



# CANADIO-BYZANTINA

A newsletter published by the Canadian Committee of Byzantinists

## In this Issue

Introductory Remarks	1	John Trevor Wortley Obituary	16
Activities of Members	2	Undergraduate Essay Competition	17
Reports	10	Announcements	18

**No. 31**  
**January 2020**



# INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

It is a pleasure to acknowledge once again here the splendid work done by Chris Dickert in preparing this bulletin for publication. I have noticed that the last bulletin has attracted far more interest on my academia.edu pages, where I have put up our bulletins, than the previous one: while vol.29 has had 275 views, vol.30 has had 933! I am not sure what the reason for this is, I must admit. All of our issues, right from the start, are available, moreover, at <https://uottawa.scholarsportal.info/ojs/index.php/cb>. I am grateful to the University of Ottawa for hosting this site, which also houses eight lectures by eminent Byzantinists delivered at the Canadian Institute of Balkan Studies in the 1990s: details may be found in issue 28 (2017), p.24, of this bulletin.

It was likewise a pleasure to attend a gathering at the Greek embassy in Ottawa in November, where Dimitris Kralis presented his project, funded by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, to ‘reboot the Greek language’, an on-line resource for the teaching of modern Greek in Canada and elsewhere. More can be found on this at <https://www.sfu.ca/hellenic-studies/newsroom/news/1197-ottawa.html>. We note with sorrow the death of André Gerolymatos, who contributed so much to the strength of the Hellenic studies

programme at SFU, as also of our member John Wortley; I am grateful to the distinguished Syriacist, Dr Robert Kitchen, for contributing an obituary of John. On a more positive note, I am very happy to welcome Dr. Georgios Makris to our numbers, who has recently taken up a post at UBC; he presents details of his work below.

I am sure that 2020 will be a busy year, not least as the international congress in Istanbul draws near; there is still time, as I mention later in this bulletin, to send in proposals for communications. I have not included an AIEB report this year but I am grateful to Cecily Hilsdale for her report on the BSC. Richard Greenfield’s report reminds us of the need to maintain our membership. Since it was written, I know that a number of dues have come in, as well as new memberships, which is heartening. Finally, once again I encourage members to contribute reports, announcements and book reviews for our next issue.

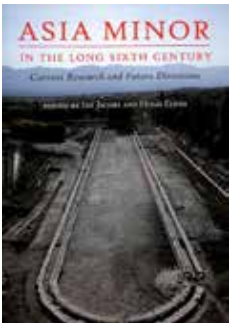
Geoffrey Greatrex  
University of Ottawa

*Images: (above) Church of Sergius & Bacchus; (cover) Column of the Goths (Gülhane). Photos by Geoffrey Greatrex.*

# ACTIVITIES OF MEMBERS

## **Hugh Elton**

**Trent University, Peterborough**



- Jacobs, I. and Elton, H., eds., *Asia Minor in the Long Sixth Century: Current Research and Future Directions* (Oxford, Oxbow Books, May 2019) ISBN 978-1-78925-007-7
- ‘The countryside in Southern Asia Minor in the long sixth century AD’ in Jacobs, I. and Elton, H., eds., *Asia Minor in the Long Sixth Century: Current Research and Future Directions* (Oxford, Oxbow Books, 2019), 91-108.

## **Geoffrey Greatrex**

**University of Ottawa**

I concluded my year’s sabbatical at Robinson College, Cambridge, in June 2019 and resumed teaching duties in Ottawa. My commentary on Procopius’ Persian Wars made good progress during the sabbatical: there remain only chapters 29-30 of book 2 to complete before the work is completed. I hope therefore to submit the commentary (and revised translation) to Cambridge UP in late summer.

### Publications

- ‘Procopius and the past in sixth-century Constantinople’, *Revue belge de Philologie et d’Histoire / Belgisch Tijdschrift voor Filologie en Geschiedenis* 95 (2018), 59-83.
- *Histos* Supplement 9: Geoffrey Greatrex, ed., *Work on Procopius outside the English-speaking World: A Survey* (2019).

This survey of Procopius’ works in languages other than English is an on-going project that will be completed during



2019-20. Those chapters below with active links are now available. Additional individual chapters will become available as the editor receives them. The volume may be found at: <https://research.ncl.ac.uk/histos/SV09Procopius.html>

Not all the contributions will be ready by the end of this year, alas, but they will certainly appear over the course of 2020. The first chapter, which concerns work on Procopius up to 1850, is a substantial and original contribution by Brian Croke, complete with links to websites where early editions and translations of Procopius may be found.

I have a few articles due out in 2020, one concerning Procopius’ Persian tales (for a festschrift), another on religion and popular disturbances in Late Antiquity, and a further one concerning Theodore Lector.



**Richard Greenfield**  
**Queen's University, Kingston**



Richard Greenfield taught an undergraduate lecture on Byzantium and another on the Crusades as well as a combined undergraduate/graduate seminar on Medieval Greece. He continues to supervise 7 PhD students (two of whom, Adam Morin – working on Byzantine food history – and Katrina Rosie – working on magic and early Christianity – are new this year). He also has two new MA students (Thomas Bradley and Luke Van Vuuren) working on Byzantine and Crusade topics. He had a chapter published, “‘As Though Struck in the Heart by a Missile’: The Impact of Lazaros Galesiotes in

Ephesos in the First Half of the Eleventh Century” in Sabine Ladstätter and Paul Magdalino, eds., *Ephesos from Late Antiquity Until the Late Middle Ages* (ÖAI, Wien: 2019), 139-149. In March he presented a paper to the Queen’s Medieval Seminar ‘Making magic happen: drugs in later Byzantine sorcery.’ In July he spent two weeks at Dumbarton Oaks when he took over, from Alice-Mary Talbot, as co-editor (with Alexander Alexakis of the University of Ioannina) for the Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library, Greek Series. Look for two volumes appearing in 2020: Sophia Xenophontos, trans., *Theodore Metochites: On Morals or Concerning Education* and John Duffy, ed., and trans., *Sophronios of Jerusalem: Homilies*.

**Cecily Hilsdale**  
**McGill, Art History**



At McGill Cecily Hilsdale serves as Program Director for two graduate programs in Art History and Communication Studies, and also serves as Advisor and Program Director for the Faculty of Arts Interdisciplinary Medieval Studies Minor.

In addition to a number of publications in press and forthcoming, one

essay came out in print in 2019: ‘The Timeliness of Timelessness: Reconsidering Decline in the Palaiologan Period’, in *Late Byzantium Reconsidered: The Arts of the Palaiologan Era in the Mediterranean*, ed. Andrea Mattiello and Maria Alessia Rossi (London and New York: Routledge, 2019), 53-70. During 2019 she presented papers relating to her current research abroad in Barcelona and Bern, and, closer to home, in New York, Princeton, Rochester, and Montreal.

**JaShong King**  
**University of Ottawa**

At the beginning of the year, I presented at the Society for Classical Studies annual meeting in San Diego. The presentation, entitled “The Three Accessions of Julian the Apostate” showcased some of my research findings from my MA thesis. The paper was well-received, with positive comments by Michele Salzman and Jacqueline Long. At this meeting, I also made contact with other classicists of East Asian descent, and was later invited to be an officer for a newly formed Asian and Asian American Classical Caucus.

