

SAMPLE FROM MS 461

1 *λυθησιν εως ραδου το πορος αυτο μ*
 2 *πασα η ιουδαια χωρα. σοι ιβρο*
 3 *σοβημιται. λυθησιν εως ραδου το*
 4 *παμ τω εντω ιορδαν η ποταμω*
 5 *υπο αυτο υβρομομου μωσταισ*
 6 *αμαρτιασ αυτων. ηω δε*

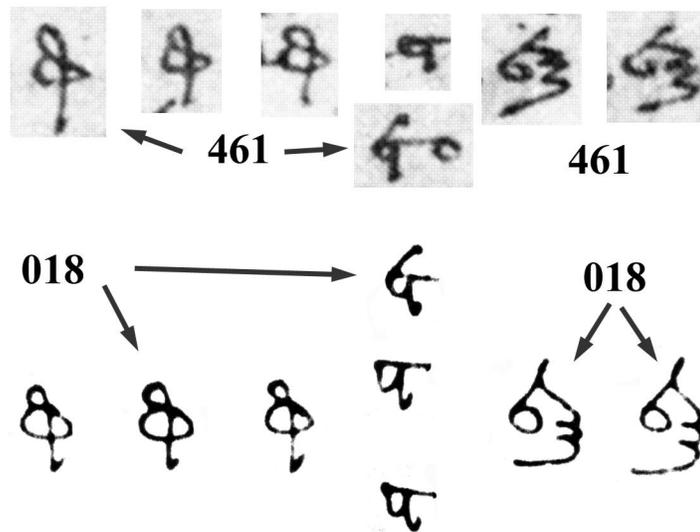
SAMPLE FROM MS 018

1 <i>μηω. καταμαζορτασ</i>	<i>υποσμομου γαρ αυται.</i>
2 <i>δε ταυσ ενωσ λεγασταισ</i>	<i>ουφιμοσ σουωω αλε</i>
3 <i>σωματη και ηδωμασ.</i>	<i>ωρτα μη τωρ μωσ μω</i>
4 <i>λυ το τησ φιμωσ λεγασ</i>	<i>λε τω τω; ηδη ημασ</i>
5 <i>απαμυμωρτασ και</i>	<i>παμτωσ λεγ. δε η</i>

The upper sample is from the usual sample given of minuscule 461, written in A.D. 835 per a colophon. It was written by a "Nicolas" who, it is suggested, became the 2nd abbot at the Studion Monastery in

Constantinople. When one casually compares the sample with a sample of uncial/minusculæ 018, a similarity exists in the minusculæ hands! Indeed, Aubrey Diller suggests that they are by the same scribe. Thus 018 can be also dated near A.D. 835.

However, it is my contention that we have a similar style, but different scribes. Both are writing in a fine hand known generally as the/a Constantinopoli script - per Cavalieri and Lietzmann's terminology. On closer examination it seems clear to me that 461 is an earlier text, and that the script of 018 (the minusculæ script) is a slightly later form. Note these differences: (Each from the illustrated sample pages)



Ms 461 lacks some of the roundness of 018. In the ST ligatures, we see a curved descender on the T in 018; in the 461 samples, the descenders are straight. (ST and ET). In other areas of 018, one notes ligatures which are not seen in 461, such as $\omega\rho\theta$, at least not seen in the samples of 461 which I have seen. Both minusculæ scripts present features which

demand that they be from the same school or style. We note the typical square accents, [typical for this century], both use diaereses, there are many similarities, but it is the differences which set the two apart.

Both were written by scribes trained in the Constantinopoli script, and both were probably written in or near Constantinople. Both are closely dated, with 461 being a decade or so earlier. 018 , on the basis of its relationship to this dated minuscule, 461, presents to me as a manuscript produced in the period from 850 - 925.

There are many more differences which could be ILLUSTRATED, but the few demonstrated above are sufficient to promote the fact that 2 different scribes are involved here.

Recall, that a full and proper analyses requires access to the entire manuscripts, preferably in high quality photographs, 35 mm films, or high resolution color digital copies.

courtesy: Mr. Gary S. Dykes