

The “FLORIENTAL” project (ERC-2010-StG 263783 Floriental), mid-term activity report  
April 2014, Robert Hawley (P.I.)

Progress report for Task 1, months 1-30 (Sept. 2011-March 2014)  
(as described in Annex 1, “Description of Work”)

The purpose of Task 1 is two-fold: (1) to publish textual editions of the main Syriac “herbals” (of which the two most important have never been fully edited), and (2) to bring together specialists in Greek, Syriac, and Arabic/Islamic Medicine in order to exploit most fully and contextual these little known Syriac productions. The latter goal has been successfully achieved over the course of five international scholarly conferences, all of which have involved the Floriental project either wholly or in part.

- J. Daccache and R. Hawley represented the Floriental project at the May 2012 meeting devoted to exploring research possibilities on the “Syriac Galen Palimpsest” organized at the University of Manchester by Prof. Peter E. Pormann (17-19 May 2012). A half dozen other specialists were in attendance.
- J. Daccache, R. Hawley, L. Herveux, and M. Wernhard represented the Floriental project (2 oral presentations) at the 2012 Syriac Symposium and Christian Arabic Conference held 18-19 July 2012 at the University of Malta.
- « Floriental 2012 Annual Meeting », 12-14 November 2012, Paris, France (three days of presentations, fully devoted to Floriental-related research).
- « Floriental 2013 International Conference », 12-14 November 2013, Paris, France (three days of presentations, fully devoted to Floriental-related research). Program here : <http://www.orient-mediterranee.com/spip.php?article1356&lang=fr>
- S. Bhayro, R. Hawley, and Peter E. Pormann represented the Floriental project (2 oral presentations) at the 2013 Paris “Journée d’études syriaques : les sciences en syriaque”, 15 November 2013, Paris.
- V. Boudon-Millot, R. Hawley and M. Wernhard represented the Floriental project (2 oral presentations) at the 2013 Berlin International Conference “Medical Translators at Work: Syriac, Arabic, Hebrew, and Latin Translations in Dialogue”, “Medicine of the Mind, Philosophy of the Body” Research Programme, Alexander von Humboldt Stiftung, 20-21 March 2014, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Germany.

The former component (textual editions of the main Syriac “herbals”) is proceeding as planned, and according to the project schedule (according to the provisional calendar included in the “Description of Work”, p. 25, completion of these components is expected in month 48 = end of August 2015).

In particular, this component of Task 1 involves four separate sub-components:

- (Task 1, component 1, part 1) an edition of the Syriac version of Ḥunayn ibn Ishāq’s compilation *On the properties of foodstuffs*,
- (Task 1, component 1, part 2) an edition of the Arabic version of Ḥunayn ibn Ishāq’s compilation *On the properties of foodstuffs*,
- (Task 1, component 2) an edition of Sergius of Reš ‘Aynā’s Syriac translation of Galen’s *Book of simple drugs*, and
- (Task 1, component 3) a survey and possible re-edition (if necessary) of the herbal writings of Barhebraeus.

Reports on each of these four sub-components follow.

**Task 1, component 1, part 1: An edition of the Syriac version of Ḥunayn ibn Ishāq's compilation *On the properties of foodstuffs*.**

This sub-component has been described in Annex 1, "Description of Work", p. 13-14. Most of the work thus far accomplished was done by J. Daccache (project research assistant) and R. Hawley (P.I.), with assistance from M. Wernhard (project post-doc).

We estimate that, as of 1 April 2014, this sub-component is 70% finished. As such, it appears to be slightly ahead of schedule (completion expected by month 48). In particular, 100% of the Syriac text processing is done, approximately 60% of the English translation is done, and approximately 50% of further editorial work (source identification, textual apparatus) has been done. These latter two aspects have been somewhat delayed, since we await the completion of the (more advanced) work on the Arabic version of this same treatise (see below), which will allow us to construct the comparative glossary, and at the same time verify the coherency of the English translations, and confirm the source identifications.

Early on in the life of the project, one particular time- and energy-saving strategy was adopted, upon the recommendation of one member of the publications staff at the host institution (laboratory UMR 8167 Orient & Méditerranée, of the CNRS): that the Syriac textual processing be done not in a word processor, but rather directly into the page formatting program InDesign (produced by Adobe), which itself possesses considerable and powerful word processing capabilities. Not only did this decision allow the project to avoid the additional step (and considerable delay) of transferring text files to InDesign at some later date, but also and especially this decision allowed many inevitable errors to be avoided, by insuring that the Syriac scholars themselves, and not technicians unfamiliar with Syriac (and Arabic) script, directly control both the text processing and the page formatting.

