

CANADIO-BYZANTINA

A Newsletter published by the Canadian Committee of
Byzantinists

No. 2 - November, 1992

A NOTE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

As I am entering the second year of my "Chairmanship" (it sounds awfully grandiose, and ominous!) I sense that our Committee needs urgently to do two things, a Directory and (even after the recent national referendum) a Constitution:

1. The list of our members includes now some 29 names: 1 from Alberta, 19 from Ontario, 4 from B.C., 3 from Quebec, 1 from Saskatchewan, and 1 from Manitoba. Communication is not very easy because of distances and incomplete information; and yet the need to identify and provide information on speakers, researchers, or simply to have among ourselves a sense of the breadth and depth of our Byzantine scholarship, is constantly present and at times urgent. I would like, therefore, to invite each and every one of you to simply fill in the clipping at the end of this Bulletin as a way of establishing a preliminary "Directory of Canadian Byzantinists". Do feel free to use extra space in order to include any other information you deem to be important about your work. But, please make sure that you mail it, or FAX it to me **NOT LATER THAN JANUARY 31 (1993)!**

2. The status of our organization as a "Committee" is fluid, and greatly confusing to members and non-members alike. We need to become more discernible. A "Canadian Society of Byzantine Studies", for example, is identifiable and more committal. The advantages of being a formal "Society" are too obvious for me to rehearse them once again; many of you have already communicated them to me. Funding (for travel to conferences, publications, communication and expenses) is an obvious advantage and not the only one. For this reason I have asked Professors Franziska Shlosser (Department of History, Concordia University, SGW Campus, 14455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W, Montreal, H3G 1M8), and Sheila Campbell (Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies, Toronto, ON., M5S 2C4), two experienced and diligent workers in our organization, to draft on our behalf a Constitution for such a "Society". It is extremely important that these two members of the drafting Committee receive any input from all the rest of us. Please communicate or send any comments, ideas, examples, or wishes to either of them.



Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, tapestry-woven clavus.
Nativity and figures from the New Testament (photo: courtesy of the
Field Museum of Natural History)

Personally, I envision a broad and flexible "constitution" which will take into consideration the realities of the country: the geographic disparities and distances, the interdisciplinary character of Byzantine studies, as well as the academic differentiation and challenges which scholars and graduate students working on Byzantine studies face. A Society of Byzantine Studies should not demand from its members things which will burden their life or duplicate their work, but rather provide for them a meaningful networking and stimulation in their endeavours.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Our membership dues are \$15.00 (free for students) and have been for some years. They will probably remain at this level until major expenses are incurred. The Secretary Treasurer of our Committee is Prof. F. E. Shlosser, at Concordia University (full address above). HOWEVER, while in the past we seem to have collected the dues at the end of a current year, now for better bookkeeping and budgeting, we are collecting them prior to the beginning of the next year. If you have not yet paid your 1992 dues, please make sure that you pay them now along with the 1993 ones. This will be the last and only inconvenience you will suffer. If you have any questions regarding your due status, please ask Franziska Shlosser.

THE XXVIIITH BYZANTINE STUDIES CONFERENCE

The Eighteenth Annual Byzantine Studies Conference took place this year at Urbana-Champaign, hosted by the University of Illinois. As in previous years, the Canadian presence was modest but noticeable. Three papers were presented by Canadian Byzantinists:

James Payton (Redeemer College, Ancaster ON), "John of Damascus on Human Cognition: An Element in his Apologetic for Icons"

Helen Saradi (University of Guelph, ON), "The Dissolution of Urban Public Space in Late Antiquity: The Evidence of the Imperial Legislation"

Daniel Sahas (University of Waterloo, ON), "Constantine Acropolites' Oration on a ... barbarian saint"

Sheila Campbell (Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies, Toronto, ON) was to chair Session 14 on "Topics in Art History", but at the last moment she was prevented from participating due to the death of her mentor, Prof. Elizabeth Alföldi-Rosenbaum. See obituary at another place in this Bulletin.

Other Canadians in attendance were the Rev. **Peter Carras** (Toronto), **Jon Harstone** (Toronto), and **Jean-Guy Violette** (Laval University, Quebec PQ).

