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Eine persische Evangelien-Handschrift und die Londoner Polyglotte

Dennis Halft OP

Die Londoner Polyglotte (1653–57) gilt als das ambitioniertere und zugleich letzte Unternehmen in der Frühmoderne zur Herstellung einer gedruckten Mehrsprachenbibel. Neben den Originalsprachen berücksichtigte ihr Herausgeber, der anglikanische Bischof Brian Walton (1600–61), auch Übersetzungen biblischer Schriften in Sprachen des Nahen und Mittleren Ostens. Die vier Evangelien nahm er in sechs Versionen auf, nämlich auf Griechisch, Lateinisch (Vulgata), Syrisch (Peshitta), Arabisch, sowie erstmals Äthiopisch und Persisch. Die nicht-lateinischen Fassungen wurden zusätzlich ins Lateinische übersetzt. In der Drucklegung sind alle Texte so angeordnet, dass der Leser auf einer Doppelseite unmittelbar zwischen den Versionen vergleichen kann (Brian Walton [Hrsg.], *Biblia sacra polyglotta complectentia textus originales, Hebraicum, cum Pentateucho Samaritano, Chaldaicum, Graecum versionumque antiquarum, Samaritanae, Graecae LXXII interp., Chaldaicae, Syriacae, Arabicae, Aethiopicae, Persicae, Vulg. Lat., quicquid comparari poterat*, 6 Bände, London 1653–57).

Vorlage für die persischen Evangelien war die, nach Ansicht Waltons, „älteste und beste“ Handschrift Pococke 241, die seit 1692 in der Bodleian Library in Oxford aufbewahrt wird (Walton 1653, Bd. 1, S. 102). Sie enthält eine Übersetzung aus dem Syrischen, die von dem Christen Yūḥannā ibn al-Qass Yūsuf Ya'qūbī angefertigt wurde. In der Einleitung, die einen kurzen Kommentar zu den Evangelien in zehn Kapiteln enthält, berichtet der Übersetzer, dass er diesen in Tiflis geschrieben habe, wo ihm weder syrische noch arabische Bücher zur Verfügung standen. Außerdem verweist er auf einen anderen kurzen Kommentar, den er zur Christologie verfasst habe. Sprache oder Titel des Werkes präzisiert er jedoch nicht.

Die Ursprünge der Handschrift Pococke 241 liegen auf der Halbinsel Krim. Dort wurde sie in Kaffa, dem antiken Theodosia (heute Feodosija), Mitte des Jahres 1341 von dem Schreiber Šimūn ibn Yūsuf ibn Ibrāhīm aus Tabriz fertiggestellt. Die Entstehung der in der Handschrift enthaltenen Übersetzung ist entsprechend früher anzusetzen. Die Abschrift der persischen Evangelien war eine Auftragsarbeit für einen Christen aus Tiflis namens Ḥvāḡa Amīr ibn Sahn ad-Daula ibn Širāna. Die Handschrift Pococke 241 zeigt die Mobilität und kulturelle Vernetzung persischsprachiger Christen in Iran, dem Kaukasus und der Schwarzmeerregion.

A Persian Gospel Manuscript and the London Polyglot

Dennis Halft OP

The London Polyglot (1653–57) is regarded as the most ambitious and at the same time, in the early modern period, the last endeavour to produce a printed multilingual Bible. Alongside the original languages, the editor, the Anglican bishop Brian Walton (1600–1661), also included translations of the scriptures into languages of the Near and Middle East. He included six versions of the four Gospels: Greek, Latin (Vulgate), Syriac (Peshitta), Arabic, and for the first time Ethiopic and Persian. The non-Latin versions were also additionally translated into Latin. In the printed layout, all the texts are arranged in such a way that the reader can immediately compare the versions on a double page (Brian Walton [ed.], *Biblia sacra polyglotta complectentia textus originales, Hebraicum, cum Pentateucho Samaritano, Chaldaicum, Graecum versionumque antiquarum, Samaritanae, Graecae LXXII interp., Chaldaicae, Syriacae, Arabicae, Aethiopicae, Persicae, Vulg. Lat., quicquid comparari poterat*, 6 vols., London 1653–57).

The Persian Gospels were based on what, in Walton's opinion, was the “oldest and best” manuscript, Pococke 241, which has been held by the Bodleian Library in Oxford since 1692 (Walton 1653, vol. 1, p. 102). It contains a translation from Syriac made by the Christian Yūḥannā ibn al-Qass Yūsuf Ya'qūbī. In the introduction, which contains a brief commentary on the Gospels in ten chapters, the translator reports that he had written this in Tbilisi, where he had neither Syriac nor Arabic books at his disposal. He also refers to another short commentary he had written on Christology, but does not mention its title or what language it was written in.

