

Syriaca.org publishes *The Syriac Gazetteer* (<http://syriaca.org/geo/>)

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[Syriaca.org](http://syriaca.org) is pleased to announce publication of *The Syriac Gazetteer* (<http://syriaca.org/geo/>), an online geographical dictionary to document Syriac culture in the Middle East, Asia, and around the globe. *The Syriac Gazetteer* is a born-digital publication employing eXistDB, TEI XML, and Linked Open Data URIs. All publications of *Syriaca.org* are made available online in a free and open format using the [Creative Commons](http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/) licenses. Project data and code are available in a [public Github repository](#).

What is Syriac?

Syriac is a language which once flourished on the Mesopotamian plateau. A dialect of Aramaic, Syriac was widely used during much of the first millenium of the common era. Syriac speaking communities could be found in what today would be Turkey, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Iran, India, Central Asia, China, and Mongolia. Sources in Syriac hold immense value for increasing our historical understanding of the Mediterranean, the Middle East and Asia. In particular, Syriac sources document key moments in the development and interaction of Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and other religions of Late Antiquity.

What is *The Syriac Gazetteer*?

The Syriac Gazetteer is the first in a suite of reference works to be published as a part of [Syriaca.org](http://syriaca.org): [The Syriac Reference Portal](#). The gazetteer contains multilingual entries (in English, Syriac, and Arabic) covering over 2400 places relevant to Syriac Studies, from ancient centers of Syriac culture (such as the city of [Edessa](#)) to modern diaspora communities (such as the monastery of [Mor Awgen](#) in Switzerland). *The Syriac Gazetteer* is an ever-expanding resource created by and for users based on the principles of Linked Open Data. This publication is intended to serve a broad scholarly audience including students of Middle Eastern studies, classics, medieval history, religious studies, biblical studies, and linguistics as well as Syriac heritage communities and the interested general public.

Users are encouraged to begin exploring [The Syriac Gazetteer](#) through these links:

Main page: <http://syriaca.org/geo/>

About the Gazetteer: <http://syriaca.org/geo/about.html>

Browse the Collection: <http://syriaca.org/geo/browse.html>

Browse via Interactive Map: <http://syriaca.org/geo/browse.html?view=map>

Edessa, the model entry: <http://syriaca.org/place/78>

Documentation: <http://syriaca.org/geo/help/>

Related Online Resources

[Syriaca.org](http://syriaca.org) is also preparing a number of other publications:

- *Clavis Syriaca*: A two volume reference guide to Syriac authors and their works for use in cataloguing Syriac manuscripts. An initial fascicule has already been published as part of [The Virtual International Authority File](#).
- *The Syriac Prosopography*: A text-based prosopography similar to the [The Prosopography of Anglo-Saxon England \(PASE\)](#).
- *Gateway to the Syriac Saints*: A two volume reference guide to Syriac saints and their *vitae*.
- *Digital Catalogue of Syriac Manuscripts in the British Library*: A digital catalogue of Syriac manuscripts using the [TEI XML standards](#) for manuscript cataloguing.
- *A Union Catalogue of Syriac Manuscripts*: A digital catalogue of Syriac manuscripts following the model of the [Fihrist](#) union catalogue.

These publications are the result of the collaboration and good will of the many scholars who have helped create them. Technical design of the project was completed by Winona Salesky and Thomas Elliott, Senior Programmers. Funding has come from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Fondazione Internazionale Balzan, and the National Endowment for the Humanities (U.S.A.).

The editors of the project welcome inquiries from the media and offers of collaboration from the scholarly community. They may be reached at info@syriaca.org.

Sincerely,

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