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FIVE ANASTASIAE AND TWO FEBRONIAE: A GUIDED TOUR IN THE MAZE OF ANASTASIA LEGENDS

Part One. The Oriental Dossier

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Abstract. The recent data related to the legend of St Anastasia in Byzantium require a fresh analysis of the mutually connected cults of Anastasia and Febronia in both the Christian East and West. Part One of the present study is focused on the East, whereas Part Two will be focused on the Latin West. In Part One, the cult of Anastasia is discussed especially in Constantinople from the mid-fifth to the fourteenth centuries, with special attention to the epoch when the Imperial Church was Monothelite (seventh century). In this epoch, a new avatar of St Anastasia was created, the Roman Virgin, whose *Passio* was written on the basis of Syriac hagiographic documents. The cult of this second Anastasia was backed by Monothelite Syrians, whereas the fifth-century cult of Anastasia in Constantinople was backed by the Goths. Transformations of Anastasia cults in the era of state Monothelitism were interwoven with a new Syriac cult of Febronia of Nisibis that appeared in the capital shortly after its creation in Syria in a Severian “Monophysite” milieu.

Key words: St Anastasia, St Febronia, monothelitism, Constantinople, hagiography.

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ПЯТЬ АНАСТАСИЙ И ДВЕ ФЕВРОНИИ: ЭКСКУРСИЯ ПО ЛАБИРИНТУ ЛЕГЕНД О СВЯТОЙ АНАСТАСИИ

Часть первая. Восточное агиографическое досье

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Аннотация. Полученные в последнее время новые данные относительно византийских легенд об Анастасии требуют нового подхода к анализу всего комплекса легенд об Анастасии и Февронии (поскольку культы этих святых исторически взаимосвязаны) на востоке и западе христианского мира. Первая часть настоящего исследования сосредоточена на восточной части агиографического досье, тогда как вторая будет сосредоточена на западной. В первой части культ Анастасии обсуждается по преимуществу в Константинополе начиная с середины V в. по XIV в., с особым вниманием к эпохе монофелитской унии (VII в.). В эпоху, когда государственная церковь Византии была монофелитской, появилась вторая Анастасия, римская дева-монахиня, *Мученичество* которой было написано на основе греческих переводов сирийских агиографических документов. Культ этой второй Анастасии поддерживался сирийцами-монофелитами, тогда как культ первой Анастасии создавался в Константинополе V в. при поддержке готов-ариан. Трансформация культа Анастасии в Константинополе в эпоху государственного монофелитства происходила в тесном переплетении с новым для столицы культом Февронии, который был перенесен в монофелитскую эпоху из Нисибина через короткое время после его институализации в среде сирийских «монофизитов».

Ключевые слова: св. Анастасия, св. Феврония, монофелитство, Константинополь, агиография.

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1. Introduction

1.1. The Problem

It is tempting to begin this article with something like “Anastasia was one of the most popular saints...” However, Anastasia was not “one”: she was not a unique and definite saint but rather a common name of a network of cults with their own respective hagiographical legends – comparable and roughly contemporaneous to a similar network of legends of Cosmas and Damian, but much less studied while certainly no less important.

The Anastasia legends have been both understudied and overstudied. Some parts of her hagiographical dossier have been rarely mentioned and almost never read. Some other parts, the most widely known, fell victim to a rare accident. The most popular Byzantine legend of Anastasia, that of Anastasia the Widow *BHG* 81 (known also through its Metaphrastic reworking *BHG* 82), was translated from Latin. This fact made Hippolyte Delehaye (1859–1941) believe that the translated Latin text was an original Latin composition [44, pp. 155–156]. This conclusion by the father of modern critical hagiography has subsequently remained unchallenged. The legend is rich in Roman realia, which especially has pushed scholars to believe that it was composed in Rome¹. However, some recent data related to previously little explored parts of the dossier suggest that the real story of the Anastasia legends was much more complicated than that. The Latin original of *BHG* 81 itself turned out to be a recension of a Byzantine legend written in Greek. This Greek text, however, contained, in turn, a re-elaboration of a number of ancient Roman hagiographical legends.

Delehaye read, in the colophon of *BHG* 81, that it was a translation from Latin performed by a certain John for the well-known iconoclast leader Theodore Krithinos in 824, when the latter was staying in Rome as a member of a Byzantine iconoclast ecclesiastical mission to the Pope². Its Latin original (thereafter LLA = Latin Legend of Anastasia) is preserved in many manuscript

copies (“well over 200”³). *BHG* 81 did not exist in Greek before 824, whereas it later became the most popular version. Even though Delehaye knew most of the remaining Anastasia legends, he considered them as either unconnected to *BHG* 81 or (in the obvious case of legend *BHG* 83b ascribed in the manuscripts to either John of Damascus or John of Euboea) as being later than it. This caused him to believe that the contents of LLA had not been known in Constantinople before 824. Nevertheless, Delehaye had already noticed an apparent paradox of this Martyrdom: “Ce long récit, qui doit être rangé incontestablement parmi les Passions romaines, offert cette particularité qu’il n’y est fait mention d’aucun martyr romain” [44, p. 151].

This apparent paradox should be resolved in both possible ways that will be discussed below. On the one hand, LLA appeared in Rome as a borrowing from Constantinople. Theodore Krithinos took back to Byzantium a Byzantine legend that was then semi-forgotten in its homeland. On the other hand, the earlier Constantinopolitan legend used, in its core, hagiographical legends composed in Rome and dedicated to the martyrs of Rome.

The first part of the present study will be focused on the non-Roman elements of the cult(s) of Anastasia(e). The second part will be focused on the Roman cult(s).

1.2. The Martyrdom of Anastasia and Theodota

Before departing for the field, I summarise the data that became available after Delehaye, which were studied in detail in my previous article [84].

The legend *BHG* 83b (a panegyric ascribed to a certain John, either of Damascus or of Euboea) was edited, in 1988, by Bonifatius Kotter among the *spuria* of John of Damascus [79, S. 279–303]. It was both the *editio princeps* and a critical edition. From the manuscript tradition, Kotter concluded that the *terminus post quem non* for the common archetype of the available manuscripts of the panegyric is ca 800. In other words, this panegyric is older than *BHG* 81.

It is highly unlikely that a Byzantine panegyrist, the author of *BHG* 83b, used any sources in Latin, and, therefore, his panegyric is important evidence of the accessibility of the allegedly “Roman” legend in Byzantium before *ca* 800. The legend itself, being the main source of the panegyric, must have been even older.

This evidence is corroborated by the Georgian part of the hagiographical dossier of Anastasia. Besides the Georgian translation of *BHG* 83b (still unpublished and unstudied) and other pieces familiar from the Greek part of the dossier, the Georgian dossier contains a martyrdom very close to *BHG* 83b in the part of martyrdom properly (*BHG* 83b consists of two parts: a long original panegyric and a recension of the martyrdom, which is similar to this Georgian text). I have proved that this Georgian text was translated from Arabic (in Palestine between the eighth and tenth century), while the Arabic was translated from the lost Greek [86]. Quite recently, after the publication of my study, I found an Arabic recension almost identical to the lost Arabic original of this Georgian text ⁴.

The Martyrdom known to us from LLA and *BHG* 81 is, in this recension, reduced mostly to two plot lines, those of Anastasia and Theodota, whereas the line of the Thessalonian martyrs Irena and her companions is barely traceable, exclusively due to the negligence of the Byzantine editor. Thus, this recension could be called *Passio Anastasiae et Theodotae* (I will use this title but without forgetting that it is a modern label by Korneli Kekelidze, who introduced it for convenience only ⁵).

With this abbreviated but perfectly recognisable recension of the “Roman” Martyrdom LLA, we are, with the lost Greek original of the Martyrdom of Anastasia and Theodota, in the middle of the eighth century at the latest, if not in the seventh.

The relations between the mentioned texts, both preserved and lost (marked with the asterisk ⁶), are presented in Stem 1 (fig. 1).

We have to retain from *BHG* 83b and its Georgian translation the fact that the legend of the Roman dame Anastasia the Widow was quite well known in Greek long before 824. Therefore, the Latin original of *BHG* 81 (LLA) is an edited version of a Greek source.

We will exclude from the following dossier the Middle Byzantine apocalyptic traditions

related to Anastasia ⁷. These traditions are indirect evidence of the high status of her cult in the previous period, that is, before the ninth century, but not a significant source of earlier hagiographical material. The Middle Byzantine apocalypses were interested in Anastasia’s authoritative name but in hardly any of her legends.

1.3. The Programme of the Present Study

I will discuss the most known and most important legend of Anastasia, that of Anastasia the Widow, only after having exhausted lesser-known parts of two hagiographical dossiers, those of Anastasiae and Febroniae. I presume, however, that the plot of the legend of the Widow is already known to the reader, as well as the fact that her church in Constantinople (where her relics were moved from Sirmium) was constructed, in the fifth century, with the help of the Goths.

I will begin with a compact and not especially rich but somewhat interesting dossier of the “Monophysite” Anastasia, Anastasia the Patrician. It will be not without interest *per se*, whereas, in the present study, it will be mostly interesting as evidence of the great importance of the Anastasia cult – and precisely that of Anastasia the Widow – already in the sixth-century Constantinople.

Then, I will turn to a very important legend, that of Anastasia the Virgin. I hope to prove that this is a legend of the epoch when the official Church of Constantinople was Monothelite. It was catalysed by the cult of the martyr Febronia of Nisibis, then quite new but quite important for Constantinople. This legend of Anastasia the Virgin is exactly that which replaced, in Constantinople, the older legend of Anastasia the Widow, known to us through the Latin intermediary (LLA) and the abbreviated recension of the Martyrdom of Anastasia and Theodota.

Then, I will discuss the Constantinopolitan legend, whose appearance must have been motivated by the transport of the relics of the historical martyr Anastasia from Sirmium to Constantinople in *ca* 469. A decisive reconstruction of this legend, however, will become possible only after an analysis of the Roman traditions of the Anastasia cults in Part Two of the present study.

The outline of Part One of the present study is the following:

– The hagiographical dossier of Anastasia the Patrician (section 2).

– The hagiographical dossier of St Febronia and its connexion with Anastasia's dossier (section 3).

– The hagiographical dossier of Anastasia the Virgin, its dependence on Febronia's dossier and other Syriac sources, and its polemical function against the cult of Anastasia the Widow (section 4).

– A comparison between two major Constantinopolitan cults of Anastasiae, those of the Widow and of the Virgin (section 5).

– The Gothic background of Anastasia the Widow's cult in Constantinople (section 6).

– The role of the saints of Sirmium, Nicaea, and Thessalonica in the Constantinopolitan cult of St Anastasia the Widow (section 7).

Part Two of the present study will be dedicated to the Roman dossier. Definite conclusions on the origin of the cult of Anastasia will be postponed to the end of Part Two. However, many intermediary conclusions concerning the development of different cults in Constantinople and Rome will be reached throughout the two parts of the present study.

2. Anastasia the Patrician:

A "Monophysite" Legend of Another Widow

The legend of Anastasia the Patrician is preserved in Greek ⁸, Syriac ⁹, Arabic ¹⁰, Ethiopic ¹¹, and Syro-Palestinian (Palestinian Christian Aramaic) ¹² languages but remains understudied ¹³. The Syro-Palestinian version is preserved in a short fragment only but it is significant because of the early date of the manuscript, the seventh century. This is important for dating the legend in one of its recensions, namely, that included in the collection of stories ascribed to Daniel of Scete.

The present-day scholarly consensus does not acknowledge in this Anastasia any historicity. Her story is overtly anti-Justinianic: Justinian, according to the legend, tried to take the patrician lady Anastasia as his wife while his own wife was still alive, but Anastasia escaped to Egypt, where she established a women's monastery near Alexandria. After the death of his wife, Justinian tried to take Anastasia to himself despite her monastic status. Nevertheless, the legend is not hostile to Justinian's wife Theodora even in its Greek recensions; in the

"Monophysite" recensions, Empress Theodora is helping Anastasia to flee to Egypt. There is no doubt that the *Sitz im Leben* of the legend is to be found in the Severianist "Monophysite" milieu of the late sixth century, which had been previously protected by Empress Theodora. However, given that this milieu was split, in the second half of the sixth century, into a dozen factions, the exact *Sitz im Leben* remains obscure.

The story is focused on the events in Egypt, which still await identification. Anastasia established a monastery near Alexandria (at either Penton, according to the Greek recensions, or Ennaton, according to the Syriac; others versions do not specify the place) and remained there until the death of Empress Theodora (548), when she fled to the Scete and lived there under the guise of a eunuch for 28 years, that is, until 575/576 (depending on the method of counting implied, either inclusive or exclusive; the common method was inclusive). The latter date is probably connected to the re-establishing of the Severianist patriarchate in 575 (widowed since the death of Theodosius, the Severianist patriarch of Alexandria, in 567), when two patriarchs, Theodore and Peter IV, were consecrated by two rival factions almost immediately one after another; the faction of Peter IV (that eventually won) had been led by the monks of monasteries in Ennaton (a locality at the ninth milestone west of Alexandria, where "Monophysite" monasteries were abundant; the Penton was a nearby place at the fifth milestone occupied by Melkite monastics). All this would suggest that the legend was produced by the ecclesiastical party of Damian – a monk from Ennaton of Syrian origin, a "grey cardinal" under Peter IV (575–576/577), and himself the Severianist Jacobite patriarch of Alexandria from 577/578 to 605/606 ¹⁴.

Regardless of the *raison d'être* of this legend, a *conditio sine qua non* for its creation must have been a close connexion – well known to a large audience outside Constantinople – between the capital and the imperial cult of Anastasia; otherwise, the link between Anastasia and Justinian would have been pointless, and this element of anti-Justinianic satire would have lost its effect.

The Anastasia of this story is certainly a patrician lady (αὕτη πρώτη πατρικία οὔσα τοῦ βασιλέως [42, col. 523] "...she, being the first patrician of the emperor..."), even though it is

not explicitly said that she is a widow. One can understand the concern of the hagiographer, because he had to preserve both the high and independent social status of Anastasia – available to widows but not to unmarried girls – and her virginity. Justinian, in this legend, combines the roles played in the Byzantine and Latin legend of Anastasia the Widow by Diocletian and Dulcitus (the governor of Macedonia who appeared as the persecutor of Agape, Irene, and Chionia and went mad because of his passion for adultery). The late sixth-century “Monophysite” legend of Anastasia the Patrician is, therefore, an indirect but important witness of the cult of Anastasia the Widow in the sixth-century Constantinople.

As the Martyrdom of Anastasia and Theodota, the legend of Anastasia the Patrician is a product of the decomposition of the legend of Anastasia the Widow that will be in the centre of our interest.

We have to retain from the above analysis, moreover, that the legend of Anastasia the Patrician explains, among other things, why her relics are unavailable for veneration: they remained buried in a remote corner of the Egyptian desert.

3. Anastasia and Febronia in Monothelite Constantinople

The cult of Anastasia in Constantinople was initially dedicated to a unique saint. Its centre was the Anastasia church in the central part of the city, where her relics were deposited. However, this unique saint later acquired several competing biographies. Leaving aside the “monophysite” legend of Anastasia the Patrician (whose relics, according to her legend, must have disappeared in the Egyptian desert), we meet two competing Anastasiae among the Chalcedonians. One of them is Anastasia the Widow mentioned earlier, and another one is Anastasia the Virgin (BHG 76z¹⁵; Metaphrastic paraphrase BHG 77). This Virgin has little to do with the Widow, even though the Widow was also a virgin, due to her revulsion for her pagan husband.

Paul Devos demonstrated, in 1962, that, in its major part, the Greek text of the legend of the Virgin is copy-pasted verbatim from the Greek recension of the Martyrdom of Febronia of Nisibis (BHG 569) [49]. He did not explain, however, the *raison d'être* of such a “plagiarised” text, nor did

he explain the meaning of the details that were not borrowed from the Martyrdom of Febronia.

Fortunately, the reason for the connexion between the cults of Anastasia and Febronia becomes immediately clear after having examined the cult of Febronia in Constantinople.

