ARMENIAN GARSHUNI: AN OVERVIEW OF THE KNOWN MATERIAL

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ABSTRACT

This article presents a list of the manuscripts known to contain texts in Armenian written in Syriac characters (Armenian Garshuni), followed by a description of two newly discovered instances of such material (MSS Aleppo Syr. Orth. 61M and Mardin Chaldean 10), and an attempt at classification of the known Armenian Garshuni texts.

1. INTRODUCTION

If we leave aside instances of Armenian proper names and single Armenian words appearing in earlier Syriac texts and inscriptions, we know of only a relatively small number of manuscripts containing what may be called “Armenian Garshuni,” i.e. Armenian material written in Syriac characters. The number of such manuscripts known to us, however, has been increasing in the past few years thanks largely to the digitisation of hitherto not so easily accessible manuscripts by the Hill Museum & Manuscript Library (HMML).

It was by chance that I began working on Armenian Garshuni a few years ago, a move that can only be described as an act of folly given my almost total lack of competence in Armenian. Having encountered and become interested in the Armenian lexical

material in MS Yale Syriac 9 during my six-month stay at Yale in 2009 within the framework of the Todai-Yale Initiative, I had the privilege of working with the late Professor Jos J. S. Weitenberg on an article on a part of that material which was published in 2010–11.¹ Since then a good number of my Syrologist colleagues, mainly those working on the newly digitised manuscripts, have had the kindness to inform me of further instances of manuscripts containing materials in Armenian Garshuni.

I first present below a list of the manuscripts that are known to me at this moment to contain materials in Armenian Garshuni. This will be followed by a description of the materials which have been brought to my notice since the submission of two other articles on the subject which are now in the press,² together with an attempt at classification of the known texts and a brief word on the significance of this material.

2. MANUSCRIPTS KNOWN TO CONTAIN MATERIALS IN ARMENIAN GARSHUNI

A. Sixteenth Century

- (1) 1574–75: Birmingham University, Mingana, Syriac 44 (copied by Ephrem in Dayr al-Za‘farān), fol. 132: Lord’s prayer in Armenian (incipit: ܐܡܝܢ ܡܠܟܐ ܕܝܗܝܠܐ ܕܝܗܝܠܐ ܕܝܗܝܠܐ).³

¹Hidemi Takahashi & Jos J.S. Weitenberg, “The Shorter Syriac-Armenian Glossary in Ms. Yale Syriac 9,” part 1 (*Journal of the Canadian Society for Syriac Studies* 10 [2010]: 68–83; part 2 (*Hugoye: Journal of Syriac Studies* 14:1 [2011]: 87–144.

² Takahashi, “Armenisch-Garschuni (Armenisch in syrischer Schrift),” in *Scripts beyond Borders. A Survey of Allographic Traditions in the Euro-Mediterranean World*, ed. J. den Heijer, A. Schmidt & T. Pataridze (Louvain: Peeters, forthcoming), and id., “Armenian Garshuni (Armenian in Syriac Script) and Its Users,” in *Syriac in Its Multi-Cultural Context*, ed. H. Teule, E. Keser-Kayaalp, K. Akalin, N. Doru & M. S. Toprak (Louvain: Peeters, forthcoming).

³ See Sebastian Brock, “Armenian in Syriac Script,” in *Armenian Studies. Études arméniennes. In Memoriam Haïg Berbérian*, ed. Dickran Kouymjian (Lisbon: Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, 1986), 75–80. Text in Syriac characters and in transcription in Takahashi, “Armenisch-Garschuni.”

(2a) ca. 1658: Aleppo, Syrian Orthodox Archdiocese 61M, fol. 101–126. Copied by Pilaṭos in Khartbert in 1643. The texts in the manuscript include: the Life of Mor Barṣawmo (1v–97v); the Life of Mor Dimeṭ (98r–103v); the story of a priest who committed murder and immediately repented (104r–107v); the Life of Simeon the Stylite (107v–). There are marginal glosses in Armenian Garshuni, apparently in the hand of the copyist of the second part of the manuscript, on fol. 1v, 4r, 5v, 9r, 11r, 11v, 18r, 36v, 48v, 50r, 51r, 65v, 104r, 107v.⁴

(2b) 1658: Aleppo, Syrian Orthodox Archdiocese 61M, fol. 133–264. Copied by Ephrem [b. Ohanes], in the Monastery of Mor Abḥay. Miscellanea, including: (i) canons of Bar Kepha and Bar Ṣalibi in Armenian Garshuni (fol. 251rv); and (ii) marginal glosses in Armenian Garshuni on fol. 133r–134r, 135r, 156v, 232v, 240r, 241v, 248r, 248v.⁵

⁵ This part of the manuscript contains the following items. (1) 133r–166r: Life of Mor Abḥay (beginning missing), corresponding to Paulus Bedjan (ed.), *Acta martyrum et sanctorum*, vol. 6 (Paris/Leipzig: Harrassowitz, 1896): 561.11 (ܐܘܠܐ)—614.17; followed by the colophon by the copyist, the note by the author (Bedjan, 614.18–616.4), and a note on the propriety of Emperor Theodosius testing the saints’ bones by fire. (2) 166r–168r: “from the commentary on the Gospel of Mark” (ܡܢ ܬܝܠܕܐ ܒܥܪܚܐ ܕܡܪܝܢܐ ܕܡܫܝܚܐ), corresponding to A. Vaschalde (ed.), *Dionysii Bar Salibi Commentarii in Evangelia*, II(1) (Paris 1931, repr. Louvain: Durbecq, 1953): 178.8–180.27. (3) 168r–169v: excerpts from Bar Ṣalibi’s commentary on the liturgy (ܡܢ ܬܝܠܕܐ ܕܡܫܝܚܐ ܕܡܫܝܚܐ...), corresponding to Hieronymus Labourt (ed.), *Dionysius Bar Ṣalibi. Expositio liturgiae* (Paris: Poussielgue, 1903): 26.26–28.6, 60.18–27, 2.10–23. (4) 169v–174v: Patriarch John [bar Shushan], on the mystery of the salt, leaven and oil in the eucharistic bread (ܡܢ ܬܝܠܕܐ ܕܡܫܝܚܐ ܕܡܫܝܚܐ...), cf. H. Zotenberg, *Catalogues des manuscrits syriaques et sabéens (mandaites) de la Bibliothèque nationale* (Paris: Imprimerie nationale, 1874): 71 (Paris syr. 111, no. 17). (5) 174v–178v: “questions of the holy teachers” (ܡܢ ܬܝܠܕܐ ܕܡܫܝܚܐ ܕܡܫܝܚܐ), with passages attributed to (a) Adday, (b) Jacob of

