

Codex Sinaiticus Timeline

According to the Newly Discovered Letters of the Russian Archive

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| 1844 CE | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The German scholar Constantine von Tischendorf visit to the Holy Monastery of St. Catherine and the discovery of a part of Codex Sinaiticus, as it was obtained for Frederick Augustus II King of Saxony (i.e. 43 folios in Leipzig University Library) |
| 1853 CE | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Constantine von Tischendorf visit to the Holy Monastery of St. Catherine |
| 1854 CE | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Constantine von Tischendorf visit to the Holy Monastery of St. Catherine |
| February 1859 CE | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Tischendorf discovered a greater part of Codex Sianiticus- Archimandrite Cyril was to be ordained as the Archbishop of Sinai, opposed by the Patriarch of Jerusalem- Tischendorf seek the assistance of Prince A. B. Lobanov-Rostovsky the Russian minister at the Ottoman court and A. E. Lagovsky the Russian Consul in Egypt in order to obtain the rest of the Codex Sinaiticus |
| May 1859 CE | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Tischendorf confirms-clarifies to his wife and to A. N. Volkonsky, the Russian Minister in Dresden, the willingness of the Sinaitic brethren to present the manuscript to the Czar |
| ----- | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Verbal agreement between Archimandrite Cyril and Tischendorf in order present Codex Sinaiticus to the Czar of Russia Alexander II for the Cyril's ordination in return |
| August 1859 CE | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Tischendorf confirms-clarifies to E. P. Kovalevsky the Russian Minister of Public Education the willingness of the Sinaitic brethren to present the manuscript to the Czar |
| September 1859 CE | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Commissioned by the Russian Government, Tischendorf borrowed Codex Sinaiticus 'the world's most ancient codex' under the name of the Czar of Russia Alexander II after receiving a letter of guarantee from Prince A. B. Lobanov-Rostovsky ≠ simultaneously with the opposition of the monks towards lending the manuscript |
| ----- | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Codex Sinaiticus reached St. Petersburg for publication ≠ Codex Sinaiticus was to be returned to the Holy Monastery of St. Catherine on demand |
| October-November 1859 CE | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Confrontation between Archbishop Cyril supported by the Russians and the Patriarch of Jerusalem who relies on convincing the Turks |
| November 1859 CE | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Tischendorf arrives to St. Petersburg in order to discuss the publication prospects |
| 1860s CE | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Press rumors about the original story of Codex Sinaiticus |
| 1860-1865 CE | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Archbishop Cyril broke the rules of Mount Sinai monastic |

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| | community, regarding property and revenues |
| January 1860 CE | - The ordination of Archbishop Cyril in Constantinople |
| April-May 1860 CE | - A. E. Lagovsky to Egor Petrovich Kovalevsky, the Russian Director of the Foreign Ministry Asian Department, as a compensation was to be determined by the Sinaitic brethren, unless the new Archbishop demands it back |
| April 1860 CE | - A. B. Lobanov-Rostovsky confirms-clarifies to Egor Petrovich Kovalevsky the willingness of the Sinaitic brethren to present the manuscript to the Czar - Agreement with E. P. Kovalevsky the Russian Minister of Public Education that Father Agathangelos the Cairo House Superior and former Kiev House Superior was chosen to be the representative who would present the Codex to the Czar |
| October 1862 CE | - Codex Sinaiticus was presented by Tischendorf to the Czar of Russia Alexander II as an appreciation for the Russian Imperial patronage for the community 'manuscripts collection' |
| ----- | - British interest in Codex Sinaiticus, conditioned on its return to the Holy Monastery of St. Catherine - The matter of the possession of the manuscript was transferred to the Russian Foreign Ministry, as it was discussed between A. V. Golovnin, the new Russian Minister of Public Education, and the Chancellor A. M. Gorchakov - E. P. Novikov, the Russian Minister in Constantinople, to N. P. Ignatyev, the Russian Minister at the Ottoman Court, stressed on a decision to be taken in favor of the Russian government about the ownership of the Codex following the suggestions of Chancellor Norov to start negotiations with the monastic community of Mount Sinai |
| 1862-1868 CE | - Tischendorf writes to the ordained Archbishop Cyril in order to formalize the previous agreement of presenting the Codex to the Czar |
| 1865-1866 CE | - Open confrontation between the Mount Sinai monastic community on one hand and Archbishop Cyril and his assistant on the other hand, regarding the rules of property and revenues |
| 1867-1869 CE | - Archbishop Cyril was struggling for his title, relying on the support of Constantinople ≠ Archbishop Cyril's memorandum: there is no deal to present the manuscript to the Czar |
| January 1867 CE | - The election of Archbishop Callistratus of Sinai |
| January 1867-August 1868 CE | - N. P. Ignatyev withhold the revenues of Mount Sinai monastic community received from Russia via Consulate General in Egypt |
| ----- | ≠ Exerted force-pressure by Count N.P. Ignatyev on the Holy Monastery of St. Catherine in order to yield the |

