

Towards the construction of a catalogue of Byzantine liturgical codices (NWO dossier number IG-10-005)

Clarification of the central research question and focus of the proposed project

In the following note we will set out the central research problem to be tackled by the two year preparatory trajectory that is to lead to an International catalogue of Byzantine liturgical codices programme.

What is the central research focus?

1. The main **aim** of the research project to be developed is to catalogue the Byzantine *liturgical* manuscripts (the codex forms Typikon; Euchologion; Horologion; Triodion; Pentekostarion; Menaia, etc.).

We are currently already seriously approaching codicological research of the Byzantine New Testament and hermeneutic manuscripts, in the form of an international, interdisciplinary cataloguing project based on *new codico-liturgical parameters which takes into consideration and does fully justice to the character of the codices as well as to the liturgical settings for which by far the majority of them were intended.* Given the importance of the liturgy and the overlap between the Biblical and the liturgical manuscripts it is strongly felt by the current research group and by other voices from the field, that a cataloguing focus now also on the *liturgical* codices is essential to strengthen this research effort.

2. The leading **focus of the research** is that the codicological *forms* of the Byzantine manuscripts that accommodate biblical, patristic and liturgical texts (the way the codices are *structured* as far as their content is concerned), are closely related to the *liturgical function* and purpose of the texts incorporated therein. This function has to date not been methodologically approached. This focus is leading in all CBM cataloguing work. Before cataloguing work of the liturgical codices can start, the *liturgical function* must be thoroughly explored.

A very important focus of the research therefore, is to answer the question: what is the relevance of the liturgical codex the *Typikon* for this codex classification? The Typikon codices provide the necessary prescriptive information for the performance of the Byzantine liturgical services and celebrations during the whole Byzantine calendar year. The Typikon therefore provides a *liturgical system* and we intend to research **what the immense and directive impact of this system was on the construction and composition of the other Byzantine manuscripts (biblical as well as patristic).**

The Typikon system is also to be found in the other liturgical manuscripts (for example in rubrics present in other liturgical codices such as the *Triodion*). For this reason they are considered fundamental for the exploration of Byzantine codex cataloguing and classification of codex types.

The Typikon then is the *'liturgical mechanism'* behind the codex formation of many Byzantine manuscripts, and a sound and well-founded codex classification model must start with (at least elementary) knowledge of the Typikon and its function in Byzantine Liturgy.

3. The **scope of the research** embraces a body of liturgical and para-liturgical codices which function together according to the same liturgical system and which are complementary to

one another, with the Typikon as a 'uniting principle'. Thus the study of one codex form demands the study of the other types also, from a conceptual and functional point of view: The diagram below shows how the codices are interconnected and why viewing them in this light is indispensable.

