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Margaret Dunlop Gibson

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The twin sisters Agnes Lewis (1843–1926) and Margaret Gibson (1843–1920) were pioneering biblical scholars who became experts in a number of ancient languages. Travelling widely in the Middle East, they made several significant discoveries, including one of the earliest manuscripts of the Four Gospels in Syriac, a dialect of Aramaic, the language probably spoken by Jesus himself. Their chief discoveries were made in the Monastery of St. Catherine on Mount Sinai. This work is a list of the monastery's manuscripts in Arabic compiled by Margaret Gibson in 1893 and first published in 1894. Written in Greek for use by scholars and for the monks themselves, this fascicule provides a careful document of the monastery's Arabic pages, their physical state and content. Illustrated with photographs of the catalogued works, this text will be of interest to scholars in Arabic Christianity and Middle Eastern monastic history.

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Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town,  
Singapore, São Paulo, Delhi, Mexico City

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)

Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781108043502](http://www.cambridge.org/9781108043502)

© in this compilation Cambridge University Press 2012

This edition first published 1894

This digitally printed version 2012

ISBN 978-1-108-04350-2 Paperback

This book reproduces the text of the original edition. The content and language reflect the beliefs, practices and terminology of their time, and have not been updated.

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London: C. J. CLAY AND SONS,  
CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS WAREHOUSE,  
AVE MARIA LANE.

Glasgow: 263, ARGYLE STREET.



Cambridge: DEIGHTON, BELL AND CO.

Leipzig: F. A. BROCKHAUS.

New York: MACMILLAN AND CO.

Cambridge University Press

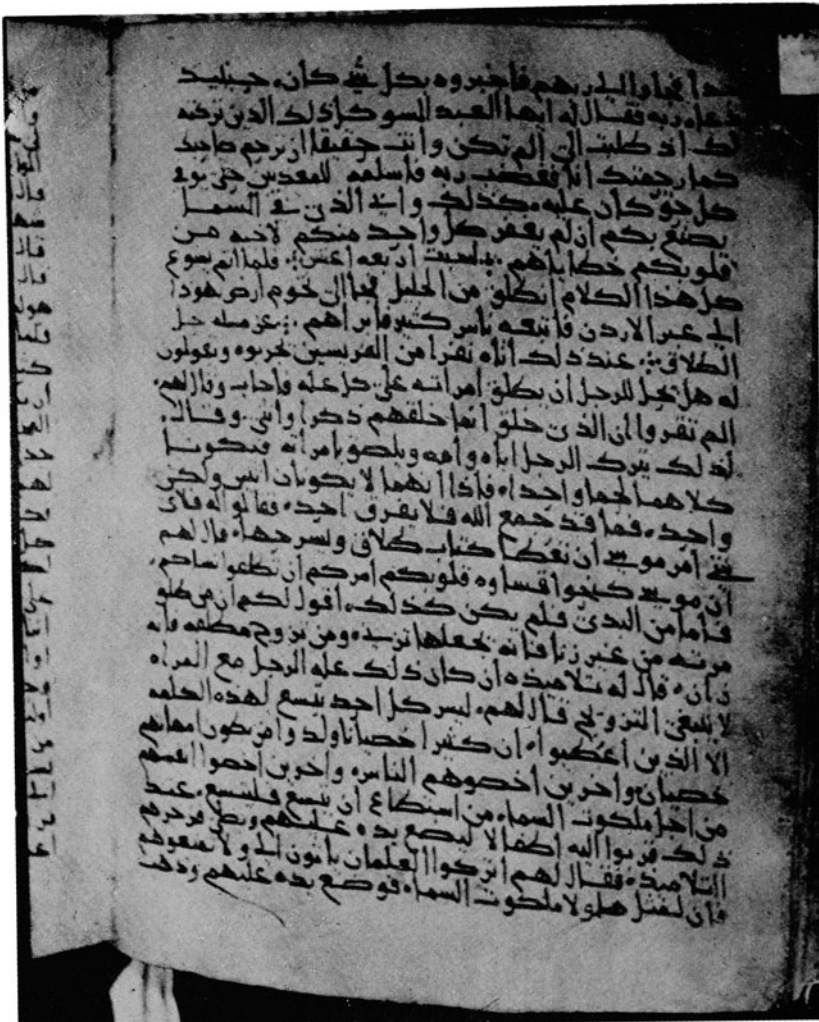
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MATTHEW XVIII. 31. XLX 15.

