I am delighted to be able to report that four new members have joined our select group this year. Erica Cruikshank Dodd is, of course, well known for her work on Byzantine silver, Crusader frescos and Islamic inscriptions. Though officially retired she continues to work on Ultramar. The name of Eric McGeer, an erstwhile student of the lamented Nicholas Oikonomides, automatically conjures up for us that splendid book with the most arresting of titles, "Sowing the Dragon's Teeth". Volodymyr Mezentsev is a Visiting Professor at the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures of the University of Toronto specializing in Byzantine and medieval and early modern Slavic archaeology, history, architecture and art. The final new member is Geoffrey Greatrex, who has recently obtained a position at the University of Ottawa. It is most heartening that at least one Canadian university is willing to appoint a young Byzantinist. For the interest of members I saw fit to break with customary practice by including in "Activities of Members" Geoffrey's already impressive career list of publications (I wonder how many other Byzantinists have published in Esperanto) and a selective one for Volodymyr.
Congratulations are due to Glenn Peers for a productive leave spent at the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies in Toronto where he even had time to obtain, summa cum laude, a Licentiate in Mediaeval Studies, and for being elected secretary and a board member of the Byzantine Studies Conference; and also to John Wortley, who retired from his position of Professor of History at the University of Manitoba at the end of 2001, but has been appointed a "Senior Scholar" and thus will keep his office at the University (since he will now be free to travel at any time during the year, those of us struggling to encourage Byzantine studies in our own institutions may, if we can squeeze money from the guardians of the purse, be able to invite him as a guest lecturer).

For this issue of our newsletter I am especially grateful to Martin Dimnik and Volodymyr Mezentsev for writing on the excavations of Baturyn in the Ukraine, to Sheila Campbell, who has been enjoying a sabbatical leave, on the exhibition of orthodox religious engravings which she curated in Toronto, to Erica Cruikshank Dodd for bringing us up to date with recent discoveries and the condition of known Byzantine sites in Syria and Lebanon, and to Glenn Peers for his report on the Ninth International Congress of Cretan Studies.

Antony Littlewood

ACTIVITIES OF MEMBERS

E.C. BOURBOUHAKIS:
He is conducting research for a dissertation on a literary profile of Eustathios of Thessaloniké and preparing an edition of the archbishop's Opuscula.

D.F. BUCK:
Publication:

A. COMNÉNE:
She was a participant at the XXe Congrès international des Études byzantines, Paris, August 19th-25th, 2001.

M. DIMNIK:
Publication:
Lectures:
Conference attended:
"Continuity and Change in Orthodox Christendom, c. 1204-1821: Identities in the
Byzantine Commonwealth and After", Pembroke College, Cambridge, April 28th-29th,
He is also co-organizer of the Ukrainian-Canadian Archaeological Expedition in the
Baturyn and Chernihiv regions, which is being administered jointly by the University
of Chernihiv and the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies.

E.C. Dodd:
Publications:
The Frescoes of Mar Musa al-Habashi, A Study of Medieval Painting in Syria (with
Leonard C. Chiarelli, James Martin, John J.C. McCullough, Kassem Toueir, Nicholas
"Mar Tadros, Bahdeidat. Paintings in a Lebanese Church from the Thirteenth
Lectures:
"Mar Tadros, Bahdeidat: a Visit to a Lebanese Church in the 13th Century", at the
"Mar Musa al-Habashi, near Nebek, Syria: the Relationship of the Frescoes to the
Syrian Orthodox Liturgy", Seminar at the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies,
University of Toronto, February 17th, 2001.
She also taught a course on "The Genesis of Islamic Art and Architecture" at the
University of Victoria; and organized a trip to Syria and Lebanon with members of the
Center for the Study of Religion and Society of the University of Victoria from March

J. Foreman:
Lectures:
Using slides of his own private collection of ikons he gave two talks in London, Ontario:
one on ikons in general to the Kiwanis Club of Middlesex, and the other on Russian
ikons in the "Time Out" series at the Metropolitan United Church.

A. Fotiou:
Publication:
John Kaminiates: the Capture of Thessaloniki (with D. Frendo: Greek text, English
translation, introduction and notes), (Australasian Association for Byzantine Studies,
He is at present working on the notes and translation of an anonymous Byzantine
treatise On Political Science with a view to publication in the TTH series. Although in
retirement he retains an office at Carleton University where he continues to teach.

