

Greek and Latin vertical rolls/scrolls

Vat. gr. 1613, «Menologion of Basil II», end of 10th century



A few recent references

Marilena MANIACI, *The liturgical scroll between Orient and Occident: ideas for a comparative study*, «Comparative Oriental Manuscript Studies Newsletter», 2 (2011), 16-21

Marilena MANIACI – Giulia OROFINO, *Les 'rouleaux d'Exultet' du Mont Cassin (techniques de fabrication, caractéristiques matérielles, décoration, rapports avec les rouleaux grecs)*, in «Les Cahiers de Saint-Michel de Cuxa. Gestes et techniques de l'artiste à l'époque romane (Actes de XLIIIes Journées romanes de Cuxa, 6-13 juillet 2011)», XLIII, 2012, pp. 71-82

Marilena MANIACI, *Rotoli medievali greci e latini (e non solo): tipologie, funzioni, prospettive di ricerca*, «La Bibliofilia», 120 (2018), 353-375

Thomas F. KELLY, *The role of the scroll. An illustrated introduction to scrolls in the Middle Ages*, New York, W.W. Norton & Company, 2019

Medieval Scrolls Digital Archive

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<https://medievalscrolls.com>

Greek and Latin (non documentary) vertical rolls. Chronological distribution (trend)

Latin rolls (source: MSDA)

century	no. of rolls
7 th	1
9 ^o	4
10 th	16
11 th	31
12 th	45
13 th	102
14 th	114
15 th	254
16 th	66
17 th	10
18 th	1
undated	37
<i>total</i>	<i>681</i>

Greek rolls (source: MM)

century	no. of rolls
8 th	1
9 th	2
10 th	5
11 th	20
12 th	39
13 th	40
14 th	71
15 th	27
16 th	8
17 ^o	3
19 th	1
undated	21
<i>total</i>	<i>238</i>

Latin rolls – contents (source: MSDA)

Content	no of rolls
Mortuary rolls	171
Royal genealogies	121
Threes of Christ	67
Chronicles	62
Liturgical rolls	36
Medical rolls	32
Exsultet rolls	24
Amulets	22
<i>Arma Christi</i>	20
Heraldic rolls	14
Prayer rolls	14



Theatrical rolls	14
Poetry	12
Ecclesiastical rolls	11
Maps or guides	11
Musical rolls	11
Archival rolls	9
<i>Vitae</i>	8
Various contents	7
Calendars	6
Statute rolls	6
Recipes	3
total	681

Greek liturgical rolls – contents (source: MM)

content	No of rolls
Liturgy of Chrysostom	73
Liturgy of Basil	63
Content not indicated	34
Other	19
Liturgy (unspecified)	14
Communion	11
Liturgy of the Presanctified	10
Liturgy of Basil + Liturgy of Chrysostom	8
Liturgy of James	3
Liturgy of Basil + Liturgy of the Presanctified	2
Chrysostom + Basil + Presanctified	1
Total	238

Latin liturgical rolls – *Exsultet* rolls

Latin Exsultet rolls *Exsultet* rolls were long rolls/scrolls of parchment made and used in Southern Italy in the Middle Ages. These scrolls contained the texts and chants of the *Exsultet* ((the hymn sung during the Easter Vigil announcing the triumph of light of the resurrection over darkness of the death), accompanied by various decorative illuminations related to its contents.



In the liturgical practice the roll would be unrolled by the deacon over the ambo as he sang the *Exsultet* from it, thereby permitting the faithful to see the related iconography.

Greek liturgical rolls

The majority of the known copies transmits the text of the Eucharistic liturgy of St. John Chrysostom and St. Basil (sometimes also transcribed, whether simultaneously or not, on both sides of a single roll), but one can also find the liturgies of St. James and St. Mark, the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, and the Vespers of Pentecost; some scrolls contain prayers for specific occasions, such as communion or marriage, or liturgical requirements for performing minor offices.



The officiating priest had to recite the so-called “secret prayers” from the roll; the possibility to see the manuscript and its illustrations was impeded by the marble barriers that divide the nave from the sanctuary.

Rodi, Monastery of
St. Michael the Archangel of Tharri

Iconostasis

Exultet, London, BL, Add. 30337, Montecassino, ca. 1075-1080



Date	c 1075-c 1080
Title	Exultet (the Monte Cassino Exultet Roll)
Content	<p>The roll includes the Exultet, a hymn sung by a deacon during the consecration of the Paschal candle, during the Easter Vigil, incipit: 'Exultet iam angelica turba coelorum'. Decoration: 13 unframed miniatures in colours and gold illustrating the text of the Exultet. 2 initials in colours and gold. The miniatures are reversed in order to be seen when the roll was displayed over the front of the ambo (or pulpit) during the service. The subjects of the miniatures are: Membrane 1: Christ enthroned between two angels. Membrane 2: Large initial 'E' (xultet); Four angels ('Angelica turba celorum'). Membrane 3: The personification of Ecclesia with a group of clerics on her right and a group of lay people on her left ('Letetur et mater Ecclesia'); Tellus, the personification of 'Mother Earth' with a cow and a serpent suckling her breast ('Gaudete et tellus'). Membrane 4: A deacon reading and unrolling the Exultet roll from the ambo and the Paschal candle being lighted ('Fratres karissimi'). Membrane 5: Initial 'V' of 'Vere dignum'. Membrane 6: The Crucifixion. Membrane 7: The Crossing of the Red Sea; the Harrowing of Hell. Membrane 8: Adam and Eve ('O certe necessarium Ade peccatum'); the Noli me tangere. Membrane 9: The Paschal candle being censed inside the church ('Sacrificium vespertinum'). Membrane 10: Bees gathering nectar; a bee-keeper gathering wax for the candle. Membrane 11: Virgin enthroned, with two assisting figures excised on either side; the Consecration of the candle ('Cereus iste'). (No miniature on Membrane 12).</p>
Languages	Latin
Physical Description	<p>Materials: Parchment.</p> <p>Dimensions: 790 x 290 mm</p> <p>Foliation: The roll is made of 12 membranes sewn together.</p> <p>Script: Beneventan minuscule.</p> <p>Binding: Unbound.</p>
Ownership	<p>Origin: Southern Italy (Monte Cassino). Provenance: Made at the Benedictine abbey, Monte Cassino under Abbot Desiderius (r. 1058-1087). Alessandro Castellani (b. 1823, d. 1883), antiquary and jeweller; acquired from him by the British Museum in 1877 for £160.</p>
Bibliography	<p>Catalogue of Additions to The Manuscripts in the British Museum in the years MDCCCLXXVI-MDCCCLXXXI (London: Longmans, 1882), p. 70.</p> <p>E. A. Lowe, The Beneventan Script: A History of the South Italian Minuscule (Oxford: The Clarendon Press, 1914), p. 340.</p> <p>J. P. Gilson, An Exultet roll illuminated in the XIth century at the abbey of Monte Cassino; reproduced</p>

Liturgy of James,
Vatican City, BAV, Vat. gr. 2282
Diocese of Damascus, 9th century

