

# CANADIO-BYZANTINA

A Newsletter published by the Canadian Committee of  
Byzantinists

No. 7 - March 1996

## FROM THE CHAIR

*Since our previous communication six months ago a number of matters need to be reported; the forthcoming Byzantine Congress is one of them. The good news is that it is going to happen! After some unhappy developments, the convention of the Congress is moving along full speed. From an "Up-dated report" of the Danish National Committee I am assuming that eight CCB members have already committed themselves, or indicated interest in participating. We may see more Canadians in Copenhagen as time passes. Another, no less important, item is the Byzantine awareness in Canada thanks to the scholarly activities of our members (of those at least from whom we have received information); which means that this Newsletter is as good, comprehensive and useful as the members want to make it to be...*

**The XIX International Congress for Byzantine Studies  
(Copenhagen, August 18-24, 1996).**

Those Canadian Byzantinists whose name does not appear at the end of the "Up-dated Report" mentioned above, might not have received the 2nd Circular booklet of the Congress. We have received 14 extra copies of the package which contains an Advanced notice of participation, Abstract and Hotel Reservation and other information. We are making them available to some of you. If you do not find this booklet in your envelope along with this Newsletter, and you want to have it, please contact any member of the Danish Organizing Committee or, better, the Company responsible for the organization of the Congress:

**DIS Congress Service**  
**Copenhagen A/S**  
**Herlev Ringvej 2C**  
**DK-2450 Herlev, Denmark**  
**Fax # +45 4492 5050.**

**Neil K. Moran**

- "The Ordinary Chants of the Byzantine Mass. Investigation and Critical Edition";
- "Singers in Late Byzantine and Slavonic Painting".

### **ACTIVITIES OF MEMBERS**

(N.B. Entries in this section are copied exactly as they have been conveyed to us. Please note that a clear identification as to whether entries are articles, books published, or work in progress, would be much appreciated)

**Angela Commene (ICOM-UNESCO, Ottawa)**

- "participation dans la délégation du Canada à la "BIEN-NALE" de la langue française, fin Août-début Septembre 1995, en Roumanie";
- "visite des églises et monastères post-byzantins, dont quelques fresques murales du XV siècle à Bucarest, Iasi et le Nord de la Moldavie, ont rafraîchi ma mémoire sur l'irradiation de l'Art Byzantin en Europe de l'Est".

**Patrick Gray (York University)**

- Leontius Hierosolymitanus, *Opera omnia*.
- Palestine in the Age of Justinian.
- Patrick Gray also is the Secretary of the Canadian Society for Patristic Studies. For information on this Society, write to him directly.

### **A NEW MEMBER**

We welcome Barbara Hill from Aurora, Ontario as a new member of our CCB. See also below.

### **THE TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL BYZANTINE STUDIES CONFERENCE**

It convened November 9-12 at New York University and at Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. Enjoyable, tiring, and expensive! But none of the latter deterred Canadian Byzantinists to participate, actively. Here is their contribution:

- Patrick T.R. Gray (York University), "A Star is Born: The Patrifaction of Athanasius".
- Barbara Hill (Aurora, Ontario), "A Vindication of the Rights of Women to Power by Anna Komnene".
- Glenn Peers (John Hopkins University/Kitchener, Ontario), "Patriarchal Politics in the Paris Gregory".
- Debra Pincus (University of British Columbia), "The Stones of Venice

Speak: Evidence from the Fourteenth Century".

- Helen Saradi (University of Guelph), "Constantinople and its Saints (IVth-VIth c). The Image of the City and Social Consideration".

Other Canadians in attendance included:

*Geoffrey Greatrex* (University of Ottawa, Ontario), *Lessley Jessop* (Victoria, B.C.), *Anastasia Mouratides* (Windsor, Ontario), *John Osborne* (University of Victoria, B.C.) who chaired the session on "Venice and the East", *Daniel Sahas* (University of Waterloo, Ontario) who is a member of the Governing Board (until the 1997 Conference) and participated in the Board's Business meeting, *Jean-Guy Violette* (Université Laval, P.Q.)

