A digital facsimile of Walters Ms. W.850, Ethiopian Gospels
Title: Prefatory cycle Four Gospels Concluding image cycle
Introduction to Four Gospels Canon tables Gospel Book

Published by: The Walters Art Museum
600 N. Charles Street Baltimore, MD 21201
http://www.thewalters.org/

http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/legalcode
Published 2011
This document is a digital facsimile of a manuscript belonging to the Walters Art Museum, in Baltimore, Maryland, in the United States. It is one of a number of manuscripts that have been digitized as part of a project generously funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, and by an anonymous donor to the Walters Art Museum. More details about the manuscripts at the Walters can be found by visiting The Walters Art Museum's website www.thewalters.org. For further information about this book, and online resources for Walters manuscripts, please contact us through the Walters Website by email, and ask for your message to be directed to the Department of Manuscripts.
This large Ethiopian Gospel Book was made in the first half of the sixteenth century and is written in Gǝ'ǝz, the traditional liturgical language of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church. Containing eleven full-page miniatures, six canon tables, and five elaborately ornamented ḥarägs, or headpieces, this manuscript represents the golden age of what has been termed the Gunda Gunde style, named after a monastery in the district of Agame. The Gunda Gunde style is characterized by bold blocks of color defined by detailed and often delicate linear motifs. Figures are highly stylized and expressive, while the accompanying canon tables and ḥarägs are filled with intricate interlace and geometric forms. The manuscript is exceptionally well preserved, and is an excellent and rare example of Ethiopian illumination from one of its important artistic centers.
Translation: I started with the good will of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, And I proceeded with the intercession of Our Lady Mary, . . . This book, the book of the nativity of Christ from the womb, And the book of his circumcision without being touched, And the book of his baptism in the hand of John with the water of Jordan, . . . That you [God?] have me copied in diligence and trust in Abba Ǝṣṭifanos [effaced, decipherable], For the tomb of Abunā [effaced, possibly Isayyyas], For the memory of women and children, And also the big and small (i.e. the old and the young).

Comment: Colophon embedded at the end of a review of the content of the Gospels and written in a rhyming composition; name of the copyist and the year the manuscript was copied not given—only the day (25 Ab = Awgusṭos = 1 Ṗagwmen)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Support material</th>
<th>Parchment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Extent</td>
<td>Heavy, thick parchment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foliation: 211</td>
<td>No flyleaves; modern pencil foliation upper right corners, rectos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collation</td>
<td>Formula: 1(6,-2,3,6), 2(12,-10,12), 3 (10,-2,8), 4(12,-3,9), 5(10,-1), 6(10,-4), 7(14,-1,4,5,10), 8(10,-10), 9(8), 10(8,-1), 11(12), 12(10,-10), 13(10,-5), 14(8), 15(12,-1), 16(10), 17(10), 18(10,-10), 19(10), 20(10), 21(8), 22(8,-7), 23(12,-11), 24(6,-2,4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catchwords: None</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Signatures: None</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comments: Quires begin on fols. 1(1), 4(2), 14(3), 22(4), 32(5), 41(6), 50(7), 60(8), 69(9), 77(10), 84(11), 96(12), 105(13), 114(14), 122(15), 133(16), 143(17), 153(18), 162(19), 172(20), 182(21), 190(22), 197(23), and 208(24); Canon tables were likely moved to end from beginning of manuscript</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dimensions</td>
<td>25.0 cm wide by 30.2 cm high</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Contents

**fols. 2r - 211v:**

*Title:* Gospel Book

*Text note:* Incomplete; contains text of four Gospels and introduction to them, but two folios of canon tables are missing

*Decoration note:* Eleven full-page miniatures (two or three others now missing) including Evangelist portraits before each Gospel; six framed canon tables (two other folios with canons missing); five full-page colored ḥarāgs, introducing each of the Gospels and the appendix; strong palette of red, blue, green, and yellow used for illuminations; rubrics, opening lines, punctuation, and margin ornaments in red and black; text in black ink

**fols. 2r - 3r:**

*Title:* Prefatory cycle


*Text note:* No text except for image captions

*Decoration note:* Prefatory cycle with three full-page miniatures related to Christ's nativity; curtain over fol. 3r; image captions in red above and within images

**fols. 4v - 195v:**

*Title:* Four Gospels


on John; text missing after fols. 20v (Mt. 11:2-21), 31v (Mt. 16:20-17:9), 43v (Mt.23:12-28), 51v (Mt. 26:21-48), 109v (Lk. 6:11-29), 140v (Lk. 20:17-39)