The cult of Febronia appeared, in Constantinople, as a necessary supplement to the late sixth-century cult of St Artemius as the healer¹⁶. This cult was focused on the relics of St Artemius deposited (presumably, in the late sixth century) in the St John the Forerunner church in the Oxeia quarter. St Artemius’s specialisation as a healer was rather narrow: it was restricted to genital diseases and hernias¹⁷. For a treatment of these diseases of women, the help of a female healer would have been welcome, and this female healer became Febronia. At least, such an explanation was provided by the anonymous compiler of the *Miracles of St Artemius* (BHG 173), who worked between 658 and 668¹⁸. These *Miracles*, which preserve memories from the late sixth century up through the time of the compiler, contain the first mentions ever of Febronia in Byzantium. There was no trace of the cult of Febronia in Constantinople before these *Miracles*, which were composed by a Monothelite author (admirer of the Monothelite Emperors especially known by their religious zeal, Heraclius and Constans II), when the Patriarchate of Constantinople was Monothelite.

Febronia’s connexion with the cult of Anastasia was predefined by topography. Sacred topography is often an implicit but very important topic of the *Passions épiques*¹⁹. The church of St John the Forerunner containing both relics of St Artemius and an interior chapel (εὐκτήριον) of St Febronia (without any relics) was located somewhere near the crossroads adorned by the bronze Tetrapylon at the intersection of the Mesa (the principal street of Constantinople) and the perpendicular street lined by the colonnades of Domninos (τῶν Δομνίνου ἐμβόλων), between the Forum of Theodosius (about 300 m to the west) and the Forum of Constantine (less than 300 m to the east).

The church of Anastasia, where her relics were deposited, was located somewhere inside the colonnades of Domninos (ἐν τοῖς Δομνίνου ἐμβόλαις), so close to the church of St John the Forerunner that the regular procession (λιτή) from this church during the all-night vigil (παννυχίς)

reached the church of Anastasia. This implies a distance of several hundred metres. Such a procession is mentioned in Miracle 29 as something typical²⁰; I would presume that this was a part of the weekly Sunday service. This means that, liturgically, the church of St John with its cult of three saints, two males and one female, on the one hand, and the church of St Anastasia, on the other, formed a unique complex, where a diffusion between the cults of the two female martyrs became inevitable. However, this is still not an explanation of the meaning and composition of the Anastasia the Virgin legend, even if it is a necessary constituent of such an explanation (for the explanation, see below, section 4).

The location of the Anastasia church between the two *fora* is also worth noting, because it will be of importance for the Anastasia cult in Rome.

3.1. St Febronia, the First One

In our study, we meet two Febroniae. The first one is the renowned martyr of Nisibis venerated throughout the Christian world, alike in the East and in the West, among the Chalcedonians, “Monophysites”, and “Nestorians”²¹. It was this Febronia that was venerated in her chapel within the church of St John the Forerunner together with St Artemius. The second, a distinct Febronia, is an imaginary daughter of Emperor Heraclius, whose personality we will discuss later (section 3.3).

3.1.1. Date of the Febronia Legend: between 628 and 639

The recent study by Michel Kaplan [78] became a major step toward understanding the origins of the cult of St Febronia of Nisibis. Nevertheless, this step still does not reach the destination. Extremely helpful is Kaplan’s supposition that the cult has been “imported” to Constantinople from Nisibis, when the respective part of the Sassanid Empire was conquered by Emperor Heraclius, that is, between 628 (when Nisibis was reconquered from the Persians) and 639 (when Nisibis fell to the Arabs). It was a short period when Nisibis returned to the Roman Empire. Previously, in 363, this city fell to the Persians under Shapur II, who defeated the Roman army led by Julian the Apostate.

Kaplan rightly noticed that, for the author of the Martyrdom of Febronia, Nisibis is a part of the Roman Empire [78, p. 41]. Given that

this Martyrdom is a *Passion épique* according to the classification by Hippolyte Delehaye, its geography must represent the actual geography of the hagiographer. Because a pre-363 date is excluded, the remaining date falls within the interval from 628 to 639.

Some considerations would support this dating by Kaplan.

There is only indirect evidence of the existence of a cult of Febronia before the seventh century. In the eleventh-century²² metric *Life* of one of the fathers of “Nestorian” monasticism, Rabban Bar ‘Eta († 611 or 621) by Abraham Zabaya (*BHO* 137; *BHS* 771), it is said that, in 563, a sister of the saint, “...built her nunnery in the name of the martyr [*feminine*: ܦܡܒܪܘܢܝܐ] Pambrownîyâ / Who was martyred in Nisibis in the days of Diocletian”²³. There could be no doubt that Abraham Zabaya meant our Febronia of Nisibis as the patron saint of the monastery. By his time, however, the cult of this Febronia had been long established among the “Nestorians”. Even if this monastery initially was dedicated to some Febronia, there is no way to know what her accompanying hagiographical legend was. Regardless of whether Febronia had any historical prototype (which is itself an unresolvable question), the legend of Febronia as known to us might have been a new creation designed to replace an older legend, as it was customary to reshape the established cult of a saint within a new ideological framework. Therefore, the eleventh-century witness of Abraham Zabaya is not especially relevant to the Febronia whose legend we know²⁴. Finally, we will see (section 3.1.3), that “our” Febronia legend is “monophysite.” This fact alone is sufficient to exclude any relation of this legend to a sixth-century “Nestorian” monastery, even though Febronia might have been venerated there with another legend.

Kaplan’s dating is also reinforced by the absolute “epic” chronology chosen by the hagiographer. He placed the Martyrdom under Diocletian, which was normal for the Byzantine epic legends. A Syriac hagiographer working in the Sassanid Empire would have chosen, for the very same purpose, the persecution of Shapur II. I would add that the martyrdom of a nun in Nisibis under Shapur after 363 would have looked historically convincing, but the authors of epic martyrdoms do not care for such things.

In the “language” of the Syriac epic martyrdoms produced in Persia, the name of Shapur II has the same meaning as the name of Diocletian in the Byzantine “language” of epic hagiography. If the Roman “era of martyrs” began with Diocletian, then the Persian “era of martyrs” began with Shapur II. Speaking in terms of critical hagiography, we have to agree with Kaplan that the hagiographer of Febronia wrote in the Roman (Greek) hagiographical “language” and not the Persian (Syriac) one. However, a hagiographical “language” is not the same thing as a language in the ordinary sense of the word. Being written in a Greek hagiographical language does not preclude a hagiographical work from being written in Syriac. Kaplan hesitates on this point but tends to accept the alternative hypothesis – that the Martyrdom was written in Greek. Kaplan’s hypothesis on the *raison d’être* of the Martyrdom is not completely satisfying either, while my own resolution of this problem will be not extremely different from his.

3.1.2. Martyrdom of Febronia: Syriac, not Greek

After hesitation by earlier scholars, a study by Jean Simon [113] established, in 1924, a consensus that the Syriac text of the Martyrdom of Febronia *BHS* 147 (*BHO* 302)²⁵ is the original one, whereas the Greek recension *BHG* 569²⁶ is a translation from Syriac. Until recently, only Paul Devos dared to express his doubts about the priority of the Syriac: “Avant de reprendre l’examen de ce problème, il faudrait établir avec soin le texte des deux Passions, grecque et syriaque.” [48, p. 299, note 3]. There is no critical edition of the Syriac text even now, but the critical edition of the Greek recension was published in 1990 by Paolo Chiesa. He accompanied his publication with a paragraph reconsidering Simon’s study and concluding that the original text is the Greek [31, pp. 353–355]. This conclusion was supported by Kaplan as “une démonstration extrêmement convaincante”. Nevertheless, for Kaplan, “...la question de la tradition du texte n’est pas définitivement résolue”; he justly refers here to the bilingualism of the population of Nisibis and concludes that it is “...difficile de savoir si un original est en grec ou en syriaque”²⁷.

We have to acknowledge that the intuition by Paul Devos was justified: the critical edition

of the Greek text did affect Jean Simon’s argumentation. Chiesa demonstrated that two senseless Greek phrases pointed out by Simon resulted not from the translator’s errors, as Simon thought, but from errors accumulated in the Greek manuscript transmission; both are preserved in error-free forms in manuscripts unknown to Simon. Moreover, Chiesa annihilated three other arguments by Simon²⁸ and put forward a unique positive argument for the Greek original that seems to him decisive. This argument is related to the lament of abbess Bryene over the corpse of Febronia, her spiritual daughter: it is in Syriac (even the Greek recension contains Syriac words transliterated with Greek letters) and is introduced by the hagiographer’s remark that the abbess spoke “in the Syriac language”. This remark is present not only in the Greek text but in the Syriac as well. According to Chiesa, this would have been senseless if the hagiographer wrote in Syriac²⁹.

This argument is, in fact, not so strong and by no means decisive. The Martyrdom, anyway, was written in a Hellenised milieu; this fact is noticed by all scholars, including Simon. This milieu was bilingual, using both Greek and Syriac, but neither Chiesa nor Kaplan realised this fact properly. The disputed phrase about the Syriac language in the mouth of Bryene follows an account of the nuns’ negotiations with Roman officials and guards, where only Greek would have been applicable. Bryene’s lament begins when the nuns returned to their home, after an abrupt change of scenery accentuated by a language switch. If such an explanation of the disputed phrase is, at least, possible, then Chiesa’s “decisive” argument is no longer decisive. Therefore, we are now authorised to look at what remains of Simon’s argumentation.

I accept Chiesa’s negative arguments, thus acknowledging that Simon’s argumentation now becomes weakened. However, Chiesa did not exhaust Simon’s arguments; he did not even mention most of them except only the five that he managed to refute. Which of Simon’s arguments remain?

The first and most weighty portion of Simon’s arguments is based on the syntax: the frequency of constructions with either an absolute genitive followed with a personal form of the verb related to the same subject or, instead of an expected absolute genitive, a participial phrase with the subject in the nominative. “Il n’est pas

naturel qu'un Grec cultivé écrivant spontanément en sa langue commette coup sur coup tant d'anacoluthes vicieuses. L'explication qui vient d'abord à l'esprit, c'est que cet auteur a traduit un texte syriaque et qu'il s'est laissé influencer par le syntaxe syriaque : les propositions participiales introduites par la conjonction ܐܘ correspondent en grec à la fois aux propositions au génitif absolu et aux propositions à un mode personnel" ³⁰. The second series is based on the lexical "erreurs de 'polysémie'" (three of which remained unrefuted) and "les quiproquos purs et simples" (of which one remained unrefuted) ³¹. To sum up: the regular occurrence of Syriac syntactic features together with four errors of translation; this is certainly not too bad. Simon's argumentation, even if weakened, still holds water, and its refutation by Chiesa is too superficial to be accepted.

If there still could be any doubts whether the Martyrdom of Febronia was written in Syriac, they must dissipate after we have identified the confessional milieu of this work.

3.1.3. Febronia, a "Monophysite" Authority for Not Working on Friday

The Martyrdom of Febronia, in either Syriac or Greek (as well as in the two mediaeval Latin versions) contains very precise liturgical data which has so far been neglected by scholars. In the monastery of Febronia, Friday was the weekday dedicated to the study of the Holy Scriptures and kept free from any work.

According to the rule of the founder of the monastery, Platonía, whose disciple the actual abbess Bryene was, the sisters were not permitted "to do any work at all on Fridays; instead they used to gather in the place for prayer [*or* "chapel", ܟܘܢܝܢܐ / εὐκτήριον] and celebrate the Office of Matins (ܟܘܢܝܢܐ ܕܥܘܠܘܬܐ)" ; most of the day until Vespers (ܟܘܢܝܢܐ) ³², except the services of canonical hours, was dedicated to studying the Scriptures which were read aloud by one of the sisters ³³. Febronia became this reader of the Scriptures on Fridays, which is important for the plot of the legend ³⁴. In this way, the importance of this particular kind of Friday veneration is emphasised with special force. The symbolism of the sixth day, Friday, is reflected as well in the sixth year – the six-year period between the martyrdom of Febronia and the completion of her shrine (temple: ܟܘܢܝܢܐ, ναός) in Nisibis ³⁵.

This veneration of Friday in such a radical form was not a common feature in Syriac Christendom. It is quite well known, however, from sixth-century and later sources, all of them being originally written in Syriac ³⁶, while also partially preserved in Greek and Arabic. I would add now to this collection one late sixth-century piece in Arabic ³⁷; the whole dossier is still waiting for publication ³⁸.

The Arabic homily in which a prohibition of any work on Friday seems to be suppressed by a mediaeval editor while remaining discernible is preserved in a unique manuscript (*Parisinus arabicus* 281). This piece dedicated to the veneration of two exceptional weekdays, Friday and Sunday, contains one place where the text is corrupted. Michel van Esbroeck proposed a quasi-literal translation that does not make sense, but it could be ameliorated based on a slightly different restoration of the Arabic ³⁹. The manuscript is to be read, in the relevant place, as following ⁴⁰:

يا اخوه انصروا واحفظوهم شغل يوم الاحد والصيام القدسة

Oh brothers, preserve and keep without work the first day [*of the week, Sunday*] and the holy fast...

The people who insisted on the abstention from work on Friday were Syrians and, more precisely, Severian "monophysites" ⁴¹. This is still not a sufficiently precise definition of their confession(s), given that the total number of the Severians in the sixth century was about a dozen, but, nevertheless, it is better than nothing.

It is extremely unlikely that any text insisting on the prohibition of work on Friday would have been produced, in the sixth or seventh centuries, by non-Severians and not in Syriac.

3.1.4. Commemoration Dates:

Febronia and John the Forerunner

The conclusion about Febronia's Syriac and Severian "monophysite" origins is corroborated by her commemoration day. In the Byzantine tradition, as well as in the late "monophysite" documents, Febronia's day is June 25. Nevertheless, in the earliest manuscript of the Syriac Martyrdom (British Library, Add. 14647 dated to 688) the first cathedral vigil dedicated to Febronia fell on June 24, with the number written down in full: "the vigil on twenty-four June" (ܟܘܢܝܢܐ ܕܥܘܠܘܬܐ ܕܦܝܒܪܘܢܝܐ) ⁴² thus making unlikely a scribal error in the date.

However, the Martyrdom describes a two-day festival whose second day was June 25 (in Syriac, once again the number is written down) ⁴³.

A festival of Febronia on June 24 was unacceptable in any liturgical tradition where this day was occupied by the Nativity of John the Forerunner. In the seventh century, such at least was the situation in Constantinople but still not in the Syriac “monophysite” communities, which accepted this feast of John much later. The feast of John the Forerunner on June 24 was artificially constructed as an expansion of the Christmas celebration on December 25 and, therefore, the Annunciation on March 25 ⁴⁴. This Christmas date was categorically rejected by the Armenians. Unlike them, most Syrians accepted the date at an earlier period but were not so enthusiastic about its expansion into June. Therefore, in the “monophysite” calendar in a manuscript ascribed to Jacob of Edessa and datable to *ca* 675 or, at least, to the late seventh century, there is still no Nativity of John the Forerunner ⁴⁵. The date of June 24 for Febronia was, in the seventh century, still available for the “Monophysites” even if already occupied in Constantinople.

In Constantinople, however, the original date of Febronia’s feast seems to have predefined the choice of the main place of Febronia’s cult, a church of John the Forerunner, where Febronia’s day has been inserted within the frame of the liturgical cycle of the Nativity of John. Michel Kaplan has already noticed this result of the coincidence between the two commemorations ⁴⁶.

3.2. The Syriac Martyrdom of Febronia:

Its Sitz im Leben

and the Date of Anastasia the Virgin

The Martyrdom in the available recension was composed later than some venerated relics appeared in a monastery near Nisibis. Our text, as it was duly noted by Michel Kaplan, aimed at a practical goal: to explain why the relics of Febronia must remain in her monastery instead of being transferred into the church dedicated to Febronia in Nisibis, which was constructed by the bishop of this city. The Martyrdom elaborates at length on the bishop’s attempt to remove the relics, which was foiled by a miracle. The bishop was able to transfer to Nisibis only one tooth. As was normal and even normative for the *Passions épiques*, this Martyrdom was written

for reasons connected to ecclesiastical politics, namely, in the interests of the autonomy of the monastery from the episcopal power.

Kaplan thinks that such events (an attempt to remove the relics of Febronia to the cathedral in Nisibis, probably the famous St Jacob of Nisibis church) would have taken place when the Roman administration returned to Nisibis in 629. Here I agree with him. He, however, considers the possibility of a conflict with Byzantine officials as the first concern of the hagiographer (and, therefore, his reason for writing in Greek). A conflict with the Syriac “monophysite” bishop of Nisibis, Abraham, who arrived in the city no later than in 631 under the protection of the Byzantine administration ⁴⁷, would have been, according to Kaplan, a less urgent danger, and, therefore, the Martyrdom was translated into Syriac later [78, p. 47]. I agree with the dating of the available recension of the Martyrdom to the 630s. Nevertheless, Kaplan’s reconstruction of the events is untenable for several reasons, not only because the original of the Martyrdom was in Syriac.

