



The Greek *Historia Monachorum* in Aegypto: Monastic Hagiography in the Late Fourth Century (Oxford Early Christian Studies)

By Andrew Cain

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The Greek *Historia Monachorum in Aegypto* was one of the most widely read and disseminated Greek hagiographic texts during Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages. To this day it remains, alongside Athanasius' *Life of Antony*, one of the core primary sources for fourth-century Egyptian monasticism as well as one of the most fascinating, yet perplexing, pieces of monastic hagiography to survive from the entire patristic period. However, until now it has not received the intensive and sustained scholarly analysis that a monograph affords. In this study, Andrew Cain incorporates insights from source criticism, stylistic and rhetorical analysis, literary criticism, and historical, geographical, and theological studies in an attempt to break new ground and revise current scholarly orthodoxy about a broad range of interpretive issues and problems.

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The Greek *Historia Monachorum in Aegypto*: Monastic Hagiography in the Late Fourth Century (Oxford Early Christian Studies) By Andrew Cain Bibliography

- Rank: #3278447 in Books
- Published on: 2016-07-19
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 6.30" h x .80" w x 9.30" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 368 pages

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Review

"Now that the study of hagiography boasts several sound critical editions and translations into modern languages, it is crucial to proceed with monographs devoted to works that shaped the development of this particular branch of literature and, beyond that, the thought-world of late antique and medieval society. Should this be undertaken by such well-read and thoughtful commentators as the present author, we have good reason to be optimistic."--*The Catholic Historical Review*

"Cain's book will likely become the definitive text on the [*Historia monachorum in Aegypto*]. His research is excellent, his arguments well documented, and the theses of the eleven chapters will provide ample foundation for years of further scholarship. In short, Cain has ensured that any subsequent books or articles on the *HMA* must engage with this monograph. That alone places him, and this book, in rare company." --*Reading Religion*

About the Author

Andrew Cain is Associate Professor of Classics at the University of Colorado at Boulder.

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