

Note on Terms

Dates that were originally written according to the Seleucid calendar used by Syriac writers, which begins on October 1, 312 BC (known as the Greek Era, which corresponds to the foundation of the Seleucid Empire), or according to the Muslim (Hijri) calendar, have been transposed into the Gregorian calendar. Since the years do not always exactly correspond, however, dates are sometimes given with a double year.

As for the dates for a specific person, dates without any other marker indicate birth and death; *r.* indicates the dates of the rule of a king, while *d.* indicates the date of death.

For the transcription of Syriac, we have not marked the spirantization of consonants in certain positions, nor the long vowels. *Memra* in the singular and *memre* in the plural mark the pronunciation of ancient Syriac as preserved in East Syriac; in West Syriac, the same word is pronounced *memro* in the singular and *mimre* in the plural. We have decided to treat the difference according to context since the *a/o* and *e/i* variation occurs in a number of other words.

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The Syriac World