

Narratives of Samuel and Kings in a Christian manuscript from al-Andalus (MS Raqqada 2003/2)

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MS Raqqada 2003/2—of Andalusí origin—contains a world history from David's anointing by Samuel (the beginning is lost) to the Arab conquest of the Iberian Peninsula, in addition to three texts of a theological nature. The editor of the historical text, Giorgio Levi Della Vida ("Un texte mozarabe d'histoire universelle", in *Note di storia letteraria arabo-ispánica*, a cura di Maria Nallino, Rome, Istituto per l'Oriente, 1971, 123-192), already observed that the biblical material derived from the Vulgate was enriched with information from Jerome's and Isidore of Seville's works. Though correct, this statement is in need of revision. A thorough examination of the text has revealed that the material from the Bible was indeed subjected to an editing process, through summarization, modification and amplification; furthermore, the addition of extracanonical material was more substantial than previously thought. In this paper, the passages from the Books of Samuel and Kings will be thoroughly examined. In addition, they will be compared with the parallel passages in the Arabic Orosius in order to ascertain the similarities and differences between them, so as to find out whether the Arabic Orosius, which has proved one of the sources of the Raqqada text for the profane history, was also used to compose the large fragments relating to sacred history.