



NUMERI

ur deprecatis p̄ eis. Statueſq; leuitas
in conſpectu aaron et filiorum eius ⁊
conſtrabis oblatos domino: ac ſepa-
rabis de medio filiorum iſrahel ut ſint
mei: ⁊ poſtea ingrediantur tabernacu-
lum ſederis ut ſeruiant mihi. Siq; puri-
ficabis et cōſtrabis eos in obla-
tionem domini: quoniam dono dona-
ti ſunt michi a filiis iſrahel. Pro pri-
mogentis q̄ apertunt omnem uulſā
in iſrl accipi eos. Mea ſunt enī omnia
primogenta filios iſrahel: tam q̄ ho-
minibus q̄ et iumentis. Et die quo
perculli omne primogenitum in terra
egypti ſanctificauit eos michi: et uſi le-
uitas pro rēdis primogenitis filiōrum
iſrahel - reſtidiq; eos dono aaron et
filij eius de medio populi ut ſeruiat mi-
chi pro iſrahel in tabernaculo ſederis:
et orate pro eis ne ſit in populo plaga ſi
auſi fuerint accedere ad ſanctuarium.
ſtiteruntq; moſes et aaron et omnis
multitudo filiorū iſrahel ſup leuitas q̄
preparat dñs moſi: purificatiq; ſunt
et lauerunt ueſtimenta ſua. Eleuauit
q; eos aarō in conſpectu dñi ⁊ orauit
pro eis: ut purificati ingrederentur ad
officia ſua in tabernaculo ſederis corā
aaron ⁊ filijs eius. Sic ut preceptat do-
minus moſi de leuitis: ita factum eſt.
Locutus eſt dominus ad moſen dicens.
Hec eſt lex leuitar. A uigintiquinque an-
tis et ſupra ingredientur miniſtere
in tabernaculo ſederis. Cuius quicunq;
geſumum aetatis implerunt
ſeruire reſtabunt: reuſq; miniſteri ſer-
uum ſuorum in tabernaculo ſederis ut
cuſtodiant que ſibi fuerit commendata:
opera autē ipſa non faciant. Sic diſ-
pones leuitas in cuſtodis ſuis. **L**
ocutus eſt dñs ad moſen in de-
ſerto ſynai - anno ſecundo poſtq;

egreſſi ſūt de terra egypti - menſe primo
dicente. Faciant filij iſrahel phaſe in
tempore ſuo - quattadecima die men-
ſis huius ad ueſperam: iuxta omnes
cerimonias ⁊ iuſtificationes eſ. Pre-
cepitq; moſes filiis iſrahel ut faceret
phaſe. Qui fecerunt tempore ſuo quar-
tadecima die menſis ad ueſperam in
monte ſynai: iuxta omnia que man-
daueat dñs moſi fecerūt filij iſrahel.
Ecce autem quidam immundi ſuper a-
nima hominis - qui nō poterant ſacer-
phaſe in die illo: accedens ad moſen
et aaron - dixerunt eis. Immundi ſum⁹
ſuper anima hominis: quare ſauda-
mur ut nō relinamus offerre oblatio-
nem dñi in tempore ſuo inter filios
iſrahel? Quibus reſpondit moſes.
ſtate: ut conſulam quid precipiat
dominus de uobis. Locutusq; eſt do-
minus ad moſen dicens. Loquere fi-
lij iſrahel. Homo qui fuerit immun-
dus ſuper anima - ſit in uia procul
in gente ueſtra: faciat phaſe domino
in menſe ſecondo quattadecima die men-
ſis ad ueſperam: cum azimis et ladi-
cis agrestibus comedent illud. Non re-
linquit e⁹ eo quippiam uſq; manet et
o⁹ ei⁹ nō cōſurgit: omne ritū phaſe
obſeruaui. Si quis autē ⁊ mundus
eſt ⁊ in iuente nō ſuit ⁊ tamen nō fecit
phaſe - egredietur abire anima illa de po-
pulis ſuis: quia ſacerdotium domino
nō obtulit tempore ſuo. Peccatū ſui
ipſe portabit. Peccatiuus quoq; et ad-
uena ſi fuerint apud uos: faciet phaſe
domino iuxta cerimonias ⁊ iuſtifica-
tiones ſuas. Preceptum idem erat a-
pud uos nā aduente q; indigene. Agite
die qua eorum eſt tabernaculum o-
peruit illud rubes. Et ſperet autē ſup
tentorium erat quali ſpecies ignis uſq;

Description

Single leaf from the Gutenberg Bible, the first substantial book printed with moveable type in Europe, "justifiably treated as Europe's 'editio princeps'" (White, *Editio Princeps*, page 45) c.1455, approximately 285mm x 390mm in size. Lightly browned and lightly foxed, central horizontal fold, minor loss to top corner, a couple of pin holes, remnants of guard to one side, but generally fairly clean. Forty-two lines, in double column, with Lombardic initials in red and blue, and title letters NU and MERI alternating in red and blue. Latin text in Gothic script, this leaf is from 'Numbers', partial 8:13 to partial 10:23 [The purification, dedication and setting apart of the Levites; Passover; the Lord instructing Moses to make two silver trumpets; Moses and Aaron set out the tribes of Israel on their journey; the Israelites follow the Cloud of the Lord; and the Ark of the Covenant is carried]. Preserved in a removable acrylic case, inside a leather drop back box with onlays. With the 1921 essay by A. Edward Newton about the Gutenberg (though this is now loose leaves with the margins heavily cropped) laid in loosely. We are unable to state for certain that this leaf is one of the so-called 'Noble Fragments', which were the leaves from the incomplete Gutenberg broken by the bookseller Gabriel Wells, and sold off with in a portfolio by Stikeman, with the essay by Newton, but this seems the most likely provenance, with this example also sharing the "neatly executed alternating red and blue lombard headlines" (White, *Editio Princeps*, page 135). See Chalmers in de Hamel and Silver, *Disbound and Dispersed*, 18; PMM 1; White, *Editio Princeps - A History of the Gutenberg Bible*, passim