

Codex Zacynthius (designated by siglum ? or 040 in the Gregory @-@ Aland numbering ; A1 in von Soden) is a Greek New Testament codex , dated paleographically to the 6th century . First thought to have been written in the 8th century , it is a palimpsest ? the original (lower) text was washed off its vellum pages and overwritten in the 12th or 13th century . The upper text of the palimpsest contains weekday Gospel lessons ; the lower text contains portions of the Gospel of Luke , deciphered by biblical scholar and palaeographer Tregelles in 1861 . The lower text is of most interest to scholars .

The manuscript came from Zakynthos , a Greek island , and has survived in a fragmentary condition . It was brought to England in 1821 and transferred to Cambridge University in 1985 . It is often cited in critical editions of the Greek New Testament .

The lower text of the manuscript contains fragments of the chapters 1 : 1 @-@ 11 : 33 of the Gospel of Luke . The codex comprises 86 thick , coarse parchment leaves and three partial leaves ; it measures 36 x 29 cm . The text was written in a single column with well @-@ formed uncial script . The letters are large , round and narrow , without spiritus asper , spiritus lenis , or accents . The manuscript was written by two scribes .

Abbreviations are rarely used in the codex . The handwriting is very close to that of the Rossano Gospels . The errors of itacism occur , but not so often as in Codex Sinaiticus and Codex Vaticanus . It uses grammatical forms typical of the ancient manuscripts (e.g. ????? , ????? , ?????) , which are not used in later medieval manuscripts .

The codex uses a peculiar system of chapter divisions , which it shares with Codex Vaticanus and Minuscule 579 . A more common system divides chapters according to their titles . The capital letters at the beginnings of sections stand out in the margin as in the Codices Alexandrinus and Ephraemi .

The text is surrounded by a marginal commentary ; it is the only codex that has both text and commentary in uncial script . The commentary is a catena of quotations of nine church fathers : Origen , Eusebius , Titus of Bostra , Basil , Isidore of Pelusium , Cyril of Alexandria , Sever from Antioch , Victor from Antioch , and Chrysostom . The commentary surrounds the single @-@ column text of Luke on three sides . Patristic text is written in small uncial letters . Most of the quotations are those of Ciril of Alexandria (93 scholia) ; next comes Titus of Bostra (45 scholia) . The commentary was written in a different kind of uncial script than the biblical text .

The book contains the following chapters and verses of the Gospel of Luke : 1 : 1 @-@ 9 @,@ 19 @-@ 23 @,@ 27 @-@ 28 @,@ 30 @-@ 32 @,@ 36 @-@ 60 @,@ 77 ; 2 : 19 @,@ 21 @-@ 22 @,@ 33 @-@ 3 ; 3 : 5 @-@ 8 @,@ 11 @-@ 20 ; 4 : 1 @-@ 2 @,@ 6 @-@ 20 @,@ 32 @-@ 43 ; 5 : 17 @-@ 36 ; 6 : 21 ; 7 : 6 @,@ 11 @-@ 37 @,@ 39 @-@ 47 ; 8 : 4 @-@ 21 @,@ 25 @-@ 35 @,@ 43 @-@ 50 ; 9 : 1 @-@ 28 @,@ 32 @-@ 33 @,@ 35 ; 9 : 41 ; 10 : 18 @,@ 21 @-@ 40 ; 11 : 1 @-@ 4 @,@ 24 @-@ 33 .

Luke 9 : 55b @-@ 56a ? ??? ????? , ??? ?????? ???? ?????????? ???? ????? ; ? ??? ???? ???
 ?????????? ??? ?????? ?????? ?????????? ?????????? ???? ?????? (and He said : " You do not know
 what manner of spirit you are of ; for the Son of man came not to destroy men 's lives but to save
 them) is omitted , typical of Alexandrian text @-@ type , as in codices Sinaiticus B C ? L 33 700
 892 1241 syr , and copbo .

Luke 4 : 17 it has the textual variant ??? ??????? ?? ??????? (and opened the book) together

with the manuscripts A , B , L , W , 33 , 892 , 1195 , 1241 , ? 547 , syrs , h , pal , and copsa , bo , against variant ??? ?????????? ?? ????????? (and unrolled the book) supported by ? , Dc , K , ? , ? , ? , ? , f1 , f13 , 28 , 565 , 700 , 1009 , and 1010 .

Luke 9 : 10 it has the textual variant ??? ?????? ?????????????? ?????????? (to a city called Bethsaida) , as do codices B , L , and 33 ; but later hand @-@ written in the margin ??? ?????? ?????????? ?????????? ?????????? ?????????? (into a deserted place belonging to the city called Bethsaida) .