The origins of the manuscript Pococke 241 lie on the Crimean peninsula. It was produced in what was then Caffa (known in classical times as Theodosia, and now as Feodosia), in the middle of 1341 by the scribe Šimūn ibn Yūsuf ibn Ibrāhīm from Tabriz. The date of the translation contained in the manuscript must accordingly be earlier. The copy of the Persian Gospels was commissioned from a Christian from Tbilisi named Ḥvāḡa Amīr ibn Sahn ad-Daula ibn Širāna. Pococke 241 demonstrates the mobility and cultural networking of Persian-speaking Christians in Iran, the Caucasus and the whole Black Sea region.

NOVI TESTAMENTI.

Ex Editione ROBERTI STEPHANI, Textus Græcus.

Cum Versione INTERLINEARI, quam ad Græci Idiomatis rationem expendit Bened.

ARIAS MONTANUS Hispalensis.

ΤΟ ΚΑΤΑ ΜΑΤΘΑΙΟΝ ΑΓΙΟΝ ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΟΝ.

<p>LIBER generatio Iesu Christi, filii David, filii Abraham. Abraham genuit Isaac. Isaac genuit Jacob. Jacob genuit Judam & fratres eius. Judas genuit Phares, & Zarah de Thamar. Phares genuit Esau. Esau autem genuit Aram. Aram autem genuit Amnadaab. Amnadaab autem genuit Salmon. Salmon autem genuit Booz de Rachab. Booz autem genuit Obed de Ruth. Obed autem genuit David. David autem rex genuit Salomon ex Uria. Salomon autem genuit Roboam. Roboam autem genuit Abiam. Abias autem genuit Asa. Asa autem genuit Josaphat. Josaphat autem genuit Joram. Joram autem genuit Ozias. Ozias autem genuit Joatham. Joatham autem genuit Achaz. Achaz genuit Ezechias. Ezechias genuit Manasse. Manasse autem genuit Amon. Amon autem genuit Josiam. Josiam autem genuit Jechoniam & fratres eius. Jechoniam autem captivatus est in Babilonia. Post captivitatem in Babilonia genuit Salathiel. Salathiel autem genuit Zorobabel. Zorobabel autem genuit Abiud. Abiud autem genuit Eliachim. Eliachim autem genuit Azor. Azor autem genuit Sadoc. Sadoc autem genuit Achim. Achim autem genuit Eliud.</p>	<p>Joram autem genuit Ozias. Ozias autem genuit Joatham. Joatham autem genuit Achaz. Achaz autem genuit Ezechias. Ezechias autem genuit Manasse. Manasse autem genuit Amon. Amon autem genuit Josiam. Josiam autem genuit Jechoniam & fratres eius. Jechoniam autem captivatus est in Babilonia. Post captivitatem in Babilonia genuit Salathiel. Salathiel autem genuit Zorobabel. Zorobabel autem genuit Abiud. Abiud autem genuit Eliachim. Eliachim autem genuit Azor. Azor autem genuit Sadoc. Sadoc autem genuit Achim. Achim autem genuit Eliud.</p>
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Definitur in MS. A. 14. priora capita S. Matthæi, & initium cap. 25. usque ad illa verba vers. 6. Ἐξῆς δὲ οὐκ ἀποκρίθη αὐτῷ.

Verfio SYRIACA cum Interpretatione LATINA.

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CRETI POTENTIA DOMINI
 Desique nostri Iesu Christi, ascendimus
 scribere Librum sacrosancti Evangelii. Ad
 primò quidem Evangelium, Matthæi pro-
 nomium.
 Dominica ante Nativitatem, 1.

CAPITULUM PRIMUM.

1. Liber generationis Iesu Christi filii David, filii Abraham. Abraham genuit Isaac. Isaac genuit Jacob. Jacob genuit Judam & fratres eius. Judas genuit Phares, & Zarah de Thamar. Phares genuit Esau. Esau autem genuit Aram. Aram autem genuit Amnadaab. Amnadaab autem genuit Salmon. Salmon autem genuit Booz de Rachab. Booz autem genuit Obed de Ruth. Obed autem genuit David. David autem rex genuit Salomon ex Uria. Salomon autem genuit Roboam. Roboam autem genuit Abiam. Abias autem genuit Asa. Asa autem genuit Josaphat. Josaphat autem genuit Joram. Joram autem genuit Ozias. Ozias autem genuit Joatham. Joatham autem genuit Achaz. Achaz genuit Ezechias. Ezechias genuit Manasse. Manasse autem genuit Amon. Amon autem genuit Josiam. Josiam autem genuit Jechoniam & fratres eius. Jechoniam autem captivatus est in Babilonia. Post captivitatem in Babilonia genuit Salathiel. Salathiel autem genuit Zorobabel. Zorobabel autem genuit Abiud. Abiud autem genuit Eliachim. Eliachim autem genuit Azor. Azor autem genuit Sadoc. Sadoc autem genuit Achim. Achim autem genuit Eliud.