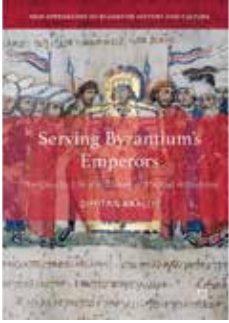
In the past few months, my PhD project proposal was completed and accepted by my department. Provisionally, the project intends to take a digital humanities approach to Late Roman and post-Roman legal codes, using XML-TEI markup and subsequent analysis of it, in order to examine the evolution of interest group power in Byzantine political

centers.

I just started working as the primary research assistant for a SSHRC-funded project under Theodore de Bruyn. The project, using modern psychosocial theories on identity, seeks to examine how Late Antique Christians dealt with their senses of self when challenged by threats, through their requests for advice in letters to renowned Gaza monks Barsanuphius and John.

I am also in the early stages of assisting with the organization of a joint Byzantine/Crusades conference, anticipated to take place later next year. Finally, I am in the final stages of my reading for my comprehensive exam. I anticipate taking the exam early next year and advancing towards PhD candidacy afterwards.

**Dimitris Krallis**  
**Simon Fraser University, Burnaby**



*Serving Byzantium's Emperors: The Courtly Life and Career of Michael Attaleiates* is my second monograph and it was published in Spring 2019. In that same period I traveled to Tianjin, Beijing, and Jinan to rekindle long-standing collaborations with Chinese higher education institutions and colleagues in the field of Byzantine Studies.

At Nankai University (Tianjin) and Shandong University (Jinan) I presented three papers: 'The Byzantine Army as Demos', 'Politics in Byzantine Villages and small Towns' and 'Impersonal Governance in Byzantium'. One publication: 'Liquid Memories: Maritime Allusion and Greek Imagery in the Forum of Constantine' came out in a special volume of the *Journal of Ancient Civilizations* in honour of professor Xu Jialing, a pioneer of Byzantine Studies in China. Three more articles await publication in the coming months, having passed peer review. One other piece

**Antony Littlewood**  
**Western University**

He has been continuing his research both in England and at home on his next cricketing biography.

In last January and February he had a very interesting trip to Cameroon and the Central African Republic, in the latter of which a minister asked him to lead the closing prayers, which he speedily made up to, it seems, general satisfaction.

The highlight of a later month's trip through Russia on various trains was nearly a week around the northern coast of Lake Baikal and on its Olkhon Island, where he went swimming. Later he entered Ukraine and visited Baturyn (ictus is paroxytone), of which readers will be well familiar through the annual reports of Professors Martin Dimnik and Volodymyr Mezentsev in this newsletter. Baturyn is just over two hours' drive in a mini-bus from Kiev, and I strongly urge any members who may be anywhere in the area to spend time marvelling, as I did, at all there is to see there. Its first trace of human settlement is neolithic and nearly every phase

awaits completion and submission to a journal.

In 2019 two of my graduate students, Jeffrey Greenall and Aleksandar Jovanović successfully defended their MA and Ph.D. theses. Since my appointment as Acting Director of Hellenic Studies at SFU in Fall 2018 and my subsequent assumption of full Directorial duties in Fall 2019 I have worked to reinforce our already vibrant speaker series, while establishing a robust collaboration with Rutgers University, reflected in the successful *Sovereignty, Space and Aesthetics: Greece and Europe in the World* workshop, held in Molyvos, Lesvos this past summer. I have also collaborated closely with my counterpart in the Department of Humanities, Dr. Paul Crowe to lead our respective units into administrative union for the intended formation of a forward looking new Global Humanities Department that will amplify the message of Hellenic Studies both within the university and more broadly, the wider academic world.

of Ukrainian history is to be seen, including the Scythian period and those of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, and the Cossack hetmans. In addition to a museum with very informative and immaculately displayed exhibits there is one of the finest reconstructions of a fortress that I have ever seen high above the River Seym on a site first chosen for such a structure in probably the eleventh century. Lovingly restored is also the magnificent palace designed by the Scot Charles Cameron (the architect of Tsarkoye Selo south of Saint Petersburg) for the last hetman Kyrylo Rozumovskiy and built in 1799-1803. All this is set in what is legally a city but is more like a pretty, wooded, rural village, with a population, I believe, of under three thousand. My visit was very kindly and with great efficiency organised by Professor Mezentsev, who assures me that he would be happy if other members wishing to make their own visits to this wonderful but insufficiently known historical centre would get in touch with him ([v.mezentsev@utoronto.ca](mailto:v.mezentsev@utoronto.ca)).

**Louis-Patrick St-Pierre**  
**Queen's University**

This year I won the SSHRC Joseph-Armand-Bombardier fellowship for my Ph.D. project, whose focus lies in Byzantine-Roman identity and the modulation of its underpinning ethnocultural indicia. In other words, I am investigating when aspects that mattered in Byzantine life (i.e. religion, language, customs, and the like) had normative power or lay dormant in identity expression. On the side I have edited a book for the 150th anniversary of my hometown, Nouvelle (Québec), which is entitled *Fiers de nos origines: Nouvelle, d'hier à demain* (Histoire-Québec, 2019). Although this experience was



**Georgios Makris**  
**Department of Art History, Visual Art and Theory, UBC, Vancouver**

In August 2019, I was appointed Assistant Professor of Art History at the University of British Columbia. An art historian and active field archaeologist, I received my PhD from the University of Birmingham in 2016. Prior to my arrival in Canada, I was Andrew W. Mellon Fellow in Art History at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. During the past academic year, I presented papers at the 120th Meeting of the Archaeological Institute of America (January 2019); in the workshop, *Holiness on the Move: Travelling Saints in Byzantium*, organized by Mihail Mitrea at Newcastle University (February 2019); at the Met's Annual Fellows Colloquia (March 2019); and at Rutgers University (April 2019). In addition, I co-organized with Maroula Perisanidi (University of Leeds) the session "Byzantine Responses to Minorities: The Case



**Lucas McMahon**  
**Princeton University**

I spent most of 2019 working on the first two chapters of my dissertation. The first deals with the so-called "Byzantine Corridor" and the axes of communication between major sites in seventh and eighth century Italy based on the letters of Gregory the Great, some hagiographical material, and a GIS study of central Italy. The second chapter focuses on border security and jumps ahead to the Byzantine-Abbasid

time-consuming and not connected to my main field, it had provided me with a good opportunity to sharpen my editing and managing skills. Since the release of the book on 2nd June 2019, I have mostly focused on the research for my first chapter, which I will hopefully finish at the beginning of the year. The prospect of presenting it in a conference and, then, turning it into an article, is not out of sight. This Fall, through a Research Fellowship, I undertook some proof-reading with the Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library. I have worked on translations of Sophronios' *Homilies* by John Duffy, the *Life and Legacy* of Theodoros Stoudites by Robert Jordan and Rosemary Morris, and Theodore Metochites' *On Morals* by Sophia Xenophontos.

of *the Physically Impaired*" at the International Congress on Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo. This session was sponsored by the Mary Jaharis Center for Byzantine Art and Culture. In October 2019, I gave a talk at the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies, Simon Fraser University.

