

PROPOSAL FOR THE NETHERLANDS ORGANISATION OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH (INTERNATIONALISATION IN THE HUMANITIES)

1. PROJECT INFORMATION / TITLE

Towards the construction of a *Catalogue of Byzantine Liturgical Codices* (an associated CBM project).

2. ABSTRACT

The main aim of this two-year project is that the PThU develops, in partnership with two Greek and one Dutch research groups, a new project (associated to the already existing *Catalogue of Byzantine Manuscripts* programme currently underway at the PThU in Kampen), which will concentrate on cataloguing the Byzantine *liturgical* manuscripts. The efforts of the consortium should lead to an international project proposal that can be submitted for funding to different funding bodies. By means of 3 workshops and 1 scientific publication the research proposal will be prepared. At the same time a well-organised, international cataloguing network in the area of Byzantine manuscripts will be established. To this end this project will lead to reinvigorated dialogue between codicologists, liturgists and theologians from West and East and the cooperation effort will contribute to the important, already ongoing, opening up of a window on the world of theology for Dutch theologians in Greece and Eastern Europe. New partnerships with major academic institutions active in this field in Athens are essential to contribute to the inventory of liturgical manuscripts.

3. MAIN APPLICANT

Prof. dr. K. Spronk, Professor of Old Testament and acting head of the research department *Sources* of the Protestant Theological University (PThU) - location Kampen.

4. INSTITUTIONAL SETTING

The research department *Sources* of the PThU brings together Biblical and historical studies. The proposed research of Byzantine liturgical manuscripts fits very well into the overall programme "Scripture, Religious Identity, and Transformation", combining the interpretation of source texts from different perspectives.

5. SUBSIDY PERIOD

Starting date: 1 August 2010

Date of completion of project: 31 July 2012

6-7. RESUBMITTED PROPOSAL / CONTINUATION OF A FORMER PROPOSAL

Not applicable. This is the first time of submission.

8. FOREIGN RESEARCH GROUPS AND PARTICIPANTS

1. University of Athens: Faculty of Liturgical Studies, Athens, coordinator Fr. Prof. Dr. D. Tzerpos
2. Ecclesiastical Academy of Athens: Faculty of Liturgical Studies, Athens, coordinator Fr. Prof. ass. Dr. S. Alexopoulos
3. Tilburg University (The Faculty of Catholic Theology), coordinator Prof G.A.M. Rouwhorst

9. SHORT PROJECT DESCRIPTION (MAX 1500 WORDS)

Aim of the project

The main aim of this two-year project is that the PThU develops with its partners a new extension project associated to the already existing *Catalogue of Byzantine Manuscripts*

(CBM) programme, which is currently underway at the PThU and which is being funded by NWO (Free Competition) [1]. The current CBM programme concentrates on the Byzantine biblical (NT + OT) and the hermeneutic manuscripts. The proposed extension project to be developed here should concentrate on cataloguing the Byzantine *liturgical* manuscripts [2]. It will bring to the PThU's research group new partners from Athens, where research groups are active that are highly specialised in this liturgical field. The efforts of the consortium should lead to an international project proposal that can be submitted for funding to different funding bodies.

Importance and added value of the project

The current CBM programme is seriously approaching codicological research of the Byzantine NT, OT and hermeneutic manuscripts, in the form of an international, interdisciplinary cataloguing project based on new *codico-liturgical* parameters. One of the conclusions of the first expert-meeting of the project was that a focus also on the *liturgical* codices will strengthen this research effort and will be highly complementary to the programme already underway.

Western academic research of the Bible can do more to step up its academic dialogue with liturgical research as practiced in those countries situated on the southern and eastern edges of Europe. The Eastern Orthodox approach to liturgical studies and the study of the Byzantine manuscripts in the light of the liturgy in particular, can lead to significant new insights in the study of the manuscripts.

The leading idea is that the codicological forms of the Byzantine manuscripts (which accommodate the biblical, patristic and liturgical texts) are closely related to the *liturgical* function and purpose of these texts. An interesting source for researchers is the Byzantine liturgy of the Eastern Orthodox churches, in which one can still find these same codex forms in use today; the forms of the printed editions closely resemble the manuscript forms. From here one can trace the tradition of many factors that contributed to forming the codices.