Material: Parchment

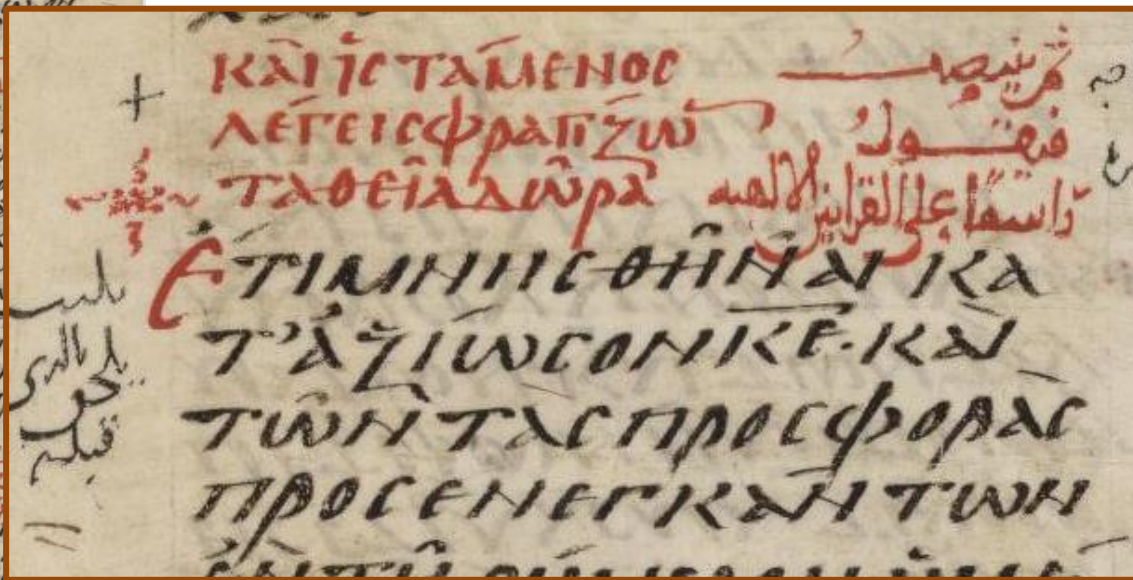
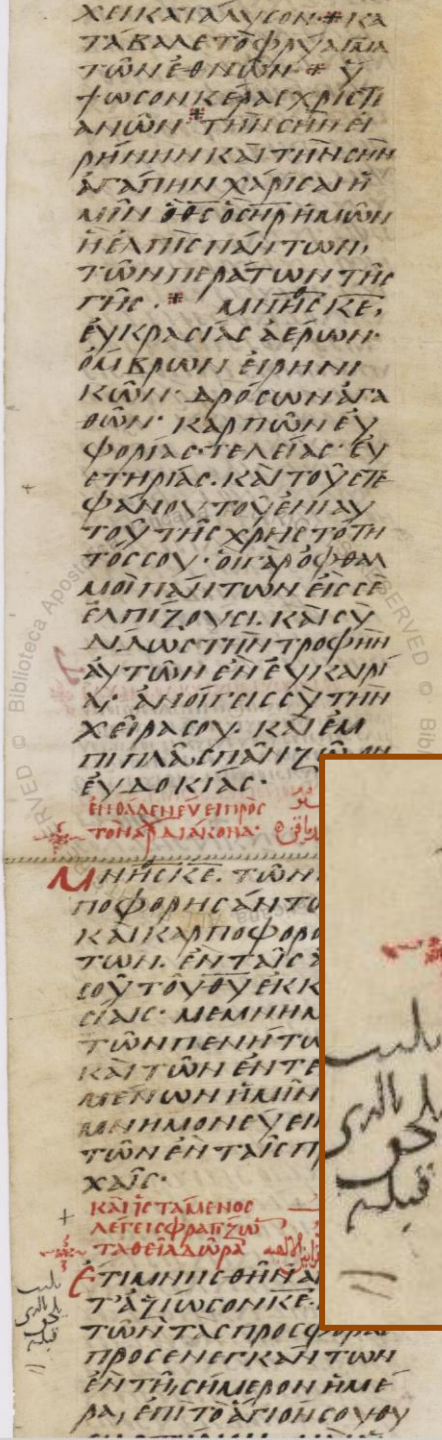
Dimensions: 11460 x 178 mm (width of the written area: 125 mm)

Structure: 16 membranes sewn together

Script: Slanted ogival majuscule, upright ogival majuscule (rubrics), mixed script

Binding: Unbound

Origin: Made in Syria (diocese of Damascus)



Bibliological characteristics

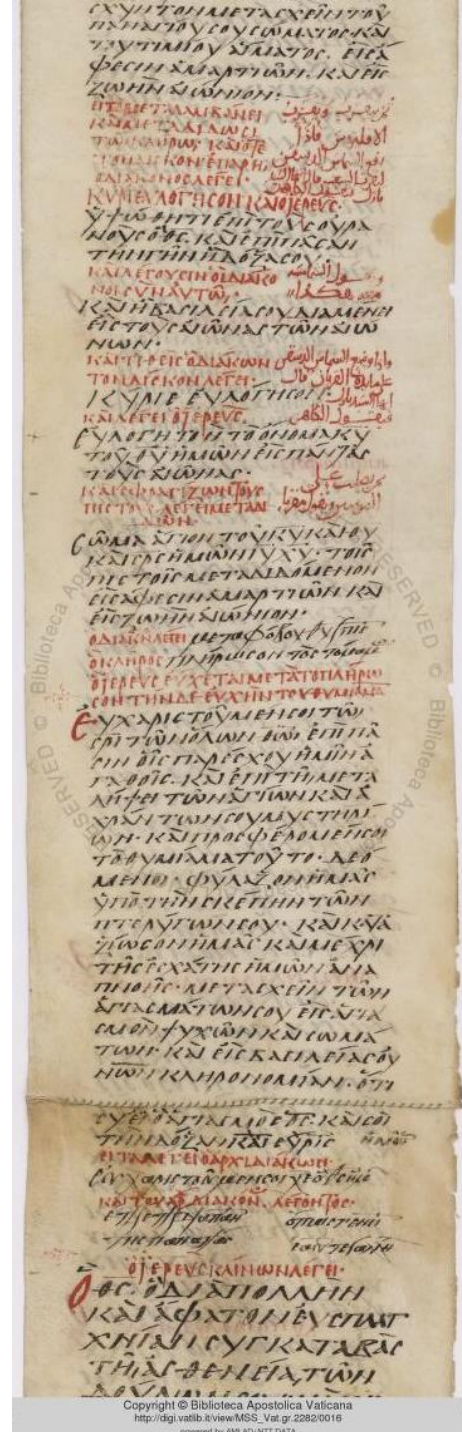
- ✓ **Material, ink(s) and colors**
- ✓ **Dimensions (of the strip and of the individual sections)**
- ✓ **Method of composition**
- ✓ **Numbering of the sections**
- ✓ **Pricking and ruling**
- ✓ **Layout («mise en bandeau»)**
- ✓ **Writing and decoration**
- ✓ **Unrolling and protection devices**

Material (1)

Both Latin *Exsultet* rolls and Greek liturgical rolls are made of parchment.

Characteristics to be observed:

- animal species
- thickness
- preparation of one or both surfaces
- presence of holes/other irregularities



Material and ink

Borg. gr. 27 is an italo-Greek roll, written in gold and silver on a parchment coloured with an (unusual) alternation of blue, purple and lilac, but almost entirely derived from the reuse of a Greek two-column manuscript.

