

## 1 NOMINATION FORM

## 2 INTERNATIONAL MEMORY OF THE WORLD REGISTER

### 1.0 Checklist

Nominees may find the following checklist useful before sending the nomination form to the International Memory of the World Secretariat. The information provided in italics on the form is there for guidance only and should be deleted once the sections have been completed.

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Summary completed (section 1)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Nomination and contact details completed (section 2)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Declaration of Authority signed and dated (section 2)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | If this is a joint nomination, section 2 appropriately modified, and <b>all</b> Declarations of Authority obtained  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Documentary heritage identified (sections 3.1 – 3.3)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | History/provenance completed (section 3.4)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Bibliography completed (section 3.5)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Names, qualifications and contact details of up to three independent people or organizations recorded (section 3.6)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Details of owner completed (section 4.1)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Details of custodian – if different from owner – completed (section 4.2)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Details of legal status completed (section 4.3)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Details of accessibility completed (section 4.4)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Details of copyright status completed (section 4.5)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Evidence presented to support fulfilment of the criteria? (section 5)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Additional information provided (section 6)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Details of consultation with stakeholders completed (section 7)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Assessment of risk completed (section 8)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Summary of Preservation and Access Management Plan completed. If there is no formal Plan attach details about current and/or planned access, storage and custody arrangements (section 9) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Any other information provided – if applicable (section 10)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Suitable reproduction quality photographs identified to illustrate the documentary heritage. (300dpi, jpg format, full-colour preferred).   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Copyright permissions forms signed and attached. Agreement to propose item(s) for inclusion on the World Digital Library if inscribed   |

# Nomination form International Memory of the World Register

## The Tetraevangelion-palimpsest

ID Code [2016-43]

### 1.0 Summary (max 200 words)

One of the biggest collections of the manuscripts is preserved at the National Archives of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia. The special scientific project that proceeds for several years considers the detailed descriptions of the manuscripts, preserved at the archive using the modern standards. The part of the descriptions are already carried out and prepared for the publishing activities.

The Tetraevangelion-palimpsest is the unique manuscript, presented for the International Memory of the World Register.

The manuscript consists all three stages of the Georgian alphabet. The oldest layer is written in *asomtavruli* (the first stage): the upper chronological bound is the 9<sup>th</sup> century; the second and the third layers – in *nuskhuri* (the second stage), the 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> centuries; and colophons – in *mkhedruli* (the third stage), the 13<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> centuries.

The uniqueness of the manuscript is determined by several factors: 1. the different manuscripts are used for the upper layer; 2. the bottom layer is presented at least with two layers. The research of one of the oldest manuscript is still processed.

The Tetraevangelion is among the rarest Georgian manuscripts that consists the three layered palimpsest sheets and all three layers are in Georgian. According to the data of the world's all antiquity depositories, only several sheets of the documents of such kind reached to our days and they are discovered in the last period.

### 2.1 Name of nominator (person or organization)

National Archives of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia

### 2.2 Relationship to the nominated documentary heritage

The manuscript is preserved at the Division of the Old Documents of the Central Historical Archive of the National Archives of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia

### 2.3 Contact person(s) (to provide information on nomination)

Ms. Ketevan Asatiani – Head of the Scientific Division of the National Archives of Georgia

### 2.4 Contact details

Name Ketevan Asatiani

Address: 21, Iori Street, Tbilisi

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Telephone **577 130380**

Facsimile

Email **kasatiani@archives.gov.ge**

### 3.0 Identity and description of the documentary heritage

#### 3.1 Name and identification details of the items being nominated

If inscribed, the exact title and institution(s) to appear on the certificate should be given

The manuscript consists 183 sheets. Sizes: cover – 232x158, paper – 219x145, text – 165x115; thickness – 50; distance among the lines – 6; boarders: upper – 16, bottom – 20, right – 19, left – 20.

Material: parchment, ink – black, brown.

The cover is decorated with golden flowery ornaments.

The type of the alphabet – *nuskhuri*, initial graphemes – in *mtavruli* and in some places with cinnabar. The text is written in two columns. The number of lines – 23.

The manuscript is palimpsest. The palimpsest sheets are: 8, 9, 22, 30, 35- 38, 42, 44, 45, 48, 52, 54, 55, 58, 59, 61-63, 65, 66, 69, 70-72, 74-78, 87, 88, 91-99, 109, 117, 118, 123-128, 130-133, 135, 136, 139, 141, 142, 151-154, 160, 163, 164, 166-169, 172, 183.

Each sheet of the palimpsest consist two and in some places even three layers. It also contains the rulling lines. The main part of the middle layer is written in *nuskhuri*.

The text of the upper, as well as the second layer is with the edition of Giorgi Mtatsmindeli, famous Georgian scientist and translator.

