

AL-WADIH IBN RAJA' (?-after 1009)

A Monk, apologist. The *History of the Patriarchs* devotes several pages to the story of al-Wadih, a [Muslim](#) who—through the witness of a martyr and the intervention of St. Mercurius—converted to Christianity and became a monk and **priest**. He became a friend of **Sawirus ibn al-Muqaffa'**, with whom he is said to have spent considerable time in reflection and study. He wrote at least three [Arabic](#)-language [apologetic](#)/polemical works in which he drew on [Islamic](#) sources; unfortunately, these works remain almost entirely unknown. Like Sawirus, [al-Wadih](#) is one of the pioneers of **Copto-Arabic literature**, but an evaluation of his place in the history of this literature must await the publication of some of his work.

GAWDAT GABRA

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