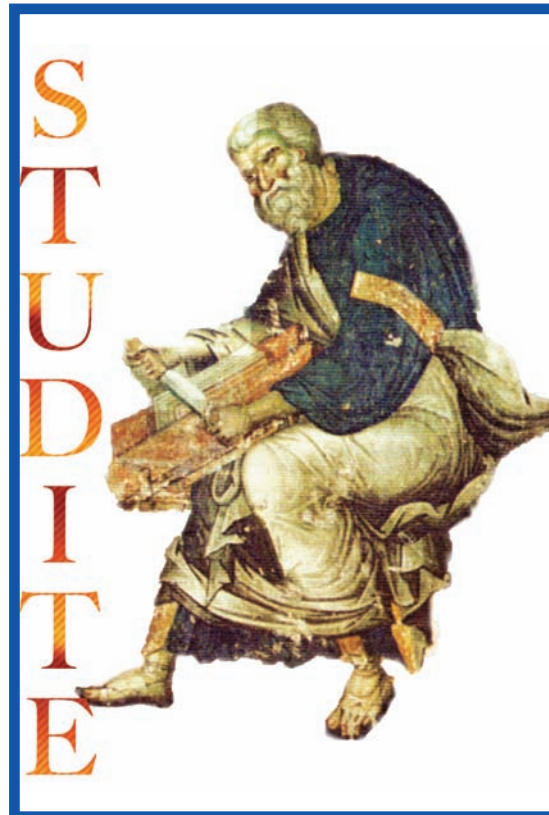


011
June



*Byzantine manuscripts
in the collections
of the Romanian Academy Library*

EXHIBITION



DG Éducation et culture
Programme «Culture»

Greek manuscripts

The collection of Greek manuscripts in the Romanian Academy Library, circa 1,566 volumes, is very rich in variety, covering every aspect of Mediaeval and pre-modern preoccupations in religious, philosophical, history books, folk novels, law books, books of the patriarchs of the church, grammar books, parimias etc.

The presence of Greek manuscripts in Northern Danube, in a Latin country, shows the steps of the spreading of the Byzantine culture.

The great scholars from the Romanian countries in the 17-18th centuries,

*Șerban Cantacuzino, Greceanu brothers, Nicolae Milescu
or Constantin Brancovan, held in their libraries*