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#### 3.4 History/provenance

In 1921, after the sovietization of Georgia special commissions were created charged to register the church property. After the work of these commissions and the Georgian scientists gradually the manuscripts existing in Georgia and abroad were gathered at the National Archives of Georgia. Exactly in the frames of this stream, in 1924 this gospel was transferred from Tortrizi monastery (East Georgia, Gori municipality).

### 4.0 Legal information

#### 4.1 Owner of the documentary heritage (name and contact details)

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Name	Address
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**Georgia**

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Telephone	Facsimile	Email
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#### 4.2 Custodian of the documentary heritage (name and contact details if different from the owner)

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Name	Address
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**National Archives of Georgia**    **1, Vazha-Pshavela ave., Tbilisi, Georgia**

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Telephone	Facsimile	Email
+995(32)2372801	+995(32)2372801	info@archives.gov.ge

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#### 4.3 Legal status

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Provide details of legal and administrative responsibility for the preservation of the documentary heritage

#### State ownership

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#### 4.4 Accessibility

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The presented document is preserved at the Central Historical Archive of the National Archives of Georgia. The general rules of the accessibility and usage of these documents are regulated by the law about “The National Archives and the National Archival Fonds”.

The document presented in the nomination represents the special treasure. At present time the digitalization is carried out that means the creation of the digital copies of such valuable documents in the first place. Accordingly, the material will be accessible to the wide society anyway.

In 2015, within the framework of the joint pilot project of the program Lazarus Project and Early Medieval Electronic library (EMEL), a digital version of several pages of this manuscript was created using the technology of spectral photography.

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#### 4.5 Copyright status

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Describe the copyright status of the item(s) / collection

The National Archives of Georgia is the copyright holder. It is stipulated by article 25 of the law on the National Archival Fonds and the National Archives that during publishing the document of the national archival fonds it is mandatory to indicate the owner and the custodian of the document.

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#### 5.0 Assessment against the selection criteria

##### 5.1 Authenticity.

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Authenticity of the document doesn't cause the doubt.

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## 5.2 World significance

The Tetraevangelion is among the rarest Georgian manuscripts that consists the three layered palimpsest sheets and all three layers are in Georgian. According to the data of the world's all antiquity depositories, only several sheets of the documents of such kind reached to our days and they are discovered in the last period.

The three layered manuscript is decorated with remarkable miniatures and head adornments, texts written with different types of mixture alphabets.

The manuscript is very important in the textological point of view. The second layer of the palimpsest shows the different picture. The manuscript, mixed with at least four manuscripts and the same number of chronological layers, connects the fourth manuscript and gives the united form.

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## 5.3 Comparative criteria:

*Does the heritage meet any of the following tests? (It must meet at least one of them.)*

### 1 Time

It's impossible to discuss this manuscript in one chronological or geographical layer. Because of the specific composition, multi-layer palimpsest sheets and remarkable decorations the document represents the most important and rare manuscript.

The manuscript is included in the catalogues of the National Archives of Georgia. Though before the new descriptions were made only the brief information existed about it. Afterwards it became possible to make its complete analysis, introduction to the scientific circles and publishing. It was stated for the first time that it consists three-layered palimpsest sheets. The chronology and the fact that at least four manuscripts in the form of the text's bottom layer, were underscored.

### 2 Place

The place where the manuscript was created is not known.

### 3 People

The persons mentioned in the document are: the scribe of the upper layer - Giorgi (183v); The document was ordered by Estate (4r, 72r). The identification of the persons mentioned in the colophons still goes on.

### 4 Subject and theme

The upper, as well as the middle layers of the manuscript is the Gospel. The work on the identification of the text placed on the oldest bottom layer proceeds.

### 5 Form and style

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The nominated manuscript consists all three stages of the Georgian alphabet. The oldest layer is written in *asomtavruli* (the first stage): the upper chronological bound is the 9<sup>th</sup> century; the second and the third layers – in *nuskhuri* (the second stage), the 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> centuries; and colophons – in Mkhedruli (the third stage), the 13<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Among them to different hands are made out in *nuskhuri* writings. The indexes placed at the beginning of the Gospels are written with one hand and represents comparatively later period hand (the 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> centuries); and the main part of the text – with another and it should be scribed in nearly the 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> centuries.

The manuscript is remarkably decorated. It consists the miniatures of the Saint Matthew Maxarebeli (3r), the Saint Markoz Maxarebeli (72v), the Saint John Maxarebeli and the Saint Prochore (118v). The beginnings of the gospels are decorated with the head adornments.

**6 Social/ spiritual/ community significance:**

## **6.0 Contextual information**

### **6.1 Rarity**

**Presented document is the only copy.**

### **6.2 Integrity**

**The document is restored and doesn't have any signs of damage.**

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