Greek Manuscripts at Princeton, Sixth to Nineteenth Century: A Descriptive Catalogue is a comprehensive descriptive guide to the Byzantine and post-Byzantine Greek manuscripts, miniatures, and bindings in the Manuscripts Division of Princeton University Library's Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, the Scheide Library, Princeton, which is housed in the Princeton University Library, the Princeton University Art Museum, and Princeton Theological Seminary. The catalogue is being published in celebration of the thirtieth anniversary of Princeton University's Program in Hellenic Studies, which was founded in 1979 with the generous support of Stanley J. Seeger Jr., Princeton University Class of 1952.

In the early 1990s, Dimitri Gondicas, executive director of the Program in Hellenic Studies, and Don C. Skemer, curator of manuscripts at the Princeton University Library, began planning a project to compile and publish a catalogue of Greek manuscripts that would build on the work of two exhibitions at Princeton and their respective catalogues: Illuminated Greek Manuscripts from American Collections: An Exhibition in Honor of Kurt Weitzmann (1973) and Byzantium at Princeton (1986). As a comprehensive catalogue, Greek Manuscripts at Princeton covers a larger number of items than these two catalogues or any other published descriptions, such as those in Seymour De Ricci and W. J. Wilson, Census of Medieval and Renaissance Manuscripts in the United States and Canada (1935–40), and in the Supplement compiled by C. U. Faye and W. H. Bond (1962).

The principal contributors to the catalogue are Sofia Kotzabassi (Department of Medieval and Modern Greek Philology, Aristotle University of Thessalonike) for descriptions of text, annotations, script, physical structure, and provenance; and Nancy P. Ševćenko (independent scholar) for descriptions of miniatures and decoration, other art-historical analyses, and, together with Sofia Kotzabassi, transcriptions of the lectionary calendars of feasts. Don C. Skemer, director of the project, prepared the descriptions of the bindings, some provenance notes, and additional matter.

The cataloguing format was developed to be fully consistent with recent American practice, as established principally by the Huntington Library and Yale catalogues of medieval manuscripts and followed by Harvard, Princeton (in its forthcoming catalogue of medieval and Renaissance manuscripts), and other American libraries and museums. Greek Manuscripts at Princeton also benefited from the methodology and learning of other Byzantine manuscript catalogues published in recent decades, especially those by Herbert Hunger (Österreichische Nationalbibliothek, Vienna), Irmgard Hutter (Oxford University libraries), and Anna Marava-Chatzinicolaou and Christina Toufexi-Paschou (National Library of Greece, Athens).

The manuscripts and miniatures described in this catalogue came from many sources. The principal collector was Robert Garrett (1875–1961), Princeton University Class of 1897. While still a Princeton undergraduate, he was the hero of the first modern Olympics in Athens in 1896, where he won four medals, including gold medals in the discus throw and shot put. After graduating, Garrett returned home to Baltimore, where he entered the family's investment banking firm and embarked on a life of collecting manuscripts illustrating five millennia of recorded history, including examples in nearly every known script and language, inspired in part by the full-color facsimiles in his own copy of Joseph Balthazar Silvestre's Universal Palaeography (London, 1850).

Garrett was a discerning collector, ever willing to be guided by the academic interests of the Princeton faculty. From the 1890s through the 1940s, and especially during the 1920s, he acquired more than ten thousand manuscripts and antiquities, including twenty Byzantine and post-Byzantine manuscripts. Garrett placed two Greek manuscripts (Garrett MS. 9 and Princeton Greek MS. 2) on deposit in the Princeton University Library in 1901 and 1906, respectively, and purchased another one (Garrett MS. 15) at a Sotheby, Wilkinson and Hodge auction in London that began on 11 December 1903. Between 1924 and 1930, Garrett acquired eight additional Byzantine manuscripts from Thomas Whittemore (1871–1950), an art historian and archaeologist best known for his work on the mosaics of the church of Hagia Sophia in Istanbul during the 1930s. Whittemore was the founder and director of the Boston-based Byzantine Institute of America, which merged with Dumbarton Oaks in 1970, and of the Paris-based Bibliothèque Byzantine (Fonds Thomas Whittemore-Institut Byzantin). He acquired these and other Byzantine manuscripts—most of them from the Skete of St. Andrew of the Russians on Mount Athos—and brought them to the United States, where he sold them to
private collectors and libraries. Garrett received five manuscripts [Garrett MSS. 1, 2, 5, 6, and 13] from Whittemore in April 1924 and paid for them in 1924–25. In a letter to Whittemore, dated 4 April 1924 (carbon copy in the Robert Garrett Papers, box 1, Manuscripts Division, Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, Princeton University Library), Garrett indicates that on 3 April 1924 he had five Greek manuscripts in his possession at the Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C., and that he had previously confirmed this in a note handed to Whittemore. Garrett also states that he would pay for these five manuscripts in installments in 1924–25. Three more manuscripts [Garrett MSS. 3, 4, and 8] were purchased from Whittemore in April 1930.

