

John Malalas in the *Excerpta Constantiniana de Insidiis (EI)*: a philological and literary perspective*

Pia Carolla

Abstract The remains of the *Excerpta Constantiniana de insidiis (EI)* from Malalas are only in codex S (Scorial. Ω.I.11): on the track to the lost antigraphon of S, a manuscript by the same group of scribes is Vat. gr. 1444 (Jamblichus), also owned by Diego Hurtado de Mendoza and annotated by Arnoldus Arlenius. A hypothesis is that the model of S, perhaps also in Mendoza's possession and possibly given to him by Suleyman the Magnificent, was already dismantled before being copied and that Malalas could be at the beginning of the volume, instead of at no. <3> as he is now.

Two passages are examined: *EI* 35 = *XV* 12 Thurn (O has a fuller version than *EI*), and *EI* 39, (not attested in O *XVI* 4/5 Thurn). In the first, the rare term ἔμμᾶλλος is discussed. In the second, the style proves higher than usual, maybe because of a literary source. Overall, textual fluidity and scarce testimonies of the so-called *Excerpta Constantiniana* make a series of new critical editions especially needed.

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