

Canadio-Byzantina

A Newsletter published by the Canadian Committee of
Byzantinists

No.35, January 2024



Late fifth-century mosaic of the prophet Ezekiel in the church of Hosios David in Thessaloniki

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Introductory remarks

This is now already the twelfth such newsletter I have put together. As ever, I am grateful for those of you who have taken the trouble to write in with news of your activities or forthcoming events. I apologise that this issue is a little later than normal: I had a particularly busy Christmas period in England.

The general situation of Byzantine studies, and indeed the arts in general, is looking particularly bleak right now, above all in Ontario and Quebec. More on that below and in the treasurer's report. On a more positive note, however, Canada is sponsoring (in whole or in part) three roundtables that are being proposed to take place at the next international congress in Vienna in 2026. Cecily Hilsdale of McGill University and Elizabeth Dospěl Williams of Dumbarton Oaks, are organising a session on 'Threaded Worlds: Current Approaches to Late Antique and Early Byzantine Textiles', Anne-Laurence Caudano of the University of Winnipeg has put one together devoted to 'Studying Byzantine Scientific Cultures: Current Developments and a Vision for the Future', while Conor Whately (also of the University of Winnipeg) and Łukasz Różycki (Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań, Poland) are proposing one on 'New Directions in Byzantine Military History'. We await the verdict of the organisers on which will feature on the timetable, but congratulations are due to all those involved in putting these panels together. I cannot remember a congress in which we have put forward so many.

As I mentioned above, the context for our discipline right now is rather depressing. Provincial funding in Ontario, for instance, has steadily decreased, while income from foreign students, on which universities have become increasingly dependent, is set to diminish as

numbers are limited. Tuition increases have been strictly limited. The reaction of administrations is generally to target low-enrolment courses, which has hit Classics programmes hard; instruction of Greek and Latin is hard to maintain under these conditions (often ten is the minimum on which authorities insist), at least beyond the first term. Graduate programmes are also under fire, e.g. at Ottawa, where our M.A. in Late Antiquity evaded 'suspension' (i.e. closure) only by faculty agreeing to teach overload courses for this year (2023-4). It may merely be a stay of execution. It would be helpful to gather information on this topic, so please do not hesitate to e-mail me with news on how you and your programme are faring.

But let us end on a more positive note: thanks are due to Dimitris Krallis and all his team at SFU for an excellent BSC in October. Lucas McMahan offers a short report on it below, while I give an account of a meeting of Canadians there. We are delighted that Marica Cassis has agreed to take over from Richard Greenfield as Treasurer. I am grateful also to Aleksandar Jovanovic for agreeing to represent our Committee at the inter-congrès meeting in Athens to take place in April (on which he'll report in our next bulletin). It remains to find someone willing to succeed me as president, since I seem to have been occupying this post for rather a long time...Our website remains at: <http://www.scapat.ca/canbyz/>

We would welcome help in maintaining this site, so do please contact me if you are interested. We continue to offer the undergraduate essay prize (see below). Perhaps we should be offering others? See my report on our discussions in Vancouver below.

Geoffrey Greatrex

ACTIVITIES OF MEMBERS

George Amanatidis-Saadé, University of Ottawa/INALCO (Paris)

I am currently a doctoral candidate in the fourth year of my studies undertaken jointly at the University of Ottawa in Canada and the Institut national des langues et civilisations orientales (Inalco) in Paris, France, under the supervision of Geoffrey Greatrex and Christelle Jullien. My SSHRC-funded Ph.D. project is centered around the character and memory of Marutha of Martyropolis, a frontier bishop and ambassador in the late-fourth and early-fifth centuries. Through the production of a critical biography, I seek to overcome modern scholarship's limited understanding of Marutha and to reposition him in a place of importance within the histories of the Romans, Persians and Syriac Christians.

This last year has been almost entirely dedicated to progressing my thesis. Two chapters have been completed; the first presents the historical context leading up to Marutha's life and times, while the second closely examines the frontier in and of itself while establishing a holistic geographical profile for Sophanene, Marutha's homeland and bishopric.

Finally, I also presented at a conference hosted by the Department of Classics and Religious Studies of the University of Ottawa. My presentation focused on examining the choice of Maroutha as plenipotentiary ambassador to the Iranian Empire at the turn of the fifth century.

Marica Cassis, University of Calgary

With Steadman, S.R. and J.C. Ross, 'The Land that Time Forgot: Five Millennia of Settlement at Çadır Höyük on the Anatolian Plateau', in *From Households to Empires: Papers in Honor of Bradley J. Parker*. Edited by J.R. Kennedy and P. Mullins; 131-148. Sidestone Press, 2023.

With Sydney Burton and Sanaz Safari, 'Sharing Animals: Animal Imagery as Late Antique Intercultural Dialogue' in *The Bloomsbury Handbook of Material Religion in the Ancient Near East and Egypt*. Edited by S. Steadman and N. Laneri; pp 315-323 Bloomsbury, 2023.

'Mensa', *Brill Encyclopedia of Early Christianity*. Leiden: Brill. Forthcoming.

Anne-Laurence Caudano, University of Winnipeg

My contribution 'Cosmos, Calendars and Medical Advice in the Miscellanies of the Troitse-Sergieva Lavra and their Late Byzantine Counterparts (14th-early 16th centuries)' has appeared in *Texts and Contexts in Medieval Rus' and Early Modern Russia. Festschrift in Honour of Simon Franklin for his 70th birthday*, ed. by S. Torres Prieto and A. Franklin (Routledge, 2023). I am continuing my edition, translation and commentary of a Byzantine version of the Alfonsine astronomical tables of Paris, the most important set of astronomical tables to circulate in Latin Europe between the 14th and 16th centuries. This edition is slated to appear in the *Corpus des Astronomes Byzantins*. This project has benefitted from the (online) support of members of ALFA, an ERC funded research project on Alfonsine astronomy (CNRS, Observatoire de Paris), where I have discussed my work. In July, I participated in a Summer International Course on Cultural Astronomies in Medieval and Early Modern Europe organized by the Birkenmajer Institute for the History of Sciences, at the Polish Academy of Sciences. Byzantine astronomy was also represented at the History of Astronomy Conference of the World Copernican Congress in Toruń (Poland), where I was invited to speak.

Hugh Elton, Trent University, Peterborough

Hugh Elton has recently published an article on the food supply of Late Roman Constantinople with Haldon, J.F. and Newhard, J., 'Feeding Constantinople: from farm to capital in late antiquity', in Sessa, T. and Uhalde, K., eds., *Scale and the Study of Late Antiquity: Shifting Frontiers in Late Antiquity* (Edipuglia, 2023), 35-48. There's also a review of the recent and exciting volume on the *Notitia Dignitatum* by Kaldellis, A. and Kruse, M., *The Field Armies of the East Roman Empire, 361-630* (Cambridge: CUP, 2023) in *Classical Review* for 2023. I gave a lecture on the city of Alahan and its surrounding villages to Bilkent University in Turkey in October and as part of a conference on cities in Late Roman Asia Minor in Cologne in Germany in November. On the same trip, I was invited to give a lecture on politics in the reign of Zeno at Bamberg.

