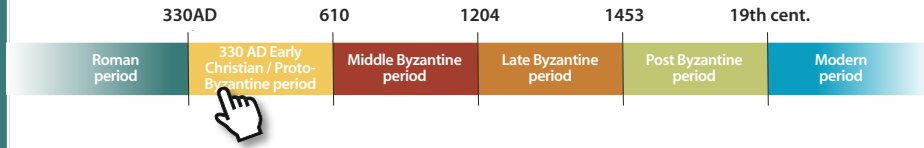


Gallery 1 - Early Christian Churches



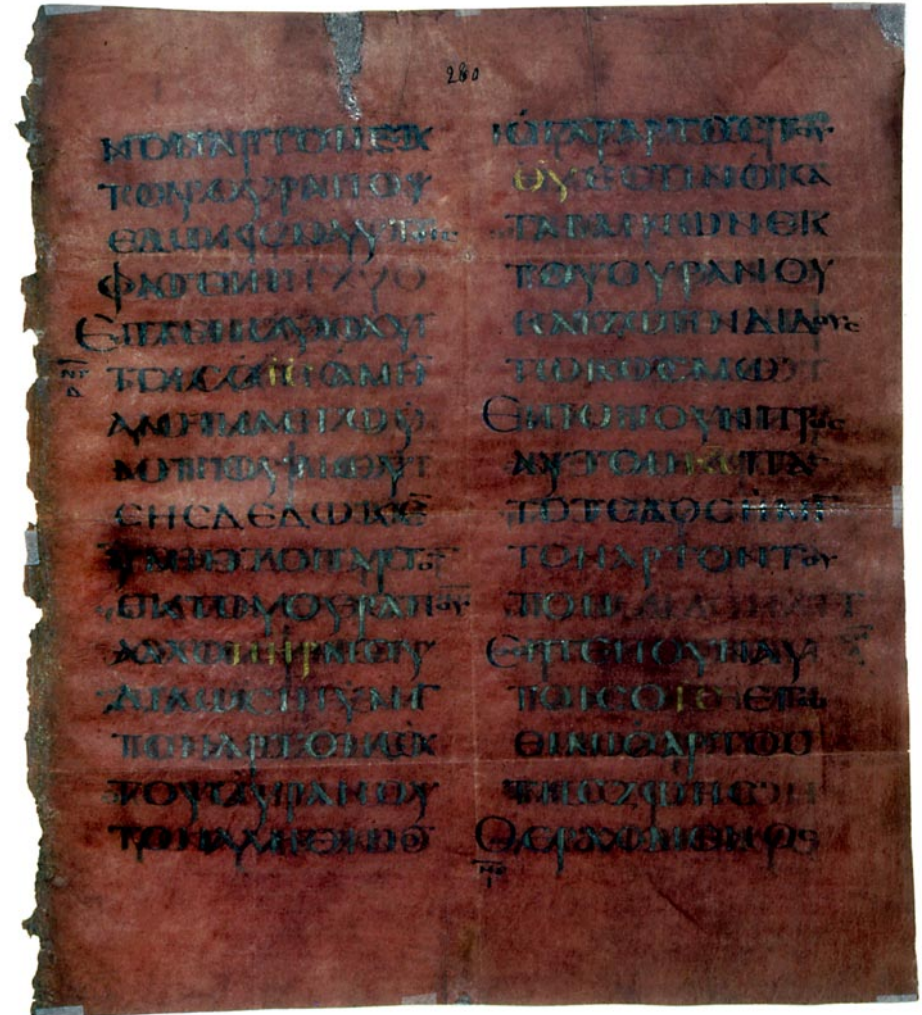
Leaf from a crimson codex

Information

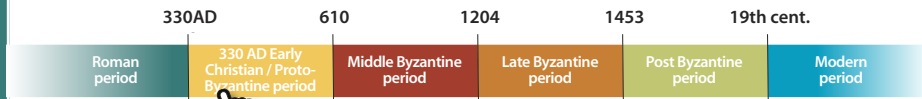
This is a leaf from a Gospel book most of which is in the National Library of St. Petersburg in Russia. Other leaves are dispersed among various libraries and collections such as the Vatican Library, the British Museum, the Byzantine Museum of Athens, etc. The leaflet was brought by refugees from the region of Caesarea in 1922. It is written on parchment dyed crimson. The parchment comes from the skin of young animals, goats or calves. The letters of the parchment are silver, while the abbreviations IC (Jesus), ΘΥ (God), ΠΗΡ (Father) are written in gold.

Instructions

- ▶ Find the codex leaf and take a photo.
- ▶ Is it written in uppercase or lowercase?
- ▶ Why do you think the refugees brought it with them in 1922?



Gallery 2 - Early Christian City and Dwelling



Chitons

Information

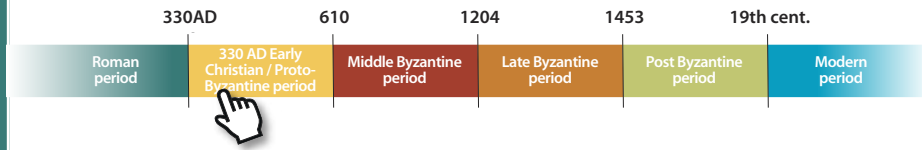
Chitons are the main clothing items for men and women. They are mainly made of linen (from the flax plant) or wool and, rarely, silk. They are often decorated. They were usually tied by belts at the waist. On top, people used to wear a himation, which was attached to the shoulders with buckles and pins. The fabrics were woven on the loom. The threads were dyed with colors which were extracted from plants (for example a yellow color was taken from the crocus).

