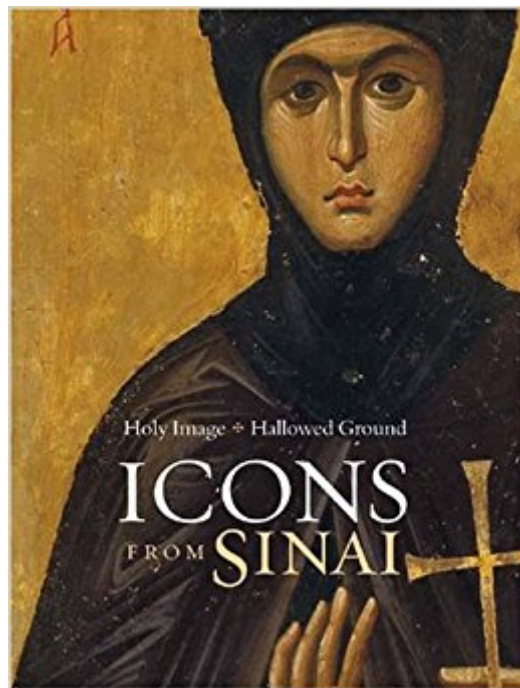


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# Holy Image, Hallowed Ground: Icons From Sinai (Getty Trust Publications: J. Paul Getty Museum)



## Synopsis

Isolated in the remote Egyptian desert, at the base of Mount Sinai, sits the oldest continuously inhabited monastery in the Christian world. The Holy Monastery of Saint Catherine at Sinai holds the most important collection of Byzantine icons remaining today. This catalogue, published in conjunction with the exhibition Holy Image, Hallowed Ground: Icons from Sinai, on view at the J. Paul Getty Museum from November 14, 2006, to March 4, 2007, features forty-three of the monastery's extremely rare--and rarely exhibited--icons and six manuscripts still little-known to the world at large. The exhibition and catalogue bring to life the central role of the icon in Byzantine religious practices. Themes include the icon's status as holy object, the ways in which the icon sanctified the place of worship, and the monks' quest for the holy. The Greek Orthodox monastery at Mount Sinai not only functioned as a major pilgrimage site for centuries but was also a cultural crossroads at the center of the shifting sands of ecclesiastical and secular politics. The accompanying essays explore how the monastery's contact with the outside world, through pilgrimage, resulted in aesthetic exchanges between the monastery and Coptic, Crusader, and Islamic art; and between the Greek Orthodox and Roman Catholic communities in Europe.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"In this compact but beautiful volume, Tradigo provides some of the most comprehensive information currently available regarding theological icons in general, specific icons, Orthodox sanctuary furnishings (including a very informative discussion of the role and significance of the iconostasis and various elements thereof), and various Orthodox saints."--Choice  
The essayists do

an admirable job of portraying the role of icons in the Byzantine Empire as well as Saint Catherine, but it is the catalog entries that really sparkle. Each thoroughly crafted entry includes notes and references as well as a condition report and detailed notation of inscriptions. Recommended for all collections covering Byzantine art."--Library Journal

Robert S. Nelson is Robert Lehman Professor of the History of Art at Yale University and author of *Hagia Sophia, 1850-1950: Holy Wisdom Modern Monument*. Kristen M. Collins is assistant curator of manuscripts at the J. Paul Getty Museum. Thomas F. Mathews is John Langeloth Loeb Professor of the History of Art at the Institute of Fine Arts, New York. David Jacoby is professor of history at the Hebrew University, Jerusalem. Father Justin Sinaites is librarian at the Holy Monastery of Saint Catherine at Sinai.

I was saving a lot of icon pictures on Pinterest and started noticing a pleasant trend. The ones I was attracted to were mainly from the Sinai Monastery. There is just a beautiful, magical quality to them. They appear painterly and yet real and lively, like as if God really did breathe life into these icons as well as the Saints they represent. I will be using this a lot in references for art purposes as well as for showing my children when we talk about Saint days, etc. This book has beautiful weighted paper, with rich color printing and there are tons of them in it! Great deal and a phenomenal book.

This outstanding book was the catalogue for the Getty Museum's exhibit in 2006-2007. I saw the exhibit, but at the time couldn't afford to buy this companion book. I recently renewed my interest in icons and remembered this book and found it for much less money on . It's not just a coffee table book. The text is thorough and the illustrations of the icons and St. Catherine's Monastery are beautiful, great quality and color. I couldn't be happier with this purchase.

This catalog is indeed a work of art. The large reproductions of the icons and items in the exhibit give a generous view of each item. The text is insightful. This catalog was my introduction to Orthodox icons, and it remains one of my favorite books on the subject. The icons in this exhibition are foundational in the constellation of early icons, and are masterpieces. Grab this book at a good price if you can, or at any price if possible. It's worth every nickel.

I own this book. I am Jewish so the religious aspect of the book didn't impact me as much as the images. For those of you who love "outsider" or "naive" painting, the imagery and the creative

solutions of the artists, filled me with joy.

The reproductions in this book are beautiful, the discussion intelligent and thorough. I bought and read it prior to visiting the exhibit, and thought that it provided 95% of the experience of actually being there. The Getty, which has had an uneven history in its prior exhibits, really did a superb job on this one. The Getty website retains an excellent interactive description of the exhibition. I had the impression that St. Catherine's was an isolated outpost at the base of Mt. Sinai. It is at the base of Mt. Sinai, but about an hour's drive from Sharm-El-Sheikh, a popular Egyptian resort town. Apparently tour buses make daily runs between the two places. For a view of St. Catherine's at the end of the Nineteenth Century, consider reading *The Sisters of Sinai: How Two Lady Adventurers Discovered the Hidden Gospels*.

Love this book. Well done and the images are beautiful.

Wonderful book on good heavy paper. . . .photo quality excellent. . . .very very informative. . .

This book is more than an exhibition catalog that was printed by the Getty Museum in line with its exhibition of St. Catherine's Monastery's collection of icons back in 2006-2007. It is perhaps the most definitive book EVER on the subject. Nothing even comes close. The book itself is beautiful with sumptuous full-page color photographs of each icon in the exhibit, each with a full-page detailed description so much so that it seems the only thing they've omitted is how much each icon weighed! Too bad this excellent volume is no longer available directly from the Getty Museum. It is highly recommended.

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