

# Cilicia

## 1226-1375



## The Exhibition

The Armenian Kingdom of Cilicia, spanning from 1226 to 1375, emerged as a prominent and dynamic realm along the northeastern Mediterranean coast. Founded by Armenians escaping the Seljuk invasions, Cilicia developed into a prosperous hub of trade and culture. Its strategic position enabled extensive interactions with Crusader states, Byzantium, and other Mediterranean powers.

The period witnessed a flourishing of Cilician art and architecture, characterised by a unique blend of Armenian, Byzantine, and Gothic styles. Despite facing formidable challenges from the Mongols and Mamluks, Cilicia maintained its independence until its eventual conquest in 1375. The kingdom's rich cultural heritage and historical significance continue to be celebrated today.

A unique aspect of its culture was its religion/Christianity, present in the form of miniature paintings found in, and preserved in, ancient religious texts. The museum exhibits miniature paintings from 49 manuscripts taken from international collections in Armenia and Israel, as well as in the United States.

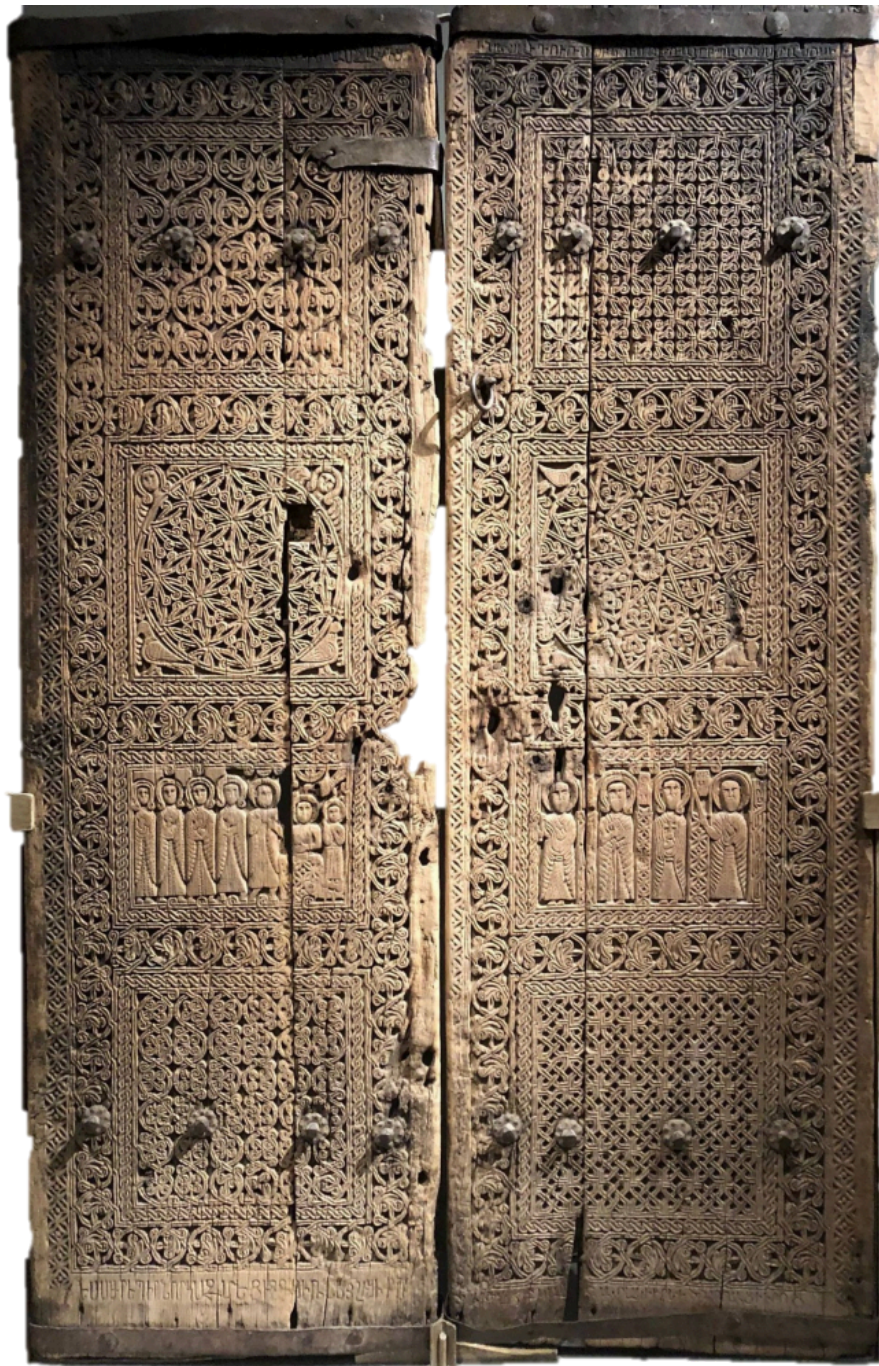


**SILK ROAD**  
VIRTUAL MUSEUM

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## FEATURED IN THE EXHIBITION



CARVED DOORS FROM CHURCH OF  
ST. KARAPET. MUSH (SAREPION) 1211

185 x 115cm

[@silkroadvirtualmuseum](https://www.instagram.com/silkroadvirtualmuseum)



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The carved doors from the Church of St. Karapet in Mush, dated 1211, are exemplary artifacts of Armenian medieval craftsmanship. Located in present-day eastern Turkey, these doors are renowned for their intricate designs and symbolic motifs, reflecting the artistic and religious heritage of the Armenian Apostolic Church.

The doors, attributed to a craftsman named Sarepion, feature elaborate carvings of interlacing geometric patterns, floral motifs, and biblical scenes, showcasing a blend of local artistic traditions and Byzantine influences.

Each panel of the doors tells a story, with detailed depictions of saints, angels, and religious iconography that served both decorative and didactic purposes.