- (4) 1665/6: Cairo, Franciscan Centre of Christian Oriental Studies, Syriac 11, vi + 333 pages. Copied by deacon Malkeh ibn Nīqūdīmūs, apparently for Patriarch Ignatius Shukr-Allah, in Amid. Syriac-Arabic-Armenian lexicon (the originally Arabic-Syriac lexicon of Elias of Nisibis, *Kitāb al-tarjumān fī ta'lim lughat al-suryān*, with Arabic and Syriac columns in the reverse order, and with the addition of Armenian entries in a third column).⁷
- (5) 17th c.?: Yale University, Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Syriac 9. Miscellanea, including: (i) a Syriac-Armenian glossary (mostly verbs in their various forms, arranged alphabetically and apparently excerpted from the same lexicon as that represented in the Harvard manuscript, p. 4–199); (ii) Syriac-Armenian glossary (excerpt from Elias' *Kitāb al-tarjumān*, chapter [*ta'lim*] 28, section [*bāb*] 2, and chapter 29, with the addition of Armenian equivalents and without the Arabic headwords, p. 231–241); and (iii) marginal glosses in Armenian Garshuni on p. 200, 218, 229, 224, 241–243, 247, 248, 251–253, 258, 260, 261, 263, 267–269, 279, 281, 282, 284.⁸

manuscript; cf. Moshe H. Goshen-Gottstein, *Syriac Manuscripts in the Harvard College Library. A Catalogue*. Missoula: Scholars Press, 1979: 59–60; Ighnāṭīyūs Afrām I Barṣawm, *Al-Lu'lu' al-manthūr fī tārikh al-'ulūm wa-l-ādāb al-suryāniyya* (Holland [Glance/Losser]: Bar Hebraeus Verlag, 1987): 23; further discussion in Takahashi, “Armenisch-Garschuni.”

⁷ See Sebastian Brock, “Catalogue des manuscrits syriaques, éthiopiens et arméniens du Centre d'Etudes Orientales Chrétiennes du Mouski, Le Caire. A) Syriac Manuscripts” (*Studia Orientalia Christiana Collectanea* 18 [1985]): 213–218, here 216–217, and id., “Armenian in Syriac Script.” Further discussion in Takahashi, “Armenisch-Garschuni,” and Ester Petrosyan, **Կահիրեի Ֆրանցիսկյան միաբանությունում պահպանվող Syriac 11 եռալեզու ձեռագիր բառարանը (վերլուծության նախաքալ)** [Trilingual manuscript dictionary, Syriac 11, preserved at the Franciscan Centre in Cairo] (Graduation thesis, Yerevan State University, 2013).

⁸ On the manuscript, see Leo Depuyt, “Classical Syriac Manuscripts at Yale University: A Checklist,” *Hugoye: Journal of Syriac Studies* 9:2 (July 2006 [2009]): 173–188, here 176–177, 182; and H. Takahashi, “Also via Istanbul to New Haven – Mss. Yale Syriac 7–12,” in *Islamic Philosophy, Science, Culture and Religion: Studies in Honor of Dimitri Gutas*, ed. D. Reisman & F. Opwis (Leiden: Brill, 2012): 157–176, here 170–172. On the glossary on p. 231–241 of the manuscript, see the article cited in note 1 above.

- (6) 17th c.?: Mardin, Chaldean Cathedral 10 (81 Scher), fol. 8r: Trisagion in Armenian, among the renditions of the Trisagion in eight languages (Latin, Greek, Armenian, Georgian, Persian, Turkish, Arabic, Syriac).⁹ [See the Addendum on p. 109–110 below.]

C. Eighteenth/Nineteenth Century

- (7) 1711/2: Vatican, Bibliotheca Apostolica Vaticana, Syr. 544. A manuscript mainly of the Syriac breviary (*shbimo*, 34v–96r), preceded and followed by prayers, readings etc., copied by deacon Ibrahim/Abrohom.¹⁰ (i) fol. 9v–12v: The heading on 9v announces a *bo'utho* of Jacob [of Sarug] (ܐܕ ܒܠܬܝܬܝܐ ܕܝܥܩܒ ܕܫܪܘܓ), but what follows, in fact, is a transcription in Armenian Garshuni of the standard formulas for renunciation of Satan, confession of faith, and confession of sins as found at the beginning of the Armenian breviary (*žamagirk'*).¹¹ (ii) 13r–14v: Creed and Gloria in Armenian

⁹ With thanks to Adam McCollum for bringing this material to my attention; cf. Adam McCollum, “Syro-Georgian Trisagion,” <http://hmm1orientalia.wordpress.com/2013/10/24/syro-georgian-trisagion/>. See further below.

¹⁰ See Arn[old] van Lantschoot, *Inventaire des manuscrits syriaques des fonds Vatican (490-631) Barberini oriental et Neofiti* (Vatican City: Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana, 1965): 69. The copyist's name appears in Arabic on fol. 25v, 26r and 105r, and in Syriac on fol. 34v. Van Lantschoot dated the manuscript to “1711–1712” citing the notes on fol. 26v and 107r. The date on fol. 26v, however, which van Lantschoot seems to have read as “2022” (ܡܠܟܐ 1710/11 A.D.), is in a later note in a different hand from that of the main text and should be read as “2102” (ܡܠܟܐ 1790/1 A.D., cf. note 54 below). The only basis that we have for the date of the manuscript is therefore the note on fol. 107r, giving us the date “2023” (ܡܠܟܐ 1710/11 A.D.).

