



PRESERVATION OF THE MANUSCRIPTS AND ART OBJECTS

Manuscripts

The issues of manuscripts' preservation were given particular attention. All books considered to be in danger were digitized, at the first place the fragments of the old manuscripts found in the *geniza* of the upper church. The pieces were taken down, examined, numbered and supplied with a signum. Each fragment was cleaned by the conservator, photographed and finally placed either in an acid/free box or envelope. The envelopes were gathered in a waterproof sack. The newer, manuscripts, fully preserved and in good condition were only partly photographically recorded (covers, incipits, colophons, notes, decorations). The conservator repaired some bindings using the pieces of leather, gelatine and wheat starch paste. The whole collection was deposited in the relatively clean and dry lower church. A special attention was given into the most valuable manuscript the "Golden Gospel": its leather box was cleaned as well as every folio and each miniature was protected by a sheet of the acid free paper *palatina* made by the Fabriano (basic, weight 120 g.). The list of all manuscripts (80 items) was compiled and given to the main priest and the church authorities in Hauzén.

Paintings

The original plan for the study of the paintings planned for the expedition in 2011 was abandoned due to the alarming discovery of the renewed insect attack postdating the first visit to Däbrä Sahel in 2007 during which the paintings received "the first help". Consequently the team under direction of the conservator focused on preventing any the further damage. The paintings were carefully cleaned and cleared, their weakest parts secured from cracking. After photographing, each of the pieces was placed in a box which was than wrapped in the textiles soaked with the insects repelling substances. At the same occasion the samples of the **pigments** were taken for the analysis, the step which will facilitate the conservation of the objects. Awaiting that, the paintings were deposited in the lower church and the priest responsible for the church belongings was urged to not touch them without an assistance of a specialist.

[Picture gallery](#)