Decoration note: Full-page Evangelist portraits at the beginning of each Gospel (fols. 4v, 60v, 96v, and 153v), each approximately 23 lines high; Evangelists facing elaborate decorative frames for opening of Gospel text (fols. 5r, 61r, 97r, and 154r); full-page miniature of Transfiguration (fol. 59v); opening lines of Gospels in red and black ink; explicits accented by red and black dot and penwork designs

fols. 196v - 198v:
Title: Concluding image cycle
Text note: No text except for some image captions
Decoration note: Full-page miniatures of Mary and John (fol. 196v), the Crucifixion (fol. 197r), and the Ascension (fol. 198v); image captions in red and black

fols. 199r - 207v:
Title: Introduction to Four Gospels
Incipit: በስመ፡ በሆ፡ . . . የምታወቭ፡ የወስራን፡ ከሚሆ፡ ከሚወኝ፡ ሁው፡ ከሆው፡ ከሚሆ፡ ከሆው፡ የሆው፡ የሆው፡ ይሆበት፡ የሆው፡ ይሆበት፡ በሚወር:
Text note: It is likely this text was moved from the front to the back of the manuscript
Decoration note: Ornate columned framework around beginning of text; opening text in lines of red and black

fols. 208r - 210v:
Title: Canon tables
Contents: Incomplete; two folios/4 tables missing; it is likely this text was moved from the front to the back of the manuscript; fol. 211v contains list of incipit verses in the Gospels
Decoration note: Eusebian numbers divided into columns ranging from four to eight per table; large
framing arches enclosing smaller arches, ranging from four to seven, filled with elaborate interlace, cross patterns, and birds; arches supported by two or three unpainted pen-drawn columns; curtains on rods either tied around columns or hanging next to them; Eusebian numbers in black with occasional red numbers beside them.

Decoration

fol. 2r:
Title: Mary and Joseph with the Innocents massacred by King Herod
Form: Full-page miniature
Text: Matthew 2:16
Comment: Inscription reads: "ሥዕለ፡ እምርሆቅ፡ ከመ፡ ከስግዱ፡ ከወልደ፡ ኢምላክ፡," or "Picture of the children of a year, two years and three years that had them killed."

fol. 2v:
Title: The Magi and the shepherds
Form: Full-page miniature
Comment: Inscription reads: "ሥዕለ፡ ኢምርሆቅ፡ ከመ፡ ከስግዱ፡ ከወልደ፡ ኢምላ鸸፡," or "Picture of the Magi who came from far to worship the Son of God."

3r, curtain closed:
Title: Virgin and Child flanked by the Archangels Michael and Gabriel, curtain closed
Form: Full-page miniature

fol. 3r:
Title: Virgin and Child flanked by the Archangels Michael and Gabriel
Form: Full-page miniature

fol. 4v:
Title: Portrait of the Evangelist Matthew
Form: Full-page miniature
Text: Opening of Matthew's Gospel
Label: The Evangelist is depicted as having already copied Mt 1:1-2.
fol. 59v:
Title: Transfiguration
Form: Full-page miniature

fol. 60v:
Title: Portrait of the Evangelist Mark
Form: Full-page miniature
Text: Opening of Mark's Gospel
Label: The Evangelist is depicted as having already copied Mk. 1:1-2.

fol. 96v:
Title: Portrait of the Evangelist Luke
Form: Full-page miniature
Label: The Evangelist is depicted as having already copied Lk. 1:1-2.

fol. 153v:
Title: Portrait of the Evangelist John
Form: Full-page miniature
Text: Opening of John's Gospel
Label: The Evangelist is depicted as having already copied Jn 1:1-2.

fol. 196v:
Title: Mary, Mother of Jesus and John the beloved disciple
Form: Full-page miniature

fol. 197r:
Title: Crucifixion
Form: Full-page miniature
Comment: Inscriptions read: "እርሱስ፡ ከወለት፡ ከሆነ፡ ከወለት፡ ከእሱ," or "Picture of the Crucifixion of Our Lord Jesus Christ," with the Gǝ'ǝz translation of the label, "እርሱስ፡ ከወለት፡ ከወለት፡ ከእሱ," "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews" (Cf. Mt 27:37), posted at the top of the cross.

fol. 198v:
Title: Ascension
Form: Full-page miniature
Comment: Inscription reads: "ሥዕለ፡ የርገቱ፤ ኔፋጆ *

fol. 208r:
Title: Canon table
Form: Full-page miniature
Text: Eusebian Canon I

fol. 208v:
Title: Canon table
Form: Full-page miniature
Text: Eusebian Canon II

fol. 209r:
Title: Canon table
Form: Full-page miniature
Text: Eusebian Canon III

fol. 209v:
Title: Canon table
Form: Full-page miniature
Text: Eusebian Canon IV

fol. 210r:
Title: Canon table
Form: Full-page miniature
Text: Eusebian Canon V

fol. 210v:
Title: Canon table
Form: Full-page miniature
Text: Eusebian Canon VI

Provenance
Monastery at Gunda Gunde, northeastern Ethiopia, early-
to mid-sixteenth century, based on painting style and palaeography

