

## SEXTUS, *Sentences*.

### *Edition:*

- B. Sargisian, *Սրբոյ Հօրն Եւագրի Պոնտացոյ Վարք և Մատենագրութիւնք* (The Life and Works of the Holy Father Evagrius of Pontus), Venice: 1907, pp. 54-63.

### *Studies:*

- F.C. Conybeare, *The Ring of Pope Xystus*, London: 1910, pp. 131-138; J. Muyldermans, "Le discours de Xystus dans la version arménienne d'Evagrius le Pontique," *Revue des études arméniennes* 9: 1929, pp. 183-201; R. Hermann, "Die armenische Überlieferung der Sextussentenzen," *Zeitschrift für Kirchengeschichte* 57: 1938, pp. 217-226; cf. H. Chadwick, *The Sentences of Sextus. A Contribution to the History of Early Christian Ethics* (Texts and Studies, Contributions to Biblical and Patristic Literature, N.S. 5), Cambridge: 1959, pp. 7-8.

The preserved *Sentences* of SEXTUS is an early Christian adaptation of a pagan collection of gnomic sayings, mainly of Pythagorean inspiration: "On the one hand, in content there is a Christianisation of pagan maxims; on the other hand, in form there is a 'paganisation' of Christian maxims" (Chadwick, p. 138). This intermediate character of the text is taken to justify its inclusion in the present Repertory. In Armenian, the *Sentences* are known in two versions. Ms. 175 of the Mechitarist collection in Vienna is alleged to contain a translation of the first 197 maxims (Muyldermans [1929], p. 184, n. 1). To our knowledge, this text has neither been published nor studied. Better known is the collection of about 180 sentences transmitted and published among the works of Evagrius of Pontus. According to Hermann it consists of four layers: a) a hundred maxims drawn, in order, from among the first 451 sentences of SEXTUS; b-c) two small miscellaneous selections, mostly drawn from Sextus; d) fifteen sentences, of which thirteen originate in the collection of Πυθαγόρου γνῶμαι and the remaining two come from Isocrates, *Ad Demonicum* 25 and 30. Conybeare translates the sayings which are not in the Greek text of SEXTUS. Muyldermans argues that the Armenian SEXTUS reflects a lost Greek compilation, possibly due to Evagrius himself. The translation is made into good literary Armenian and might be as early as the fifth century.