

A List of Sources for the Study of Oriental Churches

General Material

Atiya, Aziz History of Eastern Christianity University of Notre Dame Press, 1967.

Attwater, D. The Christian Churches of the East London, 1961. (2 Vol.)

Betts, R.B. Christians in the Arab East London, 1979.
Focuses on current and recent demography and sociology.

Cragg, K. The Arab Christian: a History in the Middle East London, 1992.

Dalrymple, William, From the Holy Mountain. A Journey Among the Christian of the Middle East Henry Holt and Co. 1998.

O'Mahony, A (ed.) Palestinian Christians. Religion, Politics and Society in the Holy Land London, 1999.

(ed.) Christianity in the Middle East. Studies in Modern History, Religion and Politics London, 2004.

Parry, K. et al. The Blackwell Dictionary of Eastern Christianity 1999.

Rassam, S. Christianity in Iraq. Origins and Development Gracewing Publications.

Roberson, R.G. The Eastern Christian Churches: a Brief Survey
Covers the Eastern Orthodox in addition to Eastern Rite Catholics as well as the Church of the East and the Oriental Orthodox.

Vööbus, Arthur "The Origin of the Monophysite Church in Syria and Mesopotamia" Church History 42(1,'73)17-26.

NOTE: There is an excellent on-line peer reviewed journal dealing with Oriental (Primarily Syriac using) Christianity: **Hugoye**. It publishes articles by leading scholars in the field of Syriac studies.

Another source available on line is T. V. Philips, East of the Euphrates: Early Christianity in Asia CSS and ISPCK, India, 1998. On the web, see the site Religion-On Line or search by the title.

Material on Specific Churches

Assyrian Church of the East

Aprem, Mar The Assyrian Church of the East in the Twentieth Century Kottayam, 2003.

Barnard, L. W. "The Origins and Emergence of the Church in Edessa during the First Two Centuries A. D." Vigiliae Christianae 22(3,'68)161-175.

Baum, W. And D. Winkler The Church of the East. A Concise History London, 2003.

Joseph, J. The Modern Assyrians of the Middle East Leiden, 2000.

Naby, Eden "The Assyrians of Iran: Reunification of a 'Millat,' 1906-1914" International Journal of Middle East Studies 8(2,'77)237-249.

Vööbus, Arthur "Abraham De-Bēt Rabban and His Role in the Hermeneutic Traditions of the School of Nisibis" The Harvard Theological Review 58(2,'65)203-214.

Syrian Orthodox Church

Bat Ye'or The Decline of Eastern Christianity under Islam: from Jihad to Dhimmitude, 7th to 20th Century Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 1996.

Beggiani, Seely Introduction to Eastern Christian Spirituality, the Syriac Tradition University of Scranton Press, 1991.

Beggiani, Seely Early Syriac Theology University Press of America, 1983.

Brock, S.P. (ed.) The Hidden Pearl: The Syrian Orthodox Church and Its Ancient Aramaic Heritage Rome, 2001. 3 vol. and three documentaries.

Brock, S.P. and Susan Harvey Holy Women of the Syrian Orient Transformation of the Classical Heritage No. 13 University of California Press, 1998.

Brock, S.P. St. Ephraim the Syrian. Hymns on Paradise St. Vladimir Seminary Press, 1997.

Brock, S. P. The Syriac Fathers on Prayer and the Spiritual Life Cistercian Publications, 1987.

Brock, S.P. The Luminous Eye, the Spiritual World Vision of Saint Ephrem the Syrian Cistercian Publications, 1992.

Brock, S.P. The Wisdom of St. Isaac the Syrian Fairacres Publications 128, Oxford, 1997.

Chaillot, C. The Syrian Orthodox Church of Antioch and All the East. A Brief Introduction to Its Life and Spirituality Geneva, 1998.

Harvey, Susan Ashbrook “Sacred Bonding: Mothers and Daughters in Early Syriac Hagiography” Journal of Early Christian Studies 4(1,'96)27-56.

Hollerweger, Hans Turabdin Linz, Austria: Friends of Turabdin, 1999.
Over 400 photographs of this area where the Syrian Church flourished for a thousand years, until the massacres of the early 20th century.

Joseph, John Muslim-Christian Rivalries and Inter-Christian Rivalries in the Middle East. The Case of Jacobites in an Age of Transition Albany, NY: State University of New York, 1983.

Matthews, Edward and Joseph Amar St. Ephrem the Syrian. Selected Prose Works The Catholic University of American Press, 1994.

McCullough, William A Short History of Syriac Christianity to the Rise of Islam Scholar's Press, 1982.

