

Acknowledgements

The origins of this volume are anchored in an International Workshop entitled *The Holy Book of the Ishmaelites in the World of Eastern Christianity* held at the University of Copenhagen between May 11–12, 2022, which was generously funded by the ERC-Synergy Grant: *The European Qur'an: Islamic Scripture in European Culture and Religion, 1150–1850* [EuQu] (Grant agreement No. 810141). The intention behind the event was to explore how Eastern Christians of various linguistic and religious traditions engaged with the Qur'ān and its Islamic interpretations from the medieval period until the dawn of the modern world in different historical contexts, and to focus on how entangled religious and cultural dynamics shaped their responses to Islam and its holy Scripture.

I am grateful to the PIs of the project, Mercedes García-Arenal, John Tolan, Roberto Tottoli, and especially to Jan Loop for their support and enthusiasm regarding the workshop and this volume. Jan agreed immediately to host such an event in Copenhagen and aided me greatly in organizing it. I also thank my colleagues, Naima Afif, Paul Babinski, Asaph Ben-Tov, and Kentaro Inagaki for taking part in the workshop and offering me a stimulating environment for this volume to grow. I must thank Kira Storgaard Hansen for all her work that made the workshop possible in Copenhagen, especially after a long period of lockdown. As well, I owe thanks to the Department of Theology for hosting the event, and to Heike Omerzu and Thomas Hoffmann for their support and warm welcome in Denmark.

My gratitude to all the scholars who accepted my invitation and participated in the workshop. Although not all of them were able to contribute to the volume, their valuable input was greatly valuable for its development. I thank Thomas A. Carlson, Alessandro Gori, Stefan Schreiner, and the late Miroslaw J. Leszka, who accepted my invitation to publish their valuable research here. To Tijana Krstić, who offered a very stimulating lecture in Copenhagen, I thank for her valuable comments on the conceptual framework of the volume. This publication would not have been possible without the help of David Bertaina, who read all the contributions with a critical and sharp eye. His meticulous reading spared the volume of many errors, while his insightful suggestions and observations greatly improved the final product. I can only hope that my sentiments of gratitude will suffice to express my deep appreciation for his time and effort. I thank Teresa Madrid Álvarez-Piñer for her support, and to Jessica Bartz, Eva Frantz, Chandhini Magesh, and Torsten Wollina for their aid and patience in publishing this book. All the remaining errors are my own.

Special thanks to the British Library, the Institute of Ancient Manuscripts “Matenadaran” of Yerevan, Princeton University Library, Library of the University of Ioannina, Foundation Georges et Mathilde Salem in Aleppo (Syria), Hill Museum and Manuscript Library (HIMML) and sinaimanuscripts.library.ucla.edu, a publication of St Catherine Monastery of the Sinai in collaboration with EMEL and UCLA, for allowing us to publish images from their manuscript collections. To my colleague from the Institute of South-East European Studies (Romanian Academy), Oana Iacubovski, I thank for allowing me to use one of her photos for the cover of the book.

To Matei and Nicoleta, who constantly remind me of the beautiful things in life.

Athens
March 1, 2024