

las referencias a la lengua árabe u otras orientales, salvo en los casos en que no ha podido proceder de una forma diferente.

Una de las mayores dificultades con que se ha encontrado Déroche es dilucidar en qué consiste el concepto mismo de “libro” y en el entorno geográfico en el que se circunscribe. De hecho, las copias del Corán que él maneja y una serie de textos manuscritos están escritos por autores bielorrusos o malayos con lo cual Déroche nos muestra que el entorno del libro manuscrito árabe sobrepasaba generosamente los límites geográficos del mundo árabe-parlante y este profesor de historia intenta en todo momento atender a esta extensa difusión sin olvidar que la mayor concentración de textos proviene, naturalmente, de *dār al-islām*.

Incluso se permite afirmar, lo que es verdaderamente loable, que las lagunas que el lector pueda encontrar en su libro puede suplirlas con los trabajos de investigación realizados sobre todo este asunto por el especialista Francis Richard. En definitiva, Déroche ofrece en este volumen a los especialistas del libro árabe-musulmán el recorrido de sus propios descubrimientos en toda esta tradición apasionante que recorre el libro manuscrito árabe desde su propia génesis en la oralidad hasta el desarrollo de su fijación escrita.

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EBERLE, Andrea, *Koptisch: Ein Leitfaden durch das Sāidische*. Unter Mitarbeit von R. Schulz. «Languages of the World/Materials» 7 (Muenchen: Lincom Europa, 2004), 109 pp. ISBN: 3-89586-022-0

This is a relatively new grammar of the Coptic Sahidic dialect (published 2004) in German language. It comprises no more than ninety-seven pages and it is published in the series: «Languages of the World/Materials» in the publishing house: Lincom, which specialises in Linguistics.

As the authors declare in the introduction, it is developed and planned for teaching purposes. It focuses on the presentation and discussion of basic elements of the language, according to grammar models from older more comprehensive and detailed grammar works.

The intention of this grammar is to remain simple and well understandable for the beginner. It discusses grammar, syntax and morphology, divided in four main chapters (I. Sprache und Schrift. II. Wortarten and ihre direkten Phrasenverbindungen. III. Sätze. IV.

Transpositionen). It gives several examples in Coptic for each unit discussed. A vocabulary list of the Coptic words used in the examples would have been thus useful. It also includes an appendix with a list of all elements of conjugation, the possibilities of constructions with *n-* and *ε-*, an exercise text with a phonetical transcription and an interlinear translation as well as a full translation of it at the end. Finally, the book concludes with a comprehensive bibliography and an Index.

A special feature of this grammar is that it refers in each of its units to other standard grammar books and their corresponding units. Consequently it is intended to be explicitly an introduction to a more systematic study of the language. The grammar works they refer to are published in German and English. Some of them are older works (Till, Steindorff), while others are quite recent (Plisch). The constant reference to other grammar works facilitate on the one hand a more profound follow-up study of the language, but on the other hand it can cause confusion to beginners, as the authors pick up for each unit paragraphs from different works. Perhaps it would have been more useful, if the authors would have used only one or two reference books consequently through their own grammar. Additionally, their selection of grammar models from other books would have needed in some cases a better justification. So it is not clear for example on p. 52, why they would prefer Plisch and Schischa-Halevy's model rather than Till and Steindorff's model.

Moreover, selective references to historic linguistics (see for example, p. 38, or p. 16 n. 36) or to variations typical to other dialects of Coptic (see for example, p. 53, n. 114) as well as the detailed information given in the numerous footnotes (163 in seventy-eight pages) might give to this short book an erudite character, but they can also be confusing for the beginner and redundant at this stage of the learning of the language. The extensive use of complicated linguistic jargon throughout the book adds to the difficulty of the book. A characteristic example is the use of the term 'Relativconverter', that the authors have to explain then in a footnote, that what they actually mean is 'Relativpronomen' (relative pronoun), adding that the term they opted for (Relativconverter) has not become part of the general linguistic terminology (p. 68). Accordingly, the authors need often to explain in the footnotes the linguistic terminology, they use, quoting Bussmann, *Lexikon der Sprachwissenschaft*.

Considering its scope and purpose this grammar is comparable to C.C. Walter's *An Elementary Coptic Grammar of the Sahidic dialect*, which was first published 1972. But although this German work appears thirty-two years later it is not as pedagogical in its concept as Walter's grammar, which was written in a simple accessible language and was also containing exercises at the end of each unit.

So, in spite the authors' declaration in the introduction that the book was developed from teaching (aus dem Unterricht gewachsen) and is intended to be a simple learning help for the beginner (als einfache Studienhilfe fuer den Anfänger gedacht) it fails to fulfil its purpose completely.

Still, apart from the above remarks, it has to be stressed that this is the first grammar of its kind in German and that it offers a careful and fairly good overview of the Sahidic dialect.

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EBIED, Rifaat & TEULE, Herman (ed.), *Symposium Syriacum VIII* (The University of Sydney, Department of Semitic Studies, 26 June – 1 July, 2000). With the Collaboration of Peter HILL and Joseph VERHEYDEN, en *The Journal of Eastern Christian Studies* 56/1-4 (2004), XVI + 356 pp.; ilustr. ISSN: 0009-5141

Veinte artículos conforman el presente volumen, que representa el octavo de los célebres *Symposia Syriaca* hasta ahora editados (1974-1998). Los siete primeros volúmenes fueron publicados en la serie *Orientalia Christiana Analecta* (OCA) y éste es el primero publicado fuera de la mencionada serie del *Pontificio Istituto Orientale* de Roma. El medio editorial empleado ha sido la revista *The Journal of Eastern Christian Studies*, editada por el "Institute of Eastern Christian Studies" de Nimega en colaboración con la "Facultad de Teología" y el "Institute of Early Christian and Byzantine Studies" de la Universidad Católica de Lovaina, bajo la coordinación y edición de los Profs. Rifaat Ebied y Herman Teule, quienes de este modo toman el relevo de egregios investigadores que cumplieron con idéntica tarea, sobre todos los cuales destaca, obviamente, esta misma labor desarrollada durante tantos años por el P. René Lavenant.

La estructura de la obra sigue el conocido esquema de los siete anteriores *Symposia* aparecidos, tal como señalo a continuación: abre con una breve presentación de los editores (pp. IX-X), le siguen las