A sample selection of our work is attached (see attachment). The full InDesign document has now reached a total of 201 pages (of which a selection of 5 pairs of facing pages may be viewed in the above link). Bear in mind that the document can only be considered roughly 70% finished; areas that require further attention are highlighted.

**Task 1, component 1, part 2: An edition of the Arabic version of Ḥunayn ibn Ishāq's compilation *On the properties of foodstuffs*.**

This sub-component was also described in Annex 1, "Description of Work", p. 13-14. Most of the work thus far accomplished was done by M. Wernhard (project post-doc, and himself a specialist on this very treatise – see Wernhard 1997 – and for which reason he was hired by the project), with assistance from J. Daccache (project research assistant), and R. Hawley (P.I.).

We estimate that, as of 1 April 2014, this sub-component is 75% finished. As such, it also appears to be well ahead of schedule (completion originally expected by month 48). In particular, 100% of the Arabic text processing is done, approximately 75% of the English translation is done, and approximately 75% of further editorial work (source identification, textual apparatus) has been done. M. Wernhard estimates that he will have a complete manuscript by mid-summer 2014, which will allow for the timely elaboration of a comparative Greek-Syriac-Arabic glossary, and at the same time allow us to verify the coherency of the English translations of both the Syriac and Arabic versions, placed side by side, as well as confirm the source identifications (common to both versions).

Certain already completed sections of M. Wernhard's manuscript have been incorporated into the page formatting program InDesign (see above), but not all: the rest will await M. Wernhard's completed manuscript.

A sample selection of our work is attached (see attachment). The full PDF document has now reached a total of 244 pages as a text file (of which only the first 5 pages of Book III may be viewed in the above link). Bear in mind that the document can only be considered roughly 75% finished; areas that require further attention are highlighted.

**Task 1, component 2: An edition of Sergius of Reš ‘Aynā’s Syriac translation of Galen’s *Book of simple drugs*.**

This sub-component was also described in Annex 1, “Description of Work”, p. 13 and especially p. 15. Most of the work thus far accomplished was done by J. Daccache (project research assistant), R. Hawley (P.I.), and S. Bhayro (project “external expert”; see his profile in Annex 1, “Description of Work”, p. 15).

We estimate that, as of 1 April 2014, this sub-component is 60% finished. As such, it appears very slightly behind schedule (completion originally expected by month 48; perhaps we should now imagine month 50-52). In particular, 100% of the Syriac text processing has been done, but only approximately 40% of the English translation, and approximately 65% of further editorial work (source identification, textual apparatus) has been done. I estimate that the English translation will be completed by mid-autumn 2015.

As above for the Syriac version of Ḥunayn ibn Isḥāq’s compilation *On the properties of foodstuffs*, the Syriac textual processing was not done in a word processor, but rather directly into the page formatting program InDesign (produced by Adobe), which itself possesses considerable and powerful word processing capabilities. Again, as above, not only did this decision allow the project to avoid the additional step (and considerable delay) of transferring text files to InDesign at some later date, but also and especially this decision allowed many inevitable errors to be avoided, by insuring that the Syriac scholars themselves, and not technicians unfamiliar with Syriac script, directly control both the text processing and the page formatting.

A sample selection of our work is attached (see attachment). The full InDesign document has now reached a total of 347 pages (of which a selection of 3 pairs of facing pages may be viewed in the above link). Bear in mind that the document can only be considered roughly 60% finished; areas that require further attention are highlighted.

**Task 1, component 3: A survey and possible re-edition (if necessary) of the herbal writings of Barhebraeus.**

This sub-component (the study, and if necessary re-edition, of the “herbal” section of Bar Hebraeus’ *Candelabra of the sanctuary*) was also described in Annex 1, “Description of Work”, p. 15. 100% of the necessary research has been accomplished by Prof. H. Takahashi (project “external expert”; see his profile in Annex 1, “Description of Work”, p. 15), and presented publicly on two occasions: at the Floriental 2012 Annual Meeting (14 November 2012, Paris, France); and again at the Floriental 2013 International Conference (14 November 2013, Paris, France; for which see the following link).

<http://www.orient-mediterranee.com/spip.php?article1356&lang=fr>

Prof. Takahashi’s study will be published in the proceedings of this conference (see also below, Task 4).