

Works on Christian-Muslim relations

1050-1200

The Chronicle of Se'ert

Ta'rikh al-Si'ird

DATE Before 1023

ORIGINAL LANGUAGE Arabic

DESCRIPTION

This work is a universal history. It is divided into two parts, the first narrating the events of the years 251 to 422, and the second dealing with the period 484 up to 650, at which point the MS containing this part breaks off. The remainder of the *Chronicle* may have followed events up to the 11th century. The author, who is anonymous, was evidently a Nestorian priest who must have finished writing before the year 1023 (see Youssif, *Chroniqueurs*, p. 280).

The *Chronicle* is based on a number of early sources, such as the lost ecclesiastical histories of Daniel ibn Maryam (7th century), Elias, Bishop of Merw (7th century), and Bar Sahdē (7th century), and also employs other Syriac and Arabic sources, such as the chronicles of Theodore bar Kōnī (7th century) and works of Quṣṭā ibn Lūqā (q.v.), among others.

SIGNIFICANCE

The *Chronicle* is valuable for the information it preserves from early works that have not survived. It also mentions the conditions of Christian communities in the first decades of Muslim rule in the mid-7th century. It provides information about the religious practices of non-Muslims in this period, and it also preserves a 'letter of protection' from Muḥammad to the Christians of Najrān, as well as a text of the Pact of 'Umar (q.v.).

MANUSCRIPTS

MS Paris, BNF – Ar. 6653, 184 fols (13th century; second part, text incomplete at beginning and end)

MS Se'ert (Kurdistan), Bishop's Residence – 128 (14th century; first part)

EDITIONS & TRANSLATIONS

First part:

A. Scher (ed.), *Histoire nestorienne (Chronique de Séert)*, in *PO* 4, Paris, 1908, pp. 213-313 (French trans. J. Périer)

A. Scher (ed.), *Histoire nestorienne (Chronique de Séert)*, in *PO* 5, Paris, 1910, pp. 217-344 (French trans. P. Dib)

Second part:

A. Scher (ed.), *Histoire nestorienne (Chronique de Séert)*, in *PO* 7, Paris, 1911, pp. 97-203 (French trans. A. Scher)

A. Scher (ed.), *Histoire nestorienne (Chronique de Séert)*, in *PO* 13, Paris, 1919, pp. 437-639 (French trans. A. Scher and R. Griveau)

E. Sachau, 'Die Christianisierungslegende von Merw', in *Abhandlungen zur semitischen Religionskunde und Sprachwissenschaft*, Giessen, 1918, 40-409 (partial German trans.)

STUDIES

E.I. Youssif, *Les chroniqueurs syriaques*, Paris, 2002, p. 279-344

G. Anawati, *Al-Masāḥiyya wa-l-ḥadāra al-'arabiyya*, Cairo, 1992, p. 316

L. Sako, 'Les sources de la chronique de Seert', *Pd'O* 14 (1987) 155-66

W. Macomber, 'Further precisions concerning the Mosul manuscript of the Chronicle of Seert', *OC* 55 (1971) 210-13

R. Degen, 'Zwei Miszellen zur Chronik von Se'ert', *OC* 54 (1970) 76-95

J.-M. Fiey, 'Table des noms propres de la seconde partie de la Chronique de Seert', *Mélanges de l'Université Saint-Joseph* 42 (1966) 201-18

G. Troupeau, 'Note sur les manuscrits de Séert conservés à la Bibliothèque nationale de Paris', in *Cinquantenaire de l'École des langues orientales anciennes*, Paris, 1964, 207-8

G. Graf, 'Apocryphe Schutzbriefe Muhammeds für die Christen', *Historisches Jahrbuch* 43 (1923) 1-14

Graf, *GCAL* ii, pp. 195-96

A. Scher (ed.), 'Chronique de Séert', in *PO* 4, pp. 215-16

A. Scher, *Catalogue des manuscrits syriaques et arabes conservés dans la bibliothèque épiscopale de Séert, avec notes bibliographiques*, Mosul, 1905, no. 128

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