

Canadio-Byzantina

A Newsletter published by the Canadian Committee of Byzantinists

No.36, January 2025



The church of the Theotokos, Haghartsin monastery, Armenia, twelfth century

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Introductory remarks

The perspectives for Byzantine studies in Canada look no rosier at the end of 2024 than they did a year ago, alas. It is clear that Richard Greenfield will not be replaced at Queen's. Meanwhile in Ottawa, our M.A. in Late Antiquity has had admissions suspended. We are still accepting students, however, for the M.A. in Religious Studies, in which they will be able to focus on Late Antiquity in much the same way as before. The logic behind the decision to suspend a programme whose costs were minimal (especially since colleagues had been willing to teach courses as overload) is hard to fathom, as is so much in the behaviour of university administrations. On a more positive note, our new treasurer, Marica Cassis, who has made several contributions to this bulletin, is returning to teaching in Calgary, which will swell the number of students, undergraduate and graduate, in Byzantine studies.

On the subject of administrations it is a pleasure here to mention the remarkable accomplishments of John Osborne in his retirement - who was such an appreciated Dean of Arts at Carleton University. As he reports (see the section on members' activities), he has been very active in retirement despite acute health problems. It is fitting that his name should also feature in an article I commissioned from Daniel Sahas, a former president of our committee, who describes its early days. It was a pleasure to meet him in Ottawa in early July.

Our capital played host also to a lecture in March by Paolo Odorico, who had come to Canada to examine a doctoral thesis at the Université de Montréal. He gave a memorable lecture entitled 'Créer en glosant. Les marginalia comme élément de production littéraire à Byzance'. In July another eminent Byzantinist, Claudia Sode of the University of Cologne, visited Ottawa during a longer visit to North America.

Meanwhile, Canadian scholars were also venturing abroad. Aleksandar Jovanovic represented us at the inter-congrès in Athens in April this year: his detailed report can be found below. It is encouraging to note that there is vigorous competition to host the AIEB congress after Vienna, which will take place in 2031.

I am sorry to report that there were no undergraduate essays submitted for our prize this year: see Conor Whately's report at the end of this bulletin. At the same time, it is a pleasure to echo the congratulations expressed by Marica Cassis for the prize won by our member, Tiffany van Winkoop, for her paper at the BSC in Vancouver in 2023.

I write these words from Robinson College, Cambridge, where I am spending part of my year's sabbatical - a welcome relief after my period as Chair of the department in Ottawa. I was fortunate in the timing of the sabbatical to be able to attend the Roman *limes* congress in Batumi in September (see my brief report below) and then to spend a further two weeks in both Georgia and Armenia. Although I managed to see a large number of churches and monasteries in both countries, I'm aware that I missed a lot more. In many cases the Byzantine influence is quite palpable; some of the frescoes are amazingly well preserved. It is striking, moreover, that, particularly in Georgia, convents and monasteries are quite active today. It is also possible to visit fortifications of the late Roman period, including several built or strengthened by Justinian, such as Petra, on the Black Sea coast, and Nokalakevi (Archaeopolis in the sixth century); I have included a picture of the latter in this bulletin. We may hope that the current tensions in Georgia are justly and peacefully resolved in the near future.

Geoffrey Greatrex

ACTIVITIES OF MEMBERS

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

I am currently a doctoral candidate in the fifth 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 Mārūthā 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 Mārūthā 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. A total of four chapters have been completed. The two most recently completed ones examine Romano-Persian diplomacy, the choice of Mārūthā as ambassador to Iran, as well as the bishop's network of patronage through an analysis of his projects.

Finally, I will also be teaching my first course during the Winter 2025 semester at the University of Ottawa named Byzantium and the Middle East. This course will closely study the Eastern Mediterranean world's transformation from the classical epoch to the medieval era by delving into various topics from various perspectives and methodologies. At the heart of the curriculum lies the great rivalry between the Byzantine and Persian Empires, which will serve as focal points. However, the scope extends beyond these dominant powers to examine the histories and cultures of peripheral peoples like the Armenians and the Arabs, whose historical trajectories were intricately intertwined with the broader geopolitical landscape of the Near East.

Shelby Beebe-Johnson, University of Ottawa

I'm a second-year master's student under the supervision of Geoffrey Greatrex at the University of Ottawa. I completed my BA in Ancient Greek and Roman Studies at Trent University in 2023. My thesis focuses on the political career of the fifth-century general Aspar. Since Aspar was a Homoian and an Alan, some previous work from scholars has found these factors to be serious obstacles to his work in imperial politics. My goal with my thesis is to demonstrate that these did not inhibit his rise and politics while other circumstances such as the volatile and competitive nature of politics played a much greater role.

peter boudreau, Princeton University

I am currently in my first year of a postdoctoral fellowship at Princeton's Seeger Center for Hellenic Studies. During my time at the Seeger Center, I am hard at work on my monograph, *Illustrated Calendars and the Timescapes of Later Byzantium*, based on my 2023 dissertation. This comes after a year as a Postdoctoral Associate at Yale's Institute for Sacred Music, where I led an incredibly enriching seminar in the History of Art Department, "The Materiality of Time in the Medieval Mediterranean," which made use of the fantastic collections in the Yale University Art Gallery and the Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library.

In terms of research, I presented work on Oxford's *Bildmenologion* at the University of Birmingham's Centre for Byzantine, Ottoman, and Modern Greek Studies Seminar and locally here at Princeton, which was recently submitted for publication. Additionally, I participated in a panel on Verbal and Visual Expressions in the Menologion of Basil II, funded by the Mary Jaharis Center, at the annual Byzantine Studies Conference in New York in celebration of Charles Kuper's new (and much needed!) translation of the texts. The papers from this panel will also be published in a forthcoming edited volume. We hope that these new publications will generate more interest in this well-known but understudied manuscript.

Marica Cassis, University of Calgary

At the very end of 2023, I concluded 5 years as the Department Head of the Classics and Religion at the University of Calgary. I have been on administrative leave for the last year, during which time two publications have appeared:

Medieval Archaeology in the East Roman World, Leiden: ARC Humanities Press, Past Imperfect, 2024.

'Public Space, Private Space: Gender Theory and Feminism in Byzantine Archaeology', in *Beyond Icons: Method and Theory in Byzantine Archaeology*. Eds. K. Kourelis, W. Caraher, D. Brooks Hedstrom. Routledge, 2024. Chapter 8.

I have also recently received an Arts Inspire award from the University of Calgary Faculty of Arts to work with a recent Religious Studies PhD (Dr. Durga Kale) and two of my grad students (Sydney Burton and Sanaz Safari) in order to create curriculum in ancient and medieval Near Eastern history for school age kids.

During 2023 the following also appeared:

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.

In January, I will return to teaching and will now be in the Department of History at the University of Calgary, and I currently have 6 graduate students in Byzantine studies.

Lindsay Corbett, McGill/Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto

In 2024, I presented my dissertation research, "Relics, Icons, and Visualizing Tactility in the Fourteenth-Century Balkans," at the Canadian Conference for Medieval Art Historians at Concordia University. At McGill, I also taught ARTH 305: Methods in Art History. Additionally, I co-published an article evolving from a digital project that I collaborated on at the Musée des Beaux-Arts de Montréal (MBAM) alongside Dr Laura Vigo, Curator of Asian Art:

Vigo, Laura and Lindsay Corbett. "Netsuke Hands-On: Subverting Untouchability through the Digital", in

Digital Innovations in Architecture, Engineering and Construction, ed. Andrea Giordiano, Michele Russo, and Roberta Spallone. (Cham: Springer, 2024), 1-12.

Throughout the year, I continued my work at the MBAM as a research assistant, helping to prepare the reinstallation of their Decorative Arts and Design Galleries, slated to open in 2025.

I have recently transitioned from Montréal to Toronto, where I am currently the Thomson Curatorial Fellow in European Art at the Art Gallery of Ontario. In this position I will co-curate an exhibition that examines later medieval objects made from aquatic materials.

Finally, I am happy to share that over the past few years I have been working as a historical consult on an upcoming video game, *Streets of Fortuna*, by Kitfox Games Franchise. The game will be loosely based on sixth-century Constantinople and feature many references familiar to you all!

