

# Canadio-Byzantina

A Newsletter published by the Canadian Committee of Byzantinists

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## Introductory remarks

### The Canadian Committee of Byzantinists and the AIEB

**M**y 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](http://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