G. Greatrex (career to date):
Books:
Constantinople and Its Hinterland (Papers of the 27th Spring Symposium of Byzantine
The Chronicle of Theophanes, tr. and annot. C.A. Mango & R. Scott, with the assistance
Rome and Persia at War, 502-532 (Leeds, 1998).
Ethnicity and Identity in Late Antiquity (London: Classical Press of Wales, 2000),
edited papers of a conference held at Swansea in July-August 1998, with Stephen
Mitchell.
Articles:
"Flavius Hypatius, quem vidit validum Parthus sensitique timendum: an investigation of his career" Byzantion 66 (1996), 120-142.
"La lasta triumfanto de la romia imperio", Kontakto (popular Esperanto journal) 1996:1, 4-5.
"Stephanus, the father of Procopius of Caesarea?", Medieval Prosopography 17/1 (1996), 125-145.
"One, two or three feasts? The Brytæ, the Maiuma and the May Festival of Edessa", with John Watt, Orients Christianus 83 (1999), 1-21.

Reviews:


R.P.H. GREENFIELD
Publication:
"Drawn to the Blazing Beacon: Pilgrimage to the Living and the Case of Lazaros of Mt. Galesion", *Dumbarton Oaks Papers* 56 (forthcoming, 2002).

Lecture:
"Conflicting Monasticisms: The Foundation of Mt. Galesion in the Early Eleventh Century," at the Conference on Byzantine Monasticisms (sic) at the Faculty of Theology, University of St. Michael's College, Toronto, March 31st, 2001 (lecture being expanded for publication).

He has also started work on a book on Late Byzantine texts of sorcery which may be grouped under the loose title of *Solomon's Magic Treatise*, of which he writes: "My aim is to publish a book centered around an English translation of what is probably the best manuscript version of this text, British Museum, Harleianus 5596. My book will, however, not be a simple translation. As well as providing detailed comparative analysis and commentary in relation to the other extant versions of the text and to similar and related Greek works, I shall attempt to place the Magic Treatise both in its broader historical and its particular social context. In doing so I shall be exploring the development of the magical tradition of the late medieval and early modern periods in an area that has long been neglected. I hope in particular to be able to shed light on the process by which the magical traditions of the ancient and late antique Greek world passed into the western Claviculae and Grimoires, probably via Sicily and Southern Italy, something which will be extremely important to all scholars of Western magic, if I am successful. I shall also be exploring the immediate, southern Italian, context in which this version of the Treatise was produced and linking it to extant records of the Inquisition in the area which know at least some of the tradition it contains."

P.J. KIERNAN:
Publications:


He spent his summer working on cataloguing the coins of Postumus at the Romische-Germanisches Museum in Cologne and later on the Petrie material at the Canadian National Currency Collection. He is now in his first year at the University of Cincinnati on a Taft Semple doctoral scholarship.

A.R. LITTLEWOOD:
Lecture:
He has also been concluding the editing of *Byzantine Garden Culture* and compiling its index.

E.M. McGEER:
Publications:
*Dumbarton Oaks Catalogue of Byzantine Lead Seals*, vol. IV (co-editor with John Nesbitt and Nikos Oikonomides: he is also working on vol. V).
In addition he has indexed the forthcoming *Economic History of Byzantium* (3 volumes, Dumbarton Oaks and Athens), is preparing a translation and study of two military harangues delivered by Constantine VII Porphyrogennetos, and is writing a chapter on Byzantine military treatises for *The Oxford Handbook of Byzantine Studies*.

S. MERGIALI-SAHAS:
Publications:
"A Byzantine Ambassador to the West and his Office during the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Centuries: a Profile", *Byzantinische Zeitschrift* 94 (2001), 588-604.
"Holy Relics and Byzantine Emperors. Use, or Misuse, of Sanctity and Authority", *Jahrbuch der Österreichischen Byzantinistik* 51 (2001), 41-60.

V. I. MEZENTSEV: (career to date, selective bibliography)
Doctoral Dissertation:
Articles:
"Pro formuvanniamis'koiterytorii davno'oho Chernihova" (The Formation of the Urban Territory of Mediaeval Chernihiv), *Arkheolohiia* 34 (1980), 53-64.
"Metrychnyi ta porivnia'lnyi analiz formativ malykh plinfi Rusi ta Konstantynopol's'koi bud'ivel'noi shkoly" (The Metric and Comparative Analysis of the Small Bricks or Plinths in Rus' and the Constantinopolitan Building School), submitted to *Druzhynni starozhytnosti Drevn'oi Rusi* in November 2000.
Review Articles:


Reviews:


He is currently writing a monograph on the Byzantine architecture of tenth-century Kyiv and an article "The Influence of the Church Architecture of Mount Athos on the Balkans and Eastern Europe from the 11th to the 18th Centuries".