Hugh Elton, Trent University, Peterborough

Hugh Elton has recently contributed to a paper on the First Plague Pandemic (aka the Justinianic Plague), With Newfield, T., Roberts, N., Xoplaki, E., Luterbacher, J., Labuhn, I., Eastwood, W., Fleitmann, D., Izdebski, A. and Rosen, A., “Proxies for Plague? New Approaches in Studying the Causes and Consequences of the First Plague Pandemic” in Brandes, W., Reimitz, H. and Tannous, J., eds., *Legal Pluralism and Social Change in Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages: A Conference in Honor of John Haldon* (Frankfurt: Vittorio Klostermann, 2024), 63-115. Otherwise, he continues to work on late Roman politics and on the region of Isauria

Geoffrey Greatrex, University of Ottawa

One article has just appeared, the result of a collaboration with Benet Salway of UCL in a Festschrift for Denis Feissel, ‘L’état de l’armée romaine au tournant du VI^e s.’, *TM* 28 (2024). Several reviews have also appeared:

A. Comfort, *The Roman frontier with Persia in north-eastern Mesopotamia: fortresses and roads around Singara* (Oxford, 2023), *BMCR* 2023.09.24, <https://bmcr.brynmawr.edu/2023/2023.09.24/>

A. Ziebuhr, *Die Exkurse im Geschichtswerk des Prokopios von Kaisareia. Literarische Traditionen und spätantike Gegenwart in klassizistischer Historiographie* (Stuttgart, 2024), *sehepunkte* 24 (2024), no.11 [15.11.2024], <https://www.sehepunkte.net/2024/11/39226.html>

D. Brodka, *Prokop von Caesarea* (Hildesheim, 2022), *Journal of Hellenic Studies* 142 (2024), 287-8.

I was also involved in a podcast on ‘A Short history of Constantinople’, which (in Britain) is available on BBC sounds, <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p0jhh761> – but in Canada you can’t access the podcast

on the BBC, though it is available at

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/constantinople/id1579040306?i=1000662420898>

Richard Greenfield, Queen's University, Kingston

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, was published in the Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library in October 2024. In July I participated in the second workshop on 'New perspectives on MS Bononiensis 3632' at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece where I presented a paper: "Byzantine 'magic' in its context: just another chapter in the physician's health and wellness manual." The workshop has now moved into the publication phase. I was also largely responsible, in collaboration with the editor Scott Bruce, for preparing the chapter on "Eaters of Children: The Witch-Demons of Byzantium" [His title not mine!], pp152-171 in *The Penguin Book of Demons* which was published in the Fall.

I have also continued to work as co-editor (with Alexander Alexakis of the University of Ioannina) for the Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library Greek Series. In addition to the *Life of Peter of Atroa* by Sabas, mentioned above, Thomas Arentzen's *Romanos the Melodist, Songs on Women*, was published in 2024. Look for an edition and translation of the text of the *Menologion* of Basil II by Charles Kuper in 2025. As I have noted before, 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.

I will be retiring from Queen's (though not from the DOML) in July 2025 and have been on leave this Fall. My teaching load has thus diminished dramatically with only my Grad seminar on Medieval "Greece" in the Winter term. Congratulations to three of my PhD students, who completed and defended their dissertations over the summer: Louis-Patrick Saint-Pierre (whom I co-supervised with Anthony Kaldellis), "Byzantine Romanness in the Ninth and Tenth Centuries: A Situational Approach." Louis now has a permanent position as Directeur general of La Société rimouskoise du patrimoine in Quebec. Adam Morin, "Food and Food Culture in the Byzantine Empire, Seventh to Fifteenth Centuries." Adam currently holds a Postdoctoral Fellowship at the University of Ioannina, Greece. And Grant Schrama, "Byzantium and the Question of Colonial Identity: An Examination of the Immediate Social Impacts of the Fourth Crusade on the Thirteenth Century Byzantine Roman World." Congratulations also to my two MA's, James DeMone and Chase Uens, who completed their studies successfully in the summer. But it is sad that there is no prospect of continued teaching in Byzantine studies at Queen's for the foreseeable future.

Finally a big thank you to Marica Cassis for stepping forward and taking over my duties as Treasurer / Secretary. It's been a pleasure to work with you all in this small way and play a little part in encouraging the continuation of our field, albeit in increasingly difficult times.

Cecily Hilsdale, McGill University, Montreal

Since the last newsletter, the following essay has come out in print: 'Ars Sacra in the East and After Byzantium' in *Worlds of Byzantium: Religion, Culture, and Empire in the Medieval Near East*, edited by

Elizabeth S. Bolman, Scott Fitzgerald Johnson, and Jack Tannous (Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press, 2024).

In March I co-hosted the 43rd annual Canadian Conference of Medieval Art Historians in Montreal. This two-day event featured 21 talks on the visual and material culture of the Middle Ages and its post-medieval revivals. Speakers travelled to Montreal from Toronto, Winnipeg, Kingston, Manitoba, and even Cleveland, with a particularly strong Quebec contingent. The program showcased the diversity of medieval culture from illuminated Psalters to stained glass, from Marian devotion in England to icons in the Balkans. And Byzantine art was particularly well represented.

In April I participated in Dumbarton Oaks Spring Symposium dedicated to The Byzantine Portrait: Personhood and Representation, presenting a paper on 'Imperial Portraiture and Gift-Giving'. I also gave a public lecture at McGill in the fall on 'Spoils of War as the Continuity of Rupture' as part of the public symposium on Rupture and Continuity hosted by the Yan P. Lin Centre for the Study of Freedom and Global Orders in the Ancient and Modern Worlds.

I continue to work with a wonderful group of graduate students and offered graduate seminars on 'Threaded Worlds: Medieval Textiles and Modern Collections' and 'The Art of the Gift in the Medieval Mediterranean'. Over the summer, I stepped into a new administrative position at McGill: in addition to co-directing the Research Group on 'Global Pasts' at the Lin Centre, I will be serving as the Associate Dean of Graduate Studies for the Faculty of Arts for the next three years.

Aleksandar Jovanovic, University of the Fraser Valley, Abbotsford

For me, the 2023-2024 academic year was relatively active. I submitted a chapter titled 'Flirting with the Romans: Hellenophone Women and Men in the Romaic Ghazals of Jalal ad-Din Muhammad Rumi and Sultan Valad' to Shaun Tougher and Larisa Vilimonovic's edited volume, *Gender in Byzantium*. I also presented my work on the social history of Epiros, based on the surviving work of thirteenth-century metropolitan bishop of Naupaktos, Ioannes Apokaukos, at the Byzantine Studies Conference in Vancouver. Additionally, I presented at the Modern Greek Studies Symposium at Princeton about local identity transformation in late medieval and early modern chronicles from Epiros. I spent most of the rest of the year fulfilling my institution's service and course development requirements for tenure.

JaShong King, University of Ottawa

I am currently awaiting peer-review for a chapter, 'Jurisprudence or politics? Using TEI-XML backed sentiment analysis to rethink approaches to late Roman law' for a forthcoming book, *Digitizing the Middle Ages*, published by Éditions de la Sorbonne. The chapter is adapted from a similarly titled presentation I gave at the International Congress on Medieval Studies 2024 in Kalamazoo. In addition, I have also just completed the first full draft of my PhD dissertation, currently titled 'An Emperor's Anger: Political Sentiment and Document Structure in the Late Roman Laws of the *Novellae Valentiniani*, an Analysis and TEI-XML digital edition.' After some edits, I expect to submit and defend by late spring of 2025.

Dimitris Krallis, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC

Over the past year I completed the manuscript for *Πορφυρές Μυθιστορίες: Βυζάντιο και Νεοελληνικό Φαντασιακό* [Myth-histories in Purple: Byzantium and the Neo-Hellenic Imaginary]. This is a book on Byzantium, Greek national identity, neo-orthodox ideology, and politics. I am currently working with an editor, who is helping me prepare it for submission to a press in Greece by March 2025.

I also submitted to *Greek Roman and Byzantine Studies* a paper entitled ‘Impersonal Governance in Byzantium: Bureaucracy, Friendship, and Psellos’ Letters’. It is to appear in January 2025 in volume 65.

With these two pieces I am closing a circle of work and research in Byzantine Studies as I pivot to the Late Ottoman era and the early years of Greek rule in Lesbos. Here, access to a rich family archive has allowed a number of new collaborations to emerge and a series of fruitful research paths to open up. In this context I have started working on the following projects:

‘Postal Dreamscapes: Fragments from the Global Imaginary of a Late Ottoman Greek Youth from Lesbos’

This is an article in preparation with Dr. Aytek Soner Alpan and Mrs. Mariza Krallis. It examines a post-card collection of a young Ottoman Greek as a pathway into his navigation of the world in his time. We aim to submit this work to a journal by end of 2025. Another archival find has led to

‘Plutarch in Molyvos: Notions of civic duty and political agency in Late Ottoman Lesbos’

This is another article in preparation, this time looking at ideas of civic duty and politics in Late Ottoman Lesbos. The aim is to have it submitted to a journal in 2026. Despite this shift in focus, a bit of Byzantium remains in my docket as I prepare the following article.

‘Utopia as praxis: Roman thoughts and actions on perfecting the polity in the Middle Ages’

This work is to be submitted to the *Sparks: Political, Intellectual, and Religious Utopia in the Premodern World* volume, a project edited by Geoffrey Dipple (University of Alberta) and Václav Zheng (Johns Hopkins), to be submitted to press early in 2027.

I presented aspects of my new research direction in the form of a paper entitled ‘Memories of the “Other” in post-Ottoman Lesbos: Imagination and Practice in the Years after “Liberation” and the Rupture of 1922’. This paper was presented at panel 7B of the 28th Modern Greek Studies Association (MGSA) bi-annual symposium, held October 17-20 at Princeton, NJ.

This transition in my research and focus has happened as I come close to the end of my term as Director of the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies. I hand over the reins to Dr. Higgins on September 1st, 2025 and will be able to return to full teaching and research duties in the fall of that same year.

Justin Lamadeleine, 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. My thesis focuses on the growth of relic and icon veneration during the sixth century and their impact on the hyper-sacralisation of imperial power.

