

PD Dr. Helen Younansardaroud
Subject librarian of Religious,
Oriental and Ancient Studies
Freie Universität Berlin
Campusbibliothek

Brief Report on Transliteration attempts for the Cataloging of Classical Syriac Literature

• Agenda

1. Syriac language

- Script
- Unicode -> BGN/PCGN romanization
- Scriptcode
- Transliteration of Syriac characters

2. A transliteration system for Syriac language?

- Challenges
- Opportunities

3. DIN, expert team

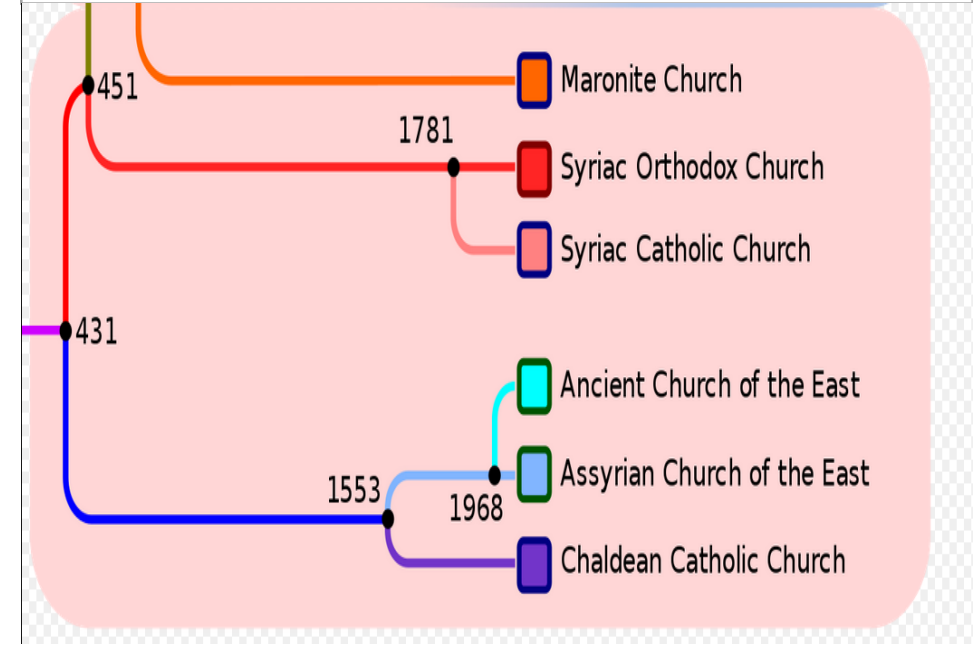
- Approaches

4. References



https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Osroene#/media/File:Roman_East_50-en.svg

Present-day Middle-Eastern Syriac Christian denominations



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Syriac_Christianity#/media/File:Syriac_Christian_denominations.svg

1. Syriac language

✓ Grammars

- Nöldeke, Th. (1966): *Kurzgefasste syrische Grammatik*. (Reprint, Leipzig 1898), Darmstadt.
- Brockelmann, C. (¹⁰1965): *Syrische Grammatik mit Paradigmen, Literatur, Chrestomathie und Glossar*, Leipzig; online: <http://menadoc.bibliothek.uni-halle.de/urn/urn:nbn:de:gbv:3:5-95986>.
- Ungnad, A. (1992): *Syrische Grammatik, mit Übungsbuch*. (Reprint, München 1932), Hildesheim [u. a.].

✓ Dictionaries

- Payne Smith R. (1879-1901): *Thesaurus syriacus I-II*, Oxford.
- Sokoloff, M. (ed., 2012): *A Syriac lexicon*. A translation from the Latin; correction, expansion, and update of C. Brockelmann's *Lexicon syriacum*. 2. corrected print, Winona Lake.