He has been a Research Associate at the Department of Kyivan Rus' Studies, the Institute of History of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, Kyiv (1979-83), a Research Assistant at the Norwegian archaeological institution "Riksantikvaren" in Oslo (1983), a Post-Doctoral Fellow at the Ukrainian Research Institute of Harvard University (1984-87), a Mellon Post-Doctoral Fellow at the Centre for Russian and East European Studies of the University of Toronto (1988-89), and a Research Associate at the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies of the University of Toronto (1989-2001). He has given courses on "Byzantine and Ukrainian Church Architecture" and "Eastern Christian Liturgical Architecture to the Eighteenth Century" for graduate and undergraduate students at the Institute of Eastern Christian Studies of Saint Paul University, Ottawa as well as "Ukrainian and Russian Medieval Art" at the School of Continuing Studies of the University of Toronto. He has also taught the "Origins of Slavic Civilization" for undergraduates at the Slavic Department of the University of Toronto (up to 62 students in 2002); and will teach the graduate course "History of Byzantine and Ukrainian Church Architecture" at the University of St. Michael's College, the University of Toronto in the academic year 2002-03. He has participated in archaeological and architectural field investigations of Byzantine, Viking, and mediaeval and modern Slavic monuments in Ukraine, Norway, Turkey, Greece, and Bulgaria; and maintains contacts with his colleagues in these countries. For his work with Martin Dimnik at Baturyn see separate article in this newsletter (p. 11).

N. MORAN:

Lecture:

"Byzantine Castrati", at the XXe Congrès international des Études byzantines, Paris, August 24th, 2001. An article on this same subject will appear next year in *Plainsong and Medieval Chant*.

He is completing a book on "The humiliating defeat of the Afghan Boundary Commission, 1885" with an excursus on "Saryk Turkoman carpets"; and working on another book combined with a CD on the "Castrati of the Hagia Sophia". He has become involved again with Byzantine musical palimpsests, in continuation of his article "A List of Byzantine Music Palimpsests" which appeared some ten years ago in
Acta Musicologica (Prof. Faraggiana di Sarzana is arranging that certain mss in his list be photographed digitally to remove the upper text, thus making the lower clear). He is also cooperating with a group in Copenhagen in organizing a conference on acoustical aspects of the Hagia Sophia at the Swedish Academic Centre in Istanbul.

J. Osborne:
Lecture:
"Mural paintings and manuscripts as evidence for the papal 'rapprochement' with Byzantium in the ninth century", plenary lecture at International Medieval Congress at Kalamazoo, May 2001.

J. Payton:
Publications:
"Revisioning the Historiography of Eastern Europe", Fides & Historia 31 (1999), 77-89.
Reviews:
E. Behr-Sigel & Kallistos Ware, The Ordination of Women in the Orthodox Church, in Calvin Theological Journal 3 (forthcoming, 2001).
J.R. Wedel, Collision and Collusion: the Strange Case of Western Aid to Eastern Europe, in Religion in Eastern Europe 21 (forthcoming, 2001).
Lectures:
"Like God": Monastic Response to the Sinful", at the Conference on Byzantine Monasticisms (sic) at the Faculty of Theology, University of St. Michael's College, Toronto, March 30th, 2001.
"Toward a Russian Orthodox Worldview for Post-Soviet Society", at the Conference on Orthodox Christianity and Contemporary Europe at the University of Leeds, England, June 28th, 2001.
He also gave ten lectures on "Turning Points in the History of Eastern Europe" at the "Milk & Honey Festival" at Redeemer University College, May 28th to June 8th, 2001.

G. Peers:
Publications:
Sacred Shock: Framing Byzantine Art, under review at Pennsylvania State University Press.

Lectures:

D. SAHAS:
Publications:
"The World of Paul and the World according to Paul. Historico-religious and Critical Remarks" (accepted for publication in *Pauleia* 2001)
Lectures:
"Byzantine Monastic Response to the Event of Islam", at the Conference on Byzantine Monasticisms (sic) at the Faculty of Theology, University of St. Michael's College, Toronto, March 30th - April 1st, 2001.
"Maximus the Confessor (580-662) as a Political Confessor", at the meeting of the Canadian Society for Patristic Studies, Laval University, Québec, May 26th-28th, 2001.

