

Introduction to Short Catalogues of Libraries & Athens EBE Pilot

An Interconnected Codex Type Presentation of the Athens National Library collection of Byzantine manuscripts

On this section of the website, CBM's first efforts at integrated cataloguing of Byzantine codex types are brought online. The result is a pilot, experimental in character and open for improvement and further development. The CBM website facilitates us in relating and integrating the wide field of interconnected manuscripts. The tabular form, in which the codex data are provided, assists us in our endeavour to visualise the comprehensive character of the handwritten documents.

The liturgical practice of Eastern churches and monasteries has quite complex structures, based on different customs of reading, prayer, chanting and celebration, and the codices used in the services are of differing content and function. Since the liturgical usage of contents was the leading factor in the formation of the codices, insight in the Synaxarion (Typikon) is essential for an understanding of and cataloguing of the manuscripts. We provide information concerning this factor in a special contribution.

(See Portal Ω 1.0: *Typikon Evergetis (Athens EBE 788) and CBM catalography*).

The Athens National Library is our pilot library. Other libraries will follow. Specific information concerning provenance and earlier catalogues of the codices preserved in Athens National Library is provided.

In contrast with the Short Catalogue of NT corpora presented on this website, not all libraries are consulted here, only one. Neither is there only one group of codices involved in the cataloguing process, but a whole series of one collection. To this end data of local catalogues has been added. The pilot is a first inventory of codex types and should be improved and completed.

(see Portal IV1 0.6: *Athens EBE: Overview of CBM Short Catalogues*, a list which is not complete yet)

Value and utility of CBM's Short Catalogues

The task of cataloguing Byzantine codices according to their complete contents, state of material preservation and liturgical function is of much value to scholarship and also to the general public.

CBM's short catalogues aim:

- ➡ to explore the whole area of interconnected Byzantine codices of liturgical imprint and usage.
- ➡ to provide a quick identification and overview of particular codex groups and types on a broad (global) scale, arranged per library.
- ➡ to provide insight in the interconnections of codex groups and types in liturgical contexts on a large (global) scale and on a library-collection level.
- ➡ to provide a complementary view on Byzantine manuscripts, according to the identification of texts therein (IRHT).
- ➡ to research subgroups and types of codices and search where specific codices are kept.
- ➡ to lay the foundation for historical research of integral codex types.

The Athens Pilot

The Athens National Library of Greece (Department of Manuscripts) [EBE]¹ functions in this CBM catalogue project as a pilot library. A large collection of Byzantine manuscripts is available there, as are digital reproductions, catalogues and studies. Moreover, CBM has working contacts with Greek colleagues active in several departments of the University of Athens.

The main aim is to present tentative Short Catalogues of codex types, as they are presently preserved in the Athens National Library. These can serve as examples of how short catalogues could be set up for other collections, which information they may contain and how they are designed.

After the Athens National Library, Short Catalogues of other larger libraries will be started; of Lesbos Leimonos Monastery, Sinai St Catherine, Tirana Albanian National Archives, Hagion Oros Mone Karakallou, Jerusalem Patriarchal Library, St. Petersburg Russian National Library, Patmos St John the Theologian Monastery, and so on. In this preliminary stage of cataloguing codex types, it is not necessary to follow any alphabetical order, since it is the library collections that form the leading thread.

Directly connected to the Short Catalogues of codex types, CBM aims to link to the available digital photographs of the Byzantine manuscripts of the Athens National Library which will be, we expect, of useful extra value alongside other available catalogue data of the collection.

¹ Η Εθνική Βιβλιοθήκη της Ελλάδος: <http://www.nlg.gr/el/node/44>, incl. catalogues of mss. in pdf.

Athens National Library comprises three holdings today

There are three holdings of Byzantine manuscripts incorporated in Athens National Library of Greece, each with its own history and provenances of codices.

I. Principal Fund: **codd. 1-4307²**.

II. Megale tou Genous Schole (Μεγάλη τοῦ Γένους Σχολή): **codd. 1-64**.

III. Metochion tou Panagiou Taphou (Μετόχιον τοῦ Παναγίου Τάφου): **codd. 1-890**.
(Athens EBE catalogues are presented in Portal IV1. 0.0).

