## GOSPEL LECTIONARY

In Greek, manuscript on parchment

Eastern Mediterranean, c. 1200-1250

161 folios on parchment, unfoliated, (collation i<sup>s</sup> ii<sup>s</sup> iii<sup>s</sup> iv<sup>4</sup> [-3, -4, -5 and -8 with text loss] v<sup>s</sup> vi<sup>s</sup> vii<sup>7</sup> [-7 with text loss] viii<sup>7</sup> [-2 with text loss] ix<sup>s</sup> x<sup>6</sup> xi<sup>6</sup> [-4 and -5 with text loss] xii<sup>s</sup> xiii<sup>6</sup> xiv<sup>s</sup> xv<sup>s</sup> xvi<sup>7</sup> [-4 with text loss] xvii<sup>s</sup> xviii<sup>s</sup> xix lost xx lost xxi<sup>s</sup> xxii<sup>s</sup> xxiii<sup>s</sup> xxiv<sup>6</sup> [-1 and -8 with text loss]), scribal quire signatures in the lower right-hand corner of each quire's first page, dry-point ruling (Leroy type 00D2), 29 × 2 lines per page, (justification 240 x 160 [71 + 18 + 71] mm.) Old (15<sup>th</sup>-century?) binding in the Greek style (raised endbands, smooth spine) of blind-tooled brown leather over squared and grooved wooden boards, bordered with repeated tool of interlace tendrils, diaper- and checker-ruled and some with tools of a peacock, Agnus Dei, vase, rampant lion, displayed eagles and two fleurons, lacking metal bosses on lower covers, no flyleaves (occasional spots or small stains, small splits at lower edge of first two leaves, tear in lower margin of final folio, some staining to outer edges of first 10 leaves). Dimensions 327 x 245 mm.

Early in date, of substantial format, in a well-preserved medieval Greek binding, and with many ornamental headpieces – the work of the scribe – the present volume was in North America in the late nineteenth century. Featured in the collection of the Stokes family and then that of the institutional holdings of the Episcopal Theological School, this Lectionary, has nevertheless not been systematically studied, neither for its text nor its illustration. Greek manuscripts, including liturgical examples, are rare on the market, especially ones with such noteworthy provenance.

## PROVENANCE

1. In a "monastery near Beirut" when it was purchased by Isaac Newton Phelps Stokes.
2. Bought by Isaac Newton Phelps Stokes (1867-1944), New York, in 1886. Stokes of the great Massachusetts family of philanthropists, was celebrated as an architect – particularly for his buildings at Yale (Woodbridge Hall), Harvard (Paint Hall), and Columbia (St. Paul's Chapel) and as the subject with his wife of the splendid double-portrait by John Singer Sargent in the Metropolitan Museum of Art.
3. Presented to his brother the Reverend Anson Phelps Stokes (1874-1958), Washington DC, in 1936. Reverend Anson Phelps Stokes, then a canon at the National Cathedral (Episcopal) in Washington D.C. guided the philanthropy of the Phelps Stokes Fund; listed in De Ricci and Wilson, *Census II*, Addenda, for p. 492.
4. Inherited by his son, who was Bishop of Massachusetts, the Reverend Anson Phelps Stokes II (1905-1986), Brookline MS, in 1958.

5. Presented to the Episcopal Divinity School, Cambridge MA, c. 1970-1986 (both father and son had studied at the Episcopal Theological School, which became part of the Episcopal Divinity School in 1974).
6. Sold at Christie's, London on 19 November 2003, sale 6853, lot 14.
7. Bought by L.A., whose bookplate is on the inside of the front cover ("ΤΟ ΞΥΛΟΝ ΤΟΥ ΓΙΝΩΣΚΕΙΝ ΚΑΛΟΝ ΚΑΙ ΠΟΝΗΡΟΝ, L. A."); deaccessioned 2011.