¹¹ (a) Renunciation of Satan (9v, l. 3–8), incipit: ܐܕ ܒܠܬܝܬܝܐ ܕܝܥܩܒ ܕܫܪܘܓ (ܐ: Armenian “ա” with abbreviation sign, standing for (յ)ամենային), = Հրաժարիմք ի սատանայէ եւ յամենայն խաբէութենէ՝ նորա. (b) Confession of faith (9v, l. 9–11r, l. 11), incipit: Խոստովանիմք եւ հաւատամք ամենակատար սրտիւ զՀայրն Աստուած. (c) Confession of sins (11r, l. 12–12v, l. 9), incipit: Եւ քանի որ եմ անմեղ և անպարտ, եւ քանի որ եմ անմեղ և անպարտ, եւ քանի որ եմ անմեղ և անպարտ. 1 * Եւ քանի որ եմ անմեղ և անպարտ, եւ քանի որ եմ անմեղ և անպարտ, եւ քանի որ եմ անմեղ և անպարտ. 2 * Եւ քանի որ եմ անմեղ և անպարտ, եւ քանի որ եմ անմեղ և անպարտ, եւ քանի որ եմ անմեղ և անպարտ.

(8) 1746: Diyarbakır, Church of Yoldat Aloho (Meryem Ana) 74 (6/10, HMML DIYR00140). A manuscript of the order of baptism, copied by khūrī Yeshū¹ b. Ni‘ma al-Quṣūrānī for the Church of Yoldat Aloho in Amid, at the request of khūrī ‘Abd al-Nūr b. Aṣlān al-Āmidī. On fol. 79r–79v, immediately before the final colophon, are the formulas in Armenian Garshuni for (i) renunciation of Satan (rubric: ՏԵՐԻՆԱԿԱՅԻՆ ՀԵՎԷՐ ԱՆՈՒՍԻՄ; incipit: «Ե՛րեւոյնքս ա՛յ հա՛կաւորն եմ. որ իմէմքս ընդ անիմքս», “I reject Satan and all his tricks ...”), and (ii) confession of faith (rubric: ՏԵՐԻՆԱԿԱՅԻՆ ՀԱՆՔԱՆԻՑԱՆԻՍ ԲԱՆԴԱՆԻՍ; incipit: «Ե՛րեւոյնքս ա՛յ զհայրն ու զձերսն ու զՍուրբ Հոգին»¹³).
(9) 18th c.? Dayr al-Za‘farān 197 (HMML ZFRN 00197), fol. 98r: a hymn in Armenian (incipit: ՄԱՆԱՊԻՆԻՍ ԶԵՆԻՏԵՐԸ), in a collection of hymns for Palm Sunday and Maundy

¹³ With thanks to Jean Fathi for bringing this material to my attention.

number of short pieces, was copied, as we learn from the numerous colophons in this part (fol. 163r–165r, 166r, 181r, 187r, 190r, 224r, 234v, 263v),¹⁸ in the spring of 1969 A.Gr. (1658 A.D.) by bishop Ephrem, aged seventy-five at the time (166r), in the Monastery of Mor Abḥay in the region of Gargar (Gerger), also known as the Monastery of the Ladder. From the handwriting, and in view of other circumstances, there can be little doubt that this is the same person as the bishop Ephrem who copied the Syriac-Armenian lexicon in MS Harvard Syriac 54, and who tells us in the colophon of that manuscript that he was aged seventy-seven upon completing it in the Monastery of Mor Abḥay on 22nd August 1659.¹⁹

Scattered throughout both parts of the manuscript are marginal glosses, most of them giving the Armenian equivalents of the words found in the main text, and all of them apparently in the hand of the copyist of the second part of the manuscript. As a sample, the glosses in the part of the manuscript containing the *Life of Mor Barṣawmo* are given below as they appear in the manuscript and in transcription,²⁰ followed by the corresponding or related words in literary Armenian (unless indicated otherwise in Modern Western Armenian) and citations of some related entries among the lexicographical materials in MSS Harvard Syr. 54 and Yale Syr. 9.²¹

¹⁸ We also learn from these colophons of the flooding of the Euphrates, which reached as far as the “fifth step” (*ḥawqo*) of the ladder leading to the monastery on 17th April 1658 (181r) and of a battle that took place between Aşlan Pasha and the Kurds around Gargar (251r).

¹⁹ Cf. Takahashi, “Armenisch-Garschuni,” note 11. Ephrem seems to have been somewhat unsure of his age, since he reportedly tells us in the colophon of another manuscript of the lexicon of Bar Bahlul dated September 1657 that he was seventy-six at the time (Ignatīyus Afrem d-bet Barṣawm [ed. Ignatīyus Zakkay I d-bet ‘Iwāš], *Sriṭoto d-Omid w-Merdo. Makbḥūtāt Āmid wa-Mārdīn. Omid & Mardin Manuscripts* [Ma‘arrat Ṣaydnāyā: Dayro d-Mor Afrem Suryoyo, 2008]: 88).

²⁰ For the transcription system used here, see Takahashi & Weitenberg, “The Shorter Syriac-Armenian Glossary,” part 2: 90–92.

²¹ For the entries from the Yale manuscript cited only by page, line and item numbers, see Takahashi & Weitenberg, “The Shorter Syriac-Armenian Glossary,” part 2.