numerous Greek manuscripts and printed books. Moreover,

the education in Greek from the Brancovan epoch

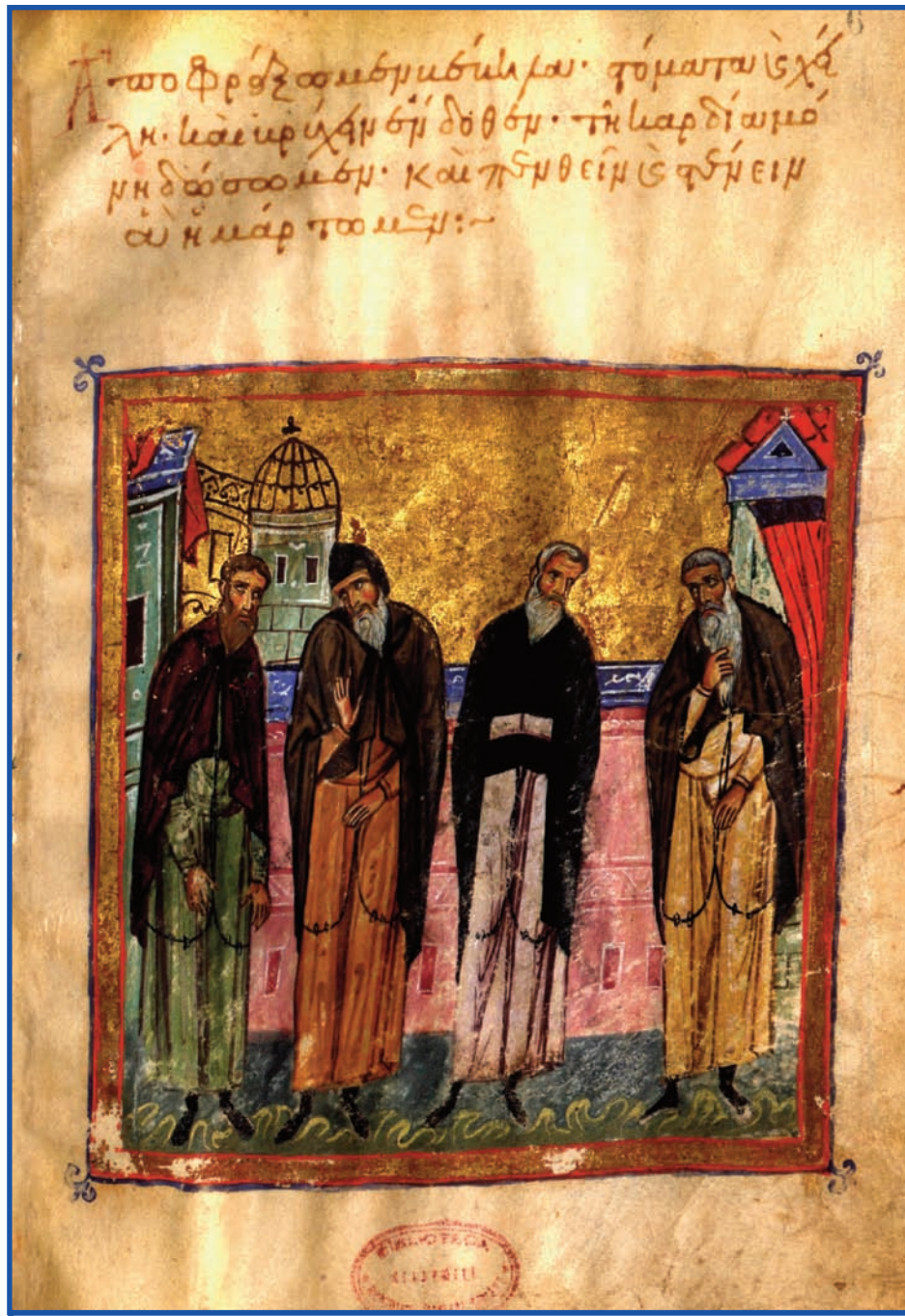
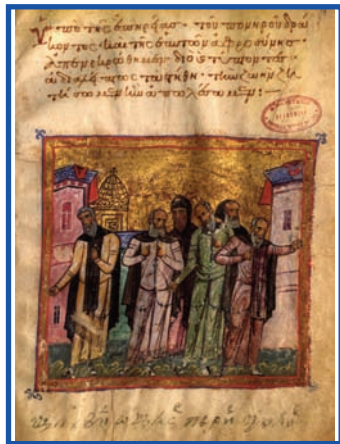
and from the 18th century provides

another explanation for the great

number of Greek libraries

and books present

in Romania.



Penitential Canon

(Fragment)

12th century (second quarter)

Parchment,

10 fols., 210 x 160 mm, 4-8 lines
per page.

Uniform minuscule script. Text in
light brown and red ink. Miniatures
representing hermits handcrafted
in 11 - 12 century style,
gold background, bright colors.

The manuscript was elaborated in a
centre of monk life
connected to the Imperial
scriptoria. The fine portraits,
the beauty of the landscapes and the
variety of colours used
by the artist of the 20 miniatures
transform this manuscript into
a real masterpiece
of the Byzantine miniature art.
Modern binding.

Provenance: Probably Mount Athos
B. A. R., Gr. Ms. 1294

The Four Gospels

13th century

Parchment,
260 fols., 230 x 175 mm, two columns,
25 lines per page;
files 3-8, 75, 118, 187
are of thick paper.