## TEXT

Gospel Lectionary with daily lessons for the ecclesiastical year, beginning with the Readings of John from Easter Day to the 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Easter, and concluding with the readings for 21 May to 31 August.

ff. 1r-26v, *Readings for the weeks of John*: Αρχὴ συν Θ(ε)ῶ ὁ εὐα(γγελιστῆς) Ἰωάννης· τῇ ἀγῖα καὶ μεγάλη κυρ(ιακῇ) τοῦ Πάσχ(α), Easter Sunday: Jn 1: 1-17, Monday after Easter: Jn 1:18-28, Tuesday after Easter: Lk 24: 12-35, Wednesday after Easter: Jn 1:35-51, Thursday after Easter: Jn 3:1-15, Friday after Easter: Jn 2:12-22, Saturday after Easter: Jn 3:22-33, Sunday after Easter: Jn 20:19-31, 2d Monday: Jn 2:1-12, 2d Tuesday: Jn 3:16-21, 2d Wednesday: Jn 5:17-24, 2d Thursday: Jn 5:24-30, 2d Friday: Jn 5:30-6:2, 2d Saturday: Jn 6:14-27, 2d Sunday: Mk 15:43-16:8, 3d Monday: Jn 4:46-54, 3d Tuesday: Jn 6:27-33, 3d Wednesday: Jn 6:35-39, 3d Thursday: Jn 6:40-44, 3d Friday: Jn 6:48-54, 3d Saturday: Jn 15:17-16:2, 3d Sunday: Jn 5:1-15, 4th Monday: Jn 6:56-69, 4th Tuesday: Jn 7:1-13, Mid-Pentecost: Jn 7:14-30, 4th Thursday: Jn 8:12-20, 4th Friday: Jn 8:21-30, 4th Saturday: Jn 8:31-42, 5th Sunday (sic): Jn 4:5-42, 5th Monday: Jn 8:42-51, 5th Tuesday: Jn 8:51-59, 5th Wednesday: Jn 6:5-14, 5th Thursday: Jn 9:39-10:9, 5th Friday: Jn 10:17-28, 5th Saturday: Jn 10:27-38, 5th Sunday: Jn 9:1-38, 6th Monday: Jn 11:47-54, 6th Tuesday: Jn 12:19-36, 6th Wednesday: Jn 12:36-47, 6th Thursday: Lk 24:36-53, 6th Friday: Jn 14:1-11, 6th Saturday: Jn 14:10-21, 6th Sunday: Jn 17:1-13, Pentecost Monday: Jn 14:27-15:7, Pentecost Tuesday: Jn 16:2-13, Pentecost Wednesday: Jn 16:15-23, Pentecost Thursday: Jn 16:23-33, Pentecost Friday: Jn 17:18-26, Pentecost Sunday: Jn 7:37-38, end lost.

ff. 27r-60r, *Readings for the weeks of Matthew*, beginning lost: 1st Saturday: Mt 5:42-48, 1st Sunday: Mt 10:32-33, 19:27-30, 2d Monday: Mt 6:31-34, 7:9-11, 2d Tuesday: Mt 7:15-21, 2d Wednesday: Mt 7:21-23, 2d Thursday: Mt 8:23-27, 2d Friday: Mt 9:14-15 (end lost), 3d Monday: Mt 10:1-8 (beginning lost), 3d Tuesday: Mt 10:9-15, 3d Wednesday: Mt 10:16-22, 3d Thursday: Mt 10:23-31, 3d Friday: Mt 10:32-36, 11:1, 3d Saturday: Mt 7:24-8:4, 3d Sunday: Mt 6:22-33, 4th Monday: Mt 11:2-15, 4th Tuesday: Mt 11:16-20, 4th Wednesday: Mt 11:20-26, 4th Thursday: Mt 11:27-30, 4th Friday: Mt 12:1-8, 4th Saturday: Mt 8:14-23, 4th Sunday: Mt 8:5-13, 5th Monday: Mt 12:9-13, 5th Tuesday: Mt 12:14-16, 22-30, 5th Wednesday: Mt 12:38-45, 5th Thursday: Mt 12:46-13:3, 5th Friday: Mt 13:3-12, 5th Saturday: Mt 9:9-13, 5th Sunday: Mt 8:28-9:1, 6th Monday: Mt 13:10-23, 6th Tuesday: Mt 13:24-30, 6th Wednesday: Mt 13:31-36, 6th Thursday: Mt 13:36-43, 6th Friday: Mt 13:44-54, 6th Saturday: Mt 9:18-26, 6th Sunday: Mt 9:1-8, 7th Monday: Mt 13:54-58, 7th Tuesday: Mt 14:1-13, 7th Wednesday: Mt 14:35-15:11, 7th Thursday: Mt 15:12-21, 7th Sunday: Mt 9:27-35, 8th Monday: Mt 16:1-6, 8th Tuesday: Mt 16:6-12, 8th Wednesday: Mt 16:20-24, 8th Thursday: Mt 16:24-28, 8th Friday: Mt 17:10-18, 8th Saturday: Mt 12:30-37, 8th Sunday: Mt 14:14-22, 9th Monday: Mt 18:1-11, 9th Tuesday: Mt 18:18-22, 19:1-2, 13-15, 9th Wednesday: Mt 20:1-16, 9th Thursday: Mt 20:17-28, 9th Friday: Mt 21:12-14, 17-20, 9th Saturday: Mt 15:32-39, 9th Sunday: Mt 14:22-34, 10th Monday: Mt 21:18ff, 10th Tuesday: Mt 21:23ff, 10th Wednesday: Mt 21ff, 10th Thursday: Mt 21:43-46, 10th Saturday: Mt 17:14-23, 10th Sunday: Mt 17:14-23, 11th Monday: Mt 23:13ff, 11th Tuesday: Mt 23:23ff, 11th Wednesday: Mt