✓ Transcription used by

- Aßfalg, J. (1963): *Verzeichnis der orientalischen Handschriften in Deutschland*, 5. Bd., *Syrische Handschriften*. Wiesbaden: Steiner; online: <https://rep.adw-goe.de/handle/11858/00-001S-0000-0023-9B30-D>
- Corpus Scriptorum Christianorum Orientalium (= CSCO), *Scriptores Syri*

✓ Online Resources

- The Comprehensive Aramaic Lexicon (= CAL): <http://cal.huc.edu/>
- The Syriac Biographical Dictionary <https://syriaca.org/persons/index.html>

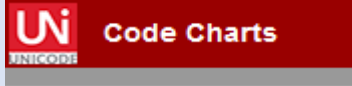
➤ Script

| Letter | | | | | |
|--------|------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Name | Translit. | <i>'Estrangēlā</i> <i>(classical)</i> | <i>Madnhāyā</i> <i>(eastern)</i> | <i>Serṭā</i> <i>(western)</i> | Unicode <i>(typing)</i> |
| * ܐܠܦ | <i>'Ālep*</i> ^[c] | ܐ | ⲁ | Ⲁ | Ⲁ |
| ܒܬܐ | <i>Bēt</i> | ܒ | Ⲃ | ⲁ | ⲁ |
| ܓܠܡܐ | <i>Gāmal</i> | ܓ | Ⲅ | Ⲃ | Ⲃ |
| * ܕܠܬܐ | <i>Dālaṭ*</i> | ܕ | Ⲇ | ⲃ | ⲃ |
| * ܚܘܘܐ | <i>He*</i> | ܚ | Ⲉ | Ⲅ | Ⲅ |
| * ܘܘܘܐ | <i>Waw*</i> | ܘ | Ⲋ | ⲅ | ⲅ |
| * ܙܝܢܐ | <i>Zayn*</i> | ܙ | Ⲍ | Ⲇ | Ⲇ |
| ܫܘܫܬܐ | <i>Ḥēt</i> | ܫ | Ⲏ | ⲇ | ⲇ |

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Syriac_alphabet




➤ Unicode



-> (<https://www.unicode.org/charts/index.html>)

-> Middle Eastern Scripts

Range: 0700-074F

Syriac^{[1][2]}
Official Unicode Consortium code chart  (PDF)

| | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | A | B | C | D | E | F |
|--------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| U+070x | Ⲁ | ⲁ | Ⲃ | ⲃ | Ⲅ | ⲅ | Ⲇ | ⲇ | Ⲉ | ⲉ | Ⲋ | ⲋ | Ⲍ | ⲍ | | Ⲏ |
| U+071x | ⲏ | Ⲑ | ⲑ | Ⲓ | ⲓ | Ⲕ | ⲕ | Ⲍ | ⲍ | Ⲏ | ⲏ | Ⲑ | ⲑ | Ⲓ | ⲓ | Ⲕ |
| U+072x | ⲕ | Ⲍ | ⲍ | Ⲏ | ⲏ | Ⲑ | ⲑ | Ⲓ | ⲓ | Ⲕ | ⲕ | Ⲍ | ⲍ | Ⲏ | ⲏ | Ⲑ |
| U+073x | ⲑ | Ⲓ | ⲓ | Ⲕ | ⲕ | Ⲍ | ⲍ | Ⲏ | ⲏ | Ⲑ | ⲑ | Ⲓ | ⲓ | Ⲕ | ⲕ | Ⲍ |
| U+074x | ⲑ | Ⲓ | ⲓ | Ⲕ | ⲕ | Ⲍ | ⲍ | Ⲏ | ⲏ | Ⲑ | | | ⲑ | Ⲓ | ⲓ | Ⲕ |

➤ Unicode -> BGN/PCGN romanization

| Serial | Syriac script | Letter name | Syriac Unicode value | Romanization | Arabic script equivalent | Hebrew-script equivalent |
|--------|---------------|-------------|----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 | ܐ | Ālap | 0710 | ā, ē ^{Note 1} | ا | א |
| 2 | ܒ | Bēt | 0712 | b | ب | ב |
| 3 | ܓ | Gāmal | 0713 | g | ج | ג |
| 4 | ܕ | Dālat | 0715 | d | د | ד |
| 5 | ܗ | Hēt | 0717 | h | ه | ה |
| 6 | ܘ | Wāw | 0718 | w, ū | و | ו |
| 7 | ܙ | Zayn | 0719 | z | ز | ז |