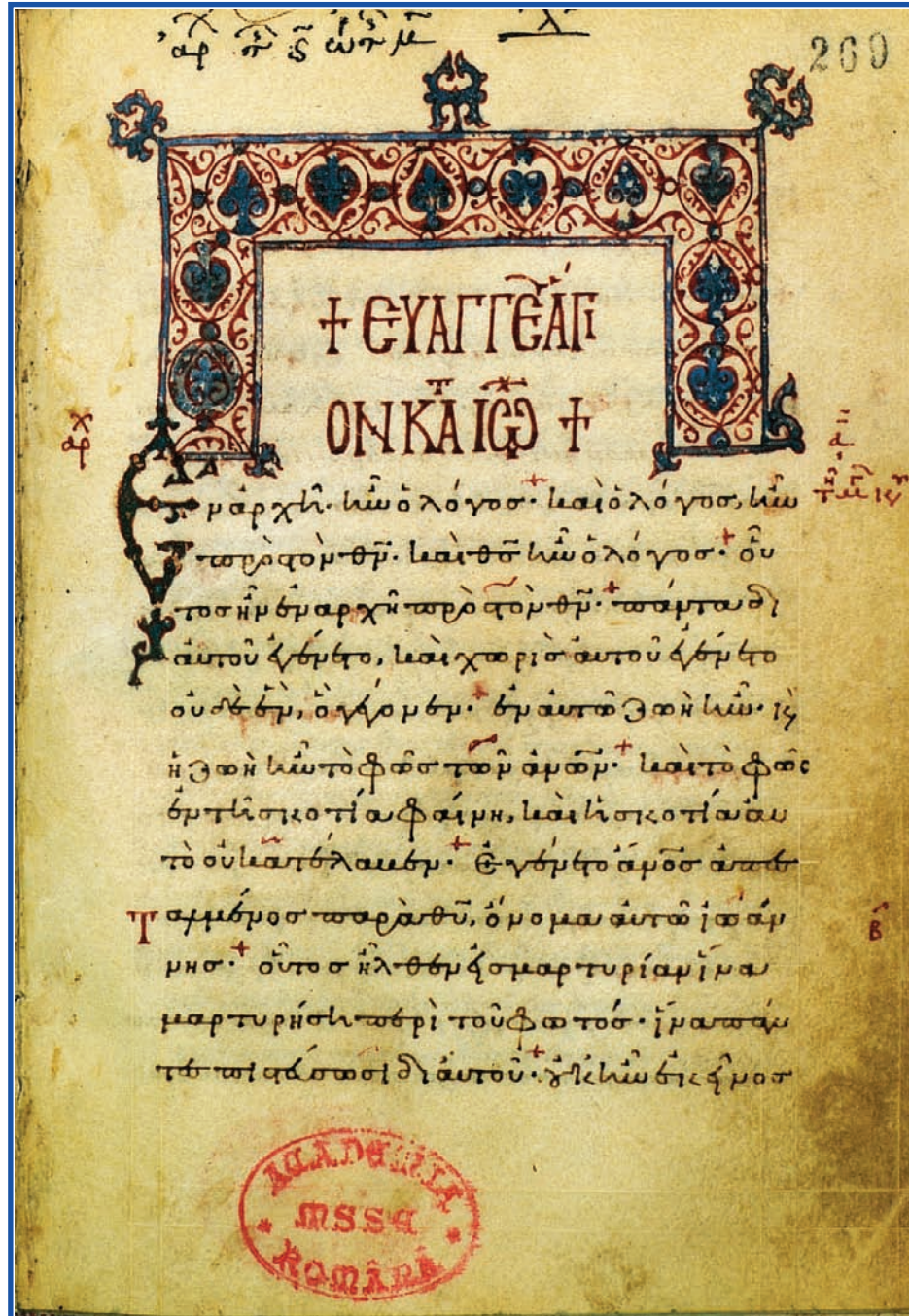
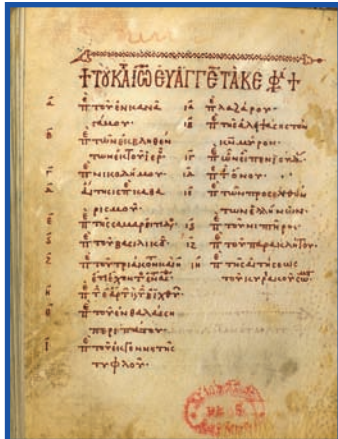
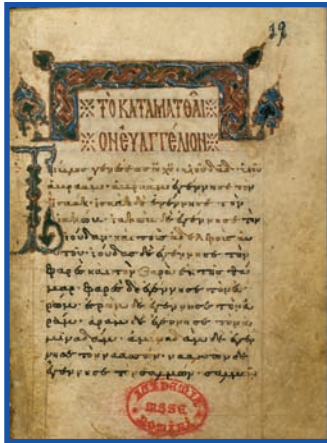
Text in light brown ink, gold and
cinnabar. Four full-page miniatures
representing the four evangelists
(f. 9v, 76v, 119v, 188v) worked in gold
background. Full page drawing
representing a stylized cross on f. 2.
Four decorated initial at the beginning
of each Gospel; six arches placed
above the evangelical canons
(f. 4v, 5, 5v, 6, 6v, 7).

