

OVERVIEW OF THE CODEX SINAITICUS PROJECT

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Codex Sinaiticus Conservation Seminar

London 8 July 2009

CODEX SINAITICUS

- What is the Codex Sinaiticus?
 - Earliest manuscript containing the complete New Testament
 - Earliest and best witness for several books of the Old Testament
 - For scholars of the Bible it is the pre-eminent manuscript known as aleph or 01
 - Written in Greek
 - Written on parchment
 - Mid 4th century
 - Transition from scroll to codex; parchment superseding papyrus
- Leaves are in four locations
 - St Catherine's Monastery, Mount Sinai, Egypt
 - Leipzig University Library, Germany
 - National Library of Russia, St Petersburg, Russia
 - British Library, London, UK

CODEX SINAITICUS PROJECT

- What is the Codex Sinaiticus Project?
 - Started in 2002 with a Roundtable
 - Complete digitisation of all leaves and fragments
 - Four partners agreement signed 2005
 - Virtual reunification on the web 6 July 2009
 - From parchment to pixel

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 - From parchment to pixel

- www.codexsinaiticus.org
 - 6 July 20 million hits on the website
 - 6 July ranked among Google's top 20 searches
 - 8 July 629 on-line articles
 - Youtube http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fd_x1yulrZ8

CODEX SINAITICUS PROJECT

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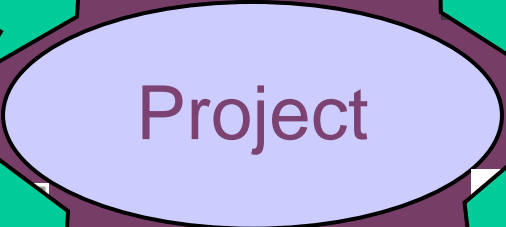
- Elements of the Project
 - Historical account of the manuscript
 - Conservation
 - Digitisation
 - Transcription
 - Dissemination

CODEX SINAITICUS PROJECT

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

- St Catherine's Monastery, Mount Sinai, Egypt
 - Leipzig University Library, Germany
 - National Library of Russia, St Petersburg, Russia
 - British Library, London, UK
-
- Institute for Textual Scholarship and Electronic Editing, University of Birmingham, UK
 - Institute for New Testament Textual Research, University of Münster, Germany
 - The Center for Retrospective Digitization, Göttingen State and University Library, Germany
 - Society of Biblical Literature, Atlanta, USA

