New Books


DelCogliano, Mark (ed.), *Christ: Through the Nestorian Controversy* (The Cambridge Edition of Early Christian Writings, Volume 3), Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 2022, XLVII + 778 pp., ISBN 978-1-107-06213-9, £ 110 (hb). – ‘The Cambridge Edition of Early Christian Writings provides the definitive anthology of early Christian texts from ca. 100 CE to ca. 650 CE. Its volumes reflect the cultural, intellectual, and linguistic diversity of early Christianity, and are organized thematically on the topics of God, Practice, Christ, Community, Reading, and Creation. The series expands the pool of source material to include not only Greek and Latin writings, but also Syriac and Coptic texts. Additionally, the series rejects a theologically normative view by juxtaposing texts that were important in antiquity but later deemed ‘heretical’ with orthodox texts. The translations are accompanied by introductions, notes, suggestions for further reading, and scriptural indices. The third volume focuses on early Christian reflection on Christ as God incarnate from the first century to ca. 450 CE. It will be an invaluable resource for students and academic researchers in early Christian studies, history of Christianity, theology and religious studies, and late antique Roman history.’

Demulde, Bram & Peter Van Deun (eds.), *Questioning the World. Greek Patristic and Byzantine Question-and-Answer Literature*, Turnhout: Brepols 2021, 471 pp., ISBN 978-2-503-59149-0, € 110 (hb). – ‘... discusses cosmological issues in Greek Patristic and Byzantine question-and-answer literature. By adopting this focus, it yields novel insights into both the (theological/philosophical) content and the (literary) form of the texts under scrutiny. How did Greek Patristic and Byzantine authors understand the cosmos of which they were a part and the world in which they lived? And what literary forms did they use to express their questions and answers on these issues? (...) Several papers deal with the crucial corpora by Pseudo-Justin and Maximus the Confessor. Other authors under discussion include Philoponus, Pseudo-Caesarius,
Michael Psellus, Severian of Gabala, and Nilus Doxopatres. Attention also goes to the critical edition of question-and-answer literature, as well as to the Greek Patristic and Byzantine reception of cosmological questions and answers from Antiquity (i.e. Aristotle, Philo of Alexandria, Plutarch, and Iamblichus).


Friesen, Steven J., Michalis Lychounas & Daniel N. Schowalter (eds.), *Philippi, from Colonia Augusta to Communitas Christiana. Religion and Society in Transition* (Supplements to Novum Testamentum 186), Leiden-Boston: Brill 2022, XXIV + 488 pp., ISBN 978-90-04-46932-7, € 124/US$ 149 (hb). – ‘... provides a review of recent research in Philippi related to archaeology, demography, religion, the New Testament and early Christianity. Careful reading of texts, inscriptions, coins and other archaeological materials allow the reader to examine how religious practice in Philippi changed as the city moved from being a Hellenistic polis to a Roman colony to a center for Christian worship and pilgrimage. The essays raise questions about traditional understandings of material culture in Philippi, and come to conclusions that reflect more complicated and diverse views of the city and its inhabitants’. A magnificently produced book comprising 18 studies, with numerous figures and tables (most in full colour), extensive bibliographies, and a helpful index.

Minets, Yuliya, *The Slow Fall of Babel. Languages and Identities in Late Antique Christianity*, Cambridge-New York: Cambridge University Press 2022, xvi + 418 pp., ISBN 978-1-108-83346-2, £ 90 (hb). – ‘This is the story of the transformation of the ways in which the increasingly Christianized elites of the late antique Mediterranean experienced and conceptualized linguistic differences. The metaphor of Babel stands for the magnificent edifice of classical culture that was about to reach the sky, but remained self-sufficient and self-contained
in its virtual monolingualism – the paradigm within which even Latin was occasionally considered just a dialect of Greek. The gradual erosion of this vision is the slow fall of Babel that took place in the hearts and minds of a good number of early Christian writers and intellectuals who represented various languages and literary traditions.’

O’Brien, Jennifer R., Heralds of Hope. The Three Advent Hymns of the Roman Office (Studia Traditionis Theologiae 47), Turnhout: Brepols 2021, 243 pp., ISBN 978-2-503-59642-6, € 65 (pb). – ‘... provides an opportunity to gain fresh insights into the gradual development of the liturgical season of Advent and the particular characteristics assumed in its Roman form. The journey of the exquisite treasure of the Western Church that is the Latin hymn is explored before each of the three Advent hymns of the Roman Office is mined for its theology and rich scriptural associations. Its sometimes rocky journey through successive revisions of the Roman Office is considered through the lens of the three Advent hymns. Finally, a number of important pastoral issues dealing with the celebration of the Advent Season in our contemporary Church are considered, taking into account the nature of Advent as revealed in the traditional hymn texts, the liturgical reforms following the Second Vatican Council and current liturgical texts for Advent.’

Ramelli, Ilaria L.E., J.A. McGuckin & Piotr Ashwin-Siejkowski (eds.), T&T Clark Handbook of the Early Church, London etc.: T&T Clark 2022, xxxvi + 704 pp., ISBN 978-0-5676-8038-9, £ 117 (hb). – ‘Exploring the key documents, authors and themes of Early Christian traditions, this volume traces the vital trajectories of emerging distinctive Christian identity in the Graeco-Roman world. Special attention is given to the coherent growth of Christian faith in connection with worship, alongside the crucial transformation of Christian life and doctrine under the Christian Emperors. As well as offering a chronological development of the Early Church, the book examines the interaction between Christian worship and faith. In addition, readers interested in systematic theology can refer to chapters on the roots of some significant theological notions in Christian Antiquity, also with reference to ancient philosophy.’

translations, commentaries etc. (75 items). Part Two contains critical studies (1143 items). In Part Three additional items up to 2006 are presented (27 items). In all cases a summary of the contents of the contribution is given. Six indices, including a detailed Index of subjects, complete the work.' An impressive achievement in collaboration with ‘The International Philo Bibliography Project’ (M. Alesso, K. Berthelot, E. Birnbaum, A.C. Geljon, M.R.J. Hofstede, H.M. Keizer, J. Leonhardt-Balzer, J.P. Martín, M.R. Niehoff, S.J.K. Pearce, T. Seland, S. Weisser, S. Yli-Karjanmaa), very correct and balanced in its details, much richer in (e.g. early Christian and patristic) material and scope than one might initially think. With comprehensive and exemplary indices.


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