MEDELTIDSHANDSKRIFT 57

Lund University Library
Olim: Kyrkohist.

Synaxarion, September - February. Constantinople, 14th century, mid (c. 1360), Greek

The manuscript belongs to the family M* of H. Delehaye’s survey, cols. XXXVIII - XLVI. The brevity of Delehaye’s manuscript descriptions makes it difficult to establish the place of Medeltidshandskrift 57 within the M*-group, but it seems reasonable to suppose a close affinity between Mh 57 and the manuscript Ma (Codex bibliotheceae Caesaraeae Petropolitanae gr. 231).

Contents

1 (ff. 1r-50v) September. Rubric: “ΒΙΒΛΙΟΝ ΣΥΝΑΞΑΡΙΟΝ τῆς συνόψεως τῶν ἅγιων τοῦ ὅλου χρόνου, ὃθεν τέ ἐκαστὸς καὶ ἐκ τίνων ἔφυ καὶ ἐν ὅς χρόνοις, καὶ εἴτε τὸν διὰ μαρτυρίου εἴτε τὸν δι’ ἀσκήσεως ἐδέξαστο στέφανον” Incipit: “Μὴν σεπτέμβριος ἔχων ἡμέρας Λ. ἡ ἡμέρα ἔχει ὥρας ἢ′ καὶ ἡ νύξ ὥρας δόδεκα. Ἰστοῦν ὅτι τὴν ἱστοικίαν ἐστάλη ἐκ τοῦ Θ(εο)ῦ ἐκκλησία ἀπὸ τῶν ἀρχαίων παραλαθοῦν διὰ τὸ νομίζονται παρὰ Ῥωμαίοις ἁρχήν εἶναι ἐτίου ἀπὸ ταύτης τῆς ἱστοικίας. Ἰνδικεῖν γὰρ λέγεται παρὰ Ῥωμαίος ὁ ὄρθιος. καὶ πρὸςεῖν, διὰ τὸ κατ’ αὐτὴν τὴν ἡμέραν εἰσελθεῖν τὸν Κ(ύριον) ἡμῖν εἰς τὴν συναγωγήν τῶν ὸουδαίων”

2 (ff. 51r-120r) October. Incipit: “Μὴν ὀκτώβριος ἔχων ἡμέρας λα’. ἡ ἡμέρα ἔχει ὥρας ι’ καὶ ἡ νύξ ὥρας ι’ ἐν τῇ πρώτῃ μνήμῃ τοῦ ἁγίου ἀποστόλου Ἀνανίου”

3 (ff. 120r-172v) November. Incipit: “Μὴν νοέμβριος ἔχων ἡμέρας Λ. ἡ ἡμέρα ἔχει ὥρας ι’ καὶ ἡ νύξ ὥρας ι’ ἐν τῇ πρώτῃ τῶν ἁγίων ι(αί) θαυματουργῶν ἀναργύρων Κοσμιᾶ καὶ Δαιμιανοῦ”

4 (ff. 172v-223r) December. Incipit: “Μὴν δεκέμβριος ἔχων ἡμέρας Λα’. ἡ ἡμέρα ἔχει ὥρας θ’ καὶ ἡ νύξ ὥρας ι’ ἐν τῇ πρώτῃ μνήμῃ τοῦ ἁγίου προφήτου Ναοῦ”

5 (ff. 223r-263v) January. Incipit: “Μὴν ιανουάριος ἔχων ἡμέρας Λα’. ἡ ἡμέρα ἔχει ὥρας α(ας) ι’ καὶ ἡ νύξ ὥρας ι’ εἰς τὴν αγιν’ ἐκ ταῦτα σάρκα περιτομή τοῦ Κ(ύριον) καὶ Θ(εο)ῦ καὶ Σωτῆρος ημῶν τοῦ Χριστοῦ”


