

Francoise Briquel-Chatonnet. *Manuscrits syriaques. Catalogue.* Paris: Bibliothèque nationale de France, 1997, 264 pp.

A new catalogue of Syriac manuscripts prepared by F. Briquel-Chatonnet, a noted French Semitologist and specialist on Syriac literature, offers readers descriptions of manuscripts held in the four most significant French collections — the Bibliothèque nationale de France, the Bibliothèque Méjanes d'Aix-en-Provence, the Bibliothèque municipale de Lyon, and the Bibliothèque nationale et universitaire de Strasbourg. The Bibliothèque nationale de Paris possesses the richest collection among them. The main body of this collection began to take shape already in the seventeenth century, while recent acquisitions date to the 1990s.

By the end of the nineteenth century, a large part of the Syriac collection — 288 items — had been described in H. Zotenberg's catalogue "Manuscrits orientaux. Catalogue des manuscrits syriaques et sabéens (mandaites) de la Bibliothèque nationale", Paris, 1874. To this day, all scholars of Syriac literature make grateful use of this catalogue. Those manuscripts which entered the collection between 1874 and 1911 (46 items) were described by J.-B. Chabot and F. Nau. The latter also equipped the Syriac catalogue of the Bibliothèque nationale with corrections and addenda. These reference sources remained inconvenient to use, however, as they were published in periodicals (*Revue de l'Orient Chrétien* and *Journal Asiatique*). They have not yet been re-published in a single edition, which would be most welcome.