Geoffroy Feugiel Timbal Duclaux de Martin, Université de Montréal / Université de Franche Comté

Après un baccalauréat littéraire français, j'ai suivi deux ans en Classe Préparatoire aux Grandes Écoles, hypokhâgne et khâgne, tout en préparant l'école des Chartes. J'ai obtenu une licence d'histoire puis un master 2 de recherche Mondes Anciens, mention Histoire de la Méditerranée Antique, à l'Université de Montpellier 3. J'ai ensuite suivi la préparation au concours de l'agrégation d'histoire à l'Université Paris I Sorbonne. Je suis aujourd'hui doctorant à l'Université de Montréal et de Bourgogne Franche Comté, en cotutelle sous la direction de Chtristian Raschle et Audrey Becker. Ma thèse s'intitulera "Miles Christi : étude comparative des figures historiques, théologiques et politiques des martyrs militaires de la Grande Persécution à la *renovatio imperii* justinienne (284-565)".

Mes recherches portent sur l'histoire des martyrs, de l'armée romaine tardive, du christianisme ancien, la question de la non-violence et de l'objection de conscience, la patristique ainsi que les premiers monachismes (pacomien, martinien, lériniens, basilien.). En ce moment je prépare des articles qui portent respectivement sur le dossier de saint Démétrios de Thessalonique, sur le dossier de saint Mercure de Césarée et enfin une étude comparative entre la Légion thébaine et les 40 de Sébaste. Je prépare aussi une notice historique dans le cadre de l'édition de la traduction française du *Aegritudo Perdicae* mené au sein du GRAA/GRAT. Je prépare également un colloque avec en collaboration scriptorium : espace de collection et d'intercession du savoir (IIIe-Xe siècle).

Mes publications :

- mémoire de Master 2 sous la direction d'Hélène Ménard, "Devoirs militaires et obligations religieuses : étude sur l'objection de conscience dans l'armée romaine à travers les sources hagiographiques tardo-antiques."
- 'Vox in Rama audita : étude du motif du massacre des Innocents sur les sarcophages paléochrétiens', et 'La fuite en Égypte selon Sainte Marie Majeure', *La Revue du Monde Copte, Un fleuve d'eau vive. Trilogie sur l'entrée du Christ en Égypte*, tome 3: Les fruits, Limoges, 2024 (en cours de de publication)

Michael Giavara, University of Ottawa

I am an MA student at the department of Classics and Religious studies at the University of Ottawa under the supervision of Professor Geoffrey Greatrex. I just finished working on my thesis, focused on the political trajectory of the Italian Senatorial Aristocracy under Gothic and Eastern Roman rule.

My third and last chapter tried to highlight the reasons why the Senate as an institution ceased to play any role after the pontificate of Gregory the Great. While the devastation of the Gothic war and the instability brought to Italy by the Lombards certainly played a role in this development, my conclusion was that the deathblow came at the hands of Justinian and his successors. In his attempt to apply to the West the same measures he had enacted in the East (something we can see in Africa as well), Justinian displayed a fundamental lack of understanding for local realities. While imperial propaganda proclaimed a triumphant return to a past golden age, it was now the army (manned mostly by officials of Eastern origins), and to a lesser degree the Church, who were expected to do the actual governing of the peninsula on behalf of the emperor. Individual senators showed considerable ability in recovering from the losses sustained during the war, forming a powerful clique in Constantinople, but without the distinction of the right to sit in the Senate (something that was not hereditary and was harder to obtain in post-war Italy), tracking their history gets more difficult as they became pretty much indistinguishable from all other powerful landowners of provincial origin scattered around the rest of Italy and the Empire.

My BA thesis (University of Bologna, Italy) focused on the fascinating, and often slandered, figure of Magister Militum Ricimer and his attempt to salvage the Western Roman Empire by focusing all remaining resources and attention on defending Italy.

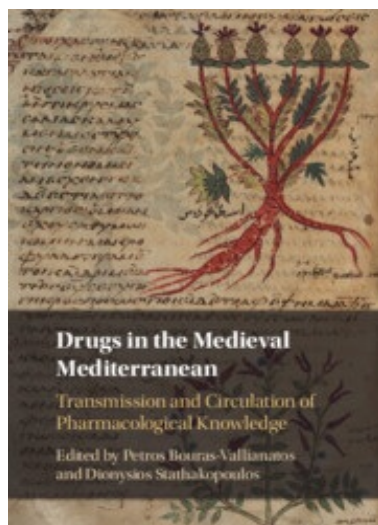
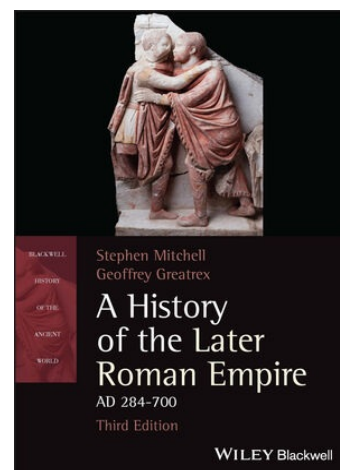
Geoffrey Greatrex, University of Ottawa

The third edition of *A History of the Later Roman Empire, 284-700* appeared in the summer; I helped to update this manual by Stephen Mitchell, adding two new chapters to extend the coverage from 641 to 700 and filling out some of the other material, bringing it up-to-date since the second edition came out in 2015. My brief article, ‘Le “Mégas Chronographos” et Procope’ appeared in *REB* 81 (2023), 49-55; my review of O. Gengler, M. Meier (eds.), *Johannes Malalas. Der Chronist als Zeithistoriker* (Stuttgart, 2022), was published in *Epigraphica* 83 (2023), 692-6.

Richard Greenfield, Queen’s University, Kingston

My chapter “Making Magic Happen: Understanding Drugs as Therapeutic

Substances in Later Byzantine Sorcery and Beyond”, in *Drugs in the Medieval Mediterranean: Pharmacological Exchange across Cultures, Genres, and Languages (11th-14th c.)*, eds. P. Bouras-Vallianatos and D. Stathakopoulos, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, pp. 245-276, appeared in November 2023. A new edition and translation of *The Life of Peter of Atroa* by Sabas (based on the Glasgow manuscript), on which I have collaborated with the principal authors Ioannis Polemis and Athanasios Markopoulos, is now in press with Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library and due to appear in October 2024. In June I participated in the workshop ‘New perspectives on MS Bononiensis 3632’ in Bologna, Italy where I presented a paper: ‘Another chapter in the physician’s health and wellness manual: Bononiensis 3632 as a glimpse of Byzantine magic in its context’.

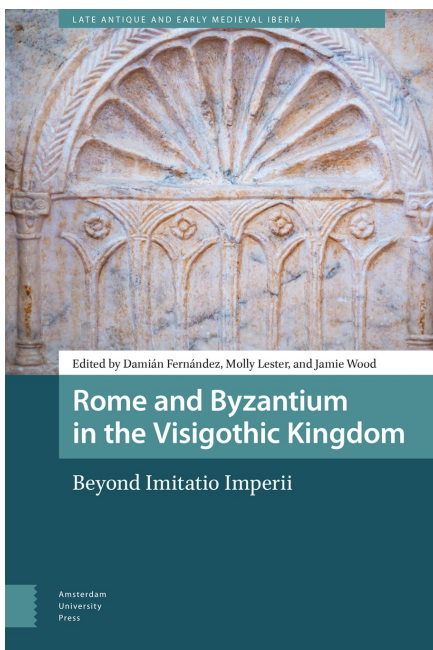


I have also continued to work as co-editor (with Alexander Alexakis of the University of Ioannina) for the DOML Greek Series. In 2024 there will appear two exciting volumes of Romanos the Melodist, *Songs on Women*, edited and translated by Thomas Arentzen (delayed from 2023) and the *Life of Peter of Atroa* by Sabas, mentioned above. We are always looking for potential projects for the DOML, so if you have one yourself or know of someone who might like to contribute to this prestigious Harvard UP series, please do get in touch with me.

