

Canadio-Byzantina

A Newsletter published by the Canadian Committee of Byzantinists

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Introductory remarks

Welcome to the fourth bulletin that I have put together, incorporating, as usual:

- (1) Reports on our members' activities in the form of publications, lectures, curatorships and so forth;
- (2) Reports on excavations (e.g. at Baturyn) or on conferences (e.g. on the BSC); of course, shorter reports on conferences and the like also sometimes appear in the first section;
- (3) Announcements concerning Byzantine matters, e.g. the next International Congress in Belgrade, but also about publications and so forth.

Our committee is also undergoing a change as we begin 2015: Greg Fisher, who has been our secretary/treasurer for the last four years, is handing over his duties to George Bevan of Queen's University. I am grateful to Greg for all the work he has put in over the years, and look forward to collaborating with George. As with Greg, his research interests and mine overlap to a considerable degree - to the extent that we saw one another not only at the BSC in Vancouver but also, just a week later, in Toronto at the annual Syriac Studies Symposium. George introduces himself on the next page.

I have given a brief report concerning the BSC in Vancouver below, p.13. As I note there, it was a welcome opportunity to meet other Canadian Byzantinists, even if all the Canadian participants at the BSC couldn't attend. The fruit of our discussions can be seen in this bulletin, e.g. in the provision of this list of courses in Byzantine studies in Canada.

Our website remains at:

<http://www.scapat.ca/canbyz/>

I mentioned in the last introduction the ongoing efforts to lobby for the preservation of Hagia Sophia and other Byzantine monuments in Turkey as museums; Glenn Peers and the BSANA have been active in trying to gather support for this. In this issue I give the text of the letter he has sent to the relevant minister in Turkey, p.14.

It is both a pleasure and a labour to put together this bulletin. On the one hand, one realises just how much good work is going on in the field, often by colleagues who are relatively isolated at their institution. On the other hand, there is some effort involved in coaxing reports from our members - not to mention the annual subscriptions! And since I have mentioned it, please do send a cheque after reading this to George Bevan: we do depend on our members' loyal support. The funds paid go towards paying our dues to the AIEB, but they also allow us to offer the undergraduate essay prize (see p.31 below). Please do encourage students to submit essays for this competition.

The BSC in Vancouver was a welcome boost for Byzantine studies in Canada. Let us hope we can build upon it and make further progress in the coming years.

Geoffrey Greatrex