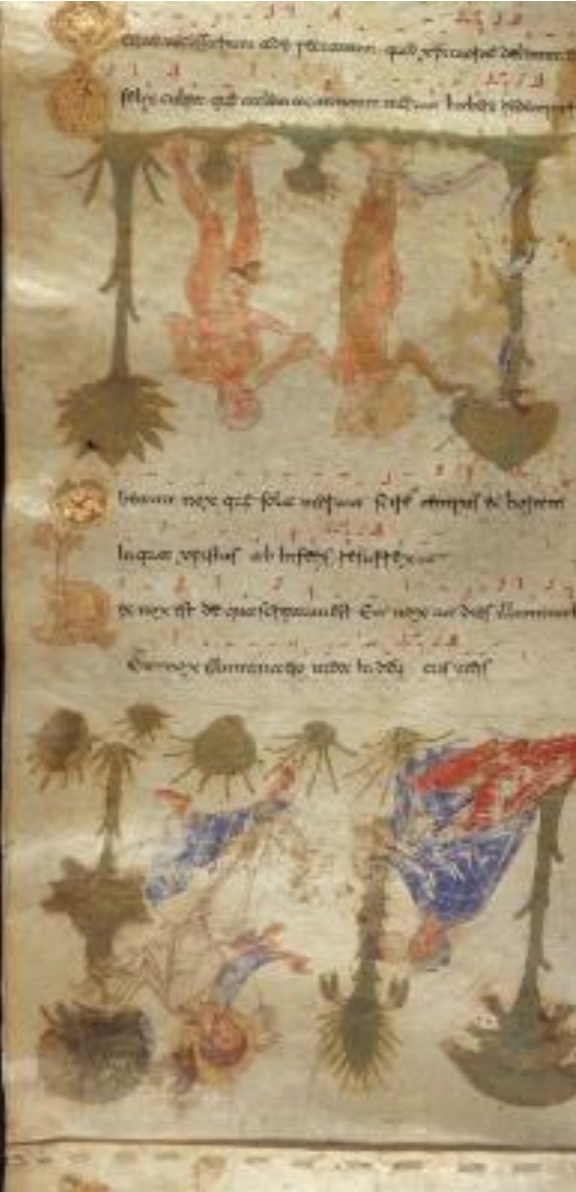


Vatican City, BAV, Borg. gr. 27

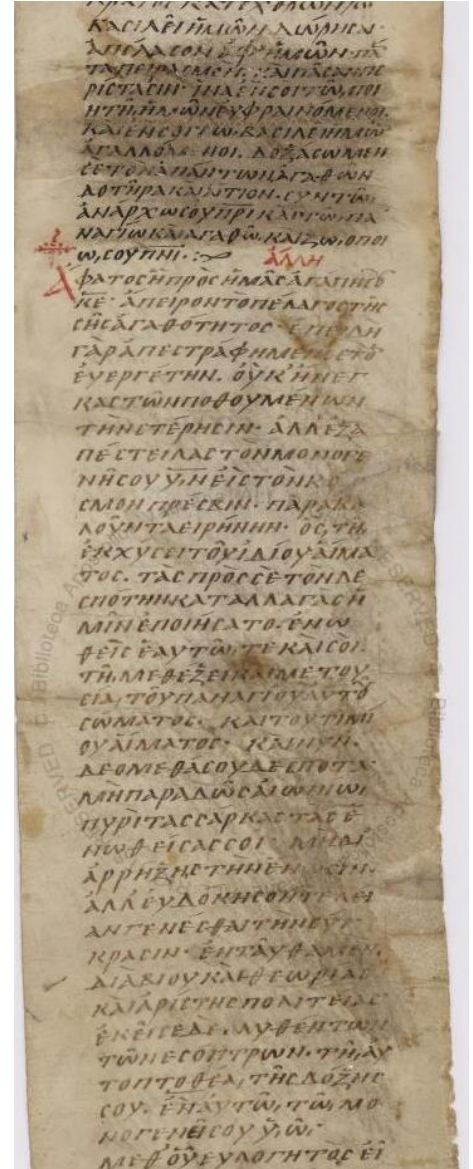
Liturgy of Chrysostom, end of 11^o - beginning of 12^o century

http://digi.vatlib.it/view/MSS_Borg.gr.27

Dimensions Length and width



BL, Add. 30337
7900 x 290 mm



Vat. gr. 2282
1150 x 180 mm

Dimensions - Length

Latin rolls Length (source: MSDA)

Current length (cm)	No of rolls	Current length (cm)	No of rolls
6,5-50	81	501-550	17
51-100	47	551-600	22
101-150	39	601-650	13
151-200	38	651-700	14
201-250	30	701-800	4
251-300	25	801-900	10
301-350	29	901-1000	8
351-400	27	1001-2000	23
401-450	20	2001-3270	4
451-500	17	total	468

Greek rolls Length (source: MM)

Current length (cm)	No of rolls
67-200	14
201-300	30
301-400	21
401-500	26
501-600	23
601-700	9
701-800	11
800-1281	8
total	142

Latin rolls – Width (source: MSDA)

Width (cm)	no rolls
3-5	3
5,1-10	31
10.1-15	74
15,1-20	89
20,1-25	68
25,1-30	69
30,1-35	45
35,1-40	18
40,1-45	11
45,1-50	9
50,1-55	8
55,5	1
55,1-60	6
60,1-65	12
65,1-70	4
Over 70 (72-73)	2
total	450

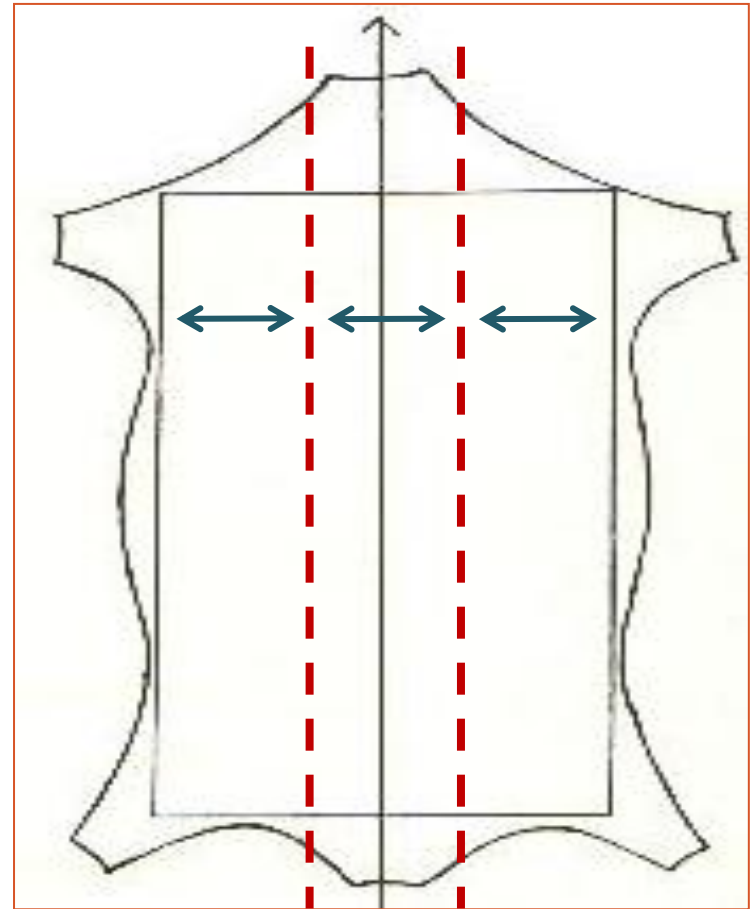
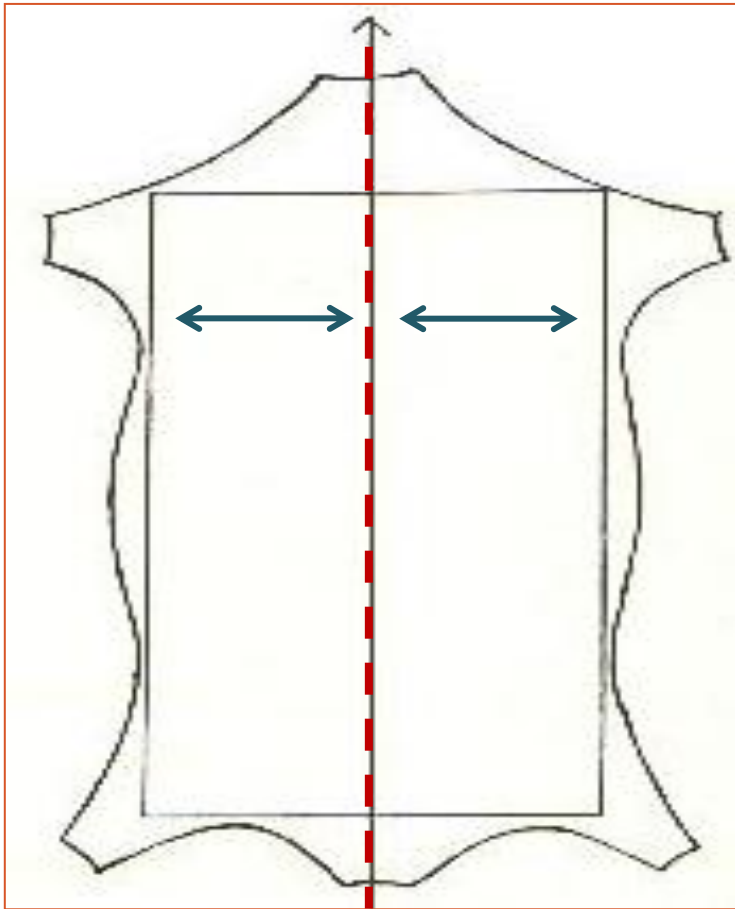
Dimensions - Width

Greek rolls – Width (source: MM)

Width (cm)	No rolls
11-15	11
16-20	23
21-25	74
26-30	39
30-32	2
total	149

Dimensions

Skin subdivision – Alternative options



Dimensions Shaped or irregular endings



San Marino (CA), Huntington Library, HM 26054
Arma Christi, sec. XV, 2, mm 103 x 1638

http://dpg.lib.berkeley.edu/webdb/dsheh/heh_brf?CallNumber=HM+26054



St. Gallen, Kantonsbibliothek, Vadianische Sammlung, 1000
Cronaca universale, sec. XIV, 2, mm 445 x 6460