An extension project with partners from Greece will lead to reinvigorated dialogue between codicologists, liturgists and theologians from West and East. Cooperation will continue to contribute to the important, already ongoing, opening up of a window on the world of theology in Greece. New partnerships with major academic institutions active in this field in Athens are essential to contribute to the inventory of liturgical manuscripts.

Objectives of the proposed cooperation

The objectives of the proposed cooperation are threefold:

- 1) To develop, on the basis of current CBM programme's explorations in the field, an extension project *Towards the Construction of a Catalogue of Byzantine Liturgical Codices*. This is highly opportune and fundamental to the core classification principal of the CBM – the *codico-liturgical* methodology of approaching the Byzantine codices [3];
- 2) To establish new working relations with old and new research groups in Greece that are already involved in Byzantine liturgical manuscript studies.
- 3) To stimulate further research activities and closer *interdisciplinary* cooperation in different fields of the humanities: biblical (OT & NT) manuscript studies, textual and hermeneutical studies, liturgical studies and Byzantine studies.

Coherence of this project with ongoing work of the lead applicant

The group of Byzantine *liturgical* manuscripts has been rather neglected in biblical, patristic and even in liturgical studies. A general checklist of the different types of liturgical codices, for instance, does not exist as yet. The project to be developed will place the liturgical manuscripts (the codex forms Typikon; Euchologion; Horologion; Triodion; Pentekostarion; Menaia, etc.) central stage.

The Typikon codices[7] as well as the Typikon as a liturgical *system* (the liturgical substructures of the Byzantine Orthodox Church), have had a great and directive impact on codex construction and composition of other Byzantine manuscripts, biblical (Evangelion, Apostolos, Psalterion, Prophetologion etc.), as well as patristic (Panegyrica/Homiletica, Asketica, Catechetica, Hagiographica). These are all presupposed in the Typikon system as a whole (rubrical references concerning their use and function, etc.), with prescriptions sometimes found in Typikon codices and sometimes in the rubrics of other liturgical codices (for example in the Triodion). For this reason they are considered fundamental for the exploration of Byzantine codex cataloguing and classification of codex types. The project to be developed will set up a comprehensive methodology to approaching the Typikon both as a codex form and as a system.

Availability of sources and resources

The entries to the manuscripts are provided in the catalogues of both local and specialised Byzantine liturgical manuscripts. However, these catalogues are rarely present in Dutch university libraries. The research team and its partners in Greece know where the sources are to be found. The team has access to the libraries where the catalogues are housed, and especially the holdings in Greece are of particular relevance for the CBM liturgical department. Special attention will be paid to the important repositories in the National Library of Greece in Athens, and the monastic libraries on Mount Athos. Research visits are planned to analyse the present situation of the Byzantine holdings there and how the catalogues are executed.[8]

Project activities

The major output of this project will be a *research proposal* for a project that embraces the cataloguing of Byzantine liturgical manuscripts that can be submitted for funding. The proposed project will contain tasks that are distributed over two closely connected areas:

1. a descriptive-classification task with the tabulation of codices as concrete output;
2. an interpretative/hermeneutic task, focusing on the hermeneutic explanation of the codex presentation.

The project under construction will be developed at and around *3 international workshops*. These will bring together the key scholars in the field of Byzantine liturgical studies from the partner institutions and beyond.

1. workshop 1 in Athens: central function of Typikon as central codex type in the complex Byzantine liturgical structures, and also in combination with to other liturgical codices as Euchologion, Horologion, Triodion, etc.
2. workshop 2 Kampen: cataloguing principles and methodology concerning pilot group of Typikon codices
3. workshop 3 in Athens: preparation of the research proposal

Participants to the first two workshops will be asked to prepare papers on given topics. These papers will form the basis of a *publication* which will be an output of this project. The publication developed as a result of the workshops, will prepare the ground for the launch of the forthcoming Catalogue of Liturgical Manuscripts project.

1. publication: exploration of central organisational function of Typikon + checklist, research history + historical survey of research done in area of liturgical manuscripts to date, including overview of catalogues.

Feasibility and relevance

Already-known manuscripts will be considered in a new light. On the basis of a new catalogue of liturgical codices, the hermeneutics of the Bible will also be given new impulses in a way that is hitherto unknown in Western scholarship: forgotten levels of interpretation of

the Bible as read in the liturgy; deepened attention for the liturgical and patristic roots of the scriptures; the wide-ranging patristic parameters of biblical exegesis of the undivided Church; the implications of the Byzantine-Eastern Orthodox approach to the liturgy and the central place of scripture within that liturgical framework (Byzantine calendar substructures).