As I head towards retirement (in July 2025) my teaching load has diminished. I taught my Grad seminar on Miracles and Magic in Byzantium in the Winter term but had the Fall term free apart from a directed reading for my new PhD student, Katrina Johnston, who intends to work on Byzantine surgery. I was able to take the opportunity to visit a number of places in the Peloponnese. Congratulations to one of my PhD students, Paul Gebhardt, who successfully defended his PhD thesis on “Gregory Palamas and Demetrios Kydones on God, Knowledge, and Humanity at the End of Byzantium,” in January with Christophe Erismann from Vienna as the external. Congratulations also to my two MA’s, Samantha Bryan and Zach Sykes, who completed their studies successfully in the summer.

It seems likely that three of my remaining PhDs will also complete in 2024 with a couple more to come thereafter, but the climate at Queen’s, which is currently beset by ‘austerity’ measures, has become openly hostile to Medieval and Byzantine studies. The Provost of the university ridiculed Classics at a large public meeting and the Arts and Science Dean of Studies likewise publicly scoffed at the idea Byzantine history would continue to be of interest after my retirement. The Department of Classics appears to be in the centre of the chopping block. With my other medieval colleague, Adnan Husain, increasingly involved in administration in Religious Studies, the future of anything much pre-1500 in history at Queen’s and the strong graduate niche program we have built over the past couple of decades seems bleak, to say the least. It would be good to hear from colleagues around the country if similarly negative patterns of attitude towards our field are evident, or if Queen’s is an outlier.

Cecily Hilsdale, McGill University, Montreal



In 2023 I presented papers locally in Montreal and also in Vancouver at the annual Byzantine Studies Conference, which was expertly organized by Dimitris Krallis (congratulations!). I also published the following essay, which serves as a preview for my larger research project:

‘The Roman Jewel in the Visigothic Crown: A Reassessment of the Royal Votive Crowns of the Guarrazar Treasure’, in *Rome and Byzantium in the Visigothic Kingdom: Beyond Imitatio Imperii*, ed. Damián Fernández, Molly Lester, and Jamie Wood (Amsterdam University Press, 2023), 123-49.

(<https://www.aup.nl/en/book/9789463726412/rome-and-byzantium-in-the-visigothic-kingdom>).

At McGill I continue to work with a fantastic group of graduate

students. This year my graduate seminar was anchored by the diverse corpus of over 700 textiles and textile fragments in the collection of the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, most of which remain unpublished in storage. Final research papers were based on this corpus in an attempt to build provisional histories for these pieces that have been profoundly decontextualized and kept out of sight.

Off campus, I just rotated off the board of Review Editors for *The Medieval Review (TMR)* but continue to serve as a member of the Editorial Board for *Speculum* and the editorial collective for the journal's anniversary issue dedicated to 'Speculations'. I am also co-organizing along with colleagues at Université de Montréal and Concordia University the Canadian Conference of Medieval Art Historians to be held in Montreal on March 15-16, 2024. Byzantine Art History proposals are invited (the deadline was January 12, 2024).

Connor Hopper, University of Ottawa

I am a first-year master's student at the University of Ottawa, and I completed my BA in Ancient Greek and Roman Studies at Trent University this past spring. For my thesis, I am focusing on Gothic identity and Roman perceptions of the Goths in literary sources throughout the late fourth and early fifth centuries. I am particularly interested in studying how treatment of the Goths changed after Theodosius I came to power, and after the 1st Council of Constantinople. My interests generally revolve around understanding the interactions between the late Roman government and its subject peoples, and I am fascinated by how state priorities evolved in response to emerging threats and opportunities that disrupted an established status quo.

Aleksandar Jovanovic, University of the Fraser Valley, Abbotsford

In September 2023, British Columbia welcomed a fifth Byzantinist to its ranks when Aleksandar Jovanovic joined the History Department at the University of the Fraser Valley (UFV) in Abbotsford as an Assistant Professor of the pre-modern Mediterranean. With the new position, Aleks embarked on a new project exploring the local Epirote populace's engagement with the imperial bureaucratic practices - such as issuing official contracts - in managing their own affairs. The idea for the project stems from his previous work *Michael Palaiologos and the Publics of the Byzantine Empire in Exile, c.1223-1259* (Palgrave Macmillan 2022), which examines the public sphere in the exilic state centred in Asia Minor and, specifically, the ways in which courtiers employed different communicative actions to gain the support of the people across the empire. His current research project shifts from the Nicene state to the early decades of the successor state in Epiros and the surviving works of Ioannes Apokaukos, the metropolitan bishop of Naupaktos.

The surviving opus of Ioannes Apokaukos comprises over two hundred letters, notes, and synodal decisions - all of which have escaped the traditional Byzantine literary editing process of turning them into a cohesive but somewhat depersonalized letter collection - leaving us with a significant number of references to the mundane workings of provincial society. Upon reading the works of the metropolitan bishop, an active and rather interconnected world of provincial urban and rural communities comes to the fore. The people proliferating through the pages of Apokaukos' work appear to have been more than

aware of the universal practices of the imperial administration. Thus, we see that provincial communities both urban and rural, literate and illiterate, and spanning from the island of Kerkyra to the metropolitan city of Naupaktos, had a shared tradition of producing written and signed agreements modelled on the exempla offered by imperial administration when it came to arranging their local interrelationships. Aleks' new project explores the remarkably uniform mindset of the people living across the Byzantine world when regulating their private and business affairs, which, in turn, made cross-regional communication and interconnectedness rather seamless.

With a new project under his belt, Aleks is excited to start the new chapter of his academic journey at UFV. In his new role as Assistant Professor in History, Aleks hopes to contribute to the further popularization of Byzantine Studies among students in British Columbia.

JaShong King, University of Ottawa

The penultimate year of my PhD has been a productive, albeit focused one as I work towards finishing my dissertation in the next year. The post-Theodosian novels (the primary sources for my research) have been fully digitally encoded for sentiment analysis and the political analysis is almost complete. In addition, I am preparing to teach my first course in the coming semester, a self-designed one on Early Medieval Italy, from 400-800 CE. Guest lecturers will also include two other CCB members, Eduardo Fabbro and Lucas McMahon, for their expertise on Lombard Italy and the Exarchate of Ravenna, respectively.

Dimitris Krallis, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver

Dimitris Krallis has entered the fifth and penultimate year of Directorship at the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Centre for Hellenic Studies at Simon Fraser University. In his capacity as Director he has procured with Sharon Gerstel at UCLA funding for a pilot project that brings together the communities of scholars and students from the two institutions for collaborations on the realm of Digital Humanities and Knowledge Translation, those helping graduate students add new skills on their CVs. He has continued fostering the community of Byzantinists now growing in British Columbia, where there are now 5 scholars working on Late Antiquity and Byzantium in the fields of Art History, Archaeology, and History across three universities. Together, this community, with financial assistance from the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies, hosted the 49th BSANA Byzantine Studies Conference in Vancouver in October 2023. Dr. Krallis is finishing a book Manuscript in Greek provisionally titled *Βυζάντιο και Νεοελληνικό Φανταστικό* (*Byzantium and the Neohellenic Imaginary*), while also still toying with ideas of governance in the Medieval Roman polity.