- Fol. 1v, gloss on l. 13, **ܕܗܪܓܐܬܝܢ** (“conquers”): **ܕܗܪܓܐܬܝܢ** (dhargûtin, “conquest”) – i.e. dharg- + abstract noun ending -ûtin (-**ܢܝܪܗܝܢ**); dialect **ܡܡܗܪܝܬܝܬܝܢ** “to conquer” – Yale 232.3.2, 238.15.1 (dhargâ); Yale 179.22.1: **ܕܗܪܓܐܬܝܢ**; Harv. 275v (s.v. **ܕܗܪܓܐܬܝܢ**): **ܕܗܪܓܐܬܝܢ** (gûdahrgêk)
- Fol. 5r, gloss on l. 6, **ܡܫܪܥܐ** (“quickly”): **ܡܫܪܥܐ** (surśaw) – cf. **ܡܫܪܥܐ** “acute, sharp” – Harv. 364r: **ܡܫܪܥܐ**; ²²
- Fol. 11r, gloss on l. 4, **ܡܫܪܥܐ** (“he was talking”): **ܡܫܪܥܐ** (gûzûrûsir) – **ܡܫܪܥܐ** (3 sg. imperf. of **ܡܫܪܥܐ**, **ܡܫܪܥܐ** “to talk, speak”)²³ – Harv. 204v (s.v. **ܡܫܪܥܐ**): **ܡܫܪܥܐ**
- Fol. 11v, gloss on l. 3, **ܡܫܪܥܐ** (“he was silent”): **ܡܫܪܥܐ** (gûlêrer) – **ܡܫܪܥܐ** (3 sg. imperf. of **ܡܫܪܥܐ** “to keep silent”) – Harv. 206r (s.v. **ܡܫܪܥܐ**): **ܡܫܪܥܐ** ... (s.v. **ܡܫܪܥܐ**): **ܡܫܪܥܐ**
- Fol. 18r, gloss on l. 21, **ܡܫܪܥܐ** (“floodgates”): **ܡܫܪܥܐ** (dršûndî) – Harv. 203r (s.v. **ܡܫܪܥܐ**): **ܡܫܪܥܐ** (drğondî) – dr-: perhaps Arm. **դուռ** / Pers. *dar* “door, gate”
- Fol. 36v, gloss on l. 6, **ܡܫܪܥܐ** (“pants”): **ܡܫܪܥܐ** (gûpakâ) – Harv. 198v: **ܡܫܪܥܐ** (s.v. **ܡܫܪܥܐ**): **ܡܫܪܥܐ** (s.v. **ܡܫܪܥܐ**): **ܡܫܪܥܐ**
- Fol. 48v, gloss on l. 21, **ܡܫܪܥܐ** (“scattering”): **ܡܫܪܥܐ** (sêrwîl): – **ܡܫܪܥܐ** “to scatter” – Yale 233.12.2 (sêrwâ); Harv. 67r (s.v. **ܡܫܪܥܐ**): **ܡܫܪܥܐ** (s.v. **ܡܫܪܥܐ**): **ܡܫܪܥܐ**
- Fol. 50r, gloss on l. 23, **ܡܫܪܥܐ** (“that they flatter”): **ܡܫܪܥܐ** (ergû erîsen gûzûrûsâ, lit. “he speaks from two faces”) – **ܡܫܪܥܐ** “two,” **ܡܫܪܥܐ** “face” – Harv. 66v (s.v. **ܡܫܪܥܐ**):

²² teztez: cf. Takahashi & Weitenberg, “The Shorter Syriac-Armenian Glossary,” part 2: no. 241.6.3.

²³ On the realisation of the classical/literary Armenian stressed “-e-” as “-i-” in the dialect represented here, see Takahashi & Weitenberg, “The Shorter Syriac-Armenian Glossary,” part 1: 76 (section 5.3.2 (a)).

²⁴ *zarwûtenen* “from thirst”: cf. **ܕܡܪܝܐ** “thirst.”

Fol. 65v, gloss on l. 4, ܠܝܫܐ (“he was grieved”): ܚܣܪܐ ܕܗܝܬܐ (ḥasrâ kašiš). – Arab. ḥasra “grief, sorrow”; քաշեց “he drew” (3 sg. pret. of քաշել “to pull, draw”) – Harv. 68r (s.v. ܠܝܫܐ ܕܗܝܬܐ): ܡܗܪܐ ܕܗܝܬܐ (maharâ d-haytâ).

²⁶ Ephrem had made another copy of Bar Bahlul's lexicon in 1657. Whether that manuscript also contained the Armenian material is not stated in the catalogue (cf note 19 above).

It has not so far been possible to elucidate all the elements in this passage, but the first part of it appears to be a translation, or paraphrase, of the canon quoted in Syriac, while the latter part prescribes a penance similar to those found in the penitential canons of Bar Šalibi.³⁰ The text is given below in transliteration, followed by an attempt at translation and explanation of the individual words.³¹

- (1) waḡb ḡā hepāḡin or taslīm erēr îr hokîn Kirîsdosa šârkâ w-hakîrâ ir³² kswatâ ya'neh hepâḡâ agērâ ḡambâk ḡkâ hepâḡîn or sân šalgâ, zararâ hepâḡîn hokûn or s(a)n arnâ sûrp awazanên, w-šahmîn ḡûnî.

³⁰ For similar canons attributed to Bar Šalibi enjoining penance with genuflections and almsgiving, see Henricus Denzinger, *Ritus Orientalium, Coptorum, Syrorum et Armenorum, in administrandis sacramentis*. 2 vols. (Würzburg: Stahel, 1863–64): I.493–500; cf. Vööbus, *Syrische Kanonensammlungen. I. Westsyrische Originalurkunden*, 1, B: 405–439.

³¹With thanks to Thomas Carlson for some useful suggestions in solving the puzzle.

³² îr: in margin.

“A monk who has surrendered his soul into Christ’s hands, and put on his habit (?), i.e. has become a monk, must not have a child. For the monk who lifts a godchild (?). It is harmful (?) for the soul of the monk who takes a godchild from the holy baptismal font, and he has no gain.”

wağb: “it is necessary” (?), cf. Arab. *wağaba*, *wāğib*; cf. Harv. 124r: ܐܘܡܝܢ ܐܝܬܝܢ ܕܥܠܝܢ ܕܥܠܝܢ ܕܥܠܝܢ ܕܥܠܝܢ

ğâ: “now” (interjection) (?), cf. Yale 240.6.2

hepağin: “for the monk” [gen./dat., w(ith) art(icle)], cf. Harv. 105v, s.v. ܡܢ ܕܡܢܝܢ ܡܢܝܢ; 156r, s.v. ܡܢܝܢ ܡܢܝܢ ܡܢܝܢ; Cairo 56.8: ܡܢܝܢ ܡܢܝܢ ܡܢܝܢ (ܡܢܝܢ ܡܢܝܢ)

or: “who” (rel. pron.) and “that” (conj.) (np)

taslīm: “surrender,” Arab. *taslīm*

erēr: probably ܐܪܪܐ (past ptc. of ܐܪܐ “to do”); for the past ptc. in -ܐܪܐ, cf. “hakîrâ” and “agērâ” below

îr: “his” (hp)

hokîn: “soul” [w. art.], cf. Harv. 242v, s.v. ܚܘܚܐ (hnqh)

Kirîsdosa: “of Christ,” cf. Harv. 84v, s.v. ܕܡܢ ܕܡܢܝܢ ܕܡܢܝܢ (ܦܪܝܫܘܬܬܐ), here apparently with genitive ending in -ܐ (-ay)