Quality of research groups

Fr. Prof. Dimitrios Tzerpos is professor of Liturgical Studies at the University of Athens and scientific/research director of the Centre of Sinai Studies of the University of Athens, where all the Sinai manuscripts in microfilm are kept. His research group, made up of doctoral students, is in the process of digitising this collection and cataloguing its liturgical manuscripts in groups of liturgical genre for the benefit of research.

Fr. Prof. ass. Stefanos Alexopoulos is assistant professor of Liturgy at the Ecclesiastical Academy of Athens, in close cooperation with Dr. Dimitrios Passakos, assistant professor of New Testament. Prof. Alexopoulos is currently involved in a research project examining the genre and history of Byzantine manuscripts containing the Office of Holy Communion. He also acts as the secretary of the international Society of Oriental Liturgy.

Dr. G. Rouwhorst is full professor in the history of Christian liturgy. The focus of his research is on the history of early Christian liturgy and he is a specialist in the liturgical traditions of Syriac and (Early) Byzantine Christianity. He has extensively published about the interactions between Early Christian and Early Jewish liturgy, about Christian festivals (Easter, Pentecost), about the early Christian Eucharist and about the liturgical reading of the Bible in early Christianity.

The CBM Research group, PThU is composed of 3 researchers: Dr. S.M. Royé (programme coordinator); Dr. S.Ovsiannikov; and J. Lena M.A. The CBM programme centres around the construction of a catalogue of Byzantine New Testament manuscripts, based on codico-liturgical criteria, the leading idea being that the codex forms of the Byzantine manuscripts – which accommodate biblical, patristic and liturgical texts – were determined by their liturgical function and the inherent purpose of the incorporated texts.

10. WORD COUNT [PARAGRAPH 9]

1488 words.

11. INTENDED RESULTS

A detailed **international research proposal** is the main objective to be worked out in the two years preparatory work. At the same time, the already fast-growing international cooperation will be consolidated in order to establish a well-organised, international cataloguing **network** in the area of Byzantine manuscripts.

Ad 1: The international research proposal can be submitted to more than one funding body: NWO; E.Commission FP7 research programme – depending on priorities and eligible countries in 2012; applications for funding can also be submitted through the Greek research groups (University of Athens and Ecclesiastical Academy of Athens) to foundations supporting research activities in humanities based in Greece, such as the Onassis Foundation (<http://www.onassis.gr/contact.php?lang=en>), the Stavros Niarchos Foundation ([http://www.snf.org/index.php?ID=how to apply EN](http://www.snf.org/index.php?ID=how%20to%20apply%20EN)), the Lilian Voudouri Foundation (<http://www.lilianvoudouri.gr/site/content.php?sel=8>).

Ad 2: Through the very content of the designed project an anchored international research group – a network - will have been created. Models of institutionalisation of such networks in existing university structures will be taken into consideration.

Furthermore **1 scientific publication** will be produced as output of the 3 international workshops.

12. SHORT CURRICULUM VITAE OF MAIN APPLICANT

Klaas Spronk (1957), studied theology at the Theological University of Kampen where he received his doctoral degree (1986). He has lectured at the universities of Utrecht, Groningen and Amsterdam (Vrije Universiteit) and is currently professor of Old Testament at the Protestant Theological University. He is author/editor of numerous scholarly books and articles. The fact that he is also editor of two scholarly journals, member of the board of two scholarly projects, and secretary of a biblical commentary series, gives evidence of his managerial capacities.

REFERENCES AND RELEVANT BIBLIOGRAPHY

NB. THE NOTES REFER TO SECTION 9.

[1] The CBM is based on preparatory work by one of the executors, S.M. ROYÉ, 'An Assessment of Byzantine Codex and Catalogue Research: Towards the Construction of a New Series of Catalogues of Byzantine Manuscripts', *Sacris Erudiri* 47 (2009), p. 5-145, which is a revised extract from the dissertation by the same author, *The Inner Cohesion between the Bible and the Fathers in Byzantine Tradition. Towards a codico-liturgical approach to the Byzantine Manuscripts* (defended on 19th October 2007 PThU, Kampen), Tilburg: Orthodox Logos Publishing, 2007.

