Comparative Oriental Manuscript Studies
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Review and updating of the catalogue of the
Syriac manuscripts
of the Biblioteca Medicea Laurenziana of Florence

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Presentation of the project

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Project leader

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Presentation of the project

Aim

• Verify and update the data contained in S.E. Assemani’s catalogue of the BML Oriental collection (1742–43).

• New electronic catalogue that will be available on the website of the BML.
BML – Oriental collection

- About 540 mss. (Arabic, Syriac, Armenian, Coptic, Turkish, Persian, Hebrew)
- About 70 Syriac mss. (Syriac / garshuni).
- Levantine area, Iraqi area, Rome.
- Dating range: 9a1 Peshitta – 17th cent.
BML – Oriental collection

- *Stamperia Orientale Medicea*, founded in Rome in 1584 by Ferdinando dei Medici.
- Gathering mss. in Mediterranean and Middle East.
- Creating type-sets for oriental languages, in order to print a polyglotta.
Assemani’s Catalogue

- Content.
- Writing surface and material.
- Information on CONTENT, AUTHOR, OTHER SOURCES, HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL CONTEXT ETC.
- Scribe.
- Date and provenance/colophon.
Assemani’s Catalogue

Main problems

• Information is not complete (missing texts)
• (com)position of the codex has changed
• Information is not correct (dating, content, authorship)

The Appendix

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MANUSCRIPT</th>
<th>CAT. ENTRY</th>
<th>APPENDIX</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>oriental writing</td>
<td>Latin translation</td>
<td>original text</td>
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The text in the Appendix does not correspond to the ms., but is a retroversion from the Latin.
Prototype of a catalogue entry

- Title
- Content
- Preservation
- Writing surface
- Quires and numbering
- Dimensions of the page and of the written surface
- Binding
- Languages and scripts (incl. palaeographical information)
- Decorations
- Annotations
- Incipit and explicit of sections and text of the colophon
- Bibliography on the manuscript and on the text