The Nineteenth Annual Byzantine Studies Conference will be held at Princeton University, Princeton, N.J., Nov. 4-7, 1993; and the 1994 in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

CCB MEMBERSHIP

Since the last issue of the *Canadio-Byzantina* the following new members have joined the Canadian Committee of Byzantinists: **Lucinda Neuru**, Associate Professor, Classical Studies Department, University of Waterloo, ON.; **Leslie Jessop**, Ph.D. student in the Department of History, University of Victoria, B.C.; and **Gregory Myers**, who is completing his doctoral dissertation in historical musicology at the University of British Columbia on the Medieval Russian *Kondakar*.

FROM OUR MEMBERS

Richard Grēnfield of Queen's University, Kingston, "Sorcery and Politics at the Byzantine Court in the Twelfth Century: Interpretations of History", in R. Beaton and C. Roueche (eds.), *The Making of Byzantine History. Festschrift for Donald M. Nicol*. London: Variorum, 1993. (in press)

----- "Fallen into Outer Darkness: Later Byzantine Conceptions and Depictions of Evil", *Etnofoer* 5, 1992. (in press)

Current projects include a translation of the *Vita* of Lazaros Galesiotes and a commentary to be published by Dumbarton Oaks in their new series of Byzantine saints' lives in translation; a paper "Practical Religion in the Hands of the Learned, Orthodox Belief in the Minds of the People: Sorcery and Magic in the Palaeologan Period", to be presented at the Dumbarton Oaks Spring Colloquium on Byzantine Magic; a study, "Wayside Shrines of the Argolid", funded by Queen's ARC; and continued work on Byzantine political sorcery accusation.

Franziska Shlosser of Concordia University, Montreal, "Byzantine Studies and the History of the Crusades: The *Alexiad* of Anna Comnena as Source for the Crusades", *Byzantinische Forschungen*, XV (1990) 397-406.

----- et al., "The McGill University Collection of Greek and Roman Coins: New Evidence for its History", *Fontanus*, IV (1991) 109-124.

Helen Saradi, University of Guelph, ON., "The Composition of Byzantine Tribunals and Problems in the Application of Justice (9th-12th centuries)". Dumbarton Oaks Spring Symposium, May 1-3, 1992.

Prof. Saradi was a Summer '92 Fellow at Dumbarton Oaks working on "The Greek City in the 6th Century A.D."

James Russell, The University of British Columbia, delivered a lecture "The History and Life of a Small City in Early Byzantium" (Illustrated); February 20, 1992.

Neil Moran, Canadian Oriental Rug Magazine, Concord, ON. informed us of his involvement with an exhibition of Greek textiles at the Museum for Textiles in Toronto.

Daniel Sahas, University of Waterloo, ON., delivered a paper titled "Byzantine hagiological texts as sources of History of Byzantine-Muslim Relations", at the annual meeting of the Middle East Studies Association, in Portland, Oregon, October 28-31, 1992.

Gregory Meyers, University of British Columbia, announces (hopefully, as he says, not prematurely) the formation of the *Monumenta Musicae Slavicae* series of facsimile editions of Paleoslavonic manuscripts to be published and distributed by the Dubjev Centre. The first two which Mr. Myers has submitted are the late twelfth century Tr. Serg, No. 23, the *Lavrsky Kondakar* and the thirteenth century Sin. No. 777, the *Sinodalny Kondakar*. To complete the set he will be preparing and submitting Tretiakov Gallery K53349, the eleventh century *Tipografsky Ustav*, later this year. Mr. Myers is asking for advice and comments on this venture.

OF INTEREST TO BYZANTINISTS, AND MORE...

- * In the series of activities of the newly established Canadian Institute of Balkan Studies (see Canadio-Byzantina #1) three high calibre lectures have been offered this year:

On September 11, 1992 Professor Speros Vryonis Jr., New York University, The Alexander S. Onassis Center for Hellenic Studies, delivered a lecture at the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies, Toronto, entitled "Ethnogenetic Theories of the Balkan Peoples and the Turks".

On October 23, 1992 Alexander Kazdhan, Senior Research Associate, Dumbarton Oaks, delivered a lecture at the same place entitled "Byzantine Studies and the Study of the Western Middle Ages (Personal Experiences and Objectives [*sic!*] Observations)".

On November 17, 1992 Professor Anthony-Emil Tachiaos, Director of the Institute of Balkan Studies, University of Thessalonika, Greece, delivered a lecture at York University, Toronto, entitled "Some Unclarified Points Relating to the Life and Activity of Cyril and Methodius".

