

form. His was not the pattern in Eusebius's *Chronicle*. While Africanus was obsessed with synchronisms, the extant fragments indicate no structuring of the materials in parallel columns, as we find in Eusebius.<sup>14</sup>

### Content

Africanus's *Chronographies* narrative evidently traced the Roman and Alexandrian successions of bishops from their founding apostles in the first century to the bishops holding office in 221/222. He synchronized the bishops with the Roman emperors by noting the year of an emperor's reign in which a bishop entered office, the "accession year" of that bishop. He probably also synchronized episcopal accessions with Greek Olympiads and with years from the creation.

For discussion of accession we refer to J. B. Lightfoot. He observed that Eusebius's *Ecclesiastical History* had "fairly continuous" synchronisms of Roman emperors and Roman bishops to 221 and that after that point the synchronisms "cease."<sup>15</sup> The termination date of 221 suggests that these synchronisms were taken from Africanus. The year 221 corresponds to the beginning of the 250<sup>th</sup> Olympiad. Africanus's fragments reveal that he calculated his chronology to precisely this point, the 250<sup>th</sup> Olympiad, 5,723 years from creation (Frg. 50). A similar synchronization is found for the Alexandrian bishops. Evidently Eusebius preserves Africanus's successions to 221.

In the *Ecclesiastical History* the pattern of imperial years synchronized with episcopal accessions is as follows. The year of reign beside certain emperors is the year in which the bishop or bishops in the two columns to the right took office.

<i>Ecclesiastical History</i>	Roman Emperors	Roman Bishops	Alexandrian Bishops
2.14.6	Claudius	Peter to Rome	
2.16.1	Claudius		Mark to Alexandria
2.22.1-3	Nero	Paul to Rome	

<sup>14</sup> I am indebted to Prof. Dr. Martin Walraff of the Theological Faculty of Friedrich Schiller University in Jena, Germany, for this clarifying observation by email 28 July 2004 after reading this chapter.

<sup>15</sup> Lightfoot, *Apostolic Fathers*, 1/1:337.

<i>Ecclesiastical History</i>
2.24
3.2
3.13
3.14
3.15
3.21
3.34
4.1
4.4
4.5.5
4.10
4.11.6-7
4.19
5.pref.1
5.9
5.22
5.28.7
6.21.1-2
6.23.3
6.26
6.29.1
6.35
6.39
7.2
7.5.3
7.27
7.28.3

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Roman Bishops	Alexandrian Bishops
Peter to Rome	
	Mark to Alexandria
Paul to Rome	

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<i>Ecclesiastical History</i>	Roman Emperors	Roman Bishops	Alexandrian Bishops
2.24	Nero-8 <sup>th</sup> year		Annianus
3.2	Nero	Linus	
3.13	Titus-2 <sup>nd</sup> year	Anencletus	
3.14	Domitian-4 <sup>th</sup> year		Abilius
3.15	Domitian-12 <sup>th</sup> year	Clement	
3.21	Trajan-1 <sup>st</sup> year		Cerdo
3.34	Trajan-3 <sup>rd</sup> year	Evarestus	
4.1	Trajan-c. 12 <sup>th</sup> year	Alexander	Primus
4.4	Hadrian-3 <sup>rd</sup> year	Xystus	Justus
4.5.5	Hadrian-12 <sup>th</sup> year	Telesphorus	Eumenes
4.10	Antoninus Pius-1 <sup>st</sup> year	Hyginus	
4.11.6-7	—	Pius	Marcus
		Anicetus	Celadion
4.19	Marcus Aurelius-8 <sup>th</sup> year	Soter	Agrippinus
5.pref.1	Marcus Aurelius-17 <sup>th</sup> year	Eleutherus	
5.9	Commodus-1 <sup>st</sup> year		Julian
5.22	Commodus-10 <sup>th</sup> year	Victor	Demetrius
5.28.7	Severus-9 <sup>th</sup> year	Zephyrinus	
6.21.1-2	Elagabalus-1 <sup>st</sup> year	Callistus	
		Urbanus	
6.23.3	—	Pontianus	
6.26	Alexander Severus-?10 <sup>th</sup> year		Heraclas
6.29.1	—	Anteros	
		Fabianus	
6.35	Philip the Arabian-3 <sup>rd</sup> year		Dionysius
6.39	—	Cornelius	
7.2	—	Lucius	
		Stephen	
7.5.3	—	Xystus	
7.27	—	Dionysius	
7.28.3	Gallienus-12 <sup>th</sup> year		Maximinus

<i>Ecclesiastical History</i>	Roman Emperors	Roman Bishops	Alexandrian Bishops
7.30.23	—	Felix	
7.32.1	—	Eutychianus	
		Gaius	
		Marcellinus	
7.32.30–31	—		Theonas
			Peter
10.5.18	—	Miltiades	

The “fairly continuous” synchronism of Roman emperors and Roman bishops extends from Anencletus, the second bishop, to Callistus, the fifteenth, with a discontinuity in the pattern at Pius and Anicetus under Antoninus Pius. For Alexandrian bishops synchronism, again with discontinuity under Antoninus Pius, extends from Annianus, the first bishop, to Dionysius, the thirteenth, dated 247. The synchronism of Alexandrian bishops, therefore, does not fit the stated pattern of terminating after 221, though the Alexandrian pattern does not disprove the proposal of a synchronized work to 221 by Africanus. The Roman and Alexandrian bishops to 221, including those not synchronized under Antoninus Pius, are probably those of Africanus’s succession lists. In addition, Africanus probably included Peter’s presence in Rome (Eusebius, *Hist. eccl.* 2.14.6) and Mark’s presence in Alexandria (2.16.1), about which entries we shall comment later in this chapter.<sup>16</sup>

One further element in reconstructing Africanus’s succession lists is the dating with Greek Olympiads and years from creation. Regarding these systems, we have mentioned above that Africanus included them in his chronology (Frg. 50).<sup>17</sup> We propose that Olympiads and creation years were also coordinated with imperial reigns at certain points in Africanus’s materials on Roman and Alexandrian episcopates. Meanwhile, we are unconvinced by Caspar’s argument that the Olympiads provided a structure for artificially, “schematically,” dating the bishops’ accessions.

<sup>16</sup> Harnack (*Geschichte*, 2/1: 112–43, esp. 124–27) provides a more comprehensive account by taking into consideration Eusebius’s *Chronicle*.

<sup>17</sup> Regarding these systems, Eusebius’s *Chronicle*, though not the *History*, contains Olympiads too.

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<sup>18</sup> This transl

<sup>19</sup> Lightfoot,