Studies in Late Antiquity and Early Islam

Averil Cameron and Lawrence I. Conrad (eds.)

THE BYZANTINE AND EARLY ISLAMIC NEAR EAST

VOLUME 1: PROBLEMS IN THE LITERARY SOURCE MATERIAL

This volume focuses on two researches face when using (Byzantine) Greek, Syriac and Arabic sources together for the reconstruction of Near Eastern history from 400 c. 800.

Contributions to the volume set the stage for a critical re-reading of revisionist interpretations of sources collected in the various cultural and literary traditions. The volume thus brings together neighbouring disciplines in ways that shed new light on this vital important time in history.

1. Michael Whitby, Greek Historical Writing after Procopius: Variety and Vitality
2. Averil Cameron, New Themes and Styles in Greek Literature: Seventh-Eight Centuries
4. G. J. Reinkin, Methodology: A Concept of History in Response to the Rise of Islam
6. Wadad Al-Qāḍī, Early Islamic State Letters: The Question of Authenticity
7. Stefan Leider, The Literary Use of the Khabar: A Basic Form of Historical Writing

“... the need for such a project as this has been felt by students ... concerned with the birth of the new faith and the evolution of Islamic society.”
(C. Edmund Bosworth)

- Averil Cameron and Lawrence I. Conrad (eds.)

THE BYZANTINE AND EARLY ISLAMIC NEAR EAST

VOLUME 2: LAND USE AND SETTLEMENT PATTERNS

This volume revisits archaeological evidence from Syria, Palestine, the Arabian Peninsula, Iraq and Egypt describing a variety of land-use patterns and the development of a particular type of settlement across the Near East.

2. H dive Innes Macadam, Settlement Patterns in Northern and Central Transjordania, c. 550 – c. 750
3. Yoram Tsafrir and Gideon Foerster, From Scythopolis to Baydha - Changing Concepts of Urbanism
6. Donald Whitcomb, The Mosaic of Ayla Settlement at al-'Aqaba in the Early Islamic Period
7. George T. Scanlon, Al-Fustat: The Riddle of the Earliest Settlement
8. G. R. D. King, Settlement in Western and Central Arabia and the Gulf in the Sixth-Eighth Centuries AD
9. Mikhail B. Piotrovsky, Late Ancient and Early Medieval Yemen: Settlement Traditions and Innovations
10. Michael G. Morony, Land Use and Settlement Patterns in Late Sasanian and Early Islamic Iraq
11. Alastair Northedge, Archaeology and Urban Settlement in Early Islamic Syria and Iraq

“This volume presents a much needed addition to the history of the transit from Byzantine to Islamic administration and a welcome survey of recent archaeology of an understudied period.”
(Glady Frantz-Murphy)

- Averil Cameron (ed.)

THE BYZANTINE AND EARLY ISLAMIC NEAR EAST

VOLUME 3: STATES, RESOURCES AND ARMIES

A comparative analysis of Byzantine, Sasanian and Muslim armies and their impact on state resources. Contributions discuss the organization and financing of the army in the late Roman state, the transformations and continuities of the late Sasanid state and with authority and armies in the early Muslim state. Thus, the volume brings together perspectives from neighbouring fields, presents military issues in an intercultural manner and assembles pieces of knowledge in a comprehensive manner.

1. Jean-Michel Carrié, L’Etat à la recherche de nouveaux modes de financement des armées (Rome et Byzance, Ve-Xe siècles)
2. Michael Whitby, Recruitment in Roman Armies from Justinian to Heraclius (c. 565-615)
5. Zeey Rubin, The Reforms of Khurasan and Transoxiana
6. Elsa Landau-Tasserot, Features of the Pre-Conquest Muslim Armies in the Time of Muhammad
7. Fred McGraw Dominer, Central Authority and Military Autonomy in the Early Islamic Conquests
10. Ralph-Johannes Lilie, Zum Einfluß der arabischen Expansion auf die byzantinische Militärorganisation

“... the articles collected in this volume ... are exception of a very high calibre and make a very useful contribution to our understanding of the elites of this fascinating epoch.”
(Robert Hoyland)
Averil Cameron, Lawrence I. Conrad, John Haldon, Geoffrey King (eds.)