F.E. SHLOSSER:
Publication:
"The Exarchates of Africa and Italy" (accepted for publication by *Jahrbuch der Österreichischen Byzantinistik*).
Lectures:
"Bessarion: A Late Example of the Byzantine Scholar Monk", at the Conference on Byzantine Monasticisms (sic) at the Faculty of Theology, University of St. Michael's College, Toronto, March 30th - April 1st, 2001.
"The Slavs in Sixth-Century Sources" at the XXe Congrès international des Études byzantines, Paris, August 21st, 2001 (lecture now being worked up as article).

R.E. SINKEWICZ:
Publication:

P. SNIDER:
He is currently teaching Latin at The Lindin School, Toronto; working up articles on Horace & Maecenas and religious overtones of gladiatorial spectacles in the imperial age; and reading texts in early Christianity (A.D. 70-325).
J.T. WORTLEY:
Publications:
Lectures:
"Daniel of Scété and his Tales", at the Conference on Byzantine Monasticisms (sic) at the Faculty of Theology, University of St. Michael's College, Toronto, March 30th - April 1st, 2001.
"The Role of Monasticism in the Byzantine Empire", public lecture at the University Arts Centre, University of Toronto, April 3rd, 2001.
"Age is More Spirited and Stronger than Youth", at the Dialogue on Aging at the University of Manitoba, May 7th, 2001.

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AN EXHIBITION OF ORTHODOX RELIGIOUS ENGRAVINGS IN TORONTO

An exhibition "Orthodox Religious Engravings, 18th-20th Centuries" was held at the University of Toronto Art Centre, March 6 to May 31, 2001. This was curated by Prof. Sheila Campbell, and accompanied by a catalogue written by Dr. Anastasia Tourta of the Museum of Byzantine Culture, Thessaloniki, Greece. The exhibition
consisted of 47 paper icons from the holdings of that museum. Two lectures were given in conjunction with this event, one by Fr. Justinos, of the Simopetra monastery, Mt. Athos, delivered on his behalf by Dr. Golombias on new findings of paper icons in the monasteries of Mt. Athos, the other by Dr. John Wortley, University of Winnipeg, on the development of orthodox monasticism.

Sheila Campbell

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS IN BATURYN (EASTERN UKRAINE)

Baturyn is located on the lower Seym River, in the Zadesen’e region of the mediaeval principality of Chernihiv. Although mediaeval chronicles never mention it, archaeological evidence reveals that its first fortification was erected in the second half of the eleventh century. Thus, it was a contemporary of such chronicle towns as Belavezha, Bokhmach, Vsevolozh, and Glebel’. Although the Tatars probably razed it in 1239, when they invaded southern Rus’, survivors returned to the town. It remained a small provincial settlement until the 17th century.

In 1648 Hetman Bohdan Khmelnytskyi liberated Baturyn from the Poles. From 1669 to 1708 it served as the official capital of the Hetman State. It flourished during the reign of Hetman Ivan Mazepa (1687-1708), when its area grew to about 100 hectares and its population reached some 20,000 inhabitants. It stopped expanding in 1708 during the war between Russia and Sweden. After Mazepa sided with the Swedes, it was captured and ravaged by the Russian troops sent by Tsar Peter I. The Cossack garrison and the bulk of the population were massacred. Following its destruction, Baturyn remained deserted for decades and recovered only during the mid-18th century. Today it is a small provincial town with a population of about 4,000.

In 1995-97 the University of Chernihiv began conducting excavations in Baturyn. As a result archaeologists were able to reconstruct the plan of the mediaeval and early modern town. They also discovered the remains of two masonry palaces, urban dwellings, fortifications, and the church of St. Nicholas in a nearby monastery. They also uncovered evidence of the slaughter that the troops of Peter I inflicted on the populace. Unfortunately, archaeological work had to stop after 1997 owing to lack of funds.

Thanks to financial support given by the Ukrainian diaspora in Canada and the USA, the excavations were renewed in the summer of 2001. The expedition, consisting of Ukrainian and Canadian archaeologists and historians, is a joint project of the University of Chernihiv and the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies (Toronto). It continues to investigate the remnants of the hetmans’ palaces, fortifications, and dwellings. Although the archaeologists have not yet reached the mediaeval layers, they intend to continue excavating during the 2002 and 2003 seasons when they hope to uncover mediaeval artifacts including those from Byzantium.

The archaeological team has made a documentary video describing the history, antiquities, and excavation of Baturyn. It also plans to publish the results of its findings and to create a website. The continued success of the project, however, depends on independent financial support, especially from the Ukrainian diaspora in Canada and the USA. It wishes to acknowledge, in particular, the assistance of the Shevchenko Scientific Society of America (New York) and the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies.

