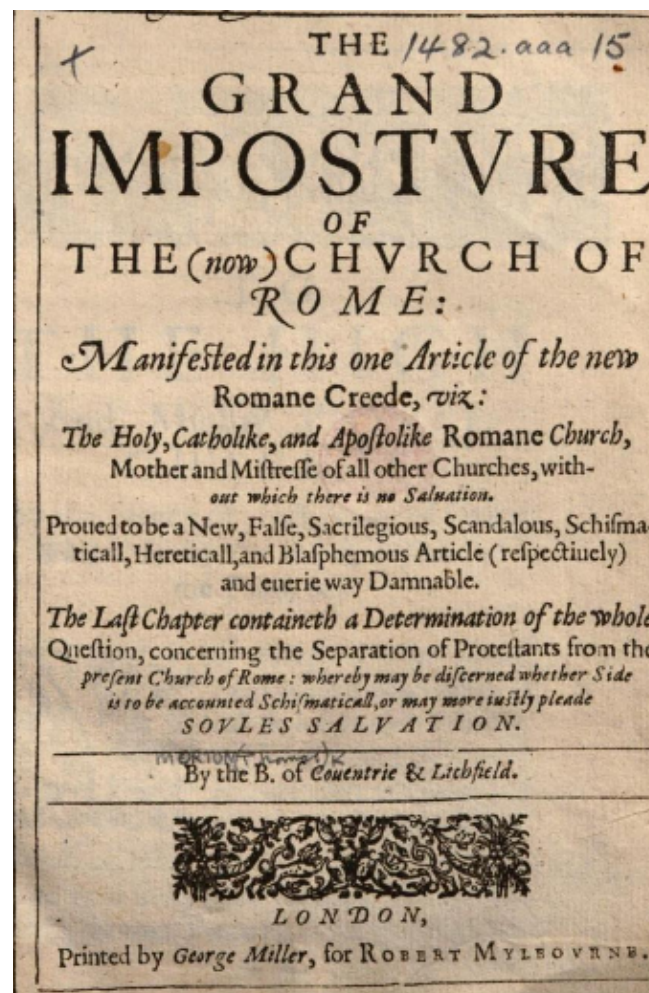
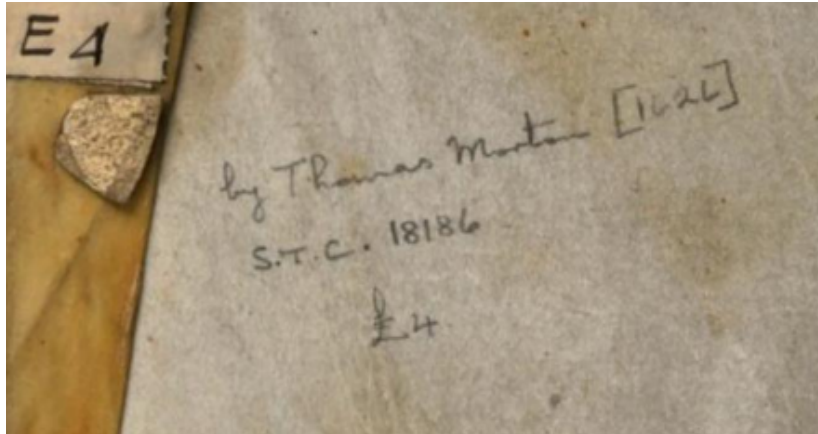


