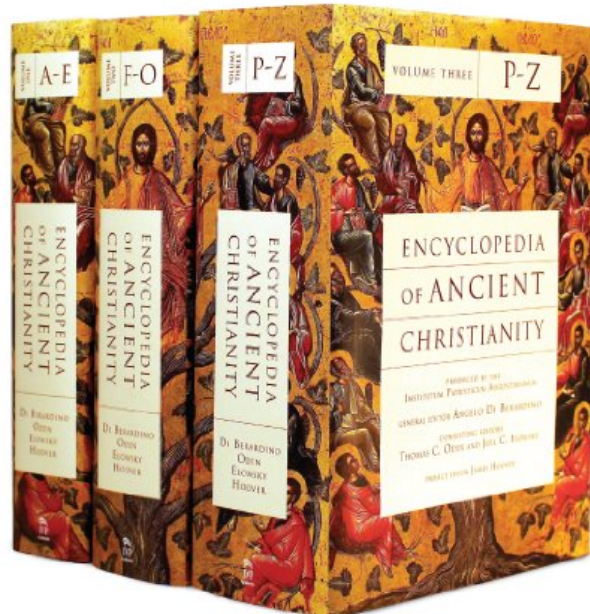


Encyclopedia of Ancient Christianity

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1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. I enjoy just flipping through it and learning new and interesting ...By Lars Nowen This is a fascinating and detailed set. The bibliographies following each article are invaluable. I enjoy just flipping through it and learning new and interesting things... 2 of 5 people found the following review helpful. An EXCELLENT Resource! By Kenneth Jennings A most EXCELLENT resource tool for those seeking to seriously firm up their faith, both scholar and layman. Well worth the price. 25 of 27 people found the following review helpful. Excellent but hold on to the first edition By PJ F Excellent but hold on to the first edition This review presupposes the readers acquaintance with the description of the second edition of this Encyclopedia provided by the publishers to . I will not repeat here that information, which is all laudatory, but confine myself to some remarks about some of the entries. Outstanding among the newer 26 articles are those signed by Ilaria Ramelli (esp. free will, oikeiosis; Ramelli is outstanding throughout) and Mark Starowieyski (esp. apocrypha). The editors of this second edition decided to retain wholesale some of the entries from the earlier edition because of the big names of the contributors, some of whom in the meantime have passed away. In all such cases only the bibliographies were updated. Compared with the 1992 edition, this one has more than 1,000 pages. In part this is due to the format being smaller. However, as a consequence perhaps (there is nowhere an explanation for this) the following features were omitted: (1) the synoptic table (15 unpaginated pages); (2) 44 colour maps, and (3) 320 illustrations (black-white, and colour). Personally, I regret this since the maps and illustrations especially were of great value for anyone wanting to have a better sense of the