In 2023 Dr Krallis presented two conference papers. 'Reflections on European Pasts Ignored: Taxes, State Power, and the Measuring of Society in a Forgotten Europe' was presented on May 24 at The Idea and Futures of Europe Workshop organized by Rutgers, SFU, and Università per Stranieri di Siena while 'Personalized Efficiency: Taxation and Dialogue in Byzantine State Finances' was presented on October 29 at the 49th Byzantine Studies Conference in Vancouver. Since September 2023 Dr Krallis has been working on a project involving the digitization and study of a large family archive from the Island of Lesbos. The archive contains materials from the late Ottoman and early Modern Greek state era of the

island's history and takes his Byzantinist's training and methodological toolkit into a new research field.

Antony Littlewood, University of Western Ontario, London

Progress has been slow again this year on his third biography of old cricketers. He has, however, continued his travels despite increasingly poor personal locomotion. Chronologically, apart from visits to his sons and their families in Victoria (British Columbia) and Oxford (England), he spent about twelve days in Saudi Arabia (travelling by land from Riyadh to Jedda, most interestingly in old Nabataean territory), three weeks in Cabo Verde and the Portuguese islands of the Azores and Mauritius (with three flights cancelled because of bad weather), a week in Inuvik and Tuktoyaktuk (Northwest Territories) on the Arctic Ocean, and a week with Glenn Peers touring and camping on the Yemeni island of Socotra amid Dragon-blood trees and other endemic plants and birds. For the little that it is worth he has now visited all 193 United Nations Sovereign Member Nations.

Lucas McMahon, University of Ottawa

I spent the first year of my SSHRC post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Ottawa working on transforming my 2022 Princeton University dissertation into a monograph, which is a history of state control of information flows in Byzantium. Alongside this, I submitted three journal articles and one book chapter. In June I received the best dissertation prize from the Center for Digital Humanities@Princeton, and in October I attended the Byzantine Studies Conference in Vancouver, where I gave a talk on GIS approaches to Leon the Philosopher's ninth-century beacon chain and its place in Byzantine-Abbasid imperial competition.

Katrina Rosie, Queen's University, Kingston

Katrina is in the final stages of her PhD dissertation supervised by Richard Greenfield in the history department at Queen's University. Her work focuses on the development of domestic protective practices in 5th-9th century Byzantium and aims to shed light on lived religion and rites which blur the boundary between religious and magical thinking. Outside of the boundaries of Byzantine history, she is also interested in ritual theory, folk traditions, material history and new approaches to cultural conservation. Her newest article 'Locating the Kitchen and the Storeroom on the Ritual Landscape' will appear in Routledge's Ritual, Gender and Media series in the near future. She will also be presenting a paper at the 'Shifting Paradigms: Women, Rhetoric and Power' conference at Bader College in Herstmonceaux, UK in February on the influence of domestic rites on broader liturgical development.

Louis-Patrick St-Pierre, Queen's University, Kingston

I am currently leaning towards the end of my doctoral studies, which I have been undertaking under the supervision of Richard Greenfield and joint supervision of Anthony Kaldellis (University of Chicago). My SSHRC-funded Ph.D. project focuses on 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

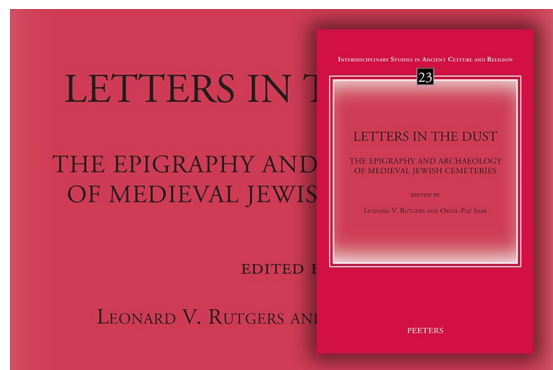
identity expression. By now, I have completed my four chapters and am working on the introduction and conclusion. I will spend next winter working on the final touches with the hope to bring the thesis to completion before the summer.

In parallel, I got new professional opportunities through the last year, but these are unfortunately not in the field. I have had this summer a short-term employment as Junior Curator and Animation Agent at the Hearst Ecomuseum, with the support of Youth Canada Works program. More recently, in mid-October, I have been appointed as acting executive director of the Société rimouskoise du patrimoine (Rimouski Heritage Society), replacing the current director who is in maternity leave. The mission of this non-profit organisation is as follows: *La mission de la Société rimouskoise du patrimoine est de générer l'appropriation collective du patrimoine et la participation citoyenne afin de contribuer au sentiment d'appartenance au milieu et d'améliorer la qualité de vie à Rimouski. Elle assure cet aspect de sa mission par des actions d'animation, de sensibilisation, d'accompagnement et de collectionnement en lien avec le patrimoine bâti rimouskois. Elle veille aussi à la gestion et l'animation du Site historique de la maison Lamontagne, une institution muséale qui met en valeur l'évolution de l'architecture domestique de l'Est-du-Québec, de la Nouvelle-France à aujourd'hui, ainsi que le mode de vie dans la Maison Lamontagne du régime français à 1920.*

We have also launched a historical videogame, *Remembrance*, which brings the player in several immersive environments of Eastern Quebec from the fourteenth to the twentieth century. This kind of game is good for both children and adults. Do have a look : <https://www.reembrance-estuary.ca/> !

Linda Safran, Toronto

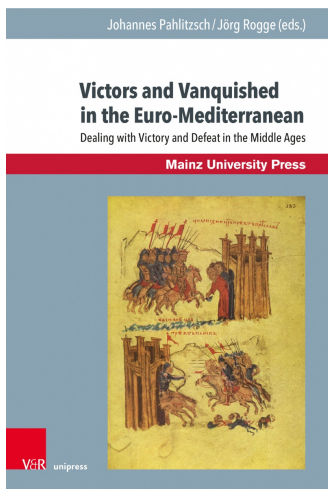
I spent 2023 as an honorary fellow of the Edinburgh College of Art (ECA) while in Scotland for my husband's sabbatical. There are far more Byzantinists in Edinburgh than in Toronto, and they have lots of activities (although some are cancelled as a result of frequent 'industrial action'). I participated in a round table in honour of Professor Emeritus Tom Brown, and I examined the Neophytos Typikon with Niels Gaul and Panagiotis Agapitos when the latter came to visit. One article appeared this year: 'Remembering the Jewish Dead in Medieval Apulia and Basilicata', in *Letters in the Dust: The Epigraphy and Archaeology of Medieval Jewish Cemeteries*, ed. Leonard Rutgers and Ortal-Paz Saar (Leuven: Peeters, 2023), 35-63. Another should be out by the time this newsletter appears: 'From Sinai to Southern Italy: The Symbolic Geography of Saint Catherine', in 'Between Symbolic and Political Geographies in the Byzantine Sphere: Ideology, Cultural Tradition and Religious Identity from Southern Italy to the Eastern Mediterranean World (ca. 600-1600)', special issue, edited by Mircea Duluş and Nunzio Bianchi, *Études byzantines et post-byzantines* 5 (2023). I presented papers on an object in the Sion Treasure at the Institute for Medieval Studies (Leeds) and the ECA. And I continue to add to artofthemiddleages.com, a free resource for anyone who teaches medieval (including Byzantine) art. Please check it out!



Alexandra Vukovich, King's College, London

My first two years as a permanent lecturer at King's College London have been exciting and rewarding, both in terms of teaching and in terms of research. At the moment, I am teaching a series of new courses, including an 'Approaches to the craft of the historian' course for first-year students that explores the Steppe World (Semester 1) and the formation of Early Rus (Semester 2). I also offer a second- and final-year course, 'Peoples of the Steppe', that explores the Eurasian Steppe world transhistorically, focussing on the time of the Mongols, with a deep dive into the Mongols in Northern Eurasia. I also convene an MA seminar on the Global Medieval Mediterranean wherein I expand the Mediterranean basin to include the wider Eurasian world in the Middle Ages and its incursions into the Black Sea and Mediterranean basin. The flexibility of course design at King's has allowed me to explore different approaches to both my research material and wider research interests, and I am currently considering a course that explores the transformation of Rus from the advent of Byzantine Christianity to the end of the Mongol period. I have several MA students working on topics related to the Mongols and Northern Eurasia, as well as a new PhD student working on Pronoia in the Middle Byzantine Period.