(N<sup>o</sup> 75)(From a Photograph by M<sup>rs</sup> Lewis)

Vincent Brooks, Day &amp; Son Photo-lith.



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STUDIA SINAITICA No. III.

CATALOGUE

OF THE ARABIC MSS.

IN THE CONVENT OF S. CATHARINE ON

MOUNT SINAI

COMPILED BY

MARGARET DUNLOP GIBSON.

LONDON:

C. J. CLAY AND SONS,

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS WAREHOUSE

AVE MARIA LANE.

1894

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Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04350-2 - Catalogue of the Arabic MSS. in the Convent of S. Catharine on Mount Sinai

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**Cambridge:**

PRINTED BY C. J. CLAY, M.A. AND SONS,  
AT THE UNIVERSITY PRESS.

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Τῷ Πανιερωτάτῳ καὶ Σεβασμιωτάτῳ

Ἀρχιεπισκόπῳ

τῆς Ἀγιωτάτης Ἀρχιεπισκοπῆς

Σινᾶ Παρῶν καὶ Ῥαιθοῦ

ΚΥΡΙῶ ΠΟΡΦΥΡΙῶ

Ἐπολήψεώς τε καὶ ἐγγνωμοσύνης

ἐλάχιστον δεῖγμα

προσφέρει

ἠ συντάκτης

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## INTRODUCTION.

ON the 11th of January, 1893, when in Cairo with my sister, Mrs S. S. Lewis, preparing for our second visit to Mount Sinai, I asked and obtained permission from Archbishop Porphyrios to catalogue the Arabic and Syriac books in the library, which is equal or even superior to that at Jerusalem in the wealth of Christian Arabic MSS. it contains. His Beatitude was kind enough to write to the resident heads of the Convent, Fathers Galaktion and Nicodemus, desiring them to shew all the Arabic and Syriac books in their possession to Mrs Lewis and myself, that we might make catalogues of them, catalogues which we were to leave at the Convent. His letter is printed in the Introduction to No. I. of this series. As our stay was limited to forty days, it was impossible for me to do more than indicate the contents of each volume, without going into detail. There may therefore be some interesting things that have escaped my observation, but I trust that this list may be a guide to future travellers in making further researches. The volumes were all already numbered, and this had evidently been done with method, as may be seen by a glance at the plan of their arrangement. The monks carried out the orders of their Archbishop in the most cordial spirit, and without their active help I could not have performed a feat involving so much physical labour.

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Most of the books had lost not only their title-pages, but their last leaves as well, so that it was not possible to find their dates. One is ashamed to think that some scholar in former years must have abused the hospitality of the monks, and that a choice collection of title-pages may be found in some European library. There were a few, happily not many, whose fate it had been during the centuries of their existence not to be 'marked nor learned' but 'inwardly digested' by little rodents more innocent than scholars.

In conclusion, I have to express my thanks to His Beatitude Porphyrios, Archbishop of Mount Sinai, and to the Fathers who gave me such active assistance; to Mrs Bensly, who shared with them the task of counting leaves; to Mr J. Rendel Harris, of Clare College, Lecturer in Palæography to the University of Cambridge, for giving me much valuable advice; to my dear sister, Mrs S. S. Lewis, who has revised my proofs, and who also helped me at the Convent by examining some fifty books, most of which I have marked thus †. I am likewise indebted to Mr A. Cowley, M.A. of Oxford, who has kindly furnished me with additional particulars of the volumes he examined during his visit to the Convent this year. These latter I have marked with an asterisk.

MARGARET D. GIBSON.

CASTLE-BRAE,  
CAMBRIDGE.  
*July, 1894.*

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