

Recommended Reading for SHWEP Episode 211: Christopher Bonura on the Apocalypse of Pseudo-Methodios

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1 Primary Access

Wilbert J. Aerts and G. A. A. Kortekaas. *Die Apokalypse des Pseudo-Methodius: Die ältesten griechischen und lateinischen Übersetzungen*. Peeters, Leuven, 1998 [critical edition of the Greek and Latin texts].

Christopher J. Bonura. *A Prophecy of Empire: The Apocalypse of Pseudo-Methodius from Late Antique Mesopotamia to the Global Medieval Imagination*. University of California Press, Oakland, CA, 2025 [Appendix I gives a translation of the Syriac text].

Benjamin Garstad, editor. *Apocalypse of Pseudo-Methodius. An Alexandrian World-Chronicle*. Number 14 in Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library. Harvard University Press, Cambridge, MA/London, 2012 [a critical translation of the Greek Pseudo-Meth].

2 Important Works on the Pseudo-Meth

Sebastian Brock. Syriac Sources for Seventh-Century History. *Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies*, 2:17–36, 1976.

Christopher J. Bonura. *A Prophecy of Empire: The Apocalypse of Pseudo-Methodius from Late Antique Mesopotamia to the Global Medieval Imagination*. University of California Press, Oakland, CA, 2025.

Benjamin Garstad, editor. *Apocalypse of Pseudo-Methodius. An Alexandrian World-Chronicle*. Number 14 in Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library. Harvard University Press, Cambridge, MA/London, 2012.

Francisco Javier Martinez. *Early Christian Apocalyptic in the Muslim Period: Pseudo-Methodius and Pseudo-Athanasius*. PhD thesis, 1985.

Francisco Martinez. The Apocalyptic Genre in Syriac: The World of Pseudo-Methodius. In H. J. W. Drijvers, R. Lavenant, C. Molenberg, and G. J. Reinink, editors, *IV Symposium Syriacum 1984*. Pontificio Istituto Orientale, Rome, 1987.

Gerrit Reinink. Pseudo-Methodius: A Concept of History in Response to the Rise of Islam. In Averil Cameron and Lawrence Conrad, editors, *The Byzantine and Early Islamic Near East, I: Problems in the Literary Source Material*, Studies in Late Antiquity and Early Islam, pages 178–86. Darwin Press, Princeton, 1992. ISBN 978-0878500803.

Michael Kmosko. Das Rätsel des Pseudomethodius. *Byzantion*, 6:273–96, 1931 [the first article to demonstrate that Pseudo-Methodius was written in Syriac, rather than Greek, and introduced many ideas that are now widely accepted; however, it is obviously in German, and it is pretty old and makes some claims that are very outdated].

3 A Few Representative Pieces on the Pseudo-Methodios' Reception Outside its Original Context

Zofia Brzozowska. Who Could 'the Godless Ishmaelites from the Yathrib Desert' Be to the Author of the Novgorod First Chronicle? The Apocalypse of Pseudo-Methodius in Medieval South and East Slavic Literatures. *Studia Ceranea*, 9:369–89, 2019.

Michael Herren. The Revelationes of Pseudo-Methodius in the Eighth Century. In Guy Guldentops, C. Laes, and G. Partoens, editors, *Felici curiositate: Studies in Latin Literature and Textual Criticism from Antiquity to the Twentieth Century, In Honour of Rita Beyers*, pages 409–18. Brepols,

2017.

Francisco Martinez. The King of Rūm and the King of Ethiopia in Medieval Apocalyptic Texts from Egypt. In W. Godlewski, editor, *Coptic Studies: Acts of the Third International Congress of Coptic Studies*, pages 247–59. PWN-Editions scientifiques de Pologne, 1990.

Aram Topchyan. The Armenian Version of the Apocalypse of Ps.-Methodius: Old Armenian Texts with an English Translation, Introduction and Notes. *Journal of the Society for Armenian Studies*, 25:3–53, 2016.

4 On the Apocalyptic Roman Emperor, Various

Paul J. Alexander. Byzantium and the Migration of Literary Works and Motifs: The Legend of the Last Roman Emperor. *Medievalia et humanistica*, N.S. 2:47–68, 1971.

Paul J. Alexander. The Medieval Legend of the Last Roman Emperor and Its Messianic Origin. *Journal of the Warburg and Courtauld Institutes*, 41:1–15, 1978.

Christopher Bonura. When Did the Legend of the Last Emperor Originate? A New Look at the Textual Relationship between the Apocalypse of Pseudo-Methodius and the Tiburtine Sibyl. *Viator*, 47(3):47–100, 2016.

Christopher J. Bonura. *A Prophecy of Empire: The Apocalypse of Pseudo-Methodius from Late Antique Mesopotamia to the Global Medieval Imagination*. University of California Press, Oakland, CA, 2025.

Petre Guran. Genesis and Function of the 'Last Emperor' Myth in Byzantine Eschatology. *Bizantinistica*, 8:273–303, 2006.

Bill Leadbetter. A Byzantine Narrative of the Future and the Antecedents of the Last World Emperor. In John Burke, editor, *Byzantine Narrative: Papers in Honour of Roger Scott*, volume 16, pages 368–82. Australian Association for Byzantine Studies, Melbourne, 2006.

Hannes Möhring. *Der Weltkaiser der Endzeit. Entstehung, Wandel und*

Wirkung einer tausendjährigen Weissagung, volume 3. Jan Thorbecke, Stuttgart, 2000.

Angela M. Volan. *Last Judgments and Last Emperors. Illustrating Apocalyptic History in Late- and Post-Byzantine Art*. PhD thesis, 2005.