

## CONFERENCE REPORTS

### North American Patristics Society, Chicago, IL, May 24-26, 2012

James E. Walters, Beth Mardutho: The Syriac Institute

The annual meeting of the North American Patristics Society (NAPS) was held in Chicago on May 24-26, 2012. Once again, the meeting provided an opportunity for scholars who work primarily with literary and material evidence from Christian late antiquity to share their work with one another. While the conference does not focus on Syriac studies, there were a number of papers dedicated to topics relating to Syriac studies. Indeed, there were two full sessions dedicated solely to “Syriac Christianity”. The full list of papers delivered at NAPS that pertain to Syriac studies may be found below. Beth Mardutho also made an appearance at NAPS this year in the book exhibit, showing off the long-awaited *Gorgias Encyclopedic Dictionary of the Syriac Heritage*.

List of Syriac-related presentations:<sup>1</sup>

Phil J. Botha, University of Pretoria, “Orthodox Ventriloquism in the Pseudo-Ephremitic Sermon on Palm Sunday?”

Benjamin de Lee, University of California Los Angeles, “A Patristic Apologia for the Christian Faith”

Philip Forness, Princeton Theological Seminary, “Ousting Emperors from their Throne: Ephrem’s Hymns against Julian”

Blake Hartung, Saint Louis University, “Arians and Muslims in Theodore Abu Qurrah’s *Refutations of the Saracens*”

Sophie Lunn-Rockliffe, King’s College London, “Discord in hell: Ephrem on the devil and demons”

Robert Morehouse, The Catholic University of America, “Sensing Heresy: Passion, Sexuality, and the Senses in Ephraem of Nisibis’ Polemics against Bar Daysan and Mani”

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<sup>1</sup> My apologies if I have accidentally omitted anyone from the list.

Michael Petrin, University of Notre Dame, "The Pastoral Dimension of St. Ephrem's Hymns on Paradise"

Jason Scully, Marquette University, "Dadisho as Historical Marker: Two Syriac Theories of Perfection Collide"

Paul Smith, Wycliffe College, "Birth and Death Baptismal Theology in Ephrem the Syrian"

James E. Walters, Princeton Theological Seminary, "Judaizing and Judasizing: Ephrem's Polemic of Religious Identity"