

Eighth North American Syriac Symposium

Brown University

June 16-19, 2019

Sunday June 16 Smith-Buonanno Hall

3:00-5:00 p.m. registration/ reception – Smith-Buonanno lobby

5:00 – 6:30 p.m. – opening plenary session – Smith-B 106

5:00-5:30 welcome/ opening remarks

Susan Ashbrook Harvey, Brown University

5:30-6:30 plenary lecture #1

Presiding: George Kiraz, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton University/ Beth Mardutho, Piscataway, NJ

Kathleen McVey, Princeton Theological Seminary

“Towns, disciples, and virgins: Symbols of the Church in Ephrem’s *Hymns on Virginity*”

7:00-8:30 p.m. dinner --- Pembroke Hall 305

Monday June 17 – Friedman Hall

Reception/ registration/ hub: 1st floor lobby

Coffee breaks/ refreshments: 2nd floor lobby

Book Exhibit: Friedman 201

8:30 a.m. coffee/ tea

9:00-10:40 a.m. Session 1

1-A “Earliest Syriac Christianity and its Traces” Friedman 103

9:00-9:25 Zhan Chen, Harvard University, “The Peshitta of Isaiah as an Important Source for Textual Criticism”

9:25-9:50 Ian N Mills, Duke University, “Tatian the Greek: The Languages of the Diatessaron”

9:50-10:15 Mikail Berg, Vancouver, BC, Canada, “In Pursuit of The Perfect Bishop: The Short Recension of Ignatius and Syrian Asceticism”

10:15-10:40 T.C. Schmidt, Yale University, "Hippolytus and the Status of Revelation in Syriac Tradition"

1-B "Syriac in Greek Frames" Friedman 106

9:00-9:25 Kevin Van Bladel, Yale University, "Elagabalus and Syriac"

9:25-9:50 Alexandria Istok, New York University, "Finding the "Greekness" of Bardaisan in The Book of the Laws of Countries"

9:50-10:15 Rodrigue Constantin, Catholic University of America, "John of Apamea in his Greek context"

10:15-10:40 Yury Arzhanov, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Institute for Medieval Research, The Division of Byzantine Research, "History of Greek Philosophy in Syriac Schools: Doxography and Gnostic Collections"

1-C "Relics" Friedman 208

Presiding: Rebecca Stephens Falcasantos, Florida State University

9:00-9:25 Catalin-Stefan Popa, The Center for the Study of Conversion and Inter-Religious Encounters, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Be'er Sheva, "Captive among Christians. Syrians and the True Cross of Jerusalem (614-630)"

9:25-9:50 Reyhan Durmaz, Brown University, "'And there he obtained a piece of the True Cross': Representations of Relics from Constantinople in Medieval Syriac Hagiography"

9:50-10:15 Jeanne-Nicole Mellon Saint-Laurent, Marquette University, "Displaced Relics in the Travels of Rabban Sauma and Mar Jahballaha"

10:15-10:40 Kyle Smith, University of Toronto, "The Long, Long Lives of the Persian Martyrs"

10:40-11:00 a.m. coffee/ tea/ light refreshments

11:00- 12:00 Plenary lecture #2 -- Friedman 106

Presiding: Susan Ashbrook Harvey, Brown University

Liv Ingebord Lied, MF Norwegian School of Theology
"Syriac Manuscripts, New Philology and the Ethics of Textual Scholarship."

12:00-1:30 p.m. – lunch [on your own: Thayer St. and area]

Optional Lunch Event: 12:15-1:15 (box lunch may be ordered)
Digital Syriac Corpus Workshop (James Walters, Rochester College).

