



CANADIO-BYZANTINA

A Newsletter published by the Canadian Committee of
Byzantinists

No. 5 - January, 1995

CHAIRMAN'S NOTEBOOK

WHILE IT IS STILL January may I wish each and everyone of you a Happy and Prosperous New Year!

To the call for comments to the draft Constitution of the CCB we have received... two responses, one by regular and the other by e-mail, both of them positive. If my Byzantine instinct is at all correct this response may be taken to mean an overwhelming approval! If, however, our hermeneutics offend anyone, we would be obliged to hear.

There is, certainly, a lot of activity going on among Byzantinists; but one must want to communicate this to others. Please send a hard-written or electronic note of anything interesting for this Newsletter. Brief reviews on Byzantine literature are also welcome.

XXTH ANNUAL BYZANTINE STUDIES CONFERENCE

AS MOST OF YOU KNOW, the 20th Annual Byzantine Studies Conference took place at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, October 20-23. Two hundred and one names are recorded in the "List of Participants". Ninety-six papers were offered in a total of twenty-four simultaneous sessions, two or three at a time, during the two and a half days -- which made for the usual chasing after (and often missing) some of the most interesting papers. The Amphitheatre and the two (East and West) Conference rooms, all of them on the fourth floor of the Rackham Graduate School, proved convenient for such feet and time juggling. Graduate student participation this year was particularly high, and much applauded. There was even a paper ("Did Julian Try to Create a 'Pagan Church'?") offered by an undergraduate student!

Deacon. From an early 13th century ruined church at Oropos. Manolis Chatzidakis, The Greek Museums. Byzantine Museum. (Athens: Ekdotike Athenon, 1975)

CANADIAN PRESENCE and participation were, once again, strong and proportionate with twelve Canadians attending and eight of them offering papers:

Steven Bigham (Center for Greek Studies, Montreal), "Eusebius of Caesarea and Christian Images".

Leonard A. Curchin (U Waterloo), "Weddings, Widows, and Wealth: The Role of Elite Women in Late Roman and Byzantine Spain".

Patrick T.R. Gray (Atkinson College, York U), "Revision of Law as Reconstruction of History: The New History of Christianity Implied by the *Codex Justinianus*".

Lesley Jessop (U Victoria), "San Marco at Venice: The Cycle of Saint Mark in the North Choir Chapel and the Capella Zen".

Lucinda Neuru (U Waterloo), "The Peristyle of the Roman Villa at Sidi Ghrib".

John Osborne (U Victoria), "The North Wing of the Narthex of S. Marco in Venice: Some Observations on its Decoration and Function".

James R. Payton, Jr. (Redeemer College), "The significance of matter in the Iconoclastic Controversy".

Daniel J. Sahas (U Waterloo), "Byzantium and the Byzantines in the *Life of the Prophet* (Muhammad b. Ishâq's *Sîrat Rasûl Allâh*)".

This was also a particularly active Conference. A Business Lunch generated a lively discussion. A reception with a special Byzantine exhibit at the University of Michigan Museum of Art brought Byzantinists together over a glass of wine. The, by now expected, Byzantine banquet with Turkish food this year (the sauce was hot and the dessert very sweet) was a pandesia, to the souls at least, for some Byzantinists! A two-hour Open Discussion session on "The Future of the Byzantine Studies Conference" held on the evening of October 21, alerted Byzantinists to telling statistical data and to some candid personal assessments offered by a panel of seven. When the floor was opened for discussion a wide spectrum of comments, complaints (fewer), praises (more) and suggestions (many) were heard, debated and recorded.

Some of these suggestions were discussed by the Governing Board at its annual meeting next day. As member of this Board I would like to report on a few of these matters, directly relevant to members of the CCB:

- a) A \$20.00 membership annual fee was approved by a decisive majority.

- c) My proposal for the Byzantine Studies Conference to return to Canada for another meeting was easily adopted. "Byzantine Canada 2000" sounds to me impressive. Elsewhere in this Newsletter I am asking for suggestions and volunteer organizers.
- d) A Canadian suggestion for a *BSC Newsletter* was well received and tabled for discussion at the next Board meeting.

Future BCS meetings will be held as follows: N. York City (1995); Chapel Hill, N.C. (1966); Wisconsin (1977 in September 25-28); Lexington, KY (1998); ??? (1999); Canada (2000), if not in 1999.

Officers of the BSC until the 1995 Conference are:

President: Susan T. Stephens (Randolph Macon Woman's College, VA)
Vice President: Ralph W. Mathisen (U of South Carolina)
Secretary-Treasurer: Denis Sullivan (U of Maryland)

"BYZANTINE CANADA 2000"

WE MAY WANT to start getting excited (getting excited is Canadian, too!) about the prospect of hosting either the 25th (1999) or the 26th Byzantine Studies Conference in 2000; millennial events are historically definitive and unforgettable.