Martin Dimnik and Vladimir Mezentsev
The video mentioned above, written (with V. Kovalenko) and produced by Vladimir Mezentsev and entitled "Baturyn: Rozkopky het'mans'koi stolytsi" (Baturyn: Excavations of the Cossack Hetman Capital; duration 25 min.), was shown on the Ukrainian Canadian T.V. programme "Svitohliad" (Channel 47, Toronto) on November 3rd and December 29th, 2001. It is available for purchase from the Canadian Global Centre (2186 Bloor St. W., Suite 214, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M6S 1N3; tel: 416-604-0060; 1-800-763-3303; fax: 416-604-0056; email:press@press-global.com)

The Ukrainian-Canadian expedition plans to continue the excavations of Baturyn in 2002-03, to publish its research findings, and to make a longer professional video about the new discoveries in English. This project depends on donors' support. To contribute kindly send your cheque, made payable to Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies, Re: Ukraine Project, to Prof. Martin Dimnik, Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies, 59 Queen's Park Crescent East, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5S 2C4. A tax receipt will be given.

A BRIEF REPORT ON A VISIT TO LEBANON AND SYRIA

A group of 17 people, members of the Society for the Study of Religion and Society, University of Victoria, and their families, visited Syria and the Lebanon for three weeks last spring. We travelled by bus and stayed in good hotels, convents or monasteries. Since there are not many tourists in Syria these days, the atmosphere is pleasant and accommodation cheap. We managed the entire trip for under $4500 (Canadian) per person, including airfare, guides, entrance fees, accommodation and meals.

DAMASCUS: Everything is open, friendly. The Museum has been reorganized lately with great success. Some of the smaller mosques have disappeared behind modern buildings and one or two tombs ruined by fancy lighting, but the main monuments are well-preserved.

BOSRA AND THE JEBEL ED-DRUZE: Great progress has been made in the last ten years in the Jebel Druze and in the city of Bosra. The highway is improved so that a visit to Bosra in one day is reasonable. Water has been made available for extensive planting of cotton and grapes, with the result that there is an atmosphere of happy prosperity much more like what there must have been in the 3rd-6th century A.D.

Wide excavations are presently in progress by the Syrian Department of Antiquities and Bosra has been opened considerably. Roman remains, including the famous suk, are now effectively displayed. The theater and citadel are in good condition. A small hotel and some restaurants are now opened (we did not stay in the hotel, so I cannot report on the conditions there). The Cathedral has recently been excavated and partly reconstructed to reveal the 6th century frescoes that were once hidden in the prothesis, and also some frescoes, previously unknown, which were uncovered in the narthex. The Mosque of Omar has been considerably repaired and the near-by baths excavated. I understand that the palace is now excavated, but I didn't see it.

At EZRA the old Church of St. George is in a good state of preservation and services are now being conducted in a second sixth century church that has been renovated near by. Progress in other areas in the Jebel ed- Druze is equally impressive: SOUEIDA has a new museum; at CHAHBA the mosaics are as impressive as ever; QANAWAT has recently been excavated further. On the other hand, we tried
to find the lovely little temple in SANAMEIN, but without success: it seems to have disappeared. I did not check on the temple at ATIL but it was advertised as in good condition, and the exceptional Kalybe at UM ZEITOUN is as good as ever.

SIDNAYA, MA'ALULA: The Convent of Sidnaya is still run by nuns and open to visitors, but the icons are even more difficult to see in the blue smoke of the cave. On the other hand, the recent opening of the cave of MA'ARET SIDNAYA below the convent, by the Syrian-Netherlands Cooperation for the Study of Art in Syria, has revealed some splendid twelfth century frescoes, already published by Mat Immerzeel. Although MA'ALULA has been converted into a tourist attraction, there is a lovely walk through a gorge between Sidnaya and Ma'alula which has recently been cleared. This was the gorge through which Mar Tekla escaped.

MAR MUSA AL-HABASHI: Off the road to Homs lies the town of Nebek, and 17 km. beyond Nebek is the monastery of Mar Musa al-Habashi (St. Moses the Ethiopian). Although this 6th century Syrian Orthodox Monastery was allowed to disintegrate in the 19th century, it has recently been reconstructed and revived by Father Paolo dall-Oglio, an Orientalist Jesuit, who has re-opened it as a place for study and understanding between Islam and the Christian East. The monastery, which is developing a good library, is now served by two monks, two nuns, a brother and several lay persons. Guests are received for periods of a day to several days of contemplation and rest. The little chapel in the monastery of Mar Musa is dedicated to Moses the Prophet, and is covered with the most complete series of eleventh- and twelfth-century frescoes in the entire Middle East. Father Paulo supervised the cleaning and renovation of the frescoes, which was undertaken jointly by the Museum of Antiquities, Damascus, and the Istituto del Restauro, Rome.