This last year has been dedicated solely to progressing my thesis. The introduction and two chapters have been completed. The introduction presents the current and previous scholarship surrounding Christian

cults of veneration and the Christianisation of eastern Roman society and imperial power under the Justinianic dynasty during the sixth century. It also presents the primary sources used throughout the thesis where I insert them into the wider cultural context of the sixth century. The first chapter evaluates the hypothesis arguing that the sixth century underwent a process of Christianisation at all levels of society. I agree with this hypothesis, and argue in favour of a greater penetration of Christian modes and thought during this period, but conclude that nuances remain throughout the century. The second chapter presents the emergence and growth of Christian cults of veneration and certain holy figures in the wider context of Late Antiquity, but argues that the changing circumstances of the sixth century represents a major impetus for their growth. In this chapter I also demonstrate how the emperors of the Justinianic dynasty played an important role in the growth of Christian cults of veneration, and in the development of a civic Christian cult dedicated to the Virgin Mary in the capital by the end of the sixth century. The third chapter, on which I am currently working, will focus on the impacts that the growth of Christian cults of veneration in the sixth century had on the hyper-sacralisation of imperial power

Antony Littlewood, University of Western Ontario, London

He has made little progress with his current cricket book this year. He did make one trip to Sicily to refresh his knowledge of the Byzantine/Islamic/Norman frescos; and, deliberately between the winter and summer seasons, enjoyed a marvellous solo trip to Greenland despite the absence there of any traces of Byzantium.

Lucas McMahon, University of Ottawa

In September 2024 I took up a Banting Postdoctoral Fellowship at the University of Winnipeg, under the supervision of Conor Whately. During this, I have been working on my book, right now focusing on writing the sections on information collection and management at Byzantine border crossings and in the tax system. Meanwhile, I have continued to work on various historical GIS projects. An article examining how the establishment of the Sultanate of Rum on the Anatolian plateau affected routes between Constantinople and Syria will hopefully appear next year, and a piece on early eleventh-century frontier management in northwestern Syria is nearing completion. One article appeared this fall, and another should be out imminently.

Articles

“Anna Komnene, the Kontostephanoi, and the Norman invasions of 1107–1108 and 1147–1149”, *Byzantinische Zeitschrift* 117 (2024), 693–734.

“Manuel I Komnenos’ policy towards the Sultanate of Rum and John Kontostephanos’ embassies to Jerusalem, 1159–61”, *Crusades* 23, no. 2 (2024).

Reviews

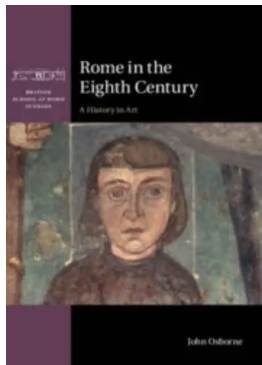
Dixon, Carl. *The Paulicians. Heresy, Persecution, and Warfare on the Byzantine Frontier, c. 750–880*, in: *Speculum* 99, no. 4 (2024): 1283–85.

Różycki, Łukasz. *Battlefield emotions in Late Antiquity: A study of fear and motivation in Roman military treatises*, in: *Canadian Military History* 33, no. 2 (2024), 58–60.

Tor, Deborah, and Alexander Beihammer (eds.). *The Islamic–Byzantine border in history: from the rise of Islam to the end of the Crusades*, in: *Al-Masaq* 36, no. 1 (2024), 127–29.

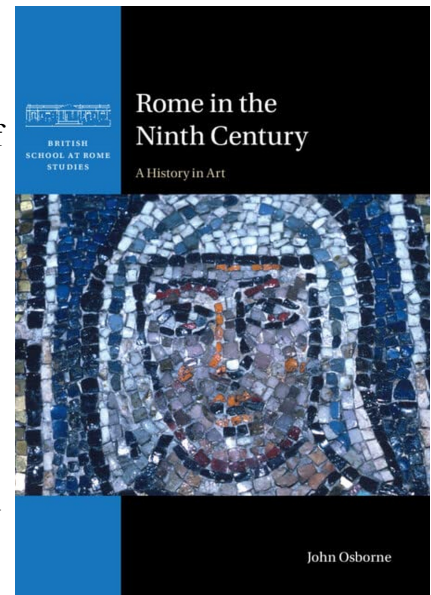
Vroom, Joanita (ed.). *Feeding the Byzantine city: the archaeology of consumption in the eastern Mediterranean (ca. 500-1500)*, in: *Early Medieval Europe* 32, no. 2 (2024), 232–34.

John Osborne, Carleton University/PIMS, Toronto



I lost my wife (Colette) to brain cancer in 2016, and this served as a major wake up call about the fragility and ephemerality of life. The following year I retired, and subsequently I have devoted myself full-time to finishing up the huge number of unfinished research projects collecting dust in my home office. I am pleased to say that these recent years have been very productive, despite significant obstacles to travel and research posed by the coronavirus pandemic. I (co-)edited an enormous book on the Roman church of Santa

Maria Antiqua (Brepols 2021), and also produced a monograph on the Canadian photographer from Quebec City, Charles Smeaton, who was the first person to successfully produce images in the Roman catacombs, in the winter of 1866-67, working for the Oxford antiquarian John Henry Parker (McGill-Queen's UP 2022). He solved the lighting issue through the use of magnesium wire, first produced two years previously in Manchester. But the major accomplishment has been a trilogy of books on early medieval Rome, all published by CUP: *Rome in the Eighth Century: a history in art* (2020), which won the 2021 Margaret Wade Labarge prize of the Canadian Society of Medievalists, and *Rome in the Ninth Century: a history in art* (2023), which recently was awarded the Premio Daria Borghese for 2024. The third volume (no prizes for guessing the title) is now written and is just entering the production process. It should appear in the spring or early summer of 2025. There have also been a sizeable number of journal articles and festschrift contributions, with another five currently in press.



And it is a very good thing that I have used the last seven years so efficiently. Two years ago I was diagnosed with oesophageal cancer, and subsequently have endured two major surgeries, pre-surgery radiation treatments, and chemotherapy cycles throughout. The chemo continues (I receive an infusion every third Friday), and has produced some nasty side effects. These have certainly slowed me down, but I am very relieved that the last major book project is now done, although I still have to work on things like image permissions and an index. I was told a year ago that the cancer was deemed to be Stage 4 ('terminal'). So far, however, I am exceeding all predictions, largely due to the skills of my amazing medical team at Princess Margaret Hospital! My hope is to see the last book in print, but I'll settle for steering it through the final stages.

"The elephant in the room (at Notre-Dame de Gourdon, Burgundy)", *A Medieval Legacy: The ongoing life of forms in the built environment. Essays in honour of Professor Malcolm Thurlby*, ed. J. Mace (Montreal, 2020), 15-28. Reprinted in *Florilegium* 36 (2019) [2023], 182-203.

“Urban picturesque: John James Browne and the fire stations of Montréal”, *Journal of the Society for the Study of Architecture in Canada* 46 (2021), 4-13.

“The dower charter of Otto II and Theophanu, and the Roman scriptorium at Santi Apostoli”, *Papers of the British School at Rome* 89 (2021), 137-157.

“The thirteenth-century expansion of the narthex of San Marco, Venice: a space for dead doges?”, *Art and Material Culture in the Byzantine and Islamic Worlds. Studies in Honour of Erica Cruikshank Dodd*, ed. E. Baboula and L. Jessop (Leiden and Boston: Brill, 2021), 55-88.

“The re-invention of Rome in the early Middle Ages”, *Urban Developments in Late Antique and Medieval Rome: Revising the Narrative of Renewal*, ed. G. Kalas and A. van Dijk (Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press, 2021), 205-235.

“Per Jonas Nordhagen, Santa Maria Antiqua, and the study of early medieval painting in Rome”, *Santa Maria Antiqua: The Sistine Chapel of the Early Middle Ages*, ed. E. Rubery, G. Bordini, J. Osborne (Turnhout: Harvey Miller/Brepols, 2021), 146-157.

“Pope Urban V and the Habit of the Jesuati”, ‘Close Reading’: *Kunsthistorische Interpretationen vom Mittelalter bis in die Moderne (Festschrift für Sebastian Schütze)*, ed. S. Albi, B. Hub, A. Frasca-Rath (Berlin: De Gruyter, 2021), 36-43.

“Slavery and its terminology in eighth-century Rome”, *Frühmittelalterliche Studien* 55 (2021), 47-59.

“‘Coils of Sunshine’: Charles Smeaton’s magnesium-wire photography in the catacombs of Rome, 1866-1867”, *Scientia Canadensis* 44.1 (2022), 1-18.