Although the entire Canada, from Victoria to St. John's NF, is an exciting and hospitable place, realism dictates that we choose a location which will be accessible to most North American Byzantinists, including students, who happen to reside in the Eastern section of North America; that is why Byzantine Studies Conferences meet on the Eastern coast and rarely even in the mid-Western region. Thus, it seems to me, that the most obvious and realistic locations would be, in alphabetical order, Kingston, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto.

From a rather quick, but not superficial or unrepresentative, sounding of Canadian and American Byzantinists I gauged their distinct desire to meet in Montreal in the year 2000. Americans sounded to me thirsty for a taste of *French* Canada, baring historical surprises... I was also reminded of the strong contingent of Art historians and of their appetite for artifacts and museums, as well of the need for local Byzantinists and Byzantine sympathizers to form a local arrangements committee!... With these hints (read, *directives*) in mind, I sensed that they were telling me, "We want Montreal". **Please, send me your suggestions, and volunteer.**

XIX INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS FOR BYZANTINE STUDIES

THE DANISH NATIONAL Committee for Byzantine Studies has circulated among the National Committees two Status Reports on the coming Congress:

Time: August 18-25, 1996.

Place: University of Copenhagen.

Title: "Byzantium - Identity, Image, Influence"

The International Committee of the *Association internationale des Études byzantines* met in Thessaloniki (December 4-5, 1993) and considered the proposal of the Danish National Committee. The Congress will be structured around *Major Themes*, *Colloquia* and *Round Tables*. The Danish Committee has also advanced the idea of "Poster Sessions for contributors to display their papers at premises reserved for this purpose". This idea has generated considerable discussion, and opposition, especially among the North American Byzantinists.

Major Themes and presenters, agreed thus, far are:

1. "The Image of Byzantium throughout the Ages. The Influence of Byzantium on the Contemporary World" (M.C. Mango).
2. "The Influence of Byzantium on Posterity".
3. "Instruments of Scholarship and Spread of Knowledge. Present and Future of Byzantine Studies" (M.P. Schreiner).
4. "Byzance and the North. From Iceland to Novgorod".

Although by now most decisions may be taken and arrangements may be near completion, byzantinists are encouraged to express their views and submit proposals on themes and speakers, in all three categories of presentation. The members of the Danish Organizing Committee are Profs. Karsten Fledelius, Anne-Mette Gravgard and Jørgen Raasted, University of Copenhagen, Njalsgate 80, DK-2300 Copenhagen S. **No call for papers has been issued as yet!**

MEMBER ACTIVITIES

Anthony R. Littlewood, *Originality in Byzantine Literature, Art and Music* (a collection of essays, in progress, to be published by Oxbow Books in 1995).

Daniel J. Sahas, "The Notion of "Religion" with reference to Islam in the Byzantine anti-Islamic Literature". In *The Notion of "Religion" in Comparative Research*. Edited

by Ugo Bianchi (Rome: "L' Erma" di Bretschneider, 1994), pp. 523-530.

Orthodoxy and Contemporary Issues. Vol. I: Νόξεις Ὁρθοδοξίας (Waterloo, ON, 1994, 270 p.)

Franziska E. Shlosser, *The Reign of the Emperor Maurikios (582-602). A Reassessment*. (Athens: S. Basilopoulos Publications. Historical Monographs 14, 1994)

LECTURES

"*Thessaloniki and the Balkans in the Middle Ages*", by Robert Browning, London University/Dumbarton Oaks. April 26, 1994. Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies. Sponsored by the Canadian Institute of Balkan Studies.

"*Foreigners in Byzantium*", by Hélène Ahrweiler, Université de Sorbonne. May 30, 1994. Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies. Sponsored by the Canadian Institute of Balkan Studies.

"*Under the Presidency of St. Paul. An examination of Byzantine Originality*", by Anthony R. Littlewood, University of Western Ontario. Sunday, February 5, 1995 4:00 p.m. St. Michael's College. Sponsored by "The Greek-Canadian Association of Constantinople (Toronto)".

STUDENT ESSAY AWARDS IN BYZANTINE STUDIES

"THE GREEK-CANADIAN ASSOCIATION of Constantinople (Toronto)" offers annually four prizes (\$300.00 and \$200.00 each) to two graduate and two undergraduate students for essays on any topic of Byzantine Studies. In the last three years the competition was limited among students of Ontario Universities and Colleges. However, beginning with 1995 the competition will be open to **students from all Universities and Colleges in Canada**. Deadline for submitting entries is *the last day of June* each year. The results are announced in November and the awards are presented at the annual Byzantine lecture of the Association in February. This year's lecture will be offered by Anthony R. Littlewood on February 5th (See above, Lectures).