šârkhâ: “hand” [w. art.], cf. Harv. 26r, s.v. ܕܡܢ ܕܡܢܝܢ ܕܡܢܝܢ (âtnp)³³

w-: “and,” evidently representing Syr. ܘ, rather than Arm. եւ (cf. Yale 240.6.3)

hakîrâ: “has put on,” cf. Harv. 172v, s.v. ܕܡܢ ܕܡܢܝܢ ܕܡܢܝܢ; Yale 235.2.2 (hwaqer t; hwaqûhl “to put on”)

ya’neh: “i.e.,” Arab. *ya’ni* (cf. Yale 240.23.1, 241.8.2)

agērâ: “has become,” cf. Yale 240.11.3 (agîrâ) (ܐܓܝܪܐ t)

ğambâk: “child, son,” cf. Harv. 353r, s.v. ܕܡܢ ܕܡܢܝܢ ܕܡܢܝܢ ܕܡܢܝܢ, and the corresponding sentence in the lexicon of

³³ On the realisation of classical Armenian “-e-” as “-a-” before liquids, see Takahashi & Weitenberg, “The Shorter Syriac-Armenian Glossary,” part 1: 76 (section 5.3.2 (c)).

- Bar Bahlul: ܐܒܝܐ ܒܝܬܐ ܕܚܝܬܐ ܕܚܝܬܐ³⁴ (from
 Զաւթալկէր “suckling”?)
 ǵkā: “there is not,” cf. Harv. 76v, s.v. ܠܡܢܐ; Yale 240.15.2
 (negative particle ܠ + ܡܢ)
 sâṇ: “infant, pupil” (սան)
 šalgâ: “carries, lifts,” cf. Yale 237.13.3: ܬܠܥܬܐ (class. Arm.
 Զալալկէմ)
 zararâ: probably Arab. *ḍarar* “harm, detriment” (cf. Yale 234.1.1),
 with ܬ “he/it is”
 hokûn: “for the soul” [gen./dat., w. art.]
 arnâ: “takes,” cf. Yale 233.23.1 (առնէ; առնել “to take”)
 sûrp: “holy” (սուրբ)
 awazanēn: “from the pool, baptistery” [abl., w. art.], cf. Harv. 206v,
 s.v. ܐܘܙܐܢܐ; ܐܘܙܐܢ (աւազան)
 šah: “profit, gain” (շահ)
 -mîn: indefinite article (մին)
 ǵûnî: “does not have” (ܠ + ունի; ունիլ “to have, possess”); cf.
 Harv. 76v: ܠܡܢܐ ܕܡܢܐ ܕܡܢܐ ܕܡܢܐ ܕܡܢܐ; Yale
 233.14.2

(2) tē hîbardûtîṇ eraś araw sâṇ gûgdrwî îr hepagûtenen.

“If he was serving as a subdeacon (?) (when?) he took a
 godchild, he is deprived of his monastic status.”

tê: “if, or” (թէ), cf. Yale 240.18.4, 240.20.2

hîbardûtîṇ: “subdiaconate” (?), cf. ܠܝܘܬܐܪܝܬܐ “servant,
 subdeacon”

eraś: “(he) did,” cf. Yale 239.9.3 (ըրաւ, dialect ըրաց)

araw: “(he) took” (առաւ)

gûgdrwî: “he is cut off,” cf. Harv. 223r: ܬܠܥܬܐ, 251r:

ܬܠܥܬܐ (կը կտրուի; կտրել “to cut”)

hepagûtenen: “from the monkhood” [abl., w. art.]

³⁴ Rubens Duval (ed.), *Lexicon syriacum auctore Hassano Bar-Bablule*
 (Paris: Leroux, 1901): 1987, l. 19–20.

gūkālšī: “he is delivered, absolved,” no doubt from Arab. *ḫallaṣa*, here passive, cf. Yale 107.15.1: *خَجَلًا* (active); also Yale 235.9.3

wank: “monastery” (վանք)

³⁸ Personal communication, 24th October 2013.

[illegible]

³⁹ A number of other formulas are added to the Trisagion in the Armenian tradition according to the liturgical season. None of these formulas fit the text we have any better (with thanks to Karen Hamada for the information on these additions).

⁴⁰ The Latin piece there, in fact, is not a translation of the Trisagion, but the opening words of the popular Easter hymn, “O filii et filiae, Rex coelestis, Rex gloriae, morte revixit hodie”: **ܕܡܠܟܐ ܕܥܠܡܐ ܕܥܠܡܐ. ܕܡܠܟܐ ܕܥܠܡܐ ܕܥܠܡܐ. ܕܡܠܟܐ ܕܥܠܡܐ ܕܥܠܡܐ.** (the first “rex” is missing altogether in the Syriac transcription). For this version of the hymn, probably the original version, with the word “revixit” instead of the more usual “surrexit,” see Amédée Gastoué, “L’O *filii*, ses origines, son auteur,” *La Tribune de Saint Gervais* 13 (1907): 82–90, here 89.

As a similar instance of a polyglot Trisagion, we know of a collection in Greek, Syriac, Georgian, Persian, Arabic, Kurdish (“Median”) and Turkish, all in Armenian characters, preserved in MS Yerevan, Matenadaran 7117, the manuscript known for its role in the rediscovery of the Caucasian Albanian alphabet, which was copied from an older manuscript brought in around 1442 from the Crimea at Mecop‘avank‘ (to the north of Arčëš, Turk. Erziş, north of Lake Van),⁴² as well as in a copy of that manuscript made at the Monastery of the Mother of God of Barijor in Xizan (Turk. Hizan, to the southeast of Bitlis, south of Lake Van) in 1580 and once in the possession of H. Kurdian,⁴³ and in MS Matenadaran 4618

⁴² A. Šanidze, “Novootkrytyj alfavit kavkazskix albancev i ego značenie dlja nauki,” *Izvestija Instituta jazyka, istorii i material'noj kul'tury imeni akademika I. Ja. Marra Gruzijskogo filiala Akademii Nauk SSSR* 4 (1938): 1–62 (with photographic reproductions of the Trisagion texts, as well as of the different alphabets, on the plates between pages 16 and 17; with thanks to Grigory Kessel for the assistance in obtaining a copy of this article); cf. D. N. MacKenzie, “The Language of the Medians,” *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies* 22:2 (1959): 354–355 (with thanks to Prof. Peter Zieme for bringing this article to my attention). On the manuscript, see Robert H. Hewsen, “On the Alphabet of the Caucasian Albanians,” *Revue des études arméniennes* N.S. 1 (1964): 427–432; Jost Gippert, Wolfgang Schulze, Zaza Alexidze & Jean-Pierre Mahé (eds.), *The Caucasian Albanian Palimpsest of Mt. Sinai*, vol. 1 (Turnhout: Brepols, 2008): xix–xx, II-1–2.