**THE BYZANTINE AND EARLY ISLAMIC NEAR EAST**
- **4 VOLUMES SET** -

**Volume 1: Problems in the Literary Source Material**
focuses on the problems researchers face when using (Byzantine) Greek, Syriac and Arabic sources together for the reconstruction of Near Eastern history from 400-ca. 800.

**Volume 2: Land Use and Settlement Patterns**
revisits archaeological evidence from Syria, Palestine, the Arabian Peninsula, Iraq and Egypt describing a variety of land-use patterns and the development of a particular type of settlement across the Near East.

**Volume 3: States, Resources and Armies**
focuses on a comparative analysis of Byzantine, Sasanian and Muslim armies and their impact on state resources.

**Volume 4: Elites Old and New**

presents a collection of critical analyses of the structure, historical development, and composition of the elite strata of late Roman, Byzantine, and early Islamic societies in the eastern Mediterranean basin.

"Taken together, these studies offer clear guidance to novices and invaluable points of reference for all students of the Byzantine and Islamic worlds in this period." (Jonathan Shepard)

---

**Robert Schick**

**THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES OF PALESTINE FROM BYZANTINE TO ISLAMIC RULE**

AN HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL STUDY

An assessment of the nature and social continuity of Christian communities in Palestine from 602-813. By synthesizing literary and archeological evidence, it provides a detailed discussion of disparate historical and archeological data.

In the first part of the book, the Sasanian, Byzantine and early Muslim invasions of southern Syria and the changing of government policies towards Christians are discussed. Topical studies of church use, conversion and iconoclasm, are also included.

The second part offers a useful alphabetical list of more than 500 sites that document Christian and Muslim presence and settlement in the area.

"The book does a great service to those interested in the area and its Christian population..." (John Haldon)

---

**Albrecht Noth with Lawrence I. Conrad**

**THE EARLY ARABIC HISTORICAL TRADITION**

A SOURCE-CRITICAL STUDY

TRANSLATED FROM THE GERMAN BY MICHAEL BONNER

Translation of Albrecht Noth's Quellenkritische Studien (1973), co-authored by Lawrence I. Conrad. It presents criteria to evaluate the character and content of the early Islamic historical tradition, i.e. historiographical works in Arabic written in the 9th and 10th centuries.

"Apart from describing salient primary and secondary themes covered in these works, the author analyzes literary forms in which this tradition is usually embodied. An investigation of topoi forming the repertoire of early historians is presented next, followed by an analysis of narrative structures characteristic of early Arabic historical writing."

"The general understanding underlying this assessment is that Arabic historiographical tradition does contain retrievable historical facts, but that in order to identify and make effective use of these the researcher must take account of how they have been enmeshed with topoi and other literary features."

"...this book remains one of the most significant contributions to early Islamic history" (Muhammad Zaman)

---

**Martin Hinds; ed. by Jere Bacharach, Lawrence I. Conrad, and Patricia Crone**

**STUDIES IN EARLY ISLAMIC HISTORY**

WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY G. R. HAWTING

Collection of all of Martin Hinds' (1941-1988) full-length articles which appeared in journals as well as one of his articles for the Encyclopaedia of Islam, 2nd Edition. An investigation of topoi forming the repertoire of early historians is presented next, followed by an analysis of narrative structures characteristic of early Arabic historical writing. Apart from describing salient primary and secondary themes covered in these works, the author analyzes literary forms in which this tradition is usually embodied. An investigation of topoi forming the repertoire of early historians is presented next, followed by an analysis of narrative structures characteristic of early Arabic historical writing. The general understanding underlying this assessment is that Arabic historiographical tradition does contain retrievable historical facts, but that in order to identify and make effective use of these the researcher must take account of how they have been enmeshed with topoi and other literary features.

"Hinds' articles are essential reading for any specialist in early Islamic history." (Michael Bates)
Elizabeth Savage

**A GATEWAY TO HELL, A GATEWAY TO PARADISE. THE NORTH AFRICAN RESPONSE TO THE ARAB CONQUEST**

This book is a study of the early history of the Ibadyya in North Africa, a "moderate" movement among the Kharijis which from its base in Baza gradually spread among the Berbers of the Magrib in the 750s. The Berbers found in this new religious allegiance an attractive ideology with which to rebel against the central caliphate. An Ibadite imamate, headed by the Rustamid dynasty, was founded in Tahart in 160 or 162/777 or 779 and lasted until 296/909, when it fell to the Fatimids.

