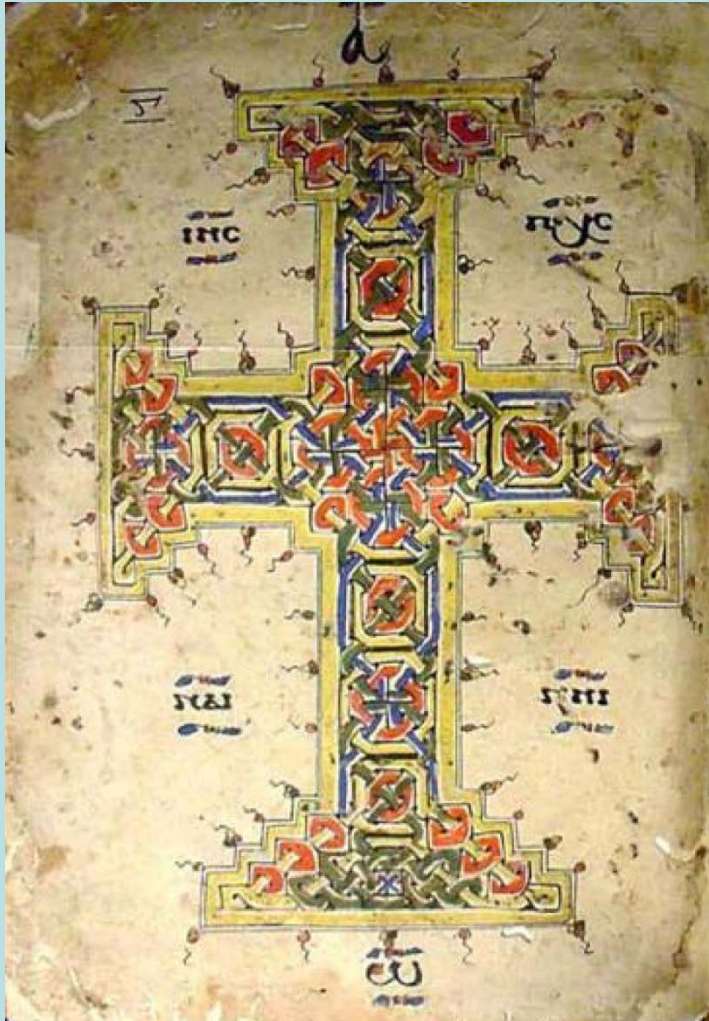


“Foliation by Opening” (Gumbert 2010, §316.12) and How to Refer to It



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COMSt Handbook,* p. 82 §1.3.4 “Ordering systems” (M. Maniaci):

“Numbering was rarely employed to enhance the ease and comfort of browsing in the text: after appearing in some early Greek codices, first-hand leaf and/or page numbers are the norm only in Coptic codices, or else only in recent times, for instance in Ethiopia (probably in imitation of printed books).”

*** Alessandro Bausi et al., eds., *Comparative Oriental Manuscript Studies: An Introduction* (Hamburg: Tredition, 2015).**

“leaf numbering”

means

“foliation”

(numbering folios [leaves] rather than pages)

“first-hand” (leaf or page numbers)

means

“original to the manuscript”

(as distinct from a modern librarian’s foliation
[or pagination] of the manuscript;

cf. *COMSt Handbook*, p. 579 §6.7.11)

Statements about first-hand foliation in *COMSt Handbook*:

Arabic (p. 101 §2.3.4 “Foliation” [V. Sagaria Rossi]):

“Original foliation . . . rarely appears in the earliest manuscripts. . . . The foliation marks are found . . . in the upper left corner of the rectos [= left-hand pages]. That practice did not become widespread until the sixteenth century. . . . In Arab-Christian manuscripts, foliation is attested from the fourteenth century CE.”

Armenian (p. 123 §3.3.3 “Ordering systems” [D. Kouymjian]):

“It is hard to find Armenian manuscripts with folium numbers that can be dated to the moment of the copying. In almost all cases the numbers were added in modern times.”

Georgian (p. 180 §7.3.4 “Ordering systems” [J. Gippert]):

“Numberings other than quire signatures (foliation, pagination, or even column numberings) seem not to have been wide-spread within the Georgian tradition proper (leaving paginations applied by ‘modern’ librarians aside).”

Hebrew (p. 226 §9.3.4 “Ordering systems” [M. Beit-Arié]):

“Foliation by the scribe is very rare. . . . It was employed sometimes in the Sephardic zone, for the first time in 1272 . . . , mainly in parchment manuscripts, and in Italy (where the earliest occurrence is from 1286 . . . , and then in the fifteenth century), but never in the Orient or Byzantium. In Ashkenaz, it appeared in the second half of the fifteenth century.”