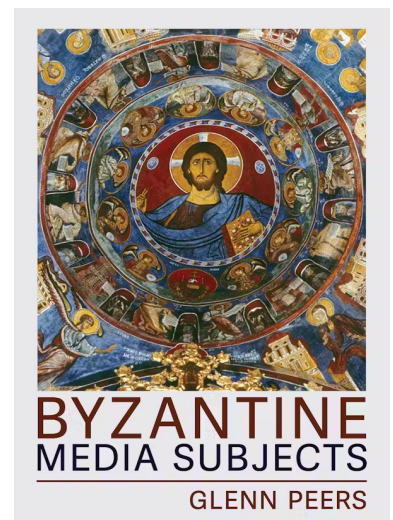
<https://www.erudit.org/en/journals/scientia/2022-v44-n1-scientia07177/>

“The relic lists of Sant'Angelo in Pescheria and San Silvestro in Capite: Documenting a shift in the cult of the saints in eighth-century Rome”, *Importreliquien in Rom von Damasus I. bis Paschalis I.*, eds. A. Breckenkamp, T. Michalsky, N. Zimmermann, Palilia 36 (Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz Verlag, 2023), 57-67.

Glenn Peers, Williams College, Williamstown, MA



Briefly, I can report that I had two books published this year: one in collaboration with Robert Kitchen of Regina, Sask., on a fifth-century Syriac sermon by Isaac of Antioch on a parrot who spoke the Truth: ‘*The Bird Who Sang the Trisagion*’ of Isaac of Antioch: *Becoming Parrot in a Late Antique Syriac Sermon*, *Palgrave Studies in Animals and Literature* (Cham, Switzerland: Palgrave Macmillan, 2024). The other has finally appeared, a book that argues for a new way of understanding Byzantine visual culture, through the lens of German media theory: *Byzantine Media*



Subjects (Medieval Societies, Religions, and Cultures series; Cornell University Press). Bob Kitchen also provided there a translation of Isaac of Antioch's sermon on a night encounter with a water organ in his eponymous city. And for further Canadian content, the book includes an excellent translation by Anne-Laurence Caudano of Demetrius Triclinius's "On the Dark Figure in the Moon," which is the subject of my final chapter. I've been very fortunate to have worked with such generous colleagues on these projects.

I retired in 2023, but I was Croghan Bicentennial Visiting Professor in Biblical and Early Christian Studies, Williams College, Williamstown, MA, in spring 2024.

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

I successfully defended my doctoral thesis this year, on 21 June, and was officially awarded my Ph. D. degree from Queen's on 12 November. My dissertation, titled *Byzantine Romanness in the Ninth and Tenth Centuries: A Situational Approach*, tackles the modulation of the ethnocultural indicia that underpinned Byzantine Roman identity. In other words, I examine when aspects that mattered in Byzantine life (i.e. political affiliation, religion, language,) had normative power or laid dormant in identity expression. I am quite happy with the results, and I hope to be able in the forthcoming years to publish these.

That said, I have not had much time to set this project in motion in the remaining months of 2024, and it seems likely that I will only be available to start doing so next summer. The reason explaining this is mainly professional: the executive director position at the Société rimouskoise du patrimoine, which I have been filling since October 2023 on an interim basis, was granted to me permanently from September 2024. In addition, I started lecturing this Fall an introductory course on Antiquity at the Université du Québec à Rimouski, and I will carry on this Winter with a module on the western Middle Ages. Not directly Byzantine-related, though there are hopes that we might add a seminar on Byzantine history in the foreseeable future.

So, while I have been able to keep a toe in academia through lecturing, all of these professional changes have obviously impacted my capability to further contribute to the field in the short term. However, I hope that this is not the end of the academic side of my route; the future will tell us, and you will be first-hand witnesses if you see me reporting on this bulletin again.

I conclude these words by reiterating my most sincere gratitude to my supervisor Richard Greenfield and my co-supervisor Anthony Kaldellis.

Linda Safran, Toronto

I gave three invited lectures this year: "Visualizing Heresy: Case Studies from Byzantium" for "Co-Producing Heresies: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam" (Münchenwiler, Switzerland), as part of the Co-Produced Religions project, <https://coproduced-religions.org/>, "Othering in the Enkleistra," for "Neophytos Enkleistos's Testamentary *Typikon*: Manuscript, Text(s), Contexts" (Nicosia, Cyprus), celebrating the restoration of the typikon manuscript in Edinburgh; and "An Exceptional Early Byzantine Censer" (on Zoom) for the Romanian Society for Byzantine Studies lecture series. My article on this censer, which is part of the Sion Treasure now in Antalya, will appear in the Spring 2025 issue of *Gesta*

(coauthored with John Osborne). I also spoke on “Biblical Scenes on the Traprain Law Jug” as part of the biennial Canadian Conference of Medieval Art Historians (CCMAH), held this year at Concordia University. I continue to add to artofthemiddleages.com, a free resource for anyone who teaches medieval (including Byzantine) art or history. Please check it out!

Conor Whately, Winnipeg

Publications

2024: *Military Literature in the Medieval Roman World and Beyond*, editor, Brill

2024: “Women and Warfare in the Age of Justinian”, in Lee Brice and Beth Greene (eds.) *Women and the Army in the Roman Empire*, Cambridge University Press, pp. 299-326

2024: “Introduction,” in C. Whately (ed.), *Military Literature in the Medieval Roman World and Beyond*, editor, Brill, 1-26

Book Reviews

2024: Brodka, Dariusz, 2022, *Prokop von Caesarea*, Olms, *Anzeiger für die Altertumswissenschaft*

2024: Kaldellis, Athony, and Marion Kruse, 2023, *The Field Armies of the Eastern Roman Empire*, CUP, for *Plekos*

2024: Greatrex, Geoffrey, *Commentary on, and Translation of, Procopius' Persian Wars*, CUP, for *BMCR* 2024.1.32

Conferences

Conference paper, November 2024 (invited panel): “Soldiers Behaving Badly in Roman Arabia and Palestine,” ASOR 2024, Boston

Conference Paper, July 2024 (invited panel): “Agathias and the Transformation of the Roman Military”, Leeds International Medieval Congress 2024

Conference Paper, June 2024: “Agathias, the Great Military Historian,” WAWIC, Chicago

Conference Paper, May 2024: “Soldiers Behaving Badly in Roman Arabia and Palestine/Les soldats se comportent mal en Arabie romaine et en Palestine”, CAC Annual Meeting, Quebec City

Extra

Supervisor for Lucas McMahon’s Banting Postdoctoral Fellowship (2024-2026)

I was the CAC central (south) guest lecturer, Sept 23-27, Laurier, Western, Windsor, Brock, McMaster, York, Toronto.

Scott Winges, University of Ottawa

For my MA thesis, I am examining whether or not John Chrysostom and Libanius were student and teacher respectively. Debate amongst scholars concerning this matter appears to have begun in the 1860s (Petit, 1866) and has been discussed as recently as the previous decade (Nesselrath, 2015). Although the *communis opinio* is that John was likely a student of Libanius, there are those who either unequivocally deny or accept this pedagogical relationship. This dichotomy of opinion stems from the problematic

nature of the primary source material. My thesis does not attempt to resolve this question as it is evident that this is not possible and indeed unproductive, given the ‘deadlock’ nature of the scholarly debate and absent any new evidence; rather, the primary purpose of my thesis is to provide, for the first time, a comprehensive *status quaestionis* of the matter so that interested readers may refer to one document, instead of many and discrete, in order to examine the course of this debate and the arguments given both for and against a student-teacher relationship. My thesis will also provide further insight and commentary on primary sources regarding this question which have been either neglected, overlooked, or underused. Finally, inspired by the recent work of Wendy Mayer on medico-philosophical therapy and John Chrysostom as a psychagogue, I will posit a new approach to this question, which it is hoped will provide further insight and context, if not, encourage further investigation. Ultimately, my thesis leaves it to each individual reader to decide the likelihood of a student-teacher relationship, and it is hoped that at the very least it will serve as a useful resource for scholars on this question and as a cautionary tale against continuing the debate in the hitherto manner.

Tiffany van Winkoop, Madison, WI

In the last academic year, I passed my comprehensive exams with distinction and successfully defended my prospectus to enter the dissertator stage of my graduate career. Tentatively titled “Gender Fluidity and Queer Desire in Constantinople, 867-1025,” my dissertation explores the concept of “proper” gender performances for men, women, eunuchs and monks in the Middle Byzantine Period, and how, specifically, sexual expression shaped this conceptualization of “proper”. To date, I have completed one chapter on this ambitious project and have the second chapter drafted.

The past year has certainly been busy! At the start of the year I was awarded the Byzantine Studies Conference Grad Student Paper Prize, for my paper, “Eunuchs, Intersectionality, and Queer Families in Byzantine Legal Corpora”, presented at the 49th Annual Byzantine Studies Conference in Vancouver, BC in October 2023. I also joined with my colleague in Classics, Rachel Andrews, to co-present a queer, art-historical re-imagining of the “Apotheosis of Sabina” relief, which I had seen the previous summer in the Capitoline Museums in Rome. Our paper was titled “Coming Out: Acknowledging Antinous in the Apotheosis of Sabina,” and was delivered at the 120th Annual Meeting of the Classical Association of the Middle West and South, hosted by Washington University in St. Louis, MO. Finally, I went overseas to present my paper titled “Ceremonies of Crisis? Gendered Imperial Processions in the Middle Byzantine Era” at the 2024 International Medieval Congress in Leeds (United Kingdom).

