

Christianizing Asia Minor

Paul McKechnie explores how Christianity grew and expanded in Roman Asia over the first three centuries of the religion. Focusing on key individuals, such as Aberkios (Avircius Marcellus) of Hierapolis, he assesses the pivotal role played by early Christian preachers who, in imitation of Paul of Tarsus, attracted converts through charismatic preaching. By the early fourth century, they had brought many cities and rural communities to a tipping point at which they were ready to move under a ‘Christian canopy’ and push polytheistic Greco-Roman religion to the margins. This volume brings new clarity to our understanding of how the Christian church grew and thrived in Asia Minor, simultaneously changing Roman society and being changed by it. Combining patristic evidence with the archaeological and epigraphic record, McKechnie’s study provides a strong factual and chronological framework for the study of Christianization, while bringing church history and Roman history more closely together.

Paul McKechnie is an associate professor in the Department of Ancient History at Macquarie University. He is the author of *The First Christian Centuries*.

Christianizing Asia Minor

*Conversion, Communities, and Social Change
in the Pre-Constantinian Era*

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Abbreviations

Abbreviations are as in Hornblower and Spawforth, *Oxford Classical Dictionary*⁴, plus the following:

<i>Année épigraphique</i>	(1888–) <i>L'Année épigraphique: Revue des publications épigraphiques relatives à l'antiquité romaine</i> . Paris.
ANRW	<i>Aufstieg und Niedergang der römischen Welt</i>
b	Babylonian Talmud
<i>Barr</i>	Talbert, R.J.A. (ed.) (2000) <i>Barrington Atlas of the Greek and Roman World</i> . Princeton, NJ, and Oxford.
<i>Book of the Laws of Countries</i>	Drijvers, H.J.W. (1965) <i>The Book of the Laws of Countries: Dialogue on Fate of Bardaisan of Edessa</i> . Assen.
<i>Bulletin épigraphique</i>	Robert, J. and L. (1939–) <i>Bulletin épigraphique</i> in the <i>Revue des études grecques</i>
CIG	(1828–77) <i>Corpus inscriptionum graecarum</i> , 4 vols. Berlin.
<i>Grammatici Graeci</i> 3.2 Hauken	Lentz, A. (1870) <i>Grammatici Graeci</i> vol. 3.2. Leipzig. Hauken, T. (1998) <i>Petition and Response: An Epigraphic Study of Petitions to Roman Emperors 181–249</i> . Bergen.
IAlex	Ricl, M. (1997) <i>The Inscriptions of Alexandria Troas</i> . Bonn.
IANazarbos	Sayar, M.H. (2000) <i>Die Inschriften von Anazarbos und Umgebung</i> , 2 vols. Bonn.
ICG	Breytenbach, C., K. Hallof, U. Huttner, J. Krumm, S. Mitchell, J. M. Ogereau, E. Sironen, M. Veksina, and C. Zimmermann (eds.) (2016) <i>Inscriptiones Christianae Graecae (ICG): A Digital Collection of Greek Early Christian Inscriptions from Asia Minor and Greece</i> . Berlin. http://repository.edition-topoi.org/collection/ICG

ICUR	Rossi, G.B. de (1857–1888) <i>Inscriptiones Christianae Urbis Romae</i> . Rome.
IEph	(1979–1984) <i>Die Inschriften von Ephesos</i> . Bonn.
IG	<i>Inscriptiones Graecae</i>
IGRRP	R. Cagnat (ed.) (1901–1927) <i>Inscriptiones Graecae ad res Romanas pertinentes</i> . Paris.
IHierapMir	Miranda, E. (1999) ‘La comunità giudaica di Hierapolis di Frigia’ <i>Epigraphica Anatolica</i> 31: 109–55.
IJudO	Ameling, W. (2004) <i>Inscriptiones Judaicae Orientis</i> vol. 2. Tübingen.
IKaunos	Marek, C. (2006) <i>Die Inschriften von Kaunos</i> . Munich.
IMont	Tabbernee, W. (1997) <i>Montanist Inscriptions and Testimonia: Epigraphic Sources Illustrating the History of Montanism</i> . Macon, GA.
IMT Gran/Pariane	Barth, M. and J. Stauber (eds.) (1983) Version of 25.8.1993 (Ibycus). Packard Humanities Institute CD #7, 1996. – Mysia, ‘Granikos mit Pariane’, nos. 1001–105. – Includes: Peter Frisch. <i>Die Inschriften von Parion</i> . ‘Inschriften griechischer Städte aus Kleinasien’, 25. Leopold Wenger Institut, Universität München, Bonn.
IParion	Frisch, P. (1983) <i>Die Inschriften von Parion</i> . Bonn.
IPrusa	Corsten, T. (1991–1993) <i>Die Inschriften von Prusa ad Olympum</i> . Bonn.
Joannou	Joannou, P.-P. (1962) <i>Discipline générale antique I.2: Les canons des synodes particuliers</i> . Rome.
Keil and Premerstein	Keil, J. and A. von Premerstein (1914) ‘Bericht über eine dritte Reise in Lydien und der angrenzenden Gebieten Ioniens, ausgeführt 1911 im Auftrage der Kaiserlichen Akademie der Wissenschaften’ <i>Denkschrift der Kaiserlichen Akademie der Wissenschaften in Wien, philosophisch-historische Klasse</i> 57.1: 37–47.
KILyk	Laminger-Pascher, G. (1992) <i>Die kaiserzeitlichen Inschriften Lykaoniens</i> , fasc. 1. Vienna.
LXX	Septuagint
NRSV	<i>New Revised Standard Version Bible</i> , copyright 1989, 1995 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America.
Sardis 7.1	Buckler, W.H. and D.M. Robinson (1932) <i>Sardis, VII: Greek and Latin Inscriptions Part I</i> . Leiden.
SNG von Aulock	Aulock, H. von (1963) <i>Sylloge nummorum Graecorum Deutschland: Sammlung v. Aulock</i> . 8. Heft., Nr. 2868–3328 <i>Lydien</i> . Berlin.

Preface

Many debts have been incurred in writing this book. I wish to thank Macquarie University for relieving me of teaching and other responsibilities in the second half of 2015, and Ian Plant as Head of the Department of Ancient History for making arrangements which allowed me to spend the Michaelmas Term of 2014 in Cambridge. There, I wish to thank the Faculty of Divinity for making me a Visiting Fellow in that term, and Ridley Hall for accommodating me as a sabbatical visitor. In Sydney, I wish to thank the Sydney College of Divinity for making me an Honorary Research Associate, and Jim Harrison for allowing me to take refuge in his office.

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I wish to thank Jenni Irving for preparing most of the illustrations.

Quotations from the Bible are from the New Revised Standard Version, except where the Greek wording of the Septuagint makes a difference: there, Pietersma's *New English Translation of the Septuagint* is used. Abbreviations other than those in the Abbreviations list are those in Hornblower and Spawforth, *Oxford Classical Dictionary*⁴. Names of places and people in this book are usually given in the form most intuitively familiar to me from their use by others. I have added modern place names in brackets where I thought they were needed for clarity. As for names of people, there were many in Asia Minor who had Roman-derived names: I apologize to readers who find my case-by-case choices conflict with what they think looks right.