= = Text @-@ type = =

The textual character of the codex is representative of the late Alexandrian text @-@ type , and is similar to the Codex Regius . Kurt and Barbara Aland gave the following textual profile of it : 21 , 82 , 21 / 2 , 3s . This means the text of the codex agrees with the Byzantine standard text 2 times , it agrees 8 times with the original text against the Byzantine and it agrees both with the Byzantine and original text 2 times . There are 3 independent or distinctive readings . On the basis of this profile Alands considered the quality of the text to suit his Category III . According to the Claremont Profile Method , it represents the Alexandrian text in Luke 10 and mixed Byzantine text @-@ type in Luke 1 , which probably indicates sporadic Byzantine corrections .

= = Palimpsest = =

The codex is a palimpsest , meaning that the original text was scraped off and overwritten and the parchment leaves folded in half . The upper text was written by a minuscule hand and contains lectionary 299 (? 299) from the 12th or 13th century , though the lectionary text is not complete ; it is written on 176 leaves (28 @.@ 7 cm by 18 @.@ 2 cm) , in one column per page , 33 @-@ 36 lines per page . Three folios are only the lower halves of leaves , one folio was supplied with paper (folio LXVIII) . The manuscript contains weekday Gospel lessons (Evangelistarium) , but is lacunose . Tregelles did not collate its text because of its secondary value . Scrivener designated it by siglum 200 , Gregory by 299 .

Lectionary 299 in Mark 6 : 33 has textual reading ????? ??? ?????????? ????????? along with Codex Sinaiticus , Codex Vaticanus , 0187 (omit ?????) , 892 , ? 49 , ? 69 , ? 70 , ? 303 , ? 333 , ? 1579 , (? 950 ???????) , itaur , vg , (copsa , bo) .

The text of the lectionary is cited in some critical editions of the Greek New Testament (UBS3) in the following places : Matthew 10 : 4 ; 11 : 17 ; 12 : 47 ; 13 : 13 ; 14 : 22 ; 18 : 10 ; 22 : 30 ; 26 : 27 ; 28 : 9 ; Mark 1 : 27 ; 2 : 10 @.@ 26 ; 4 : 16 @.@ 20 ; 6 : 2 @.@ 2 @.@ 3 @.@ 33 . It is not cited in UBS4 .

= = History = =

= = = Dating = = =

Tregelles dated the manuscript to the 8th century . Tregelles was aware that the handwriting is typical for the 6th century , but the handwriting of the commentary is much older . The letters ???? are round , high , and narrow , and could not have been written before the 8th century . C. R. Gregory supported Tregelles 's point of view . According to Nicholas Pocock , the manuscript could not have been written before the 6th century nor after the 8th century .

William Hatch in 1937 , on the basis of palaeographical data , suggested that the codex should be dated to the 6th century . It does not use breathings and accents and the text of the commentary is written in uncial script . Aland supported Hatch 's point of view . This date is accepted by the majority of scholars .

David C. Parker in 2004 argued that manuscript was written later the 6th century , because it has a small number of square letters , and the handwriting is not typical for the 6th century . Some letters were compressed (? , ? , ?) , the bar over the letter ? is short and the letter ? is written in several

ways . According to Parker the manuscript should be dated to the 7th century .
Currently it is dated by the INTF to the 6th century .

= = = Discovery and further research = = =

The early history of the manuscript is unknown . In 1821 it was brought by general Colin Macaulay to England from the Greek island Zakynthos in the Ionian Sea . The manuscript was placed in the library of the British and Foreign Bible Society (Mss 24) in London .

Scholz saw the manuscript in 1845 , and Paul de Lagarde in 1853 , but they did not decipher it . The lower text of the codex was deciphered , transcribed , and edited by Tregelles in 1861 . Tregelles used types originally cast for printing the Codex Alexandrinus , which only approximately represented the shape of the letters of the codex . The hand @-@ written letters are smaller than the type . Tregelles included one page of typographical facsimile in this edition . He did not decipher the small Patristic writing and doubted that it could be read without chemical restoration .

Nicholas Pocock found errors in Tregelles ' edition , but William Hatch thought it satisfactory . J. Harold Greenlee corrected Tregelles ' errors and edited the list of corrections in 1957 , which was examined by William Hatch . In 1959 Greenlee published a commentary . The codex probably needs another examination with modern technology .

Tischendorf cited the codex in his Editio Octava Critica Maior in 564 places . It is often cited in the critical editions of the Greek New Testament (UBS3 , UBS4 , NA26 , NA27) .

In 1985 it was moved to the Cambridge University Library (BFBS Ms 213) . In December 2013 , the Bible Society announced plans to sell some manuscripts , among them the Codex Zacynthius , to raise funds for a Visitors Centre in Wales . The University was given right of first refusal and has until February 2014 to raise the money to acquire the codex .