The Martyrdom says nothing about a danger to the relics from any secular officials or some religious persecution but states clearly the danger from a bishop of the same faith, to whom the monastery was subordinated. A miraculous intervention of Febronia herself was needed precisely because there was no canonical way to prevent the bishop from removing the relics. In the eyes of the hagiographer, the formal ecclesiastical law was on the bishop’s side.

The hagiographer, moreover, did not miss an opportunity to pinpoint the bishop’s moral right to the relics with a wisecrack: before the arrival of the pagan persecutors, he said, “even the bishop of the city hid out of fear (ܩܘܠܘܒܐ ܕܩܝܫܐ)” ⁴⁸. Similar was the situation of the “monophysites” in Nisibis under the Persian rule, when they did not have a bishop of their own.

We have to conclude that the Martyrdom of Febronia in its known recension was a response of the “monophysite” monastery which preserved her relics to the arrival of the first “monophysite” bishop of Nisibis Abraham between 629 and 631.

This conclusion provides us with a *terminus post quem* for the creation of the Martyrdom of Anastasia the Virgin, the 630s. The real date could be later but hardly by much, because the cult of Febronia lost its former popularity by the end of

the seventh century. Therefore, we have to date the Martyrdom of Anastasia the Virgin to the middle of the seventh century⁴⁹.

3.3. The Second Febronia (Feuronia)

The Constantinopolitan Synaxarium mentions, on either 27 or 28 of October, another Febronia, an ascetic, who was a daughter of Emperor Heraclius. The name is the same as that of the first Febronia but the spelling is different: Φευρωνία instead of Φεβρωνία, with no other variant readings in the manuscripts. The latter spelling is an exact transliteration of the Syriac (ܦܘܪܘܢܝܐ), whereas the former is not. Perhaps this difference in spelling was established deliberately for avoiding confusion between two homonymous saints.

The entry is our unique source about her cult:

Καὶ μνήμη τῆς ὁσίας μητρὸς ἡμῶν καὶ θαυματουργοῦ Φευρωνίας ἣτις ἐγένετο θυγάτηρ Ἡρακλείου τοῦ βασιλέως [42, cols. 170, 171].

And the commemoration of our venerable mother and wonderworker Feuronia that was a daughter of Emperor Heraclius.

This commemoration is absent from the *Typikon of the Great Church*⁵⁰ (ca 900), whose calendar became the core of the mid-tenth century Synaxarium of Constantinople⁵¹, but it certainly belongs to the earliest recension of the Synaxarium. This recension is accessible through the Armenian translation made in 991/992 by Joseph of Constantinople⁵², which is earlier than the earliest Greek manuscripts of the Synaxarium. In Joseph's Armenian translation, an exact rendering of this entry is present⁵³. The commemoration date is October 28, never 27, which is a weighty while not decisive argument for this date as the original one.

Some historians took this Synaxarium entry so seriously that they list Feuronia among the children of Emperor Heraclius. Feuronia, however, is not known outside the Synaxarium⁵⁴. A virgin martyr who is the daughter of a pagan king or an emperor was an ancient hagiographic topos, but here we are in the presence of its modification: a legend where the imaginary daughter of a historical pious (in the eyes of the hagiographer) emperor becomes monastic and a symbolical figure important to her confession. The striking parallel is Hilaria, an (imaginary) daughter of Emperor Zeno⁵⁵. Hilaria was “monophysite”,

whereas Feuronia was “monothelete”, a fruit of the union between the State Chalcedonism and the Severian “Monophysitism”. Perhaps an even closer relative of Feuronia is Constantia, also a sainted virgin, the imaginary daughter of Emperor Constantine the Great (not to be confused with his real daughter Constantina)⁵⁶.

Being a purely symbolical figure, this daughter of Emperor Heraclius says a lot about Constantinopolitan piety in the monothelete epoch. Her commemoration date, especially October 28 that looks to be the original one, is close to one of the two commemoration dates of Anastasia the Virgin, October 29. Their cults are clearly interconnected, especially if considered against the background of the interwoven Constantinopolitan cults of Anastasia the Virgin and Febronia of Nisibis. The imaginary Feuronia was an echo of the no less imaginary but much more famous Anastasia the Virgin, which yielded to enforce the cult of Emperor Heraclius established in the monothelete tradition⁵⁷. No wonder that, after the abrogation (in the State Church) of the cult of Emperor Heraclius, the cult of his symbolical daughter has had no brilliant prospects. The legend summarised in the Synaxarium seems to be irreparably lost.

4. Where Anastasia the Virgin Found Her Sophia

The Martyrdom of Anastasia the Virgin derives from the Martyrdom of Febronia mostly in the description of interrogations and tortures and, to a lesser extent, several other details. Some no less important background⁵⁸ of this legend is related to the city of Edessa. Anastasia the Virgin was born as a Roman child from the marriage of Edessa and Nisibis. In this section, we explore her Edessian lineage.

4.1. Abbess Sophia of Edessa

Among a dozen or more known legends of different Sophiae related to Rome, either Old or New⁵⁹, there is no other legend about a monastery of virgins headed by a Sophia and the martyrdom of a virgin from there. The *Passio* of Febronia is here of no help either. A legend mentioning such a monastery is known only from the Syrian Edessa, not Rome.

The text of the Martyrdom of the virgins from the monastery of Sophia in Edessa is preserved

only in an Arabic epitome of unknown date and its Ethiopic translation of the fourteenth century⁶⁰, without leaving any trace in either the original Syriac language or Greek. However, the legend is preserved in the oral tradition by the clergy of the Church of Virgins within the complex of rock-hewn churches in the famous Ethiopian site of Lalibāla. There, the story of these virgins has been told up to the present time along the same lines as it was first recorded by a European scholar in the 1520s, and as it is presented in the Arabic / Ethiopic epitome⁶¹.

The site of Lalibāla was created in about the twelfth century as a “copy” of the Syrian Edessa, and even its official name was Roha (from *Ruhā* “Edessa” in Arabic derived, in turn, from Syriac *Urhay*).

The Edessian “sacred topography” transplanted to this New Edessa in Ethiopia is difficult to date. However, in the case of these virgins led by Sophia, the lack of any mention in the preserved Syriac sources would suggest an earlier date. Moreover, elsewhere I tried to substantiate a hypothesis that this legend would have contributed to the cult underlying another church dedicated to some “Virgins,” which was one of the most important churches of Aksum, the ancient Ethiopian capital [4, pp. 177–178]. This would suggest a pre-seventh-century date for the Edessian legend. Finally, the fact that the persecutor of our virgins is Julian the Apostate on his way to Persia reveals the taste of Syrian hagiographers of the sixth century, when they produced a number of “sequels” to the Syriac *Romance of Julian*.

Be as it may, the Martyrdom of the Edessian monastery headed by abbess Sophia was an important legend in a large part of the “monophysite” world. In the field of hagiography, the “monophysite” world was never separated from the Chalcedonian until the Arab conquest (and even their later mutual isolation has never become absolute)⁶². Edessa in particular took an important role in the ecclesiastical policy of Justin I (517–527). A legend dedicated to another Sophia of Edessa (to be discussed in the next section) was also written in Syriac but by a hagiographer residing in Constantinople⁶³. Edessa was always a part of the Roman Empire: it never fell to the Persians except for a relatively short period from 610 to 628; indeed, it was eventually lost to the Arabs in 638.

The Edessian legend of Sophia and her nuns runs as follows. On his way to Persia, Julian the Apostate passed Edessa (a fictitious episode). There, he found a monastery with fifty virgins led by their abbess Sophia. The symbolical number of nuns, fifty (referring to the Pentecost and the gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed on this day), is the same as in the Martyrdom of Febronia, although this is a very common topos, known, e.g., from some recensions of the Armenian Martyrdom of the Rhipsimeans (virgins led by St Rhipsime) or some western legends, e.g., of St Sunniva. In the Roman monastery of our Anastasia the Virgin, there were only five nuns with their abbess Sophia. Although five is not fifty, these numbers are hardly unconnected. I would understand “five” in the legend of Anastasia the Virgin as a metonymy-like reference to “fifty”.

The legend of Anastasia the Virgin thus absorbed the “monophysite” legend of the Edessian abbess Sophia, which was preserved in the Egyptian “monophysite” milieu. The legend of Anastasia the Virgin itself was preserved in some Egyptian milieux. Its summary in the Synaxarium of the Coptic Church⁶⁴ is not a proof of this fact for the pre-Arab epoch, because this twelfth-century “monophysite” Synaxarium is heavily dependent on Melkite models, whereas the Greek recension *BHG 76x* contains Anastasia’s commemoration date according to the Egyptian calendar (μηνὶ κατ’ Αἰγυπτίου φαιωφὶ δωδεκάτῃ)⁶⁵. I am not sure whether we need, for explaining this Egyptian month name, to evoke, after Devos and Halkin, the Egyptian colony in Constantinople⁶⁶, because, in the sixth century, the communications between Constantinople and Alexandria were intensive, and the same competing Church groups were acting in both cities.

4.2. Mother Sophia in Edessa: The Anti-Gothic Background of Anastasia the Virgin

Our hagiographer’s interest in Syrian legends and especially in Edessa and a mother figure named Sophia becomes more understandable in the context of another Edessian legend – written in Constantinople, but in Syriac and by a Syrian closely related to Edessa. This is a legend of enormous popularity, both in Syriac and, even more, in the Greek version: *The Miracle* of the Edessian confessors Shmona, Guria, and Ḥabbib

(in the Byzantine tradition, Gurias, Samonas, and Abib) with the virgin Euphemia, married to “the Goth,” and her mother Sophia⁶⁷. The legend has remained a favourite in the popular piety of Orthodox countries up to the present day.

I have argued elsewhere that the legend of Euphemia and the Goth was composed, in the 520s, as an anti-Chalcedonian response to the earliest recension(s) of the Chalcedonian legend of the miracle of St Euphemia with the Chalcedonian *Horos*. The direct prototype of “the Goth” of the legend was the *enfant terrible* of the Chalcedonian party, the Byzantine general Vitalian, killed on the orders of Emperor Justin I, also a Chalcedonian, in 520; Vitalian was actually nicknamed “the Goth”⁶⁸. However, the original significance of the legend was forgotten almost immediately, and its popularity overcame all confessional barriers.

There is no need to summarise here a legend so widely known but I will note some features important to our study of the legend of Anastasia.

“The Goth” of the legend is the incarnation of evil. He has no other proper name but is always called simply “the Goth”. Sophia and her daughter Euphemia are pious and simple women living in Edessa who were, at first, deceived by the Goth, but then saved and avenged with the help of the Edessian confessors. Such sharply negative feelings towards the Goths were “traditional” for Edessa (at least, after 395, when the Goths arrived in Edessa as a part of the Roman army but plundered the city worse than the enemies had). This probably was not, in the 520s, a common attitude toward the Goths in Constantinople. However, after the beginning of the Gothic war in 536, the anti-Gothic rhetoric would certainly have been called for.

In the legend of Anastasia the Virgin created in a later epoch, Anastasia with her spiritual mother Sophia evoked in the audience’s memory the situation of Euphemia and her mother Sophia with the Goth. No Goth was explicitly mentioned in the legend of Anastasia, but the earlier Anastasia cult in the Anastasia church of Constantinople was in many respects “Gothic”, including such striking feature as liturgical readings of Scriptures in the Gothic language; it is already a well-known fact, and we will provide more evidence below (section 6). If the cult of Anastasia the Virgin was created for reshaping the earlier Anastasia cult in

order to make it free from any Gothic overtones, such a reference to mother Sophia and Edessa would have been extremely helpful.

The ecclesiastical topography of Constantinople would have certainly corroborated this mutual attraction between the Anastasia cult and the cult of Gurias, Samonas, and Abib. Their “martyrium” (a church dedicated to them, where, theoretically speaking, their relics must have been deposited⁶⁹) was located near the forum of Constantine⁷⁰, that is, just several hundred metres from the church of Anastasia.

An important conclusion imposes itself: the legend of Anastasia the Virgin was composed as anti-Gothic, with the purpose of replacing the earlier “pro-Gothic” legend that we will discuss below.

4.3. Where and When Anastasia Met Her Sophia

So far, one important motif in the legend of Anastasia the Virgin remains unexplained: why the name of Anastasia’s abbess is Sophia. In Byzantium, this name was always heavily loaded with symbolical references to liturgy and sacred topography and, therefore, in the seventh century, its meaning would have been easily recognisable.

Anastasia the Virgin, born in the seventh century, inherited her connexion with Sophia from her predecessor, Anastasia the Widow. This connexion goes back to the sixth-century liturgy of Constantinople, when the liturgical cycle of Christmas was reshaped with celebrations specific to the church of Saint Sophia constructed by Justinian. Both second and first consecrations of the Justinianic Saint Sophia are relevant for understanding the cult of St Anastasia in Constantinople.

The second dedication of Saint Sophia took place in 562, when the church was rebuilt after a series of earthquakes in the 550s, particularly after the collapse of the dome on May 7, 558. The commemoration of this event within the pre-Christmas stationary liturgy occupied two days, December 22 and 23. On December 22, the opening of the doors of Saint Sophia was commemorated (τὰ ἀνοίξια τῆς Μεγάλης Ἐκκλησίας) and, on December 23, the dedication (consecration, τὰ ἐγκαίνια)⁷¹. Since 562, St Anastasia (both martyr and church) and Saint Sophia (the church) shared the same commemoration date, December 22. Before this, they were interconnected even more closely, although not in the calendar.

The first dedication of the Justinianic Saint Sophia took place on the 27th of December in 537 (this date is preserved by historians but not by the liturgical calendar, where it was replaced by the dates of the second dedication). At that time, the church of St Anastasia was directly involved in the ceremony: καὶ ἐξ ἤλθεν ἡ λιτὴ ἀπὸ τῆς ἁγίας Ἀναστασίας, καθημένου Μηνᾶ τοῦ πατριάρχου ἐν τῷ βασιλικῷ ὀχήματι, καὶ τοῦ βασιλέως συλλιτανεύοντος τῷ λαῷ [120, p. 217 AM 6030] (“The procession set out from Saint Anastasia, with Menas the patriarch sitting in the imperial carriage and the emperor joining in the procession with the people”⁷²). The church of Anastasia initially figured in this ceremony as one of the principal churches of the capital, as Constantinople still was in the second half of the fifth century. By 562, the rank of this church would decrease. This change was natural in the course of the Gothic war waged by Justinian (535–554) because the highest rank of the church housing the relics of St Anastasia was backed by the Goths.

Nevertheless, the memory of St Anastasia became interwoven with Saint Sophia, and these mutual connexions became represented in the liturgical calendar.

4.4. The Two Anastasiae of Rome: the “Syrian” against the “Gothic”

Stem 2 (fig. 2) shows how the *Passio* of Anastasia the Virgin has been constructed.

The anti-Gothic plot line was assembled using Sophia and her virgin daughter; this pair was borrowed from the highly popular legend of Euphemia and the Goth. Then, to make the framework fitting for the Martyrdom of a virgin, another Edessian legend was used, the Martyrdom of Sophia and her virgin nuns. Finally, the resulting structure was filled *ad libitum* with the mounting foam – the “plagiarised” text of the legend of Febronia, which is Syrian as well.

To borrow plot elements from Syriac hagiography as from a construction set is certainly not a method yielding chefs d’oeuvre, but, for modest propagandist tasks, it works. Eventually, the new Anastasia became only a little less famous than the old. For the period between the mid-seventh century and the Iconoclastic epoch, however, it seems that Anastasia the Virgin was considered as the only legal owner of the body deposited in the Anastasia church.

We do not know what happened to the Anastasiae in the Iconoclastic times and later, up to the tenth century (see below, section 7).

Hippolyte Delehaye and, following him, Paul Devos thought that the legend of Anastasia the Virgin was created before the translation of LLA in 824 for filling an informational vacuum⁷³. I have tried to demonstrate that the purpose of creating a new legend was just the opposite: it consisted in concealing the old legend with a new one, severing all connexions with Sirmium and the Goths. As Michel van Esbroeck noticed, “Rien n’elimine mieux un document que la création d’un parallèle destiné à le remplacer” [53, p. 283]. The legend of Anastasia the Virgin has been created as such a “concealing” document with respect to the fifth-century Byzantine legend of Anastasia the Widow.