CODEX SINAITICUS PROJECT MODERN HISTORY



CODEX SINAITICUS PROJECT

St Catherine's Monastery

- some or all of 18 leaves

Leipzig University Library

- 43 leaves
- currently unbound

National Library of Russia, St Petersburg

- portions of 4 leaves
- currently framed

British Library, London

- 347 leaves
- bound in two volumes by Douglas Cockerell 1935

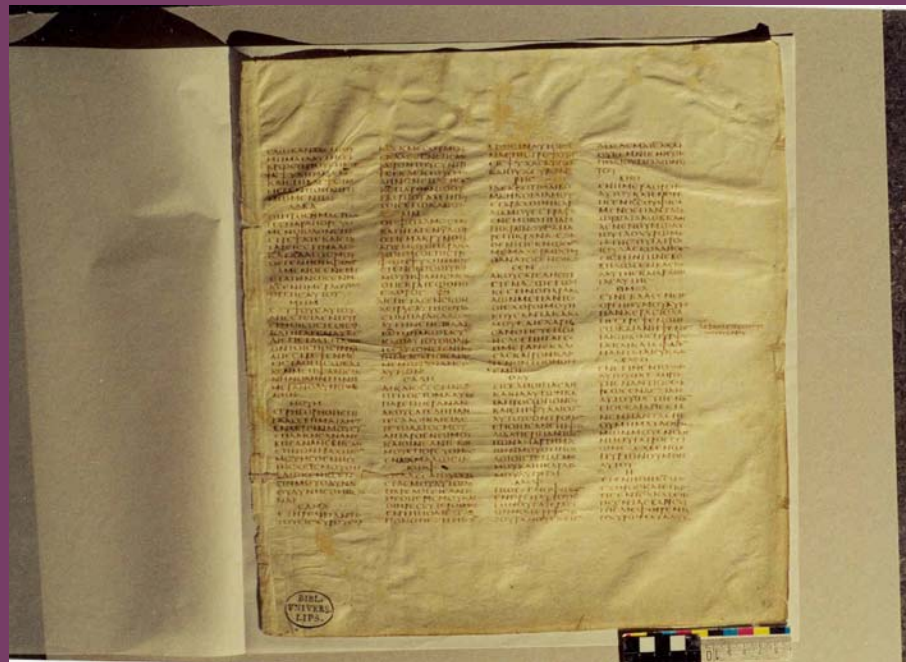
ST CATHERINE'S MONASTERY

- some or all of 18 leaves
- recovered by the monks from the northern wall of the monastery in June 1975



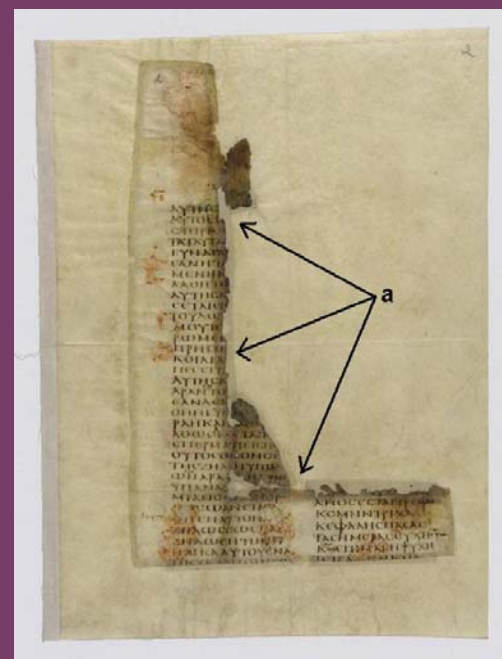
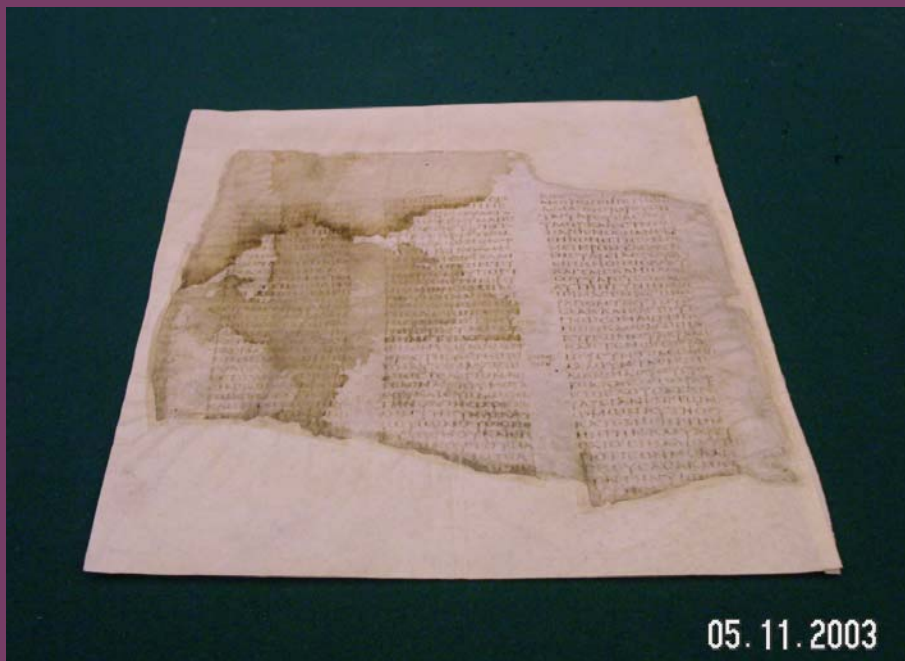
LEIPZIG UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