The book is divided into seven chapters, an introduction and an conclusion. After a brief introduction to the Ibadyya and a survey of the Ibadite sources, the successive chapters examine the nature and ideological underpinnings of the Ibadite imamate and its consolidation in North Africa, the economic bases of the Ibadite policy, some evidence of Christian support for (even influence on) the Ibadyya, the tribal alliances of the Ibadis, and finally, the course of Ibadism after the fall of the Rustamids in 296/909.

Suliman Bashhear

**ARABS AND OTHERS IN EARLY ISLAM**

This work investigates available early Arabic hadith and exegetical literature in order to determine the great complexity of how Arabs, Muslims and Arab-Muslims viewed themselves and members of other communities. In particular, it focuses on the relation between definitions of "Arabness" and "otherness" with Islamic ascriptions of believers and nonbelievers and endeavors to trace the changing of these views over time. Moreover, this is an in-depth analysis of a series of hadiths and isnāds that discusses when, where, why, and by whom traditions were circulated during the 8th and 9th centuries.

I. Bedouins and Non-Arabs
II. The Impact of the Arab Polity in Retrospect
III. The Great Fusion
IV. Ambivalent Attitudes
V. Apocalyptic Insecurities
VI. Summary Discussion and Concluding Notes

Milka Levy-Rubin (ed.)

**THE CONTINUATIO OF THE SAMARITAN CHRONICLE OF ABU L-FATH AL-SAMIRI AL-DANAFI**

The Continuatio is a continuity of the previously unedited Samaritan sequel to the Kitāb al-Tāriḵīth by Abū l-Fath Ibn Abī l-Hasan al-Sāmirī al-Danafī (d. ca. 1355). The edition of this chronicle photographically reproduces Paris BN Ms. Samaritain 10 (pp. 203–264), which is written in Middle Arabic, seems easily readable but poses a plethora of editorial problems.

The editor entitled the work a Continuatio, and translated it into English with full editorial and explanatory annotation. The work describes the local history of the Samaritan people in Palestine up to the 10th century and contains valuable information about major political events presented, according to caliphates up to al-Rāḍī (d. 934).

"Il appert que la Continuatio est une important source historique." (Claude Giliot)

Josef Horovitz, edited by Lawrence I. Conrad

**THE Earliest Biographies of the Prophet and Their Authors**

Josef Horovitz (1874-1931) wrote this classic monograph a century ago in two parts in German. The editor added footnotes, corrections and the preface, and it is now a book in its own right.

The translation was prepared by Maraduke Fidkhal (d. 1936), Lawrence I. Conrad, who re-edited the articles also presents a slightly corrected textual version, expanding and updating the notes and bibliography and adding a new introduction dealing with Horovitz's and other orientalists' work on early Islam in the early 20th century.

Horovitz deals with thirteen early scholars who transmitted traditions or compiled sīra or maghāzī works, such as “Uwaiy b. al-Zubayr (d. ca. 715), Ibn Idrīs (d. 767) and al-Maḥāfīdī (d. 823).

1. Maghāzī Authorities among the Tabīʿīn
2. The Early Medinan
3. The Students of al-Zuhn
4. Maghāzī under the Early ‘Abdallāhids

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Fred M. Donner

NARRATIVES OF ISLAMIC ORIGINS
THE BEGINNINGS OF ISLAMIC HISTORICAL WRITING

How and why did Muslims first come to write their own history? The author argues in this work that the Islamic historical tradition arose not out of idle curiosity, or through imitation of antique models, but as a response to a variety of challenges facing the Islamic community during its first several centuries. In the first part, the author presents an overview of four approaches that have characterized scholarship on the literary sources, including the source-critical and the skeptical approaches, then it discusses historiographical problems raised by the Qur’an and hadith. In the second part, the work analyzes major themes in historical narratives and presents formal and structural characteristics of early Islamic historiography. The monograph concludes with the proposition of a four-stage chronology regarding the evolution of historical writing in Arabic.

“... this book ... deserves to become the first that teachers introduce to students.” (Richard Bullet)

James E. Lindsay (ed.)

