UPDATE ON SOLOMON, THE EXILARCH, C.715-759 CE

by Don C Stone[1]

ABSTRACT

In 2006 *Foundations* published David H Kelley's two-part article "The Political Role of Solomon, the Exilarch." The present brief note mentions some material published since then which is relevant to Kelley's treatment of the Exilarch Solomon.

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David H Kelley's article "The Political Role of Solomon, the Exilarch" is referenced several times in Christian Settipani's 2006 book *Continuité des élites à Byzance durant les siècles obscurs.*

Settipani expresses doubt about some of the identifications of individuals proposed by Kelley,[2] in particular the identification of Tessarakontapechys (Forty Cubits) with the Exilarch Solomon; Settipani shows that a Byzantine family named Serantapechos/Sarantapechos or Tessarakontapechos was active at this time.[3] An early member of the family was Beser Sarantapechos, patrikios (patrician) and strategos, attested in 717, died in 742. (Later members of this family are very briefly discussed by Brubaker and Haldon.[4])

In a later section Settipani argues against Kelley's hypothesis that the Iberian Bagratids had a Jewish (Davidic) origin,[5] though he says "as always, [Kelley's] reconstruction is ingenious."

Bibliography

Brubaker, Leslie and John Haldon. *Byzantium in the Iconoclast Era,* c. *680-850: A History.* Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press, 2011.

Kelley, David H. "The Political Role of Solomon, the Exilarch, *c*.715-759 CE." *Foundations* 2 (1): 29-46; and 2 (2): 140-157, 2006.

Settipani, Christian. *Continuité des élites à Byzance durant les siècles obscurs: les princes caucasiens et l'Empire du VIe au IXe siècle.* Paris: De Boccard, 2006.

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2 Christian Settipani, *Continuité des élites à Byzance* (2006), 75, just above footnote 1.

3 Settipani, *op. cit.* (2006), 74-76.

4 Leslie Brubaker & John Haldon, *Byzantium in the Iconoclast Era c. 680-850* (2011), 255-256.

5 Settipani, *op. cit.* (2006), 428-429.