<http://www.e-codices.unifr.ch/fr/list/one/vad/1000>

Methods of composition – Sewing

Sewing by means of a thin parchment ribbon



BL, Add. 30337

Methods of composition – Sewing

Sewing by means of a string (without overlapping)

ΤΑΙΣ ΚΑΤ' ΑΝΘΡΩΠΟΥ ΚΑΙΝΗ
ΣΟΥ ΔΙΑΘΗΚΗΣ ΤΟ ΚΑ

ΤΟ ΚΑΤΑ ΔΑΝ. Ε
ΠΙΤΟΥΣ ΑΓΙΟΥΣ

ΣΟΥ ΑΓΙΟΥΣ ΤΟ ΛΟΓΟΣ ΕΙΠΕΙ

ΠΑΝ ΕΓΓΑΥΤΟΝ

ΤΟ ΚΑΤΑ ΔΑΝ. Ε

ΠΙΤΟΥΣ ΑΓΙΟΥΣ

ΣΟΥ ΑΓΙΟΥΣ ΤΟ ΛΟΓΟΣ ΕΙΠΕΙ

ΔΕΙΤΗΡΙΑΝ ΗΜΕΤΕΡΩΝ

ΣΙΩΝ ΕΙΠΕ ΤΩ ΥΠΕΡΩ

Ω ΤΗΣ ΑΓΙΑΣ ΚΑΙ ΕΝ

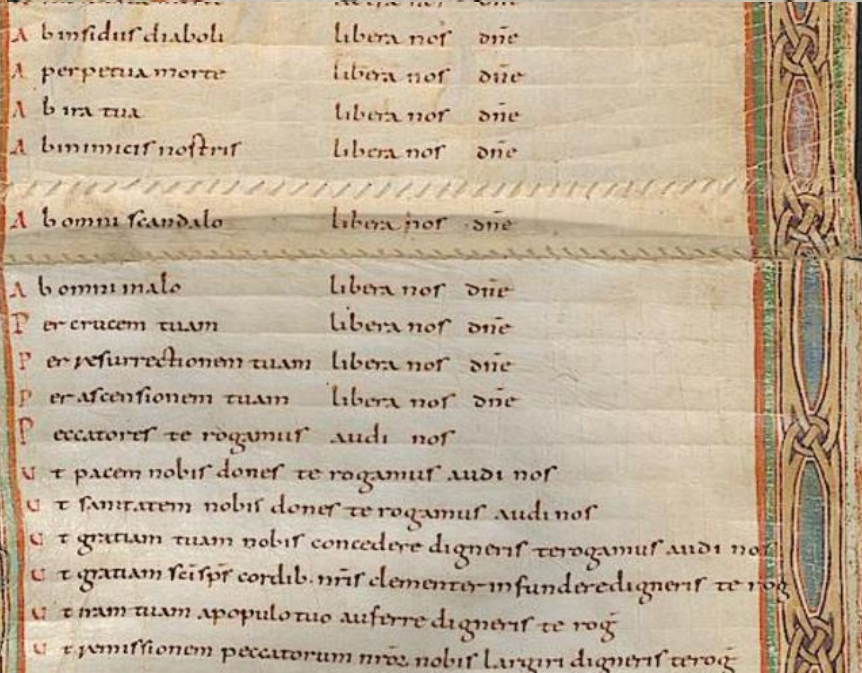
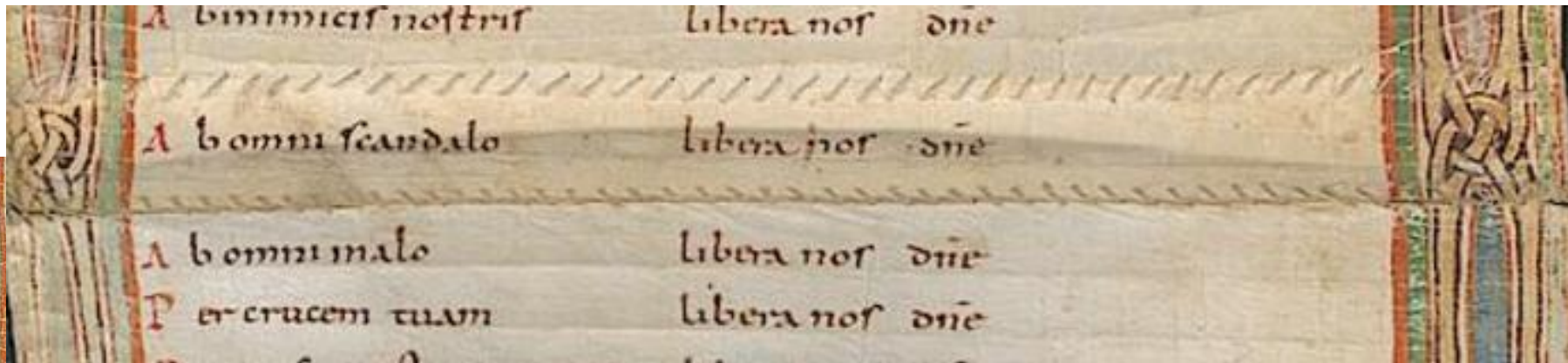
ΛΟΓΟΥ ΣΙΩΝ ΕΙΠΕ ΤΗ

ΗΜΕΡΑ ΤΗΣ ΑΓΙΑΣ ΠΕΝ

ΤΗΚΟΣ ΤΗΣ

Methods of composition – Sewing

Sewing by means of a string (with overlapping)

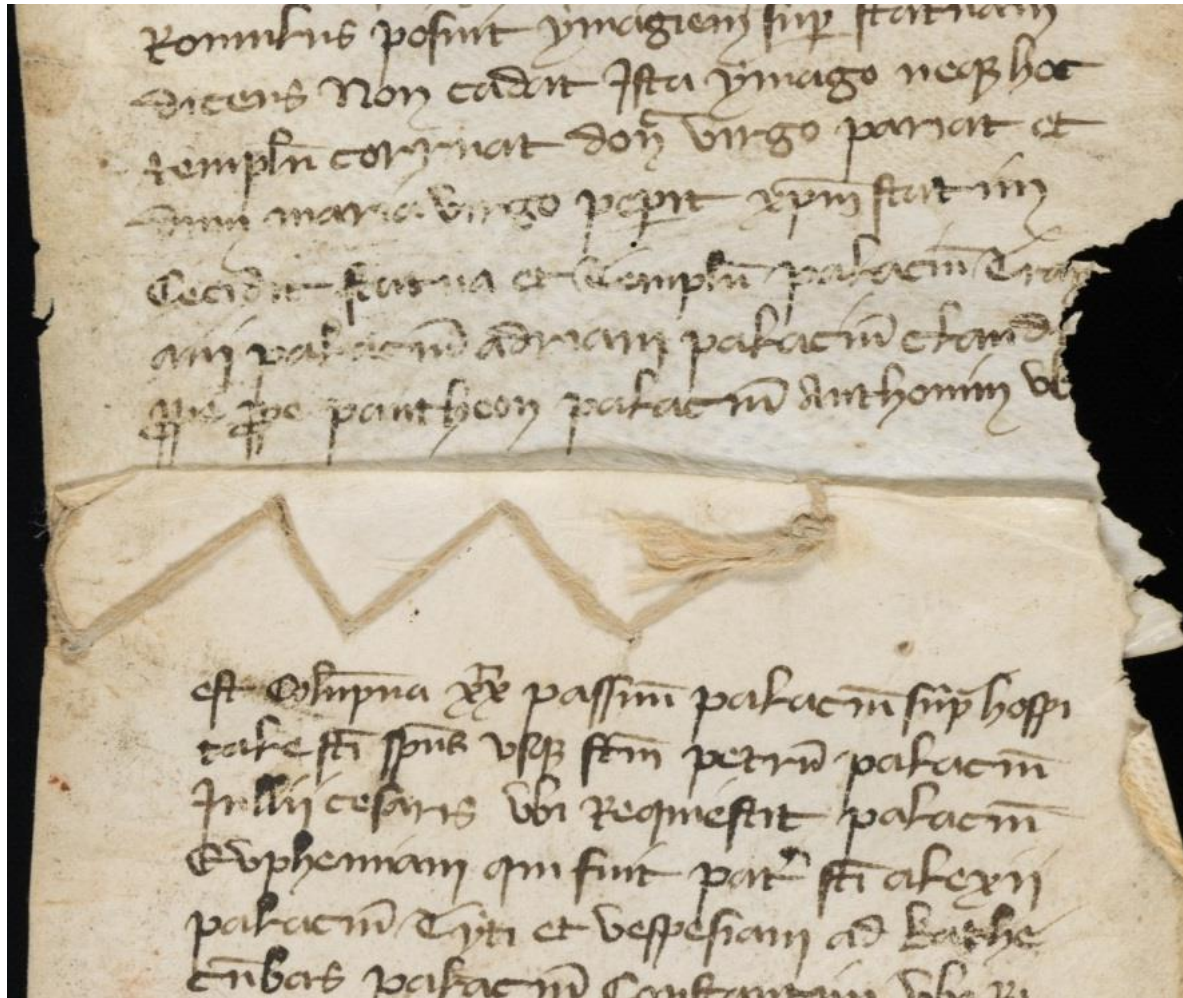


Frankfurt a.M., Universitätsbibliothek, Ms. Barth. 179
Lorsch, ca. 843-876
mm 2570 x 245