[2] Practical principles and parameters of the cataloguing process (see dissertation *The Inner Cohesion*, Ch. 5: 'The Outlines of a Codico-Liturgical Model of Classification'), with concrete examples of the proposed tabulation process (see dissertation *The Inner Cohesion*, Ch. 6: 'The Catalogue of Byzantine Liturgical Manuscripts').

[3] On the importance of the liturgical framework of the Byzantine manuscripts was underlined in, S.M. ROYÉ, *The Inner Cohesion between the Bible and the Fathers in Byzantine Tradition*, (Tilburg, 2007), ch. 2: 'The Byzantine Liturgy and the Biblical and Patristic Manuscripts'; and ch. 3: 'The Byzantine Lection System – a Patristic, Liturgical Hermeneutics of Scripture'. See also Vasileios Exarhos, *Τὰ εἶδη τῶν ἀναγνωσμάτων ἐν τῇ Ἑλληνικῇ Ὀρθόδοξῳ Ἐκκλησίᾳ* (Alexandria, 1935); idem, *Τὸ παρ' ἡμῖν ἰσχύον σύστημα βιβλικῶν ἀναγνωσμάτων ἐν τοῖς τακτοῖς καιροῖς δημοσίας λατρείας* (Athens, 1935); idem, *Περὶ τῆν ἱστορίαν τῶν Βιβλικῶν Ἀναγνωσμάτων* (Athens, 1936); *Ἱεροουργεῖν τὸ Εὐαγγέλιον. Ἡ Ἁγία Γραφή στήν Ὀρθόδοξη Ἐκκλησία. Πρακτικὰ Ἐ' Πανελληνίου Λειτουργικοῦ Συμποσίου*. Ποιμαντικὴ Βιβλιοθήκη 10 (Athens: Church of Greece, 2004).

[4] Present-day Greek standard works on the Typikon are: K. Papagiannis, *Σύστημα Τυπικοῦ τῶν ἱερῶν ἀκολουθιῶν τοῦ ὄλου ἐνιαυτοῦ, καταρτισθέν ἐπὶ τῇ βάσει τῆς τυπικῆς παραδόσεως τῆς Ὀρθόδοξου Ἀνατολικῆς Ἐκκλησίας*, Athens, 2006 [Lit. προλεγόμενα, p. 15-23]; and O.G. Rigas, *Τυπικόν*, Thessaloniki, 1994.

[5] A.A. Dimitrievsky, *Description of the liturgical manuscripts kept in the Libraries of the Orthodox East* [in Russian], 1, Kiev, 1895; 2; Petrograd, 1917. [Repr., Hildesheim, 1965]

[6] A. Rahlfs, 'Die alttestamentlichen Lektionen der griechischen Kirche', in *Mitteilungen des Septuaginta-Unternehmens*, Heft V, Berlin, 1915, p. 120-230; A. Ehrhard, *Überlieferung und Bestand der hagiographischen und homiletischen Literatur der griechischen Kirche, von den Anfängen bis zum Ende des 16. Jahrhunderts*, Vols. I-III, Leipzig-Berlin, 1937-1952; A. Schmemmann, *Introduction to Liturgical Theology*, Trans: A.E. Moorehouse, London/Portland, 1966; R.F. Taft, *The Byzantine Rite. A Short History* (American Essays in Liturgy), Collegeville, 1992.

[7] The Typikon codices include the necessary prescriptive information for the performance of the Byzantine liturgical celebrations in its complex structure of two synchronised cycles of services during the whole Byzantine calendar year, i.e. of the fixed cycle (Menologion) and of the movable cycle (Synaxarion), and how they should be attuned to each other. There are basically three types of the Typikon: the monastic, the ecclesiastical (cathedral) and the mixed type of Typikon in which a midway between monastic and ecclesiastical is formulated. The liturgical texts themselves are provided in other codices (Euchologion, Horologion, etc.).

[8] Standard referencial work is, M. RICHARD AND J.-M. OLIVIER, *Répertoire des Bibliothèques et des Catalogues de Manuscrits Grecs*, troisième édition, Turnhout, 1995; see also S.M. ROYÉ, *The Inner Cohesion between the Bible and the Fathers in Byzantine Tradition. Towards a codico-liturgical approach to the Byzantine Manuscripts*, Tilburg, 2008, Ch. 4, 4.3 and 4.4.