IBN ʿÂSÂKIR AND EARLY ISLAMIC HISTORY

Ibn ʿAdīk’s massive Taʾrīkh madīnat Dimashq (TMD) is a veritable gold mine of information for our understanding of the first five and one-half centuries of Islamic history. This book offers important insights on the mechanics of Arabic historiography, in particular on biographical sources from the Middle period. Moreover, two contributions show that Ibn ʿAdīk pursued a political and sectarian agenda within his TMD:

1. James E. Lindsay, Ibn ʿAdīk: His Taʾrīkh madīnat Dimashq and its Usefulness for Understanding Early Islamic History
2. Suleiman A. Mourad, Jesus According to Ibn ʿAdīk
3. Fred M. Donner, ʿUtḥmith and the Rāshidīn Caliphs in Ibn ʿAdīk’s Taʾrīkh madīnat Dimashq: A Study in Strategies of Compilation
4. Marianne Engle Cameron, Sayf at First: the Transmission of Sayf ibn ʿUmar in al-Ṭabarī and Ibn ʿAdīk
5. Steven C. Judd, Ibn ʿAdīk’s Sources for the Late Umayyad Period
6. Paul M. Cobb, Community versus Contention: Ibn ʿAdīk and ʿAbbābid Syria

Appendices: Publication History of TMD; Studies Addressing TMD; Major Lacunae in TMD; Pre-Islamic Sacred Biographies in Jews and Christians—in the aftermath of the seventh-century Arab conquests. It focuses principally on how the Christian majority were affected by and adapted to their loss of political power in such arenas as language use, identity construction, church building, pilgrimage, and the role of women. Attention is also paid to how the Muslim community defined itself, to tenth centuries by the establishment of the new Muslim political elite and the gradual emergence of an Islamic Empire.

“... a reference tool and a starting point for students in their study of early Islam” (Sajjad Razi)

David Cook

STUDIES IN MUSLIM APOCALYPTIC

A detailed study on the nature of Muslim apocalyptic material in Islam, both Sunnite and Shiʿite. Taking a transcultural perspective by also discussing Christian and Jewish apocalyptic traditions, it offers in eight studies and three appendices a typology of apocalypses and many new insights into the matter.

For instance, historical apocalypses as well as apocalyptic figures, like the Daʾīl, the ʿSūfarīn, and the Muḥāṣṣib are discussed. Moreover, apocalyptic hadīth literature, in particular ‘Aṣākira b. Ḥanāmīs’s (d. 844) Kitāb al-Fītan, and apocalyptic material in tafsīr works are presented. The author argues for a comprehensive understanding of this important feature of the Islamic religious tradition.

“... and a starting point for students in their study of early Islam” (Sajjad Razi)

Robert G. Hoyland (ed.)

THE LATE ANTIQUE WORLD OF EARLY ISLAM: MUSLIMS AMONG CHRISTIANS AND JEWS IN THE EAST MEDITERRANEAN

This book offers a number of innovative studies on the three main communities of the late antique Mediterranean—Muslims, Jews and Christians—in the aftermath of the seventh-century Arab conquests. It focuses principally on how the Christian majority were affected by and adapted to their loss of political power in such arenas as language use, identity construction, church building, pilgrimage, and the role of women. Attention is also paid to how the Muslim community defined itself, administered justice, and regulated relations with non-Muslims. This book will be important for anyone interested in the ways in which the cultures and traditions of the late antique Mediterranean world were transformed in the course of the seventh to tenth centuries by the establishment of the new Muslim political elite and the gradual emergence of an Islamic Empire.
Jens Scheiner and Damien Janos (eds.)

THE PLACE TO GO: CONTEXTS OF LEARNING IN BAGHDAD, 750-1000 C.E.

This work focuses on the intellectual and educational history of Baghdad in the early ʿAbbāsid and Būyid periods (8th–10th centuries). It covers a wide range of disciplines taught in the metropolis before the institutionalization of the madrasa system.

Among these fields of knowledge are Arabic poetry and literature, the transmission of prophetic reports, Arabic historiography and astronomical-astrological teaching. Christian learning in the city is highlighted by two contributions, while two more papers focus on Jewish practices of knowledge production.

The volume seeks to promote a better understanding of Baghdad’s multi-cultural circles of learning, the transmission of knowledge, and common patterns of patronage during this period.


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