At the end of each Gospel
a small gold vignette.

Modern binding.

Provenance: Simopetra Monastery-
Mount Athos; B.A.R., Gr. Ms. 1175





*The Four Gospels
12th century (second half)*

*Parchment, , 330 fols., 153 x 120 mm,
19 lines per page.*

*Uniform minuscule script. Text in
black ink and cinnabar.*

*Π-shaped headpieces in blue and red
ink, with multifarious motifs (bands
interlaced, hearts in cercles,
phytomorphic ornaments);
adorned initials.*

Modern binding.

Provenance: B.A.R., Gr. Ms. 94

The Four Gospels 12th century

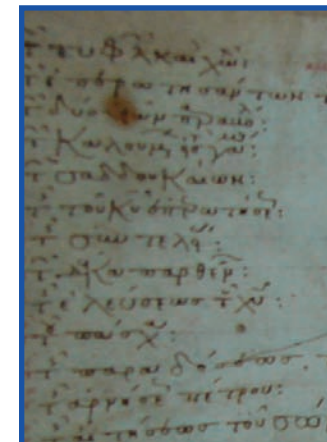
*Parchment, 207 fols., 140 x 100 mm,
28 - 29 lines per page.*

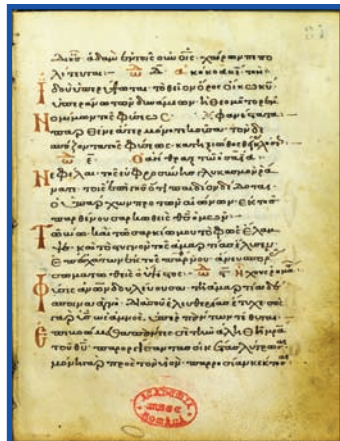
*Text in brown ink, band-shaped or
rectangular headpiece, reserved in
white on a red ground, at the
beginning of each evangel,
with vegetal motifs.*

*Old leather binding on woodboards
with geometric ornaments; in the
middle of both covers, a cross
composed of triangles .*

*Provenance: the seal of the Monastery
Simopetra.*

B.A.R., Gr. Ms. 665





*St. John Damascene - The
Canons of The Holy Virgin
12th - 13th centuries*

*Parchment, [3], 197 fols., 310 x 210
mm, 19 - 23 lines per page.*

*Rounded script. Text in black and
brown ink.*

*Rectangular headpiece with
heart-shaped and geometric
ornaments in blue and ocre (brown);
headpiece with interlaced bands.*

Old leather binding on woodboards.