Categorisation and non-categorisation of manuscript groups

CBM is searching for the authentic Byzantine usage of manuscripts. With regard to this postulate it is important to recognise that it is customary for cataloguers to set divisions, which in fact are foreign to the Byzantine codex tradition and which were introduced later. These divisions concern the well-known categories in catalogue descriptions, such as: Biblical (OT and NT), Homiletical, Hermeneutical/Exegetical, Liturgical, Hymnological, Hagiographical, Ascetical, Ecclesiastical History, Canon Law. Such (anachronistic) divisions cloud, in fact, a clear view of the original, interconnected usage of Byzantine codices, including the practice of common reference titles, and should be treated cautiously or replaced by more adequate categories. One should keep in mind that categorisations did not exist in the monasteries and churches from which the codices stem and where they were in use.

(see *Diagram Over-all View CBM Short Catalogue: Portal of Portals 2*).

Procedure of CBM's Catalography of Athens National Library

Step 1: Research of the present catalography of the whole collection and its earlier stages to the present-day (Kremos, Sakkelion, Politis, Nikolopoulos).

Step 2: Research of Athens EBE: history, provenance of the collections (see IV1 0.1).

Step 3: Research of other relevant catalogues (NT, OT, Homiletic, Hagiographical, Ascetical, Hymnological, Illuminated, Dated codices).

Step 4: Detraction of basic data from these catalogues according to the Short Catalogue Paradigm (see Explication below).

Step 5: Autopsy in Athens of the actual state of preservation [see limitations below].

Postulate of concise catalography

The CBM Short Catalogues presents Byzantine manuscripts of liturgical imprint:

- according to the local collections where codices are kept;
- according to codex type;
- according to their interconnected liturgical function.

² In the present CBM catalogue evaluation (Nov. 2015) is this "total number" of Byzantine manuscripts taken as point of departure. Recent acquisitions brought the sum total to around 4500 codices.

The concise catalogue form is a practical objective, which makes a project on such a large scale possible and feasible, because there are many library collections. The liturgical types and titles of the codices should be established first.

Detailed descriptions, partly available (Politis, Touliatos-Miles), can be added later in Extended Short Catalogues.

Limitations of Short Catalogues (Nov. 2015)

The Short Catalogues of Athens EBE in the attached tables (see for an Overview Portal IV1 0.7) have some inherent limitations:

- we have concentrated on the **Principal Fund** of Athens EBE holdings.
- not all codices which are kept in the Principal Fund (4307 codd.) have been checked by autopsy; this should be carried out during future visits to the library [quick autopsy of codex types: T, E, Syn, Bioi, Pan, Kyr, Herm].
- some catalogues have consulted the unpublished catalogue cahiers (handwritten “cahiers”, inventory books in the *Department of Manuscripts*), received information from librarians, or investigated the manuscripts on location. See the updates in Aland 1994 [INTF: Supplements, Elliott Supplements], Halkin 1983, Touliatos-Miles 2010. We have employed these data.
- codex types included in the holdings: Megale Genous Schole (64 codd.) and the Metochion tou Panagiou Taphou (890 codd.) have not been checked (for the time being). See previous catalogues of these collections (Serruys 1903, Papadopoulos-Kerameus 1899, 1915).

Concerning the Metochion: some data have been included for NT corpora [Aland 1994: ‘Bibliotheksverzeichnis: Taphu’, p. 440-441, INTF Supplements]; Hagiography, Asketika, Hermeneutika, Homiletika [Halkin 1983: ‘Appendix. Metochii’: pp. 165-180]; Chant codices [Touliatos-Miles 2010: ‘Appendix B. Musical MSS from the Library of the Holy Sepulchre in Constantinople now Housed in the National Library of Greece’, pp. 585-587. [catalogue data are correctly provided in separate sections of the Metochion holding].

Explication of the Short Catalogue Form

I. Short Catalogue window

The catalogue window above the tables provides

- Codex type and abbreviation.
- Codex title (Greek).
- Codex content (common contents characteristic for the type).
- Subtypes and content divisions.
- Liturgical service(s) in which the codex type is used [liturgical instructions of codex Athens EBE 788: *Typikon Evergetis*, XII c., are taken as point of departure for further *Typikon* explorations, see further Portal Ω].
- Codex liturgical function (who used the codex and in what context).
- The connection sign (📍) to the IRHT Base Pinakes in col. 9 indicates the entrance route of this website (in French): country → place → library → holding → ms. code: <http://pinakes.irht.cnrs.fr/recherche-manuscrit.html>.
- Above columns 6-8 are placed page references to the basic guide to catalography of Byzantine manuscripts: *Ὁδηγὸς καταλόγου χειρογράφων* by Linos Politis (Athens 1961, Greek), in which codex types and titles of all relevant classes of manuscripts are provided, which lay at the basis of the large detailed catalogue of Politis (Athens 1991) for the numbers 1857-2500 and following unpublished cahiers and basically corresponds to Greek catalography of Byzantine manuscripts in general (Papadopoulou-Kerameus, Lampros, Kremos, Sakkelion, Arkadios-Eustratiades, Bees).
(see Portal IV1 04: Politis's catalography (Hodegos 1961, Katalogos 1991).