Two articles of mine appeared in 2019:

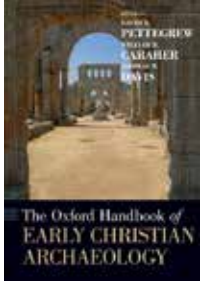
- 'Lay Authority and Meaningful Portraiture on Mount Papikion, Thrace', *Gesta* 58, no. 1 (2019), 55-75.
- 'Remnants of an Era: Monasteries and Lay Piety in Late Byzantine Sozopolis', in *Late Byzantium Reconsidered: The Arts of the Palaiologan Era in the Mediterranean*, eds. Maria A. Rossi and Andrea Mattiello (London and New York: Routledge, 2019), 118-31.

frontier ca. A.D. 900. I have used GIS to examine the feasibility of defending the region according to the precepts set forth in *De Velitatione Bellica*. Shortly I will begin working on the third chapter which considers imperial geographies of communication in the Byzantine Balkans based upon seal finds.

**Glenn Peers**  
**Syracuse University**

Forthcoming:

- *Animism, Materiality and Museums: How Do Byzantine Things Feel?*, ARC Humanities Press, Leeds, UK (2020).



Published:

- 'An Anarchéologie of Icons', in *The Oxford Handbook of Early Christian Archaeology*, ed. David K. Pettegrew, William R. Carraher, and Thomas W. Davis, Oxford-New York, 2019, 237-55.
- 'Descending Transcendence', *Religion and the Arts* 22.5 (2018): 639-60.
- 'Isaac of Antioch's Organ and the Media of Musical Subjects', *Journal of Early Christian Studies* 26.1 (2018): 75-109.
- 'Translating Edges in Art of the Medieval Middle East: On the Resafa Hoard and a Painted Bottle from Lichtenstein', in *On the Edge: Time and Space. Proceedings of International Conference 14-15 November 2014*, ed. Zaza Skhirtladze, Tbilisi, 2017, 9-36.

Book Reviews:

- *Faces of Charisma: Image, Text, Object in Byzantium and the Medieval West*, ed. Brigitte Miriam Bedos-Rezak and Martha Dana Rust, Explorations in

Medieval Culture, vol. 9, Leiden, 2018, in *The Medieval Review* 19.06.09.

Conference papers

- Oct. 2019 'Holy Assemblages of Marble and Wood: Stylites and Dendrites as Cyborg Saints', at the conference *The Reception of Stylites: Rereadings and Recastings of Late Ancient Syrian Super-Heroes*, Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul.
- 'The Animal Media of Making Christians in the Byzantine World', at the conference *Diffusion of Zoological Knowledge in Late Antiquity and the Byzantine Period*, Universität Trier.
- June 2019 'Isaac of Antioch's Parrot and Voice's Manifold Subject Formations', at the *8th North American Syriac Symposium*, Brown University, Providence, RI.
- April 2019 'Dendrites and Tree-Totalling', at the *LARCeNY Symposium: Trees and More: Ecological Thinking and the Ancient Christian Imagination*, Syracuse University.
- March 2019 'Contested Archaeology: Indigenous Politics and the Late Antique Town of Susya in the South Hebron Hills, Palestinian Authority', at *Reusing Religious Sites and Reactivating Normative Texts. A research colloquium between the Center for Religious Studies of Ruhr University Bochum and the Department of Religion*, Syracuse University.

**Linda Safran**  
**PIMS, Toronto**

I was elected to a three-year term on the board of directors of the International Center of Medieval Art (ICMA), where I currently serve on the Programs and Lectures committee. My major projects this year were (1) writing, with Adam S. Cohen and Jill Caskey, *Art and Architecture of the Middle Ages*, under contract with Cornell University Press (the book will be complemented by a free website with lots of pedagogical resources); (2) editing, with Jeffrey Hamburger and David Roxburgh, *The Diagram Paradigm: Cross-Cultural Approaches* based on the Dumbarton Oaks symposium

I co-organized in 2018; and (3) completing, with Adam S. Cohen, an article about abstraction in the Kennicott Bible (Oxford, Bodleian Library, MS Kenn. 1), a fifteenth-century Hebrew manuscript with exceptional "carpet" pages. I spoke on "Paratexts and Other Interventions in Byzantine Manuscripts" at "Hooking Up," the 12th Annual Schoenberg Symposium of Manuscript Studies in the Digital Age, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia (November 2019). Several book chapters and reviews that were supposed to appear in 2019 are, alas, still forthcoming.



## **Grant Schrama** **Queen's University**

This past year has been a transitional one for me, and I am currently working full time outside of academia while putting the finishing touches on my dissertation, which I aim to defend in the winter of 2020. In addition, I gave the following presentations this year:

- 'The Baltic Crusades as an Arena of Cross-Cultural Interaction: The Case of Livonia', *Glendon International Symposium*, Glendon College, Toronto, ON, March 29, 2019 (by invitation)
- 'Crusade or Colonialism? The Papacy, Christian Imperialism and the Conquest of the Non-Christian World in the Late Middle Ages and Beyond', *New England Regional World History Symposium*, Boston College, Boston, MA, March 23, 2019 (by invitation)
- 'What is a Periphery? Redefining Border Regions in the Middle Ages', *94th Annual Meeting of the Medieval Academy of America*, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, March 7-9, 2019.

Earlier in the year, I formed the Canadian Society for Crusade Studies, whereby scholars from across the country who teach and/or research the Crusades are able to discuss their work and share relevant events and publications. So far, its membership includes around twenty scholars from Cana-

## **Alexandra Vukovich** **St Edmund Hall, University of Oxford**

In 2019 I began a new research project, *Performing History in Early-Modern Russia*, which explores how Muscovite rulers, much like other early-modern and Renaissance rulers, sought legitimacy through intellectual and physical contact with imagined pasts. These new "imaginaries" were developed in Muscovy as a result of opportunities afforded by territorial expansion and extensive diplomacy. The new cultures of learning that emerged among the literate elite sought to reshape present political practices through connection with diverse histories, such as those of the Byzantine Empire, the Roman Empire, the late medieval Balkans, and others. The reigns of Ivan III (1462-1505), his son Vasili III (1505-1533), and his grandson Ivan IV (1533-1584) demonstrated a new set of possibilities for governing this vast territory, many of which were centered on Byzantine notions of rulership and the political and moral authorities of the ruler. A literary elite in Muscovy undertook the

da and some nominal ones from the northeastern United States. If any Byzantinists wish to join, feel free to send me a quick note. As well, although not Byzantine related, I organized two conference panels on the cultural history of the Baltic Crusades with Loïc Chollet (University of Neuchâtel), set to take place next summer at the quadrennial SSCLE meeting and the International Medieval Congress in Leeds.

For the upcoming year, I will be finishing and submitting final drafts of articles for: the *Journal of Orthodox Christian Studies* (on Constantinopolitan diasporas), *Canadian Slavonic Papers* (on Latin depictions of Byzantines and Russians), *Medieval Archaeology* (on the presence of colonialism in the Frankish Greek archaeological record) and *Lithuanian Historical Studies* (on Mongol-Lithuanian-Russian interactions).