- 43 leaves
- currently unbound



NATIONAL LIBRARY OF RUSSIA, ST PETERSBURG

- portions of 4 leaves
- currently framed



BRITISH LIBRARY, LONDON

- 347 leaves
- 1933
- arrived unbound in British Museum Library



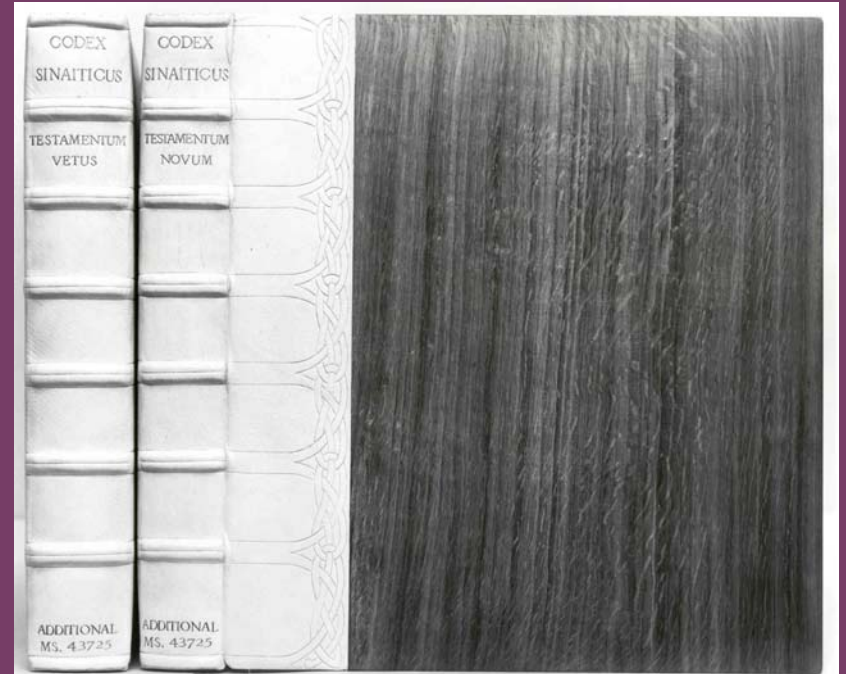
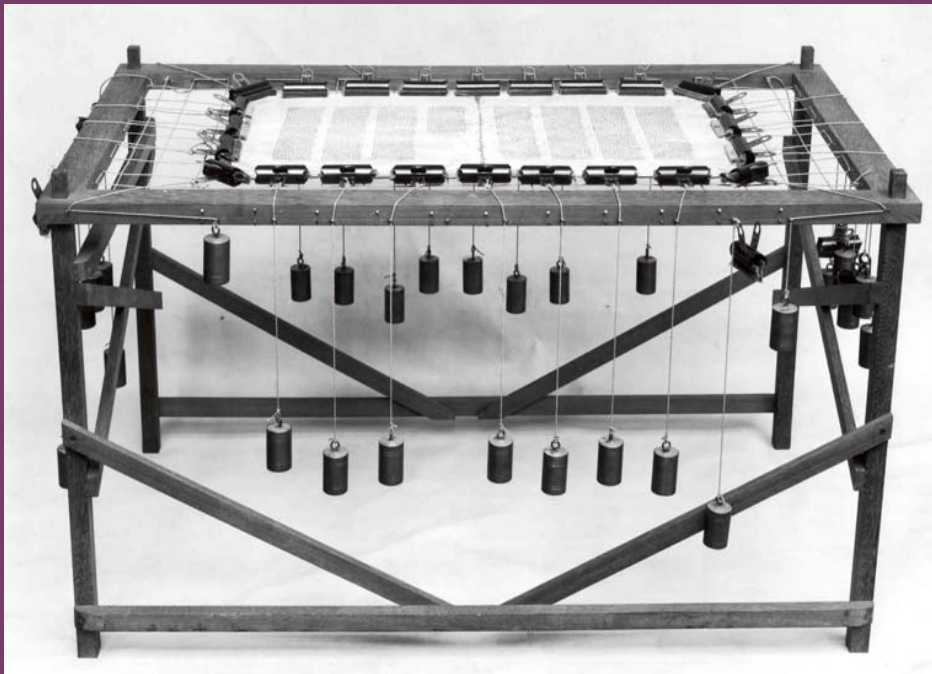
BRITISH LIBRARY, LONDON