In terms of research, I am working through a backlog of unfinished articles and bits of research in order to clear my desk for a new research project on Medievalism and Byzantinism in the Black Sea basin. Over the past year, I am pleased that several publications have seen the light of day, including an article on numismatics that was funded both by the Onassis Foundation and by Dumbarton Oaks, and which was mainly written at the British School at Athens.



'Victory and Defeat Liturgified: The Symbolic World of Martial Ritual in Early Rus' in Johannes Pahlitzsch (ed.), *Victors and Vanquished. Cultures of War in the Northern and Mediterranean Worlds. Byzantium and European Cultures of War* (Mainz: Mainz University Press, 2024), 82-113.

'Northmen and Rus in Light of the Numismatic Evidence' in Philippa Byrne and Caitlin Ellis (eds.), *Exchange and Entanglement across the Norman Worlds*, Transcultural Medieval Studies Series (Turnhout: Brepols, 2023), 187-211.

'The Ethnic Process' in Benjamin Anderson and Mirela Ivanova (eds.), *Towards a Critical Historiography of Byzantine Studies, Viewpoints* (University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press: 2023), 121-132.

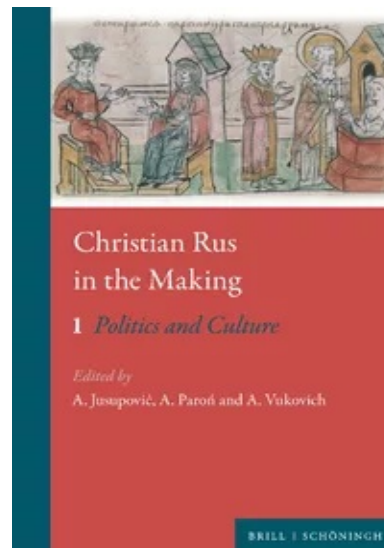
'Thoughtful Agglomeration: Late Byzantine Sources for Muscovite Ceremonial' in Susana Torres Prieto (ed.), *Texts and Contexts in Medieval Rus' and Early Modern Russia* (London: Routledge, 2023), 117-134.

I am also pleased to announce two upcoming edited volumes resulting from a large conference that took place in Warsaw in 2020. Sadly, we now realize that the group of scholars, mainly from Eastern Europe, had met for the last time, possibly for a long interval, due to the horrific and ongoing invasion of Ukraine by the Russian state. These two volumes are the result of a collaboration that may not happen again for a while.

Christian Rus in the Making: Politics and Culture, Volume 1, Adrian Jusupović, Aleksander Paron, Alexandra Vukovich (eds.), Worlds of the Slavs Series (Leiden: Brill, 2024). See: <https://brill.com/display/title/64232>

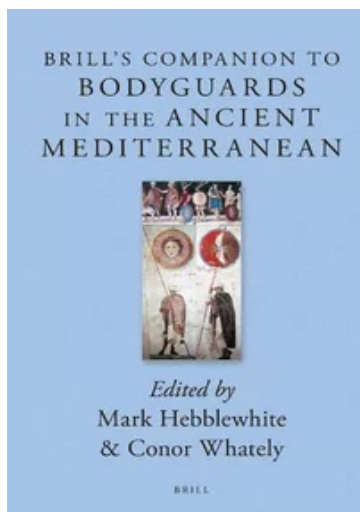
Christian Rus in the Making: Textual Production, Volume 2, Adrian Jusupović, Aleksander Paron, Alexandra Vukovich (eds.), Worlds of the Slavs Series (Leiden: Brill, Worlds of the Slavs Series, 2024).

Our research group ‘Worlds of the Slavs’, wants to stress the importance of keeping up scholarly contacts, even in times of war, as these contacts have offered some sense of normalcy and progress for our embattled colleagues, including those now in exile, both Ukrainians who fled Russian bombs and artillery and Russians who have fled a regime seeking to repress any and all dissent, resistance, criticism, and accountability for its crimes. In 2024 we hope for peace, both in Ukraine and globally.



As a commissioning editor for the 'Worlds of the Slavs' series at Brill, I would like to invite any interested parties to submit book proposals and manuscripts to our editorial board, if they fall within the remit of our series: <https://brill.com/display/serial/WOTS>

Conor Whately, Winnipeg



Book: *Brill's Companion to Bodyguards in the Ancient Mediterranean World*, Brill, co-edited with Mark Hebblewhite

Book Chapters:

1. 'Chapter 1. Bodyguards in the Ancient Mediterranean World', in M. Hebblewhite and C. Whately (eds.), *Brill's Companion to Bodyguards in the Ancient Mediterranean World*, Brill, 1-18
2. 'Looking for Unit Cohesion at the End of Antiquity', in Hall, J., Lee, G., and Rawlings, L. (eds.), *Unit Cohesion and Warfare in the Ancient World*, Routledge, 140-157.

Conferences and Seminars:

1. 'Romans and Nabataeans in Ancient Arabia', AIA Niagara, November 2023
2. Presentation, October 2023 (invited): 'Agathias and the Face of Battle', Poznań, Poland, Adam Mickiewicz University (guest lecture)
3. Conference Paper, September 2023 (invited): 'The Sounds of War in the Age of Justinian: Procopius, Agathias, and the Reconquest of Italy', The Sounds of War, Berlin

4. Conference Paper, July 2023: 'Military Communities on the Frontiers of Sixth-Century CE Rome and Persia: A Comparative Study', Leeds International Medieval Congress 2023
5. Conference Paper, May 2023 (invited): 'Procopius on Arabia and Palestine in the Sixth Century', Procopius and his Justinianic World, Barcelona
6. Conference Paper, May 2023: 'Soldiers and Civilians in the Roman Conquest of Nabataea: the Case of Babatha', CAC Annual Meeting, Halifax
7. Short Presentation, March 2023: 'The End of the *Limitanei*', workshop for *Limitanei* project (short, online, presentation)
8. Conference Paper, March 2023: 'War and Peace in the Roman Conquest of Nabataea', Many Faces of War VIII (hybrid)
9. Seminar Paper (invited), February 2023: 'Soldiers and Civilians in Late Antique Roman Arabia', Newcastle Roman Archaeology Seminar (online)

Tiffany van Winkoop, Madison, WI

In 2022-2023, I completed my second year of the PhD program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, which included a range of courses and Teaching Assistant obligations. I presented research projects at various stages; first, in an internal workshop which I co-organized at UW-Madison titled 'Eunuch Workshop: Gender & Power in 10th century Eastern Roman Court Culture' with myself, Felix Szabo from the University of Chicago, and Leonora Neville from UW-Madison.

In the Spring Semester I presented a paper titled, 'Identity Politics? Considerations on eunuchs in Byzantine Legal Corpora (c. 534-892)' at the 22nd Annual Vagantes Conference on Medieval Studies at Harvard University. I also presented two papers at the 58th International Congress on Medieval Studies at Western Michigan University. The first paper, which was included in a roundtable titled 'Revisiting a Racialized Camelot: Lesser-Known 'Knights of Color' and Addressing Lacunas in Our Approaches' was titled 'The Double-Distorting Mirror: Racialization & Reception of Justinian I in Prince Valiant'. The second paper was included in a panel on Audience and Action in Byzantine Ceremonies (sponsored by the Mary Jaharis Center for Byzantine Art and Culture) and was titled 'A Court of One's Own? The Visibility of Women in The Book of Ceremonies'. I was awarded an Early Excellence in Teaching Award from the Department of History for my exemplary work as a Teaching Assistant.