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| | treasure to Russia |
| June 1867 CE | - Cyril Patriarch of Jerusalem called a Local Council to consider the matter of the Holy Monastery of St. Catherine |
| August 1867 CE | - N. P. Ignatyev informs Chancellor A. M. Gorchakov of controversies in the Holy Monastery of Mount Sinai, regarding property and revenues (i.e. personal use and the issue of Codex Sinaiticus) - The deposition of Archbishop Cyril - The ordination of Archbishop Callistratus of Sinai |
| September 1867 CE | - Cyril Patriarch of Jerusalem asked assistance from the Most Holy Synod of Russian Orthodox Church to Mount Sinai Monastic community and their new archbishop Callistratus of Sinai |
| Late 1867-June 1870 CE | - Sequestration of Mount Sinai monastic community land estates in Bessarabia |
| January 1868 CE | - Acknowledgement of the ordination of Archbishop Callistratus of Sinai by Ecumenical Patriarch Gregory who previously supported Archbishop Cyril |
| January-February 1868 CE | - Revenues withhold confirmed by I. M. Lex the Council General in Egypt to E. E. Staal to the Russian Director of the Foreign Ministry Asian Department |
| February 1868 CE | - E. E. Staal confirmed the settlement of the Archbishop's complication of Holy Monastery of St. Catherine to I. M. Lex and the importance of convincing the Ismail Pasha the Khedive of Egypt with the ordination of Archbishop Callistratus |
| March 1868 CE | - Tischendorf asked Count A. V. Adlerberg the Imperial Court Minister to take measures towards definitive acquisition of Codex Sinaiticus by Russia, as Baron M. A. Korf inquired Tischendorf about the matter and refused his mediation offer |
| May 1868 CE | - N. P. Ignatyev asked Archimandrite Antonin 'Kapustin', the priest of the Russian Mission in Jerusalem, in order to settle the issue of Codex Sinaiticus by granting Mount Sinai monastic community four orders and a negotiable amount of money, 10-12 thousand rubles; in addition of solving the matter between Jerusalem and the Most Holy Synod of Russian Orthodox Church - A. Kumani the secretary of N. P. Ignatyev was appointed to discuss the issue with the residing Archbishop Cyril |
| June 1868 CE | - N. P. Ignatyev to Archimandrite Antonin 'Kapustin', as the German scholar Constantine von Tischendorf was the cause of the misunderstanding; the willingness of Mount Sinai monastic community to present Codex Sinaiticus to Alexander II upon the acknowledgment of Archbishop Callistratus of Sinai by the Most Holy Synod of Russian Orthodox Church, (i.e. consenting the deposition of Archbishop Cyril, granting the orders, delivering the revenues and buying the Codex " <i>at least in order to be</i> |

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| | <p><i>able to say that the Bible was bought and not filched”), as the required amount was reported to W. I. Westmann the Assistant Foreign Minister</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mount Sinai Council confirmed to A. N. Nikolaev the Russian Vice-Consul of Egypt that the council is the donator of the Codex not the previous Archbishop Cyril! |
| July 1868 CE | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Archbishop Callistratus on behalf of Mount Sinai monastic community confirmed to N. P. Ignatyev that Codex Sinaiticus was presented to Alexander II the Caser of Russia |
| August 1868 CE | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Count A. V. Adlerberg reported that the Caser granted 9000 rubles and decorations to Mount Sinai monastic community |
| Summer 1868 CE | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Acknowledgement of the ordination of Archbishop Callistratus of Sinai by the government of Russia and the delivery of 3535 rubles to Mount Sinai monastic community, received from their property’s in Russia (i.e. Bessarabia was the significant source) |
| September 1868 CE | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Callistratus of Sinai signed an official certificate which transferred Codex Sinaiticus to the full possession of the Czar for 9000 rubles and decorated orders via Count N. P. Ignatyev |
| 1869 CE | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Acknowledgement of the ordination of Archbishop Callistratus of Sinai by the government of Egypt |
| March 1869 CE | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Archimandrite Antonin confirmed the deposition of the previous Archbishop Cyril |
| November 1869 CE | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - N. P. Ignatyev in Egypt and a new donation document was signed by Mount Sinai Council |
| November 1869 CE | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - N. P. Ignatyev confirmed to W.I. Westmann the receipt of a signed and sealed donation document of Codex Sinaiticus |
| January 1870 CE | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Archbishop Callistratus signed for I. M. Lex a document about the receipt of the decorations and money |
| March-June 1870 CE | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - N. P. Ignatyev reported to Archimandrite Antonin the financial settlement of problems caused by previous Archbishop Cyril, regarding the interest in the assets of Bessarabia and the taken valuables (i.e. church plate, vestments, jewelry, and records) |
| 1880s CE | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Press rumors about the original story |
| 1930s CE | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Press rumors about the original story |
| 1933 CE | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The National Library of Russia ‘Russian Archive of St. Petersburg’ (i.e. 4 folios) |

- The British Museum bought Codex Sinaiticus for 100,000 pounds sterling (i.e. currently, 347 folios in the British Library, London)