4.5. Anastasia the Virgin’s Burial in Rome

In the Martyrdom of Anastasia the Virgin, all the events take place in Rome. No Roman realities are mentioned, however. The only exception is the place of Anastasia’s burial, now barely recognisable in the manuscripts: the Forum⁷⁴. The hagiographer had Anastasia buried on the Forum – and this in the pagan epoch when any burials within city walls were strictly forbidden. Halkin argued that the hagiographer meant the *Forum Boarum* and the church of the *titulus Anastasiae* located nearby, at the foot of the Palatine Hill⁷⁵. I have argued that the Byzantine hagiographer implied the *Forum Romanum*, but this notion, for him, was a metonymy for a larger place, the whole centre of Rome and especially the Palatine Hill; therefore, Halkin was, nevertheless, right in identifying the reference to the *titulus Anastasiae*. In the mid-seventh century, the Palatine Hill became the centre of Byzantine Rome and of monothelete “orthodoxy”, when Constans II returned the Patriarchate of Rome to a union (interrupted from 649 to 654) with the monothelete patriarchates of the East [87, pp. 183–185].

Halkin considered the locating of the burial here as resulting from a mere confusion with Anastasia the Widow, to whom the church at the foot of the Palatine was dedicated [70, p. 171], but I would consider it as one of the techniques for replacing the previous cult of Anastasia with a new one. This was a historical period when Constantinopolitan authorities were operating in Rome, not without success.

In Greek legends, Rome was used as a substitute for Constantinople when the time of narrative action was pre-Constantine. Michel van Esbroeck wrote, commenting on the “Roman” martyrs Sophia with Pistis, Elpis, and Agape, who symbolised Constantinopolitan realities: “But why in Rome? At the time of the persecutions, Byzantium was not yet the capital of the empire. A legend arising in Greek lands had to validate its position by drawing the setting for its martyrdoms from the ancient capital. Why else could one set such a universal destiny?” [51, p. 135].

In the case of Anastasia, placing the saint and especially her relics in Rome served to legitimize the deposition of her relics in the New Rome, Constantinople. What belonged to ancient Rome in the pre-Constantine epoch now belongs to Constantinople. We will see (in Part Two of this study) that the previous Anastasia legend, that of the Widow, also provided Anastasia’s burial in Rome. Both legends, most likely, treated the *titulus Anastasiae* as the place of this burial in the past and a kind of a cenotaph of the saint in the present. Anastasia the Virgin’s burial on the Forum thus was projected on her actual burial in the New Rome, near the forum of Constantine and the forum of Theodosius, the two principal *fora* of the capital.

Halkin was right in considering the Anastasia church at the foot of the Palatine Hill as involved in the cult of Anastasia the Virgin. Moreover, together with the scholarly consensus, he thought that this church was dedicated even earlier to Anastasia the Widow. We will return to this church later (Part Two of the present study). Now it is important to notice that the competition between the cults of two Anastasiae was not limited to the New Rome but reached the Old Rome as well.

4.6. Two Anastasiae in Constantinople: the “Syrian” against the “Gothic”

The points of contact between the new and the old legends associated with the same relics and the same church are limited neither to those where the repulsive forces were at work (the anti-Gothic motifs of the later legend *vs* the implicitly Gothic of the earlier) nor those where the most obvious attractive forces acted (the uniformity of the name of Anastasia and her virginity). Paul Devos himself pointed out two moments in the Martyrdom of the Virgin which could be supposed to be borrowed in the Martyrdom of

the Widow. One of them, the name Probos of the Roman official who interrogated the Virgin and who interrogated the Widow in Sirmium, seemed even to Devos rather not accidental ⁷⁶. Indeed, I think that this Probos must be identified as a migrant from the earlier legend to the later (on him, see Part Two of the present study).

There is another important difference between the two competing Anastasia legends. The earlier is “Gothic”, while the later is “Syriac”. In the period of Monotheletism, the Syrians rose to power, especially in ecclesiastical matters, to an extent comparable with the secular power of the Goths in the third quarter of the fifth century.

5. Competing Anastasiae in the Liturgy of Constantinople

In our search for the early forms of the cult of Anastasia, we have to start from the later and proceed to the earlier. The later, however, are confused: too many Anastasiae and too many relics. In this section, we will try to bring order to the relevant data.

5.1. Commemorations in the Byzantine Rite *ca* 900

Let us begin from the hagiographical coordinates of time.

By the early second millennium, the two most renowned Anastasiae, the Virgin and the Widow, occupied their current positions in the liturgical year: in the Byzantine calendar, the Virgin was commemorated twice, on October 12 and 29 [42, cols. 133–134, 171–173], while the Widow once, on December 22 [42, cols. 333–338]; however, the Virgin was counted among the ordinary saints, whereas the Widow was commemorated with a significant solemnity.

The date of October 29 is relatively late. The commemoration of October 29 was celebrated in the otherwise unknown “monastery of Saint Anastasia” (ἐν τῇ μονῇ τῆς ἁγίας Ἀναστασίας) dedicated perhaps to another homonymous saint (obviously, the Widow) ⁷⁷. In the tenth century, Anastasia the Virgin was commemorated only once per year, on October 12 ⁷⁸. For this situation in the calendar of Constantinople, we have a *terminus ante quem* about 900.

We have just arrived at the situation that took place when *BHG* 81 (Greek translation of

LLA) already became the main legend of the most famous Anastasia. The Anastasia of this legend was commemorated on December 22 with a great feast, whereas Anastasia the Virgin was commemorated modestly on October 12.

5.2. Multiplication of the Relics of St Anastasia(e) in Constantinople

In this section, we turn to the multiple relics attributed to some Anastasiae. The places where these relics were venerated were the hagiographical coordinates for the respective cults.

5.2.1. The Life of St Andrew the Fool: The Relics Are Unique

By the tenth century, the relics of Anastasia translated from Sirmium remained in her church near to the colonnades of Domninos. Raymond Janin has expressed some doubt in this fact judging by a phrase in the *Life of St Andrew the Fool* (BHG 115z), ch. 2 [75, p. 25] (we will discuss this phrase in the next alinea). The cult of Andrew the Fool developed in a rather complicated way for becoming established by the early tenth century⁷⁹, but the hagiographical novel BHG 115z is certainly datable to the tenth century. The plot of the novel is inserted into the landscape of the tenth-century Constantinople.

This saint was prompted to his feat of foolishness by St Anastasia during “incubation” (curative sleeping) in the church of the martyr. The church is identified as following: εἰς τὸν σεβάσμιον ναὸν τῆς ἁγίας ἐν δόξουμάρτυρος Ἀναστασίας, ὃν ἐδομήσατο ὁ εὐσεβῆς Λέων ὁ Μακέλλης “...to the venerable church of the Holy and Glorious Martyr Anastasia, which the pious Leo Makelles [Leo I] has built” [109, vol. 2, p. 18/19 (txt/tr.)]. This is an exact indication of the church near to the colonnades of Domninos: properly speaking, it was not “built” by Emperor Leo, but was seriously rebuilt under him for the deposition of Anastasia’s relics translated from Sirmium (s. below). In the manuscript D (11th–12th cent.) this phrase has a variant: instead of ὃν ἐδομήσατο ὁ εὐσεβῆς Λέων ὁ Μακέλλης, it contains εἰς τὰ δὴ Μακέλλους φημί “(that is), I said, in Makelles’ (building)”⁸⁰. The meaning of this reading is, therefore, the same. In the printed text of the *Life* known to scholars before the 1995 Rydén’s edition, however, the text of D was printed with an error: Μακέλλου instead

of Μακέλλους [103, col. 640 A]. This is why Janin supposed that this could be a genitive form of μάκελλον (“indoor market”) instead of Μακέλλης. In this case, the location would have been different. Albrecht Berger continued Janin’s line of thought insisting that the Anastasia church of the *Life of St Andrew* is a different one, located in the place called Leomakellon. He noticed his disagreement with Rydén but not Rydén’s observation concerning the erroneous reading of μακέλλου instead of μακέλλους⁸¹.

In the *Life of St Andrew*, we see St Anastasia who, as a holy healer, acquired a specialisation: her patients are those possessed by impure spirits. This conclusion is corroborated by two other tenth-century *Lives*, those of Irene of Chrysobalanton (BHG 952, written under Basil II, who reigned from 976 to 1025) and Basil the Younger (BHG 263). Both contain episodes with “incubation” of a possessed person in the church of St Anastasia. There is no doubt, among the scholars, that, in the three *Lives*, the described church is the same, even though only the *Life of St Andrew* provides an exact address⁸².

In the *Life of St Irene of Chrysobalanton*, ch. 15, the church is referred to with almost the same words as in the *Life of St Andrew the Fool*: εἰς τὸν τῆς μεγαλομάρτυρος Ἀναστασίας ναὸν “to the temple of Great Martyr Anastasia”⁸³.

The mention of this church in the *Life of St Basil the Younger* refers to the epithet *Pharmakolytria*, which is of special interest for us.

5.2.2. The Saint from Sirmium Became Pharmakolytria

In the *Life of St Basil the Younger*, ch. 33, the episode with the “incubation” of a possessed person in the church of Anastasia is similar to those in the *Lives* of St Andrew and St Irene. The scholars agree that this church is the same as in the *Life of St Andrew the Fool*. Therefore, we are still near the colonnades of Domninos.

This text is the earliest one where Anastasia deposited in this church is called Φαρμακολύτρια (“She who delivers from intoxication / spells”), while this epithet is paraphrased; otherwise, the wording of the reference to the church is very close to that in the *Lives* of St Andrew and St Irene: πρὸς τὸν σεβάσμιον ναὸν τῆς πανευφήμου μάρτυρος Ἀναστασίας <...> τῆς τὰ φάρμακα λουόσης “... to the venerable church of the all-praiseworthy

martyr Anastasia, the deliverer from poisons”⁷⁷. The patient, in this case, became mad after having being poisoned by a sorcerer⁸⁴. This is the second episode, in this *Life*, related to the healing of someone possessed in the Anastasia church. The first one (ch. 29) is the healing of a possessed woman by St Basil. This woman escaped from the church of St Anastasia where she was brought by force for the incubation [117, pp. 322/323–324/325 (txt/tr.)].

After the eleventh century, the epithet *Pharmakolytria* appeared in the title of the entry on December 22 in several recensions of the Synaxarium of Constantinople⁸⁵. This means that, in the eleventh century, the epithet *Pharmakolytria* became semi-official for Anastasia the Widow, while, in the tenth century, it was widely known but remained more popular than official.

Finally, in the early fourteenth century, Nicephorus Callistus Xanthopoulos, in his mention of the translation of Anastasia’s relics from Sirmium, still called *Pharmakolytria* the saint whose relics are in this church⁸⁶.

In 1389, Ignatius of Smolensk “kissed the holy relics of Anastasia” on her feast day December 22. He did not indicate in what church he found them⁸⁷. Nevertheless, we know that December 22 was then the feast of Anastasia the Widow, and, therefore, Ignatius’ notice must be understood as a witness to the presence of her relics.

It is likely that, in the fourteenth century, the relics of Anastasia were unique and attributed to Anastasia the Widow. It is not to exclude the possibility that they were transferred to the church of Blachernae⁸⁸. On the eve of the Fourth Crusade, however, the situation was different.

5.2.3. Another *Pharmakolytria*?

There are two sources, however, that apparently refer to another St Anastasia as *Pharmakolytria*. One of them is Anthony of Novgorod; we will deal with his conundrum of three Anastasiae below. Another one is the late tenth-century *Patria Constantinopolitanae*.

The *Patria* contain two accounts of apparently different Anastasia churches. The first one, III.43, summarises the data of the *Life of St Marcian* concerning the translation of the relics of Anastasia from Sirmium and (re) building of her famous church⁸⁹. This account being “a distillation of the *Vita Marciani*”⁹⁰ does

not mention *Pharmakolytria* because this word does not occur in its late fifth-century source. The second account, III.103, is an urban legend: “Anastasios Dikoros [Emperor from 491 to 518] built Anastasia *Pharmakolytria*. For previously the house of a patrician called Pharmakas (Φαρμακᾶ λεγομένου) had stood here”⁹¹. The scholars agree that the name of the fictitious Pharmakas was derived from *Pharmakolytria* and not *vice versa*, and “Anastasius was chosen because his name was etymologically related to the name of Anastasia”⁹². For Rydén, this legend was an alternative account of the creation of the same church, even though not recognised as such by the compiler of the *Patria*. For Berger, this was an account of another church.

Berger’s argumentation becomes weaker when we remove from it the references to the tenth-century *Lives* of Andrew the Fool, Basil the Younger, and Irene of Chrysobalanton. In the tenth century, it was Anastasia the Widow who delivered sufferers from impure spirits through incubation in the presence of her relics in the church near the colonnades of Domninos; it was she who was called *Pharmakolytria*. Nevertheless, there are later sources that introduce another church of Anastasia, also with Anastasia’s relics.

One such church is known from the so-called *Anonymus Mercati* and Anthony of Novgorod (one of the three Anastasia churches visited by him). Berger follows Janin in identifying these two churches⁹³. This identification is corroborated by the publication of an earlier and more complete manuscript of the *Anonymus Mercati*. Unlike the recension published by Mercati himself⁹⁴, this earlier recension states explicitly that this church of Anastasia, like that described by Anthony of Novgorod, contains the relics of the martyr: *Ibi [sc., cisterna Bona] prope est ecclesia sanctae Anastasiae virginis et martiris. In ipsa ecclesia in cripta iacet sancta Anastasia romana et martir*⁹⁵ (“Nearby [the cistern of Bona] is the church of Saint Anastasia the virgin and martyr. In the same church, in the crypt, is deposited Saint Anastasia the Roman and martyr”). According to Krijnie Ciggaar, this text is a very literal Latin translation of a Greek guide written after 1063 and translated into Latin by an Englishman approximately at the beginning of the twelfth century. This guide, as it is accessible to us, does not mention the earliest Anastasia church, but the available text

is certainly incomplete. It is important that the Anastasia deposited in this church is called virgin, martyr, and Roman, but without any epithet proper to Anastasia the Widow. It is worth noting that she is not called *Pharmakolytria*.

5.2.4. The Conundrum of Anthony of Novgorod

In the account of Anthony of Novgorod, in 1200, the Anastasia church of the *Anonymus Mercati* is recognisable but St Anastasia whose relics are deposited here was, in Anthony's mind, the *Pharmakolytria*. Near the monastery of Pantokrator, Anthony mentioned a church "of Anastasia the Virgin; she lies there; she delivers from any spells and poisons" (мученицы анастасии девицы. ту лежитъ всякое волхвованье и потворы открываетъ) ⁹⁶. It is clear that, for Anthony, this Anastasia is the *Pharmakolytria*.

To evaluate the veracity of Anthony's interpretation, we have to recall that, for the hagiographer of Basil the Younger, for the editors of eleventh-century recensions of the Synaxarium of Constantinople, and even for Albrecht Berger, *Pharmakolytria* is an epithet of the saint whose relics were translated from Sirmium and deposited, in the fifth century, in the church near the colonnades of Domninos. *Pharmakolytria* is Anastasia the Widow. Berger preserves this truth at the cost of postulating a never witnessed transferral of Anastasia's relics from her first church to the church of the *Anonymus Mercati* and Anthony of Novgorod [20, S. 515]. Anthony himself, however, did not share this opinion.

For Anthony, Anastasia the Widow was deposited in another church, probably never mentioned elsewhere; at least, locating it is a difficult task ⁹⁷. In his account, the Widow is still recognisable, even though his knowledge of BHG 81–82 was far from perfect: святая анастасия в теле лежитъ. та же замужем была. на <to read но> милостынею и добрым житьемъ спаслась есть [76, S. 330] ("...Saint Anastasia lies in the body. She was married but was saved by charity and good life").

Anna Jouravel, following Pavel Savvaitov, identifies this saint as Anastasia the Patrician ⁹⁸ but this is certainly untenable. The Patrician's *Life* explains why her relics remain unavailable (see above, section 2). Indeed, the *Life of St Andrew the Fool* explains the same thing as well, but

Andrew's relics were possibly available for veneration somewhere in Constantinople ⁹⁹. Most important, however, is the fact that Anastasia the Patrician was saved by monastic asceticism, which is something quite different from the good deeds of lay people such as charity and merely "a good life". This fact alone precludes such an identification. It is obvious that Anthony referred to the *Passio* of the Widow, but he was unaware of its contents, knowing only the marital status of this Anastasia.

