The present contribution deals with the investigation of the Greek, Syriac and Armenian texts of the "Dignum et iustum", its variants and their significance. The following witnesses were analysed: the wording of the "Dignum et iustum" in the various versions of the Anaphoras of Basil and James, the East-Syrian evidence of the Anaphoras of the Apostles Addai and Mari, of Nestorius and Theodore of Mopsuestia, including the maronite Šarrar (= syr Pet III), in addition the formulation in several West-Syrian Anaphoras. The "Dignum et iustum" (ἀξιόν καὶ δίκαιον) normally concludes the Opening Dialogue and is then repeated at the beginning of the Oratio ante Sanctus where it forms the bridge to the praise of God by the faithful, so all the versions of Basil and James. The most significant exceptions of this pattern include not only the two Armenian versions of the Basilius-Anaphora but also the East-Syrian Anaphoras and syr Pet III. These Syriac and Armenian Anaphoras deviate significantly from the other witnesses. Analysing the "Dignum et iustum" (ἀξιόν καὶ δίκαιον) we have to distinguish the genuine differences in the vocabulary from those additions which merely reflect an emphasis by repetitions or additions of the vocabulary adopted from other traditions. The following terms were investigated, the most important being:

— first and foremost the "decens" (πρέπον), normative for the East-Syrian tradition as: καλός (cf. West-Syr: καλός); arm: δέξατε (πρέπει), which has to be distinguished from: 

— "dignum" (δέξιον), syr: δέξιον;
— "iustum" (δίκαιον), syr: 

Moreover, the presence or absence of these terms, including their combinations and the significance of this evidence were closely investigated.

Finally, normally the verb(s) of praise (respectively: "Gloria tibi" [ἡ τίμιον]) emanate out of the "Dignum et iustum", yet there are traditions were the verb(s) of praise are not linked to the "Dignum et iustum", as is the case in both Armenian versions of the Anaphora of Basil, which seemingly have something to do with the early East-Syrian tradition.

Daniel Oltean, Le rituel monastique byzantin du πρόσχημα. Histoire d’une évolution inattendue .......................... 41-66

The Byzantine monastic ritual of πρόσχημα: History of an unexpected evolution
The article focuses on the meaning of the word πρόσχημα in the Byzantine monastic environment. A primary group of literary and canonical texts of the first Christian millennium, of a Constantinopolitan origin usually, gives the word a
double meaning: the habit worn by monks, and the ritual whereby the monks received this habit. On the other hand, the analysis of several liturgical texts from the 11th to the 14th centuries shows that the πρόσχημα was often seen to be a habit of the novice or an intermediate garment between the novice’s habit and the μέγα σχῆμα. Moreover, after the 14th century, the word would cease to be part of the monastic liturgical language.

In order to explain this transformation, the article examines several hagiographic texts of the 9th to the 11th centuries; among them, the Life of Euthymios the Younger, which indicates two successive garments of the saint in πρόσχημα, and the Lives of Athanasius the Athonite and of Lazarus of Mt. Galesion. All these Lives contain similar elements when their protagonists make the transition from the monastic environment of Constantinople to the Palestinian or Athonite one. The solution given by this analysis is simple: the interaction that took place from the 8th to the 11th centuries between the Constantinopolitan πρόσχημα and the Palestinian μέγα σχῆμα led to the transformation of the former into a secondary habit in the monastic hierarchy which would later be named μικρὸν σχῆμα.

Ugo Zanetti, Questions liturgiques dans les « Canons de Shenoute » . 67-99

Thanks to B. Layton’s edition of « The Canons of Shenoute », it has become possible to define in a much more detailed way how the prayer services were conducted in the « Congregation of Shenoute », which included the White Monastery, the Red Monastery and « the Monastery in the Village », i.e., a female community member of this congregation, which was located near Sohag (Upper Egypt). This not only explains the everyday life in this 5th century cenobitic congregation, but also helps to solve some riddles about the Pachomian liturgy, particularly the so-called « six prayers » — a feature typical of the Upper Egyptian monastic prayer, which entirely disappeared after the first millennium —, as well as some peculiarities of the burial services, and of the fasting practice.

Brouria Bitton-Ashkelony and Sergey Minov, "A Person of Silence": Philoxenos of Mabbug, Letter of Exhortation Sent to Someone Who Left Judaism and Came to the Life of Perfection . 101-125

The article publishes the original Syriac text of the “Letter of exhortation sent to someone who left Judaism and came to the life of perfection,” addressed to a fellow monk by the West-Syrian bishop of Mabbug Philoxenos (5th/6th cc.). The letter, published on the basis of manuscript British Library Add. 14,726, is accompanied with an English translation and discussion of its ascetic worldview in the context of Philoxenos’ writings.

