

# THE RABBULA CORPUS

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# The Rabbula Corpus

Comprising the *Life of Rabbula*,  
His Correspondence, a Homily Delivered  
in Constantinople, Canons, and Hymns

*with Texts in Syriac and Latin, English  
Translations, Notes, and Introduction by*

Robert R. Phenix Jr. and Cornelia B. Horn



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To our friends, Jim and Denis.



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# Preface

Although we have been assiduous in bringing this project to completion, at times illness, at times vexation, at times the tribulation of others and the commerce of the world have hindered us.

In the thirteen years since this project began, portions of the Rabbula Corpus have appeared in modern translation. We hope that the translations provided here offer at times a different perspective to the Syriac wording and that the notes contained herein are helpful for orienting readers to some of the interesting aspects of this collection.

The introduction is intended as a guide and not as a replacement of more detailed studies. We hope that the bibliography is up-to-date as of the final page proofs, and we apologize to anyone whose work we overlooked.

Throughout the long journey of this project, there have been many individuals who have helped us and a few who have hindered us. We thank all those who, even at the last minute, have assisted us. We thank SBL Press for their patience and Amy M. Donaldson, who copyedited our manuscript and caught many errors.

Cornelia B. Horn and Robert R. Phenix Jr.  
Berlin-Friedenau, Germany  
October 11, 2014



# Abbreviations

In order to make the footnotes more compact, in many cases full bibliographical citations for the editions and translations of primary sources have been reserved for the bibliography at the end of this book. Throughout the footnotes, the template for shortened citations of these works is AUTHOR (OR EDITOR), SERIES VOLUME:PAGE,LINE. Note that “SERIES,” “VOLUME,” and “LINE” are used only where applicable or necessary. In the footnotes for the texts and translations, editions and translations may be referred to by last name (and page number) only. These editions and translations are identified at the beginning of each text.

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| <i>ACO</i>          | <i>Acta conciliorum oecumenicorum</i> . Edited by Eduard Schwartz. 4 vols. in 17. Berlin: de Gruyter, 1914-.  |
| ACW                 | Ancient Christian Writers   |
| <i>ad loc.</i>      | <i>ad locum</i> , at the place discussed  |
| <i>Alex.</i>        | Plutarch, <i>Lives: Alexander</i>   |
| <i>Alex. Akoim.</i> | <i>Life of Alexander Akoimētēs</i>  |
| <i>ANRW</i>         | <i>Aufstieg und Niedergang der römischen Welt: Geschichte und Kultur Roms im Spiegel der neueren Forschung</i> . Edited by Hildegard Temporini and Wolfgang Haase. Berlin: de Gruyter, 1972-. |
| ANTF                | Arbeiten zur neutestamentlichen Textforschung   |
| Arab.               | Arabic  |
| <i>Aug</i>          | <i>Augustinianum</i>  |
| BB Marsh            | Bodleian Library Marsh Collection   |
| BEFAR               | Bibliothèque des écoles françaises d’Athènes et de Rome   |
| BEHE                | Bibliothèque de l’École des Hautes Études   |
| BEHESR              | Bibliothèque de l’École des Hautes Études: Sciences Religieuses   |
| BELS                | Bibliotheca Ephemerides liturgicae, Subsidia  |

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| <i>BHG</i>          | <i>Bibliotheca hagiographica Graeca</i> . Edited by François Halkin. 3rd ed. 3 vols. Subsidia Hagiographica 8a. Brussels: Société des Bollandistes, 1957. |
| <i>BHO</i>          | <i>Bibliotheca hagiographica Orientalis</i> . Edited by Paul Peeters. Subsidia Hagiographica 10. Brussels: Imprimerie Catholique, 1910.                   |
| <i>BjRL</i>         | <i>Bulletin of the John Rylands University Library of Manchester</i>  |
| BKV                 | Bibliothek der Kirchenväter   |
| BL                  | British Library   |
| BL Add              | British Library Additional Manuscript   |
| BL Or               | British Library Oriental Manuscript   |
| Bod. Or.            | Bodleian Library Oriental Manuscript  |
| Borg.               | Borgia  |
| <i>ByzF</i>         | <i>Byzantinische Forschungen</i>  |
| <i>ByzZ</i>         | <i>Byzantinische Zeitschrift</i>  |
| ca.                 | circa, about  |
| CCSG                | Corpus Christianorum, series graeca   |
| CCSL                | Corpus Christianorum, series latina   |
| ch.                 | chapter   |
| <i>CH</i>           | <i>Church History</i>   |
| <i>Chron. Ed.</i>   | <i>Chronicle of Edessa</i>  |
| <i>Chron. Mich.</i> | <i>Chronicle of Michael the Syrian</i>  |
| <i>Cod. Theod.</i>  | <i>Codex Theodosianus</i>   |
| col(s).             | column(s)   |
| CPA                 | Christian Palestinian Aramaic   |
| <i>CPG</i>          | <i>Clavis patrum graecorum</i> . Edited by M. Geerard. 5 vols. Brepols: Turnhout, 1974–1987.  |
| CSCO                | Corpus scriptorum christianorum orientali-<br>um  |
| CSEL                | Corpus Scriptorum Ecclesiasticorum Lati-<br>norum   |
| CSS                 | Cistercian Studies Series   |
| CWS                 | Classics of Western Spirituality  |
| d.                  | died  |
| Dam. Patr.          | Damascus Patriarchate   |
| ed.                 | editor, edition   |
| e.g.                | <i>exempli gratia</i> , for example   |
| <i>Enn.</i>         | Plotinus, <i>Enneads</i>  |

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| esp.               | especially   |
| ET                 | English translation  |
| FC                 | Fathers of the Church  |
| FChr               | Fontes Christiani  |
| fem.               | feminine   |
| fl.                | flourished   |
| fol(s).            | folio(s)   |
| Fr.                | French   |
| GCS                | Die griechischen christlichen Schriftsteller<br>der ersten Jahrhunderte  |
| Ger.               | German   |
| Gk.                | Greek  |
| <i>Greg</i>        | <i>Gregorianum</i>   |
| <i>Haer.</i>       | Irenaeus, <i>Haereses</i>  |
| Heb.               | Hebrew   |
| <i>Hist. eccl.</i> | <i>Historia ecclesiastica (Church History)</i>   |
| <i>Hist. rel.</i>  | Theodoret of Cyrrhus, <i>Historia religiosa</i>  |
| <i>HTR</i>         | <i>Harvard Theological Review</i>  |
| <i>Hug</i>         | <i>Hugoye: Journal of Syriac Studies</i>   |
| <i>JA</i>          | <i>Journal asiatique</i>   |
| <i>JAC</i>         | <i>Jahrbuch für Antike und Christentum</i>   |
| <i>JBL</i>         | <i>Journal of Biblical Literature</i>  |
| <i>J ECS</i>       | <i>Journal of Early Christian Studies</i>  |
| <i>JEH</i>         | <i>Journal of Ecclesiastical History</i>   |
| <i>JJS</i>         | <i>Journal of Jewish Studies</i>   |
| <i>JR</i>          | <i>Journal of Religion</i>   |
| <i>JTS</i>         | <i>Journal of Theological Studies</i>  |
| Lat.               | Latin  |
| LCL                | Loeb Classical Library   |
| LEC                | Library of Early Christianity  |
| <i>Lib. Grad.</i>  | <i>Liber Graduum</i>   |
| lit.               | literally  |
| <i>LTK</i>         | <i>Lexikon für Theologie und Kirche</i> . Edited by<br>Walter Kasper et al. 3rd ed. 11 vols. Freiburg<br>im Breisgau: Herder, 1993–2001. |
| LXX                | Septuagint   |
| Mard. Orth.        | Mardin Orthodox Archbishopric  |
| masc.              | masculine  |
| Med. Laur. Orient. | Mediolanum Laurenziana Orientale   |

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| Med. Pal.     | Bibliotheca Medicea Laurenziana Medicei Palatini   |
| MS(S)         | manuscript(s)  |
| <i>Mus</i>    | <i>Muséon</i>  |
| n(n).         | note(s)  |
| NASB          | New American Standard Bible  |
| NHS           | Nag Hammadi Studies  |
| NIV           | New International Version  |
| no(s).        | number(s)  |
| <i>NPNF</i>   | <i>A Select Library of Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers of the Christian Church</i> . Edited by Philip Schaff and Henry Wace. 28 vols. in 2 series. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1978–1979.   |
| NRSV          | New Revised Standard Version   |
| n.s.          | new series   |
| <i>NTS</i>    | <i>New Testament Studies</i>   |
| OB            | Julian Joseph Overbeck, ed. <i>S. Ephraemi Syri Rabulae episcopi Edesseni Balaei aliorumque opera selecta e codicibus syriacis manuscriptis in Museo Britannico et Bibliotheca Bodleiana asservatis primus edidit</i> . Oxford: Clarendon, 1865. |
| OBC           | Orientalia biblica et christiana   |
| OCA           | Orientalia christiana analecta   |
| <i>OCP</i>    | <i>Orientalia christiana periodica</i>   |
| OECT          | Oxford Early Christian Texts   |
| <i>OLP</i>    | <i>Orientalia lovaniensia periodica</i>  |
| <i>OrChr</i>  | <i>Oriens christianus</i>  |
| <i>OrSyr</i>  | <i>L'orient syrien</i>   |
| <i>OS</i>     | <i>Ostkirchliche Studien</i>   |
| p(p).         | page(s)  |
| <i>Pan.</i>   | Epiphanius, <i>Panarion</i>  |
| <i>ParOr</i>  | <i>Parole de l'orient</i>  |
| Pet. S. n. s. | Petropolitanus (Leningradensis) Siriskaya novaya seriya  |
| PG            | Patrologia graeca. Edited by Jacques-Paul Migne. 162 vols. Paris: Migne: 1857–1886.  |
| pl.           | plural   |

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| PL              | Patrologia latina. Edited by Jacques-Paul Migne. 217 vols. Paris: Migne: 1844–1864.                         |
| Plut.           | Plutei Manuscript (Biblioteca Medicea Laurenziana, Florence)  |
| PO              | Patrologia orientalis   |
| PS              | Patrologia syriaca  |
| PVTG            | Pseudepigrapha Veteris Testamenti Graece  |
| <i>Rab.</i>     | <i>Life of Rabbula</i>  |
| <i>RAC</i>      | <i>Reallexikon für Antike und Christentum.</i><br>Edited by T. Klauser et al. Stuttgart: Hiersemann, 1950-. |
| <i>RevScRel</i> | <i>Revue de sciences religieuses</i>  |
| RGRW            | Religions in the Graeco-Roman World   |
| <i>RHR</i>      | <i>Revue de l'histoire des religions</i>  |
| <i>RSO</i>      | <i>Rivista degli studi orientali</i>  |
| <i>RSR</i>      | <i>Recherches de science religieuse</i>   |
| SBLEJL          | Society of Biblical Literature Early Judaism and Its Literature   |
| SBLTT           | Society of Biblical Literature Texts and Translations   |
| SBLWGRW         | Society of Biblical Literature Writings from the Greco-Roman World  |
| SC              | Sources chrétiennes   |
| SEAug           | Studia ephemeridis Augustinianum  |
| <i>SecCent</i>  | <i>The Second Century: A Journal of Early Christian Studies</i>   |
| sg.             | singular  |
| SNTSMS          | Society for New Testament Studies Monograph Series  |
| SO              | Spiritualité orientale  |
| SOK             | Studien zur Orientalischen Kirchengeschichte  |
| STAC            | Studien und Texte zu Antike und Christentum   |
| <i>StPatr</i>   | <i>Studia patristica</i>  |
| Syr.            | Syriac  |
| TCH             | The Transformation of the Classical Heritage  |
| ThH             | Théologie historique  |
| trans.          | translator, translation   |
| TRSR            | Testi e ricerche di Scienze religiose   |

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| TTH                | Translated Texts for Historians  |
| TU                 | Texte und Untersuchungen   |
| TZ                 | <i>Theologische Zeitschrift</i>  |
| Vat. Borg. Syr.    | Vatican Borgia Syriac Manuscript   |
| Vat. Syr.          | Vatican Syriac Manuscript  |
| VC                 | <i>Vigiliae christianae</i>  |
| VCSup              | Supplements to <i>Vigiliae christianae</i>   |
| <i>Vit. Ant.</i>   | Athanasius, <i>Vita Antonii (Life of Anthony)</i>  |
| <i>Vit. Cyp.</i>   | Pontius Diaconus, <i>Vita Cypriani (Life of Cyprian)</i>                                   |
| <i>Vit. Malch.</i> | Jerome, <i>Vita Malchi monachi (Life of Malchus)</i>                                       |
| <i>Vit. Mos.</i>   | Gregory of Nyssa, <i>De vita Moysis (Life of Moses)</i>                                    |
| <i>Vit. Paul.</i>  | Jerome, <i>Vita S. Pauli, primi eremitae (Life of Paul the Hermit)</i>                     |
| <i>Vit. Pet.</i>   | John Rufus, <i>Vita Petri Iberi (Life of Peter the Iberian)</i>                            |
| <i>Vit. Pyth.</i>  | Iamblichus, <i>De vita Pythagorica (Life of Pythagoras)</i>                                |
| WUNT               | Wissenschaftliche Untersuchungen zum Neuen Testament                                       |
| ZAC                | <i>Zeitschrift für Antikes Christentum</i>   |
| ZKG                | <i>Zeitschrift für Kirchengeschichte</i>   |
| ZNW                | <i>Zeitschrift für die neutestamentliche Wissenschaft und die Kunde der älteren Kirche</i> |