

101011 manuscripts: Approaches to the digitisation of the Chronicle of Matthew of Edessa

The Chronicle of Matthew of Edessa was composed during the decade of the 1130s. It survives today in at least 43 manuscripts, none of which were copied before 1590. Such a complex transmission history would be impossible to analyse according to traditional practices of stemmatology, and the presentation of a critical edition of such a text in paper format requires the editor to omit a great many variants in the interest of space. Recent advances in the field of computer-aided textual criticism have made it possible to give an accurate picture of a wide and complex transmission history; they have also made it possible to present text variants in exhaustive detail, or in a simplified format, according to the wishes of the reader. I will present the computer techniques that make a true critical edition of the Chronicle a real possibility, and will show the current results of my work in progress.