Finally, plans have begun for a joint meeting between the CCB and the CSCS, tentatively set for November of 2020 in Toronto. JaShong King (University of Ottawa), Samantha Summers (University of Toronto) and I will be organizing the conference, which will have the theme of (broadly speaking) "The Crusades from the perspective of non-crusaders." If you would like to help with the organization of this meeting, please get in touch. More information, including a CFP, will become available in the new year.

copying and compilation of previous historiographic works, amending them to create a seamless link with the Kievan past, to largely by-pass the Mongol period. At the same time, the manufacture of chronicle compilations and the production of historical objects (thrones, crowns, vestments) were key steps in shaping a new political culture.

I am limiting the project to the fifteenth century because the chronicle record is the most complete and complex for this period. However, it is necessary to take into account the reshaping of narratives under Ivan IV in the sixteenth century, even though very little information about his reign is extant. The first publication from this project will appear in early 2020 as a chapter in an edited volume: 'The 1498 Inauguration of Dimitrii Ivanovich in Moscow: A Byzantine Performance?' in Maria Alessia Rossi and Alice Sullivan (eds.), *North of Byzantium, East Central and Eastern Europe*



*in the Middle Ages, 450-1450* (Leiden: Brill, 2020).

Further publications from the past academic year include:

- ‘Enthronement in Early Rus: Between Byzantium and Scandinavia’, *Viking and Medieval Scandinavia* 14 (2018): 211-239.
- ‘The Yardsticks by which We Measure Rus’, *Russian History* 46:2-3 (2019): 213-224.

Over the past academic year, I was fortunate enough to participate in several international conferences. I gave papers, seminars, and a closing lecture, several of which will be published over the next year. These include:

- January 8-9: ‘Constructing Monarchy: the gap between early Rus and Muscovy’, *Monarchy and Modernity*, University of Cambridge.
- January 22: ‘Procession and Ritual: A Rus traveller in Constantinople’, *Late Antique and Byzantine Seminar Series*, Kings College London.
- March 28-April 1: ‘Dynasty and Bloody Conflict in Early Rus’, *Blood in Byzantium: 52nd Spring Symposium of Byzantine Studies*, University of Cambridge.
- April 12-14: ‘Princely Processions and Peregrinations: Itinerant Rulership in Early Rus’ *Byzantine Studies Conference*, Dumbarton Oaks Centre for Byzantine Research, Washington D.C. (This paper will be published with Dumbarton Oaks in 2020).
- June 14-16: ‘Nationalist Teleologies and Early Rus, Past and Present’, *American Association of Slavic, East-European and Eurasian Studies* (ASEEES), University of Zagreb.
- June 28-30: ‘Region Visuals in the Coin Production of Early Rus’, *Picturing Russian Empire*, University of Tyumen (This paper will be published in the second volume of *Picturing Russia*, which will be published by Oxford University Press in 2020).
- September 29-October 3: ‘The Past as Performance or The (Re-)Enchantment of the Built Landscape’, *Destruction/(Re-)Construction: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Cultural Heritage in Conflict*, American University of Beirut (This paper will be published in Arabic by the American University of Beirut).

The last paper and the paper presented at ASEEEES in Zagreb are both a direct result of the conversations, research, and seminars and lectures that were organized by the ‘New Critical Approaches to the Byzantine World’ Research Network at The Oxford Research Centre for the Humanities (TORCH). I was a principal application for this research network and have been a collaborator and convener for its activities in 2019. The aims of the Network are to explore a variety of new approaches to topics in Byzantine Studies through the prism of critical theory. The Network aims to create an on-line resource for each approach, examined via a webinar (on-line discussion), workshop, seminar, or lecture. The research collaborators represent a range of disciplines from both the Humanities and the Social Sciences, and the outputs will be compiled on the website in the form of podcasts, bibliographies for download, blog posts, and publications. The aims of this Network are to bridge disciplinary divides and create broad collaborations, so input is welcome from interested parties. To date, the Network has hosted the following events:

- March 2019: Webinar convener and presenter ‘Balkanism: Approaching South-eastern Europe’
- April 2019: Webinar collaborator ‘Subalternity and Byzantine Studies: Critically Imagining the Masses in History’
- May 2019: Event convener and presenter ‘Imperialism, Colonialism, and Postcolonialism in the Byzantine World’
- July 2019: Webinar collaborator ‘The Identification and subordination of female-gendered characters in late Byzantine chronicles’
- Oct 2019: Webinar collaborator ‘Byzantine Research and Post-Butler Gender Theory’
- Nov 2019: Co-organiser ‘National Byzantiums: Narratives of Empire in the Historiographies of Southeastern Europe’ lecture by Professor Diana Mishkova (IAS director, Sofia)

For more information about the network and its activities, please consult our website: <https://www.torch.ox.ac.uk/new-critical-approaches-to-the-byzantine-world-network>

Further research activities included participation in the Slavonic Parabiblical Traditions International Research Unit

founded by Professor Florentina Badalanova-Geller of the Royal Anthropological Society. This research unit hosts a series of research activities and projects and presents its outputs at the annual European Association for Biblical Studies conference, which took place at the University of Warsaw in August 2019. I presented a paper on ‘The Parabiblical Sources for the Princely Ideal in Early Rus’. As a result of my on-going participation in this conference and research unit, I have been voted co-chair and I would be very interested in any prospective participants and collaborators.

Further administrative roles include election to the Society

for the Promotion of Byzantine Studies UK executive committee and election to the Council for the British School at Athens representing Regular Members.

On a much lighter note, I was invited to give a public lecture as part of an accessibility initiative at St Edmund Hall, Access Hall Areas. The event was, quite embarrassingly, filmed and uploaded to the college’s YouTube channel. Here is the resulting lecture “The Land of Darkness and the Global Middle Ages”:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ChYCWjHAb-M&t=171s>

## **Conor Whately** **University of Winnipeg**



### Publications:

- 2019: ‘Procopius on the Siege of Rome in AD 537/538’, *Brill’s Companion to Ancient Sieges*, edited by J. Armstrong and M. Trundle, Brill, pp. 265-284.

### Reviews:

- E. Dench, *Empire and Political Culture in the Roman World*, Cambridge, *CJ Online Reviews*, 2019.12.04
- B. Isaac, *Empire and Ideology in the Graeco-Roman World*, Cambridge, *BMCR* 2019.10.27
- P. Heather, *Rome Resurgent*, Oxford, 2018, *Ancient History Bulletin* 8: 134-137

### Presentations:

- Conference Paper, November 2019: ‘Ammianus Marcellinus, Vegetius, and the Notitia Dignitatum’, Ruling an Empire in a Changing World –Studies on Origin, Impact, and Reception of the Notitia Dignitatum, Freiburg, Germany
- Conference Paper, October 2019: ‘Was there a Military Revolution in Late Antiquity?’, Many Faces of War Conference, South Dakota

- Conference Paper, May 2019: ‘The Sight, Sound, and Taste of Victory: Alexander at Issus’, CAC Annual Conference, Hamilton
- Conference Paper, February 2019: ‘Mourning Lost Soldiers at the End of Antiquity’, Anthropological Approaches to War in the Roman Period, London
- Conference Paper, January 2019 (invited): ‘Women, Soldiers, and Frontier Communities in the Sixth Century CE Southeast’, AIA Annual Meeting, San Diego

I was on research leave in the latter half of 2019, and I used that time to submit two sole-authored books, one an introduction to the Roman military due to be published by Wiley, which is in press, and a monograph on Procopius, which is currently under review (at Brill). My co-editor and I, James Chlup (University of Manitoba), submitted an edited volume on ancient military manuals (from Homer to medieval Byzantium) to Routledge, which we hope will be out in the new year.