Liber generationis Iesu Christi filii David, filii Abraham. Abraham genuit Isaac. Isaac genuit Jacob. Jacob genuit Judam & fratres eius. Judas genuit Phares, & Zarah de Thamar. Phares genuit Esau. Esau autem genuit Aram. Aram autem genuit Amnadaab. Amnadaab autem genuit Salmon. Salmon autem genuit Booz de Rachab. Booz autem genuit Obed de Ruth. Obed autem genuit David. David autem rex genuit Salomon ex Uria. Salomon autem genuit Roboam. Roboam autem genuit Abiam. Abias autem genuit Asa. Asa autem genuit Josaphat. Josaphat autem genuit Joram. Joram autem genuit Ozias. Ozias autem genuit Joatham. Joatham autem genuit Achaz. Achaz genuit Ezechias. Ezechias genuit Manasse. Manasse autem genuit Amon. Amon autem genuit Josiam. Josiam autem genuit Jechoniam & fratres eius. Jechoniam autem captivatus est in Babilonia. Post captivitatem in Babilonia genuit Salathiel. Salathiel autem genuit Zorobabel. Zorobabel autem genuit Abiud. Abiud autem genuit Eliachim. Eliachim autem genuit Azor. Azor autem genuit Sadoc. Sadoc autem genuit Achim. Achim autem genuit Eliud.

Verfio ETHIOPICA cum Interpretatione LATINA.

1. Liber generationis Iesu Christi filii David, filii Abraham. Abraham genuit Isaac. Isaac genuit Jacob. Jacob genuit Judam & fratres eius. Judas genuit Phares, & Zarah de Thamar. Phares genuit Esau. Esau autem genuit Aram. Aram autem genuit Amnadaab. Amnadaab autem genuit Salmon. Salmon autem genuit Booz de Rachab. Booz autem genuit Obed de Ruth. Obed autem genuit David. David autem rex genuit Salomon ex Uria. Salomon autem genuit Roboam. Roboam autem genuit Abiam. Abias autem genuit Asa. Asa autem genuit Josaphat. Josaphat autem genuit Joram. Joram autem genuit Ozias. Ozias autem genuit Joatham. Joatham autem genuit Achaz. Achaz genuit Ezechias. Ezechias genuit Manasse. Manasse autem genuit Amon. Amon autem genuit Josiam. Josiam autem genuit Jechoniam & fratres eius. Jechoniam autem captivatus est in Babilonia. Post captivitatem in Babilonia genuit Salathiel. Salathiel autem genuit Zorobabel. Zorobabel autem genuit Abiud. Abiud autem genuit Eliachim. Eliachim autem genuit Azor. Azor autem genuit Sadoc. Sadoc autem genuit Achim. Achim autem genuit Eliud.

EVANGELIUM MATTHEI.

Desique nostri Iesu Christi, ascendimus
 scribere Librum sacrosancti Evangelii. Ad
 primò quidem Evangelium, Matthæi pro-
 nomium.
 Dominica ante Nativitatem, 1.

III. 1a:
 Londoner Polyglotte, Band 5: Beginn des Matthäus-Evan-
 geliums (Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin, Abteilung Historische
 Drucke. Signatur: gr.2" Bf 1845-5).

London Polyglot, vol. 5: Opening of Matthew's Gospel
 (Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin, Abteilung Historische Drucke,
 shelfmark: gr.2" Bf 1845-5).

CAP. I. SECUNDUM MATTHEUM 5

Versio VULGATA LATINA.

SANCTUM JESU CHRISTI
EVANGELIUM secundum MATTHEUM.

CAPUT I.