23:29ff, 11th Thursday: Mt 24:13-28, 11th Friday: Mt 24:27ff, 11th Saturday: Mt 19:3-5 (end lost), 12th Monday: Mk 1:13-15 (beginning lost), 12th Tuesday: Mk 1:16-22, 12th Wednesday: Mk 1:23-28, 12th Thursday: Mk 1:29-35, 12th Friday: Mk 2:18-22, 12th Saturday: Mt 20:29-34, 12th Sunday: Mt 19:16-26, 13th Monday: Mk 3:6-12, 13th Tuesday: Mk 3:13-21, 13th Wednesday: Mk 3:20-27, 13th Thursday: Mk 3:28-32 (end lost), 14th Monday: Mk 4:19-23 (beginning lost), 14th Tuesday: Mk 4:24-34, 14th Wednesday: Mk 4:35-41, 14th Thursday: Mk 5:1-20, 14th Friday: Mk 5:22-24.35-6:1, 14th Saturday: Mt 23:1ff, 14th Sunday: Mt 22:2ff, 15th Monday: Mk 5:22-34, 15th Tuesday: Mk 6:1-7, 15th Wednesday: Mk 6:7-13, 15th Thursday: Mk 6:30-45, 15th Friday: Mk 6:45-53, 15th Saturday: Mt 24:1-13, 15th Sunday: Mt 22:35ff, 16th Monday: Mk 6:54-7:8, 16th Tuesday: Mk 7:5-17, 16th Wednesday: Mk 7:14-24, 16th Thursday: Mk 7:24-30, 16th Saturday: Mt 24:34ff, 16th Sunday: Mt 15:21ff, 17th Saturday: Mt 25:1ff.

