

DAYR

A word that seems to be borrowed from Syriac, like the greater part of the characteristic terms that form the lexical stock of the Christian Arabs, and linked by the classical dictionaries to the root “d w r,” which suggests the idea of moving around in a circle. C. Brockelmann derives the Syriac word *dayra* from the Akkadian. However that may be, the word in Syriac describes a habitation in general, but may designate a sheepfold. It took on the specific sense of “monastery” (of cenobites).

It seems that it was also used to describe any [dwelling](#) place of Christians. The Coptic word *raoue*, which means “a town quarter, a neighborhood,” was also translated into [Arabic](#) by *dayr*, which leads one to suppose that the word had a fairly generic sense. The term *dayr* thus does not necessarily describe a habitation specifically of monks.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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RENÉ-[GEORGES](#) COQUIN

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