



Bulletin of the Archaeological Museum of the “Studium Biblicum Franciscanum”

- April 2013 -
Edited by Davide Bianchi

News:

The importance of supporters for making the Terra Sancta Museum a reality

This period has seen the continuation of the intensive series of presentations of the project for creating the new museum on Christianity to interested organizations and potential donors. Numerous fundraising sessions have been organized through the support of ATS pro Terra Sancta and expertly coordinated by its director Tommaso Saltini. Indeed, during this phase the collaboration with supporters who are potentially interested in linking their “face” (family, business or organization) to the Holy City of Jerusalem has been indispensable. The names of donors making major donations will be engraved on the local stone typically used for pavements and located at the entrance of the rooms, or placed on the wall at the museum's entrance.

From the beginning of April a new Internet site dedicated to the “emerging” museum has been in operation¹. Those interested will find useful information there and will also have the possibility to keep up-to-date with the progress of the works on the world's first and only museum dedicated to



the discovery of the roots of Christianity and the preservation of the Holy Places.

¹<http://www.terrasanctamuseum.org/>

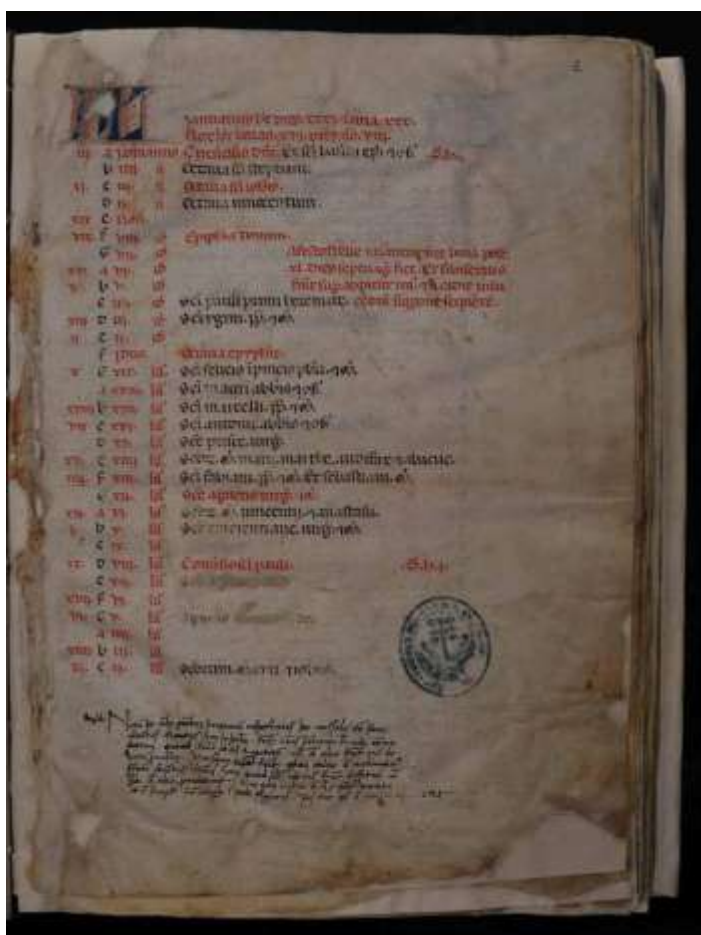
Scientific Activities:

An old missal on display at the exposition "I am Gabriel"²

A missal from the second half of the 13th century, coming from the Monastery of Mount Zion and forming part of the collection of Latin liturgical codices of the Holy Land at the museum of the Studium Biblicum Franciscanum of Jerusalem, is temporarily on loan to the Israel Museum. The object will be on exhibit from 1 May 2013 to 14 February 2014 as part of a special exhibition organized by the Israel Museum dedicated to the evolution of the figure of the archangel Gabriel in the three monotheistic religions, under the scientific curatorship of Michal Dayagi-Mendels, Tamar and Teddy Kollek, Adolfo D. Roitman, and Lizbeth and George Krupp.

Among the objects on display for visitors will be the War Scroll, one of the first scrolls discovered in Qumran in 1947, the Book of Daniel from the 13th century Damascus Codex of the Hebrew Bible, the Gospel of Luke from a 10th century manuscript from France, and a 15th-16th century Quran from Iran.

The principal exhibit is a stone bearing an ink inscription dating from the 1st century BC discovered on the eastern shore of the Dead Sea and known as the Gabriel Revelation Stone. The object is considered by the Israeli scientific community to represent a very important discovery, particularly since it sheds new light on Jewish spiritual life during the Second Temple Period. From the inscription, the figure of the angel as an important intermediary between God and the Jewish community emerges very clearly. The text makes reference to an apocalyptic attack on the city of Jerusalem and to the hope placed in God for the liberation of the city on account of its love



²Information relating to the exhibition "I am Gabriel" comes from the press release published by the Israel Museum on its Internet page: http://www.english.imjnet.org.il/page_3186

for David, its servant, and perhaps connected with the hope in the coming of the Messiah from the Davidic line.

The expertise of Mateusz invaluable for the restoration of precious objects

On 30 April the Polish archaeologist and restorer Mateusz Chorościński returned to Jerusalem. The young collaborator comes from the city of Torún, where he obtained his master's degree from Nicolaus Copernicus University. Mateusz has previously collaborated with the museum of the Studium Biblicum, in the summer of 2011. On that occasion he was able to combine his internship at the Rockefeller Museum in Jerusalem with the restoration of a number of metallic objects from antiquity and from the Ottoman period preserved in the storerooms of our museum.

Due to his good knowledge of Modern Hebrew, which he studied at university, and already a “veteran” from his previous experience, Mateusz decided to return to work on the restoration of the collection of the 12th century bronze bells that form part of the prestigious Treasure of Bethlehem. His specialization is the restoration of metallic objects, which after special treatments lose the layer of oxidation which history has conferred upon them and are restored to their original luster.