⁴³ H. Kurdian, "The Newly Discovered Alphabet of the Caucasian Albanians," *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society* 88 (1956): 81–83. The manuscript is now presumably with the Mechitarists in Venice (see Bernard Coulie, *Répertoire des bibliothèques et des catalogues de manuscrits arméniens* [Turnhout: Brepols, 1992]: 226).

(undated).⁴⁴ These Trisagions accompany lists of the letters of the Greek, Syriac, Latin, Georgian, Caucasian Albanian, Coptic and Arabic (Kufic) alphabets. According to Prof. Jost Gippert, the alphabet lists must go back at least to the ninth century, the last period when the knowledge of the Caucasian Albanian alphabet is likely to have been current.⁴⁵ The Trisagion collection, in which the Syriac version is transcribed according to the West Syrian pronunciation (ղաղիշատ ալօհօ/*ladišat alōhō* ...), must have originated separately from, and most probably later than, the alphabet lists, where the names given to the Syriac letters reflect the Classical/East Syrian pronunciation (e.g. գամլ/*gaml*, դալ/*dal*, քափ/*kʿapʿ*, լասղ/*lasd* [corruption, no doubt, of լամղ/*lamd*]), but it too must have been in existence at the latest by the mid-fifteenth century when MS Matenadaran 7117 was copied. The text in the Mardin manuscript, on the other hand, cannot have originated before around 1500 given the inclusion there of the Latin hymn “O filii et filiae,” if one is correct in ascribing that hymn to the Franciscan friar Jean Tisserand (d. ca. 1497),⁴⁶ and if that Latin piece was not added to the versions of the Trisagion at a later date. It is not impossible that the idea of creating the polyglot Trisagion collection preserved in the Mardin manuscript was, in fact, inspired by the Armenian-character collection, which was in circulation in the sixteenth century in areas close to, if not within, those inhabited by Syrians,⁴⁷ although the major discrepancies between the Mardin

⁴⁴ Andrea Schmidt, “Arménien et syriaque,” in *Arménie : la magie de l’écrit [exposition, Marseille, Centre de la vieille charité, 27 avril-22 juillet 2007]*, ed. C. Mutaſian (Paris: Somogy, 2007): 345–348, here 345, 347. The text of the part visible on the photograph on p. 345 (the versions of the Trisagion in Greek, Syriac and Georgian, and the first four words of the Persian version) is essentially identical to that in Matenadaran 7117. Cf. Takahashi, “12.2. Armeno-Syriac,” in George Anton Kiraz, *Ṭurrāš Mamillā: A Grammar of Syriac Language*, vol. 1. Orthography (Piscataway: Gorgias Press, 2012): 325–326.

⁴⁵ Oral communication, 9th Nov. 2013.

⁴⁶ Cf. note 40 above and the article by Gastoué cited there.

⁴⁷ On the two Armenian monasteries mentioned above and their locations, see Michel Thierry, *Répertoire des monastères arméniens* (Turnhout: Brepols, 1993): 94 (no. 521), 15 (no. 68); Robert H. Hewsen, *Armenia. A Historical Atlas* (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2001): 209 (map 199, A2, C1).

text and the Armenian-character text in the wording of the Arabic, Persian and Turkish versions (i.e. in the languages where there were no standard translations of the Trisagion for ecclesiastical use)⁴⁸ indicate that the Syriac-character versions cannot simply have been transcribed from the Armenian-character versions.

4. ARMENIAN GARSHUNI MANUSCRIPTS: A CLASSIFICATION

The Armenian Garshuni texts that we know of today might be classified into the following groups on the basis of their dates and their purposes.

(1) Seventeenth-Century Lexica and Glosses

The bulk of the Armenian Garshuni material that we have today is contained in the three lexicographical manuscripts (nos. 3, 4, and 5 in the list above). Of the three, the Harvard and Cairo manuscripts were copied in the latter half of the seventeenth century, and the same is probably also the case for the Yale manuscript. The Harvard manuscript was copied by Bishop Ephrem bar Ohanes, a native of the village of Vank near Gargar, in the Monastery of Mor Abḥay in the same region. The Cairo manuscript was copied in Amid, but its copyist Malkeh ibn Niqudimus was also a native of Vank. The origin of the Yale manuscript is uncertain, but this manuscript too is likely to come from the Monastery of Mor Abḥay. The copies of the lexica in these manuscripts, together with the Syriac-Armenian glosses in the Yale manuscript and those by Ephrem in MS Aleppo Syr. Orth. 61M (no. 2), can therefore be seen as the product of the same particular community. We know from other sources that the region around Gargar was home to a good number of Syrian Orthodox clerics in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries who themselves or whose relatives bore Armenian names,⁴⁹ and it is therefore quite likely that there was a

⁴⁸ For transcriptions of the Persian, Arabic and Turkish, as well as Kurdish, versions in Matenadaran 7117, see MacKenzie, “The Language of the Medians.”

⁴⁹ Further details in Takahashi, “Armenisch-Garshuni,” and id., “Armenian Garshuni (Armenian in Syriac Script) and Its Users”; cf. Hubert Kaufhold, “Notizen zur späten Geschichte des Baršaumō-Klosters” (*Hugoye: Journal of Syriac Studies*, 3/2 [2000 (2010)]: 223–246).

community there which, though Syrian Orthodox in religious allegiance, was largely Armenian speaking by the time these manuscripts were produced.

