

IV. REVIEWS

Alexandru Prelipcean, *Romanos' Renaissance. From the beginning to the present: Bibliography about Romanos the Melodist*, in col. *Studien zur Orientalischen Kirchengeschichte* (vol. 61), edited by Martin Tamcke, Lit Verlag, Zürich, 2019, 82 pages, ISBN 978-3-643-91132-2

Among the latest contributions published in the collection *Studien zur Orientalischen Kirchengeschichte* at the prestigious Lit Verlag, this summer appeared the volume *Romanos' Renaissance. From the beginning to the present: Bibliography about Romanos the Melodist*, prepared by Alexandru Prelipcean and edited by Prof. Dr. Dr.h.c. Martin Tamcke. In his "Preface", the illustrious professor from "Georg-August" University of Göttingen underlines the genuine interest of the Lutheran theologians in Romanos the Melodist, as shown by the article written by Christian Ludwig Philipp Meyer in the third edition of the "Realencyklopädie für protestantische Theologie und Kirche" (1906). Christian Ludwig Philipp Meyer was clearly very keen to broaden the Protestants' understanding of Orthodoxy and his appreciation of Romanos' work is an indicative of how highly regarded was the Melodist, "that complying with Meyer's standards inevitably elevated him to a father of theology and piety as well". Paradoxically the Orthodox theologians "presumably denied such views or treated them with scepticism and thus the debate surrounding the message of the text intensified and still influences current practice" (p. 8). Expressing his interest in the sources of the orthodox Tradition, Professor Martin Tamcke points out that the research conducted by Alexandru Prelipcean is another necessary step in the exploration of early ecclesiastical sources and their lasting impact.

In the "Note on the edition" Alexandru Prelipcean shows that his work intends to be primarily a useful tool for those who will focus their attention on the life, work and theology of the great Christian hymnographer from the time of Emperor Justinian (p. 13). Although he doesn't claim exhaustivity for his bibliography, the sources and all scholarly contributions gathered in this volume are enough to emphasize and "revive the importance of Theological hymns, written by the 'humble Romanos' (τοῦ ταπεινοῦ Ῥωμανοῦ)". This bibliography dedicated to the Byzantine hymnographer follows the history of the critical editions, the contemporary translations of the Romanos writings, Doctoral dissertations and monographs dedicated to Romanos and their reviews, the articles from dictionaries and encyclopedias, and the Romanos' studies and articles.

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Bringing together this bibliography Alexandru Prelipcean takes further the research in this field, after completing his PhD thesis dedicated to Romanos the Melodist (*“Word, give me words”: from the life of “humble Romanos” to the poetic theology of the Byzantine Melodist* [in Romanian]), Astra Museum, Sibiu, 2017, 299 p.) and proves his determination to go the extra mile following a research subject. The result is this indispensably instrument for the future investigations on Romanos the Melodist.

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