

The Sinai *Euchologia* Written on Reused Parchment: Communities of Production and Use

Byzantine prayer books (*euchologia*) can offer valuable information about the social, regional and historical context of their production and use, which can be inferred from the text written on the *folia* of each manuscript – in particular from the so-called “small prayers” (simple prayers used in diverse situations of everyday life, such as the first school’s day of a child or the visitation of the sick), addressed to all believers regardless of their social and economic status – and the material traces of everyday usage left on it (especially annotations).

My dissertation research deals with three barely studied *euchologia* manuscripts currently preserved in the Library of Saint Catherine’s Monastery at Mount Sinai, Egypt. These three codices (Sin. gr. 960, Sin. gr. 962, Sin. gr. 966), ranging in date from the 11th to the 14th centuries, are the unique complete prayer books of the collection extant as overtext of palimpsest manuscripts (manuscripts written on “recycled” parchment).

The main goal of my thesis is to look at these three *euchologia* in order to uncover – thanks to a codicological, palaeographical and philological analysis – both the context of their production as well of the history of their use. This will be done in an innovative way, by taking into account not only the prayers and the annotations of the overtext, but recovering the erased text layers – which will become legible thanks to the multi-spectral images provided by EMEL – too.

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