ff. 60r-113v, *Readings for the weeks of Luke*: 1st Monday: Lk 3:19-22, 1st Tuesday: Lk 3:23-4:1, 1st Wednesday: Lk 4:1-15, 1st Thursday: Lk 4:16-22, 1st Friday: Lk 4:22-30, 1st Saturday: Lk 4:31-36, 1st Sunday: Lk 5:1-11, 2d Monday: Lk 4:38-41, 2d Tuesday: Lk 5:12-16, 2d Wednesday: Lk 5:33-39, 2d Thursday: Lk 6:12-19, 2d Friday: Lk 6:17ff., 2d Saturday: Lk 5:17-26, 2d Sunday: Lk 6:31-36, 3d Monday: Lk 6:24-30, 3d Tuesday: Lk 6:37-45, 3d Wednesday: Lk 6:46-7:1, 3d Thursday: Lk 7:17-30, 3d Friday: Lk 7:31-35, 3d Saturday: Lk 5:27-32, 3d Sunday: Lk 7:11-16, 4th Monday: Lk 7:36-50, 4th Tuesday: Lk 8:1-3, 4th Wednesday: Lk 8:22-25, 4th Thursday: Lk 9:7-11, 4th Friday: Lk 9:12-19, 4th Saturday: Lk 6:1ff., 4th Sunday: Lk 8:5-8.9-15, 5th Monday: Lk 9:18-22, 5th Tuesday: Lk 9:23-27, 5th Wednesday: Lk 9:43-50, 5th Thursday: Lk 9:49-56, 5th Friday: Lk 10:1-15, 5th Saturday: Lk 7:1-10, 5th Sunday: Lk 16:19-31, 6th Monday: Lk 10:22-24, 6th Tuesday: Lk 11:1-10, 6th Wednesday: Lk 11:9-13, 6th Thursday: Lk 11:14-23, 6th Friday: Lk 11:23-26, 6th Saturday: Lk 8:16-21, 6th Sunday: Lk 8:27-35.38.39, 7th Monday: Lk 11:29-33, 7th Tuesday: Lk 11:34-41, 7th Wednesday: Lk 11:42-43 (end lost), 7th Sunday: Lk 8:52-56 (beginning lost), 8th Monday: Lk 12:13-15.22-31, 8th Tuesday: Lk 12:42-48, 8th Wednesday: Lk 12:48-59, 8th Thursday: Lk 13:1-9, 8th Friday: Lk 13:31-35, 8th Saturday: Lk 9:37-43, 8th Sunday: Lk 10:25-37, 9th Monday: Lk 14:1.12-15, 9th Tuesday: Lk 14:25-35, 9th Wednesday: Lk 15:1-10, 9th Thursday: Lk 16:1-9, 9th Friday: Lk 16:15-18 and 17:1-4, 9th Saturday: Lk 9:57-62, 9th Sunday: Lk 10:25-37, 10th Monday: Lk 17:20-25, 10th Tuesday: Lk 17:26-37 and 18:18, 10th Wednesday: Lk 18:15-17.26-30, 10th Thursday: Lk 18:31-34, 10th Friday: Lk 19:12-15, 10th Saturday: Lk 10:19-21, 10th Sunday: Lk 13:10-17, 11th Monday: Lk 19:37-44, 11th Tuesday: Lk 19:45-48, 11th Wednesday: Lk 20:1-8, 11th Thursday: Lk 18:31-34, 11th Friday: Lk 19:12-28, 11th Saturday: Lk 12:32-40, 11th Sunday: Lk 14:16-24, 12th Monday: Lk 20:27-44, 12th Tuesday: Lk 21:12ff., 12th Wednesday: Lk 21:5-8.10.11.20-24, 12th Thursday: Lk 21:28-33, 12th Friday: Lk 21:37-22:8, 12th Saturday: Lk 13:19-29, 12th Sunday: Lk 17:12-19, 13th Monday: Mk 8:11-21, 13th Tuesday: Mk 8:22-26, 13th Wednesday: Mk 8:30-34, 13th Thursday: Mk 9:10-16, 13th Friday: Mk 9:33-41, 13th Saturday: Lk 14:1-11, 13th Sunday: Lk 18:18-27, 14th Monday: Mk 9:42-10:1, 14th Tuesday: Mk 10:2-11, 14th Wednesday: Mk 10:11-16, 14th Thursday: Mk 10:17-27, 14th Friday: Mk 10:24-32, 14th Saturday: Lk 16:10-15, 14th Sunday: Lk 18:35-43, 15th Monday: Mk 10:46-52, 15th Tuesday: Mk 11:11-23, 15th Wednesday: Mk 11:22-26, 15th Thursday: Mk 11:27-33, 15th Friday: Mk 12:1-12, 15th Saturday: Lk 17:3-10, 15th Sunday: Lk 19:1-10, 16th Monday: Mk 12:13-17, 16th Tuesday: Mk 12:18-27, 16th Wednesday: Mk 12:28-37, 16th Thursday: Mk 12:38-44, 16th Friday: Mk 13:1-9, 16th Saturday: Lk 18:1-8, 16th Sunday: Mt 15:21-28, 17th Monday: Mk 13:9-13, 17th Tuesday: Mk 13:14-23, 17th Wednesday: Mk 13:24-31, 17th Thursday: Mk 13:31-14:2, 17th Friday: Mk 14:3-9, 17th Saturday: Lk 20:46-21:4, 17th Sunday: Mt 15:21-28, Meatfare Monday: Mk 11:1-11, Meatfare Tuesday: Mk 14:10-42, Meatfare Wednesday: Mk 14:43-15:1, Meatfare Thursday: Mk 15:1-15, Meatfare Friday: Mk 15:20.22.25.33-41, Meatfare Saturday: Lk 21:8.9.25-27.33.34-36, Meatfare Sunday: Mt 25:31-46, Cheesefare Monday: Lk 19:29-40 and 22:7-8.39, Cheesefare Tuesday: Lk 22:39-42.45-23:1, Cheesefare Wednesday: Lk 23:1-43.44-56, Cheesefare Thursday: Lk 23:1-43.44-56, Cheesefare Saturday: Mt 6:1-13, Cheesefare Sunday: Mt 6:14-21.