1:30- 3:10 p.m. Session 2**2-A “Ephrem the Syrian” Friedman 103**

1:30-1:55 Cody Strecker, Baylor University, “Vertical Texts: New Sentence Acrostics in Ephrem’s *Madrāšē*”

1:55-2:20 Emanuele Zimbardi, "La Sapienza" - University of Rome and "Freie Universität" Berlin; “Syriac and Greek in Late Antiquity: the contribution of the Greek translation of Ephrem’s memra on Jonah and the Ninevites”

2:20-2:45 David Kiger, Marquette University, “The Holy Spirit in Ephrem and Basil”

2:45-3:10 Sam Koshy, University of Bern, “Ephrem and Ecumenism– Pointers for Dialogues on Christology”

2-B “Asceticism: New Directions After Arthur Vööbus” Friedman 202

Presiding: Robert Kitchen, Sankt Ignatios Theological Academy

1:30-1:55 Shraga Bick, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, “Living by the Law: Jewish Motives in the Book of Steps”

1:55-2:20 Dmitrij F. Bumazhnov, University of Göttingen, “Do not eat too much honey!’ Jewish and Christian Mystical Readings of Prov 25:16”

2:20-2:45 John Zaleski, Harvard University, “Ḥanūn ibn Yūḥannā ibn al-Ṣalt’s Translation of Isaac of Nineveh and the Islamic Language of Asceticism”

2:45-3:10 Adam Becker, New York University, “The Manuscript Tradition of the Isaacs of Antioch”

2-C “Late Antique Histories” Friedman 106

1:30-1:55 Jacob A. Lollar, Abilene Christian University, “Refugees, Religion, and Reconstructing History: The Effects of Forced Migration on the Development of Syriac Literature in the Fourth Century”

1:55-2:20 Maria E. Doerfler, Yale University, “Burying the Emperor’s Son: Valens, Valentinian, and the legacy of Basil in a Syriac funerary sermon”

2:20-2:45 Walter F. Beers, Princeton University, “A Microhistorical Approach to John of Ephesus (c. 507–88)”

2:45-3:10 Joel Walker, University of Washington, Seattle, “Animal Sacrifice in the Syriac Tradition: Condemnation, Remembrance, and Revival”

3:10-3:40 p.m. - coffee/ tea/ juice/ fruited water/ cookies / fresh fruit

3:40 – 5:20 p.m. - Session 3**3-A “Late Antique Persia” Friedman 103**

Presiding: Kevin Van Bladel, Yale University

3:40-4:05 Jae Hee Han, Brown University, “The Cologne Mani Codex and Late Antique Mesopotamian Christianity”

4:05-4:30 James E. Walters, Rochester College, “Demonstration 14 and Historiography of Fourth-Century Persian Christianity”

4:30-4:55 Natalie Maria Reynoso, Fordham University, "Identity Formation through the Transitions and Transformations of a Living and Dying Body in the Martyrdom of Anahid"

4:55-5:20 Ute Possekel, Harvard Divinity School, "Man as Microcosm and the Refutation of Heresy: Perspectives from the School of Nisibis"

3-B "Evagrius of Pontus" Friedman 202

Presiding: Charles Stang, Harvard University

3:40-4:05 Joel Kalvesmaki, Dumbarton Oaks, "The Syriac Versions of Evagrius's Praktikos and New Digital Approaches to Studying Translations"

4:05-4:30 Columba Stewart, Hill Museum & Manuscript Library, Saint John's University, "Readers of the Syriac Evagriana: suggestions from the multiple translations of the 'Gnostic Trilogy' and the later manuscript tradition"

4:30-4:55 Robin Darling Young, The Catholic University of America, "The Common Syriac Version of Evagrius' Kephalaia Gnostika (S1): reception and Interpretation"

4:55-5:20 Dominique Sirgy, Yale University, "The Role of Human and Divine Will in the Soul's Union with God: Origen's theology in Syriac Translations of Evagrius' Letter to Melania and its Influence on Early Islamic mystical Thought"

3-C "Bar 'Ebroyo" Friedman 208

3:40-4:05 Jens Ole Schmitt, Wuerzburg University, "Barhebraeus on Modal Logic"

