Sergei Mariev, “Peter of Alexandria”,
Encyclopedia of the Medieval Chronicle,
R.G. Dunphy ed.
(Brill, Leiden and Boston 2010), 1201–1202
Peter of Alexandria

10th century. Byzantium. The otherwise unknown author of a short world chronicle up to 912/13. The chronicle begins in the year 230 of Adam and contains information on Jewish History before the Babylonian captivity, history of the Persian and Egyptian kings and Roman and Byzantine emperors down to the reign of Leo VI and Alexander. Seven ecumenical councils are also mentioned. This is the only Byzantine source that alleges that the emperor Staurakios was poisoned by Prokopia, the wife of Michael I Rangabe.

Peter’s sources include the Bible and Apocrypha, Jewish historians, early Christian chronicles and Church historians. In particular the Book of Jubilees and → Josephus seem to have been used directly, and → Socrates scholasticus and → Evagrius scholasticus through intermediaries. There are also traces of → Eupolemus, → Aristo- bulus, Sextus → Julius Africanus, → Eusebius of Caesarea and some other authors.

The critical edition by Samoudurova is based on the 10th century manuscript Moscow, Научная библиотека Московского государственного университета, Nr. 1, 188–203 (formerly Paris, BnF, cod. Coisl. gr. 229; the manuscript is described extensively in Fonkič). The Dresden manuscript (olim Sächsische LB, cod. Da. 52, fol. 1–27, 13th century), which was known to the scholars of the 19th and earlier 20th centuries, was burnt during the Second World War.

Bibliography