

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
Co-sponsored by Beth Mardutho: The Syriac Institute, Piscataway, NJ

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

5:00-5:30 welcome/ opening remarks
 Susan Ashbrook Harvey, Brown University

5:30-6:30 plenary lecture #1

Presiding: George A. Kiraz, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton University, and
 Beth Mardutho: the Syriac Institute, Piscataway, NJ

Kathleen McVey, Princeton Theological Seminary
 “Towns, disciples, and virgins: Symbols of the Church in Ephrem’s *Hymns on
 Virginit*y”

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

Presiding: James Walters, Rochester College

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

Presiding: Maria Doerfler, Yale University

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, "History of Greek Philosophy in Syriac Schools"

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 Ingeborg 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**

Presiding: Andrew J. Hayes, University of St. Thomas

- 1:30-1:55 Cody Strecker, Baylor University, “Vertical Texts: New Sentence Acrostics in Ephrem’s Madrašē”
- 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 and Emmanuel Christian Seminary, “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 H. Becker, New York University, “The Manuscript Tradition of the Isaacs of Antioch”

2-C “Late Antique Histories” Friedman 106

Presiding: Reyhan Durmaz, Brown University

- 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, Washington, DC,, "The Syriac Versions of Evagrius's Praktikos and New Digital Approaches to Studying Translations"
- 4:05-4:30 Columba Stewart, Hill Museum and 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

Presiding: Jan J. van Ginkel, Freie Universität Berlin

- 3:40-4:05 Jens Ole Schmitt, Wuerzburg University, "Barhebraeus on Modal Logic"
- 4:05-4:30 Patrick Conlin, Marquette University, "The Beauty of Perfection: An Examination of Bar 'Ebroyo 'On Perfection'"
- 4:30-4:55 Bogdan-Gabriel Draghici, University of Oxford, "Between Theology and Kalam: Bar Hebraeus' Teaching on the Resurrection"

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 S. 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

Presiding: Jeffrey Wickes, Saint Louis University

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, The 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

Presiding:

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

Presiding: Erin Galgay Walsh, Duke University

10:20-10:45 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, OFM Conv., 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, The College of New
Jersey, presiding)

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

Presiding: Jeanne-Nicole Mellon Saint-Laurent, Marquette University

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: Socrates and
the Gnomological Tradition.”

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

Presiding: Michael Payne, Brown University

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: the Syriac Institute, Piscataway, NJ, “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

Presiding: Susan Ashbrook Harvey, Brown University

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 Sūryani 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 *ṭā'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, Arizona State 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

Presiding: Sandra Toenies Keating, Providence College

3:15-3:40 Laura Locke Estes, Saint Louis University, “Etiologies in Syriac Christian Accounts of the Origins of 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”

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

Presiding: Kelli Bryant Gibson, Abilene Christian University

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 ‘Catenaе Patrum’ of the British Library (8th -10th centuries): first soundings of their structure and historical aims”

7-B “Material Piety” Friedman 202

Presiding: Jae Hee Han, Brown University

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 Ryann 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, The Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton University,
and Beth Mardutho: the Syriac Institute, Piscataway, NJ, “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

Eighth North American Syriac Symposium: Brown University

Local Steering Committee:

Susan Ashbrook Harvey, Brown University, Chair

Sargon Donabed, Roger Williams University

Jae Hee Han, Brown University

Sandra Toenies Keating, Providence College

Nancy Khalek, Brown University

Ute Possek, Harvard Divinity School

Nijmeh Kiraz Prize for Best Graduate Student Paper

2019 Committee:

Robert Kitchen, Chair

Aaron Michael Butts

Sargon Donabed

Kelli Bryant Gibson

National Advisory Committee:

Since its inception in 1991, the North American Syriac Symposium has had an informal advisory committee to ensure continuity of scholarly agenda between each of the symposium meetings and to provide support and advice for the organization of the next meeting. The committee has been loosely comprised of those who have organized the prior Syriac Symposia, although some previous members have chosen to revolve off due to retirement or other obligations. Each instance of the North American Syriac Symposium, however, has been wholly in the hands of the local organizing committee. At present the National Advisory Committee consists of:

Joseph P. Amar

Aaron Michael Butts

Amir Harrak

Susan Ashbrook Harvey

George Anton Kiraz

Robin Darling Young

Meetings of the North American Syriac Symposium:

1991 at Brown University

1995 at The Catholic University of America

1999 at The University of Notre Dame

2003 at Princeton Theological Seminary

2007 at Toronto University

2011 at Duke University

2015 at The Catholic University of America

2019 at Brown University