I also began to dip my toes into the world of publications, first by co-authoring a work with my colleague Tirumular (Drew) Narayanan titled “East of Camelot: Insufficient ‘Whiteness’ and ‘American’ Racial Etiquette in Prince Valiant”, which will be released in a special edition of *Arthuriana* focused specifically on comic books. Here, I was able to bring to light both the modern and medieval distortions of Emperor Justinian, highlighting the ways in which comic-Justinian reflect only one picture of Prokopios’ depiction of the monarch. I also completed a chapter which will be included in the Edinburgh University Press’ forthcoming collection *Gendering Byzantium* (edited by Larisa Orlov Vilimonović and Shaun Tougher), titled “A Procession of One’s Own: Gender and Imperial Ceremony in Constantinople”. This chapter specifically addresses how empresses played both masculinity and femininity in tandem in imperial ceremonies in order to maintain their power over the Byzantine state.

Finally, I also kept myself busy in Madison. I received the George L. Mosse Teaching Fellowship in European History for the 2024-2025 academic year, and have subsequently spent time designing my own survey course of the Mediterranean world called “Women, Sex, and Power in the Mediterranean c.

450BCE – 1200 CE” which I will teach in the Winter 2025 semester. Finally, I acted as secretary for our Graduate Association of Medieval Studies, where I helped fund and organize the 11th Annual Colloquium of this association, titled “Fractals, Fragments, and Lacunas: Minding the Gap in Medieval Worlds” where Dr. Lisa Fagin Davis presented as a keynote speaker.

I am continually grateful to SSHRC for funding this dissertation, as well as the growing number of Canadian Byzantinists I am able to meet at various conferences.

Thomas Wort, University of Ottawa

Throughout my first year as a graduate student in Classical Studies at the University of Ottawa I have, with helpful guidance, narrowed down the topic of my research to the study of doctors throughout Late Antiquity across the Roman world. More specifically, I am focusing on the lives and status of some of this time's more well-known individual physicians (such as Oribasius, Marutha, Zacharias, and others), as well as the impact of established Christianity on the prestige and viability of their profession.

Julian H. Yang, Kangwon National University, Korea

This September marked my third school year at a Korean university. I cannot help myself from mentioning the martial law incident. Despite the president's reckless decision, the people of Korea and their elected representatives in the parliament successfully cut the flames off of the unstable and deluded leader's attempt to destroy the country's hard earned democracy. I am very proud of my students and colleagues in Korea who made a joint statement against his actions.

As for me personally, I have been appointed to serve as the chair of the history department here at KNU. The term is set to last until mid-2026. I have published three peer-reviewed papers this year and the latest one examined the Byzantine Syntipas, the book which Dr Greenfield recommended me a few years ago. This particular paper was a part of my first government funded research project here in Korea. I am very happy to have completed it and I send my deepest gratitude to my mentor and beacon at Queen's.

In 2025, I will be working on the Byzantine version of the *Kalīla wa-Dimna* and translating Dr Greenfield's version of the *Life of Lazaros of Mount Galesion*. The goal is to send the first version of the manuscript to the publisher in 2026. I am honoured to introduce my teacher's legacy in Korea. As he once said, he will not be able to check the quality of my translation in Korea so I have zero pressure on my shoulders with regard to this project.

“Symeon Metaphrastes: A Romanticization of the Redacted Hagiographical Discourses”, *The Journal of Western Medieval History* 53 (2024), 65-96.

“The Chronicle of Niketas Choniates: Writing History and Cultural Identity in Byzantium in the High Middle Ages”, *Kangwon Sahak* 42 (2024), 1-23.

“The Syntipas of Byzantium: A Study on Cultural Exchanges in the Medieval Mediterranean World”, *Studies in Humanities* 75 (2024), 285-309.

REPORTS

Treasurer's Report

First, I want to say thank you to everyone for welcoming me to this role – and for your patience as we dealt with the transfer in roles with the bank. All has been worked out, and the deposits you make for your membership fees are now automatically deposited in our account. And a special thank you to Richard Greenfield for his work with the organization and for all his help in getting things transferred.

To that end, we have currently around 30 members, and a large number of them are graduate students working with several of us across the country. As Richard noted in last year's report, the number of regular faculty members is dropping every year, a result of retirements and university strategic directions. Yet, Byzantine Studies remains alive in Canada, and we need to keep up the fight to keep it visible.

To that end, I would like to suggest three things to keep this organization going – and to perhaps bring it into the spotlight! First, if you haven't paid your fees, please do so – we'll always update the books! Second, please send the information about our organization to one or two colleagues you know who might be interested. If we all did that, we might get some new members.

Finally, I would like to suggest that we think about some visibility at conferences. Perhaps we could consider doing panels as a group at the Byzantine Studies Conference of North America, at the Classical Association of Canada Annual Conference, and at the annual meeting of the Canadian Society of Medievalists. I am on the executive for the first and last ones, mostly involved with EDI/DEI, but I would be happy to promote or organize us if people wish to reach out to me: marica.cassis@ucalgary.ca. The call for papers for the Canadian Society of Medieval Studies is out now: <https://www.canadianmedievalists.org/Conferences-and-CFPs/13431085>

All my best for a peaceful coming year.

Marica Cassis, University of Calgary

Report on the 50th Byzantine Studies Conference in New York

The 50th Annual Byzantine Studies Conference was held in New York in October 2024, a joint endeavor by Fordham University's Lincoln Center Campus, Columbia University, and The Graduate Center of the City University of New York.

The conference was marked by a number of memorable activities, including a wonderful plenary talk by Henry Maguire, Emeritus, Johns Hopkins University on 'The Politics of Imperial Dress in Byzantium, Sicily, Venice and Rome' on Thursday October 24; a BSC Remembrance for Anthony Cutler; a tour of the Metropolitan Museum of Art; and, on Saturday, a very special guided tour of St. Nicholas, the Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine at the World Trade Centre at Ground Zero with John Cotsonis, Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology. Special panels were also held for graduate students on publishing and applying for jobs.

The Business Lunch on Saturday October 26 was well attended, and the following things will be of interest to our members as well:

- a) The Call for Papers for the AIEB 25th International Congress of Byzantine Studies (Vienna, August 2026) should be available early in 2025, and 50 roundtables have been chosen already by the planning committee.
- b) The following colleagues were honoured:
 Anthony Cutler (1934-2024)
 Albert Failler (1937- 2024)
 Gregory Hillis (1975-2024))
 Otto Kresten (1934-2024)
 Harry J. Magoulas (1925-2024)
 Stephen Mitchell (1948- 2024)
 Maria Panayotidi (?-2024)
 Cecil L. Striker (1932-2024)
- c) The next three conferences were announced: Oakland University in Detroit in 2025, Notre Dame in 2026, and Harvard in 2027
- d) BSC now has a very active graduate group, and any of our members who are interested should reach out to them through the BSC website: <https://bsana.net/>
- e) Marica Cassis brought up our organization and gave a brief report on numbers and encouraged people to join.

AND FINALLY: Congratulations to one of our own members - Tiffany Van Winkoop - who won top graduate prize for her paper for BSC 2023.

Marica Cassis, University of Calgary

Report on the 26th *Limes* congress in Batumi, Georgia

I attended the 26th Limes congress in Batumi, Georgia, 8-14 September 2024, and took part in the pre-congress excursion from Tbilisi to Batumi. There were some 340 participants in the congress, most from the U.K. and Germany, I should say, but many also from Georgia, Poland, Austria and Balkan countries along the former Roman frontier. There were excursions to Petra, founded by Justinian, Apsaros and the new archaeological museum at Vani. There were interesting papers on the Roman and Byzantine eastern frontier, as well as on the Balkans, even if most of the conference was focused on the earlier empire. Even if there were some difficulties in communicating with participants as the day of the conference drew near, the Georgian and Polish colleagues who organised the event deserve praise for a very stimulating and convivial event. The proceedings should be published in due course by Brepols. The next conference, in September 2027, is due to take place in Morocco.

Geoffrey Greatrex

RESEARCH ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS FROM BATURYN, UKRAINE, IN 2024

In 1995-2021, Ukrainian and Canadian archaeologists and historians carried out annual excavations in the town of Baturyn in north eastern Ukraine, the capital of the early modern Cossack state or Hetmanate. Because of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, any field investigations in Baturyn were suspended in 2022-23. However, scholars at the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies (CIUS) at the University of Alberta and the Hetman Capital National Historical and Cultural Preserve in Baturyn have continued their off-site research on the important artefacts, discovered during the extensive excavations in this town before the war.



Fig. 1. Our booklet in Ukrainian titled in translation “*Angels in the Decoration of Ivan Mazepa’s Palace in Baturyn: A Study Based on Archaeological Findings*” (Toronto: “Homin Ukrainy”, 2023).

tiles featuring the angels or cherubs found before the war (fig. 1). They faced the heating stoves at the opulent baroque palace of the distinguished Cossack elected ruler, Hetman Ivan Mazepa (1687-1709), which was constructed in the Baturyn suburb of Honcharivka prior to 1700. His residence was burned by tsarist troops when they ravaged Baturyn in 1708, suppressing Mazepa’s insurrection for the independence of Ukraine from Muscovy. Debris of the Honcharivka palace was excavated in 1995-2020.