Rafal Zarzeczny, S.J., The Story of Paul the Simple from the Historia Lausiaca by Palladius in its Ethiopic Recension . 127-178

It is well known that the vast majority of ancient Christian writings have been translated into Ethiopic (Gǝǝz) from their oriental versions and some only directly from the original Greek texts. This is also true with regard to monastic and hagiographic literature. A number of hagiographic works, ascetical treatises, monastic rules, and collections of sayings of the Desert Fathers, often gathered within Syriac collections, such as, the Paradise or Garden of the Fathers, and later translated into Arabic, were freely used starting from the 14th century...
within several Ethiopic monastic collections, such as, the Mä̊shfä̊t zənahomu lä̊-abäw, the Gaddä̊ abäw qədd̊usä̊n, and the Mä̊shfä̊t mänäkosat. This article discusses the popular story about Saint Paul, a disciple of Saint Anthony, taken from the Lausiatic History by Palladius (CPG 6036) as a case study. An Ethiopic version of its integral text was found only in two manuscripts: EMML 1844 (A) and BL Or. 692 (B; the text is not mentioned in Wright’s Catalogue). A textual analysis of the Ethiopic version leads to the conclusion that the document could have been translated directly from a Greek archetype, presumably during the Aksumite era. After the introduction, this article includes the edition of the Ethiopic text and its translation into English.


While accompanying his father Makarius III Ibn al-Za’im, Patriarch of Antioch, in Eastern Europe in 1652-1658, Paul of Aleppo (Bulos b. al-Za’im al-Halabiyy) met with people and realities that he described as Ifranq and Ifranqiy in his Journal, preserved in the longest form (322 fol. r/v) in Ms. Arabe 6016 of Bibliothèque nationale de France in Paris. The article chiefly addresses the semantic content of derivatives of the 4-consonant root f-r-n-q, established in Arabic through a loan from a non-Semitic language. The purpose in this paper is to show, using the examples from Paul of Aleppo’s Journal, that the term Ifranq has more meanings than those commonly recorded in dictionaries (‘Frank’, ‘European’), including ‘Western’, ‘foreigner’, ‘Italian’, ‘excellent’, ‘of superior quality’, and, more importantly, ‘Latin’ and ‘catholic’. Seldom investigated in lexicographic works, these meanings reveal the richness of the notion of ‘Frank’ in medieval and pre-modern literatures of the Middle East, concerning various fields of culture and society.

Marek Dospéł, The Wä̊di al-Natrå̊n Monasteries and a Reassessment of the Manuscript Itinerarium (c. 1765) of Remedius Prutký OFM 211-226

The area of ancient Skétis (modern Wä̊di al-Natrå̊n) about 100 km NW of Cairo was once home to thousands of eremitic and coenobitic monks. Even though considerably diminishing in numbers over the course of the middle ages and the early modern era, the monastic foundations there retained their prominent status playing, ultimately, an important role in the Europe’s “discovery” of the Coptic Christianity. The ancient monasteries attracted numerous Western visitors to Wä̊di al-Natrå̊n beginning in the seventeenth century; men of letters and representatives of Western Christianity would eventually record their personal experiences, among them a Franciscan missionary, Remedius Prutký (1713-1770). The present essay focuses on Prutký’s account of Wä̊di al-Natrå̊n in his manuscript Itinerarium. While the blatant similarities between Prutký’s work and a manuscript by another Franciscan missionary, Jakub Riman (1682-1755), were first observed in the 1940s, my present close examination of Prutký’s alleged visit to Wä̊di al-Natrå̊n reveals substantial problems as to the veracity of this particular account, which appears to have been most likely plagiarized from a text published by a Jesuit missionary, Claude Sicard, in 1717. Since I first presented these findings in 2008, I published two more case studies (in 2009 & 2010) on two other accounts in Prutký’s Itinerarium that demonstrate the author’s tacit use of published texts in composing his own. These findings allow me to arrive, in the latter part of the present essay, to a substantial reassessment of Prutký’s
Itinerarium as a work of highly problematic authenticity, a lucid example of the complex history of textual transmission.


Gabriele Winkler, Über die armenischen liturgischen Gesänge erläutert anhand der armenischen Begriffe mit ihren georgischen Parallelen 285-305

In most previous investigations concerning the evolution of the Armenian liturgical chants and the pertinent terminology the Georgian parallels were not included in the research although they often assist in clarifying the Armenian evidence. This investigation deals with the 5th cent. vocabulary connected with the execution of the Psalmody and the OT-Cantica of the Cathedral Office, including the Cathedral Vigil in the Armenian Lectionary, the Georgian collection of troparia, the Iadgari, and the Georgian Lectionary, demonstrating the close parallels of the Armenian and Georgian liturgical terms. Later on chants began to accompany also liturgical actions during the liturgy as, for example, the transfer of bread and wine, witnessed in the 7th to 8th Armenian evidence in Step’anos Siwnec’i and its Georgian parallels: both do not only show close structural affinity with each other, but concerning the respective terminology as well: the Armenian čaša am/“Midday-Hour” corresponds exactly to the Georgian eucharist celebrated on the day of high feasts, referred to as samærad/“at Midday” in the Iadgari and the Georgian Lectionary. The Armenian entry-psalm associated with the term haka’akut’iwn can be compared to the Georgian olji’ay, and the troparion which accompanies the transfer of bread and wine, the Armenian srbasac’ut’iwn and the Georgian sicmidisay, have both their roots in Is 6:3. In order to follow the presentation of the evidence, the Armenian, Georgian, Greek, and Syriac parallels were listed at the end with the respective research.