- 347 leaves
- 1933
- arrived unbound in British Museum Library



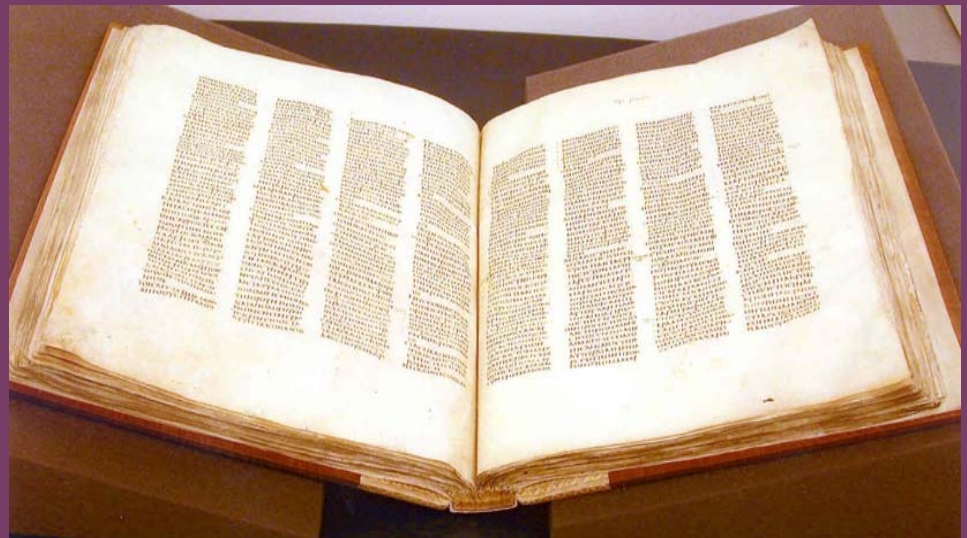
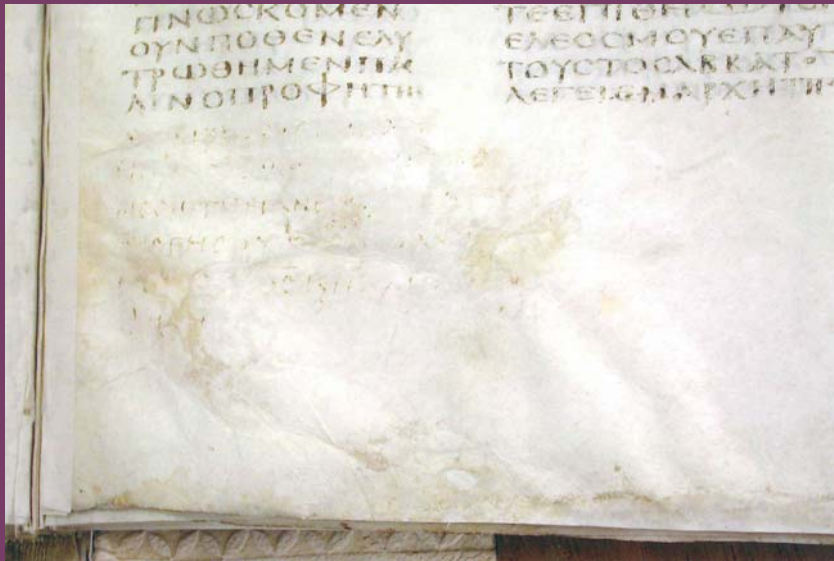
BRITISH LIBRARY, LONDON

