

RICCARDO MACCHIORO, *Le redazioni latine della Passio Tryphonis martyris. Traduzioni e riscritture di una leggenda bizantina*, Firenze, SISMEL – Edizioni del Galluzzo, 2019 (Quaderni di «Hagiographica»; 16). XVIII + 300 pp. ISBN 978-88-8450-888-1

Hagiography still lacks many sound editions and philological studies. Indeed, only a small portion of the huge amount of *passiones, vitae, miracula* and *translationes* has reliable critical editions: the large majority of the texts is still read in the *Acta Sanctorum*, the amazing seventeenth-century enterprise, obviously outdated and unreliable according to the present-day criteria. In most cases, we have no idea about their manuscript tradition and textual history. Often, we do not even know what texts are we talking about.

Fortunately, in the last years, we have observed an increasing coming forth of critical editions of hagiographical texts, accompanied by detailed and comprehensive studies of their manuscript tradition. This is the case of the present book. Riccardo Macchioro provides us with a thorough study of the Latin *dossier* of Saint Tryphon, a young man from Phrygia martyred in the time of Decius in Nicaea.

First, the Byzantine *dossier* is presented. It comprises two pieces, both written in the fifth century: a *Martyrion* (BHG 1856), which was the model of the earliest Latin *passio*, and a *Bios and thaumata* (BHG 1856a-b), also translated into Latin. The manuscripts are concisely described. A brief reference to the pre-Metaphrastic version (BHG 1856z) and Simon Metaphrast's *passio* (BHG 1857) complete the framework of the Byzantine texts on the martyr.

This is a prologue to the examination of the Latin tradition. Here, the author identifies several versions: T (BHL 8338b), corresponding to the earliest translation of BHG 1856, produced in a Roman context prior to the eighth century (preserved in two Bobbio manuscripts, Torino, Biblioteca nazionale F.III.16 and Città del Vaticano, Vat. lat. 5772); Φ, a translation of BHG 1856a-b+1856, which circulated in the tenth century onwards, found in eleventh-century copies produced in France and England; Peter of Naples' version, written between 940 and 970 (BHL 8339); Ξ, a late tenth-century text made in Rome, from which three versions derive – the version in the Saint-Peter legendary and related versions (Città del Vaticano, Arch. S. Pietro A.5, and others) (cf. BHL 8340a and 8338d), a version attributed to Theodoric of Fleury motivated by the dedication of a church to Tryphon and Respicus in Rome around 1005 (BHL 8240), and the *Passio Tryphonis et Respicii* classified BHL 8336-7 by the Bollandistes; finally, Y, a later version which circulated in north-eastern Italy. Late forms are mentioned synthetically.

The main contribution of this book is the critical edition and the detailed study of the manuscript tradition of each one of these four main versions: T, Ξ, Φ and Y. It is methodologically exemplary and provides reliable information about the relations of each one to the Greek models and between them. The author also gives notes of commentary on the language and the translation techniques.

At the end, Macchioro deals with the complicated issue of the relations between the versions. He concludes that T, the earliest translation and the closest to the Greek text, is not the model of the other versions, because they clearly mirror alternative readings that are witnessed in different branches of the Greek manuscript tradition. This means that there were at least two, or even more, translations from the Greek: one, preserved in the Bobbio manuscripts (only the *passio*), the other, from a different Greek model, represented by the other Latin versions. At the same time, he does not conceal the complexity of the transmission process, in which contamination with different models may have played an important role, as well as the difficulty of obtaining sound conclusions.

Riccardo Macchioro's contribution to the field is remarkable. Not only for the material he assembled and interpreted, but also for the paradigm he offered us of how to deal with a Latin hagiographical *dossier* deriving from Greek sources. It will be a reference book among the studies and editions of hagiographical texts.

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