

**STUDIA SINAITICA NO.1.
CATALOGUE OF THE SYRIAC
MSS. IN THE CONVENT OF S.
CATHARINE ON MOUNT SINAI**

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AGNES SMITH LEWIS

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CATALOGUE
OF THE SYRIAC MSS.

IN THE CONVENT OF S. CATHARINE ON
MOUNT SINAI

COMPILED BY

AGNES SMITH LEWIS.

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1894

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τῷ μακαριστάτῳ καὶ φιλομούτῳ

ΚΥΡΙῷ ΠΟΡΦΥΡΙῷ

Τῷ τοῦ Ὁρους Σινᾶ Ἀρχιερεὶ

ἱπολήψεώς τε καὶ εἰγκωμοσύνης

ἐλάχιστον δεῖγμα

προσφέρει

ἡ ΣΥΝΤΑΚΤΗΣ

L. S. M.

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INTRODUCTION.

THE following list of the Syriac manuscripts in the Convent of St Catherine on Mount Sinai was made by me in the month of February, 1893. It is not a complete catalogue of their contents, the time at my disposal (forty days) and the necessity of completing other work to which I had set my hands having precluded me from compiling anything that goes much beyond a mere index. I took advantage of an opportunity that has never before been granted to a European visitor, and which sprung directly out of a visit paid by my sister, Mrs Gibson, and myself to the monastery in February, 1892.

I had then the pleasure of discovering and photographing the palimpsest, No. 30, which contains the Four Gospels in Old Syriac, a Palestinian Syriac Lectionary, No. 1, a tenth century Arabic codex of the Gospels, a ninth century Arabic codex of some of St Paul's Epistles, and a Greek Liturgy of St Mark of Alexandria; some of these being hitherto unknown in Europe, and others being known by one, or in the case of the Liturgy, by two copies only.

My sister and I had also gained the goodwill of His Beatitude Porphyrios, Archbishop of Mount Sinai, and of the whole resident community of monks, from whom we received an amount of kindness and assistance which contributed not a little to the success of our efforts. It

was thus only natural that my sister should have taken advantage of this friendship to obtain from the Archbishop the following letter, the promise of which, strangely enough, came to us both as a birthday present.

Ἐσιώτατοι Σευοφύλαξ Κ. Γαλακτίων καὶ Οἰκονόμη Κ. Νικοδήμη. Τὴν Ἑπιπέτραν Ἐσιώτητα πατρικῶς εὐχόμεθα καὶ εὐλογοῦμεν.

Αἱ ἐπιδότιδες τῆς συστατικῆς ἡμῶν ταύτης πατρικο-εὐχετικῆς ἐπιστολῆς τυγχάνουσι, αἱ καὶ πέρουσι συναναβάσαι ἐν τῇ Μοσῇ γνωστοὶ ὑμῖν Περιηγήτριαι Ἀδελφαὶ Ἀγγλίδες Κ. Ἄννα Σμιθ καὶ Μαργαρίτα Γυίβσον, συνοδευόμεναι ὑπὸ τῶν Κ. Κ. Βένσλε μετὰ τῆς συζύγου του, Βάρκερ (sic) μετὰ τῆς συζύγου του, καὶ τοῦ Κυρίου Χάρις, αἵτινες ἐρχονται αὐτοῖς πρὸς μελέτην τῆς βιβλιοθήκης τῆς Ἱερᾶς ἡμῶν Μοῆς καὶ πρὸς κατάρτασιν ἀκριβοῦς καταλόγου ἀπάντων τῶν ἐν αὐτῇ Ἀραβικῶν καὶ Συριακῶν βιβλίων, ὁ ὅποιος κατάλογος θὰ μένη πάντοτε ἐν τῇ Μοσῇ ὡς συνενωθῆμεν ἐνταῦθα· καὶ μόνου πιστὸν αὐτοῦ ἀντίγραφον θὰ λάβωσιν αἱ ἐν λόγῳ Κυρίαὶ μεθ' ἑαυτῶν. Ἐπὶ τούτῳ θὰ ἐζήτησαν παρ' ἡμῶν τὴν ἄδειαν τοῦ παραμεῖναι ἓνα περίπου μῆνα αὐτόθι καὶ προτροπόμεθα ὑμᾶς πατρικῶς ἵνα παράσχητε προθύμως ταῖς ἐριτίμοις καὶ λογίαις ταύταις κυρίαὶ τὴν πρὸς τὸν σκοπὸν αὐτῶν ἀπαιτουμένην συνδρομὴν καὶ περιποίησιν. Ἐφ' οἷς ἐπειλογοῦντες καὶ αὐθις ὑμᾶς πατρικῶς διατελοῦμεν.

*τῆς Ἑπιπέτρας Ἐσιώτητος
διάπυρος πρὸς θεὸν εὐχίτης
Ὁ Συναῖος Πορφύριος.*

*ἐν Καίρῳ τῇ 13 Ἰανουαρίου,
1893.*

Τοῖς Ἐσιώτατοις Σευοφύλαξι Κ. Γαλακτίων καὶ Οἰκονόμῳ Κ. Νικοδήμῳ τοῖς συγκαταούσι τὴν Ἱερὰν τῶν Πατέρων Σύναξιν.

I would draw attention to the conditions under which we obtained permission to examine *all* the Syriac and Arabic books in the Convent. The most important was that a list of these should be made out in the Greek language, and should be left in the Convent, we taking an accurate copy with us on our departure. On the fulfilment of this obligation depended other concessions made to us and to our fellow-travellers, which need not be specified here.

This book is therefore bilingual throughout, the descriptive part being in English and in Modern Greek. In writing the latter I have adopted the ancient forms of the verb *ειμι*, such as *εστι*, *εστι*, in preference to *εινε*, so as to make it more readily understood by Western scholars. I have however conformed to modern usage by giving to neuter plural substantives a plural verb.

The work of compiling this list during our stay at the Convent was a heavy one, and I could not have accomplished it but for the constant advice and active assistance of my friend Mr J. Rendel Harris. He alone is responsible for the Appendix of Fragments which he catalogued at the request of the late lamented Abbot and Librarian, Father Galaktion. The text of most of them will be found in his *Biblical Fragments from Mount Sinai*, published in 1890. No. 55 is the only one of these which I have copied from photographs.

To Mr Harris also I owe the Syriac extracts from No. 10 and No. 16. These he copied from photographs which he took in 1889 and compared again with the originals in 1893.

The dates which I have ventured to assign to some of the MSS. are only approximate, and I suspect that a few of these will be referred to an earlier period when they come into the hands of more experienced scholars.

Certain numbers in my list are left blank; the manuscripts to which these belong having apparently been lost or removed. Mr Harris informs me that one of the missing copies is a fine codex of the second and third books of the Maccabees, which he saw and photographed in 1889.*

I have to record my thanks to the holy Fathers who sometimes relieved me of the task of counting pages; to the Rev. R. H. Kennett of Queens' College, Lecturer in Aramaic to the University of Cambridge, who has helped me with various suggestions in regard to the Syriac extracts; and to Mr J. F. Stenning of Oxford, who has brought me from Sinai some words which I had photographed too faintly in No. 10. And I trust that future visitors to the Sinai Library will forgive any sins of omission which they may detect in these pages, for the sake of the time and labour which may be saved to them in their researches.

* See frontispiece.

AGNES SMITH LEWIS.

CASTLE-BRAK, CAMBRIDGE,
1894.

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