

MORAN 'ETHO - 9

S. BROCK

A BRIEF OUTLINE SYRIAC LITERATURE

CHRISTIAN MUSICOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF INDIA

ST. EPHREM ECUMENICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

BAKER HILL, KOTTAYAM - 686 001

INDIA

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PREFACE

This outline of Syriac literature aims to provide no more than an initial orientation to the subject. The number of authors and writings covered has deliberately been limited to the more important (or, in some cases, the more accessible); furthermore, although it is emphasised that the history of Syriac literature is a continuous one up to the present day, the focus of this outline has been on the period up to the early 14th century. The reasons for these limitations are largely practical ones: Syriac literature of the period up to c.1300 is often of particular significance and importance, and accordingly the editing of Syriac texts has largely been confined to authors of this period; but it should be noted that even here many important works remain unpublished, and reference has on occasion been made to these. On the whole, however, the writers selected and the works specifically mentioned in Section III are for the most part confined to those which are available in published form; within this section the most important authors are indicated with an asterisk(*). Indication is also given of the availability of an English translation (and/or, on occasion, to traslations into other modern European languages); details of these can be found in Section VI. In Section IV preliminary guidance is given to certain specific topics. Some indication of the very large number of texts translated into Syriac is given in Section V. In order to give the reader a first impression of the variety to be found within Syriac literature, a small selection of short samples has been provided in Section VII Finally, Some basic guidance for further reading will be found in Section VII.

In Section III the following abbreviations are used:

E= East Syriac (Church of the East)

ET, FT, GT, IT, LT = English, French, German, Italian, Latin traslation available.

W= West syriac (predominantly Syrian Orthodox)



A brief outline of Syriac Literature

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