Instructions

- ▶ Find the chitons and take a photo.
- ▶ Observe their styles and sizes and consider whether they belonged to men or women.
- ▶ Find the representation of a loom, where the fabrics were woven, and take a photo.
- ▶ Find buckles and pins in the same Gallery and take a photo.
- ▶ Find the metal belt parts and take a photo.



Gallery 3 - From the Elysian Fields to the Christian Paradise



Vaulted tomb

Information

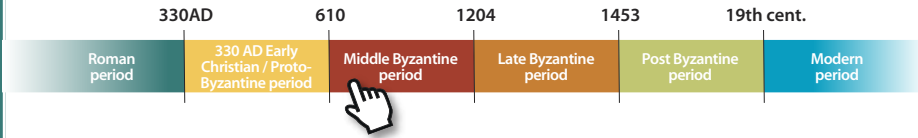
This is a type of tomb for rich people. Vaulted tombs were decorated inside. We can see a family here: The father, the mother and two boys. The parents are wearing long chitons and the children are wearing short ones. The father is wearing a himation over the chiton.

Instructions

- ▶ Find the vaulted tomb.
- ▶ Observe the painting and take a photo.
- ▶ Compare the chitons that you see here with the chitons that you saw in the previous gallery.
- ▶ See the buckle that holds the himation on the shoulder.
- ▶ Look for similar buckles in the gallery exhibition.
- ▶ Look for another wall painting that depicts a woman wearing a chiton and compare the chitons.



Gallery 4 - From Iconoclasm to the Splendor of the Macedonian and Komnenian Dynasties



Handwritten gospel

Information

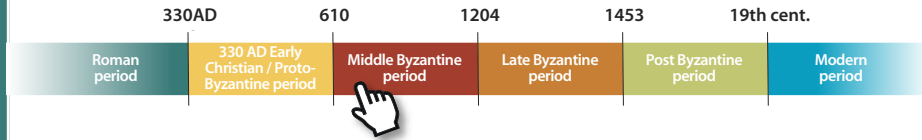
All the books which were manually written by scribes or copied by copyists from other books are called manuscripts. Their production was a very difficult and time-consuming process. A lot of religious manuscripts are held in monasteries. Manuscripts were often adorned with miniatures which were painted by miniature painters. The headers of readings were usually written within an elaborate frame. The initial letter of each sentence was impressively adorned as well. After the 15th century, when printing was invented, books could be printed on paper and thus their production became easier.

Instructions

- ▶ Find the handwritten Gospel and take a photo of the two pages separately.
- ▶ Take a photo of the elaborate frame of the heading.
- ▶ Observe the writing style. Is it uppercase or lowercase?
- ▶ Observe the Evangelist and describe how a book copier used to work.



Gallery 6 - Byzantine Castles



Strainer (Ithmos)

Information

Clay strainer (In Greek: $\eta\theta\mu\acute{o}\varsigma$ - pronounced: ithmos) was mainly used to wash and drain vegetables and fruits.

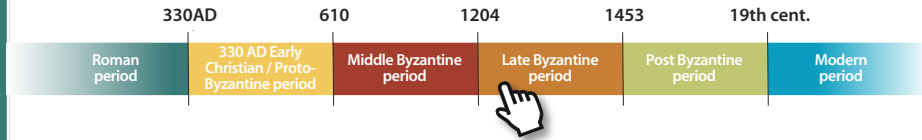
Due to the hostile invasions from the 8th century onwards, people were forced to abandon their cities and build new smaller fortified castle-cities. These cities were built in strategic locations, usually on hills, so they could control nearby passages in order to provide protection to their inhabitants. The financial circumstances were particularly difficult in that period.

Instructions

- ▶ Find and then take a photo of the strainer.
- ▶ Find and then take a photo of another object with the same material the strainer was made of.
- ▶ What is its use?



Gallery 7 -The Twilight of Byzantium



Epitaphios

Information

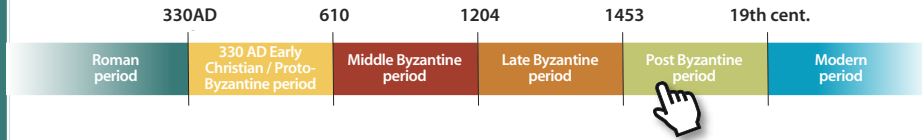
Silk fabric embroidered in gold, silver and silk threads. It is called an Epitaphios and it is a liturgical cloth which is used during the Good Friday procession. The main scene depicts the body of Christ surrounded by angels. This is an exceptional and unique work of art.

Instructions

- ▶ Find and take a photo of the Epitaphios.
- ▶ Observe the angels above the body of Christ and take a photo of the one who impresses you the most.
- ▶ How do you think he feels?
- ▶ At the next gallery you will see another Epitaphios.



Gallery 10 - Byzantium after Byzantium



Pontifical tunic (sakkos) of the Bishop of Melenikon Ioannikios

Information

A priest's vestment made of silk fabric embroidered in gold and silver threads. Various religious themes are depicted. A gold-embroidered miniature inscription provides the information that the tunic belonged to the Bishop of Melenikon, Ioannikios and that it is the work of Christoforos Zefar.

Instructions

- ▶ Find the tunic (sakkos) and take a photo.
- ▶ Find a theme in its illustration that you recognize, and take a photo.

At the end of the visit or at school:

- ▶ Think about –and write– a story including all the objects you observed.