....

https://geonames.nga.mil/gns/html/Romanization/Modern_Syriac_Romanization_System_2011.pdf

➤ Scriptcode

Codes for the representation of names of scripts Codes pour la représentation des noms d'écritures

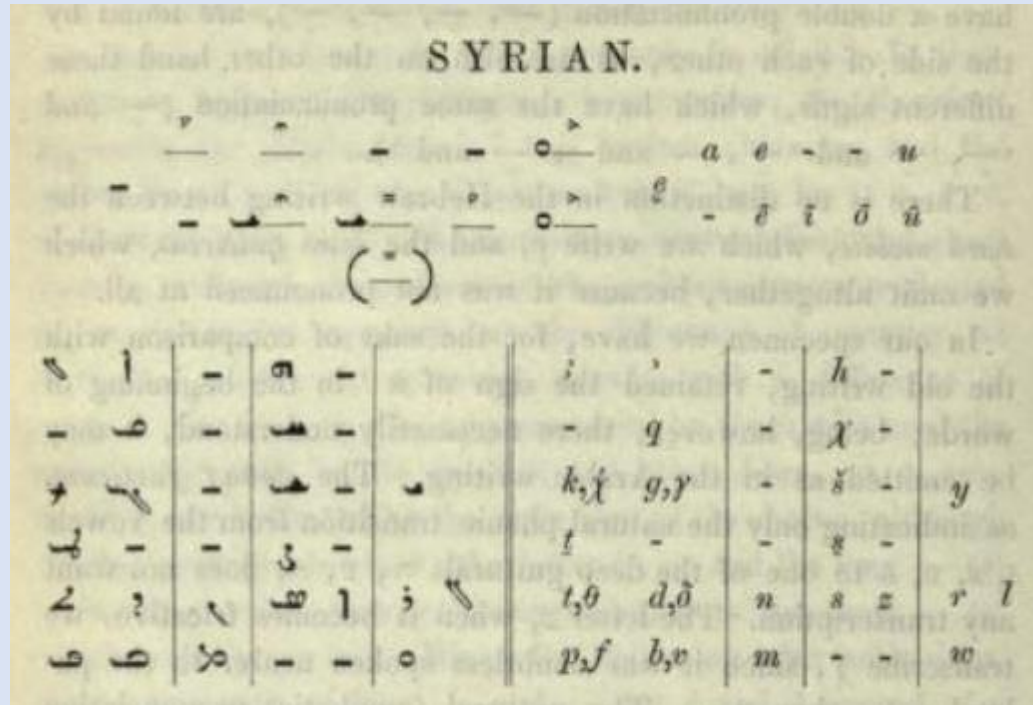
Table 1
Alphabetical list of four-letter script codes
Liste alphabétique des codets d'écriture à quatre lettres

| Code | No. | English Name | Nom français | Deutscher Name ² | Date |
|------|-----|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|------------|
| Syrc | 135 | Syriac | syriaque | Syrisch | 2004-05-01 |
| Syre | 138 | Syriac (Estrangelo variant) | syriaque (variante estranghélo) | Syrisch (Estrangelo) | 2004-05-01 |
| Syrj | 137 | Syriac (Western variant) | syriaque (variante occidentale) | Syrisch (westliche Variante) | 2004-05-01 |
| Syrn | 136 | Syriac (Eastern variant) | syriaque (variante orientale) | Syrisch (östliche Variante) | 2004-05-01 |

<http://unicode.org/iso15924/iso15924-codes.html>

➤ Transliteration of Syriac characters

Lepsius, R. (1863)



Lepsius, R. (1863), p. 182.

