

Canadio-Byzantina

A Newsletter published by the Canadian Committee of Byzantinists

No.23, January 2012

Introductory remarks

The Canadian Committee of Byzantinists and the AIEB

My first task here is to thank my predecessor, Antony Littlewood, for all his work over the years in editing this bulletin and in presiding over the CCB. I am grateful also to the new Treasurer-Secretary, Greg Fisher, for his help in soliciting contributions for this bulletin and in dealing with the financial aspects.

I understand from Greg that there was some uncertainty about what the \$20 annual membership paid for, an issue that arose when we proposed sending out this newsletter in pdf form. The membership fees are required chiefly in order for us to remain affiliated to the Association Internationale des Études Byzantines, the worldwide organisation of Byzantinists. They it was who decided to hold the last congress in Sofia (about which you will find a report on p.18) and who at the meeting there voted (by a very narrow majority) to hold the next one in Belgrade in August 2016. Each year we pay a sum to the AIEB to remain part of the organisation; and our membership fees allow us to do so. I hope that no one feels aggrieved at this state of affairs or that the \$20 is an unreasonable amount; it is at any rate considerably less than many other learned associations. We shall prepare a pdf version of this newsletter and we can send it to anyone who would like it. In due course we shall add it to our website: all previous issues can be found through

a link on our home-page at

<http://aix1.uottawa.ca/~greatrex/canbyz.html>

The AIEB has been in some turmoil of late. At the Sofia congress Judith Herrin was elected as president but resigned shortly afterwards, unhappy with the voting procedure used both for her own election and for the choice of Belgrade (rather than Istanbul) as the next host of the congress. As a consequence, an Extraordinary General Meeting has been called in Paris for February, which I shall be attending. In conjunction with the Swedish association in particular, I have put forward some motions aimed at expanding the bureau (which includes only three members at present, thus overburdening office-holders) and at greater transparency, the latter being a concern raised by a number of national associations. The constitution of the AIEB may be found on their website at www.aiebnet.gr/introduction.html (in English and French, but the French version is the definitive one)



The motions are the following:

(1) That the last paragraph of article 5 of the statutes be modified to give the following text :
'The Bureau, comprising seven individuals holding the offices of President, General Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Webmaster and Member for external relations. In the event of the President being absent or unavailable, the General Secretary assumes his functions. The members of the Bureau shall be exempt from subscription

costs. Honorary presidents, vice-presidents and honorary vice-presidents appointed according to the 1961 statutes, are honorary members of the Bureau.'

(2) That the following sentence should be added at the end of the first paragraph of article 7: 'In the years in which neither a Congress nor an Inter-Congress takes place, the General Assembly will receive a report from all the members of the Bureau before 31 December.'

(3) The Assembly calls for (1) the setting up of an electronic list in order that its members may communicate among themselves and with the Bureau and (2) and for this list be used to vote on proposals put forward by the Bureau or members of the Assembly (including approving the annual report mentioned above in the second motion).



Tombstone of the deaconess Eugenia, A.D. 538, National Archaeological Museum, Sofia, from Eleshnitsa, Razlog region

These motions do not solve all the problems that lie ahead, I am well aware. I suspect that there will be vigorous discussions in Paris; and much will depend on who is elected as the new president. There should also be an interim meeting held in September 2013 to prepare the terrain for the 2016 congress. Naturally I shall keep everyone abreast of developments and welcome input from our members.

We shall send out a second (virtual) newsletter soon after this one: I hope to forge links between two closely related associations by circulating a bulletin for the Canadian branch of the Association for Late Antiquity (APAT), a French society, not long after this one (in pdf format). There are of course many overlaps with our association, so that I hope readers will find its information useful. This will be its first such bulletin; consequently, it will be somewhat brief. It will be edited by Patrick Roussel, a doctoral student at the Université de Montréal, and will be mainly in French.

It remains merely to welcome Hugh Elton and Ariane Magny to our number; we must also congratulate Marica Cassis on the birth of her son. As has been the practice, I have included full details of our new members' publications to date in the news of members' activities that follows.

Geoffrey Greatrex



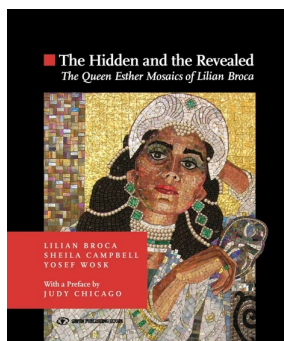
Emperor Diocletian, National Archaeological Museum, Sofia, from Brest, Pleven region

ACTIVITIES OF MEMBERS

Sheila Campbell, Toronto

The Hidden and the Revealed: The Queen Esther Mosaics of Lilian Broca

One of the most exquisite series of mosaics in contemporary art is celebrated in a newly released, lavishly illustrated large format book entitled *The Hidden and the Revealed: The Queen Esther Mosaics of Lilian Broca*. Published by Gefen Publishing House of Jerusalem and New York, the book marks the culmination of a journey that began in 2002 with the first completed work in the series.



In a stirring testament to the significance of Broca's masterpiece, renowned American artist and feminist Judy Chicago writes in the book's preface: "The Queen Esther Mosaics by Lilian Broca contribute to the vital historic task of what the biblical scholar Naomi Graetz called for in *S/He Created Them: Feminist Retelling of Biblical Tales* (Chapel Hill, NC: Professional Press, 1993): '...to put woman's voice back where it should have been in the first place.'" The ten monumentally sized works in the series retell the biblical story of Esther in dazzling detail, using the finest of Italian colored mosaic glass, plus gold leaf and other precious materials. The work won the prestigious Lorenzo de' Medici medal at the 2003 Florence Biennale.

In addition to showcasing the spectacular mosaics, the book includes a chapter by art historian Sheila Campbell comparing Broca's interpretation of the Esther story to that of other artists such as Rembrandt and Artemisia Gentileschi, and a highly evocative epic prose poem written in the voice of Esther by rabbi and scholar Yosef Wosk.

Marica Cassis, St John's, Newfoundland

On May 19, 2011, Marsh Evangelos Meiklejohn Maynes was born to Drs. Marica Cassis and Craig Maynes. He was 8 pounds 5 ounces at birth.

Publications

Review of Zbigniew T. Fiema and Jaakko Frösén, *Petra – The Mountain of Aaron, Volume 1: The Church and the Chapel* (2008), *Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research* 362 (2011), 98-100.

Review of John Healey, *Leshono Suryoyo: First Studies in Syriac* (2005), *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 69.1 (2010), 142.