The Church of St. Karapet was a significant religious centre in medieval Armenia, and these doors likely played a crucial role in its liturgical and community life. The artistry of Sarepion not only demonstrates the high level of skill achieved by Armenian craftsmen of the period but also provides valuable insight into the cultural and religious milieu of the time. Today, these doors are cherished as a testament to Armenia's rich historical and artistic legacy.



## ZEYTUN GOSPELS (1256)

Matenadaran , Yerevan, Armenia  
ms10450

Apart from the Gladzor Gospels, T'oros Roslin's most famous work is the Zeytun Gospels, created in 1256. This manuscript is renowned for its intricate miniatures, vibrant colors, and detailed compositions, showcasing Roslin's exceptional skill and artistic innovation.

The Zeytun Gospels are considered a masterpiece of medieval Armenian art and a testament to Roslin's influence on the tradition of manuscript illumination.



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## GLAZOR GOSPEL (1300-1307CE)

Dimensions 23.5 x 17.6cms. UCLA Library. Armenian Ms 1



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The Gladzor Gospels is a 14th-century Armenian manuscript, created in the prestigious Gladzor Monastery, known as a prominent centre of learning and manuscript production. The illustrations in this manuscript are attributed to the master artist Toros Roslin, renowned for his detailed and vibrant miniature paintings. His work in the Gladzor Gospels showcases a distinctive Armenian style, blending Byzantine influences with local traditions.

The vibrant colours, intricate details, and expressive figures reflect both religious devotion and exceptional artistry, making the Gladzor Gospels a significant cultural and historical artifact of medieval Armenia. You can turn the pages and see all the illustrations for yourself.

## SKEVR RELIQUERY

63.3x69.5cms

Hermitage Museum, St. Petersburg

The Skevr Reliquary, an exquisite 14th-century Armenian artifact, is renowned for its intricate silverwork and detailed engravings. This sacred container, used to hold holy relics, features elaborate depictions of saints and biblical scenes, showcasing the exceptional craftsmanship of medieval Armenian metalwork.

The reliquary's artistry and spiritual significance highlight the rich cultural and religious heritage of Armenia, making it a treasured piece of medieval ecclesiastical art.



[Click here](#) or go to <https://silkroadvirtualmuseum.com> to enter the Museum