The project of archaeological and historical study of Baturyn has been sponsored by CIUS and the Ucrainica Research Institute in Toronto (www.ualberta.ca/canadian-institute-of-ukrainian-studies/centres-and-programs/jacyk-centre/baturyn-project.html, www.ucrainica.ca/our-projects/74). Prof. Zenon Kohut, a former CIUS director and an eminent historian of the Cossack polity, initiated this Canada-Ukraine undertaking in 2001. Presently, he acts as its academic adviser and participates in the publication of the research results. The Ukrainian Studies Fund in New York also supports the Baturyn project.

In 2022-24, Baturyn and its environs were spared from Russian occupation, bombardments, and destructions. In the past summer, archaeologists at the Hetman Capital National Historical and Cultural Preserve and some volunteers resumed the limited excavations in this town. Remnants of several ordinary burghers’ dwellings from the Byzantine era and early modern period were unearthed in Baturyn’s vicinity. These new archaeological findings will be examined and published in 2025.

In 2023-24, the researchers of Baturyn published the booklet and series of articles on the glazed ceramic and terracotta (unglazed)



Fig. 2. Half of the glazed ceramic polychrome tile with the angel’s image from the facing of the stove at Mazepa’s palace in Honcharivka. All photos by V. Mezentsev, line drawings by S. Dmytriienko.



Fig. 3. Fragments of the glazed ceramic tile featuring an angel from the stove revetment of the Honcharivka palace.

Our publications on these stove tiles are richly illustrated with photos of their original fragments and hypothetical reconstructions of several complete specimens, as well as the front elevation of the most costly glazed ceramic polychrome tiled stove from Mazepa's ruined manor using photo collage and computer graphic techniques (figs. 2-6). The authors have closely examined the reliefs and enamel



Fig. 5. Complete stove tile bearing the angel in relief and covered by the multicoloured enamel. Hypothetical computer graphic reconstruction by S. Dmytriienko.

paintings of the stylized bodiless angels with only head and two outstretched wings on the Baturyn tiles. These are broadly compared with this motif represented on the early modern majolica dishes, repoussé works, Orthodox icons, engravings, book illustrations, and sculptural decorations of architecture in Kyiv, Western Ukraine, Poland, and Italy (e.g., figs. 7, 8).

Our research has shown that the stove tiles with angels excavated in Baturyn are valuable and informative pieces of Ukrainian artistic ceramics from the late 17th century.



Fig. 4. Photo collage of the entire glazed ceramic polychromatic stove tile with the angel by S. Dmytriienko.

They were crafted by the skilled tile-masters, whom Mazepa summoned from Kyiv. In general, the motif of bodiless angels with only head and double wings was uncharacteristic of the Orthodox iconography of Byzantium and Kyivan Rus'. It appeared in the 15th-century sacral art of Renaissance Italy. From there, the angels or putti as a religious symbol, and later increasingly as merely

ornamental element, were disseminated in both ecclesiastical and secular sculpture and painting all over Christendom during the 16th-18th centuries. At that time, this motif was also transferred to Ukraine primarily via Poland. It became a favourite in the sculptural and pictorial embellishments of Orthodox and Catholic churches, monasteries, castles, palaces, crypts, tombs, as well as in the secular and icon paintings, book graphics, artistic metal and earthen wares of Western and Central Ukraine (e.g., figs. 7, 8).

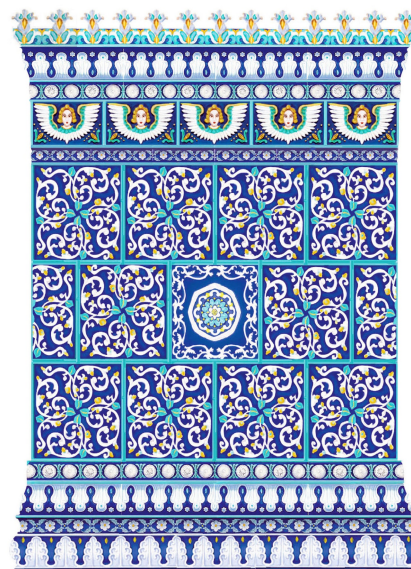


Fig. 6. Front elevation of the upper part of the most ornate glazed ceramic polychrome tiled stove decorated with the tiles depicting angels from Mazepa's palace in Honcharivka, ca. 1700. Hypothetical reconstruction and computer graphic by S. Dmytriienko.



Fig. 7. The 18th-century ceramic majolica multicoloured slab with the angel in bas-relief from the façade adornments of the Assumption Cathedral at the Cave Monastery in Kyiv. Repository of the National Preserve “Sophia of Kyiv”.

fashion then prevalent in the West and Kyiv, and as indication of his European cultural orientation (figs. 2-6).

Thus, our research of the images on the stove tiles excavated in Baturyn provide an important insight into the culture, lifeways, and artistic interests of the hetman, Cossacks or burghers, and their reception of the stimulating artistic influences from Kyiv and the West. It shed new light on the hitherto little known culture of the Cossack Ukraine capital and its link to European Christian civilization.

Our 2023-24 booklet and two articles discussing the Baturyn stove tiles with angels in detail in Ukrainian and English with many illustrations are available online in PDF format (fig. 1):

www.academia.edu/118018338,

www.academia.edu/124016543,

[www.academia.edu/121259407/Angels Adorning Ivan Mazepa as Palace in Baturyn](http://www.academia.edu/121259407/Angels_Adorning_Ivan_Mazepa_Palace_in_Baturyn). The researchers of Baturyn intend to continue the excavations there next summer, if the wartime conditions in Ukraine permit.

Volodymyr Mezentsev, Ph. D.

Executive Director, Canada-Ukraine Baturyn Project

CIUS Toronto Office

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In the 16th and early 17th centuries, invited Italian sculptors and painters introduced this motif to the arts of Galicia, Volhynia, and Kyiv, then under dominion of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. Since that time, the Kyivan tile-makers could model the reliefs and frescoes of putti in the late Renaissance style which adorned the interiors of the Assumption Cathedral at the Cave Monastery and St. Sophia Cathedral in Kyiv, as well as their depictions on Western and Ukrainian baroque engravings, book illustrations, Catholic icons, European secular paintings, toreutics, and other artistic imports.

Young Mazepa was brought up at the Polish royal court and studied and travelled in Germany, Holland, France, and Italy in 1650-60s. He was fascinated with European arts, literature, and culture and promoted them in Ukraine. Mazepa could decorate the tiled stoves at his residence in Baturyn with the motifs of angels of the Renaissance tradition as a tribute to the art



Fig. 8. The 17th-century icon of the Holy Theotokos with the Baby Jesus and the high reliefs of four angels. Hetman Capital National Preserve in Baturyn.

The Canadian Committee of Byzantinists (CCB)

Memories and Visions



This article helps further to flesh out the history of our organisation. It springs from a meeting between its author, Daniel Sahas, and the editor of the bulletin in Ottawa in July. Readers may find it helpful also to consult Franziska Shlosser's 'Short History' of the CCB, first published in issue 15 (2004), 15-19, republished in issue 33 (2022), 27-32, with an update. Antony Littlewood then added a useful appendix, including an index of articles from the bulletin, in issue 34 (2024), 24-27.

An extremely happy and meaningful experience in my academic life was my membership in the 'Canadian Committee of Byzantinists', a membership which evolved into serving it as Chair for the period October 1991-1997, an honorable position indeed! This position meant also joining the Governing Board

of the Association Internationale des Études byzantines (AIEB). As Chair of the CCB, I was following in the footsteps of three eminent Byzantinist scholars: George Glavaris, Professor of Art History at McGill and founder of the CCB, Nicholas Oikonomides, Professor of Byzantine History at the Université de Montréal and Sheila Campbell, Archaeologist and Art historian of the Late Antique/Early Byzantine period at the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies, University of Toronto. These three colleagues, with their own scholarship and prestige, had already defined and projected the identity and the significance of Byzantine Studies in Canada and had laid a solid foundation for an academic body of Byzantinist scholars.

My heavy files of correspondence related to the CCB either with Professor Franziska Shlosser, the tireless Secretary-Treasurer of the CCB and other non-Byzantinist people but deeply interested in such matters,¹ indicate that in those early times of my chairmanship, the CCB had about twenty members, mainly professors from such university departments as Classical Studies, History, Religious Studies, Mediaeval Studies and History of Art. As the CCB was becoming known among people of various departments and disciplines, ten more scholars and graduate students joined the CCB, raising its membership by the end of 1992 to thirty. Two lectures delivered during that year by the eminent Professor G. Kurbatov, leading scholar in Byzantine Studies, University of St Petersburg, member of the Academy of Sciences of the former USSR,² helped in raising interest and in promoting the profile of Byzantine Studies in Canada and that of the CCB. This was also the year when the *Canadio-Byzantina* Newsletter saw for the first time the light of day.