The Church of the Assyrians in a 17th Century Book

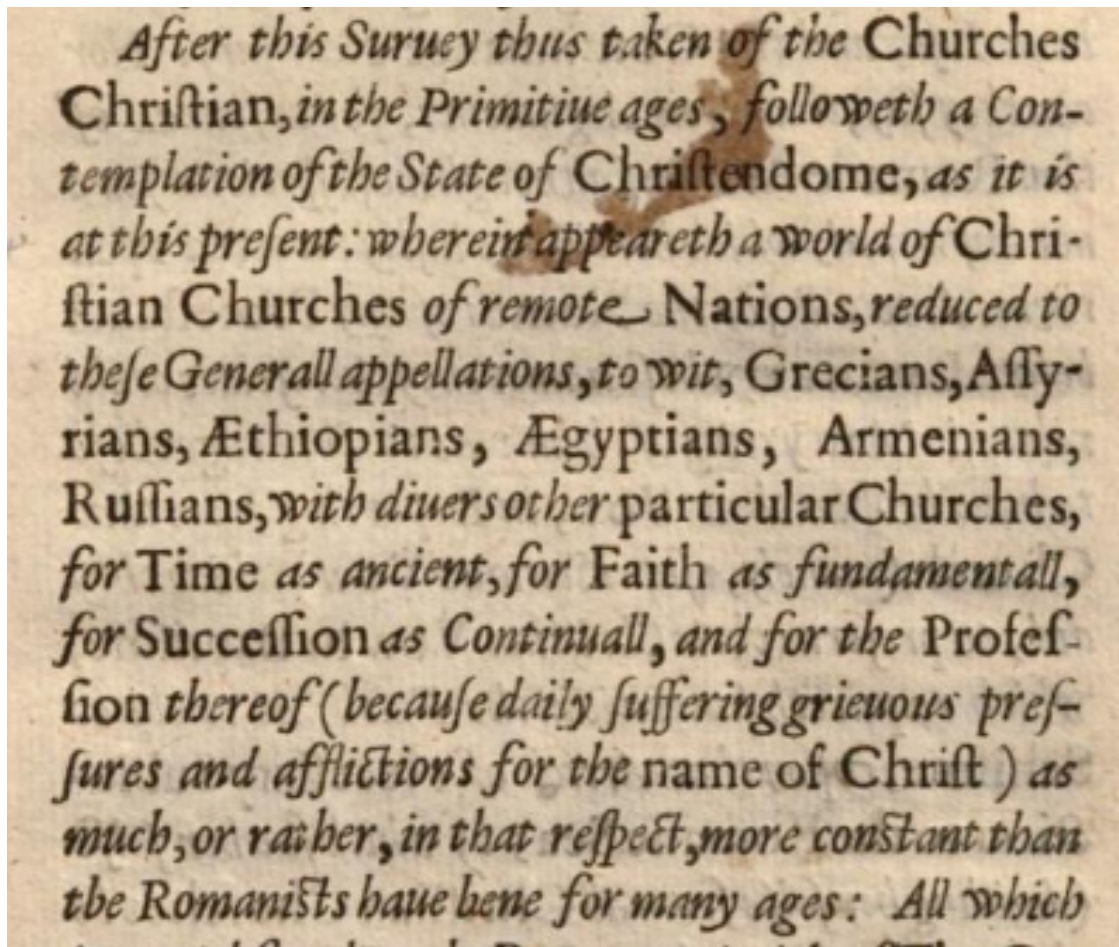
In 1626, a book titled “The Grand Imposture of The (now) Church of Rome “ was published in London by Thomas Morton 1564-1659 (successively Bishop of Chester, of Lichfield and Coventry, and of Durham.) The book discusses the doctrine and creed of the Church of Rome and its relationship with other Christian churches.



The book mentions in several sections the Assyrians and their church.

The book starts with the dedication, “To the High and Mighty Prince Charles, by the Grace of God, King of Great Britain, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, &c”.