# REPORTS

*Image: Land walls of Constantinople. Photo by Geoffrey Greatrex.*

## **Treasurer's Report**

At the risk of sounding like the professor who complains about poor attendance to the students who are present in class, membership numbers appear to be in a rather worrying decline, certainly among those paying full dues. In 2017 we had 19 paid up full members and 9 student members. In 2018 numbers were down to 16 and 9. At the time of submitting this report in early December they are at 7 and 13. The increase in student membership is heartening, although perhaps less so if we consider that two members (Hillsdale and Greenfield) are contributing for 12 students (including five new members this year). Hopefully dues will continue to trickle in as we approach the new year, but I will repeat my message from last that, **if we are to be able to continue to operate, I encourage any members reading this who have not paid dues this year (or for a while) to make their contribution and, perhaps even more importantly, ask all members to do all they can to recruit new faculty and student members.** We are still able, just, to meet our obligations to pay annual dues of E200 for membership in the AIEB (with the exchange rate around \$300 CAD), our commitment to encourage undergraduate interest through the annual \$100 essay prize, and bank fees but if costs rise and these numbers persist, that will cease to be the case.

## **Excavations at Baturyn, Ukraine, in 2019**

In August of last year, archaeologists continued their annual excavations at the Ukrainian town of Baturyn, Chernihiv Oblast. The Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies

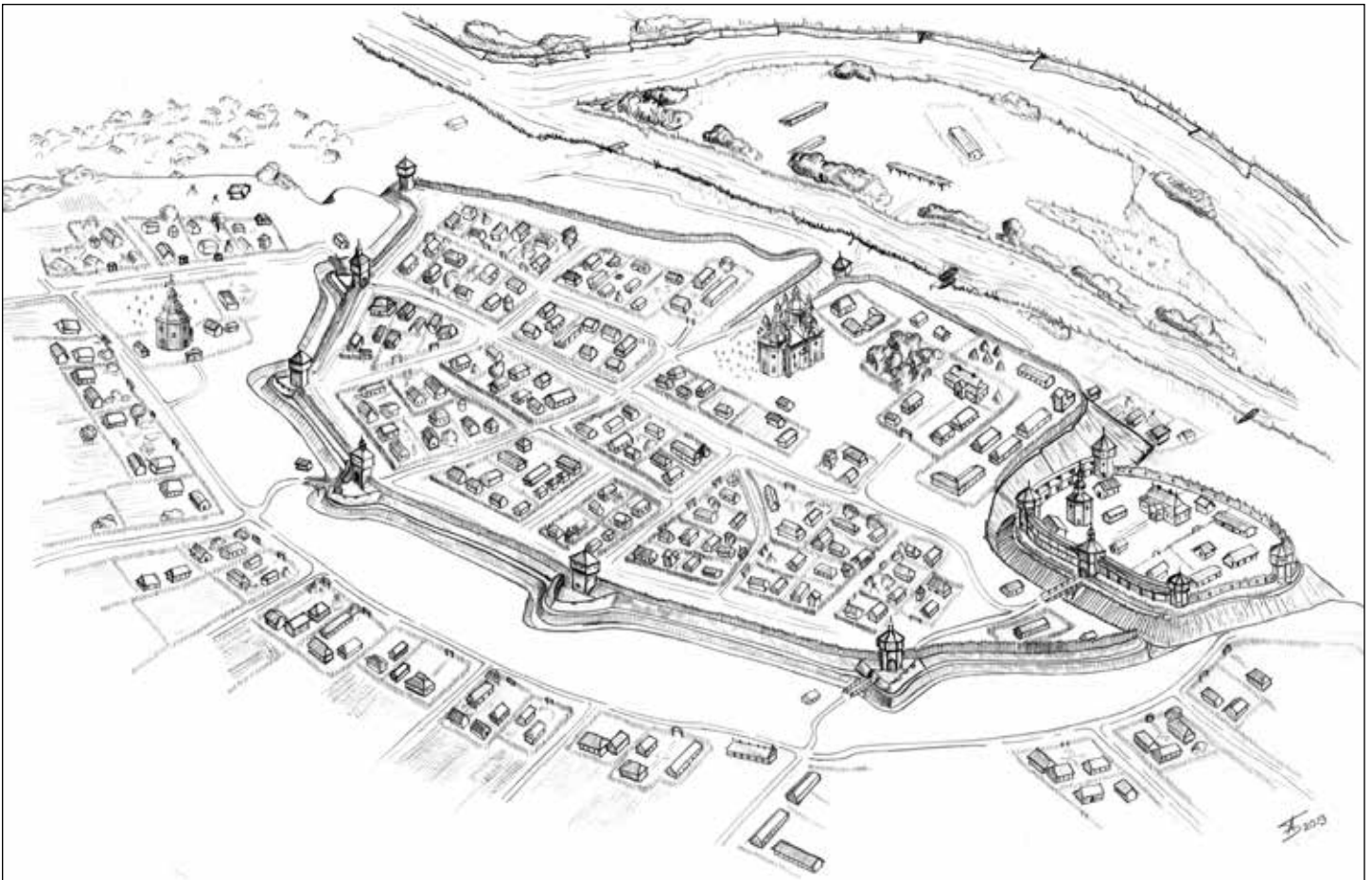
(CIUS) at the University of Alberta, the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies (PIMS) at the University of Toronto, and the Ucrainica Research Institute in Toronto sponsor this Canada-Ukraine project. The Ukrainian Studies Fund at Harvard University also supported the archaeological and historical investigations of early modern Baturyn in 2017-19.

The 2019 archaeological expedition in Baturyn involved some 45 students and scholars from the universities of Chernihiv and Hlukhiv, as well as the Institute of Archaeology at the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine in Kyiv. It was headed by archaeologist Yurii Sytyi of Chernihiv College National University. Prof. Zenon Kohut, former director of CIUS, is the founder of the Baturyn project and its academic adviser. Dr Volodymyr Mezentsev (CIUS) and Prof. Martin Dimnik (PIMS) are engaged in this research and the publication of its results.

Archaeologists believe that Baturyn was founded as a border fortress of the Chernihiv principality of Kyivan Rus' in the 11th century and razed by the Mongols in 1275. Under Polish rule over central Ukraine, the Baturyn fortress was rebuilt and enlarged in the 1620-40s. It was an important strategic outpost on the eastern frontier of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth.

Researchers have established that the 17th-century town citadel was protected by a moat, rampart, wall, towers, and gate made of horizontally placed logs in keeping with the





*Fig. 1 (top). Baturyn fortress with adjacent suburbs before 1708. Hypothetical reconstruction by O. Bondar, 2019.*

medieval Rus'-Ukraine tradition of urban fortifications. It covered 1.3 hectares in area. In 2008, the citadel's earthen and wooden defences, as well as several brick and timber structures within its bailey, were reconstructed on the basis of archaeological research of their remnants in 1996-2008. Prof. Antony Littlewood (University of Western Ontario) praised highly the historical, architectural, and technical aspects of these reconstructions. See the report on his visit to Baturyn in 2019 in this issue.