Review of Rana Sabbagh, Fayez Ayash, Janine Balty, Françoise Briquel Chatonnet, and Alain Desreumaux, *Le martyrion Saint-Jean dans la moyenne vallée de l'Euphrate: Fouilles de la Direction Générale des Antiquités à Nabgha au nord-est de Jarablus. Documents d'archéologie syrienne XIII.* (2008), *Hugoye* 13.2 (2010) (on-line at <http://syrcom.cua.edu/Hugoye/Vol13No2/HV13N2PRCassis.pdf> "Kokhe" and "Seleucia-Ctesiphon" in *The Gorgias Encyclopedic Dictionary of the Syriac Heritage*, eds. Sebastian Brock, Aaron Butts, George Kiraz, and Lucas Van Rompay. Gorgias Press.

Conference Presentation

“Çadır Höyük” Avkat Archaeological Project Workshop. Istanbul, July 22-23, 2011. [In conjunction with and presented by Dr. Sharon Steadman and Dr. Gregory McMahon]

Martin Dimnik, Toronto

Publications:

‘Novgorodskije Knizija’ [The Novgorodian princes (970-1136)], *ROSSICA ANTIQUA* 2011/1 (Sankt Peterburg, 2011), pp. 3-41

“The Nature of Princely Rule in Novgorod from 970 to 1136,” *Mediaeval Studies*, vol. 72 (2010), pp. 125-159;

“Constantine Nemanjic' (d. 1322) and Constantine Balšić' (d. 1402) Revisited”, in *Proceedings of the 6th International Numismatic Congress in Croatia* (Rijeka, 2011), pp. 41-51;

“The Dynastic rivalry for Kursk (1054 to the 1150s)”, *Sivershchyna v istorii Ukrainy, Vypusk 4* (Kyiv-Hluhiv, 2011), pp. 93-98;

Two-page entry “Kayala River, Battle of (1185),” in *The Encyclopedia of War* (Wiley - Blackwell, Oxford, 2011), published Online.

Honour:

On 5 May 2011 the Fellows of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts in Ljubljana elected Martin Dimnik a Corresponding Fellow of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts.

Hugh Elton, Trent University

Employment

Acting Dean of Arts and Science – Humanities, Trent University September 2010-June 2012

Full Professor, Trent University, Dept. Ancient History & Classics July 2011 to current

Associate Professor, Trent University, Dept. Ancient History & Classics July 2006 – June 2011

Chair, Dept. Ancient History and Classics July 2007 –August 2010

0.0 FTE appointment in Dept. History July 2007 -Current

Visiting Research Fellow, Dept of Classics, King's College, London July 2007 -Current

Director, British Institute at Ankara August 2001-August 2006

Assistant Professor, Florida International University, FL August 1998-August 2001

Visiting Lecturer, University of Connecticut, CT 1997-1998

Visiting Assistant Professor, Trinity College, CT July 1994-June 1998

Visiting Assistant Professor, Rice University, TX January 1993-June 1994

EDUCATION and QUALIFICATIONS:

1986-1990 - The Queen's College, Oxford

D.Phil. for doctoral thesis, Aspects of Defence in Roman Europe: AD 350-500

1983-1986 - University of Sheffield

Research Interests

My current research concentrates on Cilicia and Isauria (i.e. Asia Minor north of Cyprus), addressing the question of what does it mean to be Roman in these areas. This question of identity can be addressed in many different ways. Although in literature Isaurians are a well-stereotyped ethnic grouping, with a clear identity (at least, as perceived by outsiders), how is this represented materially? And is Isauria significantly different in its material culture to other regions of the Roman Empire? These questions are addressed through the Göksu Archaeological Project, an interdisciplinary multi-period survey in the Taurus Mountains (www.biaatr.org/goksu). The five-year fieldwork was completed in 2006, followed by study seasons in 2007-2008, to be followed by publication. This project provides contextual information for a number of previously excavated sites (Alahan, Aloda, Dağpazarı) as well as recording low-lying areas threatened with flooding by a planned dam near Mut. Changes in regional culture are explored between the Paleolithic and the Ottoman periods, though focusing in particular on the fifth century AD, when a local, Zeno, became Roman emperor. I am also writing a book on *Cilicia and Rome in the Late Roman Empire*. This work covers the third to seventh centuries AD and focuses on what it meant to Cilicia and Isauria to be a part of the Late Roman Empire. These consequences are discussed thematically, with chapters focusing on cities, the economy, the gods, the emperor, etc. There is no book-length study of this region in the Roman or Late Roman periods. Nor have late antique scholars focused much on the problems of 'Romanization'. Draft chapters have been favorably reviewed by OUP though no contract has yet been issued.

My first book, *Warfare in Roman Europe: AD 350-425* (Oxford University Press, 1996; paperback 1998) examined the development and interaction of the military systems of Rome and her European enemies during the decline of the late Roman Empire. This produced several important conclusions, that the barbarian threat had little coherence, and that when compared with Roman forces, the military capacities of the barbarians were low and did not improve during this period. The problem of defining what it meant to be Roman was highlighted in the discussion of the 'barbarization' of the army, where it was shown that the recruitment of soldiers born outside the empire has been exaggerated in both its extent and impact. Relationships between Romans and non-Romans were also covered in my short monograph, *Frontiers of the Roman Empire* (published by Batsford and Indiana University Press, 1996; selection of the History Book Club in the US). Here, the Roman frontier was examined as a series of overlapping zones (civil, economic, and military) with attention paid to both sides of the border. By defining these various zones, it thus becomes easier to understand Roman identity. I have explored the same theme of identity in a number of prosopographical articles on Roman army officers in late antiquity (Fravitta, Illus) and on ethnicity (review article, Romania et Gothia; Nature of the Sixth-century Isaurians).

I have also focused on similar questions of definition in collaborative work. In 1989, with John Drinkwater, I organized an international conference on 'Fifth-Century Gaul: A Crisis of Identity?', asking participants to assess the state of Romanization in Gaul in the fifth century AD. The proceedings were published by Cambridge University Press. I organized another focused international conference in 1997 with Gary Reger, titled 'Regionalism in Hellenistic and Roman Asia Minor' at Trinity College, Connecticut. Here, we asked participants to examine the ways in which regions were defined in Asia Minor. The proceedings have been published by Ausonius Press, France. Last, I organized a panel at the 1999 APA Meeting, concerning 'Insiders and Outsiders in the Late Roman Empire'.

Publications

Books

- ELTON, H.W. and Reger, G., eds., *Regionalism in Hellenistic and Roman Asia Minor* (Bordeaux, Ausonius Press, 2007)
- Warfare in the Roman Empire: A.D. 350-425 (Oxford: OUP, 1996, paperback 1998).
- Frontiers of the Roman Empire (London: Batsford; Bloomington: Indiana UP, 1996).
- Drinkwater, J.F., and ELTON, H.W., eds., *Fifth-Century Gaul: A Crisis of Identity?* (Cambridge: CUP, 1992, paperback 2002).