Such activities and developments made some members consider reforming the 'Canadian Committee of Byzantinists' as a 'Canadian Society of Byzantinists' so as to be included in the Canadian Federation of the Humanities as one of its Learned Societies of Canada; it would also thus also resemble other societies such as the Canadian society of Patristic Studies. Drafting a Constitution for such a 'Society' became one of the CCB's 1992. The change might also facilitate members' participation (especially at times of economic restrictions) in the annual meetings of the Byzantine Studies Conference (BSC) in the USA, in the context

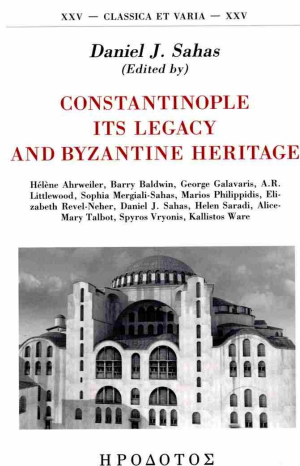
¹ Cf. correspondence also with Mr Theodore Soteropoulos, Consul General of Greece in Toronto (March 23, 1992).

² On him cf. *Canadio-Byzantina*, No.1 – January 1992.

of the Learned Societies Conference called in central, convenient and economically suitable locations. In 1993, an official CCB Directory was published where names of CCB members (or persons associated in some way with it) were recorded.³ As I noted to Franziska Shlosser in a letter of mine dated September 9, 1997, 'It is a pity that we do not meet from time to time as a Society in order to have the opportunity all of us to enjoy the company of each other in person.'

During those CCB years, the General Secretary of the AIEB was Professor John Karayannopoulos of the University of Thessaloniki, Greece. In some correspondence with him I find myself complaining to him for sending us only five copies of the *Bulletin of the International Association of Byzantine Studies* (No. XVI, in the year 1991), an inadequate number to satisfy the needs of a much broader CCB! Shortly afterwards, the number of the *Bulletin* copies increased to twenty – still smaller than the actual CCB membership. The CCB seems to have become instrumental for several people in getting interested in Byzantine studies, as a letter from Mr Ward McBurney to me as Chair of the CCB (September 1993) indicates, asking me about 'general books on the History of Byzantium'. I responded to him (Sept. 1993) suggesting titles of such authors as Robert Browning, Deno Geanakoplos, A. A. Vasiliev, J. M. Hussey, Dimitri Obolensky for 'their paperback editions at reasonable prices' ...!

The CCB was also extending its activities beyond the narrow circle of Professors and graduate students. With the help of Sheila Campbell and our common personal acquaintances we energized further an Association of Greek-Canadian Constantinopolitans in Toronto ('The Hellenic Canadian Association of Constantinople'). These people, with passion and vision to cultivate and promote their ancestral history and culture to the wider Canadian public, with our supervision and guidance, funded two very important activities: (a) an annual essay competition of Byzantine-Constantinopolitan content among graduate students from the Province of Ontario, with the intention to extend it to the rest of the provinces of Canada - something which, unfortunately, did not materialize; and (b) a series of public lectures on Byzantium for the broader interested and educated public. During the period 1992-2001 two series of such lectures were offered, very successfully, under the headings *Constantinople and its Legacy* and *Byzantine Heritage*. The lectures were hosted by St Michael's College, University of Toronto. The attending audience, consisting of scholars, students and people of the educated public, on occasion reached two hundred participants.



In chronological order, the speakers were the following: 1992, Helen Saradi (Classical Studies, University of Guelph; 1993, Daniel J. Sahas (Religious Studies, University of Waterloo); 1994, George Galavaris (History of Art, McGill University); 1994, Hélène Ahrweiler (University of Paris); 1995, A.R. Littlewood (University of Western Ontario); 1995, Kallistos Ware (Pebroke College, Oxford); 1996, Elisabeth Revel-Neher (Hebrew University of Jerusalem); 1997, Alice-Mary Talbot (Director of Byzantine Studies, Dumbarton Oaks, Washington D.C.); 1998, Marios Philippides (Department of Classics, University of Massachusetts-Amherst); 1999, Barry Baldwin (Classics, University of Calgary); 2000, Sophia Mergiali-Sahas (Lecturer, University of Crete); 2001, Spyros Vryonis (University of California). Subsequently, each lecture was printed at the University of Waterloo in the form of a booklet and offered, free of charge, to University and public libraries, as well as to interested individuals throughout Canada. These lectures were re-published very recently as a collective volume under the title *Constantinople. Its Legacy and Byzantine Heritage*, ed. Daniel J. Sahas, by the Greek Publisher

³ Cf. letter to Dr Michael Moore, Ann Arbor MI, dated October 15, 1992.

Hêrodotos (Athens, Greece, 2024).

It is worth noting that a comparable lecture series was also organised in Toronto in the 1990s by the Canadian Institute for Balkan Studies, which one can readily confuse with this series. The speakers were K. Ware, I. Ševčenko, H. Maguire, P. Magdalino, G. Myers, S. Popović, W. Treadgold. In *Canadio-Byzantina* 28 (2017) I announced that the University of Ottawa had uploaded digitised versions of all these lectures, information I repeated in issue 32 (2021). But the addresses given there are no longer correct. To find the full titles of the paper, see *Canadio-Byzantina* 32 (2021), 35 (or the other issue mentioned). Armed with these, one should visit the website <https://ruor.uottawa.ca/home> and then simply search with a few terms from the title of the paper.

One of my most unexpected and precious acquaintances was Professor Corinna Matzukis, of the Department of Greek and Latin Studies, Rand Afrikaans University, Republic of South Africa, of Greek descent. I met Mrs Matzukis in 1995 through the ‘Hellenic Canadian Association of Constantinople in Toronto’, as she was coming to Canada almost every year visiting friends and relatives of hers. In one of our meetings she made me an offer to visit South Africa as visiting lecturer to teachers and students in her Department. We agreed on a two-months visit during the second part of my DumbartonOaks Senior fellowship (April-August 1997) at the time of my 1996-97 sabbatical year from the University of Waterloo. Such an experience, however, did not materialize in the end, since it fell between major developments in my personal life after my resignation from the Chairmanship of the CCB. Professor Littlewood, the new Chair, lamented my resignation from the CCB, while noting that it was ‘not a detrimental resignation’ (and rightly so!) for reasons explained below.

The CCB after my resignation in 1997 was most fortunate to have as its new Chair Antony Littlewood of the University of Western Ontario and equally blessed for her diligence and collegiality, Franziska Shlosser (Concordia University) as continuing Secretary and Treasurer.

CCB and AIEB

In 1996 the Congress of the AIEB took place in Copenhagen. I represented the CCB at the AIEB executive meeting. A new president of the AIEB was elected, G. Dagron (Paris), and a new Secretary, Nicholas Oikonomides (Athens). At that meeting a list of paid and not-paid dues of member Committees-Societies was circulated – for ... information. The list showed that the CCB had properly paid its dues for 1991, 1992, 1994, and 1996, but not (?) for 1993 and 1995. I notified accordingly Franziska Shlosser, who settled the matter properly with M. Nystazopoulou-Pelekidou (Athens), serving then as AIEB treasurer. A brief note on the Copenhagen Congress was included in *Canadio-Byzantina*. That was my last exposure and experience as Chair of the CCB. From September 1996 I began a sabbatical year with a Senior Fellowship at the Dumbarton Oaks Centre, in Washington D.C. – a memorable cornerstone year (1996-1997) for my academic and personal life!

Members

Priceless was my acquaintance and cooperation as Chair with Professor Franziska Shlosser of the Department of History, Concordia University, Montreal, responsible for the secretarial and financial matters of the CCB. During those early years of the Committee we had manifold, mostly bureaucratic, matters to deal with, such as

correspondence in typed form with members scattered all over Canada on issues of membership, dues and renewals and questions by potential members who were contacting us.

For reasons only of limited historical interest, some names which appear in my correspondence with Franziska Shlosser as new members of the CCB in those early years are those of Violette (?) (December 1991); Myers, Sinkewicz, Dimnik, Baldwin, Corbett, Fotiou, Friedman, Grey, Moore, Thompson, Wortley, Alan Booth, Oleh Bych, Thomas Elliott, Richard Greenfield and A. R. Littlewood (January 1992). Shortly afterwards, Professor Angela Comnène, ICOM-UNESCO (Ottawa, Ontario) sent me her publication *Présence de l'art néo-byzantine au Canada* (November, 1992). So also did Père Stéphane Bigham (St-Eustache, Québec), who in April 1993 sent me his recently published *Les Chrétiens et les Images* (Éditions Paulines, 1992) along with his article on 'Eusèbe de Césarée et les images chrétiennes'. Such contacts and donations provided me with the opportunity to send to them the third issue of *Canadio-Byzantina*, just published, and to invite them to become members of the CCB (March, 1993).

Being an ardent advocate of communication – an essential manifestation of personhood, relationship and communion – among people of common ideals, vocation and interests, especially those living in a huge, diversified, multicultural, ecumenical society like Canada, I thought immediately of a CCB newsletter as a necessity, a means of communication and information about the Canadian scholarly presence in Byzantine matters. Thus it was in the first days of February that the January, 1992, the first issue of the CCB *Canadio-Byzantina* Newsletter saw the light of day. By November 1992 its two first issues (nos. 1 and 2) had been published. These were sent to the CCB members, to *Byzantinische Zeitschrift*,⁴ the AIEB and various other bodies and institutions outside Canada, like the Gennadius Library of the American School of Classical Studies in Athens, Greece. In a communication I had with Professor Ann Moffatt of the Art History Department of the Australian National University, in Canberra (April 1993), I was informed that *Canadio-Byzantina* had been mentioned in the British *Bulletin*. I sent her the two issues which had been published and included her name in our mailing list.