According to one hypothesis, local Cossacks modelled the wooden palanka border forts of the Ottoman Empire for building the palisade outer defences of the Baturyn stronghold in the 1630-40s. The authors of the present article, however, assert that Polish magnates and royal administrators, who commissioned the construction of the fortress, borrowed its design from Poland or Lithuania. There, palisade fences were widely used as frontal fortifications of medieval and early modern town suburbs, castles, and monasteries. The fortress of Baturyn had an area of 26.4 hectares and a perimeter of approximately 1 km. In the 1670-80s, its wooden towers and gates were reinforced by flanking earthen bulwarks. Researchers have graphically recreated the

*Fig. 2 (below). Fortifications, the Resurrection Church, the earliest hetman residence, and the treasury in the 17th-century Baturyn citadel, reconstructed on the basis of archaeological data in 2008. Aerial photo by N. Rebrova.*



hypothetical general view, plan, and defensive structures of 17th-century Baturyn.

In 1648-54, as a result of a massive popular uprising, central Ukraine was liberated from Polish domination and the Cossack state, or Hetmanate, emerged in this region. From 1669 to 1708, Baturyn was its administrative and military capital. The town achieved the height of its urban develop-





*Fig. 3. Citadel's moat with a bridge, rampart, log wall, and tower gate. Photo by M. Turchyn.*

ment during the illustrious reign of Hetman Ivan Mazepa (1687-1709). But in 1708, this Cossack ruler resisted militarily the increasing absolutist power of Muscovy over central Ukraine. That year, the Russian army totally destroyed Baturyn, the main military base of Mazepa's revolt. The dynamic Hetman Kyrylo Rozumovsky (1750-64) rebuilt the town, restored its status as the capital of the fading Cossack realm, and promoted its demographic, economic, and cultural revival until his death in 1803. During the 19th and 20th centuries, Baturyn declined into an insignificant rural settlement.

This past summer, the expedition renewed its archaeological and architectural investigations of the remnants of Mazepa's villa in the southern suburb of Baturyn, Honcharivka. In the late 1690s, the hetman commissioned there his ambitious three-storey masonry baroque palace, a timber court church, and houses for guests, servants, and guards. The palace was ransacked and burned by Muscovite troops in 1708.

Excavations of Mazepa's manor have been conducted since 1995. Last year, 19 m west of the site of his palace, archae-

ologists discovered debris of a hitherto unknown spacious brick edifice from the late 17th or early 18th century. It had an underground 2 m-wide vaulted tunnel with 12 steps leading down to what was presumably a basement, which has yet to be unearthed and identified. In 2019, this passageway was excavated for 6 m in length. Its side walls have survived with a height of 0.64-1.5 m and are 0.9-1 m thick. The lowest step of this tunnel is situated over 4 m deep from the present ground surface. The brick pavements of the floor and steps are in a fragmentary state of preservation.

At the upper part of this stepped passage, a door aperture and arched niches in the side walls were found. Unfortunately, the upper portions of these walls, vaults, as well as the ruins of the building's superstructure, were dismantled for the reuse of bricks in the 19th century. Further excavations are needed to explore the remaining debris of both the underground and above-ground levels of this intriguing edifice to determine its dimensions, layout, and function within Mazepa's estate. Preliminary analysis suggests that similar brick vaulted tunnels with steps leading down to the basement have been preserved intact at the masonry mansion of



Fig. 4. Remnants of brick side walls and steps of the underground tunnel, excavated at Mazepa's manor (ca. 1700) in Honcharivka, the suburb of Baturyn, in 2019. Photo by Yu. Sytyi.

Judge General Vasyl Kochubei in Baturyn and the chancellor of the local Cossack regiment in Chernihiv of the late 17th century.

In Pobozhivka, the northern suburb of Baturyn, the expedition continued researching the remnants of the residence of Chancellor General Pylyp Orlyk, personal secretary, chief adviser, and closest associate of Mazepa. Orlyk's wooden dwelling was burned during the conflagration of Baturyn in 1708. In 2017-19, brick foundations of two of its heating stoves were unearthed. Archaeologists found many fragments of locally manufactured polychrome glazed ceramic and terracotta tiles of high technical and artistic quality

from their revetments. These plaques are ornamented with elaborate floral and heraldic relief motifs in the Ukrainian baroque style. Several of them bear the family coats of arms of both Orlyk and Mazepa.

In 2018-19, researchers recreated two complete heraldic stove tiles of roughly square shape with each side about 30 cm long. The computer photo collage and graphic reconstructions of the burnt tile featuring Orlyk's arms (1707-08) was published in *Canadio-Byzantina*, No. 30, January 2019, p. 12, fig. 3.

In this issue, the authors present hypothetical computer reconstructions of the fragmented burnt glazed ceramic stove tile with Mazepa's armorial bearings in relief. In the centre of its composition is a massive light-green Polish baroque shield surrounded by decorative garlands or leaves of darker green enamel. On this shield, a darkest green anchor-like six-barred cross with a white crescent moon and a six-pointed star on both sides are depicted, i.e., the main heraldic symbols of Mazepa's family arms referred to as *Kurch* (*Kurcz* in Polish). Hung around the crossbar, between the crescent and the star, is a white ribbon with the Order of St Andrew. The hetman received this award in 1700. The shield is surmounted by a medieval helmet crested with a princely crown.

Around the shield are relief images of symmetrically placed

Fig. 5. Burnt glazed ceramic relief stove tile featuring Mazepa's coat of arms, 1707-08. Hypothetical reconstructions, computer photo collage and graphic by S. Dmytriienko, 2019.





stylized Cossack standards with horsetails, banners, hetmans' large globular maces, flanged maces, military trumpets, spears, partisans (pole arms), flags, cannons, ramrods, muskets, sabres, oval and figured shields, a baroque suit of armour and helmet, all glazed green and set against a white background. Only the cannonballs, gunpowder barrel, and two Cossack kettle-drums at the bottom of this composition are situated asymmetrically.

Representations of various weapons, munitions, and Cossack or hetman insignias of power on the recreated tile resemble those found in many engravings and silver-gilt icon covers (*riza* or *oklad* of the Byzantine tradition) featuring the armorial bearings of Mazepa, which were created in Kyiv and Chernihiv during his reign. Probably at Orlyk's behest, a professional draughtsman from the Kyiv-Chernihiv art school prepared the original graphic designs for his own and Mazepa's arms. He may have modelled some distinguished earlier versions of the hetman's heraldic emblem. On the base of this graphic original, Baturyn tile-makers carved the wooden moulds for fashioning the clay tiles.

The image of a princely crown surmounting the helmet on Mazepa's coat of arms deserves special attention. Similarly shaped crowns are depicted on many early modern armorial bearings of princes of Ukraine and Western countries. The authors have suggested that Orlyk commissioned the heraldic emblem of the hetman with this specific crown to honour him as Prince of the Holy Roman Empire. Mazepa was awarded this title on 1 September 1707 for services rendered to the Holy League. This allows us to date the reconstructed stove tile with the hetman's arms, as well as the finishing of Orlyk's home, to between that time and the fall of Baturyn on 2 November 1708.

This particular type of crown does not appear in other representations of Mazepa's heraldic emblem from his era, which have survived to the present. Hence, the recreated design of the hetman's armorial bearings that adorned Orlyk's residence in Baturyn and dates to 1707-08 is unique and chronologically one of the latest known to us.