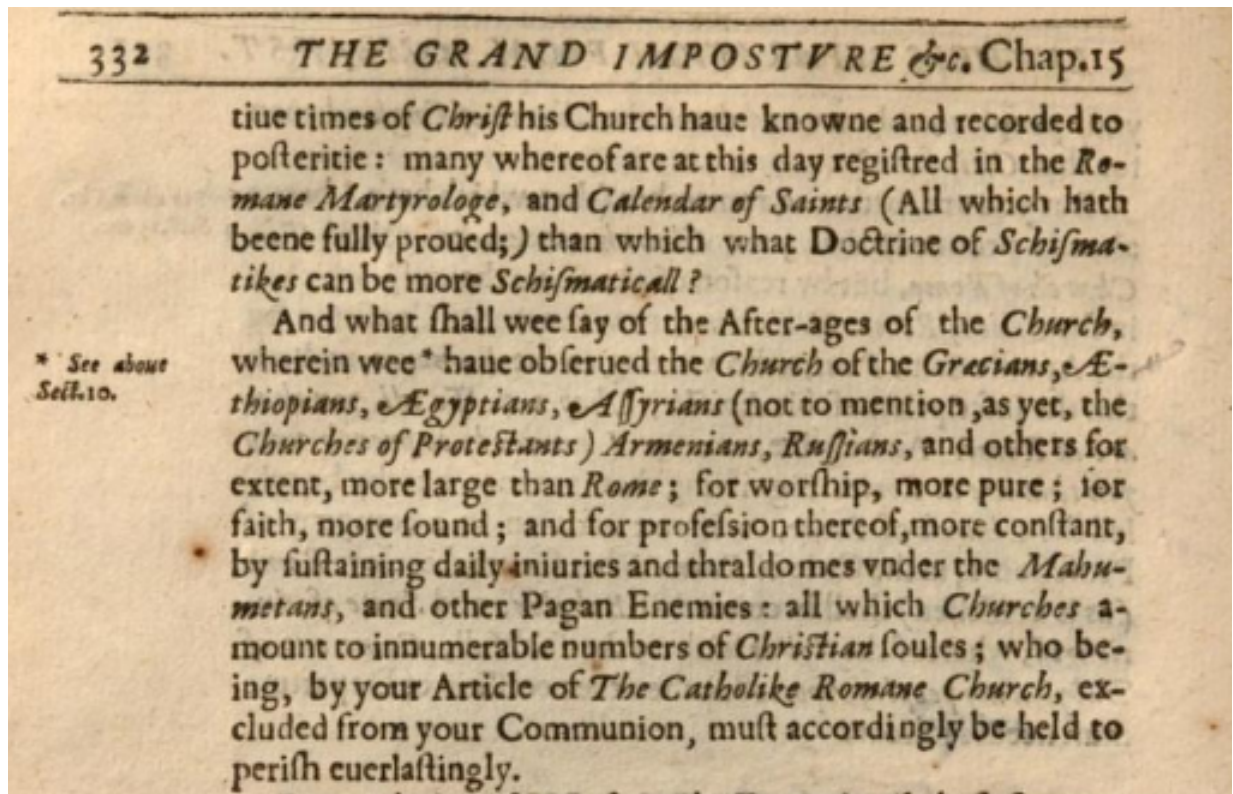
The book states: “After this survey taken of the Churches Christian, in the Primitive ages, following a Contemplation of the state of Christendom, as it is at this present: wherein appear a world of Christian Churches of remote Nations, reduced to these General appellations, to wit, Grecians, Assyrians, Ethiopians, Egyptians, Armenians, Russians, with dimers other particular Churches, for Time as ancient, for Faith as fundamental, for Succession as Continual, ...”



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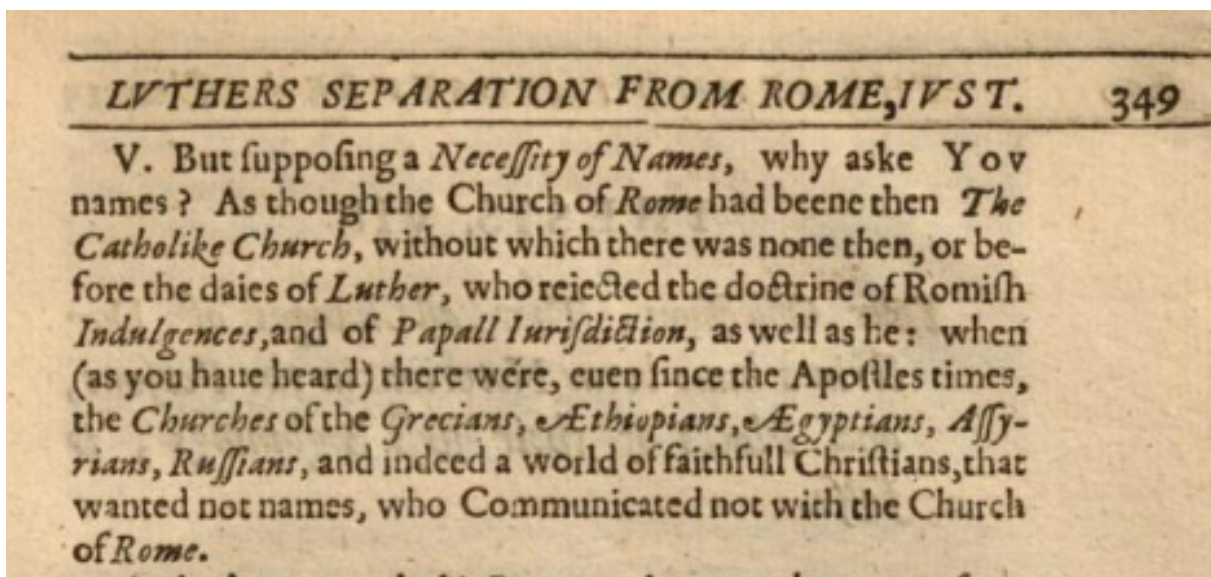
On Page 332, the author mentions the church of the Assyrians. He states:

