

## Sub-project C06

# Greek manuscripts featuring the writings of Aristotle, as used in teaching and exegetic practices

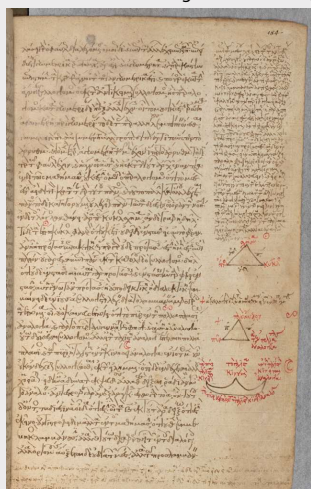
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### Project description

The codices of Aristotle's work, *Organon*, so fundamental to the training of the intellect, are of particular value in research on the role played by manuscripts in teaching practices.

Many of the manuscripts relating to logic were employed for teaching and studying purposes over and over again and were enriched over the years and decades with many layers of exegetic commentaries and diagrams. The accretions of highly complex stratigraphic annotations on selected manuscript copies of Aristotle's *Analytica posteriora*, the margins and scant space between the lines of text of which were frequently almost completely covered by them, will be the subject of very detailed research. The work of important intellectual individuals is evident within these codices. The layers of commentary reveal the fact that the manuscripts were kept within scholarly milieux over generations, being circulated amongst them and used as material for teaching. Focusing on the *Analytica posteriora*, this project will conduct research into the functions served by the manuscripts within the social practices of education and academic didactic dialogue.

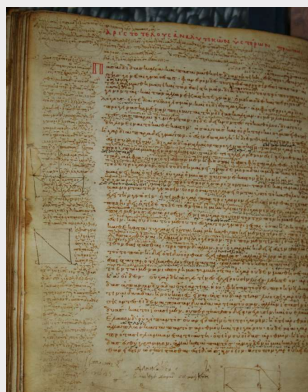


Par. gr. 1843, f. 184r (© BnF)

The project will investigate whether the scribes created entirely independent paratexts in the unwritten space on the manuscripts or whether they captured traditional knowledge in a condensed form, expanding on it by highlighting elements themselves. To do so, the amassed marginal annotations will need to be compared with the important tradition of commentary dating back to Late Antiquity. The project will have to ascertain whether the text available in the manuscripts indicates that its creators were familiar with the commentaries of John Philoponus (6th cent.) and other exegetes.

### Methodology and objectives

We were guided by the findings of an analysis of the oldest manuscript copies of the *Analytica* when we selected which codices to use for our own study, since it had identified



Marc. gr. 201, f. 85v (su Concessione del Ministero per i Beni e le Attività Culturali – Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana. Divieto di riproduzione)

a new, independent family of manuscripts. As a result, this project will study Parisinus gr. 1843 (12th/13th cent.), Marcianus gr. 203 (circa 1300) and the Oxford ms. Barocci 87 (15th cent.). These will serve in our analysis of the 10th-century Codex Sinaiticus, which only survives in a fragmentary condition. In addition, we will study the following manuscripts from the Palaiologoi period: ms. Princeton 173, Cod. Guelferbytanus 24 Gud. graec. and ms. Barocci 177 as well as the Codices vetustissimi, including Ambrosianus L 93 sup., Vaticanus Urbinas 35 and Marcianus gr. 201.

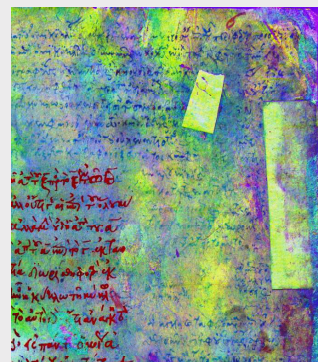
The manuscripts will be analysed paleographically and codicologically as well as in terms of their subject matter vis-à-vis the *Analytica posteriora*. The purpose of doing this is to determine their role in academic teaching and in respect of exegesis. To this end, an analysis will be made of annotations to the margins, notes between the lines, corrections to the main body of text, and diagrams. The project will seek to differentiate between scribes and scholars involved in the writing process, to ascertain when they were working, and to identify them. An attempt will be made to decipher and evaluate



Princeton MS. 173, f. 78r (Manuscripts Division, Department of Rare Books & Special Collections, Princeton University Library)

the annotations and interlinear comments and to decode the drawn elements.

Other key questions include the following: is there any evidence of oral instruction or didactic conversation? Can one differentiate between various stages of exposition, ranging from that of fundamental knowledge to argumentation based on many assumptions? Are there any signs in the marginalia of influence from manuscript to manuscript or did the corpora of annotations arise independently of one another? To what extent did the scribes and scholars involved in annotating the manuscripts make interventions in the main text by Aristotle? The corpora of annotations in the manuscript, *De caelo*, which we discovered amongst a convolute of manuscripts during the first phase of our research, will be used comparatively as part of the analysis of our findings.



Marc. gr. 210, f. 6r. Pseudo-colour image, two sets of writing: original in blue and restorative in red.