Provenance: Probably, Mount Athos

B. A. R., Ms. Gr. 261



ἐν αἰτῶ
 τῶν ἀμῶν·
 φάιμα, καὶ
 λαμβν·
 ἑταλλέμο
 ἰωάννης
 τυρίαμ· ἰμ
 φω τοσ· ἰμ



The Four Gospels
(fragments)
 13th century

Parchment, 23 fols., 200 x 140 mm,
 24 lines per page.
 Disparate leaves.
 Rounded script in brown ink,
 multicolor headpiece (in yellow, blue
 and red) on the first leaf;
 decorated initial.
 Modern binding.
 B. A. R., Ms. Gr. 934

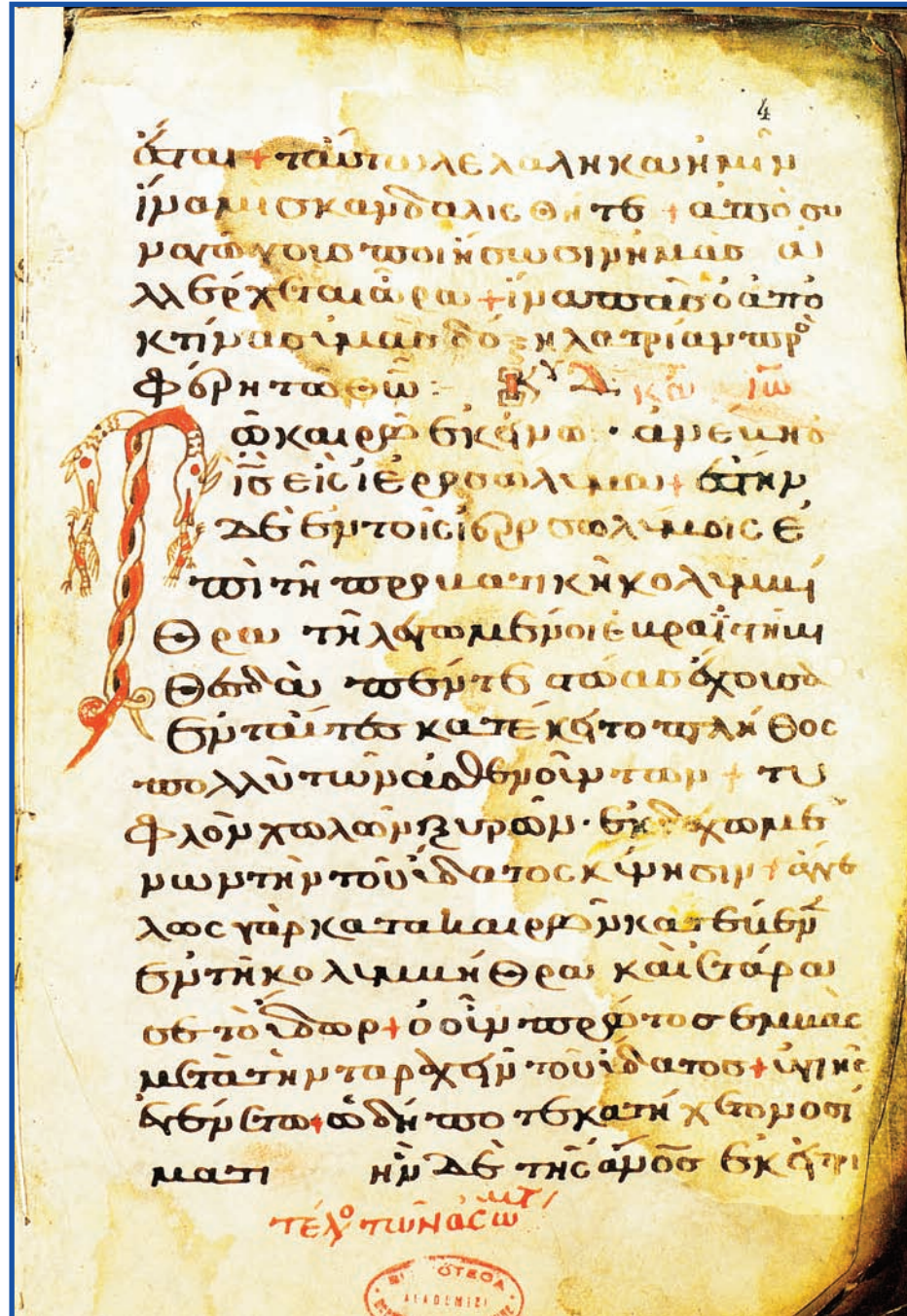
*The Four Gospels
13th century*

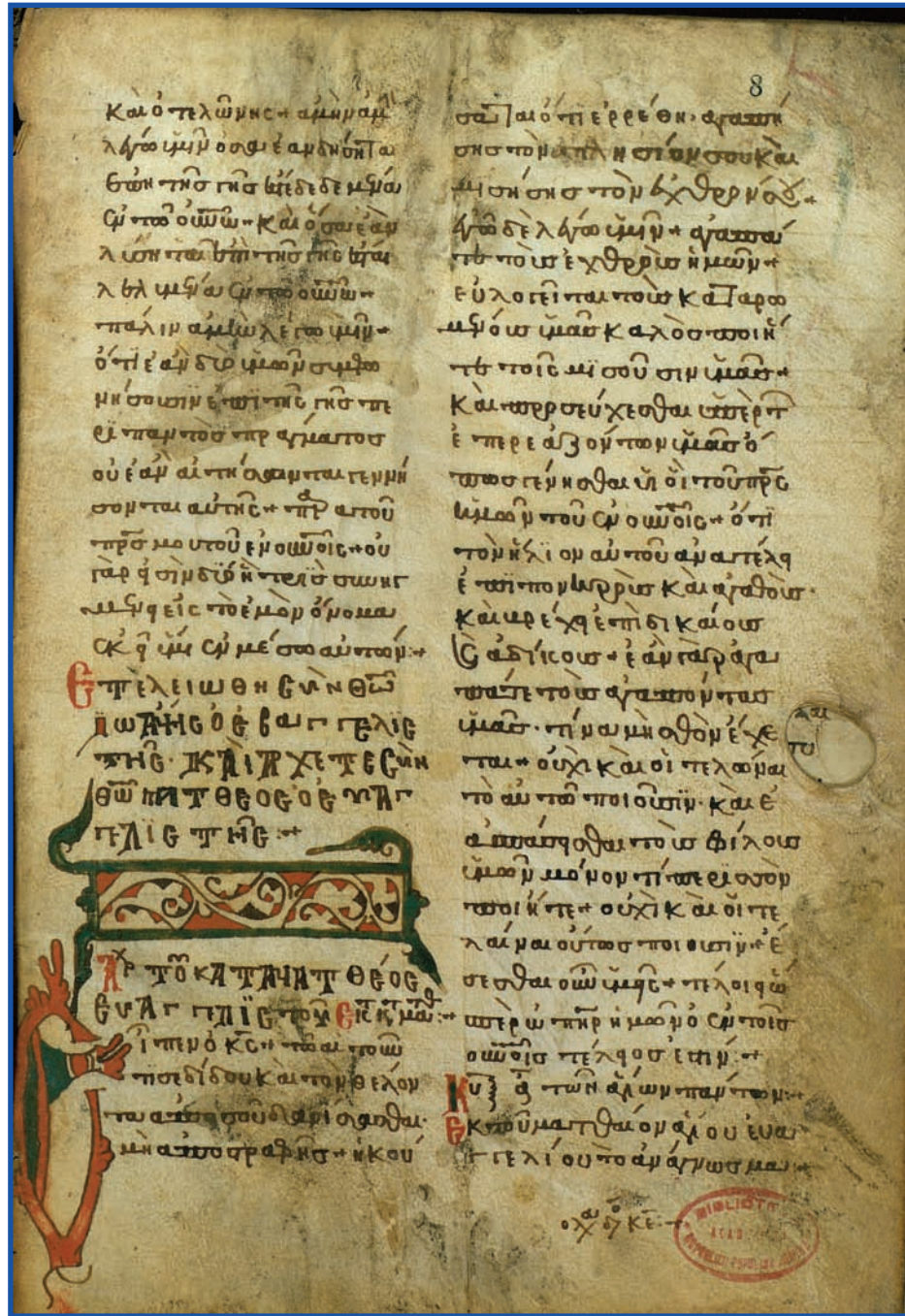
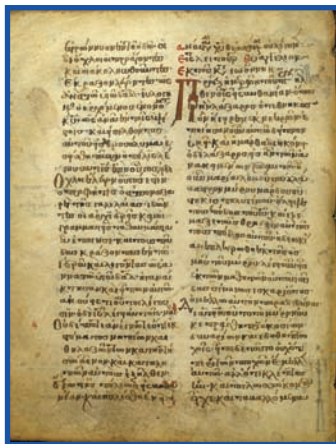
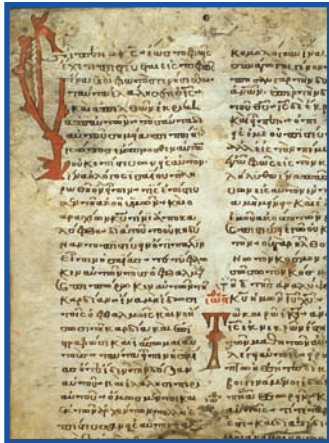
*Parchment, 227 fols., 190 x 130 mm,
18 - 19 lines per page.
Text in black and red ink,
rounded script.*

