

SYRIAC MANUSCRIPT PROJECT

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Because of the downturn in the economy and the corresponding drop in funds available to the Syriac Manuscript Project, work on the Vööbus Collection of Syriac Manuscripts on Film had to be scaled back during the end of 2008 and beginning of 2009, most notably in the areas of cataloging the collection and the development of the project database. Nevertheless some progress can be reported in two other important areas: the physical inventory of the film and the scanning of the film.

Physical Inventory

During the past year two important steps were taken. The first was the completion of the inventory of the film for 22 of the 23 the locations represented in the Vööbus Collection, that is, all locations other than Mardin, Turkey. The total number of images found on the film for these 22 locations is 22,046 and the current estimate for the total number of images including Mardin is 45,000, a revision downward from the estimate of 60,000 made in June 2008. The total number of images for each of these 22 locations is listed below.

<i>Location</i>	<i>Number of Images</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Number of Images</i>
Alqosh	1,836	Kerkuk	240
Anhel	315	Mar Behnam	143
Atshaneh	371	Mar Gabriel	755
Baghdad	957	Mar Mattai	919
Bartelli	10	Midyat	2,293
Bote	153	Mosul	2,169
Damascus	2,744	Pampakuda	544
Diyarbakir	2,200	Qaraqosh	104
Hah	278	Sharfeh	2,703
Istanbul	695	Tel Keph	259
Jerusalem	1,220	Zaferan	1,138

The second step was the inventory of a small amount of film that had been stored in the Vööbus Collection without any indication as to where the images on this film were taken. Close examination of the film allowed most of these segments to be integrated into the rest of the collection, but it was not possible to identify the locations where the images on six segments of film were taken. These six segments contain 130 images from five different manuscripts; as the images are cataloged and the content of the manuscripts is better understood, it may yet be possible to link them to known manuscripts in identifiable locations.

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Scanning

As of June 30, 2009, a total of 6,840 images on 342 segments of film depicting portions of 106 manuscripts from 16 different locations have been successfully scanned. These figures include the images on the segments of film whose location is unidentified and they represent an increase over the total from the previous year of 2,040 images, 109 segments of film, 44 manuscripts, and 2 locations. These totals are broken down by location in the following table.

<i>Location</i>	<i>Number of Manuscripts</i>	<i>Number of Film Segments</i>	<i>Number of Images</i>
Bartelli	1	1	10
Qaraqosh	1	4	104
Bote	2	5	153
Mar Behnam	3	7	143
Hah	1	8	278
Kerkuk	3	12	240
Tel Keph	2	8	259
Anhel	4	15	315
Atshaneh	9	17	371
Pampakuda	2	16	544
Istanbul	6	51	695
Mar Gabriel	8	32	755
Mar Mattai	17	47	919
Baghdad	33	65	957
Unidentified Location	5	6	130
Damascus	1	7	205
Mardin	8	41	762
TOTAL	106	342	6,840

All the film from 14 of these 16 locations has now been scanned (i.e., every location except Damascus and Mardin), as well as all the segments of film whose location is unidentified.

Cataloging and Project Database

No further cataloging was performed on the Vööbus Collection during 2008/2009 and so the total number of images that have been adequately cataloged remains at 1,000. However, some small progress can be reported on the database for the project. During the past year the logical model and the supporting documentation for the database was completed. The only remaining tasks are the implementation of the logical model in a particular version of database software and the migration of the data from its current provisional form into the database. These two tasks will be given the highest priority during the coming year.