http://bibliotheca-laureshamensis-digital.de/view/ubffm_msbarth179/0004/image?sid=06a1b68d1a8cd6e8fe52dcacab884224

Methods of composition – Sewing

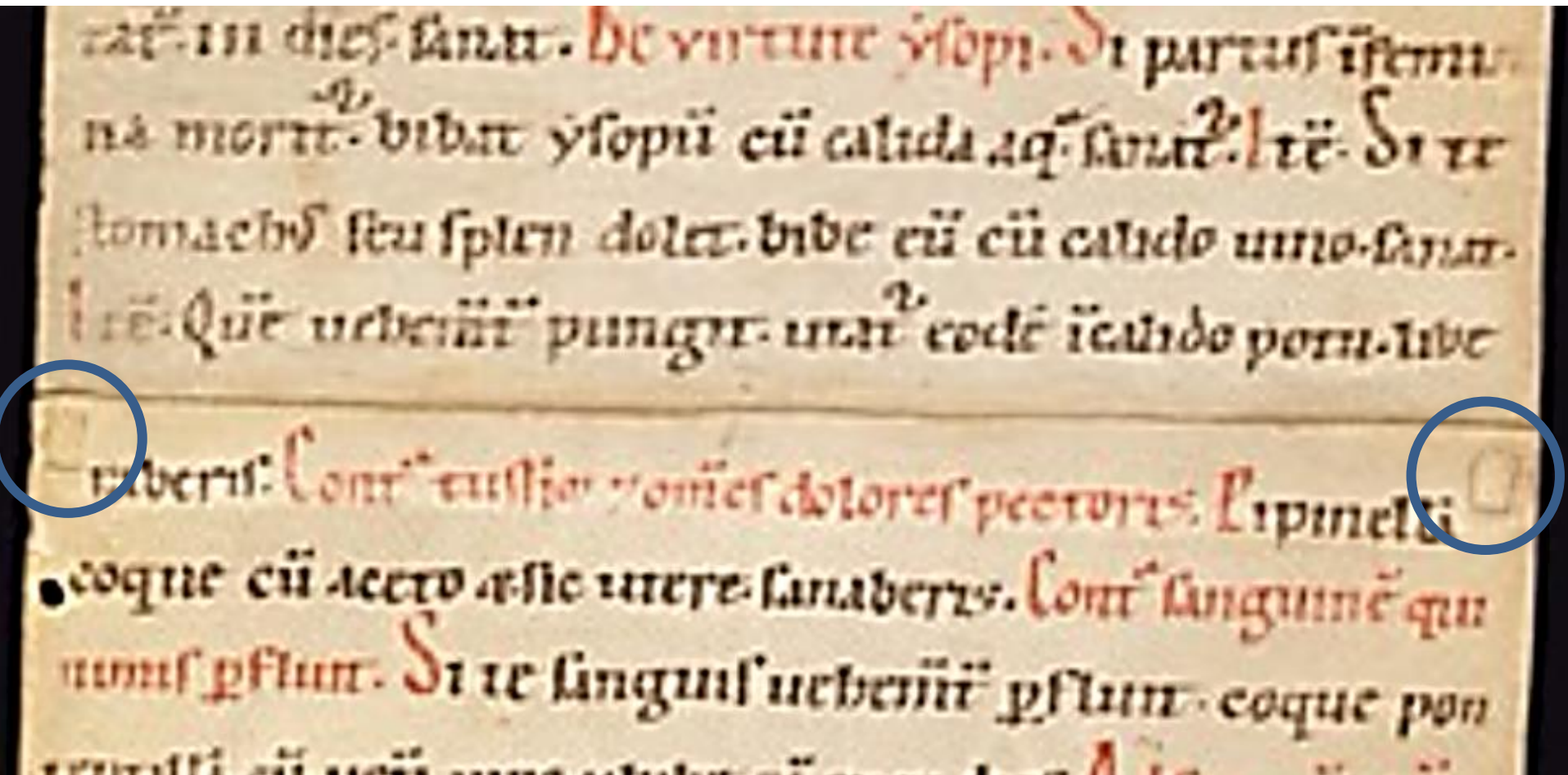
Sewing by means of a string (with overlapping)



St. Gallen, Stiftsbibliothek, Sang. 1093, *Mirabilia Romae; Indulgentiae ecclesiarum urbis Romae*, sec. XIV ex. mm 4195 x 115

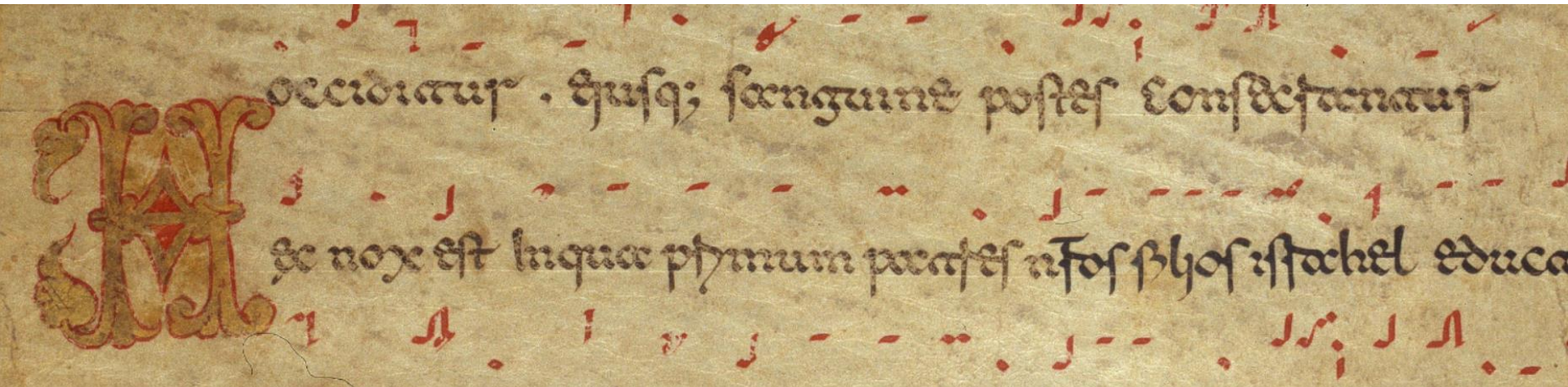
Methods of composition – Mixed technique

