

Severian

The Whorl list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 14 Oct 1998

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Alice Turner — 14 Oct 1998, 23:15

Well, god bless my boots and whiskers, I never thought to look here--I must say, mantis, hats are off to you once again. I'm quoting the whole OED entry this time, citations and all:

Severian (sɪˈvɪəl@rɪ@n).

[ad. L. Seveřiažn-ěž (pl.), f. the name Seveřrus (see below) + -ian.]

1. A member of an Encratite or Gnostic sect of the 2nd century which condemned marriage, etc.

‘It may reasonably be doubted whether there really was an Encratite teacher named Severus, or whether sects did not merely get the Latin name of Severians from the austerity of their rule of life’ (Smith’s Dict. Chr. Biog.).

1607 T. Rogers 39 Art. vi. (1633) 30 Of the former sort [i.e. those who rejected the books of the O.T.] were the Seuerians,..and the Manichies.

1656 Blount Glossogr., Severians..a sort of Hereticks that condemned marriage, abstained from eating flesh and drinking wine, &c.

1702 Echard Eccl. Hist. (1710) 500 The Severians..who rejected the Epistles of St. Paul and the Acts of the Apostles.

1887 Salmon in Smith & Wace Dict. Chr. Biog. IV. 633/1 A sect of Severians is described by Epiphanius (Haer. 45) which except the feature of Encratism has little in common with the sect described by Eusebius.

2. A follower of Severus, the Monophysite patriarch of Antioch (early 5th c.).

1698 Fryer Acc. E. India & P. 272 Severus Bishop of Antioch.., from whom they were denominated Severians.

1765 A. Maclaine tr. Mosheim’s Eccl. Hist. Cent. vi. ii. v. §5.

1878 P. Smith Hist. Chr. Ch. xvi. §6. 368 note, The Severians..held that the body of Christ before the resurrection was mortal and corruptible.

18823 Schaff Encycl. Rel. Knowl. II. 1137 The Egyptian Monophysites called themselves..Theodosians, or Severians.

b. attrib. or adj.

1718 J. Sharpe Hist. Acc. Heresie ii. 51 The Severian Sect (in the Year

521)..took its Name from Severus.

*This is WHORL, for discussion of Gene Wolfe's Book of the Long Sun.