Henryk Pietras, S.J., “La guerra di Costantinopoli”. La posizione politico dottrinale dei vescovi alessandrini dopo il Concilio di Calcedonia 307-351

This article takes up the theme of the post-Chalcedonian discussions between the so-called Dyophysites and Monophysites, examining them in the context of the struggle of the Church of Alexandria and other Eastern Churches against the dominance of Constantinople. At the Council of Chalcedon (451) Constantinople obtained prerogatives heretofore unheard of and contrary to the requirements of the Council of Nicaea. The theological language of Chalcedon was orthodox for the Latins, but when translated into Greek proved to be inaccurate, because the Latin natura did not correspond fully to the Greek physis. Pope Leo himself realized this in the following years and tried to change the language, as evidenced especially in his letter (165) to Emperor Leo I the Thracian, but it became increasingly clear that the real problem was not theology but politics and ambitions. The See of Alexandria, which at the council lost its rank of prominence among the Eastern Churches, had taken advantage of this ambiguity to reject — using as a pretext doctrinal reasons — what hurt her most, namely, the primacy of Constantinople. The lack of flexibility of the Roman Church,
repeatedly misled by Oriental intrigues, did not help to form a compromise and in consequence the Church of Alexandria separated from the Universal Church.


The Church of the East, even if it was outside the Byzantine Empire and did not take part in the Christological discussions and controversies there, could not be silent. Our analysis of the Christological statements and professions of faith shows the reaction of this Church to the Christological controversies. These statements demonstrate this Church’s own progress in Christological thought, its way of responding to the most important Christological questions, in two different Christological currents: the qnom-parsopā current and the two-qnomē current. This analysis could help scholars understand better the development of the Christology of this Church before the assembly of bishops in 612 and her “Nestorianization,” namely, the doctrine of two kyanē (natures) and two qnomē (hypostases) in the one parsopā (persona) of Christ. This analysis could also assist scholars who study the Christology of the Church of the East after the year 612, since the controversy between the two different Christological currents did not stop with the victory of the two-qnomē movement in 612.

Pietro D’Agostino, La légende du miracle de l’image de Tibériade (BHO 450) et la fondation monastique de Mār Ḥanīnā: un regard croisé sur les sources ........................................ 403-420

The aim of the article is to identify the location of a Syriac monastery known so far only through literary sources. In the first part the author analyses a hagiographic legend concerning a miraculous image of Christ performing miracles in Tiberias, with a particular focus on the relationship between this legend and the foundation of a monastery known under the name of St. Ananias. In the second part, the article focuses on various literary witnesses of this monastery in Syriac and Arabic sources, namely John of Ephesus, Bar Hebraeus, Michael the Syrian and Theodore Abū Qurrah. Between the locations that have been proposed for this monastery, the desert between Bālis and Callinicum (modern al-Raqqah) is ultimately the most likely. In the final part of the article, the relationships between the miracle tale and the iconodoule propaganda are considered, paying a particular attention to the narrative setting (Tiberias) and to its fame as birthplace of the iconoclastic heresy according to orthodox heresiology.

Dorothea McEwan, The wall paintings of Dārāsge Maryam Church, in the Sämen Mountains, Ethiopia, and in particular the painted procession on the east wall ................................. 421-450

Dārāsge Maryam Church, in the Sämen Mountains, Ethiopia, was built by Dāggazmač Wobe Haylā Maryam as his coronation church. He richly endowed it with liturgical vestments and objects. The church was consecrated in 1852 and embellished with wall paintings on the four sides of the inner sanctum, the māqālis. The paintings on the east wall show a procession or gathering of a great mass of people, musicians, political leaders and church leaders. Except of
Wabe, who is named in a caption, the four other painted dignitaries remained unnamed. The article presents a detailed description of this procession or gathering and for the first time suggests names and ranks for the four dignitaries.

Mario Carolla, Due confessori della fede .......................... 451-476

Among the Catholics who have been persecuted for their faith in the former USSR, the faithful of the Armenian rite comprise one small but significant community. This paper tells the story of two Armenian priests, Pietro Alagian and Dionigi Kalatosoff, who were persecuted by the communist regime. They stand among the most authentic witnesses of the faith. Indeed, because they were not martyred, their fidelity to the Church endured the test of prolonged suffering.

ANIMADVERSIONES

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