

GA 1704

GA 1704 is one of the relatively few complete NT MSS. It is dated at 1541 and is held by the Kutlumusiu monastery on the Mt. Athos peninsula (I have been there). It appears to have a mixed text within the Byzantine bulk, the Pauline Corpus and the General Epistles having been copied from an **f**³⁵ exemplar (the books appear in that order).

I have collated 1704 for Romans, and although it has over 20 independent mistakes (about half being mere spelling), at the points where there is any division within the family it always has the archetypal form. I take this to mean that its exemplar was a perfect representative of the family in Romans. The moral of this story is that a late MS may contain an early text, and should not be despised because of the date when it was copied. This also reinforces the importance of collating MSS, including 'late' ones.