The combination there of Mazepa's coat of arms together with images of weapons, accoutrements, and hetman attributes of power is also unique. Other ceramic heraldic stove tiles manufactured in the Hetmanate, the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, and Muscovy lack this armature. It was likely an innovation of Orlyk to introduce such a military motif into Mazepa's heraldic composition on some stove tiles at his home. But the existence of these stoves was too brief. It would appear that the ravaging of Baturyn as well as

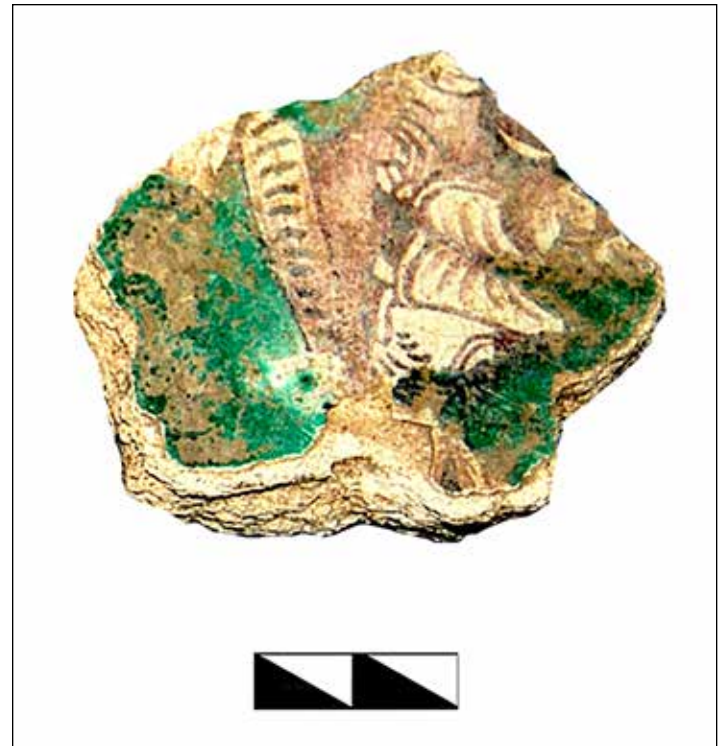
Orlyk's residence in 1708 put an end to the continued use and spread of his innovation in the ceramic tile decoration of early modern Ukraine and its neighbours.

The expedition investigated further the remnants of the administrative complex commissioned by Rozumovsky in 1750-64 on the site of Kochubei's former court. These government offices of the Cossack polity were demolished in the 19th century. Debris from two of them was partially uncovered in 2017-19. An example of such state buildings from Rozumovsky's era is the extant masonry two-story chancellery of the Kyiv Cossack regiment in the town of Kozelets, Chernihiv Oblast, which was constructed and embellished in the Ukrainian baroque style with rococo elements in 1756-65.

This past summer, in the park of Kochubei's estate, archaeologists resumed excavating the brick foundation of the south-western structure of this complex. Its dimensions are 12 m by 10 m; it has one floor, timber walls, a kitchen, a dining room, and at least two heating stoves. One was faced with costly ceramic tiles adorned by Delft blue and white glazing and featured ornate plant, anthropomorphic, zoomorphic, and architectural designs in the late baroque Dutch style. Rozumovsky was able to import them from the Netherlands. Photos of two fragments of these tiles discovered on site in 2018 were published in *Canadio-Byzantina*, No. 30, 2019, p. 13, figs. 4,a,b.

Another stove was apparently revetted with cheaper flat ceramic plaques glazed brown, green, light beige, yellow, and white. Presented on the following page is the photo of a shard covered with this polychrome enamel depicting seemingly the folds of a garment or drapery on the right side. It was found among the structure's remnants last year. Several analogous stove tiles bearing flower ornaments, human images, and landscapes executed in a similar naïve manner were unearthed at Kochubei's court and the citadel in previous years. Their painters adapted some artistic motifs of Dutch painted earthenware and reinterpreted them using multicoloured glazing techniques and traditions of Ukrainian folk art. Such tiles were possibly fashioned and decorated at the local manufactory of architectural majolica that Rozumovsky founded in Baturyn in 1750. During the 18th century, comparable replicas of popular and reputable Dutch glazed ceramic stove tiles were also produced in Kyiv, Chernihiv and Poltava provinces, and Galicia, Ukraine.

While excavating the Baturyn outskirts, archaeologists also found a broken gilt bronze pendant with an oval semi-precious gem from a necklace set of an elite Cossack woman, a



lily-shaped bronze belt clasp from a horse harness, a copper button, three copper Russian coins of small denomination, two broken iron locks and a key, various iron household implements, and three fragments of ceramic Cossack tobacco pipes, all dating to the 17th and 18th centuries.

*Fig. 6. Fragments of flat ceramic stove tiles with polychrome glazing, mid-18th century. Excavations at the citadel in 2007 (left) and Kochubei's park in 2019. Photos by V. Mezentsev and Yu. Sytyi.*

To summarize, in 2019, archaeologists closely examined the building history of the early modern fortifications of Baturyn and identified their Ukrainian and Polish designs. They graphically recreated some defensive structures and the general view of the hetman capital before its destruction in 1708. Remnants of the heretofore unknown masonry edifice and many informative decorative and heraldic stove tiles of the Mazepa era were discovered. The importance of these archaeological finds and the computer graphic reconstructions of the unique versions of Mazepa's and Orlyk's ceramic coat of arms for the study of heraldry and applied arts of Cossack Ukraine cannot be overstated. Next summer, excavations at Baturyn will continue.

Martin Dimnik and Volodymyr Mezentsev



# JOHN TREVOR WORTLEY REMEMBERED

John Trevor Wortley, born April 30, 1934, Bradford, Yorkshire, UK; died of heart disease, August 22, 2019, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

John read for the BA (1957) and MA (1960) at Durham University, along with being ordained as a priest in the Church of England (1959). He served a number of congregations in Winnipeg, usually in a voluntary role, and just missed celebrating the 60th anniversary of his ordination.

John first came to Winnipeg in 1964 to serve as Chaplain and Dean of Men at St. John's College, University of Manitoba. He returned to England to complete his doctoral work in Byzantine Studies at the University of London (1969) under the supervision of Joan Hussey, Cyril Mango and Robert Browning. He was then appointed later the same year as Professor of Medieval History, University of Manitoba, retiring as Emeritus in 2002. In 1989 he was awarded the Ph.D by accumulation from Durham University.

John's academic pilgrimage was centered about the Desert Fathers of Egypt and similar genres of literature beyond Egypt. His first translation and study came out of the latter group, *The Spiritually Beneficial Tales of Paul, Bishop of Monembasia*, initially in French (1987) and later in English for Cistercian Publications (1996). *The Spiritual Meadow of John Moschus* (Cistercian, 1992) is a better-known classic of Greek spiritual fathers, reprinted several times. John did stray from the Egyptian desert, publishing *John Scylitzes: A Synopsis of Byzantine History 811-1067 AD* (Cambridge, University Press 2010).

