

CONFERENCE REPORTS

“Reconsidering Philoxenos of Mabbug”, a symposium organized by Center of Theological Inquiry and Princeton University, Princeton, N.J., Saturday, May 3, 2008

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This symposium, the fruits of which can be found in the current issue of *Hugoye*, sought to bring together new research on the often neglected late antique bishop Philoxenos of Mabbug (c. 440–523). In spite of Philoxenos’ diverse career and prolific writings, he remains relatively unknown to historians and theologians studying late antiquity. This symposium brought together scholars working on Philoxenos with the aim of re-evaluating his life and works and positioning them in contexts larger than the history of Syriac Christianity. The symposium was co-sponsored by Center of Theological Inquiry, Gorgias Press, and by the following academic units at Princeton University: Center for the Study of Religion, Group for the Study of Late Antiquity, and Program in Hellenic Studies.

Presenters came from institutions in four countries and included:

David Michelson, Princeton University, “Philoxenos of Mabbug: Prospects for Future Research”

Dan King, Cardiff University, “New Evidence on the Philoxenian Versions of the New Testament and Nicene Creed in the Context of the History of Graeco-Syriac Translations”

Robert Kitchen, Center of Theological Inquiry/Knox-Metropolitan United Church, “The Lust of the Belly is Beginning of All Sin: A Practical Theology of Asceticism in the Discourses of Philoxenos of Mabbug”

Iuliana Viezure, University of Toronto, “Philoxenos of Mabbug and the Defense of the Theopaschite Trisagion”

Karl Pinggera, Philipps-Universität Marburg, “Philoxenos and Julianism”

Andrea Sterk, Center of Theological Inquiry/University of Florida and Emmanuel Papoutsakis, Princeton University served as panel chairs.

Over thirty people attended part or all of the symposium. One senior scholar speculated as to whether this was perhaps the first ever academic event to focus solely on Philoxenos. In spite of such previous scholarly neglect, the conversations generated by the symposium proved that Philoxenos' ecclesiastical career is a rich source for historical and theological research."