Gluing + sewing



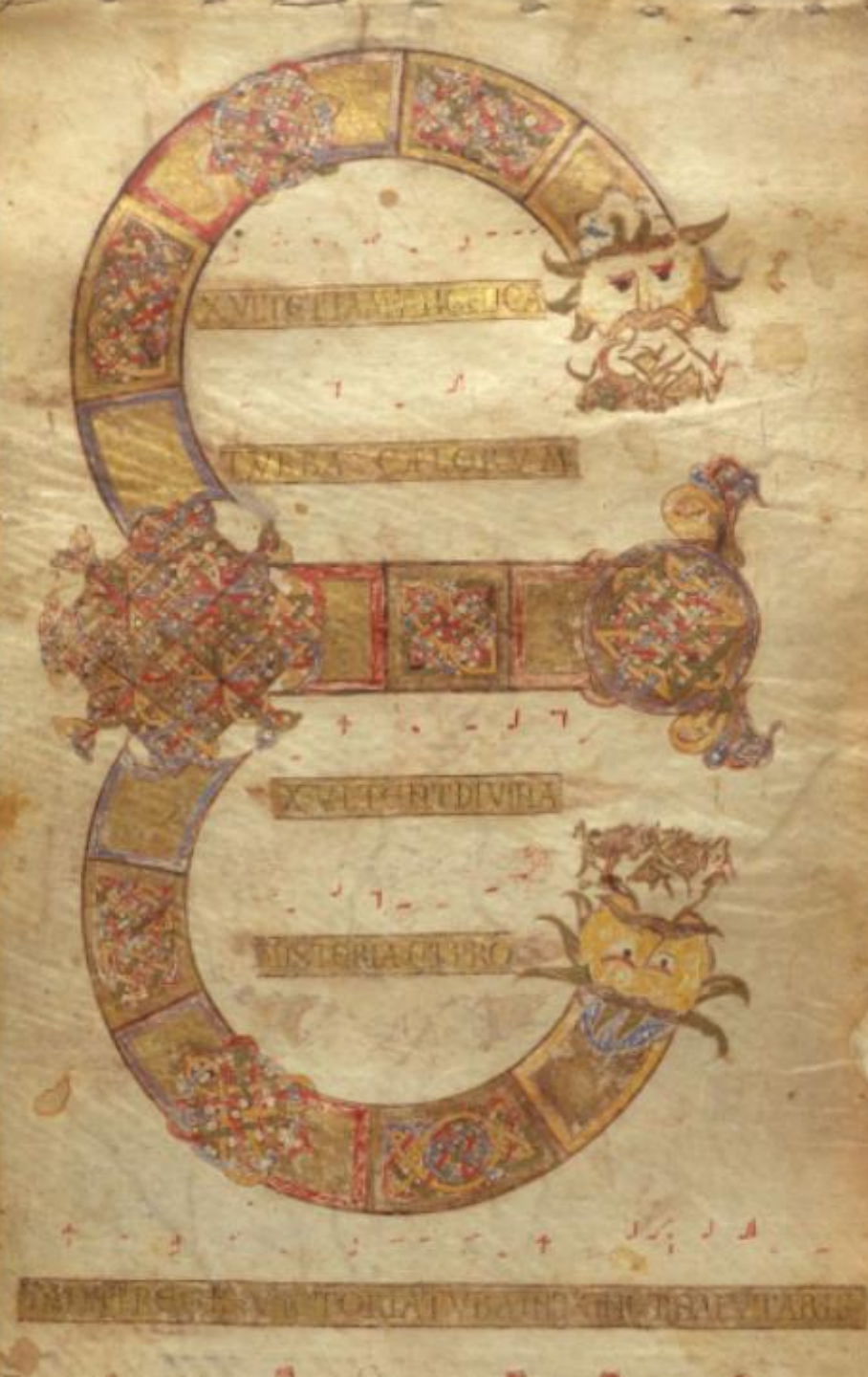
Pricking and ruling

Blind ruling



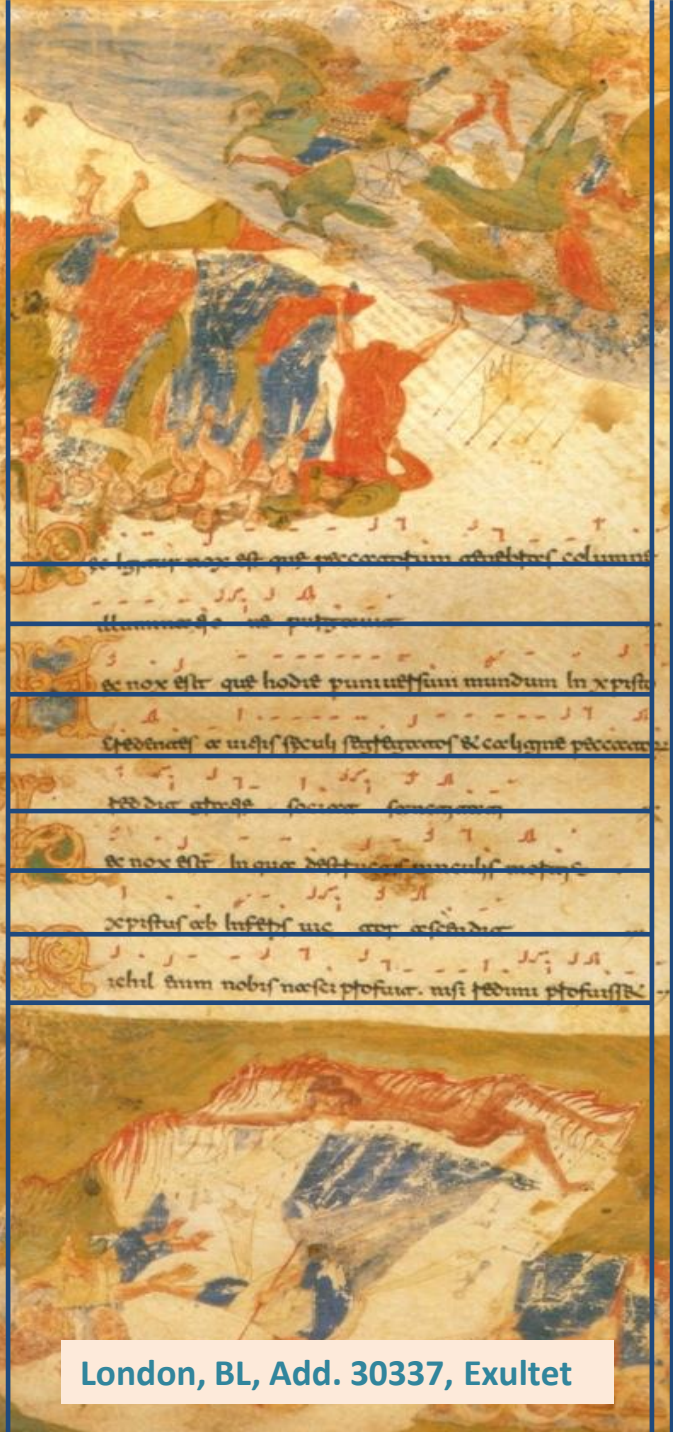
Pricking and ruling

No blind ruling
under the images

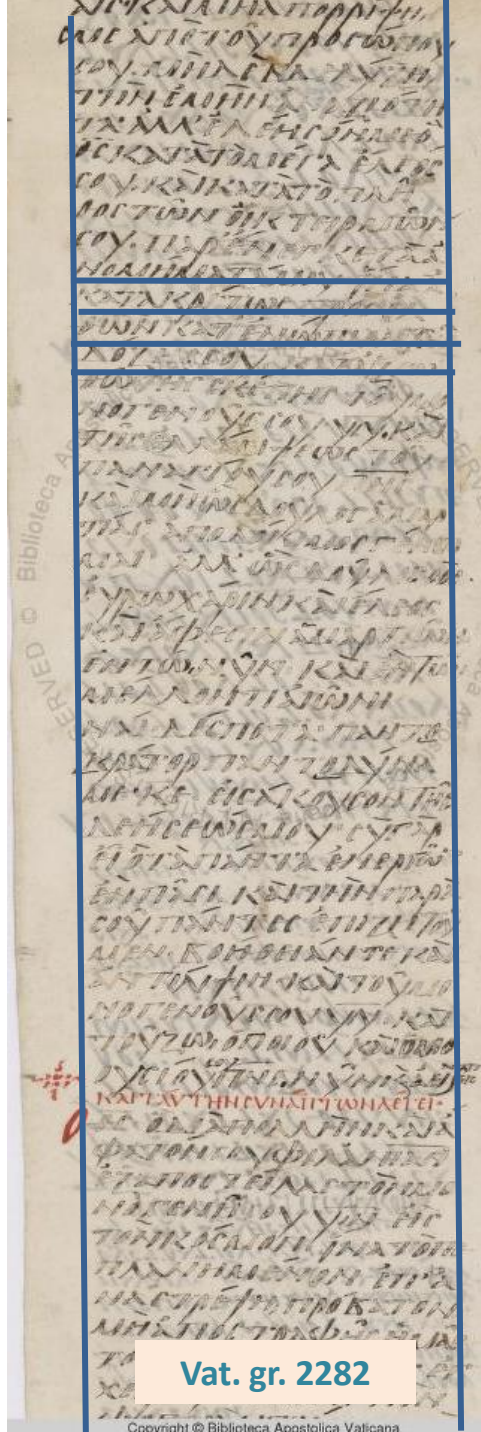


Layout / «mise en bandeau»