ff. 113v-140r, *Readings for Lent*: 1st Saturday: Mk 2:23-3:5, 1st Sunday: Jn 1:44-52, 2d Saturday: Mk 1:35-44, 2d Sunday: Mk 2:1-12, 3d Saturday: Mk 2:14-17, 3d Sunday: Mk 8:34-9:1, 4th Saturday: Mk 7:31-37, 4th Sunday: Mk 9:17-31, 5th Saturday: Mk 8:27-31, 5th Sunday: Mk 10: 32-45, Lazarus Saturday: Jn 11:1-45, Palm Sunday, Matins: Mt 21:1-11.15-17, Palm Sunday, Liturgy: Jn 12:1-18, Holy Monday: Mt 21:18-43, 24:3-35, Holy Tuesday: Mt 22:15-23:39, 24:36-26:2, Holy Wednesday: Jn 12:17-50, Mt 26:6-16, Maundy Thursday: Lk 22:1-38 (end lost), Passion Readings: Jn 19:29-37 (beginning lost), Mk 15:43-47, Jn 19:38-42, Mt 27:62-66, Good Friday, Prime: Mt 27:1-56, Terce: Mk 15:1-41, Sext: Lk 22:66-23:49, None: Jn 19:16b-37, Good Friday, Liturgy: Mt 27:1-38, Lk 23:39-43, Mt 27:39-54, Jn 19:31-37, Mt 27:55-61, Holy Saturday: Mt 28:1-20.

ff. 140r-161v, *Readings for the immovable feast days from 1 September through 20 May* [the portion for June, July and August is lost], the Menologion. Saints and feast are listed with cross-references to the respective Gospel reading elsewhere in the volume or, less often, with readings given in full.

Notes: The readings for Holy Week include a number of cross-references to other dates in the church calendar where parts of the same Gospel passages are read. – A later, probably fourteenth-century hand, has occasionally written in the margins additions to the liturgical rubrics and/or the Gospel text.

A Gospel Lectionary is the principal service book of the Orthodox Church, containing the Gospel passages that are read out on any given day when the Divine Liturgy is celebrated. The readings are arranged in two cycles, one of which corresponds to the moveable feasts (those whose date depends of the date of Easter), the other, to the fixed ones (the Byzantine church year began on 1 September). The present manuscript has been dated to the twelfth century (see London, Christie's, and accompanying literature), but in view of the character of its handwriting and ornament (which is the work of the scribe), a thirteenth-century date seems more likely. The volume carries a late medieval (but not original) and well-preserved binding.

The manuscript was included in "An Exhibition of Bibles of Ancient and Modern Times," *New York Public Library Bulletin*, 1923, p. 7, and was also published by Smith (1923 and 1925), Clark (1937), and is listed in Aland (1 1643).

## ILLUSTRATION

The work of the scribe, ornamented headbands in red ink occur at the four major sections of the text (ff. 1r, 60r, 113v, 140r); ornamented initials in red ink at the beginning of some Gospel reading; decorative wavy lines before each month in the Menologion (ff. 140r-161r).

## LITERATURE

Aland, K. *Kurzgefasste Liste der griechischen Handschriften des Neuen Testaments*, Berlin and New York, 1994, p. 318, as 1 1643.

Clark, K.W. *A Descriptive Catalogue of Greek New Testament Manuscripts in America*, Chicago, 1937, pp. 214-215.

De Ricci, Seymour and W. J. Wilson. *Census of Medieval and Renaissance Manuscripts in the United States and Canada*, 2 vols., New York, 1937, II, p. 2276

Smith, H.P. "Biblical Manuscripts in America," *Journal of Biblical Literature* 42 (1923), pp. 239-250, and 44 (1925), pp. 188-189.

## ONLINE RESOURCES

Pinakes: Textes et manuscrits grecs (site IRHT)

<http://pinakes.irht.cnrs.fr/>

List of Greek New Testament Lectionaries

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_New\\_Testament\\_lectionaries](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_New_Testament_lectionaries)

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