QAR'A: Further up the road to Homs a diversion at the Christian town of Qar'a still leads to the Church of Sts. Sergios and Bacchos with its twelfth-century frescoes. More exciting, because it is totally new, is the reconstruction and re-vitalization of the nearby Monastery of Mar Yacub under the supervision of two nuns. Here Stephan Westphalen, formerly Director of the German Institute in Damascus, has uncovered and is publishing an exciting series of frescoes in the church. These represent the only narrative sequence of the Life of Christ known in the Middle East. They date from the same period as the frescoes of Mar Musa al-Habashi.

CRAK DES CHEVALIERS is as resplendent as ever. We stayed at the Monastery of St. George, at the foot of the castle. The guesthouse of the monastery has been recently enlarged and refurbished and was exceedingly pleasant. From Craak we proceeded to MASYAF, where the Agha Khan is conducting the most impressive campaign of reconstruction of what was previously a dismal, unexcavated ruin. The castle is presently being worked on to expose its magnificent location and original plan. The Agha Khan is presently also beginning the excavations of spectacular SAHYOUN.

HAMA still works the water wheels, but the magnificent temple-cathedral-mosque with its Seljuk minaret has disappeared without a trace, although some of the old Islamic houses remain.

SALAMIYA, the home of the Ismailis in Syria, is also in good shape and hides within the city a fine mosque (converted from a temple-basilica), the tomb of the late Agha Khan and some good Roman baths.

PALMYRA has not changed very much, although the Department of Antiquities has opened up some new tombs. The Italians and the Danes have been excavating here. The Zenobia Hotel is seedy but attractive.

QASREL-HAIRESH-SHARKI is a surprise in that the highway now drives straight up to the small enclosure and it is difficult to find the garden enclosure. Everything looks more or less as the Michigan-Princeton Expedition left it many years
ago, but the expedition house has been taken over as a rest house with water and accommodation but no food whatsoever. RISAFE is another tourist attraction, in spite of which the village has not encroached on the ruins. We reached Risafe from Qasr el-Hair esh-Sharki by desert track, although the more common way to visit is by the good tarmac road now leading to the Euphrates highway and Aleppo. A large tin-roofed restaurant offers drinks. The ruins are not greatly changed, in spite of elaborate German excavations in the last ten years.

ALEPPO is as fine as ever - open and happy to receive visitors. The Baron Hotel is still good for its atmosphere, the University is active, and the suks and the baths all functioning as before.

QAL'AT SIM'AN has not changed greatly except that it is well-preserved and much of it is out of bounds at night, so you cannot camp there any more. There is a good new restaurant above the ruins.

QALB LOZE, formerly deserted, is now surrounded by a small village inhabited by many many small Kurdish children. It is not well kept. On the other hand KIRK BIZE is still deserted and easy and pleasant to visit. Other deserted towns of Syria are much the same as they always were, only more accessible now because of new roads.

LATAKIYA is not much changed. It has served for the past few decades as the principal port of Syria, and so has opened some grand hotels which are now standing mostly empty as the tourist industry in Syria is not presently very active. As a result, the best hotels are cheap. The fish are the best in the Mediterranean and there are a good museum and remains of the fort.

RAS SHAMRA (UGARIT) has been considerably developed recently by the Syrian Department of Antiquities.

LEBANON: The Lebanese Department of Antiquities has greatly extended the excavations in TYRE and SIDON. There are not many visitors in this area, however, so the fish restaurants are not as frequent nor as good and simple as they used to be. The great cathedral at Tyre is now excavated by the Lebanese Department of Antiquities and is immensely impressive. Sidon has opened a resplendent soap museum.

The mountains of Lebanon have not changed much in twenty years, all sites formerly accessible may still be visited, while the Department of Antiquities is active in most of them. The mosaics of BEIT MERI and the layout of the 6th century town are worth a visit. BYBLOS has developed considerably as an escape from Beirut and has all modern tourist commodities. The frescoes deep in the Kadisha Valley and scattered around Amoiiun and Byblos are well worth studying. In spite of attention by UNESCO, they have been given little attention and are rapidly deteriorating.

