



Gregory-Aland —
(National Librar of Greece, Athens: 204, ff. 26)¹

***Kurzgefasste Liste* description:**

GA Number:
Contents:
Date:
Material:
Leaves:
Columns:
Lines per page:
Dimensions:
Shelf Number:

Corrections to K-Liste description:

***CSNTM* description:**

GA Number:
Contents: Mark 1.5ff.
Date: IX? X? (No exact date)
Material: parchment
Leaves: 1
Columns: 1
Lines per page: 18
Dimensions: 22.3 W x 30.5 H x 4.4–4.9 D
Shelf Number: 204

Images:

Text [(3)—UV only] + Additional matter (312) + Spine & Color Chart (7) = 322 total images

Foliation corrections: paginated, not foliated. But apart from that, there are no corrections to make. MS is also foliated at bottom, but this is less accurate.

Quires (numbered on verso of last leaf, lower inside corner; and recto of first leaf, lower inside corner)²:

¹ This MS is palimpsested on leaf 26 of GA 771.

² Many of the quires seem to have been retooled; I am following the original quire designation as much as possible (what is written on the codex) even when it conflicts with later reworking of the quires.

1.1–6, 2.7–14, 3.15–16, 4(ζ).17–23, 5(η).24–29, 6(θ).30–35, 7(ι).37–44, 8(ια).45–52, 9(ιβ).53–60, 10(ιγ).61–67, 11(ιδ).68–75, 12(ιε).76–83, 13(ιζ).84–88, 14(ιη).89–96, 15(ιθ).97–103, 16(ικ).104–109, 17(ικα).110–117, 18(ικβ).118–125, 19(ικγ).126–133, 20.134–140, 21.141–148(?), 22.149–153.

Additional matter: 312 images

Front cover: 1+153 additional leaves + cover b = 309 images

Back cover: 1 additional leaves + cover a = 3 images

Spine, Cover, and Color Chart: 7 images

Text: 1 leaf (3 images)—UV only

UV (MS pages in brackets): 26ab [51–52]³

Specific Details:

Purchased 1872.

Modern covers, detached.

MS is slightly trapezoid, with outside larger than inside.

Visible text is Mark 1.5–6. UV photography needed to read more.

The end of Matthew (26b), written by the original scribe, may help us in determining whether there was an icon of Mark originally there. The scribe's hand stops in the middle of a word (διδασκοντες): the last syllable is finished by a different scribe (scribe B) who then writes out the rest of the page. He uses 29 lines for his text. Scribe B also wrote out the commentary on the page. There is also under-text of the same passage (Mark 1), written by yet a different scribe (scribe C), that has been scraped over. The fact that the original scribe (scribe A) wrote out 26a and began to write out 26b (which finishes Matthew) may suggest that he intended to move right on to Mark. But since his end of Matthew is finished by scribe B, we cannot tell. It is possible that scribe A intended to finish Matthew then have an icon on the next page, with text on the verso.

We seem to be left with at least two possibilities regarding this palimpsested leaf. First, some scribe (scribe C) wishing to begin a new leaf for Mark for scribe A left the recto blank and began to write out Mark on the verso. In this scenario, scribe A would have all but finished Matthew on the verso (scribe B finished the last verse), then either scribe A or scribe B would have erased what scribe C wrote. If so, scribe B then wrote out Mark 1.1ff. for scribe A and scribe A picked up where scribe B left off on the next leaf. The

³ Palimpsest here. It's *certainly* a different hand (minuscule) with a different amount of lines. Also, the fact that there is no text on the *recto* suggests that it was left blank for an icon. Mark 1.5–6 is evident (ποταμω... και ζωνην δ...). But it's on the same page as Mark 1.1ff. in the upper text (GA 771). Different number of lines (18 vs. 20), this text runs to the bottom of the page while GA 771 leaves 2.5 cm at bottom blank. Coincidence or did the scribe of GA 771 cannibalize an earlier MS?

biggest problem with this scenario is that Matthew's Gospel was not yet finished. Why would scribe C start writing out Mark 1.1ff. for scribe A? Would he not first want to finish Matthew? And would he not have realized that since he began writing in the middle of a quire he must surely make room for Matthew's ending? The blank recto seems to suggest that scribe C was thinking about having an artist paint an icon there.

Second, scribe C wrote out the beginning of Mark in a different MS, which was then cannibalized by scribe A for his own purposes. In this scenario, scribe C's work then becomes the beginning of the Gospel of Mark in an as-of-yet-uncatalogued GNT MS. Leaf 26 is also the left side of a bifolio for the originally seventh quire. Leaf 27 is the right side of this bifolio. There does not appear to be any under-text on 27, however. Perhaps it was an outer leaf in its earlier iteration which did not get completed. But the biggest problems with seeing the work of scribe C as a different MS are these two facts: (1) there is no under-text on leaf 27, and (2) the under-text that is on 26b is exactly the same as the upper text.

Ultimately, only UV or MSI-filter photography will be able to solve this mystery.

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