Kuhn E. and Schnorr von Carolsfeld H. (1897)

10. Syrisch.

| Zeichen | Transcr. | Zeichen | Transcr. | Zeichen | Transcr. | Zeichen | Transcr. |
|---------|-------------|---------|----------|---------|----------|---------|----------|
| Ⲁ | —, bzw. ' b | ⲁ | z | Ⲃ | m | ⲃ | q |
| Ⲅ | b | ⲅ | h | Ⲇ | n | ⲇ | r |
| Ⲉ | g | ⲉ | t | Ⲋ | s | ⲋ | š |
| Ⲍ | d | ⲍ | y | Ⲏ | ' | ⲏ | t |
| Ⲑ | h | ⲑ | k | Ⲓ | p | | |
| Ⲕ | w | ⲓ | l | ⲕ | s | | |

Kuhn E. and Schnorr von Carolsfeld H. (1897), p. 11.

➤ Transliteration of Syriac characters

PI (1975)

14. SYRISCH

| Zeichen | Transkription | Zeichen | Transkription | Zeichen | Transkription | Zeichen | Transkription |
|---------|---------------|---------|---------------|---------|---------------|---------|---------------|
| Ⲁ | Ⲁ | Ⲁ | Ⲁ | Ⲁ | Ⲁ | Ⲁ | Ⲁ |
| Ⲃ | Ⲃ | Ⲃ | Ⲃ | Ⲃ | Ⲃ | Ⲃ | Ⲃ |
| Ⲅ | Ⲅ | Ⲅ | Ⲅ | Ⲅ | Ⲅ | Ⲅ | Ⲅ |
| Ⲇ | Ⲇ | Ⲇ | Ⲇ | Ⲇ | Ⲇ | Ⲇ | Ⲇ |
| Ⲉ | Ⲉ | Ⲉ | Ⲉ | Ⲉ | Ⲉ | Ⲉ | Ⲉ |
| Ⲋ | Ⲋ | Ⲋ | Ⲋ | Ⲋ | Ⲋ | Ⲋ | Ⲋ |
| Ⲍ | Ⲍ | Ⲍ | Ⲍ | Ⲍ | Ⲍ | Ⲍ | Ⲍ |
| Ⲏ | Ⲏ | Ⲏ | Ⲏ | Ⲏ | Ⲏ | Ⲏ | Ⲏ |
| Ⲑ | Ⲑ | Ⲑ | Ⲑ | Ⲑ | Ⲑ | Ⲑ | Ⲑ |