Church of Madhane Alam in Majate, 1892-3, known from the endnote on fol. 95r, which gives a record in Amharic of a land
grant to the church of Moğâte Mäðhane 'Aläm, enacted in the Year of Matthew, 7385 Anno Mundi (=1885 EC=1892-3 CE)

Private collection, France, prior to 1973

Sam Fogg Rare Books and Manuscripts, London

**Acquisition**
Museum purchase, the W. Alton Jones Foundation Acquisition Fund, 1998

**Binding**
The binding is original.
Plain wooden boards, broken and stitched, front and back, with remains of leather on the upper board; chain stitching at six stations

**Bibliography**


Ethiopian Art: The Walters Art Museum. Third Millennium Publishing, 2001, pp. 95, 104, 114; cat. no. 14 (fols. 153v-154r, 59v, 196v-197r); fig. 30 (fol. 60v).

Mann, C. Griffith. "'May their prayers protect us:' Illuminating the Gospels in Sixteenth Century Ethiopia (W.850)." 62. Journal of the Walters Art Museum, 2004, pp. 195, 197; fig. 1 (fols. 60v-61r), fig. 3 (fols. 196v-197r).

null


[Handwritten text in Amharic script]

..
None
..
..
\[\text{Text in Amharic script}\]

\[\text{Text in Amharic script}\]

\[\text{Text in Amharic script}\]

\[\text{Text in Amharic script}\]

\[\text{Text in Amharic script}\]

\[\text{Text in Amharic script}\]

\[\text{Text in Amharic script}\]

\[\text{Text in Amharic script}\]

\[\text{Text in Amharic script}\]

\[\text{Text in Amharic script}\]

\[\text{Text in Amharic script}\]

\[\text{Text in Amharic script}\]

\[\text{Text in Amharic script}\]

\[\text{Text in Amharic script}\]

\[\text{Text in Amharic script}\]

\[\text{Text in Amharic script}\]

\[\text{Text in Amharic script}\]

\[\text{Text in Amharic script}\]

\[\text{Text in Amharic script}\]

\[\text{Text in Amharic script}\]

\[\text{Text in Amharic script}\]

\[\text{Text in Amharic script}\]

\[\text{Text in Amharic script}\]
...
......
قَدْ مَاتَ أَخِي، فَلَا تَبْكَرِّهِ. إِنَّهُ یَقْتُلُ الْإِنسَانَ وَهُوَ عَلَىٰ سُمْوَتِي وَجَعَلَهُ مُجِيِّرًا بِالمَآءِ وَالْأَرْضِ. فَلَا تَبْكَرِّهِ. إِنَّهُ ۚ وَهُوَ إِلَّا عَلَمُ نَارٌ وَحُلُومٌ وَخَشَى مِّنَ السَّمَاءِ. وَهُوَ يَغْلِبُ مَا فِيهَا وَلَا يَخْلُقُ مَا فِيهَا حَكْمًا. فَلَا تَبْكَرِّهِ. إِنَّهُ ۚ وَهُوَ مُلْكُ قَلِيلٌ وَمَلِئُهُ. وَهُوَ يَغْلِبُ مَا فِيهَا وَلَا يَخْلُقُ مَا فِيهَا حَكْمًا. فَلَا تَبْكَرِّهِ. إِنَّهُ ۚ وَهُوَ مُلْكُ قَلِيلٌ وَمَلِئُهُ. وَهُوَ يَغْلِبُ مَا فِيهَا وَلَا يَخْلُقُ مَا فِيهَا حَكْمًا. فَلَا تَبْكَرِّهِ. إِنَّهُ ۚ وَهُوَ مُلْكُ قَلِيلٌ وَمَلِئُهُ.
This document is a digital facsimile of a manuscript belonging to the Walters Art Museum, in Baltimore, Maryland, in the United States. It is one of a number of manuscripts that have been digitized as part of a project generously funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, and by an anonymous donor to the Walters Art Museum. More details about the manuscripts at the Walters can be found by visiting The Walters Art Museum's website www.thewalters.org. For further information about this book, and online resources for Walters manuscripts, please contact us through the Walters Website by email, and ask for your message to be directed to the Department of Manuscripts.