As if this confusion was not enough for him, Anthony provides us with a third St Anastasia, also with relics and in a church whose location is unclear: святая анастасия девица в теле лежит ¹⁰⁰ ("Saint Anastasia the Virgin lies in the body").

Anthony's account is confused – probably because of his own activity: instead of humbly writing down the comments of his guide, he tried to pose questions to him and enter into dialogue ¹⁰¹. Nevertheless, it is not to exclude that the number of the relics of different Anastasiae was then three, as Anthony's account states.

There were five Anastasiae venerated in Constantinople (we will discuss all of them in the course of this study ¹⁰²) but only one of them, the Patrician, was forbidden, by her hagiographers, to leave relics. Of the remaining four saints, two were competing for the same relics deposited near the colonnades of Domninos. The two others had every chance to acquire their own relics as well. It is a rule that the relics of saints appear where people need them to appear, regardless of whether the respective saints were completely imaginary or whether their previous relics were stolen or removed.

From the confused account of Anthony, we can retain that there were some relics of a certain Anastasia (but hardly the *Pharmakolytria*) in the church described earlier by the *Anonymus Mercati*, and that the relics of Anastasia the Widow were available for veneration – but not necessarily in the church indicated by Anthony. According to the later recensions of the Synaxarium of Constantinople, they remained in the church near the colonnades of Domninos. Their location was perhaps changed (to Blachernae?) during or after the Latin occupation of the city (1204–1261). We cannot be sure that the relics venerated by Anthony as those of Anastasia the Widow

belonged to this saint. It is possible that he knew that these relics were venerated in Constantinople but mistook the place.

5.2.5. Two Anastasiae in Peaceful Coexistence

The *Life of St Irene of Chrysobalanton* contains a revealing scene (ch. 13). One of Irene's nuns, a native of Cappadocia like herself, became a victim of witchcraft. Irene prayed to her common compatriot Basil the Great. St Basil helped Irene to address the Theotokos, and the latter calls on St Anastasia – obviously as a specialist in such problems:

Again Irene heard her saying, 'Call for Anastasia!' At once two women appeared, one of whom was dressed in a monastic habit and was called (it seemed to her) 'the Roman'. Turning to the other (καὶ πάλιν ἀκοῦσαι λεγούσης «τὴν Ἀναστασίαν μοι καλέσατε» καὶ παραστῆναι δύο γυναῖκας αὐτίκα, ὧν τὴν μίαν, σχῆμα περικειμένην μοναχικόν, τὴν Ῥωμαίαν ᾤετο λέγεσθαι πρὸς δὲ τὴν ἐτέραν ἐπιστραφεῖσα...) the Mother of God said, 'Hasten, with the help of St Basil <the Great>, to inquire carefully into the illness of Irene's disciple and let her be healed, for you have received the gift of effecting such ends from my Son and God.' Then Anastasia and Basil seemed to make obeisance together <...>¹⁰³

The appearance of the second Anastasia – easily recognisable as the Roman nun, Anastasia the Virgin¹⁰⁴, – is unmotivated by the plot; she is never mentioned again. This Anastasia is not a specialist in delivering from witchcraft but she also answered the call for Anastasia.

At the beginning of this scene, another saint appeared for a moment, equally unmotivated by the plot. After having seen the Theotokos, Irene "...fell at the feet of Our Lady in deep awe and trembling. Lying there she heard a cry from the all-holy Lady calling for Basil and John and saying to them, 'Why has Irene left her flock and come here?' (...ἀκούσαι τε κειμένην φωνῆς τῆς πανάγνου Βασιλείου καλούσης καὶ Ἰωάννην, φάναι τε πρὸς αὐτούς: «τίνος χάριν καταλιποῦσα τὸ ποίμνιον αὐτῆς ἐνταῦθα πάρεστιν ἡ Εἰρήνη»). Out of the two Basil told her in detail about all that her daughter in the spirit had suffered <...>"¹⁰⁵. This John said no word and disappeared after this appearance for an instant.

Unlike fiction, hagiographical narrative is conditioned by the background of the actual sacred topography. Anastasia the Virgin and this John were not required by the plot, but this means

that they were required by the sacred topography that, in the late tenth or early eleventh century, still did not allow separating Anastasia the Widow from Anastasia the Virgin and this John. If we recall that Anastasia the Widow abode in the church near the colonnades of Domninos, it becomes clear that this John is the Forerunner, the "owner" of the nearby St John church. These two churches were liturgically interconnected in the seventh century (see above, section 3), and now we see that they continued to be interconnected three centuries later.

Anastasia the Virgin was not exiled by the return of Anastasia the Widow but the two Anastasiae cohabitated in a single church. The translation of LLA made in 824, *BHG* 81, served to re-establish Anastasia the Widow in her home but it was by no means aggressive toward the cult of Anastasia the Virgin – unlike the legend of Anastasia the Virgin that was created as the weapon of a competing and aggressive new cult.

The *Anonymus Mercati* described his Anastasia as "virgin" and *Anastasia romana*. This description is more fitting with Anastasia the Virgin. Let us notice that, in the *Life of St Irene*, this Anastasia is called "the Roman" to make a distinction between her and Anastasia the Widow. It seems, therefore, that, to some period after 1063 and before the twelfth century, Anastasia the Virgin acquired her own church with her own relics. The Anastasia of these new relics was erroneously taken for the *Pharmakolytria* by Anthony of Novgorod.

5.3. Commemorations in the Byzantine Rite before 900

The two commemoration dates for the two Anastasiae, the Widow and the Virgin (December 22 and October 12, respectively) were established after a period when Anastasia the Virgin must have been commemorated on the earlier date of Anastasia the Widow. The former occupied the church and the relics of the latter, and, therefore, she must have occupied her commemoration date as well. This situation, after having been established in the seventh century, must have never been challenged before the end of the Monothelite union, that is, before 681 if not 715. It is beyond doubt that this earliest commemoration date of St Anastasia fell in the last days of December, near December 25. It is *a priori* most probable that the

familiar date December 22 was used already in the sixth and the late fifth centuries. Moreover, the Martyrdom of Anastasia and Theodota provides us with an indirect proof that the 22nd day of December was the pre-Monothelite Anastasia's commemoration. Let us return to this text.

In the earliest copy of the Georgian version of the Martyrdom of Anastasia and Theodota, the commemoration date of these saints is October 22. It is written down in full (განწესა დღესასწაოვლი საკსენებელის მისისა თ(უეს)ა ოკდომბერსა ოცდარსა “The feast day of their commemoration is established on the twenty second of the month October”) in the last lines of the text of the earliest copy, the manuscript *Sinaiticus georgicus* 11¹⁰⁶. This manuscript is dated approximately to the tenth century, but its Arabic original was older, and the Greek original of this Arabic was older still. The date of October 22 (and sometimes its alteration, October 23) is preserved in several Georgian calendars and *menaia*¹⁰⁷ and in one thirteenth-century manuscript of the Melkite Synaxarium in Arabic (according to J.-M. Sauget, the other manuscripts of this Synaxarium do not know a commemoration of Anastasia on this day, October 23 [110, pp. 311–312]). The commemoration of Anastasia on October 23 was so widely known, among the Melkites, that it became the only commemoration of this saint reported by Abu Rayhan al-Biruni (973 – after 1050) in his description of the Melkite calendar [68, p. 11].

The number 22 is revealing. It is the same day in October as was the main Anastasia day in December. The days of the month tend to be invariant under deliberate substantial shifting of commemoration dates¹⁰⁸. The most natural explanation of October 22 as the commemoration date of Anastasia and Theodota is a deliberate shift of the earlier commemoration date of Anastasia, December 22. Such a shift must have become necessary when the “Syrian” Anastasia the Virgin replaced the “Gothic” Anastasia the Widow.

When Anastasia the Widow returned to December 22, the most honourable place for St Anastasia in the liturgical calendar, it was Anastasia the Virgin's turn to go into October exile. The 22nd day of October was, however already appropriated by Anastasia the Widow¹⁰⁹. Eventually, Anastasia the Virgin stayed at October 12.

6. Anastasia, a Saint of the Goths, and Her “Sister” St Irene

In this section, we will try to discuss the Constantinopolitan cult of St Anastasia as far as is possible without reading the legend of Anastasia the Widow and without taking into account the veneration of St Anastasia in the West.

Rochelle Snee already facilitated our task by her study on the transformation of a little Anastasia church dedicated to the Resurrection of Christ, where Gregory of Nazianzus served as the Nicaean bishop of Constantinople, into the church of St Anastasia renovated by St Marcian for receiving the relics translated from Sirmium. Although she is somewhat sceptical about such an exact dating of the translation as 468–470¹¹⁰, her own dating is very similar: before the assassination of Aspar and Ardabur in the middle of 471, when the tension between Aspar and Emperor Leo I had already become quite perceptible. This means roughly the same years [114, esp. pp. 161–162, 185–186]. For us, it is important that the translation took place when Sirmium had passed from the hands of the Huns to the Ostrogoths (454/455). Without the Ostrogoths' consent, the translation of the relics to Constantinople would have been impossible¹¹¹.

6.1. St Anastasia in Constantinople: The Patron of the Goths

St. Anastasia was especially venerated by the Ostrogoths. In the sixth century, there was an important Gothic Anastasia church in their capital Ravenna¹¹². Nevertheless, they consented to the translation. Indeed, the moment was rightly chosen: it was the time when either the future Theoderic the Great lived as a young hostage at the court of Constantinople (for about ten years until 469) or shortly thereafter.

Beside the scanty mentions of Byzantine historiographers, the translation is witnessed by the hagiographical dossier of St Marcian, the Economos and presbyter of the Great Church in Constantinople¹¹³; these hagiographical documents reveal the meaning of the translation of St Anastasia's relics. Marcian's most well-known pre-Metaphrastic *Vita BHG* 1032¹¹⁴ is already affected with anti-Arian and anti-Gothic censorship – sometimes to a lesser extent than his Metaphrastic *Vita BHG* 1034 [118]. However,

the most interesting to us is the lesser-known pre-Metaphrastic *Vita BHG* 1033¹¹⁵, which preserves intact the passage related to the Arian Goths.

One of the main accomplishments of Marcian's life was, according to all his biographies, the rebuilding of the St Anastasia church. This church, as it is emphasised by the hagiographers, had long ago served as the shelter of the Orthodox led by Gregory of Nazianzus in the Arian Constantinople. The dedication of this church under Gregory (probably after the Anastasis basilica in Jerusalem) had been forgotten by Marcian's times; everybody thought that it was dedicated to martyr Anastasia. Marcian, as his hagiographers said, reconstructed and decorated the former church of Gregory of Nazianzus having in mind Gregory's own hope or prophecy about this¹¹⁶.

This action, related to the church especially known by the staunch anti-Arianism of its famous founder, was overtly anti-Arian. At the end of the dedication ceremony, Marcian was slandered by some adversaries before the Patriarch Gennadios, but his innocence was revealed through a miracle. Then, continued the hagiographer, what happened became "a demonstration of the power of God and the triumph over Devil [*sc.*, *diabolus* "calumniator"] himself and the evil doctrine of Arius" (τὸ δὲ γενόμενον ἔδειξεν τὴν τοῦ Θεοῦ δύναμιν καὶ τρόποιον ὑπῆρχεν κατ' αὐτοῦ [τοῦ] Διαβόλου καὶ τῆς Αρειοῦ κακοδοξίας), because the new church attracted crowds to Orthodoxy¹¹⁷. The *Vita BHG* 1032 unites this dedication and the deposition of the relics into a single event (ch. 5 [128, vol. 4, p. 262]), which is, of course, not necessarily historically true but, at least, explains why the date of the dedication, December 22, became the major commemoration date of St Anastasia in Constantinople.

The most interesting episode proper to *BHG* 1033 is the following. After having accomplished his magnificent architectural project, Marcian received expressions of gratitude from different social strata, including Emperor Leo (457–474) and even Aspar and his son Ardabur (who will be killed in 471) – those highest officials who made Leo the Emperor; both were Arians, being Goths, and therefore unsuitable for becoming emperors themselves. Aspar was the teacher of the future Theoderic the Great in the years of his staying in Constantinople.

The account of *BHG* 1033 (ch. 14)¹¹⁸ is the following:

οἱ γε καὶ διάφοροι πρὸς ἡμᾶς περὶ τὴν ὀρθὴν ἐτύγγανον πίστιν, ἀλλ' ὁμως, αἰδοῖ τοῦ πατρὸς, πλεῖστα καὶ ἀξιοθέατα πολυτελῆ σκευὴ τῷ σεπτῷ καὶ παναγίῳ τῆς μάρτυρος Αναστασίας μαρτυρίῳ, οἷα πρὸς ἄρκτον αὐτῷ γεινιῶντες, προσήνεγκαν. Ὅθεν τοῦτους ἀμειβόμενος ὁ ὁσιος ἀντίδωρον αὐτοῖς ἐχαρίσατο, διατυπώσας ἐφ' ᾧ τῇ πατρῷα αὐτῶν γλώττῃ τῶν γότθων ταῖς ἐπισήμοις ἡμέραις τὰς θεοπνεύστους Γραφὰς ἀναγινώσκεσθαι.

Even though they [Aspar and Ardabur] differed with us in the matter of right faith, nevertheless, out of respect to the Father [*sc.*, Marcian], they brought many different and worthy of admiration utensils for the esteemed and most holy martyrdom of the martyr Anastasia, because they were living in its vicinity, north of it¹¹⁹. Therefore, the holy man has shown them his gratitude reciprocally with a return gift; (namely,) he has established in the *typikon* [liturgical regulations specific to a given church] that, on the festal days, the divinely inspired Scriptures are to be read in their mother tongue of the Goths.

Let us notice that such act of gratitude would have hardly been possible without a number of Goths within the congregation of the church and even among the clergy (the lay people are not allowed to read the Scriptures at the liturgy, but these readings are distributed between the readers, the deacons, and the priests).

The church of St Anastasia became the centre of Gothic anti-Arian Orthodoxy, even though it was established with the collaboration of the Arian Goths – not only Aspar and Ardabur but also the Arian Ostrogothic authorities in Sirmium¹²⁰. The Arian St Anastasia church in Ravenna continued the tradition of this cult of St Anastasia as the holy patron of the Goths – but already within the Arian realm. Regardless of the internal differences between the Nicaean minority and the Arian majority, the Ostrogoths venerated St Anastasia as their common saint and, therefore, certainly venerated her relics deposited in her Constantinopolitan church.

The legend of St Anastasia produced by and for this pro-Gothic cult would have had little chance to survive undamaged in the sixth-century Constantinople.

6.2. St Anastasia in Constantinople: the "Sister" of St Irene

Another episode of Marcian's biographies is important for our future reconstruction of the early

Byzantine Anastasia legend: she was venerated together with a certain martyr Irene.

The great and beautiful church of St Irene, rebuilt on the site of a modest ancient church, was the last construction erected by Marcian – also because of some divine revelation. This church of Irene called “of Perama” was located at the seashore of the Golden Horn, near the pier of the boats plying their trade between Pera and Galata ¹²¹. Marcian died when the church had not yet been fully decorated, but Empress Verina accomplished the work. Looking at the beautiful church, the people have said: Ἴδὸν καὶ ἄλλη θυγάτηρ τοῦ ὁσίου Μαρκιανοῦ, ἀδελφὴ τῆς ἁγίας [ἐνδόξου μάρτυρος] Ἀναστασίας ¹²² “Lo, this is another daughter of holy Marcian, a sister of the saint [glorious martyr] Anastasia!”

Modern scholars are unanimous that the St Irene venerated in this church was the central character of the mid-fourth century legend of Irene, whose initial pagan name was Penelope (preserved in Greek as *BHG* 953 ¹²³). Her martyrdom took place under a certain Licinius but (as is not infrequent in the temporary structure of the “epic” hagiographical legends) in apostolic times, when she became a follower and companion of Apostle Timotheus. The *raison d’être* of the legend was the translation of the relics of the Apostle from Ephesus to Constantinople in 356; the empty coffin of Timotheus in Ephesus was represented with the empty coffin of Irene, also in Ephesus, that she left behind her after her resurrection.