Garrett also purchased manuscripts from antiquarian book sellers such as Joseph Baer [Frankfurt am Main], Karl W. Hieremann [Leipzig], and Wilfred M. Voynich [New York]. Auctions and private treaties seem to have played a relatively minor role in Garrett’s acquisition of Byzantine manuscripts, which were shelved with his fine collection of Western medieval manuscripts. He also acquired some 8,500 Islamic manuscripts, as well as significant holdings of Armenian, Ethiopic, Indic, Mesoamerican, and other manuscripts, and he underwrote the cost of purchasing most of the 1,300 papyri, mostly Greek, in the collection of Princeton University Library’s Department of Rare Books and Special Collections (see Appendix). Garrett gradually deposited his collection in the Princeton University Library’s Treasure Room, the predecessor of the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, and then donated it to the University in 1942.1

Another important assemblage of Byzantine manuscripts at Princeton is in the Scheide Library, a private collection focusing on the Bible, the history of the book, early printing, and other subjects of interest to three generations of the Scheide family of Titusville, Pennsylvania, and Princeton, New Jersey: William T. Scheide [1847–1907]; his son John Hinsdale Scheide [1875–1942], Princeton University Class of 1896; and William H. Scheide, Princeton University Class of 1936. William H. Scheide moved the library from Titusville to Princeton University after the death of his mother in 1959. The library was at first housed in temporary quarters in Firestone Library, in 1965 it was moved to a newly constructed addition to Firestone, similar in appearance to the Titusville library, which is adjacent to the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections. The Scheide Library acquired most of its manuscripts through the antiquarian book trade and auctions. The Byzantine holdings were acquired by John Hinsdale Scheide and William H. Scheide.2

Five of the manuscripts catalogued here [Garrett MS. 5, Garrett MS. 6, Garrett MS. 14, Garrett MS. 16, and Princeton MS. 81] were formerly in the library of Kosinitza monastery, the monastery of the Theokos Eikosiphoinissis in the village of Kormista, Prefecture of Serres, near Drama in northern Greece. All of the monastery’s manuscripts were removed from its library and taken to Sofia by the Bulgarian authorities in March 1917; they are now scattered in a number of collections in Europe and the United States. [Garrett MS. 6 left the monastery earlier, probably between 1862 and 1887.] The collections with the largest number of former Kosinitza manuscripts are the Ivan Duščev Centre for Slavo-Byzantine Studies in Sofia [248 manuscripts] and the National Library in Prague [ca. 12 manuscripts]. Others are now in Amsterdam, Bibliothèque van de Universiteit, Athens, National Library of Greece, Bratislava, University Library; Brussels, Bibliothèque Royale de Belgique, Cambridge [U.K.], University Library, Chicago, Lutheran School of Theology Library, Durham [North Carolina], Duke University Library, New York, Morgan Library and Museum, Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale de France, Prague, National Museum, Uppsala, Universitetsbiblioteket, and Vienna, Österreichische Nationalbibliothek.3

Since the 1990s, the Princeton University Library and the Program in Hellenic Studies, with generous financial support from the Stanley J. Seeger Hellenic Fund, have worked in close collaboration to expand the library’s holdings of Byzantine and post-Byzantine Greek manuscripts. The recent acquisitions catalogued in this volume include two 13th-century Byzantine manuscripts [Princeton MSS. 173 and 180], a zodologion of the late 16th to early 17th century [Princeton MS. 176], a Venetian Renaissance Sammelband with grammatical texts [Princeton MS. 184], and ten manuscripts in the Princeton Greek Manuscripts series [MSS. 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, and 17]. This latter group includes a proskynetarion of the Holy Land [Princeton Greek MS. 12] and an 18th-century illustrated chronicle roll [Princeton Greek MS. 16]. Additional funding for these recent acquisitions has been provided by the Theodore F. Sanxay Fund, the University Librarian’s Discretionary Fund, the Friends of the Princeton University Library, the Shelby Cullom Davis Center for Historical Studies, the Presidential Fund, the Marquand Fund for Art and Archaeology, and other supporters of the Program in Hellenic Studies and Princeton University Library. Other catalogued manuscripts and miniatures in the library, the Princeton University Art Museum, and Princeton Theological Seminary are from a variety of individual gifts or purchases. This catalogue includes manuscripts acquired by the Princeton University Library through the year 2003. In subsequent years, the library, with the on
Preface

Dimitri Gondicas
Don C. Skemer

The authors are especially grateful to him for his persistent good cheer, which transformed every editorial query into a pleasant scholarly exchange and every problem into a workable solution, adding value to the catalogue at every point.

Financial support for the production of this catalogue was provided by many units of Princeton University: the Program in Hellenic Studies, with the support of the Stanley J. Seeger Hellenic Fund; the Publications Fund, Department of Art and Archaeology, chaired successively by Patricia Fortini Brown and Hal Foster, the Council of the Humanities, Carol Rigolot, executive director, the David A. Gardner ’69 Magic Project; the Shelby Cullom Davis Center for Historical Studies; the Department of History; the Mildred Clarke Pressinger von Kienbusch Memorial Fund, Princeton University Art Museum; the David Magic ’97 Publication Fund, Department of Classics, the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, Princeton University Library; and the Group for the Study of Late Antiquity. Our thanks go to all of them for recognizing the importance of this project and for helping bring it to fruition.