The competition is refereed by a three-member Committee consisting of Profs. Sheila Campbell (PIMS), Helen Saradi (Univ. of Guelph) and Daniel Sahas (Univ. of Waterloo). Inquiries and entries should be addressed to Prof. Sheila Campbell, Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies, Toronto, M5S 2C4.

BYZANTINE NATIONAL COMMITTEES

We have received two Byzantine Newsletters:

Bysantinska Sällskapet Bulletin No. 12 (1994) of the Swedish National Committee, a 56-page booklet with short articles (Lennart Rydén, "Bysans och Europa", Ole L. Smith, "Metochitesprojektet: en presentation", Witold Witakowski, "Den kristna Orientens världsbild: Hippolytos' Krönika", Ewa Balicka-Witakowska, "Rapport fran tredje interationella konferensen om etiopisk konst i Addis Abeba samt fran en expedition till norra Etiopien"), reviews of Byzantine literature, publications by members, and conferences.

Byzantine Studies in Australia Newsletter, XXXI (December 1994), a 20-page pamphlet of the Australian Association for Byzantine Studies. The *Newsletter* announces its Ninth Conference (7- 9 July, 1995. University of Queensland and Australian Catholic University) "*The Sixth Century - End of Beginning?*" along with "the imminent publication of the long heralded volume 7 in the series *Byzantina Australiencia, The Chronicle of Marcellinus*, by Brian Croke (January, 1995, Aus\$30, 220pp soft cover).

Prof. John W. Barker (U of Wisconsin) chair of the American Byzantine Committee is preparing a Directory of North American Byzantinists. When I was asked if we, Canadians, wanted to be included, I gave enthusiastically an affirmative response and offered help. The Directory will include also two South American National Committees, one of which operates from ... Montreal!

LITERATURE REVIEW

Byzantinos Domos. Journal of Greek Mediaeval History and Civilization

PUBLISHED IN ATHENS twice a year by *Domos Publishing Co.* Edited by Dr. Alexis G. C. Savvides, of the National Institute of Research in Athens. Volume I (1987) 284 p.; II (1988) 244 p.; III (1989) 226 p.; IV (1990) 240 p.; V-VI (1992) 276 p.

The journal publishes specialized, but also more general, articles mostly in Greek (followed by a precis in one of the Western languages -- usually English), as well as in French, English and German, thus reflecting the wide spectrum of research interests and competence of Greek Byzantinists. A significant portion of its pages is devoted to book reviews, book notices and bibliography in the manner of the *Byzantinische Zeitschrift*.

The self-identity of the journal is revealed in its subtitle followed by the lengthy list of areas it covers: Prosopography, Geography-Topography, Language, Decoration, Diplomacy, Heraldic, Theatre, Theology, History, Historiography, Sources, Everyday Life,

Ceramics, Society, Popular literature, Literature, Music-Hymnography, Economy, Numismatics, Sigillography, Arts-Sculpture-Mosaics-Hagiography, Philology, Philosophy!

Among the many pieces which attracted my attention was Athanasios Fourlas' critical review [3(1989)63-76] of the Greek translation of H. Hunger's classic, *Die Hochsprachliche profane Literatur der Byzantiner* (translated by Nike Aintenaier, edited by the Institute of the National Bank, Athens, 1988). Although the reviewer praises the practice of translating major reference works in Greek, his criticism for this translation is unrelenting; his concluding remark is most telling: "κρῖμα/schade!" Fourlas' review article serves as a reminder to scholars, researchers and translators, especially those who are working in an homogeneous context such as Greece, that scholarship is honoured more by quality and authenticity and less by quantity and imitation. The *Byzantine Damos* itself bears signs of the former rather than of the latter. (D.J.S.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS-VARIA

THE 18TH INTERNATIONAL Congress of Historical Sciences will take place in Montreal, August 27 - September 3, 1995.

INTERESTED IN Byzantine archaeology in Greece? Professor Athanasios Paliouras, author of Βυζαντινή Αιτωλοακαρνανία, Chair of the Department of Byzantine Archaeology, University of Ioannina, Ioannina, Greece is conducting archaeological excavations in Varasova, Aitolia, Greece this coming Spring and Summer. Those interested in participating in the dig should contact him directly, at the above address.

BYZANTINIST/MEDIEVALIST Ph.D is seeking a postdoctoral fellowship or academic position in Canada. Her research has focused on the iconography and style of late byzantine period. Write to: Smiljka Gabelić, 511 S. Highland Ave., Champaign IL.

THE POST OFFICE has returned mail sent from us to Neil Moran and Nancy Broden with the note "Moved", or "Unclaimed". We will appreciate hearing from anyone who may know of the whereabouts or new address of these members.



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CURRENT PROJECT/S: