

Contents

<i>Note on Transcription</i>	ix
<i>Introduction</i>	1
I. MARY IN THE CHRISTIAN TRADITION	5
1. Mary in the Bible	7
a) Mary in the Corpus Paulinum and the Gospel of Mark	7
b) Mary in the Gospel of Matthew	11
c) Mary in the Gospel of Luke	15
d) Mary in the Gospel of John	26
e) Summary	34
2. Mary in Patristics	37
a) The Protevangelium of James	37
b) Mary as the New Eve	42
c) Mary as the archetype of the Church	45
d) Mary's purity and lack of sin	47
e) Virginitiy and labour pains	49
3. Dogmatic Precepts of Mariology	53
a) Perpetual virginity	53
b) Mary as the new human being freed from original sin	69
c) Other dogmatic precepts	74
4. Mary in the Political Theology of Late Antiquity	82
a) The political situation during the emergence of the Qur'an	82
b) The religious propaganda of Heraclius	90
c) Mary as military commander	93

d) Jewish apocalyptic counter-images	100
II. MARY IN THE QUR'AN	105
1. The Surah <i>Maryam</i>	107
a) Zechariah and John the Baptist (1–15)	107
b) Mary's withdrawal and the proclamation of Jesus's birth (16–21)	121
c) Pregnancy and birth (22–26)	132
d) Mary's conflicts and Jesus as the bringer of peace	142
e) Mary as the mother of Jesus and as a prophet?	149
f) Summary	158
2. The Surah <i>Āl 'Imrān</i>	159
a) On the genealogy of Mary	161
b) Mary's birth and childhood – the connection with Zechariah	165
c) The first Annunciation scene	176
d) The second Annunciation scene	186
e) Other verses from the Medinan period prior to the confrontation with Byzantium	192
f) Summary	199
3. The Surah <i>al-Mā'ida</i>	202
a) Criticism of the political Mariology of Byzantium	202
b) Criticism of the imperial downplaying of Mary's humanity	205
c) On the significance of Mary's eating	210
d) Limits and opportunities of the presentation of Mary in the Surah <i>al-Mā'ida</i>	218
III. MARY IN THE CONTEXT OF ISLAMIC SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY	221
1. The Qur'anic Mary as an Impulse for Prophetology	223
a) The portrayal of Mary as an impulse for Islamic prophetology	224
b) On the meaning of vulnerability in the relationship with God	226
c) Was Mary a prophet?	229

2. The Qur'anic Mary as a Stimulus to a Traditional Understanding of God's Actions	239
a) Distinctions in the perception of miracles in classical scholastic theology	239
b) On the crisis of the classical perception of the concept of miracles in the modern period and its consequences for the distinctions drawn by classical theology	243
c) A reappraisal of our understanding of miracles through the Qur'anic Mary	247
d) Mary and Muhammad	251
3. Mary as a Figure of Emancipation	254
a) The story of Mary in the Qur'an as a stimulus for greater gender equality	254
b) Mary as a boundary breaker	257
c) Mary as a stumbling-block and an incitement to subversion	261
4. Mary as an Aesthetic Role Model	265
a) An invitation to visibly reserve something for God alone	266
b) An invitation to a culture of disruption and renunciation	268
5. In Dialogue with Christianity	273
a) Obstacles to dialogue	273
b) Between appropriation and syncretism	275
c) A warning against projecting	279
IV. IMPLICATIONS FOR COMPARATIVE THEOLOGY	283
1. Christian Perspectives	285
a) Intensification: freedom through devotion	285
b) Recovery: Mary as a prophet and as a protagonist of anti-imperial theology	286
c) Reinterpretation: Mary as a transgressor of boundaries	287
d) Appropriation: from a Christian mascot to a typological figure binding together religions	289
e) Rectification: rehabilitation of a Mariology based on prerogatives	291
f) Reaffirmation: Mary's lowliness as a pointer to God's kenosis	295

2. Islamic Perspectives	298
a) Intensification: on the beauty and the political significance of Mary	298
b) Recovery: Muhammad's special connection with Mary	299
c) Reinterpretation: on the dialectical interconnectedness of 'Yes' and 'No' before God – clarity in the process	301
d) Appropriation: Mary and God's unqualified gift of grace	305
e) Rectification: Mary as a warning to exercise care in passing theological judgement on others	306
f) Reaffirmation: radicalism and the Golden Mean	308
<i>Bibliography</i>	313
<i>Index</i>	331