

1. IDENTIFICATION: (Artist, title, date, size, country of origin, period/style)

050. REBECCA AND ELIEZER AT THE WELL AND JACOB WRESTLING AN ANGEL FROM THE VIENNA GENESIS

Early Byzantine Europe
Early 6th century CE

2. FORM: (use of design elements/ principles: color, shape, value, texture, line, space; balance, contrast, emphasis, movement, etc.)

Silver ink, purple dyed, movement through continuous narration, clothed figures, one nude figure by the well

3. MATERIALS AND TECHNIQUE: (art making processes)

illuminated manuscript (tempera, gold, and silver on purple vellum)

4. CONTENT: (subject & genre: iconography, symbolism, the story)

Continuous narration

Rebecca and Eliezer: Genesis 24, 2 episodes

Jacob wrestling the angel: Genesis 32

Purple dye & silver text & gold illumination suggests royalty, power



5. ORIGINAL CONTEXT/ SITE/ INTENDED FUNCTION OF THE WORK: (Overlap to #6)

Made in Syria/Constantinople

Made for a high-standing wealthy family, probably royal

6. INTENDED PURPOSE & MOTIVATION (why was it made?); **PATRON/AUDIENCE** (who was it made for?);

ARTIST'S DECISION MAKING:

Creating books was a tedious process, so it was a luxury to own one

Royal, wealthy patron

7. INNOVATION/ CHANGE(S):

Bend of linear narration, less realism and more symbolism

CONVENTION/ TRADITION(S):

Classical tradition, wet drapery, classical colonnades

8. THEME(S):

Religious, luxury art

COMPARE TO ANOTHER WORK:

Like the Folio from a Quran, this piece is a decorated page from a copy of a holy text. Both pieces utilized gold to draw attention to important detail. However, the Folio from a Quran lacks the narrative art featured in this piece, as figures and icons were not prohibited in Early Christian art.