BEIRUT: The Museum of Antiquities has recently re-opened and is a jewel of modern display. The city-centre now bares the bones of the Roman city, with some Phoenician walls thrown up against the sea, a Byzantine chapel and some remarkable reconstruction of the modern city, which is worth a visit in itself. The old Greek Orthodox Cathedral of St. George, is presently under reconstruction and excavation by Dr. Leila Badre of the American University of Beirut.


Erica Cruikshank Dodd

REPORT ON THE 9th INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF CRETAN STUDIES

From 1-6 October the 9th Congress was held near the village of Elounda, quite near Agios Nikolaos, on the northeast coast of Crete. This Congress generally gets
short shrift because it always falls in the same year as our Congress of Byzantine Studies, and it does not seem to fall close enough in date to make the two congresses combinable. That fact is a great pity because this Cretan Studies Congress has much to offer, I believe: very fine settings, a wide range of papers (it is divided into three sections: the largest and most active, it seems, being the ancient, with parallel sessions of mediaeval and modern papers), and a scale small enough for comfortable exchange. Some five hundred scholars were listed in the programme, most of them from Greece of course, but the congress never seemed too large or impersonal. Interest was high in papers of the mediaeval sort, and these sessions were remarkably well attended. New work at Gortyn was discussed by Italian archaeologists, and the Greek service and other scholars related what other new developments had occurred on Crete in the previous year. Naturally, scholars concerned with the rich history of Venetian Crete were also in evidence, and many papers dealt with that tradition of Greco-Italian literature, like the Erotokrita.

Scanning the participants list, I find these Canadians present (apologies to those Canadians with non-Canadian addresses): D'Annibale Cesare, an archaeologist with Parks Canada, Jane Francis from Concordia, David Rupp from Brock, Joseph and Maria Shaw from Toronto, and Loeta Tyree from the American School in Athens. I believe I was the only Canadian Byzantinist present.

If anyone is interested in participating in the next Congress, to be held on Crete in 2006, or if anyone wants to get on the mailing list for publications (including past proceedings of Congresses), write to: Society of Cretan Historical Studies, Historical Museum of Crete, Lysimachou Kalokairinou, 771202 Iraklion, Crete.

Glenn Peers

THE XXe CONGRES INTERNATIONAL DES ÉTUDES BYZANTINES

At the business meetings of the Association internationale des Études byzantines held at the Collège de France in conjunction with the 20th Congress membership was approved of the National Byzantine Committees of the following countries: Croatia (President, Prof. Ivo Goldstein, Filozofski: Fakultet, Ivana Lučića 3, 10000 Zagreb), Estonia (President, Prof. Anne Lill, University of Tartu, Ülikooli 17, Tartu 51014), Georgia (Secteur Byzantin de l'Institut des Études Orientales, rue Tséréléli 3, Tbilissi) and Turkey (President, Prof. İhsan Demirkent, Türk Tarih Kurumu, Kizilay Sok. No. 1, Sihhiye, Ankara). The following elections were also made: President, Peter Schreiner, Secretary, Evangelos Chrysos, Treasurer, Cécile Morrison.

Present at the Congress in Paris was Jialong Xu, Professor of Mediaeval and Byzantine Studies at the Northeast Normal University, who distributed to committee members a survey written by himself and Zhqiang Chen (Professor and Director of the Byzantine and Eastern Mediterranean History Study Centre of Nankai University) on Byzantine Studies in China. If anybody is interested in reading this 7-page survey, please let me know.

The 21st Congress will be held at the Institute of Education of the University of London "au coeur de Bloomsbury, le Quartier Latin de Londres ... tout près du British Museum, et de la British Library ainsi que librairies, hôtels et 'pubs' typiquement anglais", as the British Committee proclaimed in its proposal to the International Association. The dates are August 21st-26th, 2006.

The Association's Bulletin d'Information et de Coordination is on the web site http://www.eie.gr/aieb
FUTURE CONFERENCES (2002)

The Annual Meeting of the Association of Ancient Historians will be held in Savannah, Georgia, U.S.A., on April 25th-28th. Its subject will be "Urbanism, Colony & Empire". For details contact Timothy M. Teeter tmteeter@gsyms2.cc.gasou.edu or see http://www.trentu.ca/aahl/welcome.shtml

This year's Dumbarton Oaks Symposium will be on "Realities in the Arts of the Medieval Mediterranean, 800-1500", to be held on April 26th-28th.