4:05-4:30 Adam Carter Bremer-McCollum, University of Notre Dame, "Controlling the Text through (non-)Translation: E.A. Wallis Budge and Barhebraeus's 'Vulgar' Laughable Stories"

4:30-4:55 Bogdan-Gabriel Draghici, University of Oxford, "Between Theology and Kalam: Bar Hebraeus' Teaching on the Resurrection"

4:55-5:20 Patrick Conlin, Marquette University, "The Beauty of Perfection: An Examination of Bar 'Ebroyo 'On Perfection'"

5:45- 6:45 P.M. – Plenary Lecture #3 Friedman 106

Presiding: Aaron Michael Butts, The Catholic University of America

Columba Stewart, Hill Museum and Manuscript Library, St. John's University
 "Discovering a New World in the Old: Revealing, Preserving, and Sharing the Syriac Manuscript Heritage in the Near East"

7:15 – 8:45 p.m. – dinner at the Faculty Club

Tuesday June 18 – Friedman Hall

Reception/ registration/ hub: 1st floor lobby

Coffee breaks/ refreshments: 2nd floor lobby

Book Exhibit: Friedman 201

8:30 a.m. coffee/ tea

9:00 – 10:00 a.m. -- Plenary lecture #4 Friedman 106

Presiding: Andrew Jacobs, Scripps College

Ellen Muehlberger, University of Michigan

"Local Knowledge: The Order of the World at the End of Late Antiquity"

10:00-10:20 a.m. coffee/ tea/ light refreshments

10:20- 12:00 p.m. – Session 4

4-A “Religious Others: Heretics and Jews” Friedman 208

10:20-10:45 Christine Shepardson, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, “Contagious Heretics: John of Tella on the Physical Danger of Chalcedonians”

10:45-11:10 Daniel Picus, Carleton College, “Books as Bishops: Living Texts in Late Antiquity”

11:10-11:35 Aaron Michael Butts, Catholic University of America, “Mapping the ‘Other’ onto Jews: Syriac Anti-Jewish Polemic during the Fifth and Sixth Centuries”

11:35-12:00 Andrew S. Jacobs, Scripps College, “The Children's Hour: Conversion and Play in The History of the ‘Slave of Christ’”

4-B “Manuscripts” Friedman 202

10:20-10:45 Iskandar Bcheiry, American Theological Library Association, “The rediscovery of six leaves from the lost Syriac manuscript known as the Canons of Beth Sabrīnā (nine century)”

10:45-11:10 András Mércz, Avicenna Institute of Middle Eastern Studies, “Andreas Masius’ manuscript of the Anaphora of Saint Basil in light of his correspondence with Moses of Mardin”

11:10-11:35 Grigory Kessel, Austrian Academy of Sciences & University of Manchester, “Cataloguing Chaldean manuscript collections digitized by the Hill Museum & Manuscript Library: a report on the work in progress”

11:35-12:00 Slavomír Čéplö, Austrian Academy of Sciences, “HUNAYNNET: Greek-Syriac-Arabic corpus of scientific texts”

4-C “Preaching: Isaac of Antioch and Jacob of Sarug” Friedman 208

- 10:20-12:45 Robert A. Kitchen, Sankt Ignatios Theological Academy, “A Fowl Theology of the Cross: Isaac of Antioch’s Mēm̄rā on the Parrot”
- 10:45-11:10 Glenn Peers, Syracuse University, “Isaac of Antioch’s Parrot and Voice’s Manifold Subject Formations”
- 11:10-11:35 Andrew Hochstedler, University of Notre Dame, “The Christology of Jacob of Sarug in Mēm̄rā 130 on the Gerasene Demoniac
- 11:35-12:00 Mary Hansbury, Philadelphia, PA, “Symbolic Language in Jacob of Serug”

12:00-1:30 p.m. – lunch [on your own: Thayer St. and area]