Articles

- ‘Avkat Archaeological Project 2007-2008’ (with J. Haldon, J. Newhard, S. Lockwood), *Araştırma Sonuçları Toplantısı* 27.3 (2009), 29-51
- ‘Imperial Politics at the Court of Theodosius II’, in Cain, A. and Lenski, N., eds., *The Power of Religion in Late Antiquity* (Aldershot: Ashgate, 2009), 133-142
- ‘Alahan'da (Isaurya) bir Roma Kentinin Keşfi’ (with M. Jackson, G. Mietke, J. Newhard, L. Özgenel, and E. Twigger), *Olba* 17 (2009), 83-116
- ‘Göksu Archaeological Project 2005-2006’, *Araştırma Sonuçları Toplantısı* 25.2 (Ankara, Ministry of Culture and Tourism, 2008), 237-250
- ‘Rome and the Barbarians’, in *The Ancient World at War*, ed. P. de Souza (London, Thames and Hudson, 2008), 202-215
- ‘Geography, Labels, Romans and Cilicia’, in H. Elton and G. Reger, eds., *Regionalism in Hellenistic and Roman Asia Minor* (Bordeaux, Ausonius Press, 2007), 25-31
- ‘Cavalry in Late Roman Warfare’, in *The Late Roman Army in the Near East from Diocletian to the Arab Conquest: Proceedings of a colloquium held at Potenza, Acerenza and Matera, Italy* (May 2005), Lewin, A.S. and Pellegrini, P., BAR S1717 (Oxford: BAR, 2007), 377-381
- ‘Roman Military Forces from the Third to the Seventh Centuries’ in Sabin, P., Van Wees, H. and Whitby, M., eds., *The Cambridge History of Greek and Roman Warfare* (Cambridge: CUP, 2007), 270-309.
- ‘Göksu Arkeoloji Projesi’, in *Silifke Müzesi Konferansları*, ed. I. Öztürk (Silifke, 2007), 91-95
- ‘Army and Battle in the Age of Justinian’ in *A Companion to the Roman Army*, ed. P. Erdkamp (Oxford: Blackwell, 2007), 532-550.
- ‘Ecclesiastical Politics in Late Antique Isauria’, in *Festschrift for Wolf Liebeschuetz*, eds. J.F. Drinkwater and B. Salway, (London, Institute of Classical Studies, 2007), BICS Supp. 91, 77-85.
- ‘Church Decoration in Late Roman Lycia’ in K. Dörtlük et al. eds., *The IIIrd International Symposium on Lycia, Symposium Proceedings*, (Antalya: Suna-Inan Kirac Research Institute on Mediterranean Civilizations, 2006), vol. 1, 239-242.
- ‘The Roman Countryside at Alahan, Turkey’, in Lewin, A.S. and Pellegrini, P., eds., *Settlements and Demography in the Near East in Late Antiquity. Proceedings of the colloquium, Matera 27-29 October 2005* (Rome, Istituti Editoriali e Poligrafici Internazionali, 2006), 59-66.
- ‘A new late Roman urban centre in Isauria’, *Journal of Roman Archaeology* 19 (2006), 300-311 (with M. Jackson, G. Mietke, J. Newhard, L. Özgenel, and E. Twigger).
- ‘Transformation of Government under Diocletian and Constantine’, in Potter, D., ed., *The Blackwell Companion to the Roman Empire* (London: Blackwell, 2006), 193-205.

- 'Recent Work at Alahan', in *Festschrift for Hayat Erkanal*, ed. Günel, S., (Istanbul, Homer Kitabevi, 2006), 310-316.
- 'Göksu Archaeological Project 2002-2004', *Araştırma Sonuçları Toplantısı* 23.1 (Ankara, Ministry of Culture and Tourism, 2006), 331-342.
- 'Warfare and the Military in the Age of Constantine' in *The Cambridge Companion to Constantine*, ed. N. Lenski (Cambridge: CUP, 2006), 325-346.
- 'LR 1 Amphorae and the economy of southern Asia Minor', in *First International Conference on Late Roman Coarse Wares, Cooking Wares and Amphorae*, Barcelona ed. J.M. Gurt i Esparraguera et al. BAR S1340 (Oxford: BAR, 2005), 691-695.
- 'Military supply on the south coast of Anatolia in the 3rd century AD', in *Patterns in the Economy of Roman Asia Minor*, ed. S. Mitchell and C. Katsari, (Swansea, Classical Press of Wales, 2005), 289-304. with G. Greatrex and R. Burgess, 'Urbicius' Epitedeuma: An Edition, Translation and Commentary', *Byzantinische Zeitschrift* 98 (2005), 35-74.
- 'Romanization and some Cilician Cults', in de Ligt, L. et al., eds., *Roman rule and civic life: local and regional perspectives* (Amsterdam: Gieben, 2004), 231-241.
- 'Cilicia, Geography and the Late Roman Empire', *Travel, Communication and Geography in Late Antiquity*, ed. L. Ellis and F. Kidner, (Aldershot: Variorum, 2004), 5-10.
- 'The economy of Cilicia in late antiquity', *Olba* 8 (2003), 173-181 + pl. 35-36.
- 'Alahan and Zeno', *Anatolian Studies* 52 (2002), 153-157.
- 'The Economic Fringe: The Reach of the Roman Empire in Rough Cilicia', in de Blois, L. and Rich, J., eds., *The Transformation of Economic Life under the Roman Empire* (Amsterdam: Gieben, 2002), 172-183.
- 'Illus and the Late Roman Aristocracy under Zeno', *Byzantion* 70 (2000), 393-407.
- 'The Nature of the Sixth-century Isaurians', in Mitchell, S. and Greatrex, G., eds., *Ethnicity and Culture in Late Antiquity* (Swansea: University of Wales Press, 2000), 293-307.
- 'Off the Battlefield: The Civilian's View of Late Roman Soldiers', *Expedition* 39.2 (1997), 42-50.
- 'Romans and Goths: Recent Approaches', review article on Heather, P., *Goths and Romans*; Liebeschuetz, J., *Barbarians and Bishops*; Cameron, A. and Long, J., *Barbarians and Politics at the Court of Arcadius*; Heather, P. and Matthews, J., *The Goths in the Fourth Century*, *Journal of Roman Archaeology* 9 (1996), 566-574.
- 'Fravitta and Barbarian Career Opportunities in Constantinople', *Medieval Prosopography* 17/1 (1996), 95-106.
- 'Defining Romans, Barbarians and the Roman Frontier' in Mathisen, R.W. and Sivan, H.S., eds., *Shifting Frontiers in Late Antiquity* (Aldershot: Variorum, 1996), 126-135.
- 'Tile Studies' in Coccia, S., Mattingly, D., et al., 'The Rieti Survey 1988-1991, Part II. The Finds, Settlement Patterns and Gazetteer', *Papers of the British School at Rome* 63 (1995), 105-158.
- 'Roman Gold and Barbarian Kings', *Medieval Europe* 5 (1992), 25-30.
- 'The Defence of Gaul' in Drinkwater, J.F., and ELTON, H.W., eds., *Fifth-Century Gaul: A Crisis of Identity?* (Cambridge: CUP, 1992), 167-176.
- 'The Tiles' in Coccia, S., Mattingly, D., et al., 'Settlement History, Environment and Human Exploitation of an Intermontane Basin in the Central Apennines: the Rieti Survey, 1988-1991, Part I', *Papers of the British School at Rome* 60 (1992), 213-289.

