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#### ABSTRACT

Musical woodwind instruments made with multiple pipes have a well-known existence from early in Antiquity: double pipes (aulos, *arghoul*, and flutes) from the pharaohs' times and even before in Mesopotamia, and the bagpipes at least from Alexander's time. The presence of triple pipes is so confirmed around VIII century BC, along the Middle Ages until the time of monk Guido d'Arezzo, and also in some manuscripts from following centuries until the beginnings of Gothic time, by a total of fourteen (14) representations. One later source, from the Italian antiquarian Francesco Ficoroni 's drawing, could be the only surviving register of this instrument during Roman times.

The essay, together with a first part devoted to bagpipes, is a comprehensive review of these evidences in order to show that:

- a) multiphony was actually a practice in the pagan world, and even after in time;
- b) the absence and vanishing of these instruments from any posterior source may be coherent in part with the prescriptions and bannings of the new faith coming into a millenary empire; and
- c) absence and vanishing may be equally related to iconoclast and biblioclast (and probably also musicoclast) controversies that devastated Orient and Occident onwards, before and after the End of Millenium.