Sunday, June 21

RECEPTION AND REGISTRATION (PRYZBYLA GREAT ROOM C)
4:00-6:00

RAMSHĀ (VESPERS) (DOMINICAN HOUSE)
5:30-6:00
   A group will depart from the Pryzbyla Center at 5:15

DINNER (PRYZBYLA GREAT ROOM B)
6:00-7:30

OPENING PROGRAM (PRYZBYLA GREAT ROOM A)
7:30-8:00

PLENARY LECTURE (PRYZBYLA GREAT ROOM A)
   Chair: Edward Cook, The Catholic University of America
   8:00-9:00   Bas ter Haar Romeny, VU University Amsterdam
   How Greek was Syriac Christianity?
Monday, June 22

COFFEE AND TEA (PRYZBYLA GREAT ROOM C)
8:30-9:00

1-A: NARS AI, JAC OB, AND THE SCHOOL OF NISIBIS (PRYZBYLA 321)

Chair: Philip Michael Forness, Princeton Theological Seminary

9:00-9:30 Ute Possekel, Harvard Divinity School
‘The Mother of Sciences’: Some Reflections on the
School of Nisibis

9:30-10:00 Erin Walsh, Duke University
Comparing Narsai and Jacob of Serug on the
Canaanite Woman: Ephrem’s Influence between East
and West

10:00-10:30 Susan Harvey, Brown University
‘With a Loud Voice’: Women’s Piety and Women’s
Places in Jacob of Sarug

1-B: SYRIAC, THE QUR’ĀN, AND ISLAM (PRYZBYLA 323)

Chair: Ryann Craig, The Catholic University of America

9:00-9:30 Andrew Hayes, University of St. Thomas
Traces of the Qur’ān’s conversation with Philoxenian
Christological Arguments

9:30-10:00 Rami Tanous, University of Toronto
The Recasting of Mary’s Encounter with Gabriel:
Parallels between Ephrem’s Hymns on the Nativity
and Sūrat Maryam

10:00-10:30 Sandra Keating, Providence College
A Brief Examination of the Biblical Sources for the
Apology of al-Kindī
1-C: SYRIAC THEOLOGY IN THE 7TH AND 8TH CENT. (PRYZBYLA 327)

Chair: Rifaat Ebied, The University of Sydney

9:00-9:30  Mary Hansbury, Philadelphia, PA
           The Concept of Faith in Isaac the Syrian in the
           Context of Early Syriac Theology

9:30-10:00 Jason Scully, Seton Hall University
            The Itinerant Mind in Dadisho of Qatar’s
            Commentary on Abba Isaiah

10:00-10:30 Zack Ugolnik, Columbia University
            Seeing to be Seen: Mirrors and Angels in John of
            Dalyatha

COFFEE AND TEA (PRYZBYLA GREAT ROOM C)

10:30-11:00

PLENARY LECTURE (PRYZBYLA GREAT ROOM A)

Chair: Lev Weitz, The Catholic University of America

11:00-12:00 Dorothea Weltecke, University of Konstanz
            On sources for the social and cultural history of
            Christians during the Syriac Renaissance

LUNCH BREAK

12:00-1:30  Local restaurants or Pryzbyla Center
## 2-A: Jacob of Serugh on Asceticism (Pryzbyla 321)

**Chair:** Susan Ashbrook Harvey, Brown University

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1:30-2:00</td>
<td>Colby A. Scott, The Catholic University of America</td>
<td>Mar Jacob of Serugh on the Evil One in the Life of the Monks: The Ephremic Influence on the Second Metrical Homily ‘On the Singles’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00-2:30</td>
<td>Dina Boero, University of Southern California</td>
<td>Jacob of Serugh’s ‘Homily on Symeon’s Beauties’: Stylitism as Monastic Practice</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:30-3:00</td>
<td>Philip Michael Forness, Princeton Theological Seminary</td>
<td>Asceticism and Christology: Paired Themes in the Letters of Jacob of Serugh</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:00-3:30</td>
<td>Daniel Caner, University of Connecticut</td>
<td>Response</td>
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## 2-B: Liturgy (Pryzbyla 323)

**Chair:** George Kiraz, Beth Mardutho: The Syriac Institute

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1:30-2:00</td>
<td>Mark Roosien, University of Notre Dame</td>
<td>Mystagogical Synthesis and Pastoral Concerns in the Liturgical Commentary of George, Bishop of the Arab Tribes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00-2:30</td>
<td>Jacob Thekeparambil, SEERI, Kottayam, Kerala</td>
<td>The Parable of the Good Samaritan in Syriac Liturgical Traditions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:30-3:00</td>
<td>Roby Alencherry, Good Shepherd Major Seminary</td>
<td>The Liturgy of Ramsa (Evening Service) according to the Commentary of Gabriel Qatraya (VII Century)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00-3:30</td>
<td>J. F. Coakley, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London</td>
<td>An early Ḫudra from Turfan</td>
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An early Ḫudra from Turfan
2-C: SYRIAC LANGUAGE (Pryzbyla 327)