In Press

'Late Roman Churches in the Göksu Valley', for *Rough Cilicia: New Archaeological and Historical Approaches*, ed Hoff, M. and Townsend, R., (Oxbow, 2011)

‘Historical evidence for Zeugma in light of the results of the 2000 Excavation’, for *PHI Rescue Excavations at Zeugma 2000*, ed. W. Aylward, (5,000 words).

Review of De Blois, L. and Lo Cascio, E., eds., *The Impact of the Roman Army (200 B.C. – A.D. 476): Economic, Social, Political, Religious and Cultural Aspects* (Leiden: Brill, 2007) in *Ancient History Bulletin*

Review of Mitchell, S., *A History of the Later Roman Empire, AD 284-641* (Oxford: Blackwell, 2007) in *Journal for Late Antiquity*

‘Imperial Campaigning from Diocletian to Honorius’, *The Archaeology of War in Late Antiquity*, eds. L. Lavan and A. Sarantis (Brill) (9,500 words)

Review of Shean, J., *Soldiering for God* (Leiden: Brill, 2010) in *The Journal of Military History*

‘The Avkat Archaeological Project 2011’ (with John Haldon and Jim Newhard), *Anatolian Archaeology* 17 (2011) (2 pages)

Forthcoming

Cilicia and Rome in Late Antiquity, Book MS, sample chapters favorably reviewed by OUP

The Late Roman Empire: a political and military history (CUP contract signed) 150,000 word MS due 31/12/2012

‘Scythed Chariots: A misunderstood weapon?’, 4,000 word article

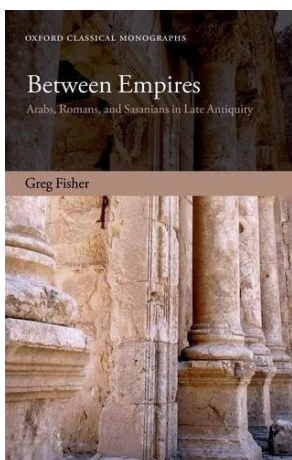
Review of Kelly, C.M., *The End of Empire: Attila the Hun and the Fall of Rome* (New York: Norton, 2009), in *Michigan War Studies Review*

Andrew Faulkner, University of Waterloo

I’m currently in Heidelberg Germany on a Humboldt Fellowship, where I’m working on a project on Late Antique Christian poetry. I recently completed a paper on the *Metaphrasis Psalmorum* (a paraphrase of the Psalms, based on the Septuagint version, in Homeric Hexameter) entitled ‘Faith and Fidelity in Biblical Epic: the Metaphrasis Psalmorum, Nonnus, and the Theory of Translation’, which is forthcoming in a volume on Nonnus (with de Gruyter). I gave a seminar based on this topic in Budapest in November.

Greg Fisher, Carleton University

Books



Between Empires. Arabs, Romans, and Sasanians in Late Antiquity (Oxford, 2011)

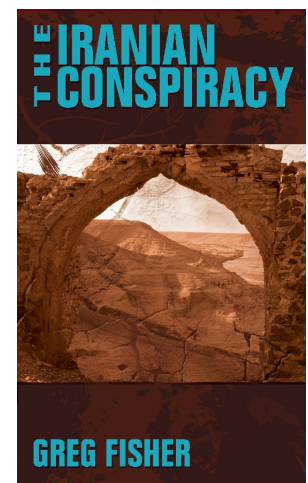
‘Kingdoms or dynasties? Arabs, history, and identity before Islam’, *Journal of Late Antiquity* 4 (2011), 245-67.

The Iranian Conspiracy (2011) (a novel)

Under contract with OUP: sourcebook, *The Arabs Between Rome, Himyar, and Iran*.

Conference presentations

‘Native ‘barbarian’ leadership in late antique Syria and



Algeria : a comparative approach', Sorbonne (Paris IV), Dec. 15, 2011

'Barbarian Leadership in the Places 'In Between' – North African and Syrian Comparisons', Keynote talk, Barbarians, the Baltic, and Beyond: A Comparative Borderlands Conference, University of California, Santa Barbara, May 2, 2011.

'Rome, the Sasanians, and the Arabian Peninsula in Late Antiquity', King Saud University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, February 13, 2011.

'The Arab world before Islam', Glebe Community Centre, Ottawa, January 25, 2011.

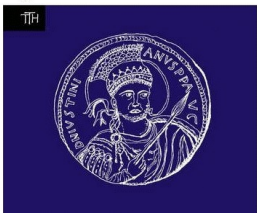
'The politics of religion: Arabs, Christians, and Romans in the last century before Islam', Philosophy and the Abrahamic Religions. Scriptural Authority and Theories of Knowledge, Marmora University and McGill University, Istanbul, December 9-11, 2010.

Geoffrey Greatrex, University of Ottawa

The Chronicle of
Pseudo-Zachariah Rhetor

Church and War in Late Antiquity

Edited by Geoffrey Greatrex and translated from
Syriac and Arabic sources by Robert R. Phenix and
Cornelia B. Horn, with contributions to the introduction
by Sebastian P. Brock and Witold Witakowski



In January 2011 the translation of *The Chronicle of Pseudo-Zachariah Rhetor: Church and War in Late Antiquity*, Translated Texts for Historians 55 (Liverpool, 2011) appeared. It was the work of my collaborators, Rob Phenix and Cornelia Horn, while I dealt with the commentary and introduction; Sebastian Brock and Witold Witakowski also both contributed. In April I received a SSHRC standard research grant for a new project on Procopius: I am intending to undertake a detailed historical and philological commentary on the *Persian Wars*, which, I hope, may be published by Cambridge University Press. In the summer I attended the Byzantine Congress in Sofia (see the attached report) as well as the International Patristics Congress in Oxford in August. There I gave a paper on Theodore Lector and ecclesiastical historiography in the sixth century in a workshop organised by Peter van Nuffelen (Ghent) on sixth-century history-writing. In Sofia I gave a short communication on Theophanes' account of the Anastasian War (502-506).

