

ANNOTATIONS

N.A. Khandoga. The Treatise “On the Creation of the World” by St. Victorinus of Poetovio

The article gives information about the treatise “On the Creation of the World”, the author of which is St. Victorinus of Poetovio, the first Latin exegetist. The work was written by him about 250AD but because of the 5th century Pope Gelasius’ decree it was included in the list of forbidden books. Therefore Eastern writers did not make reference to the saint. The article is preceded with the edition of the first Russian translation of the treatise made from Latin.

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St. Victorinus of Poetovio. On the Creation of the World (De fabrica mundi)

The treatise “On the Creation of the World” was long considered merely a fragment of one of many St. Victorinus’ (230–303/304) commentaries on, possibly, the Book of Genesis. But recently the majority of scientists came to a conclusion that it is a separate work. The Russian translation of the treatise from Latin by N.A. Khandoga is published for the first time.

O.A. Jarman. Christian Physicians of Late Antiquity: a Portrait in Cultural and Historical Perspectives

Ancient world became the environment where Christian Gospel sounded for the first time, giving to the world many famous Christian saints, who performed the feat of martyrdom. Among them were professional physicians, the first representatives of Roman intellectuals, who entered the group of the adherents of persecuted ancient Church. The approach to the legacy of antiquity in ancient Church was diverse. However the tradition represented by St. Justin the Philosopher and St. Clement of Alexandria facilitated the intellectuals’ coming into the Church, including physicians. The attitude towards physicians, as well as their social status, were different in the Roman world, but everyone from a senator to a commoner longed to see them as compassionate friends and not mercenary craftsmen. And such was the ideal of physicians-philosophers, the best representatives of their profession. Coming into Christian Church meant for the physicians the end of the world outlook crisis, which provoked the professional crisis. There are no detailed biographies of the physicians

of the age left, although separate biographical facts are scattered in their lives and martyrdom histories. Exception is made by the biography of St. Caesarius of Capadocia, which is a part of his graveside oration written by his famous brother St. Gregory the Theologian.

Olga Aleksandrovna Jarman is a Doctor of Philosophy, phthisiatrician, Saint-Petersburg State Paediatric Academy officer.

Archimandrite Avgustin (Nikitin). The Augsburg Confession as a Lutheran Doctrinal Book

The article deals with the events of the Protestant Reformation which resulted in the Augsburg Confession (*Confessio Augustana*), Lutheran Doctrinal Book, and analyzes the contents of the doctrinal document. It touches upon the issue of mutual relations of the Lutheranism and the Orthodoxy (particularly, the 16th century dialogue between the Reformation figures and the Constantinople Church). It considers closer relations of the Lutheran and the Roman Catholic Churches since they took shape in the second half of the 20th century, and puts the question of what significance the Augsburg Confession has in the present inter-Christian dialogue. The article analyzes the 1999 Augsburg Declaration signed between the two Churches where both parties reached “a consensus in the field of basic truths” on the justification doctrine.

Archimandrite Avgustin (Nikitin) is a Candidate of Theology, Associate Professor of the Saint-Petersburg Orthodox Theological Academy.

I.V. Bazilenko. Orthodox Russia and Shiite Iran: through the Historical Pages of Relations (16th – early 20th centuries)

The article represents a brief essay of relations between two neighboring countries with different culture and traditions – Orthodox Russia and Shiite Iran. The pages of Russian-Iranian relations from the 16th century to the Great War are full of various contents and give to an interested reader a rare opportunity to learn about the joyous events (Translation of the Lord’s Vestment to Moscow as a gift from the Iranian shah to the Russian tsar; travel of Nasser al-Din Shah in Russia) as well as the dismal periods (the murder of A.S. Griboedov, two wars in the early 19th century) in the development of the many-sided contacts between our countries.

Igor Vadimovich Bazilenko is a Doctor of History, Candidate of Theology, Professor of Saint Petersburg State University and Saint Petersburg Orthodox Theological Academy, Head of Ethnic Confessional Studies Department of Saint Petersburg State University of Service and Economy.

Archpriest Oleg Skomorokh. The Legal Foundations of the Prison Mission of the Russian Orthodox Church in late 20th – early 21st centuries

The article concerns the issues related to the prison service practice of the Russian Orthodox Church at present within the context of the Church social activity. Ministry in prisons is an actual task, which must be solved on the basis of Biblical and theological understanding as well as by attracting some external disciplines. The aim of the article is to acquaint the missionaries, performing prison ministry, with legal foundations of the interaction between the Church and Russia's penal system.

Archpriest Oleg Skomorokh is a Candidate of Theology, doctoral candidate of the Church Postgraduate and Doctoral School named after SS. Cyril and Methodius, chief of the Prison Ministry Section of the Saint-Petersburg Diocesan Department for Cooperation with Armed Forces and Legal Institutions, senior priest of S. Catherine's Church in Dinamo, Pavlovsk, Saint Petersburg.

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