Physical description

Extent: ff. 1 + A + 297 + 1.
Size: 295 × 215 mm.
Collation: 38 quires: I: 7 (ff. 1-7, one leaf has been cut out after f. 5 with resulting loss of text); II: (ff. 8-15); III: 8 (ff. 16-23); IV: 8 (ff. 24-31); V: 8 (ff. 32-39); VI: 8 (ff. 40-47); VII: 8 (ff. 48-55); VIII: 8 (ff. 56-63); IX: 8 (ff. 64-71); X: 8 (ff. 72-79);
The manuscript was copied by two contemporary scribes, scribe A wrote ff. 1-161, scribe B ff. 162-297. Only on f. 191v a third hand seems to appear. None of them are as yet identified. No subscription is preserved, since the final leaves are lost. The script of the first part of the manuscript is clear and regular, slightly inclined to the left. A prominent feature of the script is the forceful pen strokes at the base of the letters ς and χ ending in a NW-SE-diagonal, which is also taken up by χ, λ, and ρ. Note also the shorthand και linked to next letter, further the rather conspicuous - ογ ligatures as in τρατι at the end of lines (cf. f. 102r). Though coming from a skilled hand the style gives rather an uncouth impression. Blackish-brown and mild orange-red ink in good preservation. The second part of the manuscript (ff. 162-297) shows more of a scholar's hand. It is upright or very slightly inclined to the right. Brown and light red ink, the latter in a strongly faded condition. The large thetas and omegas dominate the script together with other overdimensioned circular forms in e.g. α, ο, and φ ('Fettaugenmode'). At the end of lines the punctuation marks are sometimes inscribed within the spacious C-sigma, omicron or upsilon.

Decoration

Head pieces, tituli and most of the other decorative elements are in faded red ink - some linefillers and elaborate initials combine black and red ink. The headpieces for September, October, and November, height 30-40 mm, are in Laubsägestil; the rectangular frame contains a billowy arabesque with...
halfpalmettes and knobs, lily- or palmette shaped corner decorations, and, in the middle of the top border, a threefold loop or Dreierschlinge (fully worked out in the September piece, only suggested in the following two). The red ink is used for contouring but also for filling up the background (Aussparungstechnik). The headpieces for the following three months show a Flechtband-construction in the form of a ribbon interlacedly crossing itself while passing through ribbon ovals. The ends of the ribbon are shaped as lilies. At the end of each day in the synaxarion we find a delimiting linefiller, the design of which in the first half of the book (=scribe A) varies considerably, while in the second half scribe B has kept to a more restricted set of rather simple geometrical/vegetal ornaments. This contrast between the two scribes is reflected also in the design of the initials. Elaborate red (occasionally red and black) initials project into the margin and in the space between the two columns at the outset of all narratives. On ff. 1-161 the oblong initials, 20-45 mm. in size, show two basic structures: the unfilled Laubsäge/Palmetten type and the filled silhouette/bead-and-reel type with additional embellishments of beads and strokes. There are some examples of zoomorphic initials and linefillers, chiefly single or double snakes (ff. 19r, 29v, 34v, 61v, 68v, 108v, 112v, 120v, 142v, 159v). Two fish-initials (omicron), on f. 78r and f. 89v.

>From f. 162 onwards the initials are quite plain and of lesser dimensions (height 10-20mm). The elaboration is often just a couple of swellings and a small beaded tendril at the base. The rubrication is also used for the commemoration of each saint, i.e. for the opening remark which sometimes stands alone but mostly precedes the ensuing verse(s) and the narrative of the saint. Furthermore, all iambic or hexametral lines are indicated by small majuscule or minuscule initials in red.

**Binding**

Blind-tooled dark brown goatskin binding, preserved covers of Byzantine binding; Greece, contemporary with the manuscript. Rebinding, 20th century. Size: 310 x 225 x 95 mm.