| Ⲓ | Ⲓ | Ⲓ | Ⲓ | Ⲓ | Ⲓ | Ⲓ | Ⲓ |
| Ⲕ | Ⲕ | Ⲕ | Ⲕ | Ⲕ | Ⲕ | Ⲕ | Ⲕ |
| Ⲗ | Ⲗ | Ⲗ | Ⲗ | Ⲗ | Ⲗ | Ⲗ | Ⲗ |
| Ⲙ | Ⲙ | Ⲙ | Ⲙ | Ⲙ | Ⲙ | Ⲙ | Ⲙ |
| Ⲛ | Ⲛ | Ⲛ | Ⲛ | Ⲛ | Ⲛ | Ⲛ | Ⲛ |
| Ⲝ | Ⲝ | Ⲝ | Ⲝ | Ⲝ | Ⲝ | Ⲝ | Ⲝ |
| Ⲟ | Ⲟ | Ⲟ | Ⲟ | Ⲟ | Ⲟ | Ⲟ | Ⲟ |
| Ⲡ | Ⲡ | Ⲡ | Ⲡ | Ⲡ | Ⲡ | Ⲡ | Ⲡ |
| Ⲣ | Ⲣ | Ⲣ | Ⲣ | Ⲣ | Ⲣ | Ⲣ | Ⲣ |
| Ⲥ | Ⲥ | Ⲥ | Ⲥ | Ⲥ | Ⲥ | Ⲥ | Ⲥ |
| ⲧ | ⲧ | ⲧ | ⲧ | ⲧ | ⲧ | ⲧ | ⲧ |
| ⲩ | ⲩ | ⲩ | ⲩ | ⲩ | ⲩ | ⲩ | ⲩ |
| ⲫ | ⲫ | ⲫ | ⲫ | ⲫ | ⲫ | ⲫ | ⲫ |
| ⲭ | ⲭ | ⲭ | ⲭ | ⲭ | ⲭ | ⲭ | ⲭ |
| ⲯ | ⲯ | ⲯ | ⲯ | ⲯ | ⲯ | ⲯ | ⲯ |
| ⲱ | ⲱ | ⲱ | ⲱ | ⲱ | ⲱ | ⲱ | ⲱ |
| ⲳ | ⲳ | ⲳ | ⲳ | ⲳ | ⲳ | ⲳ | ⲳ |
| ⲵ | ⲵ | ⲵ | ⲵ | ⲵ | ⲵ | ⲵ | ⲵ |
| ⲷ | ⲷ | ⲷ | ⲷ | ⲷ | ⲷ | ⲷ | ⲷ |
| ⲹ | ⲹ | ⲹ | ⲹ | ⲹ | ⲹ | ⲹ | ⲹ |
| ⲻ | ⲻ | ⲻ | ⲻ | ⲻ | ⲻ | ⲻ | ⲻ |
| ⲽ | ⲽ | ⲽ | ⲽ | ⲽ | ⲽ | ⲽ | ⲽ |
| ⲿ | ⲿ | ⲿ | ⲿ | ⲿ | ⲿ | ⲿ | ⲿ |
| ⲱ | ⲱ | ⲱ | ⲱ | ⲱ | ⲱ | ⲱ | ⲱ |
| ⲳ | ⲳ | ⲳ | ⲳ | ⲳ | ⲳ | ⲳ | ⲳ |
| ⲵ | ⲵ | ⲵ | ⲵ | ⲵ | ⲵ | ⲵ | ⲵ |
| ⲷ | ⲷ | ⲷ | ⲷ | ⲷ | ⲷ | ⲷ | ⲷ |
| ⲹ | ⲹ | ⲹ | ⲹ | ⲹ | ⲹ | ⲹ | ⲹ |
| ⲻ | ⲻ | ⲻ | ⲻ | ⲻ | ⲻ | ⲻ | ⲻ |
| ⲽ | ⲽ | ⲽ | ⲽ | ⲽ | ⲽ | ⲽ | ⲽ |
| ⲿ | ⲿ | ⲿ | ⲿ | ⲿ | ⲿ | ⲿ | ⲿ |

Vokale: a d i i o u e ē.

ALA-LC Romanization Table

Syriac

| | | | |
|---|-------------------|---|---|
| Ⲁ | ' or disregarded* | Ⲁ | l |
| Ⲃ | b | Ⲃ | m |
| Ⲅ | g | Ⲅ | n |
| Ⲇ | d | Ⲇ | s |
| Ⲉ | h | Ⲉ | ʿ |
| Ⲋ | w** | Ⲋ | p |
| Ⲍ | z | Ⲍ | ṣ |
| Ⲏ | ḥ | Ⲏ | q |
| Ⲑ | t | Ⲑ | r |
| Ⲓ | y** | Ⲓ | š |
| Ⲕ | k | Ⲕ | t |

PI = Preußischen Instruktion

<https://www.loc.gov/catdir/cpsd/romanization/syriac.pdf>



➤ Transliteration of Syriac characters

Bayerische Staatsbibliothek (1980)

6.1.1 Tabelle

| Nr. | Syrische Buchstaben | | | Zahlwert | Transliteration | Beispiele |
|------------------|---------------------|------------|---------------|----------|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| | Jakobitisch | Estrangela | Nestorianisch | | | |
| 1 ²⁾ | ܐ | ܐ | ܐ | 1 | ܐ | ܐܘܪܝܫܐܝܩܐ eḩad "er nahm, ܩܘܡܝܩܐܝܩܐ qā'em "stehend" |
| 2 ³⁾ | ܒ | ܒ | ܒ | 2 | ܒ | ܒܝܬܐ baitā "Haus" |
| 3 ³⁾ | ܘܘܐ | ܘܘܐ | ܘܘܐ | 3 | ܘܘܐ | ܘܘܐܝܪܐ ḩabrā "Mann" |
| 4 ³⁾ | ܕܐܘܘܐ | ܕܐܘܘܐ | ܕܐܘܘܐ | 4 | ܕܐܘܘܐ | ܕܐܘܘܐ dahbā "Gold" |
| 5 ⁴⁾ | ܚܘܘܐ | ܚܘܘܐ | ܚܘܘܐ | 5 | ܚܘܘܐ | ܚܘܘܐܩܐܝܩܐ ḩōfak "er kehrte um" |
| 6 ⁵⁾ | ܘܘܘܐ | ܘܘܘܐ | ܘܘܘܐ | 6 | ܘܘܘܐ | ܘܘܘܐ wāi "wehe!" |
| 7 | ܘܘܘܐ | ܘܘܘܐ | ܘܘܘܐ | 7 | ܘܘܘܐ | ܘܘܘܐܝܩܐ zallil "unkeusch" |
| 8 | ܘܘܘܐ | ܘܘܘܐ | ܘܘܘܐ | 8 | ܘܘܘܐ | ܘܘܘܐܝܩܐ ḩaddutā "Freude" |
| 9 | ܘܘܘܐ | ܘܘܘܐ | ܘܘܘܐ | 9 | ܘܘܘܐ | ܘܘܘܐܝܩܐ ḩābā "gut" |
| 10 ⁵⁾ | ܘܘܘܐ | ܘܘܘܐ | ܘܘܘܐ | 10 | ܘܘܘܐ | ܘܘܘܐܝܩܐ yaumā "Tag" |
| 11 ³⁾ | ܘܘܘܐ | ܘܘܘܐ | ܘܘܘܐ | 20 | ܘܘܘܐ | ܘܘܘܐܝܩܐ kōnutā "Gerechtigkeit" |
| 12 | ܘܘܘܐ | ܘܘܘܐ | ܘܘܘܐ | 30 | ܘܘܘܐ | ܘܘܘܐܝܩܐ lebbā "Herz" |
| 13 | ܘܘܘܐ | ܘܘܘܐ | ܘܘܘܐ | 40 | ܘܘܘܐ | ܘܘܘܐܝܩܐ malkā "König" |
| 14 | ܘܘܘܐ | ܘܘܘܐ | ܘܘܘܐ | 50 | ܘܘܘܐ | ܘܘܘܐܝܩܐ nisān "April" |
| 15 | ܘܘܘܐ | ܘܘܘܐ | ܘܘܘܐ | 60 | ܘܘܘܐ | ܘܘܘܐܝܩܐ sāgodā "Verehrer" |

Bayerische Staatsbibliothek (Dr. Paul Gerhard Dannhauer)

2. A transliteration system for Syriac language?

➤ challenges

- ✓ Different transliteration systems
- ✓ Necessary language skills

➤ Opportunities

- ✓ Use of transliteration is established in Semitic and Syriac studies
- ✓ Common communication and data exchange
- ✓ Part of a global information network
- ✓ DIN standard?

3. DIN, expert team

- ✓ DIN (Rita Albrecht, Gregor Roschkowski)
- ✓ Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin (Petra Figeac)
- ✓ Bayerische Staatsbibliothek (Wolfgang Schmitt-Garibian)
- ✓ ULB Halle und FID-Orient-Halle (Susanne Reich)
- ✓ ULB Bonn (Kai Heßling)
- ✓ UB Heidelberg (Dr. Andreas Fink)
- ✓ UB Wien (Regina Maria Elisabeth Müller)
- ✓ UB Wien (Dr. Alfred Friedl)
- ✓ Universität Heidelberg/Semitistik (Prof. Dr. Michael Waltisberg)
- ✓ Philipps-Universität Marburg/Semitistik (Prof. Dr. Stefan Weninger)

➤ Approaches

- ✓ Expert meetings
- ✓ Draft version (Bayerische Staatsbibliothek)
- ✓ Hebrew DIN 31636

• References

- ALA-LC Romanization Tables: *Transliteration Schemes for Non-Roman Scripts*. (1997): Washington: Library of Congress and the American Library Association. <https://www.loc.gov/catdir/cpsd/roman.html> (13.04.22).
- Assfalg, J., *Verzeichnis der orientalischen Handschriften in Deutschland*, 5. Bd., *Syrische Handschriften*. Wiesbaden: Steiner, 1963; online: <https://rep.adw-goe.de/handle/11858/00-001S-0000-0023-9B30-D> (13.04.22).
- Baumstark, A. (1922): *Geschichte der syrischen Literatur mit Ausschluss der christlich palästinensischen Texte*. Bonn: Marcus & Weber.
- Brockelmann, C. (¹⁰1965): *Syrische Grammatik mit Paradigmen, Literatur, Chrestomathie und Glossar*, Leipzig; online: <http://menadoc.bibliothek.uni-halle.de/urn/urn:nbn:de:gbv:3:5-95986>.
- Instruktionen für die Alphabetischen Kataloge der Preußischen Bibliotheken vom 10. Mai 1899. Zweite Ausgabe in der Fassung vom 10. August 1908. (1915) Berlin: Behrend & Co., unveränd. Nachdr. Wiesbaden 1975, p. 146.
- King, D.; Michelson, D. A. (2019). "[Online Resources for the Study of the Syriac World](#)". In: King, David (ed.). *The Syriac World*. London and New York: Routledge. pp. 814-823.
- Kuhn E. und Schnorr von Carolsfeld H. (1897): *Die Transcription fremder Alphabete: Vorschläge zur Lösung der Frage auf Grund des Genfer „Rapport de la Commission de Transcription“ und mit Berücksichtigung von Bibliothekszwecken*. DMG. Leipzig: Harrassowitz., p. 11, <https://archive.org/details/dietranscriptio00kuhngoog/page/n5> (13.04.22).
- Lepsius, R. (1863): *Standard Alphabet for Reducing Unwritten Languages and Foreign Graphic Systems to a Uniform Orthography in European Letters*. London: Williams & Norgate (zweite, erweiterte Auflage). Deutsche Ausgabe: (1855): *Uebertragung fremder Schriftsysteme und bisher noch ungeschriebener Sprachen in europäische Buchstaben*. Berlin: W. Hertz, pp. 182-183, <https://opacplus.bsb-muenchen.de/Vta2/bsb10582968/bsb:BV020456794?page=21> (13.04.22).
- Nöldeke, Th. (1966): *Kurzgefasste syrische Grammatik*. (Reprint, Leipzig 1898), Darmstadt.
- Payne Smith R. (Hrsg., 1879-1901): *Thesaurus syriacus I-II*, Oxford.
- Rudolf, S. – Waltisberg, M (2020): „Phonologie und Transkription des Syrischen“, *Zeitschrift der Deutschen Morgenländischen Gesellschaft*, Vol. 170, No. 1, pp. 19-46. Sokoloff, M. (Hrsg., 2012): *A Syriac lexicon*. A translation from the Latin; correction, expansion, and update of C. Brockelmann's *Lexicon syriacum*. 2. corrected print, Winona Lake.
- Ungnad, A. (1992): *Syrische Grammatik, mit Übungsbuch*. (Reprint, München 1932), Hildesheim [u. a.].
- Younansardaroud, H. (2019): *Lehrbuch Klassisch-Syrisch*. 2. verbesserte Aufl. Düren: Shaker Verlag.

Thank you!

Campus
bibliothek



Helen Younansardaroud
+49 (0) 30 838-50680
heleny@campus.fu-berlin.de