Strictly speaking, it needs to be proven whether the Irene of the church “of Perama” was this companion of Apostle Timotheus, because the available Constantinopolitan data are not explicit: they simply mention, on January 21, a synaxis “of Irene in her most holy church that is near the sea” (Εἰρήνης ἐν τῇ ἁγιωτάτῃ αὐτῆς ἐκκλησίᾳ τῇ οὐσῇ πρὸς θάλασσαν) ¹²⁴. In the *Vitae* of Marcian, the day of the dedication of the St Irene church is January 20 ¹²⁵. However, from this January date the identification of St Irene is perfectly clear. The commemoration of Apostle Timotheus was oscillating within the interval from January 20 to January 22 ¹²⁶. The commemoration of this Irene was inserted into the liturgical calendar as a part of a Timotheus’s liturgical cycle. No doubt, the Irene of our church was Irene-Penelope, even though the regular feast of this martyr was on May 4 or 5 [42, cols. 653, 660].

It is another matter, however, whether our Irene’s dependence on Apostle Timotheus was realised in Marcian’s times. The *Vitae* suggest that it was not: at least, they contain no trace of hagiographical traditions related to the Apostle. In this case, the date of the dedication, January 20, would have been retained from the tradition of the earlier Irene church that was replaced with the new one.

Instead of Timotheus’s hagiographical traditions, we see that Irene became a “sister” of Anastasia. Such relations between these two martyrs are known from the Constantinopolitan legend of St Anastasia, an abridged recension of which is the Martyrdom of Anastasia and Theodota, and another recension of which is LLA. There, St Irene appeared ¹²⁷ as a companion of St Anastasia. However, this St Irene is not an imaginary and symbolical companion of Apostle Timotheus but a historical martyr of Thessalonica.

7. The Major Blocks of Which the Anastasia Legend Was Built

The legend of Anastasia the Widow as it is represented by LLA and *BHG* 81, contains five major blocks, each of them (excluding the Preface) having an autonomous plot line:

1. Preface.
2. *Passio sancti Chrysogoni*.
3. *Passio sanctarum Agapae, Chioniae et Irenae*.
4. *Passio sanctae Theodotae*.
5. *Passio sanctae Anastasiae* proper.

Both the legend of Theodota with her three sons and the legend of Irene, Agape, and Chionia (points 3 and 4 of the list above) were known, in Byzantium, in forms unconnected to Anastasia. The situation with the legend of Chrysogonus is quite different. We will see (in Part Two of the present study) that, together with the Preface, it is a later addition proper to LLA and previously unknown in Byzantium.

In this section, we will focus ourselves on the two cults used for naturalising Anastasia as a Constantinople citizen. As a saint of Constantinople, Anastasia underwent, in the fifth century, a double assimilation. She was naturalised theologically as a Nicaean saint, and politically as a Thessalonian saint. For the former purpose, she was introduced in Constantinople

by the historical martyr of Nicaea Theodota, and for the latter purpose, by the historical martyrs of Thessalonica Irene, Agape, and Chionia.

7.1. Irene, Agape, and Chionia as Companions of Anastasia

The three historical martyrs of Thessalonica (they were martyred in Thessalonica during the same persecutions of Diocletian, when the historical prototype of Anastasia was martyred in Sirmium) had a Martyrdom of their own. Their *Passio BHG* 34 is now considered, despite its overall “epic” framework, as containing a genuine record of their interrogation ¹²⁸.

In the Constantinopolitan legend, these three martyrs became companions of Anastasia. In the fifth-century context, this would have meant a kind of appropriation of Anastasia by Thessalonica. Thessalonica has been for centuries a rival of Sirmium; the two cities were competing for the status of the capital of the Balkans. Until the end of the fourth century, if not later, the official capital of the “prefecture of Illyricum” was Sirmium, whereas Thessalonica was the second city of this province. In the fifth century, their competition increased to the international level, because Sirmium fell to the Huns in 441–442. By the second half of the fifth century, it was Gothic.

In the legend accompanying the translation of Anastasia’s relics from Sirmium, it was impossible to eliminate Sirmium at all. Nevertheless, it was possible to soften the sound of its name and to introduce a more “patriotic” intermediary, Thessalonica.

Were this legend of Anastasia composed in the early sixth century or later, Thessalonica would have been represented in its plot by St Demetrius ¹²⁹. However, in the fifth century, St Demetrius had not had time to become a saint warrior of Thessalonica and was still a modest martyr deacon of Sirmium. Sirmium’s modern and mediaeval name, Sremska Mitrovica, is an abbreviation of “Dimitrovica” – “city of Demetrius”.

The great basilica church dedicated to St Demetrius in Thessalonica was constructed in the first years of the sixth century (or the last years of the fifth century at the earliest) ¹³⁰, probably even in the 510s or 520s ¹³¹, thus proclaiming that Thessalonica henceforth is the city of St Demetrius. As Delehaye convincingly argued, the relics of

St Demetrius were in fact deposited in Sirmium and not in Thessalonica. What Thessalonica had were only “secondary relics” such as a piece of a cloth (orarion?) impregnated with the blood of the martyr ¹³². Demetrius became μυροβλήτης (“myrrh-gusher”) much later, most probably in the eleventh century ¹³³. By this time, of course, his “primary” relics (that is, the body or parts of it) had had to be “found” in Thessalonica. Therefore, the presence of Irene, Agape, and Chionia, but not of Demetrius is a strong proof that the Constantinopolitan legend of Anastasia belongs to the fifth century and not to the sixth.

7.2. Theodota as a Companion of Anastasia

The plot line of St Theodota of Nicaea within the legend of Anastasia is a straightforward expression, in the symbolical language of hagiography, of the Nicæan faith. We already know how important it was in the eyes of St Marcian, when Constantinople was *de facto* controlled by Arian Goths. This plot line is a recognisable hallmark of the time of the translation of Anastasia’s relics. Considered against the background of the plot line of Irene, Agape, and Chionia, this is a decisive argument for attributing the old Constantinopolitan legend of Anastasia to the cult of the saint established after the translation of her relics to the capital.

Theodota, with her three sons, was the most known historical martyr of Nicaea. Her hagiographical dossier contains two long *Passions épiques*, *BHG* 1780 and 1781, of which *BHG* 1781 is sober and has more historical value ¹³⁴.

7.3. The Historical Virgin Martyr of Sirmium

As is often the case, the historic martyr of Sirmium has escaped our search. She was known to neither the Latin *Depositio martyrum* (composed *ca* 336) ¹³⁵ nor the Syriac martyrologium of 411 (translation of the lost Greek document dated to *ca* 362 [101, pp. 7–26]), which are the earliest available lists of the martyrs for liturgical commemoration. A single fact is certain: in the first half of the fifth century, on the eve of the translation of her relics to Constantinople, she was already a venerated saint deposited in Sirmium. It is impossible to know with certainty whether she was martyred under Diocletian, although, of course, this supposition looks most likely.

Previous scholars believed that, at least, her name was Anastasia, and her commemoration day was December 25, the date preserved by the *Martyrologium Hieronymianum*. These two suppositions are merely guesses based on the presumption that the fifth-century Roman sources which name the martyr of Sirmium Anastasia and commemorate her on December 25 follow the tradition received from Sirmium. Any other possibilities were never considered, as if we can be sure that the Sirmium cult of Anastasia, from the very beginning in the early fourth century, presumed this name of the saint and this day of her commemoration. In fact, we have no direct witness of this cult in Sirmium in the fourth century, whereas our indirect data could be interpreted in different ways.

It is extremely unlikely that the martyr of Sirmium was called Anastasia. Before the late fourth century or even later, this Christian name was used in the family of Emperor Constantine the Great almost exclusively¹³⁶. This name belongs to the Roman core of the Anastasia legend and, therefore, is unrelated to the martyr of Sirmium.

It is certain, nevertheless, that there was some cult of this martyr in Sirmium, and, therefore, some legend of her. We will return to these problems in Part Two.

Nevertheless, the historicity of St Anastasia as she was created in about 468–470 in Constantinople was not limited to her connexion with the prototype martyr of Sirmium. Her other prototypes were Roman and no less historical.

7.4. The Roman Core of the Anastasia Legend(s)

The Nicaean and Thessalonican plot lines were interwoven, in the legend of Anastasia, with the main line of the martyrdom of Anastasia herself, a Roman dame. This part of the legend is the fruit of about a century of development of properly Roman hagiographical traditions. It was certainly borrowed from Rome. This has never been sufficiently analysed, and we will devote Part Two of this study to its investigation. We will call it the Roman core of the Anastasia legend.

8. Provisional Conclusions

In Part One, we considered the main lines of development of the Byzantine Anastasia cult(s) from the fifth century to about 1200, while

provisionally putting aside two minor Anastasia cults that arrived from Rome.

The Monothelete Union brought many changes in the liturgical life of Constantinople. One of the most remarkable was the popularity of Syrian saints, both previously known ones and such a newcomer to the capital as was St Febronia. The origins of the cult of St Febronia remain unknown, but, in its form available to us, it was created (or, probably, reshaped) in a “monophysite” (Severian) monastery near Nisibis during the short period when the Byzantine rule there was restored (from 628 to 639).

The cult of St Febronia, then extremely popular, together with other Syrian cults, contributed to creating a new “monothelete” St Anastasia, the Roman Virgin, with the purpose of replacing the previous one, the Roman Widow. The latter was, in the fifth century, the patron of the Goths, but now, in the seventh century, remained without any specific duty in ecclesiastical or secular politics. Her relics, deposited in her church in Constantinople, continued, nevertheless, to be much venerated. Therefore, she was forced to hand over her relics and her commemoration date December 22 to her young rival. However, the Monothelete Union was not too long-lived, since the Syrian influence in the Patriarchate of Constantinople decreased rapidly, and Anastasia the Widow managed to regain both her relics and her commemoration day.

Thus, Anastasia the Virgin became topographically homeless (there was no church with her relics) and calendrically vagabond (her commemoration day was shifted from December to October, where it was oscillating between different dates, especially October 22, 12, and 29). Anastasia the Widow eventually won. She allowed, however, the commemoration of her former rival, the Virgin, as the second St Anastasia of the capital. Therefore, in due time, Anastasia the Virgin provided herself with relics that were venerated by pilgrims starting in the eleventh century at the latest.

The early Byzantine legend of Anastasia the Widow was published (made known to everybody) at the occasion of the translation of her relics from Sirmium to Constantinople. This event is datable to the interval from 468 to 470. The appropriate legend contained the Roman core of Anastasia legends (that will be discussed in Part Two of the present study) and two important additions

from the legends of the Thessalonian martyrs Irene, Agape, and Chionia and of the Nicaean martyr Theodota with her three sons. In the fifth century, these martyrs were known as the holy patrons of the respective cities (St Demetrius did not become the patron of Thessalonica before the sixth century). Thus, the Constantinopolitan cult of St Anastasia was backed by the saints of Thessalonica and Nicaea. Both cities were important with respect to the Goths.

In these years, the Arian Goths headed by Aspar and Ardabur were *de facto* rulers of Constantinople and the whole Eastern Empire. The translation of the relics from the Gothic Sirmium to Constantinople and the establishment of the Anastasia church in the capital would have been impossible without their involvement, which was indeed very intensive. Nevertheless, this church was strictly Nicaean, even though very open to the Goths (including the reading of Scriptures in Gothic). In such a religious situation, the need of support from the patron saint of Nicaea was obvious. The support of the saints of Byzantine Thessalonica was needed with respect to politics. Thessalonica was then the Byzantine capital of Illyricum, because the former Roman capital of this province, Sirmium, already had passed to the Goths.

Now we are prepared to turn ourselves to the Roman core of the Anastasia legends. This will be the topic of Part Two of the present study.

To be continued...

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NOTES

¹ Thus [44, p. 156], not to say of earlier less critical studies. For Lapidge, the very *raison d'être* of the legend was “curiosity about who were these martyrs”, Anastasia and Chrysogonus who gave their

names to the respective *tituli*-churches, whereas, in reality, they were not martyrs at all [80, pp. 56–57].

² This fact is known from Theodore’s colophon at the end of *BHG* 81 (catalogued separately as *BHG* 81a): critical edition by F. Halkin [70, p. 131]; he was identified by J. Gouillard with one of the leaders of the second Iconoclasm (anathematised by the 869 Council of Constantinople, where he was present in person; cf. [66, pp. 398–401] and a discussion by Halkin [70, pp. 86–87]).

³ As counted Lapidge [80, p. 63]. The modern critical edition by Paola Moretti [97] takes into account fifty-five; its translation with a commentary, including some textological notes, is provided by Michael Lapidge [80, pp. 54–87]. The previous scholarly edition by Hippolyte Delehaye was based on two manuscripts [44, pp. 221–249].

⁴ Preserved in the unique manuscript of the complete Arabic Melkite Menologion (under December 22) compiled in the very beginning of the eleventh century: *Sinaiticus arabicus* Nr 398, ff. 215^r-222^v. See Habib Ibrahim’s description of this unpublished manuscript [72, pp. 73–74]; for the date of this Menologion, see Alexander Treiger’s study [121, pp. 327–332]. The text, together with my notice on the mutual relations between this Arabic recension and the Georgian Martyrdom of Anastasia and Theodota, is under preparation by Habib Ibrahim.

⁵ Cf., however, the last paragraph of this Martyrdom in its earliest manuscript, where the title is repeated as following: ესე არს წამებანი წ(მი)დისა ანასთასიალისი და თეოდ(ო)ტესა და სხუ(ა)თა მათ წ(მიდა)თად რ(ომე)ლნა მათ თანავე იწამნეს “This is the Martyrdom of saint Anastasia and Theodota and other saints who were martyred together with them”; this title is published only in Gérard Garitte’s description of the manuscript [60, p. 32].

⁶ In Stem I, the Arabic recension is still marked with the asterisk, because the preserved Arabic text is not identical to the lost original of the Georgian version. However, it is so close to it that the asterisk could be omitted.

⁷ Cf. a short discussion, with the most relevant references, by Jane Baun [18, pp. 114–115].

⁸ *BHG* 79 and 80; edited (unsatisfactorily) by Léon Clugnet [36, pp. 51–56; reprint 1901: vol. I, pp. 2–7]; see an evaluation of this edition by M. Bonnet [23]; a Synaxarium entry on March 10, *BHG* 80e: [42, cols. 523–528] ([36, pp. 57–59; reprint 1901: vol. I, pp. 8–10]). The Byzantine recension is also represented with Slavonic and Georgian versions, which are of no self-standing interest for us.

⁹ *BHS* 1019. Ed. by François Nau in [36, pp. 391–401; reprint 1901: pp. 68–78]; see translation by S. P. Brook and S. A. Harvey: [25, pp. 142–149].

¹⁰ Preserved only as a Synaxarium entry on January 21 (Ṭubeh 26): ed. by R. Basset [17, pp. 669–

670]; as it seems to me, this entry is not a translation of a Byzantine Greek text – as it occurs with some entries of the Coptic Synaxarium in Arabic (cf. a discussion by R.-J. Coquin [41, p. 2172]), – but its history remains unknown. Most probably, this legend goes back to a legend written in Greek but by “Monophysites”.

¹¹ Beside the entry in the Ethiopian Synaxarium on January 21 (Ῥεϛ 26), which is the fourteenth-century translation of the Arabic entry (ed. by G Colin [39, pp. 188/189–190/191 (txt/tr.)]), there is a longer recension within the Ethiopic version of the *Stories of Daniel of Scete*: ed. by L. Goldschmidt and F.M. Esteves Pereira [65, pp. 3–6/30–34 (txt/tr.)], which has been translated from a lost Arabic original.

¹² *BHS* 703. See the new edition and translation by Ch. Müller-Kessler and M. Sokoloff [99, p. 97–98].

¹³ See Garitte’s entry [62] for the main bibliography and the unresolved problems (even in our days, whereas the relevant *fascicule* has been published in 1957). The story of Anastasia is lacking from the preserved Coptic version; it is unknown in Armenian either. The Slavonic and Georgian versions represent the Byzantine tradition and therefore are of no particular interest.

¹⁴ Cf., for bibliography, Lourié [83].

