



The New York Public Library
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture,
Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division

Guide to the

[Ethiopian scroll : healing prayer / commissioned by Weltegirima]

18--?

Sc MG 676

Summary

Creator: Weltegirima

Title: [Ethiopian scroll : healing prayer / commissioned by Weltegirima]

Date: 18--?

Size: 1.0 linear feet (1 box)

Revision History: Finding aid updated by Lauren Stark.

Abstract: Written in Geez, the scroll was probably prepared for Weltegirima (Wolette Grima) by a "debteras" (Geez for non-ordained scribe) as a healing prayer against demons and disease. Illuminated manuscript scroll on vellum done with tempura and ink. Full figure portrait of St. Michael holding a sword in his right hand, and the sheath in his left hand. The scroll is comprised of three strips of parchment sewn together. Prayers are made to St. Michael, St. Uriel, St. Gabriel, St. Raphael, and other angels. The prayer begins with an encantation written in red, "In the name of the Father, the Son, Holy Spirit One God. The Archangel Michael told Moses ..." The Archangel Michael is asked to rescue Grima from the evil doers as he saved Moses from Pharaoh's magicians. This is followed by a series of instructions to banish the "aganen" or evil spirits. A list of diseases or maladies from which protection is sought is also given. There are five symbols below the portrait of St. Michael which may be secret chants known by the scribe to summon benevolent spirits. On the reverse side of the scroll, a list of holy personages is given, including the 24 priests of Heaven, the 318 bishops (Council of Nicea), 150 bishops at Ephesus, 12 disciples, etc.

Preferred citation: [Item], [Ethiopian scroll : healing prayer / commissioned by Weltegirima], Sc MG 676, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: English Text in Geez.

Creator History

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Scope and Content Note

Illuminated manuscript scroll on vellum done with tempura and ink. Full figure portrait of St. Michael holding a sword in his right hand, and the sheath in his left hand. The scroll is comprised of three strips of parchment sewn together. Prayers are made to St. Michael, St. Uriel, St. Gabriel, St. Raphael, and other angels. The prayer begins with an encantation written in red, "In the name of the Father, the Son, Holy Spirit One God. The Archangel Michael told Moses ..." The Archangel Michael is asked to rescue Grima from the evil doers as he saved Moses from Pharaoh's magicians. This is followed by a series of instructions to banish the "aganen" or evil spirits. A list of diseases or maladies from which protection is sought is also given. There are five symbols below the portrait of St. Michael which may be secret chants known by the scribe to summon benevolent spirits. On the reverse side of the scroll, a list of holy personages is given, including the 24 priests of Heaven, the 318 bishops (Council of Nicea), 150 bishops at Ephesus, 12 disciples, etc.

Key Terms

Subjects

Angels in art
Christian saints in art
Ethiopian magic scrolls
Ethiopic language
Illumination of books and manuscripts, Ethiopian
Manuscripts, Ethiopic
Prayers
Spiritual healing