

Graeco-Latina et Orientalia  
Studia in honorem Angeli Urbani heptagenarii



Edited by

Samir Khalil Samir & Juan Pedro Monferrer-Sala



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## Preface

It is with great pleasure that we write a few lines to present this volume in honor of our dear friend and colleague, Professor Ángel Urbán Fernández, with whom we have collaborated and shared personal and professional interests over the years.

The distinguished scholars who have contributed to this volume sought to express their appreciation for Professor Urbán's extraordinary academic career, which has stretched over forty years, by offering this series of studies. Professor Urbán's career as a teacher and researcher began at the Gregorian University in Rome, where he taught New Testament for twelve years. Thereafter he moved to the University of Córdoba, where he taught Greek language and literature, classical mythology, and other subjects investigated for thirty years. He offered not only undergraduate courses and postgraduate seminars, but also specialized master courses.

We are now at a turning point in academic studies, but recent changes have not always been positive. As societies are increasingly poor in their moral and intellectual culture, the loss of masters like Professor Urbán leaves the academy in a kind of wasteland from which little can be expected in a near future. The dynamic intellectual role and cultural enrichment played by the Humanities within the heart of the Universities from the Middle Age to the present seems to be of no interest to our current political leaders.

Hence the new battle that has been unleashed against the Humanities. The Western world seems to have lost the vision of the Enlightenment which led to modern societies. It might seem to some that a new Middle Age has begun. Yet the Middle Ages were a period of knowledge and cultural transfer, while our society is intellectually exhausted, does not recognize its origins, does not value its past, and ignores everything it despises. This is not the way to build a new society, a new world. Instead this is a path to the destruction of society.

Professor Urbán represents the opposite of these trends which threaten the future of students and research. Through years of professional camaraderie, he always has shown an open mind. As a humanist, he has given the best of himself to others. He has not spared any effort to answer questions, review texts, or discuss ideas.

We still remember those endless mornings working in his office on the issues or textual analysis of our several research projects. The discussion of a word, a specific text, or an idea was a source of mutual enrichment. Those blue winter mornings and those luminous spring afternoons have been lit in our memories forever.

## Preface

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Allow us to conclude with a reflection on this *Festschrift*. According to the teacher training of Professor Urbán we wanted from the start for this tribute to have an international spirit, and so the languages of this volume are English, French, German, Italian and Spanish. The languages represent a kind of intellectual *convivencia* between colleagues working in the field of Humanities.

The *Festschrift* has been possible thanks to the generous collaboration of all scholars who have participated. The editors would like to express their gratefulness to the interest taken by all the colleagues. The diligence with which they sent their respective contributions and with which they corrected the proofs are at once the stamp of both their academic seriousness and their appreciation for the colleague to whom this volume is dedicated.

Beirut - Córdoba  
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