In connection with the linguistic situation of the community around Gargar, we might also take note here of the instance of an Armenian manuscript bearing a Syriac colophon. MS Paris, Bibliothèque nationale, arménien 137, is a manuscript of Armenian theological works by the thirteenth-century Armenian vardapet Vahram, copied in the Gargar region in 1584 A.D. by someone calling himself Grigor/Krikor in Armenian. The main colophon of the manuscript, in which the Syrian Orthodox patriarch (David/Dawidshah) is named along with the Armenian vardapet in Gargar, is written in Syriac. In it the copyist, once a candidate for the Syrian Orthodox bishopric of Gargar, tells us that he took the pains to learn Armenian specifically for the purpose of reading and copying Vahram's work.⁵⁰ What he means by "learning Armenian" may be learning to read and write in literary Armenian rather than learning to speak it. Be that as it may, the manuscript is in itself a precious record of the cultural (and theological) exchange between the Syriacs and Armenians in the Gargar region in the sixteenth century, and if the statement in the colophon can be understood to mean that the copyist Gregory had also to learn to speak Armenian, this may be considered to hint at a process in which the Syrian Orthodox community in the Gargar region became increasingly Armenian-speaking between the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. This process of gradual Armenisation may also be what is indicated by the fact that the village later usually known as "Vank" (i.e. Armenian for "Monastery") evidently still appears as "Dayro/Deyro" in the administrative records of the sixteenth century,⁵¹ although this piece of evidence too should not

⁵⁰ See Frédéric Macler, *Mosaïque orientale* (Paris: Geuthner, 1907): 33–38 ("Notice syriaque d'un manuscrit arménien (1584)"); cf. id., *Catalogue des manuscrits arméniens et géorgiens de la Bibliothèque nationale* (Paris: Leroux, 1908): 74; Raymond H. Kévorkian & Armèn Ter-Stépanian, *Manuscrits arméniens de la Bibliothèque nationale de France. Catalogue* (Paris: Bibliothèque nationale de France, 1998): 486. I thank Linda Wheatley Irving for bringing this item to my attention.

⁵¹ Mehmet Taştëmir, *XVI. Yüzyılda Adıyaman (Bebisni, Hısn-ı Mansur, Gerger, Kâhta). Sosyal ve iktisadî tarihi* (Ankara: Türk Tarihi Kurumu Basımevi, 1999): 80, and map no. 4.

be pressed too far seeing that the village is regularly mentioned under both names in the colophons of seventeenth-century manuscripts (e.g. *ܐܕܥ ܟܠܚ ܐܕܥ ܟܠܚ* in our Harvard manuscript, and *ܐܕܥ ܟܠܚ ܐܕܥ ܟܠܚ* in the Cairo manuscript).

The Armenian language of the Syriac-Armenian lexica and the glosses is not literary Armenian, but clearly reflects the language as spoken in the area where these lexica were produced and copied, with its phonetic, lexical and morphological peculiarities and, as may be seen also in the examples given above, with a significant number of loanwords mainly from Arabic. On phonological and morphological grounds, the dialect can be identified as a member of Dialect Group 5, a branch of Western Armenian once spoken in areas including Malatya, Diyarbakır and Urfa.⁵² The orthographical system used in these manuscripts allows a relatively accurate representation of the sounds of Armenian through the use of special diacritical points. The Harvard, Aleppo and Yale manuscripts share a very similar system of transcription, while the system in the Cairo manuscript is somewhat different and is also less consistent. Of the three lexicographical manuscripts, the Harvard and Cairo manuscripts were copied by natives of the Gargar region for use by those living outside of this area. The Yale manuscript, to judge from its size and the writing, was probably intended for the personal use of the copyist.

(2) Eighteenth-Century Liturgical Texts

MSS Vatican Syr. 544 (no. 7) and Diyarbakır, Yoldat Aloho 74 (no. 8) were both copied in the first half of the eighteenth century. The Armenian Garshuni material that we find in these manuscripts consists of set liturgical formulas, and the language used is literary Armenian, in Western Armenian pronunciation. There is at least one case of non-standard pronunciation being reflected in the transcription, namely in the transcription of the “h” of the verb *orhneal* (“to praise”) as “š” in the Vatican manuscript;⁵³ this may reflect the way the word was actually pronounced even in the

⁵² See Takahashi & Weitenberg, “The Shorter Syriac-Armenian Glossary,” part 1.

⁵³ Van Lantschoot, “Un texte arménien”: p. 424, l. 2, 10, 13. The verb regularly appears in the form *oršn-* in the manuscripts of the Syriac-Armenian lexica.

liturgy at the time. The orthographical system used in these manuscripts, similar to, but with some divergences from, the system used in the Harvard, Yale and Aleppo manuscripts, allows for a relatively accurate representation of the sounds of Armenian. Given their placement at the end of a manuscript of the rite of baptism, the formulas in the Diyarbakır manuscript were probably intended for use by Syrian Orthodox clergy in administering the sacrament to Armenian speakers. The two texts there are fully vocalised, allowing them to be used also by those not conversant in Armenian. In the Vatican manuscript, the use of abbreviations in Armenian characters within the Armenian Garshuni texts and the presence of notes in Armenian characters throughout the manuscript indicate that the copyist was capable also of reading and writing Armenian in Armenian characters. The incompletely vocalised Armenian Garshuni texts there will have been intended for the use of someone who knew Armenian, probably the copyist himself, and, if van Lantschoot is correct in identifying the deacon Ahrun who later owned the manuscript as the copyist's son,⁵⁴ perhaps also members of his own family.

(3) Linguistic Specimens

Of the remaining items in the list above, the Lord's Prayer in Mingana 44 (no. 1) stands somewhat apart from the rest in its sixteenth-century date. The inaccuracies in the transcription suggests that the copyist himself knew little Armenian, and the fact that an equally inaccurate transcription of the Latin "Pater noster" is found on the reverse side of the same folio suggests that the text was copied as an item of curiosity and as a specimen of the

⁵⁴ Van Lantschoot, *Inventaire*: 69. On fol. 34v, the colophon "ܡܠܟܐ ܕܡܪܝܢ ܡܪܝܢ" is followed by a note in another hand, "ܡܠܟܐ ܕܡܪܝܢ ܡܪܝܢ" followed by the name "Ahrun" in Armenian characters (ւհրնւ). The note on fol. 145v, on which van Lantschoot's statement about the relationship between the two is presumably based, is unfortunately barely legible in the black-and-white image of the manuscript at my disposal. On fol. 26v, we find another note by deacon Ahrun dated 2102 [1790/1] (ܡܠܟܐ ܕܡܪܝܢ ܡܪܝܢ), in the same hand as the second hand on 34v, cf. note 10 above), while on fol. 143r is the seal of a priest Ahrun dated 2113 [1801/2] (ܡܠܟܐ ܕܡܪܝܢ ܡܪܝܢ); these dates seem somewhat late for the son of a copyist working in 1711/2.