McVey, Kathleen Ephrem the Syrian: Hymns Paulist Press, 1989,

Murray, Robert Symbols of Church and Kingdom, A Study in Early Syriac Tradition Cambridge University Press, 1975

Segal, J. B. Edessa: The Blessed City Piscataway, NJ: Gorgias Press, 2001

A Few Items of Periodical Literature and Internet Resources

Connolly, R.H. “Rabbula, Admonition to Monks” Downside Review 25(1907)152-162.

DeICogliano, Mark “Syriac Monasticism in Tur Abdin: A Present Day Account” Cistercian Studies Quarterly 41(3,2006).

Griffith, Sidney H. “Disputing with Islam in Syriac – The Case of the Monk Bêt Halê and a Muslim Emir” Hugoye: Journal of Syriac Studies 3(1,'2000)

Griffith, Sidney H. “ A Spiritual Father for the Whole Church: the Universal Appeal of St. Ephraem the Syrian” Hugoye 1(2,'98)

Harvey, Susan A. “Women in the Syrian Tradition” St.Nina Quarterly Web Site Vol. 1 (4)

Hedges, Tim “Necessity and Free Will in the Thought of Bardaisan of Edessa” *Laval theologique et philosophique* 59, 2(juin 2003) 333-244.

Vööbus, Arthur “New Sources for the Symbol in Early Syrian Christianity” Vigiliae Christianae 26(4,'72)291-296.

There is an interesting article on Pre-Medieval religious contact in Numen 32(1,'85)88-100, David Scott, “Christian Responses to Buddhism in Pre-Medieval Times”

NOTE: Liturgical material of the Syrian Orthodox Church may be ordered from Syriac Orthodox Archdiocese of the Eastern United States, Archdiocesan Secretary, 260 Elm Ave, Teaneck, NJ 07661 Phone: 201-801-0660.

Coptic Church in Egypt

Watson, J. H. Among the Copts Brighton, 2000.

One of the most accessible and interesting examples of Coptic Christianity is the Apophthegmata patrum. There are many editions, I suggest Benedicta Ward, ***The Sayings of the Desert Fathers: The Alphabetical Collection*** or Owen Chadwick, ***Western Asceticism***, Vol XII of The Library of Christian Classics, see especially section 1, “The Sayings of the Fathers. For background and analysis see Douglas Burton-Christie, ***The Word in the Desert: Scripture and the Quest for Holiness in Early Christian Monasticism***, Oxford University Press, 1993 or, Graham Gould, ***The Desert Fathers on Monastic Community***, Oxford University Press, 1993. See also Derwas Ben Chitty, ***The Desert a City: An Introduction to the Study of Egyptian and Palestinian Monasticism under the Christian Empire*** St. Vladimir’s Seminary Press, 1997.

For discussions of an individual desert father, see two articles dealing with Abba Poemen: William Harmless, “Remembering Poemen Remembering: The Desert Fathers and the Spirituality of Memory” ***Church History*** 69(3,2000)483-518 and Jeremy Driscoll, Exegetical Procedures in the Desert Monk Poemen” in ***Mysterium Christi: Symbolgegenwort und theologische Bedeutung: Festschrift für Basil Struder*** Studia Anselmiana 116, Rome, 1995.

For the story of how the Coptic Church became separated from the Eastern Orthodox, see E.R. Hardy, Jr. “The Patriarchate of Alexandria: A Study in National Christianity” ***Church History*** 15(2,'46)81-101.

The Ethiopian Orthodox Church

There is a massive on-line bibliography by J. Abbink, ***A Bibliography on Christianity in Ethiopia***. Leiden: African Studies Center, 2003. By massive, the print out in my possession comes to 102 pages in a smaller than average font.

An older introduction to the extensive Christian literature of Ethiopia is J.M. Hardin, ***An Introduction to Ethiopic Christian Literature***, London:SPCK, 1926.

An interesting article on the Monastic tradition in Ethiopia by Dom Colin Battell can be found on the website of the English Benedictines. (English Benedictine Congregation Web), titled ***“The Ethiopian Orthodox Church and Its Monastic Tradition.”*** Another paper on the same topic by Robert Van de Weyer, ***“The Monastic Community of Ethiopia”*** can be found at the Tezeta Web Site. At the same site, one finds a most comprehensive article by Ephraim Isaac, ***“Social Structure of the Ethiopian Church.”***

For an account of the fascinating process of academic and practical preparation for ordination, see Binns, John “Theological Education in the Ethiopian Orthodox Church” Journal of Adult Theological Education 2(2,2005)103-113.