

THE FOLIO

The Newsletter of the Ancient Biblical
Manuscript Center for Preservation and Research

Claremont, CA

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Notes From The President

This summer at Princeton I attended my first session as a new member of the Revised Standard Version Translation Committee. While I love to go out into the churches to preach and to give Bible lectures at colleges and for church conventions, as I often do, I especially enjoy close textual work such as I have done on the United Bible Societies' Hebrew Old Testament Text Project in Germany since 1969, and am now doing on the RSV committee. Colleagues in both groups will turn to me to ask, "Jim would you check this out when you get back to the Center."

The Center has a unique collection of films of ancient manuscripts relating to biblical study, and it is growing. There is no place else on earth quite like it. We here at Claremont take pride, however, not in the Center's uniqueness, but in the service we can render to serious projects of research and study such as the UBS and RSV committees. We hope you will take pride in supporting this work.

The Center subscribes to an abiding respect for the Biblical texts that the ancient scribes took such great care to hand down to us and which are the basis of any sound theology. Manuscripts themselves may be fast deteriorating, but folk who take careful study of the Bible seriously need not fear losing their precious contents. In a manner of speaking, the Center and all associated with it are carrying on where the ancient scribes left off.

One of my pleasant tasks is to share the vision of the Center as I travel around the country. Perhaps you would like to enjoy that pleasure too by sharing the vision with people you know.



So What's A Folio?

Well first of all, this is **The Folio**, the Center's newsletter. This first issue is coming out much later than we had planned, and for that we apologize. We hope to bring you four issues a year—full of news of people and events and discoveries at the Center to enable you to share in the activities here.

The newsletter's name, **The Folio**, comes from the term for the basic unit, a folio, of a particular type of manuscript—the codex. A codex, much like the hard-bound books of today, is made up of one or more signatures. Each signature is a group of sheets of papyrus, parchment or paper folded over and sewn together at the middle creating a bundle of pages. By folding each sheet in the middle the scribe creates two

Continued on the next page.



The remnants of two folios from a papyrus codex. The line of holes to the left center, between the columns of writing, is where the papyrus sheet was bound into the signature (also called a quire). Thus the papyrus on each side of that line is a single folio (only part of the left-hand folio is shown). The manuscript is P Vindob G 39784 (recto shown) containing parts of I and II Corinthians in Greek (7th century). (Courtesy of the Österreichische Nationalbibliothek.)

So What's A Folio?

leaves, each with two pages (one for each side of the leaf). These leaves are called folios, singular—folio, from the Latin word for "leaf", *folium*.

We plan a variety of features for **The Folio**. The Center's President, Professor James A. Sanders, will contribute a regular column entitled, "Notes From the President". "Who, What, and Where" will note the various events involving the Center and people connected with it. "Our New Friends" is the place where we recognize the financial support of the Center's Friends who make possible all the work that goes on here.

The feature, "Discoveries at the Center", will highlight, in lay terms, some of the work of the various scholars who use the Center's resources. Finally, the space devoted to this introduction will in succeeding issues be filled with shorter articles on aspects of manuscript study of particular interest or pertinence to us who live in the late 20th century.



Discoveries At The Center

Window on a Workshop

This spring Ms. Kathleen Maxwell, of the University of Chicago, came to the Center to study films of several Greek New Testament lectionary manuscripts. Her work makes a valuable contribution to our understanding of these manuscripts. In 1978 two other scholars identified a group of fifteen manuscripts produced by one scriptorium, or atelier, in Constantinople (modern Istanbul) in the 13th century CE (= AD). Ms. Maxwell has found a sixteenth, Vaticanus Graecus 352 (= Vatican Greek Manuscript #352).

In an article to appear in **Dumbarton Oaks Papers** she shows how the manuscript, containing the Scripture lessons for the Sundays and various festivals of the church year, is one of the most beautiful and carefully executed manuscripts from this workshop. These sixteen manuscripts are the only group of top quality Byzantine manuscripts of the 13th century that we can surely say belong together—thereby affording us a glimpse of the workshop that produced them, probably under the patronage of the learned bibliophile Theodora Raoulina Kantakouzenos.

Ms. Maxwell points out that Vaticanus Graecus 352 contains a marginal note from 1375 that locates it on that date in Mistra, Greece. With this help we get a sense

for the journey of this manuscript: from its writing in Constantinople in the late 1200's, to Mistra by 1375, to the possession of Queen Carlotta of Cyprus in the 1400's. It went into exile with her, the last Lusignan Queen of Cyprus, to Rome. There she presented it to Pope Innocent VIII who placed it in the Vatican Library.