Publications

'A rediscovered Greek fragment of Severus of Antioch', *Parekbolai* 1 (2011), on-line journal at <http://ejournals.lib.auth.gr/parekbolai/issue/view/47>, 1-6.

Reviews

H. Leppin, *Justinian. Das christliche Experiment* (Stuttgart, 2011), *Byzantinische Zeitschrift* (forthcoming).

P. Wood, 'We have no king but Christ'. *Christian Political Thought in Greater Syria on the Eve of the Arab Conquest (c. 400 - 585)* (Oxford, 2010), *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* 2011.05.31

P. Pourshariati, *Decline and Fall of the Sasanian Empire. The Sasanian-Parthian Confederacy and the Arab Conquest of Iran* (London/New York, 2008), *Speculum* 85 (2010), 1009-10.

G. Traina, *428 AD* (Princeton, 2009), *The Historian* 73.2 (2011), 403-4.

D. Brodka and M. Stachura, eds, *Continuity and Change. Studies in Late Antique Historiography*, *Electrum* 13 (2007), *Phoenix* 64 (2010), 210-12.

Cecily Hilsdale, McGill University

At last I have seen proofs for an article on a unique Byzantine silk sent by Michael VIII Palaiologos to the

commune of Genoa in the 13th century: ‘The Imperial Image at the End of Exile: The Byzantine Embroidered Silk in Genoa and the Treaty of Nymphaion (1261),’ in press in *Dumbarton Oaks Papers* 64 (2010): 1-48. I also completed a review of Jaroslav Folda, *Crusader Art: The Art of the Crusaders in the Holy Land, 1099–1291* (Aldershot, 2009) for *caa.reviews*, the on-line review journal for the College Art Association.

This last year, I organized a session for the Annual Meeting of the Renaissance Society of America held in Montreal in March on ‘Early Modern Hellenisms: Constructions and Networks,’ and also served on the organizing committee of a one-day symposium in honor of Linda Seidel (‘Challenging the Myths of Art History: A Symposium in Honor of Linda Seidel’ held at Fordham University, New York, in February). For the Annual Meeting of the Universities Art Association of Canada, held in Ottawa in October I co-organized a session on ‘Pre-Modern Approaches to Vision and the Senses’ and presented a paper called ‘Unexpected Afterlives: The Translation and Translatio of Two Byzantine Books in Paris.’

For the Byzantine Studies Association of North America, I was elected to the governing board last year and this year I serve as the vice president of the organization.

This will be my third and final year serving on in Medieval Academy of America committee that selects the MAA sponsored plenary speaker for the International Congress on Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo. This year we selected the eminent Byzantine art historian Annemarie Weyl Carr. One of the main highlights of my year was the privilege of offering the introductory remarks for her phenomenal plenary address.

Dimitris Krallis, Simon Fraser University

In press

Michael Attaleiates and the Politics of Imperial Decline in Eleventh Century Byzantium (Tempe, AZ: Arizona Center of Medieval and Renaissance Studies, book Winter/Spring 2012)
 (with Anthony Kaldellis) *Michael Attaleiates: History - a translation* (Washington, DC: Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library – Harvard University Press, Fall 2012)
 “Harmless satire, stinging critique: a new reading of the Timarion,” in Angelov D. and Saxby M. ed., *Byzantium Behind the Scenes: Power and Subversion* (Ashgate/Variorum, , 2012)

I co-authored the introduction to a volume of the *Journal of Modern Hellenism* co-edited with Thomas Kuehn that came out in the spring of 2011

Dimitris Krallis and Thomas Kuehn, “Notes from the Guest Editors,” in Krallis D. and Kuehn T., ed. *Journal of Modern Hellenism - Hellenism and Islam: Global and Historical Perspectives* (Winter 2010-2011): ix- xvi.

Book reviews

Gill Page, *Being Byzantine: Greek Identity before the Ottomans*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008, *Journal of Hellenic Studies* 131 (2011)

Youval Rotman, *Byzantine Slavery and the Mediterranean World*. Trans. Jane Marie Todd. Cambridge, Mass., and London: Harvard University Press, 2009, *Speculum* 86.1 (2011): 266-268

Papers presented at workshops/symposia

‘The Social Views of Michael Attaleiates’ at: Transformation of Byzantium Project, International Workshop II: Social Change in Town and Country, held May 20 and 21, 2011 at the University of Oxford, UK

“Not in line with the spirit of our Age:” Antique and Medieval perspectives on the debate on the place of Islam in Greece and Europe at: Greece, the Balkans and the Eastern Mediterranean, an international symposium held March 17 and 18, 2011 at SFU’s Segal Graduate School of Business

‘Ships, Sailors, and the Surprising Story of Byzantium’s Dark-Age Urbanism’ at: The Unexpected Mediterranean: an interdisciplinary workshop, held March 4, 2011 at the University of Victoria’s Fine Arts Building, BC

One journal article was submitted upon invitation and is currently under review at *Boundary 2: The Critic’s Byzantine Ploy: Voltairian Confusion in post-secularist Narratives*

A.R. Littlewood, University of Western Ontario

Lectures

“Editing Byzantine Texts”, at Uppsala University, Sweden, March, 2011.

“Problems in the editing of texts by Michael Psellos”, at the University of Cyprus, Nicosia, Cyprus, April, 2011.

“The Gardens of Byzantium” at Symposium on “Byzantine Gardens and Beyond” at Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study (in collaboration with the Nordic Byzantine Network), Uppsala, Sweden, April 7th, 2011.

“Conservative Greeks: Innovative Byzantines”, for Byzantiniska Sällskapet at the University of Uppsala, Sweden, May, 2011.

For the first half of 2011 he was a Fellow at the Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study in Uppsala, Sweden

Ariane Magny, Thompson Rivers University, Kamloops

Dept. of Philosophy, History & Politics, Thompson Rivers University, 900 McGill Road, Kamloops, BC V2C 0C8

Academic positions

Sept 2011- Lecturer in ancient and medieval history, Thompson Rivers University, Canada.
Assistant professor from January 2012. Limited-term contract.

2009-2011 Lecturer (=assistant professor) in late antique history, Birkbeck College, University of London.