An international conference organized by Hal Drake will be held on "Late Antique Landscapes - Intellectual, Figural and Physical" at the University of California at Santa Barbara in the spring.

The 37th International Congress on Medieval Studies will be held on May 2nd-5th at Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo. The e-mail address for details is mdvl_congres@wmich.edu

A conference on "The Early Christian Book" is being organized by the Center for the Study of Early Christianity at The Catholic University of America for June 6th-9th. For details contact Lani Mullaney, Conference 2002, Center for the Study of Early Christianity, Catholic University of America, P.O. Box 337, Washington, D.C. 20064 mullaney@cua.edu or see http://www.arts-sciences.cua.edu/ecs/Conference.html

The Third International Triennial Conference, Prayer and Spirituality in the Early Church", will be held at the Australian Catholic University, Melbourne in July. Its topic is "Life and Liturgy".

The Third Conference of ICHOS will be held in September at the University of Nottingham, England, on "Five Thousand Years of Slavery".

The Committee for Medieval Studies of the University of British Columbia will hold a conference on "Promised Lands: The Bible, Christian Missions, and Colonial Histories in Latin Christendom, 400-1700 A.D." on October 14th-26th. The deadline for abstracts/proposals (max. 500 words) is March 1st (a short biography should also be included). E-mail enquiries are to be addressed to mvessey@interchange.ubc.ca

MISCELLANEOUS


The Society for the Promotion of Byzantine Studies in the U.K. has a new web site - http://www.byzantium.ac.uk

Dumbarton Oaks' web site is http://www.doaks.org.

The Societas Internationalis pro Vivario (for the study of Cassiodorus) has a web site, http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Aegean/9891, which has a link, "Electronic
Palaeography" directed by Fabio Troncarelli, whereon it is promised that there will be kept up to date a bibliography of mediaeval palaeographical publications.

A new electronic journal is at www.ancientnarrative.com. It is intended to include coverage of the Byzantine period, but is open only to subscribers.

Reports on the excavations at Corinth, including those of the Byzantine settlement there, may be found at www.ascsa.edu.gr/Corinth/c_index.htm. Byzantine material from the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York may be found at http://www.metmuseum.org/collections/department.asp?dep=17

Zeno Booksellers, an excellent source for books on Byzantium, has a web site: www.the.greekbookshop.com.

EXCHANGE OF NEWSLETTERS

The following newsletters have been received since the last issue of Canadio-Byzantina:

Byzantinska Sällskapet Bulletin (Sweden) 19 (2001) (includes articles in Swedish with brief English summaries on Gotland and Byzantium; A New Corpus Edition of Byzantine Mural Painting? (late Komnenian frescos in Gotland); Halvor Bagge: an Early Collector of Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Art; Tongues of Fire and Lips of Clay: the Angel as Master Singers; Icon Painters' Manuals in Athens; Byzantine Master-Builders: Traditional Craftsmen or Creative Artists?


La Société belge d'études byzantines: Le byzantinisme en Belgique. Annuaire 2001 (this is a new publication. The first issue includes details of Belgian Byzantinists similar to those of Americans in John Barker's "A Directory of American Byzantinists"; information on the two relevant Belgian journals, Byzantion and Le Musée; information on "Collections et entreprises scientifiques" [Corpus Christianorum, series graeca; Corpus scriptorum Christianorum Orientalium; Projet "Grégoire de Nazianze"; Corpus Nazianzenum; Lexicographie; Corpus des Astronomes byzantins; Textes Alchimiques; La Société des Bollandistes]).

If anybody would like to borrow any of these or of those received earlier, please let me know.

N.B. The editing of the Australian newsletter was taken over by Alan Walmsley. Here are his instructions on how to try to find it. "This newsletter takes on a slightly different format from previous electronic versions. The newsletter is now in html format, and is to be found in the enclosed file named http://www.Newsletter_42.htm. While it is possible, in most cases, to simply open the file from your e-mail program, the graphics (Theo.jpg, AABS.jpg) and linked text files (KamFly.doc, ByzMacFly.doc) may not open properly. If they don't, I suggest you save all five files into the SAME folder on your computer and open the Newsletter from there, using your web browsing program. All the graphics and links should then work." Alan Walmsley produced also no. 43 of the Newsletter, but, since his move to Copenhagen, has now handed over
future responsibilities to Andrew Gillett of Macquarie University. Technologically bemused Canadian Byzantinists should therefore contact the latter at andrew.gillett@mq.edu.au. The web site of the AABS itself is www.mcauley.acu.edu.au/AABS/.