Finally, I continued to pursue pedagogical training by participating in supplemental training such as UW's 'Discussion Project' 8-week course, and additional no-credit courses through the Delta Program in Research, Teaching, and Learning. In the summer of 2023 I also had the privilege of participating in the Medieval Greek Summer Session at the Gennadius Library as organized by the American School of Classical Studies at Athens which included a Leventis Foundation scholarship.

Thomas Wort, University of Ottawa

I have started my M.A. in the Late Antiquity programme at Ottawa, I am studying doctors, hospitals, and the treatment of the sick in Late Antiquity. These include figures such as Marutha of Martyropolis, Gabriel of Singara, Oribasius, Anthimus, Felix Cassius, and more. This will be done through reading

works of theirs that survive, as well as accounts from other primary sources regarding their profession, as well as the changes in medicine and in the practices of treatment of the sick from Galen onwards. I will also be researching how the development of Christianity in this time period affected the treatment of the sick.

Julian H. Yang, Kangwon National University, Korea

I have successfully completed my first year in Korea. Since my arrival here in September 2022. I published a few peer-reviewed journal articles (in Korean and English) and presented three conference papers, one of which was delivered at the 11th Korea-Japan Symposium on the Medieval History of Europe (circa 1988) in August 2023. I have also taught two courses on Byzantium in Seoul at the Academy of European Humanities. Thus, this year had been very busy but rewarding. I am scheduled to present one more paper before the end of this year at the Chuncheon National Museum in Korea on Niketas Choniates.

Currently, I am working on a research project funded by the National Research Foundation of Korea on examining the transmission of popular literature from medieval Islamic world to Byzantium (2023-2025). Once this is done, I am moving onto translating Dr Greenfield's book on the *Life of Lazaros of Mount Galesion* in Korean (2026-2027). My research focus has thus been on Byzantine hagiography and religious literature. Starting next year, I will expand my ballpark to cover the historiographical side of Byzantium. As being one of the few, if not the only active, Byzantinist(s) in Korea, I find it my responsibility to build an ecosystem here so that anyone who is interested in this field can start their academic journey easily. As my first step, I have started teaching an undergraduate survey course on Byzantium at KNU. Hopefully this course matures smoothly in the future.

Recent Publications:

'A Crusade Against Christians? Bohemond of Taranto and His Campaign in 1107', *Mediterranean Review* 16 (2023): 1-18.

'The Lives of Andrew the Fool and Basil the Younger: Culture and Eschatology in Middle Byzantium', *Journal of Western Medieval History* 52 (2023): 1-47.



Foliate cross between birds, sixth-century, Byzantine museum, Thessaloniki

REPORTS

Treasurer's Report

In what will be my final report (see below) I am rather sad to note that our membership in 2023 has declined somewhat and now looks to be hovering around the 30 mark. We have been pleased to welcome several new members, primarily graduate students, but the picture should probably be described as worrying. The main reason for decline is the decent number of students graduating but then almost always being forced to leave the field; one or two of our long-term members have also lapsed and at the same time our field is apparently not seen as valuable by university administrators who control budgets, so that full time or adjunct positions are growing ever scarcer – and with them, of course, go graduate students.

As usual I thank all those who have been prompt in paying their dues, but would encourage others, if you have not already done so by the time you read this, to act! In particular I would like to thank those generous supervisors who continue to support us by paying memberships for their students – three individuals and their students now make up about one third of our organisation. The shift to e-transfer payments by Interac on autodeposit has been a great success and the majority of members now take care of the transaction that way. Please do consider doing this, as it is much simpler than writing and working with cheques these days! To do so, please use your online banking service and my email address – greenfie@queensu.ca - to send your membership fee. As you make the payment you will see The Canadian Committee of Byzantinists as the recipient (not me personally!). I receive an email once a deposit has been made so record keeping is simple. But, if you don't do or like online banking, you may of course continue to send a cheque payable to 'The Canadian Committee of Byzantinists' to me: Prof. Richard Greenfield, Department of History, Watson Hall, Queen's University, 49 Bader Lane, Kingston ON, K7L 3N6

Finally, I am delighted to report that Marica Cassis has agreed to take over my role as secretary / treasurer in 2024 as I move towards retirement. Many thanks to her; perhaps she can work some magic and give us a new spark! Details of how this will affect dues payments will be announced in due course.

Maria Cassis writes: I will be taking over as Treasurer for the Canadian Committee of Byzantinists in the coming year. I specialize in Byzantine archaeology in Anatolia, with a focus on small-scale settlements and gender theory. I am the director of the medieval excavations at the site of Çadır Höyük I'm currently at the University of Calgary and have just completed a five year term as Head of the Department of Classics and Religion. I was formerly at Memorial University of Newfoundland in the Department of History. I look forward to being more involved with our organization.

Report on the 49th Byzantine Studies Conference in Vancouver, B.C.



The 49th annual Byzantine Studies Conference was hosted at Simon Fraser University's Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue in Vancouver in October 26-29, 2023, with Dimitris Krallis running the local organizing committee and the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Centre for Hellenic Studies providing support. We could not have asked for a better venue, organization, or weather. Blue skies and gentle autumn sun blanketed the city outside, while inside the Wosk Centre many convivial conversations were had. 65 papers were delivered across 19 sessions, with ample time made for discussion over a wide range of excellent food and drink options arranged by the organizing

committee. Multiple career development sessions were run for graduate students and early career researchers, breakfast and lunches were provided, with the Mary Jaharis Center, Hellenic College Holy Cross, and Dumbarton Oaks all supporting the conference. Attendees came from far and wide, and while most were from North America, a few came from as far as Vienna, Belgrade, Belfast, and even Ethiopia. Papers on Byzantine art and literature were well-represented, but history, archaeology, and liturgy also made strong appearances. The 2023 organizing committee has set the bar high, and now we wait to reconvene in New York for the 50th conference in autumn 2024.

Lucas McMahon

Report on an informal meeting of Canadian Byzantinists at the 49th Byzantine Studies Conference in Vancouver (26-29 October 2023)

There was a useful short meeting of Canadian Byzantinists at the very start of the BSC this year; our thanks to Dimitris Krallis and his team for making this possible. Apart from Dimitris himself, the following were present: Evan Freeman (SFU), Marica Cassis (Calgary), Tiffany van Winkoop (Ph.D. student at Madison, WI), Aleks Jovanovic, Lucas McMAdhon (Ottawa) and Geoffrey Greatrex (Ottawa).

First, Marica Cassis, whose mandate as Chair of the department of Classics & Religion will come to an end on 31st December, has kindly agreed to take over from Richard Greenfield as the Treasurer of our Committee. We are delighted that she is willing to take this on. Second, Aleks Jovanovic accepted to represent our Canadian committee at the inter-congrès meeting in Athens in April 2024. These were the two most concrete decisions made, both important to keeping our small association going.

On a more general level, people suggested using the bulletin (or an e-mail list) to communicate with other members about conferences they intend to attend. As was pointed out, we are scattered among various research groups, whether in Classics, for instance, or Medieval Studies, Modern Greek Studies, or Art

History. In order to liaise with other members, perhaps to put a panel together, it would be useful if people signalled in advance if they were intending to go to a particular event. On a similar note, Tiffany van Winkoop was interested in networking with graduate students, of whom there are a good number among our members. Might we then set up a channel of communication? I hope someone can put something together.