historical facts. Hence I suggest that anyone in possession of the 1992 edition to hold on to it. But in view of the price is it worth spending the money in order to have 600 additional entries but losing those earlier features? Not an easy decision. Let me now voice some of my reservations and/or criticisms. Despite that such a great scholar as the Benedictine hieromonk Jean Gribomont (1920-84) authored, among many others, the entries on Basil of Caesarea, Gregory of Nyssa, and Macrina the Younger, these particular articles in my opinion should have been thoroughly revamped. There has been much new groundbreaking study done recently on each of these figures, particularly following the sixteen-hundredth anniversary of the death of Basil. Gribomont's articles have not lived up to even the standards from prior to 1979. To make things more unacceptable, whoever has tried to update the bibliography of Basil has done a very poor job. Translations mixed up with studies, important studies such as the one by Benoit Guin left out, some irrelevant articles put in. Perhaps it would have sufficed if a reference was made to volume v of my *Bibliotheca* of which the 975 pages chronologically cover the years 1459-2004. On the subject of the *Bibliotheca*, my 5-in-8 volumes are listed with a truncated title as *Bibliotheca Basiliana Vniuersalis. Studies of the Manuscript Tradition*, 4 vols. Not because it is my work but because my aim was to facilitate the work of others, I will allow myself to give here the complete description of that work, also because some of the areas covered impinge not only on areas of Basilian but also some non-Basilian scholarship. *Bibliotheca Basiliana Vniuersalis. A Study of the Manuscript Tradition, Translations and Editions of the Works by Basil of Caesarea* i. The Letters (1993); ii. The *Homiliae morales, Hexaemeron, De litteris*, with Additional Coverage of the Letters (1996); iii. The *Ascetica, Contra Eunomium* 1-3, *Ad Amphiloichium De spiritu sancto, Dubia et spuria*, with Supplements to Volumes i-ii (1997); iv. *Testimonia, Liturgical and Canonical Compositions, Florilegia, Catenae, Iconography* (1999); v. *Studies of Basil and His World. An Annotated Bio-Bibliography* (2004). From this simple overview one might have considered it helpful to cross-list some of the volumes to such entries as Basilian Anaphora (here in the work listed Fedwick should read Fenwick), Florilegia (in vol. iv of the *Bibliotheca* there are more than 300 pages accurately identifying [by incipits-desinits] most of the quotations of Basil found in the Florilegia, Councils, and many a single author), Iconography (illuminations culled from manuscripts, churches, excavated buildings, monasteries, etc.) By the way, the 5-in-8 volumes deal with all the works of Basil in nine ancient languages and all the modern ones. On the scholarship of Gregory of Nyssa and Macrina the Younger there has been so much new research and excellent publications after 1992 that one sorely regrets that none of this has been incorporated into the pertinent articles of this new edition of the Encyclopedia. For instance on Macrina's contribution to Basilian asceticism on which in the Encyclopedia there are only a few lines a work such as the one on *Virgins of God: the Making of Asceticism in Late Antiquity* (1994) by Susan Elm needs to be taken into account by any serious student of early Christianity (this work is not even cited in the entry on Virgins). Other readers may find more to complain about, but I just wanted to mention these few that lie closer to my area of interest. Let me make clear that in the three cases dealt with above it is perhaps not so much the deficient bibliographies that are the drawback; they can easily be updated by consulting, for instance, the ever so indispensable, *Lanne philologique*, available now online on the Internet. Rather what one would have liked to see included is more of the new scholarship and knowledge acquired in the last decades in the years intervening between the first and second edition of this Encyclopedia. Last but not least, one would reasonably expect that the translators would provide to the readers in English titles of works which appear in the Italian edition in either Italian or other languages and which do exist in English translation. This would apply particularly to the translations of the originals of the works by the authors dealt with, which, in some instances, are cited only in the other languages. All in all, this is a very valuable and excellent contribution to be read and/or consulted by any earnest scholar working in the period, Latin West up to the death of Bede (d. 735), and East up to John of Damascus (d. ca. 749). The editors and publishers should be congratulated on such a fine achievement, although one hopes that if one day they will be preparing another edition they would find room for those sections from the 1992 edition which, as have been noted above, have been left out.

2014 Midwest Publishing Association Award of Excellence (Scholarly/Reference) 2014 Readers' Choice Awards Honorable Mention The Encyclopedia of Ancient Christianity covers eight centuries of the Christian church and comprises 3,220 entries by a team of 266 scholars from 26 countries representing a variety of Christian traditions. It draws upon such fields as archaeology, art and architecture, biography, cultural studies, ecclesiology, geography, history, philosophy, and theology. This three-volume encyclopedia offers unparalleled, comprehensive coverage of the people, places and ideas of ancient Christianity, including: cultural current events and movements philosophy iconography and architecture archaeology texts and translation theological terms doctrines liturgy spirituality monasticism Christian sects heresies controversies councils The encyclopedia's A-to-Z coverage extends from "Aaron (iconography)" to "Zosimus, pope" and chronologically from Christianity's origins to Bede (d. 735) in the West and John of Damascus (d. ca. 749) in the Greek East, with detailed emphasis on the first four centuries of Christian history. Its geographical range reaches across: North Africa Mauretania Numidia Africa Proconsularis Byzacena Libya Egypt Nubia Ethiopia Asia Adiabene Armenia Bithynia Pontus Georgia Cappadocia Lycia and Pamphylia Phrygia Syria Mesopotamia Arabia Palestine Persia China Europe Gaul Spain Portugal Italy Germany Britain and Ireland Scotland Pannonia Dalmatia Macedonia Moesia Thrace Cyprus Crete This edition updates and expands on previous