II. Short Catalogue Table

Codices are presented in the shortest possible form, indicating the integral contents and liturgical function.

The exemplars of certain codex types are indicated by an acronym (Typ, T, E), and are listed in Tables according to their order of storage on the shelves and following the manuscript codes (signatures) of the local catalogue of the library collections.

The numbered columns in the Table of the Short Catalogues provide the following information:

Column 1: Codex type (in abbreviation).

- All exemplars of the codex type present in the collection are registered according to the order of library codes. Between brackets a provisional number (see column 2) is given.
- The inclusion of certain codices in a codex type (brought together under the codex title) does not mean that the manuscripts of one type are always exactly

identical qua contents, or that they have the same arrangement of contents. There are always variations and exceptions to the general rule.

- Exemplars of *combined contents* that in fact belong to two different codex types, are also included (TP, TAp, TPPsal, HorEuch, for instance).
- Sub-codex types and divisions (E full, E middle, E small, E select, etc.) are only indicated succinctly in the window of the Short Catalogue.

A-typical codices are not included because they require special treatment (they cannot be placed in the Short Catalogue model).

Column 2: Code (within codex type group)

CBM codes given to the codex type follow the serial library-collection codes (local signatures) of the manuscripts. The codex type codes are placed between brackets, because:

- Short Catalogues are built up gradually per library-collection.
- for the time being shifts in the arrangement, which will change the numbering order, are unavoidable and foreseen.

The website version, on which changes can easily be inserted, can help to develop the catalogue, before an extended Short Catalogue and published book version comes about.

Column 3: Place (of the library or repository)

The present-day location of the manuscripts placed central stage in this Short Catalogue Pilot. The codices kept in Athens EBE stem from various places, monasteries, churches and private persons in Greece and study of the provenance of the sub-collections to which the codices once belonged is very important.

(See Portal IV1 0.5: *Athens EBE Principal Fund: Table of provenance data*).

Column 4: Library & holdings

There are today three holdings and each holding has its own codes. The arrangement of Athens Byzantine manuscripts was reorganised by Sakkelion, and set out in his *Katalogos Cheirographon tes Ethnikes Bibliothekes tes Ellados*, 1892, according to a thematic paradigm (see Prologos p. 5: categories α' - $\iota\delta'$). This order became the basis of codex numbering of the Athens EBE Principal Fond, which is still in use in the Department of Manuscripts. Politis continued with code 1857-2500 and so further, leaving the thematic organisation of the codices. Later were added the Megale Schole and Metochion tou Panagiou Taphou collections, which behold their original codes, provided in earlier catalogues (Papadopoulos-Kerameus).

Column 5: Library code

See for the present library codes Athens National Library catalogues listed in Portal IV1 0.5: *Athens EBE Principal Fund: Table of provenance data*, and Portal IV1 0.0: *Bibliographical entrances to Athens EBE*.

Column 6: Age/date.

Ages and dates are taken from the available catalogues. The “age” updates of NT codices are adopted from the INTF, which may differ from Sakkelion, but Politis datings are preferred. Later this section concerning the dating of codices should be improved.

Column 7: Library catalogue(s).

Page references of the library catalogues (Kremos, Sakkelion, Politis, Nikolopoulos, unpublished supplement catalogues, cahiers I-VIII, Nikolopoulos 1-4), are provided for quick consultancy.

Column 8: Special catalogue references.

The reference numbers of special catalogues or pages are provided: INTF (references include the still valuable data of earlier works by Gregory, v. Soden, v. Dobschütz, Aland and others), SU (Rahlfs, Fraenkel), Dimitrievsky, Ehrhard, Halkin, Touliatos-Miles.

Column 9: IRHT check indication

A link is included to the IRHT Base Pinakes general catalogue index of Byzantine manuscripts. Entrances of this website to Athens EBE Principal Fund of Byzantine manuscripts are via country, place, library, holding, individual codices presented in collection context. In many cases the codices are only indexed in collection context, without content indications for the time being. The catalogue approach is textual.