Alberto Cantera. *Vers une édition de la liturgie longue zoroastrienne*

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Alberto Cantera. *Vers une édition de la liturgie longue zoroastrienne*. Paris : Association pour l'Avancement des études iraniennes, 2014, 429p. 14 planches (Cahiers de Studia Iranica 51)

- 1 The volume under review is based on a series of lectures which Alberto Cantera presented in 2013 at the Collège de France (and fundamentally revised for this publication) on the topic of the Avestan “Long Liturgy”, a central ritual for the Zoroastrian religion. The issue is obviously of paramount importance for religious studies, but also for Avestan philology. That the latter is so comes from the fact that the standard text edition by Karl Friedrich Geldner (*Avesta – Die heiligen Bücher der Parsen*, Stuttgart, Kohlhammer, 1885-1895) presents an Avestan text which is artificial in that it draws Avestan passages from manuscripts which (for their vast majority) are arranged by rituals, and intercalated with Middle Persian, Sanskrit etc. translations and sometimes commentaries. The extant “Avesta” thus is to a certain extent the product of its research history. The present volume summarises Alberto Cantera’s observations and reflections about this issue, and his suggestions on how to arrive at editions of what is really handed down to us, viz. the rituals themselves.

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