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Education

2004-2010 Ph.D., Classics and Ancient History, University of Bristol

Dissertation: 'Porphyry in Fragments: Eusebius, Jerome, Augustine and the Problem of Reconstruction' (External and University of Bristol funding), supervisor: Gillian Clark. Degree obtained on 19 January 2011.

2001-2004 M.A. in History, McGill University, Montreal, Quebec

Thesis: 'Porphyre et le Livre de Daniel: réaction à la tradition exégétique chrétienne du IIIe siècle'
Supervisor: Elizabeth Digeser

1996-1999 B.A. in Psychology, Université de Montréal, Montreal, Quebec

1989-1996 College Stanislas of Montreal, Montreal, French baccalaureate with honours degree

Research interests

Late Antiquity	Early Christianity/Christianisation
Graeco-Roman World	Bible reception
Church History	Neoplatonism/Greek thought and religion
Interreligious debates	Methodology (fragment collection)/ Literary theories

Publications

Monograph:

Magny, A. *Porphyry in Fragments: The Transmission of an Anti-Christian Text in Late Antiquity* (in preparation for Ashgate Studies on Philosophy and Theology in Late Antiquity, forthcoming by July 2013)

Articles:

Magny, A. 'Porphyre, Hippolyte et Origène commentent Daniel.' In Ian Henderson and Gerbern S. Oegema (eds.), *The Changing Face of Judaism, Christianity and Other Greco-Roman Religions in Antiquity*, Gütersloh: Gütersloher Verlagshaus, 2006, p. 425-46.

-----. 'Porphyry Against the Christians: A Critical Analysis of the Book of Daniel in Its Historical Context.' In F. Young, M. Edwards, P. Parvis (eds.), *Studia Patristica* Vol. XLII. Other Greek Writers, John of Damascus and Beyond, The West to Hilary, Leuven, Paris - Dudley, MA: Peeters, 2006, p. 181-186.

-----. 'Porphyry in Fragments: Jerome, Harnack, and the problem of reconstruction.' *Journal of Early Christian Studies* 18.2 (2010): 515-555.

-----. 'Méthodologie et collecte des fragments de Porphyre sur le Nouveau Testament chez Jérôme,' in *Collection des Études Augustiniennes*, proceedings of *Le traité de Porphyre contre les chrétiens. Un siècle de recherches, nouvelles questions International*. Colloquium organized by the Centre Lenain de Tillemont at the Université de Paris IV-Sorbonne, Paris, September 2009 (forthcoming Spring 2012).

- . 'Porphyry and Julian: Philosophical Critiques of Christianity,' in *Journal of Late Antique Religion and Culture* (in preparation).
- . "How Important were Porphyry's Anti-Christian Ideas to Augustine?" *Studia Patristica* 52, March 2012 (in preparation).

International conferences

- 'How Important were Porphyry's Anti-Christian Ideas to Augustine?' presented at the Oxford 16th Conference on Patristic Studies, University of Oxford, August 2011.
- 'Porphyry from Eusebius to Jerome and Augustine: The Transmission of Polemical Texts in Late Antiquity,' presented at the ASCH Winter meeting, Boston, January 2011.
- 'Méthodologie et collecte des fragments de Porphyre sur le Nouveau Testament chez Jérôme,' International Colloquium, organized by the Centre Lenain de Tillemont at the Université de Paris IV-Sorbonne, Paris, September 2009.
- 'Interreligious Debates in Late Antiquity: Eusebius vs. 'Impious' Porphyry,' The End of the Ancient World, UCLA, Los Angeles, June 2007.
- 'Porphyry and Julian: philosophical Critiques of Christianity,' The Age of Julian, Cardiff University, Cardiff, January 2007.
- 'Jerome and Porphyry on the Bible: A Study of Intertextual Exchanges,' presented at the Jerome Conference, Cardiff University, Cardiff, July 2006.
- 'Neoplatonist attacks on Christianity and the Christian Response: The Case of Porphyry and Eusebius,' presented at the ISNS conference, Université Laval, Québec, June 2006.
- 'Porphyry, Eusebius, and Scripture,' presented at the North American Patristic Society's Annual Meeting, Loyola University, Chicago, May 2006.
- ' 'Impius calumniatur Porphyrius': Intertextual Exchanges and the Gathering of Porphyry's Fragments Against the Christians', Departmental Seminar Series, University of Bristol, Bristol, December 2005.
- ' 'Latrant contra nos gentilium canes' : Porphyry as Exegete of the Bible,' Patristic, Medieval, and Renaissance conference, University of Villanova, Philadelphia, October 2005.
- 'Jerome's Porphyry and the New Testament Fragments Revisited,' First British Patristic Conference, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, June 2005.
- 'Harnack's, Jerome's, and Porphyry's Against the Christians: The Attack on the New Testament,' presented at the North American Patristic Society's Annual Meeting, Loyola University, Chicago, June 2005.
- 'Porphyry and Jerome on Daniel: Contextualizing Harnack's Fragments,' presented at the North American Patristic Society's Annual Meeting, Loyola University, Chicago, May 2004.
- 'Porphyry, Hippolytus, and Origen on Daniel,' presented at The Changing Face of Judaism, Christianity and Other Greco-Roman Religions in Antiquity, McGill University, Montreal, September 2003.
- 'Porphyry Against the Christians: The Critical Analysis of the Book of Daniel and its Historical Context,' presented at the Fourteenth International Conference on Patristic Studies, University of Oxford, Oxford, August 2003.
- 'Dating Porphyry's Against the Christians: A Controversial Issue,' presented at the North American Patristic Society's Annual Meeting, Loyola University, Chicago, May 2002.

'The early medieval painting of St Augustine in the Lateran Palace', *'Marmoribus vestita': Miscellanea in onore di Federico Guidobaldi*, ed. O. Brandt and P. Pergola (Vatican City, 2011), 993-1002.

'Rome and Constantinople in the ninth century', *Rome Across Time and Space: Cultural Transmission and the Exchange of Ideas, c. 500-1400*, ed. C. Bolgia, R. McKitterick, J. Osborne (Cambridge, 2011), 222-236.

James R. Payton, Jr., Professor of History, Redeemer University College:

(1) Book Publication: *Irenaeus on the Christian Faith: A Condensation of 'Against Heresies'* (Eugene, Oregon: Pickwick Publications, 2011).

(2) Completed service (2006-2011) as President of CAREE (Christians Associated for Relationships with Eastern Europe), a UN-endorsed NGO which has worked in the region for more than 50 years in the pursuit of peace, justice, and reconciliation.

(3) Completed service (2008-2011) as Christian co-chair of the National Muslim-Christian Liaison Committee (affiliated with the Canadian Council of Churches).