1. Liber generationis Jesu Christi filii David, filii Abraham. Abraham genuit Isaac. Isaac autem genuit Jacob. Jacob autem genuit Judam, & fratres ejus. Judas autem genuit Phares, & Zaram de Thamar. Phares autem genuit Efron. Efron autem genuit Aram. Aram autem genuit Aminadab. Aminadab autem genuit Naasson. Naasson autem genuit Salmon. Salmon autem genuit Booz de Rahab. Booz autem genuit Obed ex Ruth. Obed autem genuit Jesse. Jesse autem genuit David regem. David autem rex genuit Salomonem ex ea quae fuit Absalom. Salomon autem genuit Roboam. Roboam autem genuit Abiam. Abias autem genuit Asa. Asa autem genuit Josaphat. Josaphat autem genuit Joram. Joram autem genuit Oziam. Ozias autem genuit Joatham. Joatham autem genuit Achaz. Achaz autem genuit Ezechiam. Ezechias autem genuit Manasse. Manasses autem genuit Amen. Amen autem genuit Josiam. Josias autem genuit Jechoniam, & fratres ejus in transfugatione Babylonis. Et post transfugationem Babylonis: Jechonias genuit Salathiel. Salathiel autem genuit Zorobabel. Zorobabel autem genuit Abiud. Abiud autem genuit Eliacin. Eliacin autem genuit Azor. Azor autem genuit Sadoc. Sadoc autem genuit Achim. Achim autem genuit Eliud.

Versio ARABICA cum Interpretatione LATINA.

IN NOMINE DEI
PATRIS & FILII, & SPIRITUS
SANCTI. EVANGELIUM SANCTI
MATTHEI APOSTOLI, UNUS EX DUO-
DECIM APOSTOLIS: QUOD SCRIPSEIT
HEBRAICAE EX INSPIRATIONE SPIRITUS
SANCTI. BENEDECTIONES EPUS
CIRCUMDANS NOS, AMEN.

Liber generationis Jesu Christi filii David filii Abraham. Abraham genuit Isaac. Isaac autem genuit Jacob. Jacob autem genuit Judam & fratres ejus. Judas genuit Phares & Zaram de Thamar. Phares genuit Efron & Aram de Thamar. Aram genuit Aminadab. Aminadab genuit Naasson. Naasson genuit Salmon. Salmon genuit Booz de Rahab. Booz genuit Obed ex Ruth. Obed genuit Jesse. Jesse genuit David Regem. David genuit Salomonem ex uxore Thamar. Salomon genuit Roboam. Roboam genuit Abiam. Abia genuit Asa. Asa genuit Josaphat. Josaphat genuit Joram. Joram genuit Oziam. Ozias genuit Joatham. Joatham genuit Achaz. Achaz genuit Ezechiam. Ezechias genuit Manasse. Manasses genuit Amen. Amen genuit Josiam. Josias genuit Jechoniam. Jechonias genuit Salathiel. Salathiel genuit Zorobabel. Zorobabel genuit Abiud. Abiud genuit Eliacin. Eliacin genuit Azor. Azor genuit Sadoc. Sadoc genuit Achim. Achim genuit Eliud.

Versio PERSIACA cum Interpretatione LATINA.

EVANGELIUM
MATTHEI.

Quod in urbe Palaestina lingua Hebraica dictum est. Antiochia vero Syriace conscriptum.

CAPUT I.

1. Liber generationis Jesu Christi filii David & David autem filius erat David. Et Abraham genuit Isaac. Isaac autem genuit Jacob. Jacob autem genuit Judam & fratres suos. Judas genuit Phares & Zaram de Thamar. Phares genuit Efron & Aram de Thamar. Aram genuit Aminadab. Aminadab genuit Naasson. Naasson genuit Salmon. Salmon genuit Booz de Rahab. Booz genuit Obed ex Ruth. Obed genuit Jesse. Jesse genuit David regem. David genuit Salomonem ex uxore Thamar. Salomon genuit Roboam. Roboam genuit Abiam. Abiam genuit Asa. Asa genuit Josaphat. Josaphat genuit Joram. Joram genuit Oziam. Ozias genuit Joatham. Joatham genuit Achaz. Achaz genuit Ezechiam. Ezechias genuit Manasse. Manasses genuit Amen. Amen genuit Josiam. Josias genuit Jechoniam. Jechonias genuit Salathiel. Salathiel genuit Zorobabel. Zorobabel genuit Abiud. Abiud genuit Eliacin. Eliacin genuit Azor. Azor genuit Sadoc. Sadoc genuit Achim. Achim genuit Eliud.

Ill. 1b: Londoner Polyglotte, Band 5: Beginn des Matthäus-Evangeliums (Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin. Abteilung Historische Drucke. Signatur: gr.2° Bf 1845-5).

London Polyglot, vol. 5: Opening of Matthew's Gospel (Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin, Abteilung Historische Drucke, shelfmark: gr.2° Bf 1845-5).