Dark brown goatskin binding over thick, grooved, square edged wooden boards with rounded inner face at the spine (type a and k, cfr. Szirmai 1999, p. 75; type 19.5 and 20.3, cfr. Frederici and Hourlis 1988 p. 28). Rebinding with upper cover and back of black calfskin and with lower cover from former binding. Dark brown covering material of upper board and back from former binding preserved, but partly missing on the new covering. Small white paper label with the number 793 at the centre of the upper cover. Two narrowings at fore-edge missing (holes at lower cover fore-edge type 32.4, cfr. Frederici and Hourlis 1988, p. 39). Rounded spine with lining of blue grey cloth. Tight back. Blind-tooled white library cloth label at the top of the back. Natural coloured primary endbands embroidered on double supports extending over the boards. The endbands are attached by the sewing thread by several holes on the inner face of each board (fig. 6.10, cfr. Szirmai 1999, p. 77; fig. 26.3, cfr. Frederici and Hourlis 1988, p. 35). The endbands are restored and partly damaged. Former edge trimming preserved. No squares. One plain paper flyleaf, 20th century, mounted on the first and last manuscript page of the bookblock. Upper board with a half paper pastedown; on the inside of the upper board in black ink: Κουαντον γ’ μην(ων) Ι δεκατεβδηθης αργ’ αυτης(ου) and on the inside of the lower board, rather coarsely: Πε ημι μερος(ον) Ι γος ανθρωπος Ι χρεο ι το λυθετι. The original (most likely link-stitch) sewing on three sewing stations is repaired by assembling and oversewing leaves into thick gatherings of 18 to 20 leaves each. The original sewing thread is broken at joints but remains in holes of the boards and in centrefolds of the gatherings. The covers are blind-tooled to a frame of double fillets containing two rows of a repeated rectangular stamp with heart-shaped forms (cfr. Vat. gr. 1297, cfr. Frederici and Hourlis 1988, p. 56). The central panel is divided into four compartments each divided by fillets into a saltire. (Fig. 37.6, cfr. Frederici and Hourlis 1988, p. 66). The fillets of the compartments are stamped with a small four-petal flower and the concurrences of the fillets with a tool of concentric circles. The compartments of the lower cover are decorated with a symmetric trapeze-shaped tool showing a lily on a blind bottom and the upper cover compartments with a circular tool possibly of a two-headed eagle. The back is blind-tooled with a double fillet to a fishbone pattern with concentric circles at the top of each superposed and inverted V-form.
**Foliation**

Foliated in pencil by modern cataloguer in upper right corner.

**Additions**

Marginal entries: f. 1r, by scribe A, upper margin: [ἤγου ῥησοῦ] τῶν ἐμῶν ποιμάτων, and lower margin: σπι[θ]ος τῆς ἱνδυίας ἱνδυότων ἐμιν εὐλογεί τέου χρόνου, ὁ κ[α]ὶ παλαιὸς καὶ διὰ ἀνθρώπους νέος, i.e. the iambic distichon for the first day. On f. 3r, lower margin, and f. 4v, upper margin, two notes in black ink (15th-16th century?): εἰς τῶν γραμματοικόν, ἡμέρα πολεσκαὶ καὶ χερετησματα ἀπὸ τῶν μᾶρκον δεομ[α]ίαν ὑπὸ τὸν ἑβραῖκον τὸν θεόν. On f. 5r, lower margin: ἐκεῖνο τὸν ἑσύχαν ὥστε ἡ γραφή μου ἐν ἡγ[εί]α καὶ χαράτι. And, in a different hand and ink, a prayer formula in Church Slavonic. On f. 181r: 180v (numerals, maybe a computation of the years 1630 and 1783/4); f. 185r; f. 51r (by the main scribe); f. 83r and 87r; f. 100r; f. 151v, 152r and 158r (same hand as on f. 49 and f. 50) mentioning the year 1854: f. 158v; f. 171v; f. 180v (numerals, maybe a computation of the years 1630 and 1783/4); f. 185r; f. 204r (including a name, μηχανή]: f. 205v (two blind drawings of saints, made through scratching the surface with a sharp tool): f. 280v; f. 286v.

**Condition**

Overall the manuscript is in fairly good condition. There are some traces of worm and water damage, and especially the red ink of the latter scribe has undergone severe fading and can be read only with difficulty. Wax stains and overcasting along the inner margin give evidence to the frequent use of the codex.

**History**

**Origin**

Constantinople, mid 14th century.

**Provenance**

Very little is known of the vicissitudes of this manuscript except that the codex was acquired on the Peloponnese in 1920 by professor Axel W. Persson.

**Acquisition**

It was donated to the Lund University Library the following year (cfr. Lunds universitets årsredogörelse, 1921-22, p. 42). Some of the marginal entries might give clues as to its previous history in Greek-speaking and possibly Slavonic areas.

**Bibliography**