G. Peers, Texas/Athens

Elizabeth A. Whitehead Professor, American School of Classical Studies at Athens, Greece (2011-12)
 Director, Medieval Studies, University of Texas (Jan. 2011-Dec. 12)
 Some publications forthcoming/submitted (those already published can be accessed at <http://utexas.academia.edu/GlennPeers>)

'Crosses' Work Underfoot: Christian Spolia in the Late Antique Mosque at Shivta in the Negev Desert (Israel),' in *Eastern Christian Art*.

'Showing Byzantine Materiality,' in *Beyond Icons: Method and Theory in Byzantine Archaeology*, ed. Kostis Kourelis and William R. Caraher, Cambridge University Press.

'Icons,' in *Oxford Bibliographies Online: Medieval Studies*, ed. Paul E. Szarmach, New York, 2011.

'Object Relations: Theorizing the Late Antique Viewer,' in *The Oxford Handbook of Late Antiquity*, ed. Scott F. Johnson, Oxford, 2012.

Address for the 2011-12 academic year:

American School of Classical Studies
 Odhos Soudias, 54
 10676 Athens, Greece

Linda Safran, Toronto

Linda Safran is at PIMS again this year as a Visiting Fellow. She has co-authored the introduction and guest-edited, with Jill Caskey and Adam S. Cohen, a special issue of *Medieval Encounters* 17 (2011), which also appeared as a separate volume under the title *Confronting the Borders of Medieval Art* (Leiden: Brill, 2011). She published two articles, 'Public Textual Cultures, A Case Study in Southern Italy,' in *Textual Cultures of Medieval Italy*, Essays from the 41st Conference on Editorial Problems,

edited by William Robins, 115–44 (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2011); and (with Galit Noga-Banai) ‘A Late Antique Silver Reliquary in Toronto,’ *Journal of Late Antiquity* 4, no. 1 (Spring 2011): 3–30. Her review of A. M. Yasin’s *Saints and Church Spaces in the Late Antique Mediterranean: Architecture, Cult, and Community* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2010) appeared in *CAA.reviews* (www.caareviews.org/reviews/1633). She lectured on ‘Orthodox Baptism: Sites and Scenes,’ at the ‘Looking East: A Window on the Eastern Christian Traditions of Epiphany’ conference at the Institute of Sacred Music at Yale, where she also co-curated (with Vasileios Marinis) a photo exhibition titled ‘People, Piety, and Sacred Power in the Eastern Mediterranean.’ She helped organize the Canadian Conference of Medieval Art Historians (CCMAH) in Toronto in March. Linda has been awarded a one-month postdoctoral stipend at Dumbarton Oaks in March 2012.

Conor Whately, Winnipeg

(Forthcoming): ‘The Roman Army’, in *Themes in Roman Society and Culture: An Introduction to Ancient Rome*, edited by M. Gibbs, M. Nikolic, and P. Ripat, OUP

(Forthcoming): ‘Jordanes, the Battle of the Catalaunian Plains, and Constantinople’, to be published in the proceedings from the ‘Political Discourse and History’ Colloquium held in Ottawa in October of 2010, in *Cahiers des Études Anciennes*

(in Press): ‘Literary Evidence and Secondary Material on Warfare in Late Antiquity [title tbc]’, in N. Christie, L. Lavan, and A. Sarantis (eds.), *Late Antique Archaeology: The Archaeology of War in Late Antiquity*. Leiden.

(in Press): ‘Grand Strategy, Diplomacy, and Frontiers in Late Antiquity [title tbc]’, in N. Christie, L. Lavan, and A. Sarantis (eds.), *Late Antique Archaeology: The Archaeology of War in Late Antiquity*. Leiden.

(in Press): ‘Organization and Life in the Army in Late Antiquity [title tbc]’, in N. Christie, L. Lavan, and A. Sarantis (eds.), *Late Antique Archaeology: The Archaeology of War in Late Antiquity*. Leiden.

(in Press): David Whitehead, *Apollodorus Mechanicus, Siege-Matters: Translated with Introduction and Commentary*, Munich, 2010, *Classical Review* 62.1

Michaël Vannesse, *La Défense de l’Occident Romain pendant l’Antiquité Tardive*, *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* 2011.10.04

John Wortley, Winnipeg

The Book of the Elders: Sayings of the Desert Fathers (The Systematic Collection)

[APsys pace CPG] is now in proof, to appear this spring (Cistercian / Liturgical Press)

A first complete edition and translation of APanon (The ‘anonymous’ sayings) made under contract for Cambridge University Press was submitted in September

Some recent articles:

‘What the Desert Fathers meant by ‘being saved’’, *Zeitschrift für Antikes Christentum* 12 (2008), 322–43

‘The genre of the spiritually beneficial tale’, *Scripta & e-scripta* 8 (2010), 72–91

‘Vita Sancti Marciani Oeconomi’, *Byzantinische Zeitschrift* 103 (2010), 715–72

‘The Significance of ‘Repose’ in the Apophthegmata Patrum’, *GRBS* 51 (2011) 323–39

‘Discretion: Greater than All the Virtues’, *GRBS* 51 (2011) 634–52

REPORTS

Excavations at Baturyn in 2011

During the summer of 2011 the Canada-Ukraine archaeological expedition resumed its annual excavations in Baturyn, Chernihiv province, Ukraine. The Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies (CIUS), the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies (PIMS) in Toronto, and the Shevchenko Scientific Society of America (SSS-A) co-sponsor the project. Prof. Zenon Kohut, Director of CIUS, heads this undertaking; Prof. Orest Popovych, President of SSS-A, is its patron and academic adviser; Dr. Volodymyr Kovalenko, University of Chernihiv, leads the expedition. Dr. Volodymyr Mezentsev (CIUS), Prof. Martin Dimnik (PIMS), and Huseyin Oylupinar, Ph.D.candidate (University of Alberta), are also engaged in the excavation and the publication of its findings. The 2011 expedition recruited 75 students and scholars from the universities and museums of Chernihiv, Nizhyn, Kyiv, Sumy, Baturyn, Hlukhiv, Melitopol, Chernivtsi in Ukraine, and Toronto and Edmonton in Canada.

From 1669 to 1708, Baturyn was the capital of the Cossack Hetman state that reached its zenith under the rule of the enlightened Hetman Ivan Mazepa (1687-1709). In alliance with Sweden he attempted to liberate central Ukraine from increasing Moscow domination but the Russian army suppressed his insurrection and destroyed Baturyn in 1708.

