Monastic Education in Late Antiquity

In re-examining the Christianization of the Roman Empire and subsequent transformation of Graeco-Roman Classical culture, this volume challenges conventional ways of understanding both the history of Christian monasticism and the history of education. The chapters interrogate assumptions that have framed monastic practice as pedagogically unprecedented, with few obvious precursors and/or parallels. A number explore how both teaching and practice merge Classical pedagogical structures with Christian sources and traditions. Others resituate monasticism within a longer trajectory of educational and institutional frameworks, elucidating models that remain central to the preservation of both Greek and Latin literary culture, and the skills of reading and writing. Through re-examination of archaeological evidence and critical rereading of signature monastic texts, each chapter documents the degree to which monastic structures emerged in close alignment with urban, literate society, and retained established affinity with Classical rhetorical and philosophical school traditions.

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Monastic Education in Late Antiquity

The Transformation of Classical Paideia

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Acknowledgements

This volume collects the revised versions of papers given at an international conference addressing monastic education, held at Lund University in October 2013. The conference was organized by the “Early Monasticism and Classical Paideia” research program. Six of the volume’s chapters document research undertaken by members of the MOPAI research team. The remaining nine chapters reflect the work of respected colleagues in the field. The conversations at the conference were themselves a distillata of wider conversation that has taken place within the MOPAI program, and with a broader range of colleagues, over the past six years.

We are grateful to the Riksbankens Jubiléumsfond (the Tercennary Fund of the National Bank of Sweden) for generously funding both the conference and the MOPAI research venture that ran from 2009 to 2015. We likewise thank the Centre for Theology and Religious Studies at Lund University for hosting the conference and housing the MOPAI project, and the University of Redlands for ongoing support of integral international collaboration. Additional thanks are due the scholars, whose contributions have allowed us to put together a volume that reflects a fundamental shift in discussions of monastic education. Their outstanding essays invite readers to rethink almost every aspect of emergent pedagogical investments, and to reconsider the degree to which monasticism influenced the late-antique educational landscape, as a whole.

In the process of organizing and structuring this content, the assistance of the MOPAI research team was invaluable. In the final stages of assembling the bibliography and cross-checking references, Sebastian Ekberg and Stephen Lars Klein’s close attention to detail was equally vital to timely submission of the collected essays.

Because this volume brings together scholarship that draws on a variety of methodologies and subfields (papyrology, material culture, literature), in a range of languages (Greek, Latin, Coptic, Syrian, Arabic), with respect to citation, we have sought to maintain internal consistency in the format of each contribution. Beyond this, we have, implicitly, deferred to each author’s respective expertise in applying conventions appropriate to a given discipline.

As editors, we wish to thank Cambridge University Press for accepting the volume for publication, and Michael Sharp, Elizabeth Hanlon and Sarah Starkey for their generous assistance in facilitating the editorial process.