Wortley began a systematic effort to translate anew the trilogy of the Desert Father tradition, beginning with *The Book of the Elders: Sayings of the Desert Fathers, the Systematic Collection* (Cistercian, 2012), followed by *The Anonymous Sayings of the Desert Fathers, a select edition and*

*complete English translation* (Cambridge, 2013), and *Give me a Word; the Alphabetical sayings of the Desert Fathers* (St Vladimir's Seminary Press, 2014).

Wortley finished his journey with two other collections of Desert Father literature: *Palladius' Lausiac History*, a new translation using Bartelink's 1974 edition (Cistercian, 2015); and editing and contributing to *More Sayings of the Desert Fathers*, new English translations from various languages of the remaining apophthegms published by Dom Lucien Regnault (Cambridge, 2019).

The benefit of all these seminal translations for Wortley was



an encyclopaedic knowledge of the Desert Father traditions, upon which he reflected across the genre in a score of theological and thematic articles published in a variety of journals. His last work, *Introduction to the Desert Fathers* (Cambridge, June 2019), consolidated the fruit of all these translations and studies into a comprehensive overview of the personalities and the phenomena of these solitary holy men and women, along with the literary development of these pithy tales.

Emblematic of his scholarly life and passion is that these last two books were published within a few months of John's passing: *More*

*Sayings of the Desert Fathers* and *Introduction to the Desert Fathers*.

John Wortley was a kind and generous colleague, teacher and pastor, whose enthusiasm for the Desert Fathers never deserted him, as he frequently offered lectures to general audiences, as well as to academics. Translations last longer than monographs, and John's labours will provide several generations with the resources to appreciate deeply the wisdom of those strange holy men.

Robert Kitchen



# UNDERGRADUATE ESSAY COMPETITION

*Image: Hagia Sophia. Photo by  
Geoffrey Greatrex*

The winner of the Byzantine Studies prize is a student from McGill, Catriona Reid, who wrote an essay entitled “From Figurata to Fact: Subjectivity in Copies of Cristoforo Buondelmonti’s Chorographies of Constantinople,” which was singled out for being orderly, straightforward, and intelligent. In this essay, Reid argued that the varied later copies of the Florentine Buondelmonti’s map of Constantinople contain omissions and exaggerations of monuments and symbols that provide valuable insight into Western perceptions of the city during the mid to late fifteenth century.

We are also pleased to announce the sixth Undergraduate Essay Contest in Byzantine Studies, which is designed to celebrate and reward exceptional research undertaken by undergraduate students in Canada who have written essays, in English or French, on any theme relating to Byzantine studies, i.e., concerning the eastern Roman Empire from A.D. 312 to 1453. Applicants do not need to be a major in a pertinent discipline (Archaeology, Art History, Classics, History, Medieval Studies, Near Eastern Studies, etc.) to submit their work. Furthermore, the course for which the essay was written need not be focused specifically on Byzantine Studies. The prize for the winner will be \$100. Essays should be submitted electronically (from a university e-mail address) by either the student or the instructor on the student’s behalf. In either case, the student should have the instructor’s endorsement. They should be sent in pdf format to:

Dr. Conor Whately  
Department of Classics  
University of Winnipeg  
515 Portage Ave.  
Winnipeg, MB  
R3B 2E9 Canada  
Tel.: 204-786-9879  
[c.whately@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:c.whately@uwinnipeg.ca)

There should be no indication of the student’s identity on the essay document itself. Instead, the required information should be provided on a separate document (also sent electronically) that indicates the student’s name, email address, university affiliation, and the title of the paper. If the essay is being submitted by an instructor the name and email address of the applicant should be included.

The essay should be submitted as it was written for its course without revisions, with the exception of typographical corrections. It should be 10-20 pages in length (including bibliography and double-spaced). Students may submit only one essay per year.

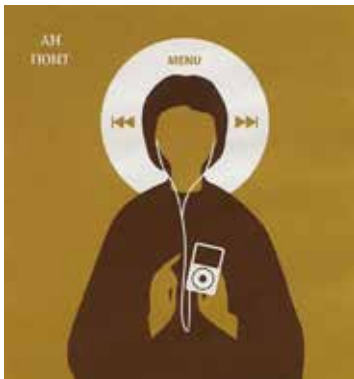
The judging is based on both the essay’s content and its form: the winning essay must be well written, clearly organized and free from errors of grammar and syntax; and the contest winner will have made good use of the pertinent sources, have covered their chosen subject thoroughly, and ideally have provided new insights on their chosen topic. The deadline for submitting material to the competition is May 31st, 2020. The winner will be notified in August (2020) and will be announced in a subsequent CAN-BYZ newsletter.

It is possible to submit the essay both to this contest and to that organised by SCAPAT ([www.scapat.ca](http://www.scapat.ca)).

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **Communications for 24th International Congress of Byzantine Studies**

There is still time to send in proposals for communications for the next international congress in Istanbul, due to take place in August 2021. The deadline is 15 April 2020. Details may be found on the congress website, <https://www.byzcongress2021.org/submission#free-communication-submission>.



### **Podcast on Byzantium**

The indefatigable Anthony Kaldellis has begun a regular podcast entitled 'Byzantium and Friends', which can be found at this site: <https://byzantiumandfriends.podbean.com/>. The discussions focus on various

aspects of Byzantium and its neighbours, e.g. Armenian art, Hagia Sophia, or the Coptic tradition, and feature experts in the field in conversation with the host. There have been 13 episodes so far; each is about 50 minutes long.

## **Petition for the antiquities at Venizelou station on the Thessaloniki metro**

There is concern for the preservation of antiquities of various periods, including the Byzantine, in work being undertaken in the construction of the new metro system in Thessaloniki. A petition has been prepared, which may be found at [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1FBRzitr6b-8kEuWSuCEoHGBlGHYgyGhD7QuuL7fZiZfw/view-form?edit\\_requested=true](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1FBRzitr6b-8kEuWSuCEoHGBlGHYgyGhD7QuuL7fZiZfw/view-form?edit_requested=true).

## **St Saviour in Chora to become a mosque?**



There are reports that this church, now the Kariye museum, may soon be turned into a mosque, following a court ruling. Some have inferred that this could set a precedent for Hagia Sophia itself. The news has not attracted as much attention as one might expect, but some details can be found at <https://www.theartnewspaper.com/news/court-ruling-converting-turkish-museum-to-mosque-could-set-precedent-for-hagia-sophia?fbclid=IwAR1MHtnqxTP5SjRTzJereHoXqPe9aB8eOanLxz0wjptAYF4A3VjmWB0Wlkg> and <https://greekcitytimes.com/2019/11/18/turkey-greek-chora-church-to-be-converted-into-a-mosque-is-hagia-sophia-the-next/>.

## **Dumbarton Oaks Textiles**

The website of DO continues to evolve and to include useful materials for the field. Recently a significant resource has been set up, which incorporates a complete catalogue of the textiles in the DO collection, edited by Gudrun Bühl and Elizabeth Dospěl Williams. It may be found at: <https://www.doaks.org/resources/textiles>.

*Images: (left) Byzantium and Friends podcast logo; (right) Parecclesion: Virgin & angels, from the Church of St Saviour in Chora. Photo by Geoffrey Greatrex.*

For more information about the Canadian Committee of Byzantinists, please visit:

[www.scapat.ca/canbyz/](http://www.scapat.ca/canbyz/)