Ms. Maxwell compared the text of the Vatican lectionary with that of two other lectionaries from that scriptorium. She found that although these three lectionaries were produced by the same workshop, the text they contain varies considerably. This extends to the number of saints mentioned, the order they are listed in, the length of the entries given for them, the Gospel passage used with the entry and the mode of its citation.

By widening the window on this top quality manuscript workshop, by adding to our knowledge of where and how manuscripts traveled, and by raising the issue of how manuscripts produced in the same workshop can differ so much, Ms. Maxwell has opened wider a door on the questions of how Byzantine manuscripts were produced and how they relate to each other. By walking through that door we will be able to evaluate better the evidence these and other such manuscripts give for the wording of the Greek New Testament.



Kathleen Maxwell reading a manuscript film at the Center.

Staff of THE FOLIO

editor: Richard D. Weis
graphic design: Mary Jane Niemack
photography: George C. Whipple & Richard D. Weis
typesetting: Peter A. Pettit



By Way of Edification ...

Our graphic designer, Mary Jane Niemack, derived **The Folio's** artwork from manuscripts. The letters of the title are based on the script of an 8th century Greek gospel manuscript now in the Bibliothèque Nationale of Paris (Grec 14). The animal figures that mark the beginning of articles are derived from similar figures used to mark the reading divisions called sedarim in a 12th century Hebrew manuscript of the Prophets and Writings. This codex (Arundel Oriental 16) is now in the British Library in London. The Center has films of both manuscripts in its collection.



Our New Friends

The Center is able to carry on its work only because it enjoys the support of a great many Friends who believe in the importance of that work. All of us at Claremont appreciate the generosity of the Center's Friends and welcome them to the Manuscript Center family. We recognize here the contributions of all those who joined us by the end of August. Those joining after August will be recognized in the next issue of **The Folio**.



Neele S. Barner, Regional Director for the Pacific Southern Region of Eastman Kodak, presents James A. Sanders, Center President, with a check from Kodak in support of the Center's work.

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If you would like to join the circle of Friends who support the Center's work financially, send your tax-deductible contribution to: Ancient Biblical Manuscript Center, P. O. Box 670, Claremont, CA 91711.

Please turn the page.





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Ancient Biblical Manuscript Center



Who, What And Where

This past February **PROFESSOR LARRY W. HURTADO**, of the University of Manitoba, spent several days working at the Center on films of a pair of Greek gospel manuscripts from Paris. By investigating the relationship between those manuscripts and the Freer Gospels in Washington, D.C., he hopes to clarify the relationships between some of the early Greek manuscripts of the gospels.

MR. STEPHEN REED, of the Claremont Graduate School, has been reading a large number of films of Hebrew Bible manuscripts concerning a textual problem in Joshua. We plan to feature his work in a future issue of *The Folio*.

MR. JAMES BUTTS, also of the Claremont Graduate School, was in throughout the summer reading manuscript films for a new edition of Theon's *Progymnasmata*, a Hellenistic rhetorical handbook from the time of the New Testament. We plan to report more fully on his work too.

FATHER STEPHEN PISANO, of the University of Fribourg in Switzerland and soon to be the Director of Textual Criticism of the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome, visited the Center in July. Also in July **PROFESSOR EMANUEL TOV**, of the Hebrew University and Hebrew University Bible Project of Jerusalem and a member of the Center's Board of Advisors, visited the Center with his family and conferred with the staff on pertinent developments in text criticism of the Hebrew Bible.

During the summer the Center benefited from the labors of a team of volunteers. **LILLY MOYNIHAN, EULALIA WILLIAMS, MELBA MACDONALD, MARGARET GOFORTH, SUNNY COBB, JOE GREENE** and **JOHN B.** and **THEODORA COBB** on

various occasions helped stuff brochures and assemble mailings for the Center. Many of you heard about the Center because they contributed their time. Their contribution is deeply appreciated. Other volunteers have assisted the Center in other ways. We will tell you of their work in later issues.



Volunteers preparing a mailing. From left to right: Joe Greene, Theodora Cobb, Eulalia Williams, Marvin Sweeney (Center Research Associate), Melba MacDonald, Sunny Cobb, and John B. Cobb, Sr.

Best Wishes For The New Year

The Center Staff

John B. Cobb, Sr. *Richard D. Wis*
Marvin A. Sweeney
Peggy Woodruff