We hope to co-ordinate visiting speakers more in the future, whether to the West Coast, for instance, or to eastern/central Canada. We shall continue to keep in touch on this point. We shall also investigate the possibility of setting up a prize for an M.A. thesis in Byzantine studies, like our undergraduate essay prize. Finally, it was pointed out that relevant jobs do come up in British Columbia sometimes in the B.C. colleges network: for sessional positions, priority is given to Canadians, which then gives a chance of getting a permanent job when one comes up.

All in all, it was a friendly and useful meeting, as can be seen from the report above. Thanks to all who participated.

Geoffrey Greatrex

UPDATE ON THE CANADA-UKRAINE BATURYN ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT IN 2023

Fortunately, during the ongoing Russo-Ukrainian War, the town of Baturyn in Chernihiv province, the former capital of the 17th-18th-century Cossack state or Hetmanate in north eastern Ukraine, has survived so far. In 2022-23, it escaped the Russian occupation, bombardments, and ruination. Its five museums with their collections of antiquities of the local National Historical and Cultural Preserve “Hetman’s Capital”, as well as the reconstructed citadel, palaces of the Cossack rulers or hetmans, treasury, court hall, and churches of the 17th to 19th centuries, have been safely preserved and are open for the public. Despite the war, in 2023, nearly 70,000 Ukrainians visited the town museums of antiquities, hetman palaces, and other historical sites (www.baturin-capital.gov.ua/ , www.facebook.com/getmanskastolitsya.zapovidnyk, www.youtube.com/channel/UCE8xgalPHSkzsomu2pzvRlg , www.kyivpost.com/post/20093).

Before the war, in 1995-2021, the remnants of the Byzantine era and early modern structures, fortifications, and graves in Baturyn were the foci of our Canada-Ukraine archaeological excavations. This project is sponsored by the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies (CIUS) at the University of Alberta and the Ucrainica Research Institute in Toronto (www.ualberta.ca/canadian-institute-of-ukrainian-studies/centres-and-programs/jacyk-centre/baturyn-project.html). The Ukrainian Studies Fund in New York also supports archaeological and historical investigations of Baturyn.

As a result of the continued military actions in eastern and southern Ukraine, the excavations at Baturyn were officially suspended in 2022-23. Only minor damage to some medieval and early modern archaeological monuments in its suburbs, inflicted by the military trenches and dug-out shelters, were reported by the local scholars in 2023. Canadian and Ukrainian archaeologists plan to resume our annual

excavations in Baturyn next summer, if the hostilities in Ukraine allow. Then I will be happy to contribute my new report on archaeological research there to *Canadio-Byzantina*.



Courtesy Archaeology Magazine, September/October 2023

Our reports on the excavations in Baturyn published by *Canadio-Byzantina* have attracted the attention of editors of a popular Archaeology magazine of the Archaeological Institute of America in N.Y. In 2023, the executive editor of this magazine published there a nicely illustrated article “Excavating Ukraine’s Lost Capital” about Baturyn as a bastion of Cossack independence and culture and its tragic destruction in 1708. Canadian historians and I consulted with the author of this publication on our archaeological findings in the town and provided their photos (<https://www.archaeology.org/issues/522-2309/features/11638-ukraine-baturyn-cossack-capital>).

Volodymyr Mezentsev, Ph. D.,
Executive Director, Canada-Ukraine Baturyn Project
CIUS Toronto Office
Email: v.mezentsev@utoronto.ca



Following the online meeting of the Organizing Committee of the 25th International Congress of Byzantine Studies -Vienna 2026 with the members of the AIEB Bureau on 16 March 2023, we would like to inform you about the preliminary profile and structure of the Congress programme. The call for Free Communications will be sent in spring 2025. You may find below the main theme of the Congress, the themes of six Plenary Sessions, to be confirmed and approved at the Inter Congress meeting in Athens on 12 April 2024.

**INFORMATION ON THE PROFILE AND STRUCTURE
OF THE 25th CONGRESS OF BYZANTINE STUDIES
Vienna 2026**

Date: The 25th International Congress of Byzantine Studies will be held on 24 to 29 August 2026 in Vienna, Austria.

Main Theme: “Byzantium beyond Byzantium”, “Byzance au-delà de Byzance”, “Byzanz jenseits von Byzanz”, “Bisanzio oltre Bisanzio”, “Το Βυζάντιο πέρα από το Βυζάντιο”.

General Rule: Scholars can participate in no more than two sessions throughout the Congress. (i.e., as speaker in two sessions, or as speaker in one session plus as convener, or as convener in two sessions).

Plenary Sessions: There will be six Plenary Sessions. The list of Plenary Session themes and speakers will be approved at the Inter-Congress meeting in Athens on 12 April 2024. National Committees will be informed about the details shortly before the meeting. The themes for Plenary Sessions are:

1. Byzantium lost and found
2. Romanitas beyond Byzantium. Diffusion and impact of ideas of Rome in a “post-Roman” world
3. The beasts, the crops and the bones. Biological perspectives on the Byzantine world
4. Byzantine Diversities
5. Reading Byzantine literature across the centuries
6. Byzantium in Central Europe

Vienna, March 2023

The Organizing Committee (*I have omitted elements on Round Tables, since the deadline has now closed. But see my introductory remarks above, p.2, on this - ed.*)

SHORT NOTICES

Exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum, New York

The Met currently has an exhibition on ‘Africa and Byzantium’. This is how the website describes it:

Art history has long emphasized the glories of the Byzantine Empire (circa 330–1453), but less known are the profound artistic contributions of North Africa, Egypt, Nubia, Ethiopia, and other powerful African kingdoms whose pivotal interactions with Byzantium had a lasting impact on the Mediterranean world. Bringing together a range of masterworks—from mosaic, sculpture, pottery, and metalwork to luxury objects, paintings, and religious manuscripts—this exhibition recounts Africa’s central role in international networks of trade and cultural exchange. With artworks rarely or never before seen in public, Africa & Byzantium sheds new light on the staggering artistic achievements of medieval Africa. This long-overdue exhibition highlights how the continent contributed to the development of the premodern world and offers a more complete history of the vibrant multiethnic societies of north and east Africa that shaped the artistic, economic, and cultural life of Byzantium and beyond.

Further information is available at <https://www.metmuseum.org/exhibitions/africa-byzantium> . The exhibition runs until 3 March 2024.

New website for Dumbarton Oaks Papers

See <https://dopapers.org/> for details. A complete archive of all past issues (up to no.76) can be found on the site.

CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Tadeusz Manteuffel Institute of History Polish Academy of Sciences
The Polish Young Academy of the Polish Academy of Sciences
Committee of Slavic Studies of Polish Academy of Sciences
Oxford Centre for Byzantine Research
King's College London

We cordially invite you to the third in a series of conferences on the theme

'Worlds of the Slavs' Food in the Worlds of the Slavs up to the 16th century



Warsaw, September 18-20, 2024

Conference applications should be submitted by 28 February 2024: <https://docs.google.com/forms/>
The conference languages will be English and Polish. The organizers will provide accommodation
Should you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact us at:
theworldoftheslavs@gmail.com

Organizing Committee: Marta Font (Pécs, Hungary), Adrian Jusupović (Warsaw, Poland), Aleksander Paroń (Wrocław, Poland), Jonathan Shepard (Oxford, United Kingdom), Alexandra Vukovich (King's College London, United Kingdom)

For more information:

<https://ihpan.edu.pl/en/about-us/cyclical-conferences/worlds-of-the-slavs-food-in-the-worlds-of-the-slavs-up-to-the-16th-century/>



Colloquia Ceranea VI
May 9-11, 2024

You are cordially invited to participate in next year's Colloquia Ceranea conference. We offer you to participate in one of three thematic panels on the history of medicine and food, the history of heresies or state and administration. We also encourage you to submit your own panels or individual papers on the history and culture of Byzantium, other Mediterranean countries, as well as South Slavic countries and Rus in the period from late antiquity to early modernity.