- * From the chairperson of the Canadian Institute of Balkan Studies, Prof. H. Saradi, we received the following precis of the Kurbatov lectures, which we announced in the first issue of the Canadio-Byzantina:

Prof. G. L. Kurbatov delivered two lectures on the development of the Byzantine Cities from the proto-byzantine period to the early Middle Ages. The first, at the University of Guelph, dealt with transformations of the city-planning as well as changes of the economic structure of the Byzantine cities. Prof. Kurbatov drew attention to the fact that

a significant reduction of the size of the population does not necessarily imply a reduced economic activity. He referred to a similar phenomenon in Mediaeval Germany, where small towns situated at a close distance, were the basis of a very active economic production. He also refuted an earlier thesis that Christianity played a major role in the transformation of the ancient cities, by stressing the fact that Christianity introduced new "urban" institutions. It is worth mentioning, however, the conclusions of Alison Frantz, in: *The Athenian Agora, Results of the excavations conducted by the American School of Classical Studies at Athens XXIV; Late Antiquity A.D. 267-700* (Athens, 1988), and the review by M. E. Hoskins Walbank, in: *Phoenix XLV*, 4, 1991, p. 383, according to which, especially, the city of Athens died under the influence of Christianity.

The second lecture of Professor Kurbatov was delivered at the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies in Toronto. Professor Kurbatov dealt primarily with some aspects of social structure of the cities in the 7th c. He stressed that the transformation of the urban life was a very slow one, and that the beginning of this development is placed already in the 4th c. Reference to aspects of earlier transformation of cities was the central theme of the lecture.

- * A new Society for Canadian Mediaevalists/Société Canadienne des Medievalistes has been formed. The new Society has issued a call for papers for a meeting to be held on June 5-6 in the context of the Learned Societies Conference which will be held in Ottawa. For more information about the new Society, write to Prof. M.J. Toswell, Dept. of English, University of Western Ontario, London, ON. N6A 3K7.
- * *A Directory of Canadian Old World Archaeologists and Historians of Ancient Art and Culture* has been compiled by John P. Oleson, Dept. of Classics, Box 3045, University of Victoria, Victoria, B.C., V8W 3P4. A circular indicates that "entries are solicited from individuals who are working in the Mediterranean world, the Middle East, and those areas of North Africa and northern Europe that were occupied by the Romans. The chronological boundaries are the Lower Palaeolithic and the early Medieval period". For more information, write to the author at the above address.
- * From Sheila Campbell we received the following obituary-announcement:

Canadian Byzantinists will be saddened to learn that Professor Elisabeth Alföldi-Rosenbaum died on October 6, 1992, from complications following emergency heart surgery. She had retired from the Fine Arts Department, University of Toronto, and was living in Princeton, New Jersey. During her scholarly career she published nine books and multiple articles; at the time of her death she was working on four additional books, revisions to one being prepared for a second edition, and two articles. She specialized in the Roman and Late Antique period, and will be well-known to readers of this Newsletter for her work on Roman portrait sculpture in Asia Minor and Cyrenaica, Roman cemeteries, late antique/early Byzantine mosaic pavements, bone tesserae gaming counters, and the mammoth three volume work in collaboration with her late husband Andreas Alföldi, on contorniate medallions. Her archaeological fieldwork included participation in the excavations at Alahan and Aphrodisias, in Turkey, work in Cyrenaica, North Africa, and direction of the early years of work at the site of Anamun, also in Turkey.

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Her death is a great loss to the academic world and the scholarly community, as well as a personal loss to many friends and colleagues. Her friends and former students are currently planning a suitable memorial, and an announcement will be made in a future edition of this newsletter. Anyone wishing to be involved in this project should contact Professor Sheila Campbell, Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies, 59 Queen's Park Cr., Toronto, ON. M5S 2C4.

THINK CANADIO-BYZANTINA

With distances, with so many duties in which each one of us is involved, and with the fact that we are not holding national or regional meetings, the only way of learning about each other's work is if we send word to the *Canadio-Byzantina*. We have received warm words of congratulations and encouragement from several members for the first issue. If the Newsletter is any good it is because it receives good quality news from its members. If it is not, it is because... ! Please, ^{make} the sending of a note of your activities and of any piece of possible interest to Byzantinists part of your routine. Here is the address to write, mail, or send by FAX:

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