*Band-shaped headpiece with colored
(red, blue, yellow, black and white)
bands densely interlaced.*

*Initials of the pericopes in red ink
Adorned initials (the blessing mid-arm
motif, the zoomorphic motif - serpents
round the vertical leg etc).*

B. A. R., Ms. Gr. 935





The Four Gospels
14th century

*Parchment, 86 fols., 180 x 130 mm,
28 - 30 lines per page
Text on 2 columns in black ink;
adorned initials of the pericopes in red
and green ink; various motifs
(zoomorphic, geometric, the hand
blessing, long stems with knots).
Old leather binding on woodboards
with tooled decoration on both faces
(rectangle divided by diagonals and
framed by three successive lines, em-
bellished with palmettes and other
vegetals motifs).
B. A. R., Ms. Gr. 936*

*Nikephoros Blemmydes -
Epitome logica
and Epitome physica*

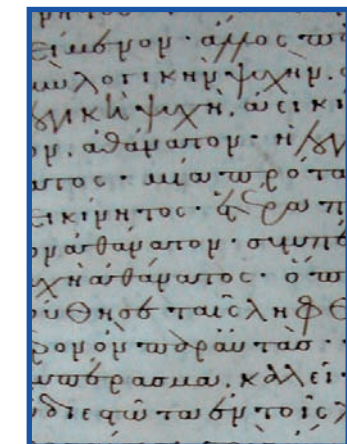
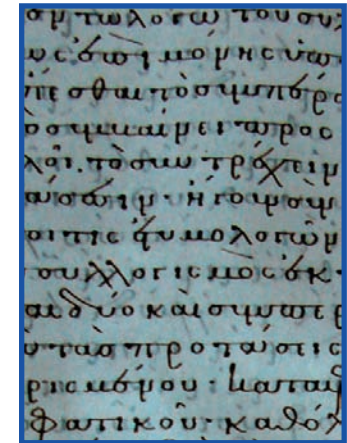
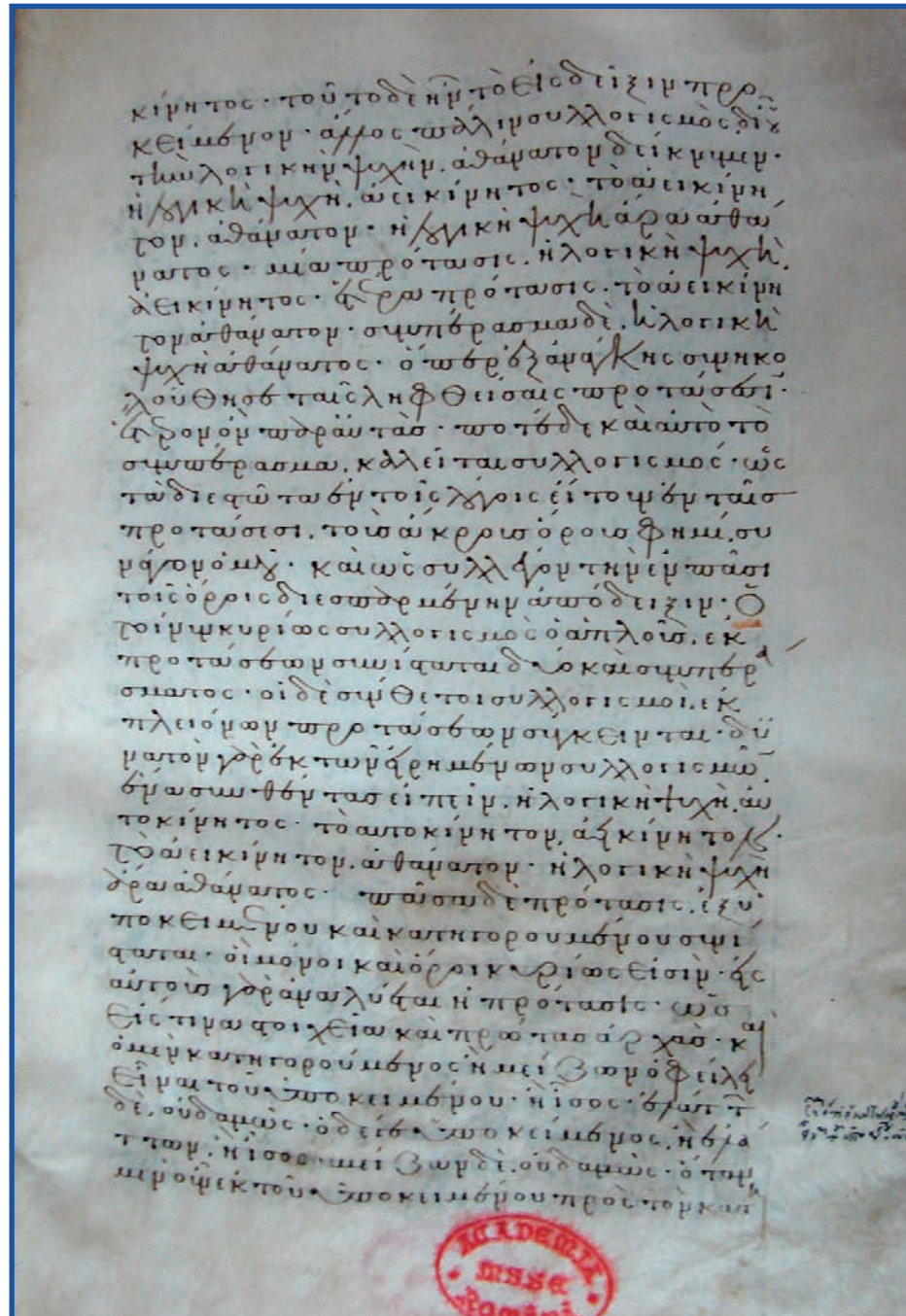
13th century

Parchment, 260 x 180 mm, 182 fols.,
33 lines per page.

Text in light brown ink.

Parchment binding.

Provenance: Bibliotheca Sceensis,
B.A.R., Gr. Ms. 10





Byzantine bindings





Byzantine bindings



Texts, graphic concept and layout
Gabriela Dumitrescu, Luminița Kövari
Photos
Gelu Serseniuc/Marian Emandache/Gabriela Dumitrescu

