

Of particular interest are three fragments of what was most likely the broken bronze decorative binding/casing of a costly book of Western origin. One of these fragments features the engraved upper part of a nude man playing a trumpet. It was professionally executed in a realistic Classical style. Probably the representation is that of a pagan mythological figure and the work of Italian early modern secular art.

Archaeological finds such as these provide valuable insights into the wealth, intellectual pursuits, and artistic appreciation of the Cossack elite at Mazepa's court, as well as the penetration of European cultural influences to it. These also show the stimulating trade relations of the hetman capital with the West, Russia, and the Ottoman Empire. The Canada-Ukraine expedition intends to renew its field research in Baturyn next summer.

Martin Dimnik and Volodymyr Mezentsev



Fig. 6. Fragment of a bronze book casing with an engraved male figure, found at the wooden residence in Mazepa's court in 2012

Report on Byzantine Studies Conference XXXIII, Brookline, Massachusetts, November 2012

The 38th Annual Byzantine Studies Conference was held at the Hellenic College and Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in Brookline, Massachusetts, from 2 to 4 November 2012. This year's program featured papers covering a broad range of interdisciplinary Byzantine topics by scholars from North America and abroad. Despite the devastation and travel disruptions caused by Hurricane Sandy, the turnout was impressive and the transatlantic scholarly presence was particularly strong with scholars traveling from such great distances as Austria, Denmark, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, UK, and Sweden.

The conference program featured archaeological and art historical sessions ranging in topic from Settlement Archaeology to Food and Water in Byzantium to Iconographic Complexities; literary sessions attended to such themes as Textual Practices and Liminal Characters; and interdisciplinary sessions covered such topics as Church Fathers, Power in Early Byzantium, Byzantine Women, and Egypt, with sessions on cultural exchange featuring prominently, as evidenced by panels on Byzantium and Italy and Crusader Worlds.

For the first time this year, the program committee accepted submissions of complete panel proposals. The resulting sessions included: Jewish and Christian Hymnography; Translation and Scholarship: the Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library, Byzantine Greek Series; and Hybrids and Mixtures: Genre-crossing in Byzantine Literature. Moreover a round table discussion of 'Exhibiting Byzantium Today' featured the curators of the collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Menil Collection, Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, and Dumbarton Oaks.

The International Center for Medieval Art (ICMA) also sponsored a session dedicated to Perceptions of the Body and Sacred Space in the Medieval Mediterranean. In addition to providing generous funding for participants in those sessions, the ICMA also sponsored a reception on Saturday evening that preceded the concert by the Holy Cross Byzantine Choir 'Romanos the Melodist,' a vocal ensemble composed of students and alumni/ae of Hellenic College and Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School named after Saint Romanos the Melodist, the sixth-century 'Pindar of Christian hymnography.' The concert was immediately followed by a second reception sponsored by the Michael G. and Anastasia Cantonis Chair of Byzantine Studies.

The other special event was the Second Annual Tousimis Lecture and reception on Friday evening. This year's lecture, 'Looking Back on Byzantium: An Icon's Journey,' was delivered by Professor Annemarie Weyl Carr, University Distinguished Professor of Art History Emerita, Southern Methodist University.

The complete conference program can be downloaded from the BSANA web site (www.bsana.net) under Annual Conference archives.

At the Business Lunch on Saturday, in addition to reports from the President, Secretary, Treasurer, and representatives of Dumbarton Oaks and the United States National Committee for Byzantine Studies, the new members of the Governing Board of the organization were elected by acclamation, and the winners of the 2011 Tousimis and BSANA Graduate Student Prizes were announced.

Furthermore, a number of significant policy changes were announced at the Business Lunch. The first concerns the dissemination of the annual conference abstracts. Beginning with the conference in 2013, print copies of the BSC Abstract will cease to be mailed to non-attending members. Instead, all paid members of BSANA will receive the Abstracts by email attachment in advance of the meeting (the Abstracts will also be posted to the BSANA web site). Moreover, institutional subscriptions to the BSC Abstracts will come to an end after the 2014 meeting. Do note, however, that print copies of the Abstracts will continue to be available at the conference itself.

The second major change relates to the payment of membership dues. BSANA will now be able process membership dues and contributions by credit card. The adoption of an online payment option promises to considerably ease the process of dues payment for those without access to a U.S.-based bank account.

The future meetings of the BSC are as follows: 2013 at Yale University (31 October to 3 November 2013), 2014 at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver (exact dates to be determined), and 2015 at CUNY and Fordham University New York (exact dates to be determined).

The upcoming Canadian venue for the 2014 BSC presents a wonderful opportunity to strengthen ties between the American and Canadian parts of BSANA. In the spirit of collaboration and of raising the visibility of the CCB please consider proposing a paper or a complete panel for the Vancouver conference. Please also encourage your graduate students to submit paper proposals as some funding is available for graduate students

giving papers at the BSC who do not reside in the area of the conference (see the BSANA web site for further details).

— Report submitted by Cecily Hilsdale (cecily.hilsdale@mcgill.ca), member of the Canadian Committee of Byzantinists and Vice President of the Byzantine Studies Association of North America.

Report on the Extraordinary General Meeting of the AIEB in Paris, February 2012

On 11 February 2012 the EGM took place in Paris, France, at which 29 national sections were represented; in some cases, national associations had given their votes by proxy to someone else. I was thus mandated to vote on behalf of the Australian association. The aim of the meeting was to elect a successor to Judith Herrin, who resigned as president after her election in August 2011 in Sofia. Two candidates had come forward, Johannes Koder (Vienna) and Michel Kaplan (Paris), the latter being the treasurer of the AIEB. Both gave an address, after which the voting occurred. Johannes Koder won (by 16 votes to 12). A motion was also put forward in order to ensure that the inter-congrès meeting, due to be held in Greece in September 2013, should be granted the powers of an AGM in order to make changes to the constitution of the AIEB; this motion was approved.



A somewhat sensationalist account of developments within the AIEB may be found on a blog associated with *The Economist* magazine, <http://www.economist.com/blogs/prospero/2012/02/byzantine-studies> (the blog of a certain 'Prospero').

Geoffrey Greatrex

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Byzantino-Turcica

From Peter Pechnyo, peterpechnyo25@gmail.com Internet site: <http://byzantino-turcica.com/>

I would like to ask for your cooperation and help. My main goal is to establish a community in which we can cooperate and work on Byzantine related topics. I realized how important is to know other perspectives of these topics, therefore my original aim with this homepage is to help comprehend other aspects, opinions about Byzantine Period deeper.