Simple or double
vertical lines



London, BL, Add. 30337, Exultet



Vat. gr. 2282

Layout / «Mise en bandeau»

Complex layout

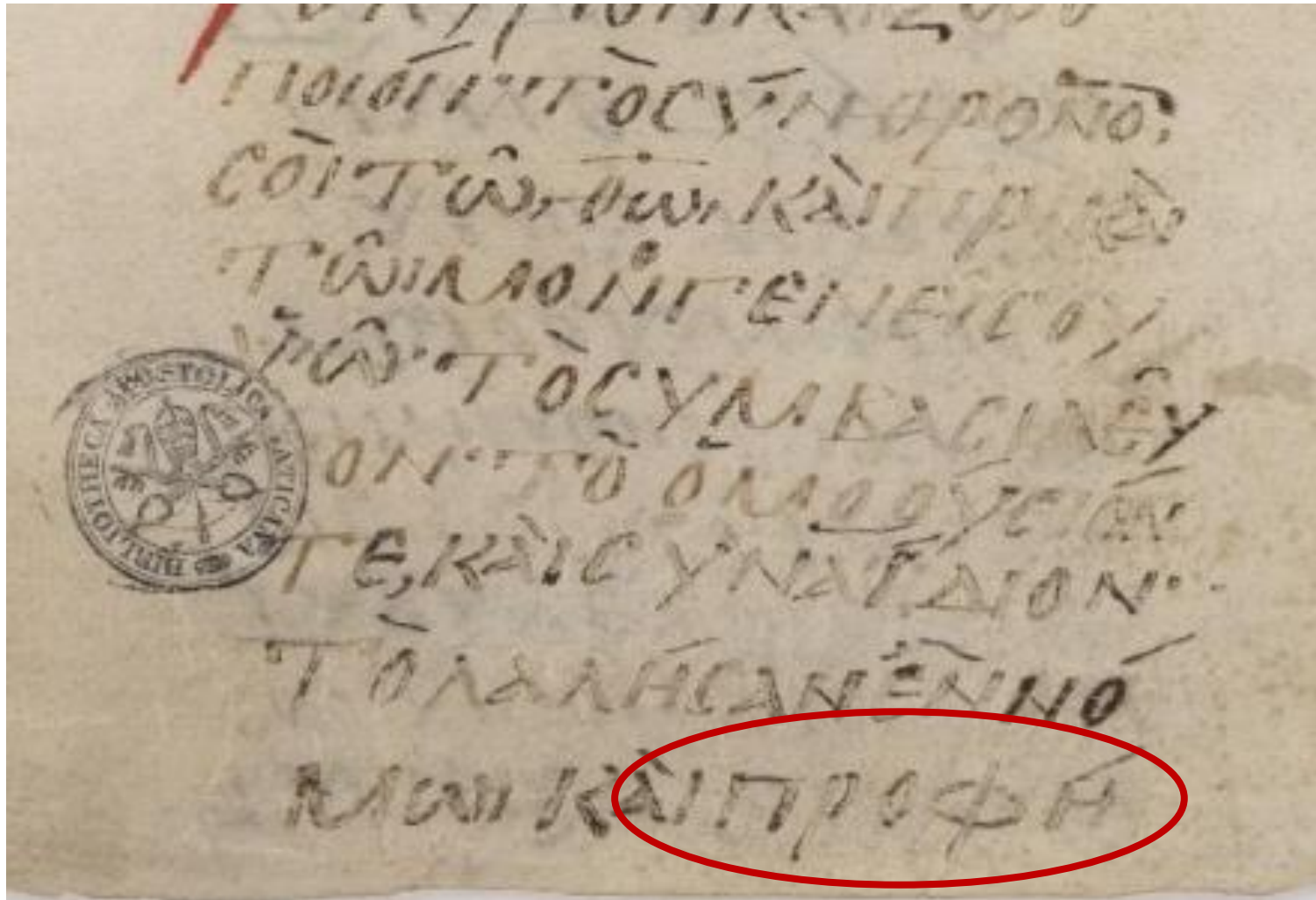


Cambridge (MA), Harvard University,
Houghton Library, MS Typ. 41
Universal Chronicle, 1461 , mm 11740 x 642

Layout / «Mise en bandeau»

Opisthograph roll

(with opposite-oriented writing on the two sides of the strip)

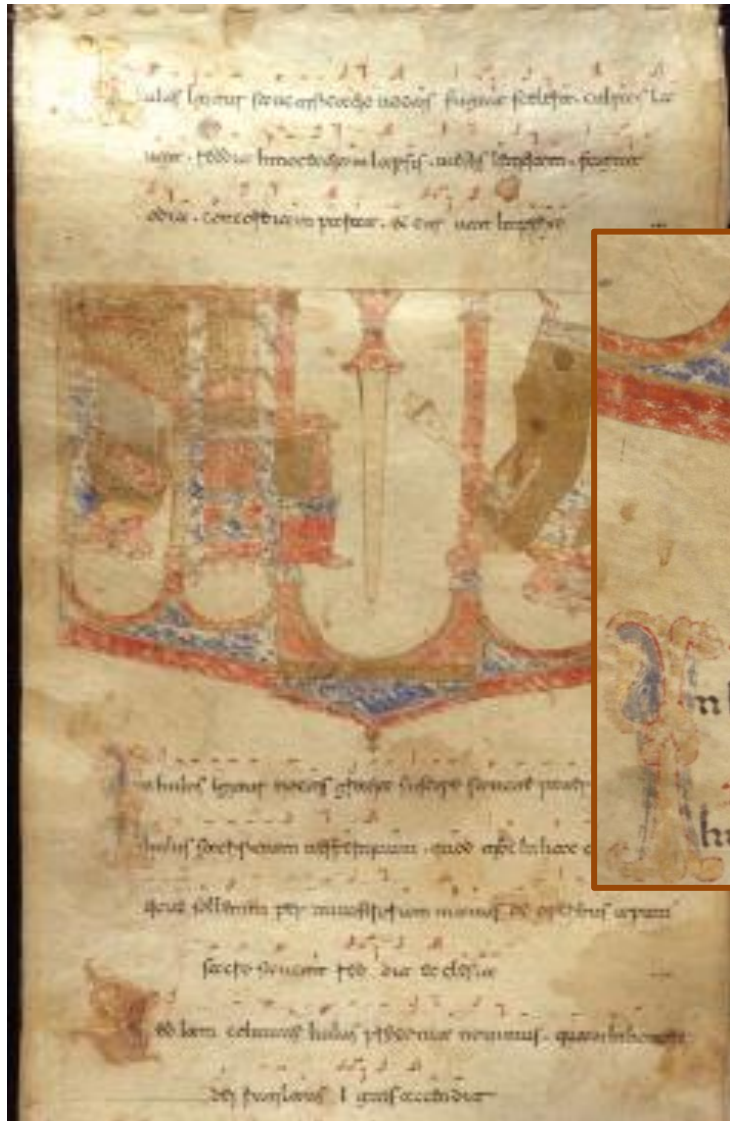


προφή / ται

Vat. gr. 2282

Layout / «Mise en bandeau» - Writing and decoration

Images within the written area
and reversed with respect to the text



Layout – «Mise en bandeau» - Writing and decoration



Images outside the written area

Jerusalem, Patriarchate Library, Hagios Stavros 109
Recto: Liturgy di Chrysostom;
verso: Liturgy of Basil and Presanctified
Constantinople, 2nd half of the 11th century
mm 8500 x 200

