

GREGORY II

A fourteenth-century Melchite patriarch of Alexandria. Very little is known about Gregory II. V. Grumel and J. Nasrallah date his election around 1315. As soon as he was elected, he sent a synodal letter to his colleague of Constantinople, Patriarch John XIII Glykys, announcing his election. This letter was published by F. Miklosich and J. Muller along with a reply from John XIII, inviting him to come to Constantinople.

Nasrallah (1981, p. 56) states that the patriarchs of [Alexandria](#) during the period between 1250 and 1516 resided most of the time at Constantinople. However, it seems that Gregory II usually resided at Cairo, as is attested by the [manuscript](#) copied by the hierodeacon SABA YASA in 1320 at the patriarchal residence in Cairo (Sinai Arabic 102).

At an intermediate date, Gregory copied the large Greco-Arabic *euchologion* (Sinai Arabic 258; fols. 121b-27b are written exclusively in Arabic). He gave this [manuscript](#) as a legacy to the church of Mar Saba, which is in the port of Alexandria.

Of particular note in this [manuscript](#) is the office of the consecration of the waters of the Nile, performed on the Sunday before the feast of Pentecost (fols. 127b-75b). The Greek text of this office has been edited by A. Dmitrievskij (1901) and M. Black (1938). The [Christian Aramaic](#) text has been edited by G. Margoliouth (1896). The Arabic text has not yet been edited.

Gregory was well versed in both Arabic and Greek, as Sinai Arabic 258 attests. But above all, he began to translate the *Typikon of Saint Saba* from Greek into Arabic, with an Arabic commentary on the part concerning the *agrypniai* (a night service before certain feasts, in the Eastern church) only, as he had no time to do more. This explains why, shortly afterward, in 1335, Abu al-Fath̄ QUSTANTIN IBN ABI AL-MA'ALI IBN ABI AL-FATH̄ redid the whole translation.

Furthermore, a note in a [manuscript](#) composed in 1594-1595 (Mar Elias Shuwayya [Lebanon] Manuscript 30) [records](#) that Patriarch Gregory was known as Gregory al-Sinawiti (fols. 2a-2b).

This indicates that he had been a monk at Sinai and explains why some of his manuscripts are found there today.

According to Grumel, Gregory II died before 1354, although Grumel adds a question mark. According to Nasrallah, he died before 1335.

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