“... And what shall we say of the After-ages of the Church, wherein we have observed the Church of the Graecians, Ethiopians, Egyptians, Assyrians (not to mention, as yet, the Churches of Protestants) Armenians, Russians, and others for extent, more large than Rome; for worship, more pure; for faith, more sound; and for profession thereof, more constant, by sustaining daily injuries and thralldoms under the Mohammadans and other Pagan Enemies: all which Churches amount to innumerable numbers of Christian souls; who being, by your Article of The Catholic Roman Church, excluded from your Communion, must accordingly be held to perish everlastingly...”



On Page 349, the book mentions about various churches that have been in existence since the times of the Apostles, including the church of the Assyrians. The author states:

“... As though the Church of Rome had been then The Catholic Church, without which there was none then, or before the days of Luther, who rejected the doctrine of Romish Indulgences, and of Papal Jurisdiction, as well as he: when (as you have heard) there were, even since the Apostles times, the Churches of the Grecians, Ethiopians, Egyptians, Assyrians, Russians, and indeed a world of faithful Christians, that wanted not names, who Communicated not with the Church of Rome.”



Mr. Akhiqar Youkhana cited this book and the passages that refer to the Assyrians and their church. He stated that the late patriarch of the Assyrian Church of the East Mar Dinkha was not the first to add the name Assyrian to the Church of the East title in 1976. Youkhana used this book to claim that “the Assyrian Church” title was used much earlier¹ and that Mar Dinkha simply brought it back in 1976 after he was consecrated as patriarch in the aftermath of the assassination of Mar Eshai Shimun in 1975.²

This new find is very valuable that adds to the rich collection of the Assyrian history and their churches. This and many other references refute the claims of the few who

- 1 https://mufakerhur.org/%D9%83%D8%AA%D8%A7%D8%A8-%D8%AA%D8%A7%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%AE%D9%8A-%D9%86%D8%B4%D8%B1-%D8%B3%D9%86%D8%A9-1628-%D8%AD%D9%88%D9%84-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A7%D8%B4%D9%88%D8%B1%D9%8A%D9%8A%D9%86-%D9%88%D9%83%D9%86/?fbclid=IwAR3CTnpXcaOz4Wc_I4B3hZLf7J3Puf2oq1WE55DcCVvuJ6Mq5B_dH_Dcaz0
- 2 <https://www.atour.com/history/1900/20000717b.html>

propagate that it was the British that reintroduced the Assyrian name in the 19th Century. However, Mr. Youkhana is very mistaken and confused, because the references to the said church and the Assyrians in this 17th Century book is in the capacity of the “Church of the Assyrians” and NOT “the Assyrian Church”. PEOPLE MUST UNDERSTAND THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TWO EXPRESSIONS.

The Church of the East was never an ethnic church — it was a universal church with members that were Persians, Arabs, Turks, Mongols, Indians, Assyrians and many others. By adding the name Assyrian to the Church of the East title in 1976, Mar Dinkha damaged the universal church and contributed to the alienation of Assyrians that were not members of the Church of the East.³

3 <https://www.fredaprim.com/pdfs/2021/Assyrian%20in%20Church%20of%20the%20East%20Title.pdf>