

temáticos como en la transmisión de los conceptos y en la dimensión gramatical de estudio que ofrece el texto.

Por otro lado, la edición de la obra ha sido llevada a cabo sobre dos manuscritos en *karšūnī* (Mardin 93,1, s. XVII [que contiene el mismo texto que el Ms. Vat. sir. 608] y una copia del primero contenida en la 'Bibliothèque orientale' de Beirut 563,1, del año 1897), siendo realizada la colación con otros siete MSS.: Vat. ar. 110; Berlin Sachau 12; Vat. Neof. 54, Cambridge Add. 2889, Vat. Borg. ar. 198, Paris ar. 6732 y Paris ar. 6744.

Esta edición, que sigue las pautas elaboradas por Samir Khalil S., es realmente excelente: ha sido estructurada en párrafos y vocalizada completamente, respetando aquellos segmentos en los que el autor utiliza el siríaco. Además, la anotación crítica con la que el editor ha dotado al texto, al tiempo que detallada en la información sobre las variantes, ofrece una información de gran interés por las referencias que ofrece de otros materiales fuentísticos. La exhaustividad de los índices (siete en total) elaborados por el P. Gianazza, por lo demás, vienen a redondear una obra ciertamente ejemplar en el campo de la edición de textos medievales, en este caso perteneciente al ámbito de estudio de la producción textual árabe cristiana, gracias a lo cual contamos con una nueva obra, cuyo interés queda a la vista y fuera de toda duda.

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ΚΑΒΒΑΔΑΣ, Νέστωρ, *Ὁ Βίος τοῦ Ἐφραίμ τοῦ Σύρου. Μετάφραση ἀπὸ τὰ Συριακὰ Εἰσαγωγή-Σχόλια* «Συριακὴ Ἐκκλησιαστικὴ Γραμματεία» 5 (Θήρα: Θεοβίτης, 2007). 140pp. ISBN: 978-960-89148-1-0 [= KABBADAS, Nestor, *The Life of Ephraem the Syrian*. Translation from the Syriac. Introduction and Commentary, «Syriac Church Writers» 5 (Thera: Thesbites, 2007)].

This short volume offers for the first time a translation of the anonymous Syriac text, known as the *Life of Ephraem the Syrian*, into Modern Greek. Nestor Kabbadas continues with this annotated translation, the pioneering work, which he started a few years ago with the translation into Greek of the Ascetical Homilies by Isaac the Syrian in three volumes. These translations form part of a new series under the name 'Syriac Church Writers', which is published by the Thesbites Publishing House with the purpose of introducing the hitherto widely neglected Syriac literature to a broader audience in Greece.

The volume begins with a comprehensive introduction to the work. Kabbadas examines first the provenance of this anonymous work and the manuscript tradition. As he notes the *Life* is transmitted in six manuscripts entirely or in fragments. After discussing issues of history, date, condition and editions of the manuscripts, Kabbadas argues that the Paris manuscript (Par. Syr. 235, 125^r-142^v) is closer to the original, not preserved, *Vorlage* of the text. Accordingly, he uses the text of the Paris manuscript for his own translation. Further, he gives a brief overview of the *Forschungsgeschichte* and he considers issues of provenance and dating, suggesting that the *Life* must have been composed in the mid- sixth century in Edessa or its environs. Finally, he discusses in detail the sources of the *Life*, adding to the scholarly discussion so far also new sources that he has discovered, in order to investigate the development of the main narratives of the biographical tradition from their emergence until their incorporation into the *Life*. Kabbadas demonstrates that the *Life* is a compilation from various well-known but also less known sources. He also stresses that there is little reliable information to be found in the Syriac *Life* regarding Ephraem's actual biography.

After a careful analysis of the Greek and Syriac source material that relates Ephraem's *Life*, Kabbadas concludes that the Syriac *Life* reflects developments in Syriac Christianity in the fifth and sixth centuries that aimed at its 'Hellenisation'. More specifically, the Syriac *Life* was adapted to the changing procedures in monasticism that were taking place during that time in Syria and presents us, therefore, with an anachronistic image of Ephraem. Kabbadas closes his discussion of the *Life* with a translation of a summary by Sebastian Brock of the secure information that we have on the person and life of Ephraem the Syrian.

The excellent translation of the text that follows is accompanied with extensive, very informative and accurate notes. The volume contains also extracts from important source literature for the *Life* in Greek, such as the relevant chapters from the *Lausiac History* by Palladius, the *Church History* by Sozomenus, the *Church History* by Theodoret of Cyrrihus, the *Apophthegmata Patrum, On the Life and Miracles of St. Basil* by Ps.-Amphilochius of Iconium, and the *Church History* by Socrates. A full primary and secondary bibliography conclude this short volume.

This careful, painstaking publication presents a significant contribution to the dissemination and promotion of the study of Syriac literature also in smaller languages and countries of the world.

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