Plenary lectures will be delivered by Dr. Andrew Dalby and Prof. Alessia Guardasole.

The conference will be held in hybrid mode (online and live). We are waiting for applications until February 29, 2024. To learn more about the conference and to submit an application form, visit our website: <https://www.ceraneum.uni.lodz.pl/en/colloquia-ceranea>

- History of medicine and food -

We intend to conduct further interdisciplinary discussion on various aspects of medical and culinary history in Antiquity and Byzantium. To that end we have secured collaboration with a group of eminent scholars representing diverse research areas to form the conference's international Scientific Committee. They are:

- o Dr. Alfred Galik, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna
- o Dr. phil. Dr. habil. Isabel Grimm-Stadelmann, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich and Bavarian Academy of Sciences and Humanities
- o Prof. Alessia Guardasole, French National Centre for Scientific Research, Paris
- o Dr. Andrew Dalby, independent scholar
- o Prof. Maciej Kokoszko, University of Łódź
- o Dr. Paulina Komar, University of Warsaw
- o Dr. Erica Rowan, Royal Holloway, University of London

- o Prof. Alain Touwaide, Institute for the Preservation of Medical Traditions, Washington, DC
- o Prof. John Wilkins, Emeritus Professor, University of Exeter
- o Dr. Barbara Zipser, Royal Holloway, University of London

The diverse fields of the committee members guarantee that the conference will be truly multidisciplinary, furthering our strong believe that only by means of mutual support will we be able to boldly step across the borders between our separate research fields, and thus paint a more holistic picture of everyday life in Antiquity and Byzantium in their social and economic context.

We are particularly interested in papers covering such topics as:

- Reception and modification of Greek medical theory in Byzantium;
- Transmission of ancient medical heritage into the Arab and Western world;
- Byzantine and Post-Byzantine medical manuscripts;
- Plant, animal and mineral substances in cosmetology and pharmacology from Antiquity to the modern times - continuity or change?;
- New arrivals in the cuisine and pharmacology of Byzantium;
- Dangerous foodstuffs: materia medica between poison and remedy;
- Archaeology of Ancient and Byzantine medicine;
- Archaeology of Ancient and Byzantine alimentation;
- Ancient and Byzantine dietary patterns;
- Reconstruction of ancient and Byzantine culinary recipes;
- Foods and medicaments as markers of social status in the Mediterranean of Antiquity and Byzantium.



Fragment of a dipinto from the rock church of Kaloritsa, Naxos, 1260/1280, from the exhibition 'Bisanzio' in Turin this summer



TELLING BYZANTINE HISTORY: CURRENT TRENDS AND NEW DIRECTIONS

Late Antique and Byzantine Studies 2nd International Graduate Conference

May 24: Central European University, Quellenstrasse 51, D002, 1100 Vienna

May 25: Department of Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies, University of Vienna,
Postgasse 9, Lecture Hall, 1010 Vienna



Telling Byzantine History: CURRENT TRENDS AND NEW DIRECTIONS Vienna, May 24-25, 2024

It is not particularly controversial to observe that the history of the Byzantine Empire has, for the most part, been told through a distinct lens. Despite its linguistic, cultural, and geographical variety, and its numerous social and political transformations, Byzantium has been constructed normatively as a Greek-speaking, Orthodox Christian, and Constantinopolitan entity, through a hierarchical selection of perspectives and source material which have generated a received narrative that has come to form the bedrock of scholarship in the field of Byzantine Studies.

However, in the light of new seminal publications, namely J. Preiser-Kapeller's *Byzanz: Das Neue Rom und die Welt des Mittelalters* (C.H.Beck, 2023), A. Kaldellis' *The New Roman Empire: A History of Byzantium* (OUP, 2023), M. Ivanova's & B. Anderson's *Is Byzantine Studies a Colonialist Discipline?* (PSUP, 2023), and P. Agapitos' *Byzantine Literature, AD 300-1500: A Narrative History* (in preparation), it is clear that the way in which we tell Byzantine history is undergoing significant change. Through the application of new critical approaches including race and identity theory, gender studies, colonialism, multilingualism, environmental and global history; by reassessing source material and introducing understudied or neglected evidence in non-Greek languages, such as Arabic, Armenian, Latin, Georgian,

Syriac, Slavic, amongst others; through re-evaluation of the historical form and function of narrative; and through the critical evaluation of the Eurocentric institutional framework of Byzantine Studies, scholarship is consciously giving thought to exploring new ways of telling Byzantine history and emphasising its applicability in the globalised postmodern age.

The 2nd International Late Antique and Byzantine Studies Graduate Conference, co-organized by the University of Vienna and Central European University, aims to explore the question of how we tell Byzantine history today. We welcome submissions which seek to deconstruct old or propose new ways of telling Byzantine history, either through the novel use of sources, or through the application of methodological, theoretical, and interdisciplinary approaches which can provide new directions in the study of Byzantium.

Possible topics may include but are not limited to:

- Eurocentric vs global views on Byzantine history & literature
- (De)colonising Byzantium
- Byzantium in the Museum and in contemporary art and art history
- Byzantium in popular media
- The history of Byzantine Studies then and now - 19th century till today
- Interpreting non-Constantinopolitan source-narratives of Byzantium
- Using marginalised narratives of Byzantium? Interpreting historical forms and functions of narration in a multi-lingual milieu.

Keynote speakers: Panagiotis Agapitos, Johannes Preiser-Kapeller

We invite applications from graduate students at MA and PhD level. Those wishing to have their 20-minute paper considered should send an email to lewis.read@univie.ac.at, aleksandar.andjelovic@univie.ac.at, Milenkovic_Dunja@phd.ceu.edu, or ozdemir_osman@phd.ceu.edu, with a paper title, a 200-word abstract, and an academic affiliation by March 1, 2024. Applicants will be notified by March 15. For further information, please see <https://events.ceu.edu/2024-05-24/telling-byzantine-history-current-trends-and-new-directions>

Undergraduate Essay Contest in Byzantine Studies

This year's winner of the Canadian Committee of Byzantinists student essay competition is **Sam Lirette** of McGill for 'Feminine Magic and Eroticism in the Early Byzantine Period: The Aphrodite Anadyomene Pendant'. Lirette examines a seventh-century pendant from Dumbarton Oaks and demonstrates the complex interplay of sensuous pagan themes in a Christian world, especially as embodied by a piece of jewellery owned by a Christian woman.

We are also pleased to announce the next 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, 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, Manitoba, Canada R3B 2E9
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. It is possible to submit the essay both to this contest and to that organised by SCAPAT (www.scapat.ca).

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, 2024. The winner will be notified in September (2024) and will be announced in our next bulletin.

If you have not renewed your subscription for this year, please send a cheque (\$30 or \$15 for students) payable to 'The Canadian Committee of Byzantinists' to Prof. Richard Greenfield, Department of History, Watson Hall, Queen's University, 49 Bader Lane, Kingston ON, K7L 3N6.