- 1935 bound in two volumes by Douglas Cockerell
- Cockerell archive at the British Library
- Work book, treatment summary, photographs, correspondence with suppliers, with the British Museum



BRITISH LIBRARY, LONDON

- spine adhesive removed; leaves repaired
- parchment humidified and stretched
- sewn on stub guards
- bound in quarter cut oak boards; alum-tawed goat spine



CODEX SINAITICUS PROJECT

- Elements of the Project
 - Historical account of the manuscript
 - **Conservation**
 - Digitisation
 - Transcription
 - Dissemination

Conservation Working Party

- partners
 - St Catherine's Monastery, Mount Sinai, Egypt
 - Leipzig University Library, Germany
 - National Library of Russia, St Petersburg, Russia
 - British Library, London, UK
- projects and collaborations
 - EU "IDAP" Improved Damage Assessment of Parchment
 - The School of Conservation, The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts
 - Preservation Assessment Surveys, Printed Book Surveys
 - University of the Arts, London

CONSERVATION WORKING PARTY

■ Principles

- Minimum treatment to stabilise for digitisation
- Minimise handling of the manuscript
- Non-destructive analysis
- Interdisciplinary

■ Aims

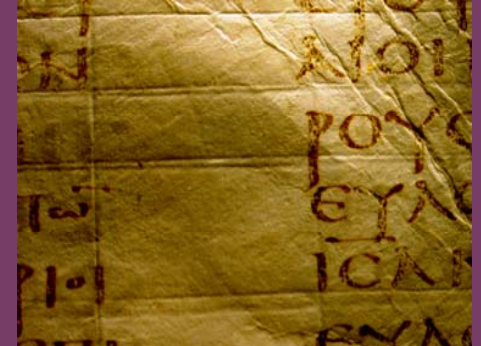
- Review of previous treatment
- Examination and analysis for conservation & codicology
- Documentation & condition assessment in all 4 locations
- Conservation to stabilise for digitisation
- Dissemination of findings

CONSERVATION of the CODEX SINAITICUS

Documentation

Structure

- the parchment
- scribal features
- codicology
- previous treatment
- condition
- previous repairs
- conservation treatment