Chair: Andrew Gross, The Catholic University of America

1:30-2:00  Adam McCollum, Hill Museum & Manuscript Library
A Survey of Syriac-New Persian Textual Contacts

2:00-2:30  Paul Davis, The Catholic University of America
The Script of Christian Palestinian Aramaic and its Relationship to Syriac Estrangelo

2:30-3:00  Vince Skemp, St. Catherine University
Jerome’s dependence on specific Aramaic and Syriac dialects

3:00-3:30  Marika Chachibaia, Tbilisi State University
The Syriac Loans in the Oldest Georgian Editions of the Quadripartite

COFFEE AND TEA (Pryzbyla Great Room C)
3:30-4:00

3-A: GRAECO-SYRIACA (Pryzbyla 321)

Chair: William Klingshirn, The Catholic University of America

4:00-4:30  Yuliya Minets, The Catholic University of America
The Interactions in Foreign Languages in the Syriac Literature of the 4th-7th Centuries

4:30-5:00  Yury Arzhanov, Ruhr University, Bochum
Syriac Reception of Plato’s Republic

5:00-5:30  Joel Kalvesmaki, Dumbarton Oaks
The Syriac Versions of Evagrius’s Praktikos and New Digital Approaches to Studying Translations
### 3-B: Syriac Theology in the 5th Cent. (Pryzbyla 323)

**Chair:** Kristian Heal, Brigham Young University

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4:00-4:30</td>
<td>Robert Kitchen, Knox-Metropolitan United Church</td>
<td>A Cloud of Witnesses and a Parrot: A New Entry into Isaac of Antioch’s Mēmrā on the Parrot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:30-5:00</td>
<td>Rodrigue Constantin, The Catholic University of America</td>
<td>Isaac of Antioch on Fasting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:00-5:30</td>
<td>David Kiger, Marquette University</td>
<td>The Invisible Silence of God’s Wisdom: The Cosmological Foundations of John the Solitary</td>
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### 3-C: The Syriac Renaissance and Beyond (Pryzbyla 327)

**Chair:** Adam McCollum, Hill Museum & Manuscript Library

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4:00-4:30</td>
<td>Tala Jarjour, University of Notre Dame</td>
<td>The Musical Aesthetics of Religiosity: Barhebraeus’s Ethicon and Timeless Spiritual Etiquette</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:30-5:00</td>
<td>Alessandro Mengozzi, Università degli Studi di Torino</td>
<td>Turgame from the Book of Khamis bar Qardahe (late 13th century)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:00-5:30</td>
<td>Jan van Ginkel, VU University Amsterdam</td>
<td>Copying the Alexander Romance. Formulaic and non-Formulaic Elements in East Syrian Colophons of the 18th and 19th Century</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Conference Picture (Behind the Pryzbyla)**

5:30-6:00

**Dinner (Pryzbyla Great Room B)**

6:00-7:30
TOOLS SESSION (PRYZBYLA GREAT ROOM A)
7:30-9:00
Chair: Scott Johnson, University of Oklahoma

David A. Michelson, Vanderbilt University
Jeanne-Nicole Saint-Laurent, Marquette University
Syriaca.org

Kristian Heal, Brigham Young University
BYU-Oxford Corpus Project

Maria Conterno, Ghent University
UGent Late Antique Historiography

Adam McCollum, Hill Museum & Manuscript Library
Hill Museum & Manuscript Library

George Kiraz, Beth Mardutho: The Syriac Institute
SEDRA
COFFEE AND TEA (PRYZBYLA GREAT ROOM C)
8:30-9:00

4-A: BIG QUESTIONS (PRYZBYLA 321)
Chair: Maria Doerfler, Duke Divinity School
9:00-9:30 Kristian Heal, Brigham Young University
          Syriac Studies—A Lamentable Misnomer?
9:30-10:00 Grigory Kessel, Philipps Universität, Marburg
          Cataloguing of Syriac manuscripts in the United
          States: status quaestionis
10:00-10:30 Scott Johnson, University of Oklahoma
          Where is Syriac Pilgrimage Literature in Late
          Antiquity? Explaining the Absence of a Genre