**The Twenty-Second Byzantine Studies Conference** will be held at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, October 24-27. A "Call for Papers" has already been mailed along with a reminder of the annual dues requirement (\$20 for regular, and \$10 for students and currently not employed scholars). The Treasurer is Alice-Mary Talbot (Dumbarton Oaks). Abstracts should be mailed to the Chair of the Program Committee, Elizabeth Fisher (George Washington University, Washington, D.C.).

#### BYZANTINE HISTORY SEMINAR AT QUEENS

It is with great pleasure that we received the following e-message from Richard Greenfield:

*I have persuaded Queen's to put on an upper level undergraduate Byzantine history seminar, which I guess makes us one of the few to offer this sort of course in Canada. It is entitled "Byzantine Society 330--1260" and currently has a full enrolment of twenty students. I hope it will survive the cuts and continue next year.*

This clipping provides us with an opportunity to begin accumulating information about courses and programs in Canadian Universities. We often receive from students enquiries about Byzantine Studies in Canada. Any volunteers for such a very worthwhile project? I can safely predict that funds can be found for publishing a *State of the Art in Byzantine Studies in Canada*.

#### LECTURES

Once again, the "Hellenic-Canadian Association of Constantinople (Toronto)", a small but very active community organization, presented the Byzantinists and the public of the Toronto area with yet another fine lecture in their series "Byzantine Heritage". The speaker this year was Professor Elisheva Revel-Neher, Associate Professor of the Departments of History and of History of Art, and Chair of the Department of History of Art at the University of Jerusalem. Her topic was "The Image of the Jew in Byzantine Art", based on a recent book of hers under the same title.

Coincidentally Charles Lock, a member of our CCB, has recently published a review of the book from which, with his

permission and with the permission of the journal, we copy the first and the last two paragraphs in the next item.

The same Association sponsored yet another lecture (January 31 at the Pontifical Institute and February 15 at York University) by Professor Corinna Matzakis, visiting scholar from Rand Afrikaans University, Johannesburg, South Africa. The title of the lecture was "Scribes and two anonymous Medieval Greek Manuscripts: 'The Fall of Constantinople' 1392 and 'Alexander the Great' 1388".

#### BOOK REVIEW

Elizabeth Revel-Neher, *The Image of the Jew in Byzantine Art*, translated from the French by David Maizel. Oxford and New York: Pergamon Press, 1992. PP. xviii, 133.

"The thesis of this short book is remarkable: that there is no shortage of insulting and humiliating depictions of Jews in medieval art, but that almost all of them are to be found in the medieval West. Revel-Neher's task has been to build on and revise Blumenkranz's *Le juif au miroir de l'art chrétien* of 1996, a book whose evidence seemed ample and decisive. And Revel-Neher's evidence is of a somewhat negative order: she has looked for negative or pejorative depictions of the Jew in Byzantine art-frescoes, icons, illuminated manuscripts-and reports very few examples...

...The value of this remarkable thesis lies not so much in any modification of our

knowledge of Christian-Jewish relations in Byzantium, least of all in a comforting modification. That, emphatically, is not the author's point. What fascinates is the disparity between the linguistic and pictorial codes of representation of those relations. The laws of Justinian and other emperors, the sermons of John Chrysostom and other bishops, tend to be quite shameless in their anti-Jewish rhetoric. Yet in its iconography Byzantium offers a model of decorum, restraint, and respect towards Jews such as few other Christian societies could match. This signal anomaly within Byzantine culture has now been incontestably demonstrated by Revel-Neher.

A further, analogous disparity to be considered is that mentioned above, whereby, after the Council of Quinisext, scenes of the Old Testament could not be iconographically represented even while Biblical interpretation continued to be dependent on typology. When we find two codes in conflict, and two such strong instances of conflict within one culture, it is likely that an explanation should be sought not in further adducing of evidence, but in assessing the value and function of linguistic and pictorial codes in the semiotic economy of Byzantium." Charles Lock (Erindale College, University of Toronto).

Published in *St. Vladimir's Theological Quarterly*, 38 (1994) 241-3.