SAMPLE DOCUMENTATION

Microsoft Excel - Q60_BL96-103

File Edit View Insert Format Tools Data Window Help Adobe PDF

Type a question for help

Arial 10 B I U

BB19 h + a44-b44 + b40

A		B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	AJ	AK	AL	AM	AN	AO	AP	AQ	AR	AS	AT	AU	AV	AW	AX	AY	AZ	BA	BB	BC	BD												
Quire number:		60									Scribal (Conservation)																																
		M & S	Greek								Dimensions (mm)				Pricking Direction			Ruling		Texture Difference		Scribal variation between text to ruling		Spine margin numeration/ annotation		Other margin annotations		Feint/ small annotations		Foreigne squiggles		Ink color											
Quire Construction										Height (largest)	Height (smallest)	Width (largest)	Width (smallest)	Pricking	Bounding lines HEAD	Bounding lines TAIL	Text lines	Above, on, below	Single/ Double	Ruling indent	Secondary ruling	Surface Preparation	Location	Scribe	Scribal variation between text to ruling	Spine margin numeration/ annotation	Other margin annotations	Feint/ small annotations	Foreigne squiggles	Original text													
Format	Quire leaf	K-L foliation	BL foliation	Status	Recto / Verso	Folio	Recto / Verso			Height (largest)	Height (smallest)	Width (largest)	Width (smallest)	Pricking	Bounding lines HEAD	Bounding lines TAIL	Text lines	Above, on, below	Single/ Double	Ruling indent	Secondary ruling	Surface Preparation	Location	Scribe	Scribal variation between text to ruling	Spine margin numeration/ annotation	Other margin annotations	Feint/ small annotations	Foreigne squiggles	Original text													
	1	142	96	c lg	r	8	N	r	v	382	377	353	345	DS	NK	▼	▼	B	D	▼	a30- h30	P	a + b	I	i	i + f +	e	N	a4 +														
	2	143	97	c lg	v	7	N	r	v	380	376	351	344	DS	NK	▼	▼	O + B	D	▲	N	P	a + b	A	a4	h +	b10 +	N	N														
	3	144	98	c lg	v	6	N	r	v	380	375	350	345	DS	NK	▼	▼	B	D	▼	a13- h13	P	a + b	I	i	a5	a20 +	N	N														
	4	145	99	c lg	v	5	N	r	v	381	375	350	345	DS	▼	▼	▼	O + B	D	▲	N	P	a + b	I	i + j	f	N	N	a1 -														
	5	146	100	c lg	r	4	N	r	v	380	377	351	346	DS	NK	▼	▼	O + B	D	▼	N	P	a + b	I	j	g +	N	Y	N														
	6	147	101	c lg	r	3	N	r	v	380	376	350	346	DS	NK	▼	▼	O + B	D	▲	a35- h35	N	P	a + b	I	N	N	N	N	N													
	7	148	102	c lg	r	2	N	r	v	379	376	351	345	DS	NK	▼	▼	B	D	▼	N	P	a + b	I	i + j	h +	h +	N	N														
	8	149	103	c lg	v	1	N	r	v	380	375	348	342	DS	NK	▼	▼	B	D	▲	N	P	a + b	I	N	e	N	N	N	N													

Ready

NUM

12:24

VIRTUAL REUNIFICATION



Codex Sinaiticus

Contact | Copyright Advanced search →

HOME ABOUT CODEx SINAITICUS ABOUT THE PROJECT SEE THE MANUSCRIPT GO TO: (Book)

choose a passage:

2 Esdras Chapter 21 Verse 15

choose a page:

Quire: 36 Folio: 4

display options:

- Image
- Translation
- Transcription
- Physical Description

2 Esdras, 21:15 - 22:37 library: LUL folio: xii scribe: A

Image

Standard Light Raking Light



Physical Description

- + parchment
- + scribalConservation
- + codicology
- + previousTreatment
- + condition
- + conditionRepairs
- + conservationTreatment

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RSS

CODEX SINAITICUS PROJECT Conservation, British Library



CODEX SINAITICUS PROJECT

Conservation, Leipzig University Library



CODEX SINAITICUS PROJECT

Conservation, National Library of Russia



CODEX SINAITICUS PROJECT

Conservation, St Catherine's Monastery



CONSERVATION of the CODEX SINAITICUS

- Sample findings of BL work
 - Parchment
 - Ink
 - Codicology
- Dissemination
- Future possibilities
- Acknowledgements

CONSERVATION WORKING PARTY

- “When seeking those animals whose skins might be most suitable for making parchment, it can hardly be doubted that before all others, the species of antelope which is even now most common in the deserts of Libya, Egypt and Arabia supplied the parchment from which the Frederick-Augustus Codex was made.”
 - *Translation from: Tischendorf, (1846)*

CONSERVATION WORKING PARTY



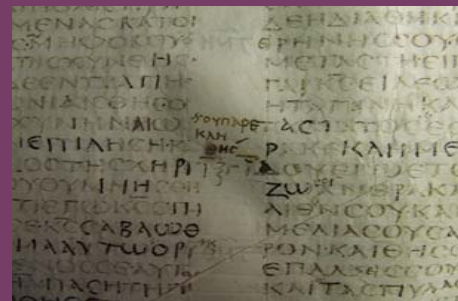
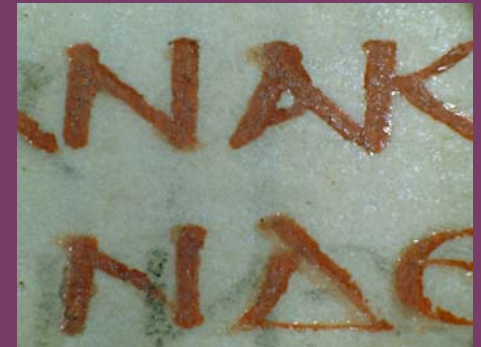
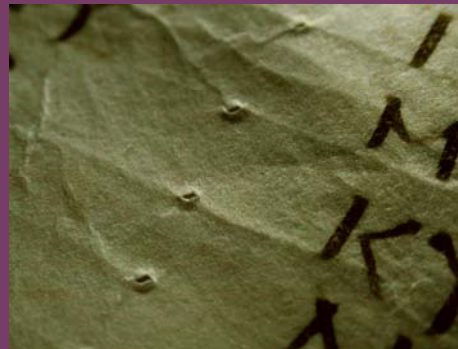
CONSERVATION WORKING PARTY

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 - *Translation from: Tischendorf, (1846)*
- **“Most positive identifications are calf, but a few wool sheep has also been found. In most cases ... gelatine [is found] formed in the follicles”.**
 - **René Larsen (2007)**

CONSERVATION of the CODEX SINAITICUS

Sample findings - inks

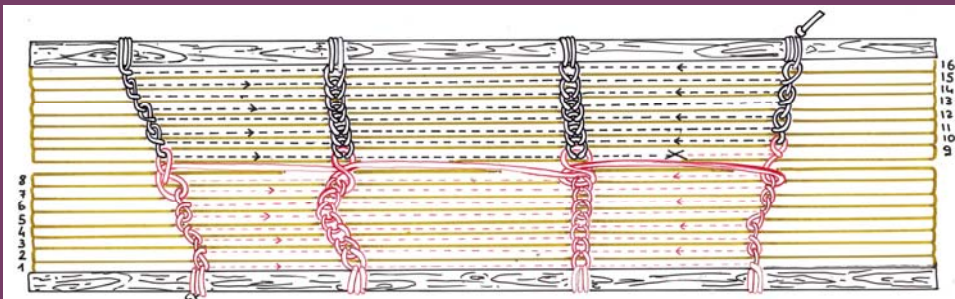
- Brown-black inks
- Red inks
- Re-tracings
- Scribal characteristics



CONSERVATION of the CODEX SINAITICUS sample finding - codicology



Tail edge of the un-bound Codex



Hypothetical reconstruction of the "two halves" sewing of the Codex



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- Dissemination – Conservation
 - Website <http://www.codexsinaiticus.org/en/>
 - includes Conservation essays on findings
 - Conference 6/7 July; 6 posters on Conservation
 - Exhibition “from parchment to pixel; the virtual reunification of the Codex Sinaiticus” to 7 September 2009
 - Materials of the Codex Sinaiticus:
How was the oldest surviving Bible made? 5 August
 - Podcast “Virtual Reunification of the Codex Sinaiticus”
 - Conservation Seminar 8 July
 - Publications; print facsimile, popular book
 - Turning the Pages

CONSERVATION of the CODEX SINAITICUS

- Possible areas for further research and analysis
 - Real time monitoring
 - Condition and environmental history
 - Treatment of iron gall ink on parchment
 - Codicology stain mapping
 - Analysis of website information

CONSERVATION of the CODEX SINAITICUS

Acknowledgements

- Hieromonk Justin of Sinai
- John Mumford
- Robert Jefferson
- Jane Pimott
- Nikolas Sarris
- Barry Knight
- Gavin Moorhead
- Sara Mazzarino
- Flavio Marzo
- Rosi Ketzer
- Marcie Hopkins
- Claire Breay
- William Frame
- Juan Garcés
- Nicholas Pickwood
- Christopher Clarkson
- George Boudalis
- Svetlana Dobrusina
- Ulrich Johannes Schneider
- Monika Linder
- Ute Feller
- Sophia Manns
- René Larsen
- Costas Balas
- Kissley Leonor