Optional Lunch Event: 12:15-1:15 (boxed lunch may be ordered)
 “Women in Syriac Studies” – Panel/ discussion (Dina Boero, TCNJ presiding)

1:30-2:45 p.m. Session 5**5-A “Literary Transmissions” Friedman 103**

- 1:30-1:55 Anton Pritula, Hermitage Museum, “Poetic correspondence and correspondence of poetry: unknown Syriac verse texts from the Islamic time”
- 1:55-2:20 Lijuan Lin, Peking University, “A Winged Word on Marriage”
- 2:20-2:45 Jan J. van Ginkel, Freie Universität Berlin, “That’s What Friends Are For ... A close reading of the Fable of the Cat and the Mouse in Syriac Kalila and Dimna Collections”

5-B “The Translation Movement” Friedman 202

- 1:30-1:55 Nestor Kavvadas, University of Siegen, “Non-Arabs Standing Together? The Barmakid Viziers and Syriac and Greek Elites in the Age of the Translation Movement
- 1:55-2:20 George A. Kiraz, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, and Beth Mardutho, Piscataway, “Are we Overstating or Understating the Role of Syriac in the Abbasid Translation Movement?”
- 2:20-2:45 Kevin J. Ball, The Catholic University of America, “The East Syriac Heritage into Arabic: Ibn al-Tayyib’s Commentary on the Gospels”

5-C “Syriac Music” Friedman 208

- 1:30-1:55 Claudia Tavolieri, Università degli Studi Roma Tre, “Singing in the monastery: between teaching and tradition”
- 1:55-2:20 Gabriel Aydin, Syriac Music Institute, “New Manuscript Evidence for the Structure of Early Syriac Hymns”
- 2:20-2:45 Tala Jarjour, King’s College London, “Endangered reality and virtual emergence: Syriac musical culture in the 21st century”

2:45-3:15 p.m. - coffee/ tea/ juice/ fruited water/ cookies / fresh fruit

3:15 – 5:30 p.m. - Session 6

6-A “Modern Communities” Friedman 103

Presiding: Sargon Donabed, Roger Williams University

3:15-3:40 Henry Clements, Yale University, “Documenting, Forgetting, and Remembering the Süryani of the Ottoman Empire”

3:40-4:05 Borja W. González Fernández, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, “Creoles in Syriac midst: The Maronites, the Catholic Church, and the Identity Question in 19th-century Mount Lebanon”

4:05-4:30 Anna Hager, Radboud University, “The Syriac Orthodox in Lebanon after WWI: The Emergence of a *tā'ifa*”

4:30-4:40 - 10 min break

4:40-5:05 Abdulmesih BarAbraham and Isa Doğdu, Mor Afrem Foundation and Foundation of Monastery of Mar Gabriel, “Rebuilding Churches and Homes in Tur Abdin”

5:05-5:30 Hannah Ayer, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, “Aramean Christians in Israel: Discovering a Syriac World”

6-B “Saints and Cults” Friedman 202

Presiding: Dina Boero, The College of New Jersey

3:15-3:40 Tracy Russell, Saint Louis University, “The Betrothed of Christ: Virgin Martyrs in the Sinaitic Palimpsest”

3:40-4:05 Blake Hartung, Saint Louis University, “The Prophet as Saint: Hagiography, Asceticism, and Veneration in Late Antique Syriac Homilies on Elijah”

4:05-4:30 Jeffrey Wickes, Saint Louis University, “A Reliquary of Words: The Presence and Absence of the Saints in the Hagiographical Poetry of Jacob of Serugh”

4:30-4:40 - 10 min break

4:40-5:05 Anna Williams, Saint Louis University, “Hagiography of a Greek Heretic: Theodore of Mopsuestia in Barhadbeshabba’s Ecclesiastical History”

5:05-5:30 Erin Galgay Walsh, Duke University, “The Holy Fool in Syriac Literature: Scripting Female Sanctity”

6-C “Encounters with Islam” Friedman 208

3:15-3:40 Laura Locke Estes, Saint Louis University, “Etiologies in Anti-Muslim Polemic: Suggestions for the Use of Syriac Sources for the History of Early Islam”

3:40-4:05 Kelli Bryant Gibson, Abilene Christian University, “Interreligious Polemic in the Works of John of Dara”

4:05-4:30 Michael Payne, Brown University, “East Syrians and the Design Complex in 9th Century Iraq”

4:30-4:40 - 10 min break

4:40-5:05 Joshua Mugler, Georgetown University and Hill Museum and Manuscript Library, “An Egyptian History of Syriac”

5:05-5:30 Bert Jacobs, KU Leuven, "Critical Convergences between West and East Syrians in Apologetics against Islam: Dionysius Bar Ṣalṭbī's Use of the *Disputation between Timothy I and the Caliph al-Mahdī*"

6:00- 7:00 p.m. Plenary Lectures #5 Friedman 106

Presiding: Christine Shepardson, The University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Michael Penn, Stanford University

"Big Data About Little Things: Digital Paleography and Syriac Manuscripts"

7:30 – 9:30 p.m. – dinner outdoors Alumni terrace/ Pembroke Green

Wednesday June 19- Friedman Hall

Reception/ registration/ hub: 1st floor lobby

Coffee breaks/ refreshments: 2nd floor lobby

Book Exhibit: Friedman 201

8:30 a.m. coffee/ tea

9:00-10:40 a.m. Session 7

7-A "Patristics" Friedman 103

9:00-9:25 Emanuel Fiano, Fordham University, "The Syriac Fragments of Eustathius of Antioch And the 'Eustathian' Tradition"

9:25-9:50 Marion Pragt, KU Leuven, "The Syriac Afterlife of Gregory of Nyssa's Homilies on the Song of Songs: Extracts and Exchanges"

9:50-10:15 Madalina Toca, KU Leuven, "Reception and Innovation: A Syriac Corpus of Pseudo-Isidore of Pelusium?"

10:15-10:40 Emiliano Fiori and Claudia Simonelli, University of Venice 'Ca' Foscari', "The 'Catenae Patrum' of the British Library (8th -10th centuries): first soundings of their structure and historical aims"

7-B "Material Piety" Friedman 202

9:00-9:25 James Shire, University of Toronto, "God Sweeping up the Aries: An Analysis of the Use of Astrology in the Syriac Chronicle of Zuqnin"

9:25-9:50 Linda Wheatley-Irving, Chicago, "Lions in Christian architectural sculpture of Ṭūr 'Abdīn, Aghtamar, and Mosul"

9:50-10:15 Charles Stewart, University of St. Thomas, "Syriac Gravestones Iconography in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan"

10:15-10:40 David Calabro, Hill Museum and Manuscript Library, "The Social Context of Syriac Amulets in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries"

7-C “Christian Communities of the Middle East” Friedman 208

Presiding: Robin Darling Young, The Catholic University of America

9:00-9:25 Andrew W. Litke, The Catholic University of America, “The Chaldean Collection”

9:25-9:50 Ryan Craig, The Catholic University of America, “The Münster Collection”

9:50-10:15 Dina Boero, The College of New Jersey, “The Syriac Orthodox Collection”

10:15-10:40 George Kiraz, Gorgias Press, The Institute for Advanced Study,
“A Community Partner’s Perspective”

10:40-11:00 a.m. coffee/ tea/ light refreshments

11:00- 12:00 Plenary lecture #6 Friedman 106

Presiding: Ute Possek, Harvard Divinity School

David G. K. Taylor, University of Oxford
“The Reception and After-Life of the Teaching of Addai”

12:00- 12:30 p.m. Closing session/ business meeting Friedman 106

12:30 p.m. -- lunch on your own [optional box lunch may be ordered]/ depart