#### CCB CONSTITUTION

The final draft of our Constitution has received approval in writing (James

Payton, Richard Greenfield, Neil Moran, Patrick Gray, A. R. Littlewood, John Osborne, Franziska Shlosser, Daniel Sahas), or by silence from the rest. It would be wonderful if we could start implementing some of its articles. I am suggesting that we make an effort to meet unofficially as a "Society" during this year's Learned Societies Congress (May 23-June 7, 1996) at Brock University, St. Catherines, Ontario.

The following related societies meet on the following dates:

- Classical Association of Canada, May 24-25
- Canadian Theological Society, May 25-26
- Canadian Society for the Study of Religion, May 25-28
- Canadian Society of Church History, May 28
- Canadian Society of Patristic Studies, May 26-27
- Canadian Assoc. of Eastern Christian Studies, May 28-29
- Canadian Society of Medievalists, May 29-30
- Canadian Association of Slavists, May 28-30
- Canadian Historical Association, May 31-June 2

I would very much like to hear from those who are planning to attend or participate in any of these (or other) society meeting, to determine whether we can schedule a brief gathering of our own around one of the meetings.

## AIE BULLETIN

If the next *AIE Bulletin* does not look updated as far as your own activities are concerned, the reason is that an invitation to our members by our Secretary/Treasurer to send me information was not answered by anyone promptly. So that our CCB does feature in the Bulletin, even inadequately, I sent activity information based on what had been recorded in the *Canadio-Byzantina* # 5 and 6. This system might be proven to be more efficient in collecting and disseminating information. Let, then, our *Canadio-Byzantina* be the record of activities, for our own information as well as for our annual report to the AIEB. Please, keep the *Canadio-Byzantina* always informed!

## BSC - CANADA 2000

The following members have volunteered to serve in an Organizing Committee to look after the various matters involved in hosting the BSC in Canada in the year 2000: Franziska Shlosser (Concordia), Patrick Gray (York), and James Payton (Redeemer College). The purpose of this clipping is:

- a) to thank these members publically;
- b) to get them in touch with each other;
- c) to urge other members to join and volunteer their ideas and time; and
- d) to remind the Committee that the year 2000 (in fact 1999 or even 1998) is not that far away for deciding on and selecting a city and University, publicity, special

academic and social features, etc., etc.

Our Secretary/Treasurer Franziska Shlosser has been looking into the possibility of Concordia University, but no commitment has been made on this by either side. Toronto may prove a more practical choice.

#### THE US NATIONAL COMMITTEE

The US National committee for Byzantine Studies continues to be interested in listing Canadian Byzantinists in its forthcoming *Directory*. In fact its editor, Prof. John W. Barker, is interested in receiving information not only about active, but also former, retired and even deceased Canadian and American Byzantinists for a fuller picture of Byzantine Studies in North America. If you know of any, please notify him. Once more, I am enclosing an Information Form for those who want to be included but have not yet done so!

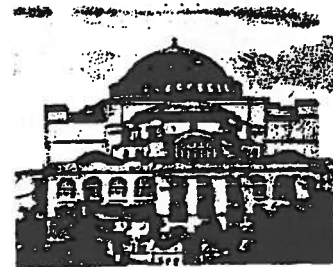
#### CONFERENCES-SYMPOSIA

- The 30th Spring Symposium of Byzantine Studies (University of Birmingham) will be held on March 23-26, 1996. Its theme is "Dead or Alive? The Byzantine World in the Ninth Century".
- The Dumbarton Oaks Byzantine Symposium will be held on May 3-5, 1996. Its theme is "Aesthetics and Presentation in Byzantine Literature, Art, and Music".

#### RECEIVED

We gratefully acknowledge receipt of the following items:

- Erich Trapp (Bonn), "Zum griechischen Wortschatz in Polikarpovs Lexikon", in *Res Slavica. Festschrift für Hans Rothe zum 65. Geburtstag* (Wien, 1994), pp. 319-328.
- *Byzantinska Sällskapet. Bulletin*. Uppsala, 13/1995.
- *The Byzantine Studies in Australia. Newsletter*. (XXXI, August, 1995). It contains the abstracts of two Conferences convened in Australia, the IXth Conference of the Australian Association for Byzantine Studies (July 7-9, 1995) on the Sixth Century, and The Third International Conference of Macedonian Studies, [July 10-15, 1985 (sic) 1995] on Byzantine Macedonia.



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