¹⁵ Edited by Delehaye [44, pp. 250–258]; Halkin denoted recension 76z “the vulgate” and published other recensions: a similar recension *BHG* 76x called “hagioritique”, taking into account the “epitome” recension *BHG* 78e known from a single manuscript with a great lacuna [70, pp. 159–170], and an interesting “remaniement de Vénise” *BHG* 76zd (from a unique 16th-cent. manuscript), where the relics of Anastasia were deposited at the St Anastasia church in Rome dedicated to the Widow, and the two Anastasiae are therefore reunited within a common cult [70, pp. 170–178]. The so-called *Passio longior* *BHG* 76y known from a single eleventh-century manuscript remains unpublished.

¹⁶ There is a vast bibliography on the evolution of the cult of St Artemius from the fourth to the seventh century and later. Among the most important studies, I would mention those by S.N.C. Lieu [82] (on the early development of the cult), A. Busine [28] (on the Constantinopolitan late sixth- and seventh-century context), and V. Déroche [47] (decline of the cult in the iconoclastic epoch).

¹⁷ See, for the medicine aspect, A.P. Alwis’s study [11].

¹⁸ In his postscript to Miracle 24: [32, pp. 142/143–144/145 (txt/tr.)]. In this edition, the *editio princeps* by A. Papadopoulos-Kerameus (1909) is reprinted with an English translation (by V. S. Chrisafulli) *en regard*.

¹⁹ This aspect of historical value even of the most legendary hagiographical documents is often neglected, even by such great specialists as, e.g., François Halkin [69].

²⁰ See [32, p. 158/159 (txt/tr.)]. Cf. [32, p. 8], John W. Nesbitt’s topographical observations.

²¹ Cf. a notice by J.-M. Fiey [58, pp. 79–80], for earlier scholarship, partly outdated.

²² The date according to Fiey [56, pp. 14–15].

²³ Ed. and transl. by E. A. Wallis Budge [26, vol. 1, p. 136; English tr.: vol. 2, pt. 1, p. 203], the translation is slightly edited by myself. Fiey located the monastery on the route to Marga [55, pp. 278–279].

²⁴ Kaplan [78, pp. 38, 40, 44], as many others before him, refers to this witness uncritically, without mentioning its late date.

²⁵ The Syriac text edited by Paul Bedjan [19, pp. 573–615]; English translation by Brock and Harvey [25, pp. 150–176].

²⁶ Critical edition, together with two early Latin versions (*BHL* 2843 and 2844), by Paolo Chiesa [31, pp. 333–395].

²⁷ Kaplan focused his discussion of the bilingualism of local Christians on the moving of the “Nestorian” famous theological school from Edessa to Nisibis in the late fifth century [78, pp. 37, 45]. However, as David Taylor pointed out, the Christian population of Mesopotamia practiced Syriac-Greek bilingualism and diglossia quite widely, regardless of the school of Edessa / Nisibis [119].

²⁸ See [31, p. 354]. Of these three cases, two are related to the spectrum of meaning of Greek words: Chiesa argues, against Simon, that the respective words could have had, in the Byzantine Greek, the same meanings as their correspondents in the Syriac. The third case is a possible confusion between two words that look similar in Syriac spelling; this confusion, however, results anyway in acceptable readings. Chiesa is justified in noticing that such an error could be interpreted, with an equal likelihood, as committed by a Syriac scribe and not necessarily by the Greek translator.

²⁹ Chiesa [31, p. 355]: “Ma decisivo è il fatto, mi pare, che anche nel testo siriano l’invocazione sia introdotta dalle parole ‘cominciò a parlare in lingua siriana’, frase che, all’interno di un testo scritto interamente in lingua siriana, non ha alcun senso se non in quanto traduzione di una corrispondente espressione in una lingua diversa”.

³⁰ One kind of Semitisms in syntax is pointed out by Kaplan, who, however, prefers to explain it through the hypothesis of an educated author who wrote in Greek while his / her mother tongue was Syriac [78, p. 41].

³¹ See [113, pp. 72–75]. I do not quote Simon’s arguments because I agree with them and have nothing to add.

³² The word “office” (ⲛⲁⲩⲁⲛⲁ) is lacking here, and, therefore, “Vespers” could be understood as either “office of Vespers” or simply “evening”. In both cases, the general meaning is the same because the office of Vespers in the evening must have been implied.

³³ Syriac: ed. Bedjan [19, p. 576]; Greek: ed. Chiesa [31, p. 370]; English tr. by Brock, Harvey [25, p. 154].

³⁴ Syriac: [19, p. 577]; Greek: [31, p. 371]; English tr.: [25, p. 155].

³⁵ Syriac: [19, p. 610]; Greek: [31, p. 392]; English tr.: [25, p. 174].

³⁶ The Syriac *Story of the Holy Friday* (not in *BHS*) has been recently published by Sergey Minov [96], who is, however, hesitant concerning its date, but is certain that it belongs to the “monophysite” community and was written, most probably (while not for sure), in Syriac. The main character of this story, bishop John who had disguised himself as a slave of a pagan master, was consecrated in Alexandria but for an unnamed city (Minov translates correctly: “...bishop who was hiding from *his city* for twenty-seven years already (and) who was ordained (*i.e.* consecrated. – *B. L.*) in Alexandria” [96, p. 211]), not for Alexandria itself, as Minov understands ([96, p. 217]). I have once attributed this story, then known to me from the 1910 paraphrase by F. Nau, to the sixth-century Syriac “monophysite” hagiographical traditions: [84, pp. 163–165, 196–204]. The closest parallel in Syriac hagiography discussed there escaped Minov’s attention. This is another story about a hidden bishop who venerated Friday, the *Life* of Bishop Paul and Priest John, *BHS* 960 (fragmentary Greek version: *BHG* 1476) published by H. Arneson, E. Fiano, C. Luckritz Marquis, and K. Smith [13]. In this text, any work on Friday is not forbidden explicitly, but such a prohibition is implied: Paul dedicated Fridays to almsgiving to the people dwelling in remote places, which would have not left time for any other work; cf. my observations [87, p. 202]. Minov managed, however, to indicate two important texts written against the prohibition of working on Friday: one Syriac, a canon of Jacob of Edessa (*ca* 633–708, “monophysite”), and one Greek, an otherwise unknown and undated text ascribed to Basil the Great that is quoted (twice!) by Nikon of the Black Mountain near Antioch (*ca* 1025–1100, Melkite but West Syrian, not Byzantine) in his *Taktikon*.

³⁷ This is the first of the two Pseudo-Basilian homilies published by Michel van Esbroeck [54]. The editor did not discuss the original language of this piece but such an early date is hardly compatible with Arabic. It is most likely that the original language is Syriac.

³⁸ Two unpublished Arabic Pseudo-Basilian homilies dedicated to Friday veneration have been recently indicated to me by Alexander Treiger in a personal communication.

³⁹ Van Esbroeck [54, p. 62]: “Frères, observez et gardez le Dimanche, loin du travail, et le jeûne signe saint...”. If this sentence deals with Sunday, why any fast is mentioned? In fact, the sentence demands to abstain from work on both Sunday and this fast, which are of course two different days. Moreover, “signe” in van

Esbroeck translation implies a restoration of ايات to ايات. The manuscript (a digital copy of which was pointed to my attention by Alexander Treiger) contains here an abnormal spelling of الصياميات “and fasts” with the *mīm* in the final form instead of the medial (fig. 3). Thus, van Esbroeck read this as two different words mistakenly written without space between them, الصيام يات. Alexander Treiger provided me with a much more natural explanation: the scribe wrote الصيام “fasting” (in singular) but then added the ending of plural (thus producing الصياميات “and fasts” with the *mīm* written incorrectly). However, the following adjective “saint” remained in the singular. Therefore, we have to restore the reading of “fasting” in the singular and understand this word as referring to Friday.

⁴⁰ *Parisinus arabicus* 281, f. 304r; cf. van Esbroeck [54, p. 57]. As van Esbroeck, I preserve the spelling واحفضو instead of واحفظو, which is normal for many Christian Arabic manuscripts.

⁴¹ The conclusion about the “monophysite” origin of Febronia’s cult, without any further precision, has been already drawn by Brock and Harvey [25, p. 150, note 2] (against Simon’s opinion that the cult was “Nestorian”) but based exclusively on the early date of the earliest manuscript that belongs to the “monophysite” tradition.

⁴² Syriac: [19, p. 610] (with a variant reading of a late manuscript “twenty-five” (حَمْسِيْنَ مَسْعَم)); English tr.: [25, p. 174]; cf. Greek: [31, p. 393] (μηνὶ ἰουνίου κε’).

⁴³ Syriac: [19, p. 614]; Greek: [31, p. 395]; English tr.: [25, p. 176].

⁴⁴ The following counting method is implied: March 25 becomes the first day of the sixth month of Elizabeth’s gestation, according to Luke 1:24, 26; therefore, the last day of the ninth month must be June 24. For the documents containing such calculation, the earliest of them being a homily by John Chrysostom delivered in 386 in Antioch, see esp. the references by Bernard Botte [24]; cf. a discussion in Daniel Stökl Ben Ezra [116, pp. 250–255].

⁴⁵ Edited by F. Nau [101, p. 33]; cf. [101, p. 29] for the date.

⁴⁶ Kaplan [78, p. 34]: “Nul doute que, par cette proximité, qui fournit d’ailleurs peut-être une raison pour l’installation d’une chapelle de Fébronie dans l’église de l’Oxeia, Fébronie récolte, le jour de sa fête, dont la vigile est une fête particulièrement illustre, le bénéfice de ce rapprochement”.

⁴⁷ Under the Persian rule, there was no “monophysite” bishop of Nisibis. There was only a “Nestorian” bishop of the city, whereas the local “Monophysites” formed a minority. For the details, see J.-M. Fiey [57, pp. 63–65].

⁴⁸ Syriac: [19, p. 581]; Greek: [31, p. 373]; English tr.: [25, p. 157] (with a minor change).

⁴⁹ This date that remains within the chronological limits of the Byzantine Rome would explain appearance

⁷⁴ On this word, corrupted in different ways in the manuscripts, see Delehayé [44, p. 257, fn. 19]. Anastasia is said to be buried ἐν τόπῳ καλουμένῳ Φόρῳ (§ 9); Delehayé wrote in the footnote to his edition of *BHG* 76z: “*legendum videtur φόρῳ. Versio latina in locum qui vocabatur Proforo*”. *BHG* 76x has the same readings with the initial Ψ (ed. Halkin [70, pp. 169–170, fn. 2]), but *BHG* 76zd actually contains the reading Φόρῳ [70, p. 178, fn. 4] restored by Delehayé. This place is localised in some Μεσοποταμία Ῥώμης “Mesopotamia of Rome”: Halkin [70, p. 178]. “Cette Mésopotamie de Rome, Halkin added, pourrait aussi, comme me le suggère le P. Devos, être une vague réminiscence de la patrie du S^{te} Fébronie, martyre à Nisibe à Mésopotamie” [70, p. 171, fn. 2].

⁷⁵ “Il s’agit apparemment de l’église Sainte-Anastasia au pied du Palatin, en face du Forum Boarium et entre les deux «vallées» qui séparent le Palatin du Capitole et de l’Aventin” [70, p. 171].

⁷⁶ See Devos [49, p. 47], where he wrote, in particular: “Il serait toutefois légitime de se demander si, dès avant 825, en plus du nom et de la renommée d’Anastasia, quelque chose de son histoire, telle que se le contaient les Romains, n’avait pas atteint les rives de Bosphore”.

⁷⁷ See Janin [75, p. 26] for a commentary to this location. Janin pointed out that, for the monastery dedicated to the commemorated saint, the Synaxarium uses the phrase ἐν τῇ μονῇ αὐτῆς. It is very possible that “the monastery of Anastasia” was an alternative name of the monastery of Anastasis (Resurrection) that existed in the unique complex of buildings with the church of St Anastasia near the colonnades of Domninos; cf. Janin [75, p. 23], and Magdalino [89, p. 62].

⁷⁸ The tenth-century recension of the Synaxarium of Constantinople is available through its Armenian translation. For October 12, we read here: Եւ Անաստասիա սրբուհւոյ կուսիւ: “And <the commemoration> of Anastasia, the saint virgin” [130, vol. 10, p. 130; cf. pp. 130–131] for three more Armenian recensions of this entry, without any epitome of her *Passio* either). The title of this entry is an exact rendering of the preserved Greek original that, in turn, goes back to the *Typikon* of the Great Church: ἄθλησις τῆς ἁγίας Ἀναστασίας τῆς παρθένου “the contest of saint Anastasia the virgin” ([42, col. 133; 94, vol. 1, p. 68]). For December 22, there is here (in all Armenian recensions) a relatively long epitome of LLA [130, vol. 12, pp. 268–273]. This is the text preserved in the Synaxarium of Constantinople in Greek [42, cols. 333–338] but with a different title (without a mention of Φαρμακολυτρία “Deliverer from Potions”, a later Byzantine epithet of Anastasia the Widow, which is present in the title of the Synaxarium entry in some of its recensions [42, cols. 333–334]:

ըշասուկ է սրբուհու կուսիւ Անաստասիա “It is the commemoration of the saint virgin Anastasia” [130, vol. 12, p. 268]. This title is closer to that in the *Typikon* of the Great Church: ἄθλησις τῆς ἁγίας Ἀναστασίας καὶ σὺν αὐτῇ ἁγίων γυναικῶν [94, vol. 1, p. 142] “the contest of saint Anastasia and with her saint women”, but perhaps, for the Armenians, only a unique Anastasia existed, and, therefore, both Anastasiae, those commemorated on October 12 and December 22, are called “Virgin”.

⁷⁹ I tried to investigate this matter in [85, esp. pp. 284–287].

⁸⁰ See discussion of this variant by L. Rydén [108, p. 200]. Cf. Rydén’s commentary to the critical text [109, vol. 2, p. 306, note 5].

⁸¹ Cf. [20, S. 514]: “Die Andreas-Salos-Vita <...> lokalisiert sie z. B. *en tois Makellou* [*sic!*], also in die Nähe des Leomakellon”. In the footnote to this place (Anm. 27), Berger refers to Rydén 1974 noticing that Rydén “nevertheless” (*trotz*) identifies this church with that of the earlier sources (near to the colonnades of Domninos) but does not mention the error in the printed text that he repeated. In a later study, Berger provided an approximate map of the part of Constantinople where he located the respective Anastasia church: A. Berger [21, S. 44, 47–48], once again with a reference to Rydén [108] but quoting, once again, the erroneous reading *ta Makellu* [21, S. 47].

⁸² Rydén [108, pp. 200–201]; Berger [20, S. 514]. See also two next footnotes.

⁸³ Ed. and tr. by J.O. Rosenqvist [107, p. 68]; cf. [107, p. 69, note 3], identification of this church with the church of Anastasia in the *Life of St Andrew*.

⁸⁴ See new edition and translation by D.F. Sullivan, A.-M. Talbot, S. McGrath [117, pp. 326/327–328/329 (txt/tr.)]. The editors follow in identification of this church with that of St Andrew the Fool and, in turn, with that near the colonnades of Domninos [117, p. 323, notes 90, 91]. There is also an ancient Slavonic version of the *Life of Basil the Younger*, now published critically and studied [9].

⁸⁵ Ed. by Delehayé [42, cols. 333–334] (in *Synaxaria selecta*). This is an addition to the genuine recension, unknown to the Armenian and other ancient (11th-cent.) translations of the Synaxarium; the epithet is, of course, absent in the *Typikon* of the Great Church. Arne Effenberger, taking Berger’s identification of the Pharmakolytria with the saint deposited in another church (that Berger located at Leomakellon), goes so far as saying that the Synaxarium of Constantinople made an error: “Nur das Synaxar zum 22. Dezember bezeichnet die in den Emboloi des Domninos verehrte Anastasia irrtümlich als Pharmakolytria” [50, esp. S. 49, Anm. 81]. The Synaxarium, unlike a pelerine account, could not contain “errors”: it consists of a written fixation of an actual liturgical practice; therefore, the

alleged error must be attributed not to the editor(s) of the Synaxarium but to the cult itself. If Effenberger is right, this would mean that the people who venerated St Anastasia in her church near the colonnades of Domninos on December 22 were wrong thinking that they venerated the *Pharmakolytria*. It is more likely that were wrong those who read μακέλλου instead of μακέλλους in the *Life of St Andrew* and Anthony of Novgorod whose testimony we will discuss below.