Italian and English-language editions with the addition of more than 500 new articles (added to the current Italian or English edition), including the following 30 articles exclusive to IVP's edition: apostolic seeCapuaCarmen de synodo TicinensiChinacosmopolitanismdeathdiakonia/diaconateDialogi de sancta Trinitate IV-Vdoorkeeper (porter)dynamis/energeiaeternityforgivenessfreedom/free willgoodHierotheusincubatioinfinity/infinitudelibelli miraculorumloveMara bar Serapion (letter of)oikeiosisold agepresanctifiedSerapeion (Serapeum)subdeaconTheosebiaTriumphus Christi heroicusTychonunityVirgo Parens Extensive cross-referencing provides ease in exploring related articles, and helpful bibliographies, including primary sources (texts, critical editions, translations) and key secondary sources (books and journal articles), give access to the very latest in-depth scholarship in countless disciplines of study. IVP's new Encyclopedia of Ancient Christianity (2014) is translated from Nuovo dizionario patristico e di antichità cristiane (2006-2008), produced by the Institutum Patristicum Augustinianum, the world's foremost center for patristic studies, under the direction of Professor Angelo Di Berardino, and it greatly updates and expands the 1992 Encyclopedia of the Early Church (Oxford University Press/James Clarke).

"The most thorough and extensive collection of information on the early church available. . . . Recommended for theological, academic, and large public libraries." (Christopher McConnell, Booklist, July 2014)"This three-volume set edited by Di Berardino and a team of consulting editors offers a comprehensive alphabetical listing of people, places and concepts important to the Christian Church's first eight centuries. . . . The list of contributors, most of them from one of several prestigious European universities, assures the reader that the content is authoritative and thoughtfully considered. . . . Recommended for scholars, this encyclopedia set, with its academic and precise content, is aimed at those whose interest in ancient Christianity is beyond general." 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The range of subjects covered by the articles is astounding, including virtually everyone about whom anything at all is known, as well as geography, literary and legal culture, art and symbolism, architecture and liturgy. These articles, together with their extensive and up-to-date bibliographies, make the Encyclopedia the portal of choice to the world of Late Antiquity." (Andrew Louth, Professor Emeritus of Patristic and Byzantine Studies, Durham University)"When Tom Oden is asked about these volumes his excitement nearly overwhelms the conversation, which is understandable. This will become one of the more important works for English readers for decades." (Jerry Pattengale, Executive Director, Green Scholars Initiative)"Words fail me for celebrating the fullness and excellence of this unique pioneer compendium, which brings together just about everything that is known about the first eight Christian centuries. 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comprehensive as one could get. A boon for those operating at all levels of scholarship." (Mark W. Elliott, Reader in Church History, School of Divinity, University of St Andrews)"The Encyclopedia of Ancient Christianity is a major milestone in patristic research and an indispensable tool for all serious scholars of Christian Antiquity in the twenty-first century. IVP has put us all in its debt by bringing out the English version of Di Berardino's magisterial *Nuovo dizionario patristico e di antichità cristiane* (2006-2008). The 1992 English version of the first edition (1983) soon proved itself to be one of the most important reference works for scholars of early Christianity. The updating of the Italian original expanded the coverage of the dictionary by more than 35 percent and greatly widened its philosophical and methodological premises. 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Rich with the introductory material most useful to the beginning student of Christianity's first eight hundred years, the articles also include insights that advise the specialist and divulge the expertise of their authors. For those seeking an orientation to the complexity of thought, practice, events and social issues of early Christianity, this Encyclopedia is now the most thorough and current source." (D. Jeffrey Bingham, Associate Dean of Biblical and Theological Studies, Wheaton College)"A venerable reference work just got even better. This second English-language edition of the Augustinianum's indispensable *Dizionario patristico* offers considerably expanded coverage and updated bibliographies. No less important, its newly written articles capture the exciting changes that have revolutionized the study of ancient Christianity in the two decades since the first edition appeared. 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This splendid book will soon establish itself as the standard resource for essential information and up-to-date bibliographies in its area." (Fr. Joseph T. Lienhard, S.J., Professor of Theology, Fordham University)"This is a translation and updating of a classic and exhaustive work of reference produced by the Institutum Patristicum Augustinianum in Rome. Now expanded by more than a third, it has no equivalent in English and in its revised form will remain a trusted starting place as the field of early Christianity continues to expand." (Iain R. Torrance, Pro-Chancellor of the University of Aberdeen, former President of Princeton Theological Seminary)"If students of early Christianity were to have a new 'bible' it would undoubtedly be the EAC. For decades, the EAC's predecessors were invariably my first point of reference for authoritative articles on all aspects of early Christian personalities, writings, beliefs and practices. 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