language. The same is likely to be the case with the Trisagion in the Mardin manuscript (no. 6), if not when the text was originally written down in Syriac characters, at least when it was copied by the scribe of the Mardin manuscript. A possible connexion in the origin of the Syriac-character Paternosters in the Mingana manuscript and the Trisagion collection in the Mardin manuscript is, in fact, suggested by the similarity in the way the word “hodie” is misrepresented in the Latin pieces in both manuscripts (ܐܘܬܝܡܝܢ Mingana, ܐܘܬܝܡܝܢ Mardin). It is needless to say that, given the nature of the texts in these two cases, the language the transcription is intended to represent is literary Armenian, even if we seem to have some reflexes of the colloquial pronunciation in the transcription of the “Our Father” in Mingana 44. The pronunciation represented in the Mingana manuscript is that of Western Armenian. With the Mardin Trisagion the brevity of the text and the inaccuracies in the transcription make it difficult to determine which variety of Armenian the transcription is intended to represent. The representation of the “p” of “surp” and “c” of “astuac” by unvoiced ܥ and ܥ suggests an Eastern variety, although it is to be noted that the “p” of “surp,” preceded by a liquid, is also usually represented by ܥ (and ܥ) in the manuscripts of our Syriac-Armenian lexica and glosses.⁵⁵

(4) Popular Hymns

The language, on the other hand, of the Armenian piece in MS Diyarbakır, Yoldat Aloho 232 (no. 12) is evidently colloquial and is certainly not classical Armenian, as may be seen from its very first line, where we find the Ottoman Turkish epithet “Vâlide Sultan,” usually used of the mother of the reigning Sultan, applied to Mary. This appears also to be the case with the piece in the multilingual hymn collection (nos. 9–11). The origin of this multilingual hymn collection that also includes pieces in Arabic, Turkish and Persian remains unclear, but it may have been intended for use in liturgical celebrations which were attended by the representatives of different churches, as well as non-Christian dignitaries. If these

⁵⁵ So, for example, in the passage at MS Aleppo Syr. Orth. 61M, fol. 251r–251v, quoted above; similarly in the colophon of the Harvard manuscript, as well as in the body of the lexicon in that manuscript (fol. 313r, s.v. ܥܝܬܝܡܝܢ). Cf. also Yale 235.2.1: ܥܝܬܝܡܝܢ (srpašû, “sanctify!”).

manuscripts really were used in such settings, the fact that the Armenian pieces in both the Diyarbakir manuscript and the multilingual hymn collection are largely unvocalised would suggest that the users of these manuscripts, even if they were not Armenian speakers, were familiar enough with the words of these relatively short hymns, no doubt from hearing them, to be able to sing them without the aid of vowel signs. The variety of Armenian represented in the hymn in Yoldat Aloho 232 is Western, as is indicated by the transcription of the obstruents in ܓܒܪܝܐܠ (‘‘Gabriel’’) and ܩܝܝܢ (for Ի՞նչ որդին ‘‘what son?’’). The language of the hymn in the multilingual collection, on the other hand, will be Eastern Armenian, if one is correct in interpreting ܩܪܝܐ and ܡܢܝܬܐ, respectively, as տէրտէր ‘‘priest’’ and մարդ ‘‘man,’’ and if the *tet* of ܬܬܝܠܝܬ represents an unvoiced ‘‘t.’’

5. CONCLUDING REMARKS

We might briefly consider here the material described above in the light of the ‘‘working definition’’ of Garshuni presented to us by Aaron Butts at the beginning of the Hugoye symposium on Garshunography at which this paper was originally presented, namely that ‘‘Garshuni is the practice of writing a language not in the writing system that is socio-linguistically associated with the language in question but in a writing system that is socio-linguistically associated with a different language or different languages.’’

What is important in this definition is the emphasis on the sociolinguistic aspect of the phenomenon. Unlike, for example, the Arabic language and writing system, the Armenian language and writing system were almost exclusively associated from the beginning with a particular ethnic and religious community, while the Syriac language and writing system, although it was not so at the beginning, had, by the time the texts described above were copied, become closely associated with certain religious communities, so much so that the two major groups using the Syriac language and writing system had come to develop distinct varieties of that writing system which often served as a mark of their religious identity.

The members of the two ecclesiastical communities with which we are mainly concerned here, the Armenian Orthodox and the

Ephrem contains a selection of works directly or indirectly condemning the liturgical practices of the Armenians.⁵⁷

As has been shown above, the corpus of Armenian Garshuni materials we have available to us today includes some different groups of items, and each of these groups will be of interest in different contexts. The most important group is no doubt that of the lexicographical manuscripts. The Armenian vocabulary found in these lexica is that of a particular dialect, and we have in them an amount of material more or less equalling the amount of material found in Arabic in the large lexica of Bar Bahlul and Elias of Nisibis. These manuscripts, when edited and appropriately indexed, may be expected to provide much valuable material for research in Armenian lexicography and dialectology. An in-depth study of the materials contained in these lexicographical manuscripts, as well as the rest of the Armenian Garshuni corpus, may also be expected, especially when taken in conjunction with other source materials, to give us some important new insights into the history of the contact between the Syriacs and Armenians, as well as the larger sociolinguistic environment surrounding them, where languages such as Arabic, Turkish and Kurdish were also in play.

As was stated at the beginning, the amount of material available to us in Armenian Garshuni is relatively small, but the corpus is, for the moment at least, a growing one. The rate at which new materials have been found in the newly digitised and catalogued manuscripts in the past few years suggests that we may expect to find more similar materials among the hitherto unexamined manuscripts, while the fact that some new materials have also been found among the manuscripts catalogued in the past (nos. 6 and 11) indicates that some materials that have escaped the eyes of the cataloguers may still await discovery also in the better known collections.

ADDENDUM

Shortly before the present article went online, Grigory Kessel kindly alerted me to the fact that the same text with the versions of the Trisagion as found in MS Mardin, Chaldean Cathedral (CCM) 10 is also present in another manuscript now in the same location, CCM 398 (olim Diyarbakır, Archevêché chaldéen 95 Scher; copied

⁵⁷ See note 5 above (especially the items (3)–(9) mentioned there).

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APPENDIX: IMAGES

Aleppo, Syriac Orthodox Archdiocese 61M, fol. 251r

Aleppo, Syriac Orthodox Archdiocese 61M, fol. 251v