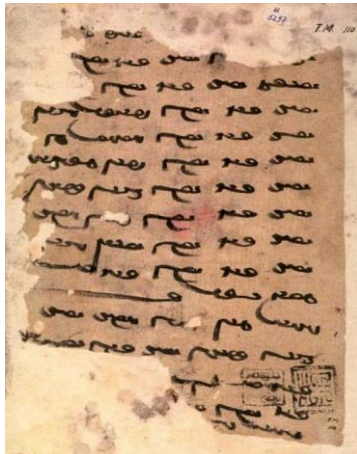


# THE CHRISTIAN LIBRARY FROM TURFAN:

new discoveries and new dimensions

**Dr. Erica C.D. Hunter**

Senior Lecturer in Eastern Christianity SOAS, University of London



**6:30 pm, Thursday 13 March 2014**

**Australian Institute of Archaeology, Building EC 11, La Trobe University**

**Terrace Way, MacLeod, (Melways 873-4)**

**The Lecture:** Between 1904 and 1907, the German Turfan Expedition found more than 1000 manuscript fragments, written in Syriac-script and encompassing a wide range of languages and genres, ranging from liturgical and biblical material to hagiographies and economic documents. Collectively the manuscripts show the ethnic and linguistic diversity of the Christian population at Turfan, between the 9th – 12th centuries, yet also uphold the strong link that was maintained with the ‘mother church’ in Mesopotamia.

**Erica Hunter:** Dr. Erica C.D. Hunter is Senior Lecturer in Eastern Christianity, Dept. for the Study of Religions, SOAS. She is also Co-chair, Centre of World Christianity, Dept. for the Study of Religions, SOAS, University of London. Dr Hunter is currently Principal Investigator (together with Prof. Nicholas Sims-Williams FBA) of the AHRC-funded project, ‘The transmission of Christian texts from Turfan’ (2012-2015) that aims to explore the connections between Mesopotamia and western China in the early medieval period. She was Principal Investigator for the AHRC-funded project ‘The Christian Library from Turfan’ (2008-2011) which has catalogued over 500 Syriac-script manuscripts from Turfan. The catalogue will be published in 2014.

Dr Hunter has had a long interest in incantation bowls. She researched the incantation bowls held by the Iraq Museum, Baghdad and has recently visited the Oriental Museum, University of Chicago and the University Museum, University of Pennsylvania where she examined the collections of incantation bowls that were excavated at Nippur. They are the subject of her current involvement in the ‘ARC-funded project, The Function of Images in Magical Papyri and Artefacts of Ritual Power from Late Antiquity’ headed by Dr. Jay Johnson.

**Sponsored by the Australian Institute of Archaeology**

**Admission Free**

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