Slavonic (p. 242 §10.3.3 “Ordering systems” [R.M. Cleminson]):

“Catchwords and signatures on the inner pages of gatherings are infrequent and appear only toward the end of the manuscript period, evidently under the influence of printed books; the same is true of foliation or pagination, which remain unusual.”

Syriac (p. 257 §11.3.2 “Foliation” &c [P.G. Borbone, F. Briquel-Chatonnet]):

“Foliation began to be used quite late . . . , and never developed into pagination, except in very recent manuscripts. Complete foliation is often found in the frequently consulted manuscripts . . . and was added by readers.

M. Maniaci on pagination and foliation in Greek codices (p. 199 §8.3.4 “Ordering systems”):

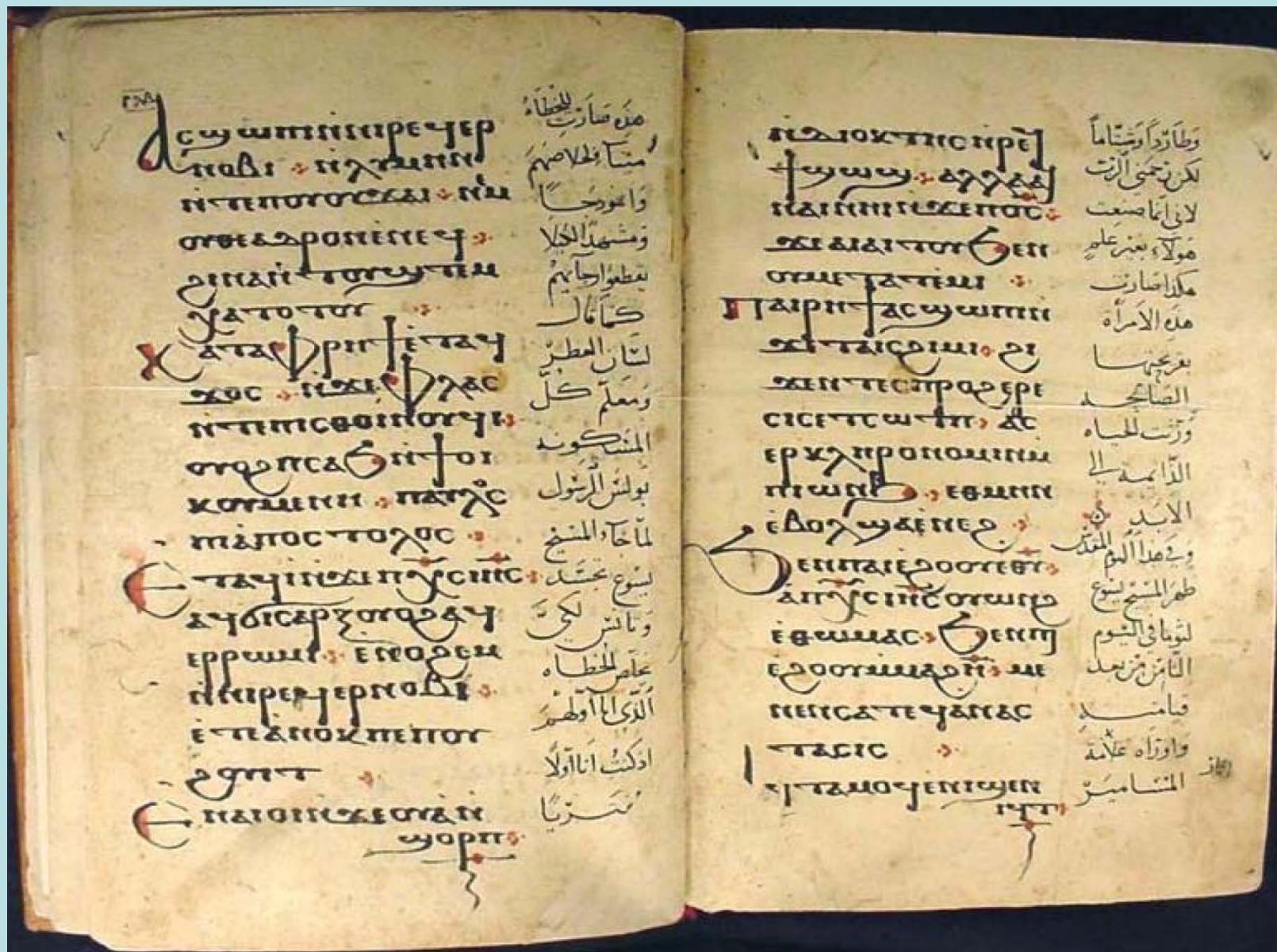
“The oldest Greek codices (third and fourth centuries CE) sporadically show page numbers (pagination), unknown in Latin codices. . . . Leaf numbering (foliation) is extremely rare: ancient (but not coeval) traces appear on the versos’ upper outer margins in the Bible *Codex Vaticanus* (probably meaning that the opening was numbered, rather than the leaf). Extant foliations were often added much later.”