4-B: EPHREM’S LENTEN AND PASchal HYMNS (PRYZBYLA 323)
Chair: Robin Darling Young, The Catholic University of America
9:00-9:30 Andrew Litke, The Catholic University of America
          The Violence of Fresh Blossoms: Breaking and
          Splitting in Ephrem’s Third Hymn on the
          Resurrection
9:30-10:00 Joshua Falconer, The Catholic University of America
          Poetics of Desire in Ephrem’s Madrāšē on Fasting
10:00-10:30 Blake Hartung, Saint Louis University
          The Significance of Astronomical and Calendrical
          Theories for Ephrem’s Interpretation of the Three
          Days of Jesus’ Death
4-C: HISTORIOGRAPHY UNDER ISLAM (PRYZBYLA 327)
Chair: Thomas A. Carlson, Oklahoma State University

9:00-9:30  Ashoor Yousif, University of Toronto
The History of Early Abbasid Caliphs (786-842 CE)
in Syriac Sources

9:30-10:00  Kyle Longworth, The University of Chicago
The First Fitna in the ninth-century Syriac Chronicle
of Dionysius of Telmahre

10:00-10:30  Maria Conterno, Ghent University
Christian Arabic historiography at the crossroads
between the Byzantine, the Syriac and the Islamic
traditions

COFFEE AND TEA (PRYZBYLA GREAT ROOM C)
10:30-11:00

PLENARY LECTURE (PRYZBYLA GREAT ROOM A)
Chair: Kyle Smith, University of Toronto

11:00-12:00  Adam Becker, New York University
The Invention of the Persian Martyr Acts

LUNCH BREAK
12:00-1:30  Local restaurants or Pryzbyla Center
5-A: TRACING INFLUENCES (Pryzbyla 321)

Chair: Simcha Gross, Yale University

1:30-2:00  Kathleen McVey, Princeton Theological Seminary
           Mara bar Serapion’s Letter to his Son and Dio
           Chrysostom’s Oration 13 ‘On Exile’

2:00-2:30  Emanuel Fiano, Duke University
           The Theological Legacy of Eustathius of Antioch: A
           Case Study in Late Ancient Syrian Christian
           Intellectual Traditions

2:30-3:00  Maria Doerfler, Duke Divinity School
           Bishop and Martyr: The curious afterlife of Ambrose
           of Milan in Syriac legal literature

3:00-3:30  Rifaat Ebied, The University of Sydney
           Quotations from the Works of St. Cyril of Alexandria
           in Peter of Callinicus’s magnum opus, ‘Contra
           Damianum’

5-B: THE SYRIAC BIBLE AND ITS EXEGESIS (Pryzbyla 323)

Chair: Stephen D. Ryan, Dominican House of Studies

1:30-2:00  George Kiraz, Beth Mardutho: The Syriac Institute
           The Antioch Bible Project: Status Report

2:00-2:30  Craig Morrison, Pontifical Biblical Institute
           Did the Dying Jacob in Gen 49:33 Gather His Feet
           into His Bed (MT) or Stretch Them Out (Peshitta)?
           An Insight into the Peshitta as a Translation

2:30-3:00  Yakir Paz, Hebrew University of Jerusalem
           Re-Dividing the World: Deut. 32:8 and the Apostolic
           Lottery in the Apocryphal Acts

3:00-3:30  Lucas Van Rompay, Duke University
           Lazarus of Beth Qandasa’s Commentary on the
           Gospel of John (9th cent.) and the reception of early
           Syriac tradition
5-C: HAGIOGRAPHY (PRYZBYLA 327)
Chair: Jeanne-Nicole Saint-Laurent, Marquette University

1:30-2:00 Sharbel Iskandar Bcheiry, Lutheran School of Theology
The unpublished Discourse on the life of Severus of Antioch, Composed by the Syriac Orthodox Patriarch, Kyriakos of Takrit (793-817)

2:00-2:30 Todd Godwin, The Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies
The Syriac and Arabic Translations of the Vita Mar Abae and the Conversion of the Hepthalite Huns to East Syrian Christianity in 549

2:30-3:00 Reyhan Durmaz, Brown University
Saints, stories and sanctity between Christianity and Islam: Conversion of Najrān to Christianity in the Sīra of Muḥammad

3:00-3:30 Abdo Badwi, Université Saint Esprit of Kaslik, Lebanon
The Iconographic Hagiography of the Syriac Maronite Church

COFFEE AND TEA (PRYZBYLA GREAT ROOM C)
3:30-4:00

6-A: SASANIAN PERSIA (PRYZBYLA 321)
Chair: Lucas Van Rompay, Duke University

4:00-4:30 Simcha Gross, Yale University
The Sources of the History of ʿAbdā damšiḥā, and the Creation of the Persian Martyr Acts

4:30-5:00 Tom Schmidt, Yale University
Shapur II and the Persecution of Christians: Evidence from non-Christian Sources

5:00-5:30 Kyle Smith, University of Toronto
Was There ‘Religion’ in Sasanian Persia?
6-B: SYRIAC PEDAGOGY WORKSHOP (PRYZBYLA 323)

