

## CONFERENCE REPORTS

XI Symposium Syriacum, Malta July 2012, 9th Session: Syriac Manuscripts

### FRANÇOISE BRIQUEL CHATONNET AND MURIEL DEBIÉ

During the last Symposium Syriacum in Valetta, Malta, in July 2012, a session dedicated to manuscripts was organised by Françoise Briquel Chatonnet (CNRS, Orient et Méditerranée, Paris) and Muriel Debié (Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes et CNRS, Institut de recherches et d'histoire des textes, Paris). It aimed at giving an overview of the present state of research in relation to Syriac Manuscripts. A total of 13 papers was given in one of the 3 panels: codicology, manuscripts and their texts, collections and cataloguing enterprises. Three young scholars had the opportunity to attend and give papers thanks to grants from COMSt (Comparative Oriental Manuscript Studies, European Science Foundation, <http://www.esf.org/activities/research-networking-programmes/humanities-sch/current-esf-research-networking-programmes-in-humanities/comst.html>).

The following papers were presented:

Youssef DERGHAM (Bibliothèque patriarcale, Charfet, Liban) and François VINOURE (Centre de conservation du livre, Arles), « Les reliures syriaques conservées à Charfet. Comparaison des techniques avec celles des autres reliures orientales: byzantines, arméniennes, islamiques »

Françoise BRIQUEL CHATONNET (CNRS Paris), « Le passage du parchemin au papier dans les manuscrits syriaques : premières constatations »

Alain DESREUMAUX (CNRS Paris), « Les encres dans les manuscrits syriaques »

Ewa BALICKA-WITAKOWSKA, Witold WITAKOWSKI (University of Uppsala), « Preliminary Observation on the Layouts Applied in Syriac Manuscripts »

Emilie VILLEY and Flavia RUANI (projet ANR SYRAB, Paris): « Traditions manuscrites syro-occidentale et syro-orientale de *l'Histoire de l'apôtre et évêque Philippe* »

A. BINGGELI, F. BRIQUEL-CHATONNET, M. DEBIÉ, A. DESREUMAUX, Stéphane IPERT (CNRS, Paris et Centre de conservation du Livre, Arles), « An electronic database for Syriac manuscripts »

Kristian HEAL (Brigham Young University), « The Mingana collection of Syriac manuscripts »

Erica HUNTER (SOAS London), « Syriac Mss from Turfan »

Grigory KESSEL (Marburg University), « Manuscript Collection of the Syrian Orthodox Church of Meryem Ana in Diyarbakir »

A. BINGGELI, F. BRIQUEL-CHATONNET, M. DEBIÉ, Y. DERGHAM, A. DESREUMAUX (CNRS Paris et patriarcat Charfeh), « Cataloguing Syriac manuscripts in Charfeh (Lebanon) »

Kristian HEAL (Brigham Young University), « Report on the Syriac Projects of the Center for the Preservation of Ancient Religious Texts »

Ayda KAPLAN (CECO : Centre d'étude sur les Chrétiens d'Orient, Bruxelles-Belgique) : « La paléographie syriaque à l'âge digital ».

Columba STEWART & Adam MCCOLLUM (Hill Museum & Manuscript Library, Saint John's University, USA) & Fr. Nageeb Michael (Centre Numérique des Manuscrits Orientaux, Iraq): « Manuscript digitization and cataloguing work in the Middle East and India ».

This session attracted a wide interest and was such a success that many could not find a seat in the room where the presentations took place. The field of Syriac studies, so far quite neglected, continues to attract more and more attention and scholarly work. This is especially true of codicology. Some fascinating research on bookbinding showed that a distinct form can be identified, which is somehow different from Byzantine, Armenian or Islamic binding and specific to Syriac manuscripts. It is also worth mentioning that a number of projects deal with digitization, cataloguing, databases and digital studies.

The papers of this session as well as others dealing with manuscripts from other sessions or prepared by scholars who could not attend the Symposium will be published next year as a volume in the series *Cabiers d'études syriaques* (<http://www.etudes.syriaques.org/public.php#ces>).