This year's expedition continued excavating the remnants of Mazepa's fortified court located in the Baturyn suburb of Honcharivka. Around 1699 he commissioned the erection of the three-story masonry palace; it was unrivalled in the Cossack realm and became his principal residence. Archaeological and architectural investigations of the palace's remnants in 2003-10 have established that it was built and adorned in a mature Vilnius (Wilno) Baroque style and enriched with the ornate polychrome glazed ceramic revetments of the Kyivan Baroque style. Tsarist troops burned Mazepa's residence in 1708.

In 2011 archaeologists discovered fragments of costly imported tableware near the palace site. This included a broken 17th-century cut-glass wine goblet that was probably produced in Habsburg Silesia. It was decorated with an artistic delicately engraved landscape executed in the cameo technique. The depiction of the trees was modelled on early modern Chinese landscape paintings. Moreover, several fragments of thin grey-clay pottery covered with brown glaze constituted part of the German exports to Eastern Europe in the 17th-18th centuries. Broken painted porcelain plates also represent either Western exports to Baturyn or early-modern Russian imitations of fashionable china dishes. These finds attest to the wealth and refined tastes at the hetman's court as well as the vibrancy of Baturyn's commercial and cultural contacts with Western Europe during the Mazepa era.



Figure 8: Fragment of a 17th-century glass wine goblet with engraved landscape discovered at the hetman residence in Honcharivka in 2011. All photos by V. Mezentsev



Figure 9: Heraldic glazed ceramic stove tile found at Mazepa's court in Honcharivka. Computer reconstruction by W. Sydorenko, 2011

West of the palace the team unearthed the remnants of a number of either dwellings or service structures; one of these was seemingly a timber kitchen with large baked-clay ovens. The heating stoves of these buildings were ornamented with fine ceramic tiles covered mainly by a green glaze. They featured relief plant patterns in the Baroque style and a coat of arms. The fragmented heraldic tile has been reconstructed by a computer graphic technique at the University of Toronto. It displays an unusual Orthodox relief cross with four cross-arms on a figured Renaissance shield framed by two garlands and four stylized angels, or putti, in the tile's corners. These heraldic symbols have been identified as an early version of Mazepa's armorial emblem, which derived from the Polish coat of arms known as Boycza. These stove tiles, similar to the decorative ceramic details of the hetman's palace, were likely fashioned by the more skilled Kyivan artisans rather than by local Baturyn craftsmen.

Written sources indicate that around 1699 Mazepa also endowed the wooden Resurrection Church at his Honcharivka villa. After its remnants were partially uncovered north of the palace in 2011 preliminary observations suggested that the edifice was at least 8 m. by 5 m. in size.

Next summer the investigators will complete excavating the church and determine its ground plan and, it is hoped, its structural design and adornments.



Figure 10: Fragment of terracotta slab with inscription and relief of a flower from the court church of Mazepa. 2011 excavations in Honcharivka

Fragments of a copper cup or chalice and of a terracotta slab (15 x 10 x 5.2 cm.), with a Cyrillic inscription and the relief of a flower, were found on the site. Although only three words from the text have been preserved, it clearly acknowledges Mazepa as the founder of the church and provides its date. An analogous ceramic plaque with a full similar inscription, relief garlands with flowers and leaves, and Mazepa's armorial bearings was attached to the belfry (1700-02) of the Monastery of SS Borys and Hlib in Chernihiv. Owing to its inscription, the slab discovered at Honcharivka is considered to be a rare archaeological find and a valuable new historical source for Baturyn studies.

Other artefacts unearthed at Mazepa's household were the following: a 17th-18th-century billon coin minted in Swedish Livonia, four silver and copper Polish-Lithuanian coins, one Russian copper coin, eight terracotta and glazed ceramic ornamented Cossack tobacco pipes and painted earthenware manufactured locally in a distinctive vernacular style. Six lead musket bullets and an exploding iron cannon ball or grenade, relics of the 1708 attack on Baturyn, were also found.



On the basis of their historical and archaeological explorations of hetman's palatial residence in Honcharivka researchers have prepared a hypothetical computer reconstruction of this unique architectural complex. The annual excavations in Baturyn are scheduled to resume in the summer of 2012.

Martin Dimnik and Volodymyr Mezentsev

Figure 11: Church, palace, well, and guest-house at Mazepa's court near Baturyn (ca. 1699). Hypothetical reconstruction by V. Mezentsev, drawing and computer collage by S. Dmytriienko, 2011

The 22nd International Congress of Byzantine Studies, Sofia, 22-27 August 2011
(reprinted, with permission, from the Newsletter of the SPBS)

Since the programme of the conference can still be found on the web, it does not seem worthwhile to offer a blow-by-blow account of the many and varied sessions that took place through the week. Instead I shall offer a few impressions of the congress. The papers took place in the buildings of the university St Kliment Ohridski close to the city centre, within easy reach of many, if not all, hotels. The university rooms varied greatly in quality: some had recently been refurbished, others featured benches that might easily deposit the unwary on the floor, and others again were far too small for the sessions that had been scheduled there. The opening ceremony was packed; many had to stand. Throughout the conference the weather was hot and sunny, with the result that some rooms grew unbearably warm in the afternoon.



From Eastern Europe, thousands of people, most of whom were present, as became clear when it became necessary for others to read out their papers. While the mornings were reserved for plenary sessions, the afternoons featured parallel sessions, with similar topics being grouped together each afternoon. This was frustrating, since it meant a large number of clashes, which could have been avoided. Nevertheless, the papers gave a good opportunity to meet fellow scholars, to make contacts, and of course to hear useful contributions on a wide range of topics. There were a number of exhibitions and receptions organised during the week, the highlight of which was the event at the National

Museum of History, the former presidential palace, at which the current president addressed the assembled Byzantinists.

As the Canadian representative of the AIEB - and indeed, as far as I could tell, the only Canadian present - I also had the opportunity to visit Samokov, a small town some 60 km from Sofia, where the assembled delegates were treated to a tour of several interesting sites, including a Justinianic hilltop fortress (right). As for the deliberations that took place, I have offered some comments on this at the start of the newsletter.



Overall, I have to say that I enjoyed this congress more than some earlier ones, perhaps because I knew more of the people there. The compact nature of the city, where good restaurants were plentiful and within easy reach, undoubtedly helped matters. Although there were problems with certain aspects of the organisation these did not overshadow the event as a whole and I am left hoping that I shall have the opportunity to visit Bulgaria again.

Geoffrey Greatrex

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Editorial Board of *Parekbolai. An Electronic Journal for Byzantine Literature* are pleased to announce that the first volume of the journal has been uploaded on the web. You can access it at the following address: <http://ejournals.lib.auth.gr/parekbolai>

Parekbolai requires registration to access the articles and download the pdfs.

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