4:00-5:30

Chair: Ute Possekel, Harvard Divinity School

J. F. Coakley, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London
Some reflections on the Centenary of Robinson’s *Paradigms and Exercises*

Kristian Heal, Brigham Young University
Teaching Syriac in One Semester

Ute Possekel, Harvard Divinity School
Learning Language in Context: Integrating the Study of Syriac with History

Monica Blanchard, The Catholic University of America
Teaching Syriac in the Context of Christian Near Eastern Studies

George Kiraz, Beth Mardutho: The Syriac Institute
Teaching Syriac in Three Weeks: Navigating between a Traditional Approach and Immersion

6-C: ENCOUNTERING ISLAM (PRYZBYLA 327)

Chair: Wilhelmus Valkenberg, The Catholic University of America

4:00-4:30 Lev Weitz, The Catholic University of America
Shaping Christian Law in Abbasid Iraq

4:30-5:00 Coleman Connelly, Harvard University
Translation as Tampering: Accusations of Tahrif Against Christian Graeco-Arabic Translators

5:00-5:30 Michael Lessman, The Catholic University of America
The Treatise on Unity of Yahya ibn ‘Adi: Syrian Christian influences on Arabic philosophy
BETH MARDUTHO RECEPTION (PRYZBYLA GREAT ROOM C)
5:30-6:00

DINNER (PRYZBYLA GREAT ROOM B)
6:00-7:30

FORUM ON CREATING A SYRIAC CULTURAL ARCHIVE
(PRZYBYLA GREAT ROOM A)
7:30-9:00
   Organized by Robin Darling Young, The Catholic University of America
   see separate handout
Wednesday, June 24

COFFEE AND TEA (PRYZBYLA GREAT ROOM C)
8:30-9:00

7-A: SYRIAC STUDIES AND DIGITAL RESEARCH (PRYZBYLA 321)

Chair: Joel Kalvesmaki, Dumbarton Oaks

9:00-9:30 Thomas A. Carlson, Oklahoma State University
Syriac in the Polyglot Medieval Middle East: Digital Tools and the Dissemination of Scholarship Across Linguistic Boundaries

9:30-10:00 David A. Michelson, Vanderbilt University
‘To All Scribes Who May in the Future Encounter this Book...’ Digital Strategies for a Distant Reading of Syriac Literature

10:00-10:30 Jeanne-Nicole Saint-Laurent, Marquette University
In Search of the Children of Awgin: Using Syriaca.org to Map the Relationships of Saints and Their Cults in Syriac Christianity

7-B: CONFRONTING ISLAM (PRYZBYLA 323)

Chair: Alessandro Mengozzi, Università degli Studi di Torino

9:00-9:30 James Prather, Abilene Christian University
The Emergence of the Eastern Christian Apocalyptic Genre: Theologies of Resistance in the Apocalypse of Pseudo Methodius

9:30-10:00 Ryann Craig, The Catholic University of America
Jacob of Edessa’s Response to Islam: The Eucharist and Confessional Identity

10:00-10:30 Abdul Massih Saadi, Baylor University
A 9th-century Syriac Exegete and Apologist: Moshe Bar Kepha’s Commentary on Luke
7-C: APHRAHAT AND EPHREM (PRYZBYLA 327)

Chair: Kathleen McVey, Princeton Theological Seminary

9:00-9:30  James Walters, Princeton Theological Seminary
Re-Considering the Compositional Unity of Aphrahat’s Demonstrations

9:30-10:00  Mark Mourachian, St. Charles Borromeo Seminary
Human Freedom in Ephrem’s Outsider Polemics: The Self-Evidential Character of Freewill and an Ontology of Evil in the Broader Context of Ephrem’s Theology

10:00-10:30  Robert Morehouse, Saint Leo University
A Devil in Snake’s Clothing: Satan Hidden in Plain Sight in Ephraem of Nisibis

COFFEE AND TEA (PRYZBYLA GREAT ROOM C)
10:30-11:00

PLENARY LECTURE (PRYZBYLA GREAT ROOM A)

Chair: Robin Darling Young, The Catholic University of America

11:00-12:00  Joseph Amar, University of Notre Dame
Making Ephrem One of Us

BUSINESS MEETING (PRYZBYLA GREAT ROOM A)
12:00-12:30
LOCAL STEERING COMMITTEE:
Aaron M. Butts, The Catholic University of America (Organizer)
Robin Darling Young, The Catholic University of America (Chair)
Monica J. Blanchard, The Catholic University of America
Scott Fitzgerald Johnson, Dumbarton Oaks
Joel Kalvesmaki, Dumbarton Oaks
Stephen D. Ryan, Dominican House of Studies
Shawqi Talia, The Catholic University of America
Janet A. Timbie, The Catholic University of America
Lev Weitz, The Catholic University of America

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Robin Darling Young, The Catholic University of America

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