⁸⁶ As noticed by Rydén [108, p. 201]. For Nicephorus, see his *Historia ecclesiastica*, 14.10 [102, col. 1089 CD] (τὰ λείψανα τῆς ἁγίας Αναστασίας τῆς φαρμακολυτρίας ἀπὸ Σιρμίου ἠνέχθη).

⁸⁷ В 22 целовах мощи святѣя Анастасиѣ; ed. G.P. Majeska [90, p. 101]; cf. his English tr., [90, p. 100]. Before this, Ignatius mentioned his visit to St Sophia “on the Sunday before Christmas”. These episodes are unconnected: in 1389, December 22 fell on Wednesday, and the Sunday before Christmas was on December 19.

⁸⁸ Two other Russian fourteenth-century documents mention unique relics of Anastasia in Blachernae: Stephen of Novgorod (1348 or 1349) (ed. Majeska [90, p. 45]) and the Russian Anonymous (1390/1391) (ed. Majeska [90, p. 151]), whose indications are identical; cf. commentary by G.P. Majeska [90, p. 337]. Klaus-Dieter Seemann [112, pp. 333–336] and George Majeska [90, pp. 119–120] argue that the text of the Russian Anonymous is an adaptation of a Greek fourteenth-century guide. For the high importance of the Blachernae church in Constantinople since the 1070s, see, in particular, Ciggaar’s commentary in [34, p. 130].

⁸⁹ Critical edition by T. Preger [106, pp. 233–234]; bilingual popular edition with an English tr. by A. Berger [22, p. 164].

⁹⁰ As it is was called by R. Snee [114, esp. p. 169, note 83]. Cf. Berger [20, S. 445–447].

⁹¹ Preger [106, p. 250]; Berger [22, p. 186]; English tr.: Berger [22, p. 187] (slightly modified).

⁹² Rydén [108, p. 200]; cf. Berger [20, S. 514–515].

⁹³ Janin [75, p. 26]; Berger [20, S. 514–515]. Berger’s localisation of this church is valid, but Berger is hardly right in identification of this locality with Leomakellos. For the localisation of Leomakellos, in the light of recent data, see esp. the study by Victoria Gerhold [64, esp. pp. 77–90].

⁹⁴ See, in his edition, esp. [95, p. 485].

⁹⁵ Ed. by K.N. Ciggaar [33, p. 258] (the second sentence is lacking from the manuscript published by Mercati). Cf. [35, esp. p. 148].

⁹⁶ See the critical edition by Anna Jouravel [76, S. 318, 320]. Here and below, I simplify the Slavonic spelling. Jouravel follows Berger’s identification of this church as that of the *Pharmakolytria* [76, S. 319, Anm. 264; S. 321, Anm. 265, and *passim*].

⁹⁷ See, for localisation, Jouravel’s commentary [76, S. 218–220].

⁹⁸ Jouravel [76, S. 331, Anm. 329; cf. S. 219, Anm. 747]; Savvaitov [10, col. 161, note 257].

⁹⁹ Cf. Majeska [90, pp. 315–316, 384–385]; and Lourié [85, pp. 285–286, note 136]. I consider this question unresolved.

¹⁰⁰ Jouravel quoting Savvaitov: [76, S. 308]. Jouravel’s reference to Savvaitov’s opinion [76, S. 309, Anm. 217] is here misleading: Savvaitov, who, in turn, referred to J.S. Assemani [14, pp. 489–494] (Savvaitov [10, col. 127, note 167]; Jouravel’s reference contains a typo: “137” instead of “127”), did not mean that this saint is the *Pharmakolytria*, but he indicated the whole range of possibilities pointing to the considerations (“соображения”) of Assemani concerning identity or diversity between various Anastasiae venerated in Constantinople.

¹⁰¹ See Sergey A. Ivanov’s study [3]. Ivanov also disagrees with an identification of one of the Anastasiae of Anthony with the Patricia.

¹⁰² The fourth (with Petronilla) and the fifth (with Basilissa) Anastasiae will be discussed in Part Two.

¹⁰³ Ed. and transl. by Rosenqvist [107, p. 58/59 (txt/tr.)].

¹⁰⁴ Rosenqvist recognised the second as Anastasia the Virgin nun [107, p. 59, note 10].

¹⁰⁵ Ed. and tr. by Rosenqvist [107, p. 58/59 (txt/tr.)].

¹⁰⁶ The concluding paragraph containing this date is omitted in the publication by Ivane Imnaishvili [131, p. 31], but published in the description of the manuscript by Gérard Garitte [60, p. 32]. Obviously, Imnaishvili omitted this paragraph as a later addition, because the text of the Martyrdom *proprie* was concluded before it with the word “Amen”. Before the text, there is a subtitle also published by Garitte: სავითარებო თ(უ)ესა ოკტომბერსა კო (“Lecture for the month October, 29”), who noticed that the number “29” is written by a later hand over the erased part of the text; Imnaishvili published this subtitle but omitted the number at all [131, p. 20].

¹⁰⁷ The tenth-century Georgian calendar of John Zosimas preserved both dates, October 22 and 23. See Garitte’s edition and commentary [61, pp. 98–99, 364–366].

¹⁰⁸ Compare the biblical model, the Second Passover on 14.II (Numb 9: 10–11). The documented cases of deliberate shifting of commemoration dates are, however, rare. In the 11th century, the commemoration day of Symeon the New Theologian was appointed on the 13th day of October instead of the 13th of March (because his death fell on the Lenten time unsuitable for high celebrations). This scanty evidence is, nevertheless, corroborated with the second law of Baumstark (the more important liturgical elements are, the less they are subject

to change), which makes, for any feast, a shift of the month together with a shift of the day of the month far less likely than a shift of the month alone.

¹⁰⁹ This additional and unnecessary commemoration day of Anastasia the Widow could have gradually fallen into oblivion but not deliberately transferred from one Anastasia to another. This situation was regulated by the first law of Baumstark (the law of organic development). The seventh-century situation, when Anastasia the Virgin was artificially created for replacing Anastasia the Widow, was not a situation of natural and organic development, thus allowing the replacement of the saint martyr commemorated on December 22.

¹¹⁰ Thus R. Janin [75, p. 27]. For a discussion of this dating among the scholars, see Snee's outline [114, esp. pp. 161–162, 185–186].

¹¹¹ See esp. H. Gračanin's and J. Škrkulja's study [67, p. 174]; cf. H. Wolfram [126, p. 321 *et passim*]. This circumstance remained unnoticed by Janin who collected the historical documents related to the translation [75, pp. 22–26].

¹¹² Cf. esp. the study by G. Kampers [77]. Cf. also considerations by Ivana Popović [104, pp. 11–13] and Popović and Ferjančić [105] related to Sirmium during the period when it has been regained by the Ostrogoths, 504–536; however, I am not sure that findings of Ostrogothic coins near the fundaments of ecclesiastical buildings (never identified with confidence) would testify to any specific devotion to St Anastasia by the Ostrogoths.

¹¹³ He is a somewhat understudied figure. Cf. Janin [74]; the year of his death is unknown, probably after 471. On September 1 and 2, 465, during the great fire of Constantinople (commemorated even in the Synaxarium on September 1), Marcian, according to all his biographies, saved with his prayer the newly rebuilt church of Anastasia; cf., for the sources and chronology, A. M. Schneider [111, S. 383–384].

¹¹⁴ Published by Athanasios Papadopulos-Kerameus [128, vol. 4, pp. 258–270; vol. 5, pp. 402–404].

¹¹⁵ Not used by Janin [75]; published by Manuil Gedeon [127, pp. 271–277]. The dossier contains still unpublished elements: three recensions *BHG* 1033a, b, c (presumably, similar to *BHG* 1033) and another Metaphrastic recension *BHG* 1034b.

¹¹⁶ This pre-history of the Marcian's building has been recently studied by Rachele Snee; cf. esp. [114, p. 169].

¹¹⁷ *BHG* 1032, ch. 6 [128, vol. 4, p. 263]; not in *BHG* 1033.

¹¹⁸ Ed. Gedeon [127, p. 277]; cf. the corresponding account in the Metaphrastic recension *BHG* 1034 [118, col. 456 A].

¹¹⁹ See, for Aspar and Ardabur living near the church to the north, Snee's observations [114, p. 176].

¹²⁰ P. Amory mistakenly called the church of Anastasia "the center of an Arian cult in Constantinople" [12, p. 272, cf. p. 359].

¹²¹ See, for the history of the church and its location, Janin [75, pp. 106–107] and Berger [20, S. 447–449].

¹²² *BHG* 1032, ch. 12 [128, vol. 4, p. 269]; *BHG* 1033, ch. 11 [127, p. 276]. The words in the brackets are proper to *BHG* 1033.

¹²³ The critical edition by A. Wirth [125, S. 116–148]. For the critical analysis and dating, see van Esbroeck [51, pp. 138–139].

¹²⁴ Mateos [94, vol. 1, p. 206/207 (txt/tr.)], repeated – sometimes verbatim – in the Synaxarium [42, cols. 409, 412]. This commemoration, however, is absent from the Patmos manuscript of the *Typikon* of the Great Church, even though the connected (see below) commemoration of Apostle Timotheus on January 22 is present [2, pp. 44–45].

¹²⁵ *BHG* 1032, ch. 12 [128, vol. 4, p. 269]; *BHG* 1033, ch. 11 [127, p. 276]; *BHG* 1034, ch. 16 [118, col. 448 D].

¹²⁶ See Garitte's commentary to the Georgian Jerusalem calendar of John Zosimos [61, pp. 137–138]; cf., on January 22, the *Typikon* of the Great Church: ed. Mateos [94, vol. 1, p. 206/207 (txt/tr.)], ed. Dmitrievsky [2, p. 45], repeated by the synaxaria [42, cols. 411–412].

¹²⁷ Strictly speaking, in the Martyrdom of Anastasia and Theodota, there appeared not Irene herself but several traces of her martyrdom, such as her persecutor Dulcinius (in this recension, the plot line related to the martyrdom of Irene, Agape, and Chionia is erased by the editor); see Lourié [86].

¹²⁸ Published by Franchi de' Cavalieri [59] according to the unique manuscript so far known; this text is reprinted in: Musurillo [98, pp. 280–293; cf. pp. xlii–xliii]. For the modern evaluation of the historical value, cf. Maraval [93, pp. 277–285].

¹²⁹ On the cult of St Demetrius in Thessalonica since the sixth century, see especially the studies by Janin [73] and Lemerle [81].

¹³⁰ Cf. an outline of the century-long discussion by Peter Tóth [122, S. 149–154].

¹³¹ This date has been proposed by Jean-Michel Spieser [115, pp. 165–214]. It seems to me especially attractive, because it implies the most plausible identification of the prefect Leontius who was pointed out (in the hagiographic sources) as the person who constructed the church [115, p. 214, note 315]; the mentions of Leontius by hagiographers could be of historical value, because it is pertinent to a relatively recent time and not to the "epic" antiquity of the *Passions épiques*.

¹³² Delehaye [43, pp. 107–108]. For further substantiation of his view in the modern scholarship, see especially Vickers [123] and Tóth [122, S. 151 *et passim*].

¹³³ For a brief history of St. Demetrius's cult, see Ch. Walter [124, pp. 67–93]; for a discussion of the date when the saint became a myrrh-gusher, see esp. [124, p. 93, note 54].

¹³⁴ Published, together with an ancient Latin version, by Delehayе [45, pp. 220–225].

¹³⁵ See Lapidge [80, pp. 633–636], with further bibliography.

¹³⁶ Cf. especially François Chausson's studies: [29, esp. p. 151; 30, p. 167 *et passim*]. However, Chausson does not take into account the funeral inscription in the

Catacombs of Priscilla *ICUR* 23082 (on the marble plate, now lost) *Anastasia / vivas in / aeternitatem* ("Anastasia, let you live in eternity") dated to the period from 275 to 325. Of course, nothing is known about her, but it looks *a priori* unlikely that she was a relative of Constantine the Great. The entire corpus of the Roman Christian Inscriptions, previously published in the series established by G. B. de Rossi in 1857 and continued until presently, *ICUR (Inscriptiones Christianae Urbis Romae)*, is now available as the database EDB.

APPENDIX

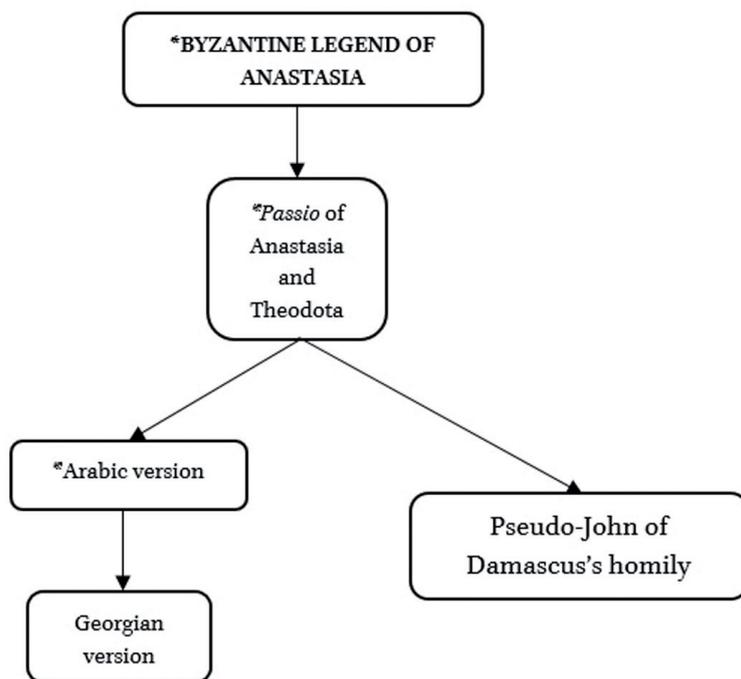


Fig. 1. The Martyrdom of Anastasia and Theodota

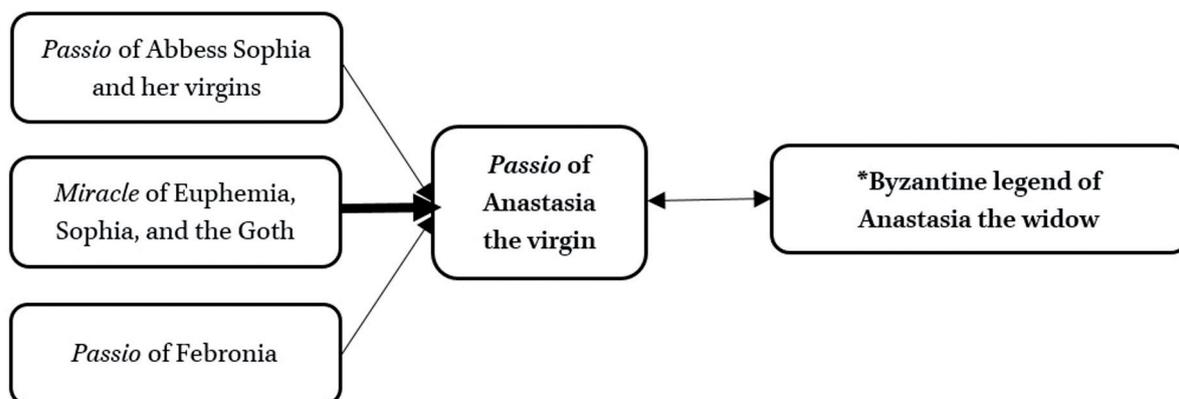


Fig. 2. The Hagiographical Substrate of the Legend of Anastasia the Virgin

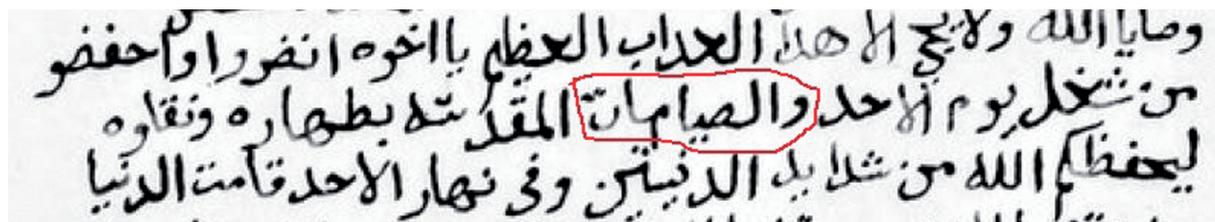


Fig. 3. Paris, Bibliothèque nationale de France, BnF arabe, Nr 281, f. 304r

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