Layout – «Mise en bandeau» - Writing and decoration

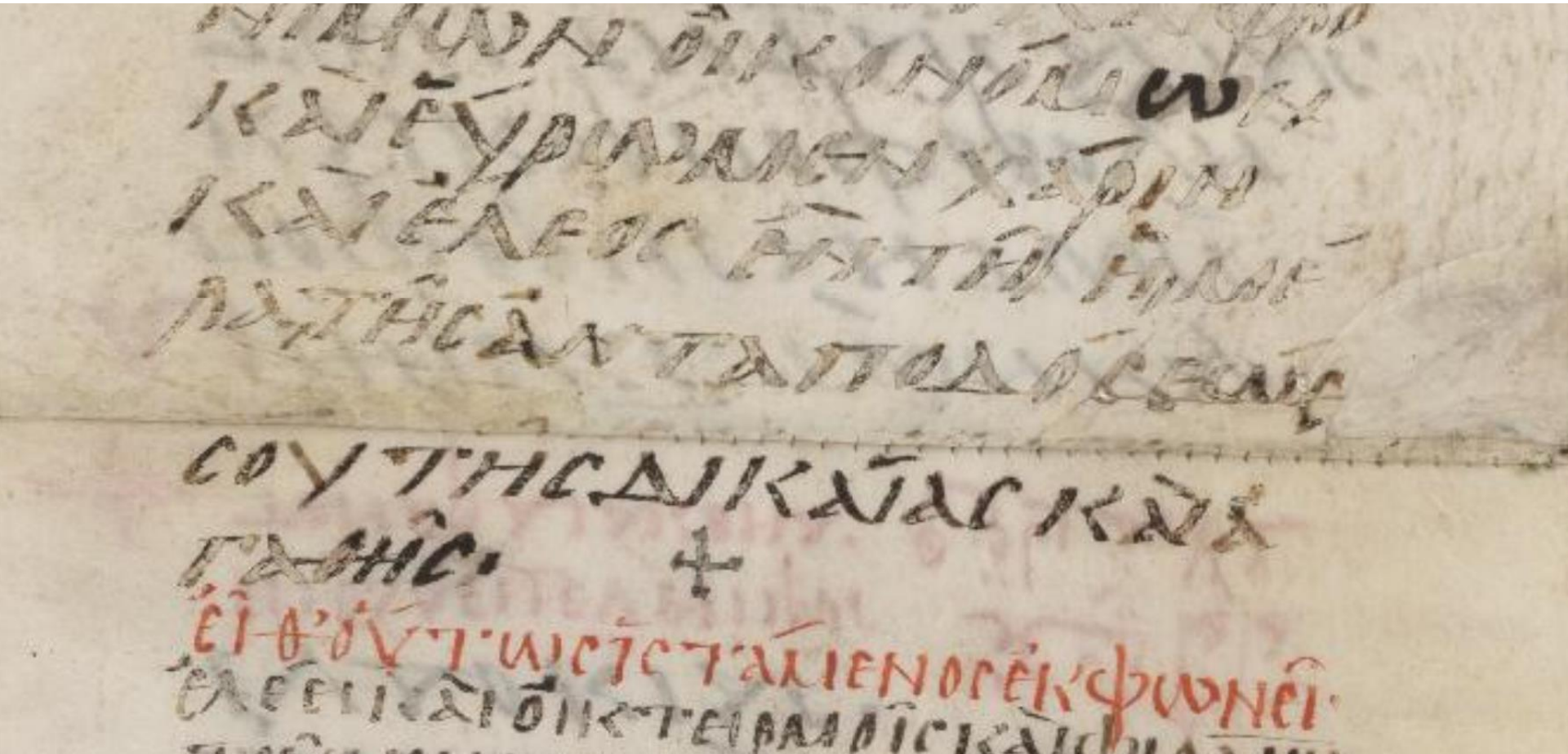
Writing and decoration prior to the manufacture of the roll



Napoli, National Library, *Exsultet 1, Exultet*, mid of the 11^o century, mm 2060 x 230

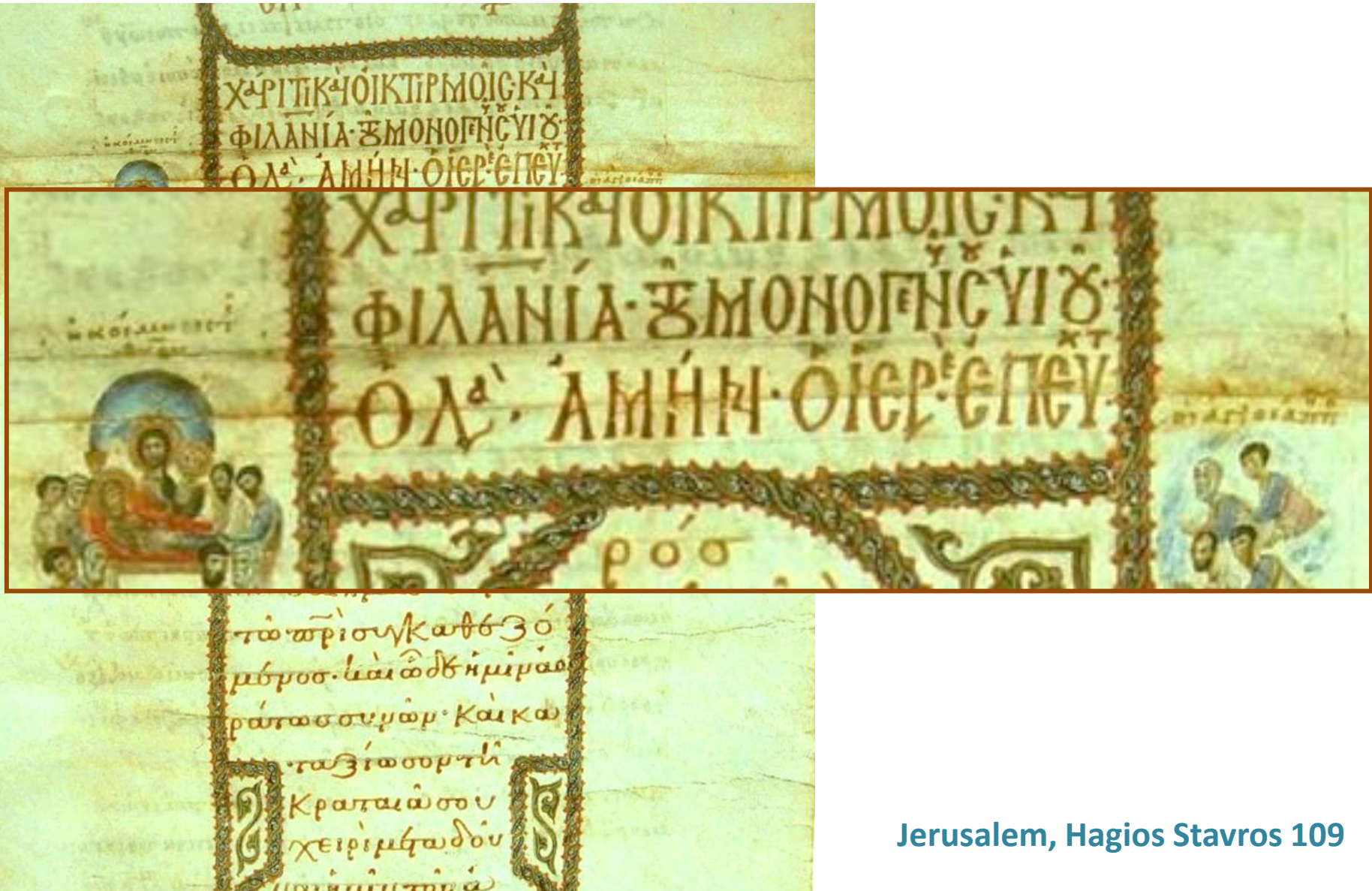
Layout – «Mise en bandeau» - Writing and decoration

Writing and decoration prior to the manufacture of the roll



Layout – «Mise en bandeau» - Writing and decoration

Writing and decoration subsequent to the manufacture of the roll



Unrolling and protection devices



Sticks and case

Frankfurt,
Universitätsbibliothek,
Barth 178
Theatrical roll, mm 4360 x 200

<http://sammlungen.ub.uni-frankfurt.de/msma/content/pageview/4623625>

Unrolling and protection devices



Laces

Sion/Sitten, Archives de l'Etat du Valais/Staatsarchiv Wallis, S 109
Universal Chronicle, France, 14-15 century, mm 8000 x 470

(http://www.e-codices.unifr.ch/fr/mirador/aev/S-0109/aev-S-0109_e009#fe83c424-75c0-42b4-9ef8-ccfd49d02c30)