S. Emmel on Coptic codices (pp. 145–146 §5.3.4 “Ordering systems”):

“From the beginning, Coptic codices were typically paginated, with foliation becoming typical from the later mediaeval period onward. Both types of numbering normally occur in the top margin. . . . Foliation is typical only of late mediaeval and early modern codices, where leaf numbers are usually found only on the versos (which are recto from the point of view of someone used to reading Arabic books; or perhaps the system was meant to number openings rather than leaves). In such codices, a signature may appear twice on the first page of a quire, or else the leaf number may be written both there and on the verso, either way making the appearance of an opening between quires symmetrical because on the left-hand pages both the leaf number and the signature occur.”



Difnar (Antiphonarium), Monastery of St. Antony on the Red Sea, 14th century,
f. 130v (quire 13, leaf 10v) – f. 131r (quire 14, leaf 1r)



Difnar (Antiphonarium), Monastery of St. Antony on the Red Sea, 14th century,
f. 132v (quire 14, leaf 2v) – f. 133r (quire 14, leaf 3r)



Difnar (Antiphonarium), Monastery of St. Antony on the Red Sea, 14th century, f. 140v (quire 14, leaf 10v) – f. 141r (quire 15, leaf 1r)

B. Layton, *Catalogue of Coptic Literary Manuscripts in the British Library Acquired Since the Year 1906* (London: British Library, 1987), nos. 193–255 (Bohairic dialect) *passim*:

“Ancient foliation on versos and first recto of the quire.”

Coptic (Bohairic)-Arabic bilingual paper codices ranging in date from ca. 1200 through the 18th century.

But if such a numbering as we find in these codices is not foliation, but rather a numbering of the openings . . . ?

J. P. Gumbert, *Words for Codices: A Codicological Terminology in English* (incomplete in-progress draft, 2010; privately distributed via the internet) §316.12:

316.12 **foliation**

- (a) the numbering of each of the °leaves of a book (each leaf being given a **leaf number**).
- (b) a coherent sequence of °leaf numbers that mark a number of °leaves (in a certain order) as belonging together.

If a given leaf is numbered 5, it is generally called ‘f.5’; its two °pages are ‘f.5r’ and ‘f.5v’, although often ‘f.5’ is tacitly understood to mean the recto, and the verso can be indicated by ‘f.5’’. If there are two columns on each page, these are called ‘f.5ra’, ‘f.5rb’, ‘f.5va’ etc. (The use of ‘f.5a’, ‘f.5b’ to indicate recto and verso is to be avoided.)

Within a book several foliations may occur, e.g. on separate °codicological units, or corresponding to different stages in the history of the book.

A **fossil foliation** is one that does not correspond to the leaves of the actual book but was taken over from its model (e.g. in order to keep an index useable).

In any foliation, original or modern, errors may occur, by undue omission or repetition of numbers.

Medieval foliations often are not **foliations by leaf** (with ‘5’ indicating f.5r+5v), but **by °opening** (with ‘5’ indicating f.4v+5r). Modern foliations always are by leaf (and medieval foliations, if still in use, are so used, irrespective of their original function).

= FR 315.05 foliotation, ES 315.05 foliación, IT 141/1 cartulazione, cartolazione
errors: cf. IT 143/2-3 omissione, duplicazione

Problems with Gumbert's definition of "foliation by opening":

"with '5' indicating f.4v+5r":

Gumbert seems to imply that the numbering of the folios is on the versos. Otherwise, how would it be possible to distinguish it from a "foliation by leaf"?

"medieval foliations, if still in use, are so used [i.e. as foliations by leaf], irrespective of their original function":

But then wouldn't "opening 5" have to be considered not as f.4v+5r (so Gumbert), but as f.5v+6r?

"foliations . . . by opening":

If so, then is it really correct to call this numbering a "foliation" at all?

**Would it not be reasonable to use a system that makes reference not to folios, since that is not what is being numbered here, but to the left-hand page and/or right-hand page of an opening?
Something like:**

“opening 140 left-hand page”

Latinized, to something like:

- a. 140s** (“a.” being for Latin for “opening”*; s = sinistra pagina)
- a. 140d** (d = dextera pagina)

*** Is there a Latin word for “opening” in this technical codicological sense?**

FINIS