Thus *Canadio-Byzantina* became the vehicle of communication within and far beyond the borders of Canada among people interested in Byzantium and Byzantine Studies. My correspondence files indicate the case of Mr Gregory Myers from Sofia, Bulgaria, who, through *Canadio-Byzantina*, enthusiastically wrote to me (Sept. 1992) to learn about Byzantine Studies in Canada. I responded to him accordingly and connected him with Helen Saradi, then Professor of Byzantine Studies at the University of Guelph, for further information on what he was inquiring. Other such cases were James Payton, Professor at Redeemer College, Ancaster, Ontario (Oct. 1992); John Osborne, Professor at the Department of History in Art, University of Victoria (December 1992); Nicoletta Isar-Lock of the University of Toronto (June 1995). Eight issues (Nos. 1-8) of the *Canadio-Byzantina* were published during the period from January 1992 to September 1996. Professor Anthony Littlewood, the new CCB Chair, continued this tradition with fourteen excellent issues (9-22, 1998-2011).

As mentioned above, owing to my sabbatical leave (1996-97) and my Dumbarton Oaks Senior fellowship in Washington D.C., in 1997 I had to resign as President of the CCB and publisher of *Canadio-Byzantina*. The new CCB Chair, Professor Littlewood, in his own first issue of the Newsletter during his term, (no.9 – January 1998) lamented at my resignation, something which, however, he did not consider at all detrimental to the CCB (and rightly so!) since, as he wrote in his introduction, 'his [my] marriage has

⁴ Cf. letter to Peter Schreiner, the Editor, July 19, 1993.

resulted in a new member for us [the CCB], Dr. Sophia Mergiali-Sahas, to whom we give a warm welcome and our best wishes for a productive Canadian career.’ This was indeed a high compliment and a kind farewell gesture on his part.

After my retirement from the University of Waterloo and the return to my homeland, Greece, in October 2002 (thirty-three and a half years after landing in Canada), Professor Littlewood graciously received from me, from the other side of the Atlantic, ‘bits and pieces of news of Byzantine content, as of possible interest to the Canadian Byzantinists ...and the readers of the *Canadio-Byzantina*’. *Canadio-Byzantina* in all its shapes and forms, throughout its years of publication to this very day, has been for me one of, if not **the** most precious and meaningful bridge over the Atlantic Ocean with Canadian (and not only) colleagues and dear friends!

I have recalled and shared these pieces of information from my archives only in order to underline the *essential* relevance, the *absolute* need and the *meaningful* role that a learned Society of Byzantine Studies in Canada (and everywhere in the world) should serve – as a source and bastion of knowledge, sensitivity, evaluation and appreciation on matters related to the Byzantine phenomenon, its reality, ethos, history and culture; not to mention, of course, its value as a means of challenge, dialogue, fellowship, communication and progress among its members, teacher-scholars and researchers!

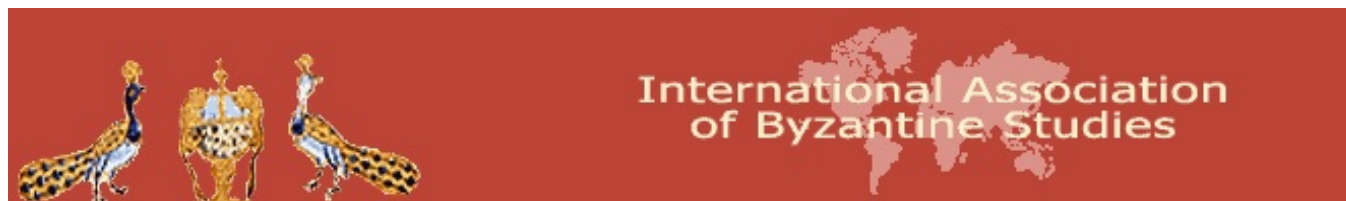
Daniel J. Sahas, Professor Emeritus, University of Waterloo

Postscript: readers may wonder what became of the proposal to change the ‘Committee’ to a ‘Society’ mentioned in the article. I am grateful to Antony Littlewood for clarification: it appears that, on reflection, it was deemed more sensible to remain as a committee, since the modest numbers involved didn’t really warrant establishing a society. And so a committee we remain!

If you have not renewed your subscription for this year, please either make an e-payment to Professor Marica Cassis, marica.cassis@ucalgary.ca (you will notice that she has organised an auto-deposit to our committee when you make the transfer) or send a cheque (\$30 or \$15 for students) payable to ‘The Canadian Committee of Byzantinists’ to her at Department of History, University of Calgary, SS 608, 527 Campus Place NW, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, T2N 1N4.



The exterior walls of Nokalakevi (Archaeopolis) in Georgia



Réunion Inter-Congrès 2024 Report

The Réunion Inter-Congrès was held in the Ilisia Hotel in Athens, Greece, on April 12-13, 2024, thanks to the generous organization of the Greek National Committee, spearheaded by President Tachiarxes Kolias and Secretary General Theodora Antonopoulou.

After the welcome dinner on April 12, where the delegates of national committees had a chance to meet and greet their hosts and each other, the earnest work of the meeting started on April 13. The Réunion Inter-Congrès was opened by welcoming remarks from the President of the Greek National Committee Tachiarxes Kolias followed by the report of the President of AIEB, Antonio Rigo and the Secretary of AIEB, Christos Stavrakos, before concluding with the report of AIEB's Treasurer, Béatrice Caseau. The reports focused on the positive developments since the last congress held in Venice. However, the wider geopolitical situation in Europe was also acknowledged. The absence of Ukrainian and Russian delegates was addressed, and it was agreed that the Ukrainian National Committee should be forgiven its unpaid dues due to the ongoing conflict.

The initial reports from the AIEB governing bodies and the Greek National Committee were followed by an open discussion about several issues. The first item was raised by Andreas Rhoby from Austria, who wondered whether the congress's current complex structure should be simplified for practical reasons, citing the medieval conference in Kalamazoo as a model. The question opened a lively discussion among the delegates; some were more open to restructuring the Congress, which has been run in its current form since the rearrangement in Belgrade in 2016. Notably, Leonora Neville from the United States raised the issue of equity and equality among the participants, stating that the current division into plenary sessions, thematic sessions, round tables, and free communications seems overly hierarchical. While many members, such as the delegates from Greece and Canada, agreed with this point of view, there were those, such as a representative from Romania, who claimed that hierarchies are good and that students should strive to emulate and become like their professors by progressing from free communication to round tables and eventually even thematic and plenary sessions. A third group, represented by the delegates from the UK and Serbia, argued that the current structure of the Congress with round tables added in 2016 is inclusive and open. The discussion shifted from the hierarchical nature of the Congress into questions of quality control, which the members of the Austrian National Committee raised. The question of the structure was left to be determined in the future, with the consensus that the Congress in Vienna would run in the same manner as the previous two meetings in Venice and Belgrade.

After the lively discussion on the structure of the Congress and a short coffee break, the delegates met again to discuss the establishment of two new commissions of the AIEB. The first commission was the one for Patrimony and its preservation proposed by the Louvre, which in later 2022 opened a Département des Arts de Byzance et des Chrétientés en Orient. This commission would work on raising academic and public awareness around the issue of illicit looting and trade of artefacts in conflict-affected and other

zones. Questions were raised about how the commission would be able to reach a wider audience and the expected outcomes. According to the organizers of the Patrimony commission, they would work through conferences, workshops, and meetings to build a network of like-minded specialists and scholars to raise awareness about artifact trafficking. The commission was approved by the delegates present at the meeting.

The second new commission established at the Réunion Inter-Congrès is the Commission for Byzantine Diplomats, coordinated by Giuseppe De Gregorio from the University of Bologna. Its goal is to promote work in the field of diplomacy, which has been growing within Byzantine Studies. The commission aims to regularly coordinate and update information about Byzantine diplomacy. It will also focus on building an online presence through updated bibliographies and digitization of materials. The report outlining the commission's purpose is available on the AIEB's website.

Following the proposals for two new commissions, representatives of nine existing commissions gave their reports. The reports of the commissions – CFHB, IGAB, Epigraphy, Sigillography, Development, History of Art, Historical Geography and Spatial Analytics, Archeology, and Medical Studies – about the exciting new work in their respective fields can be found on the AIEB's website.

The commission reports were followed by a break and a presentation from the Austrian National Committee delegates, Claudia Rapp and Andreas Rhoby, regarding the upcoming 25th Congress of Byzantine Studies in Vienna. A list of participants for the plenary and thematic sessions, as well as the round tables, was provided. While the organizers discussed some challenges they faced while arranging this significant event, they also shared the good news that the main venue is secured, and planning is well underway. The Congress organizers addressed Vienna's commitment to hosting green events, which means participants should not expect to receive any printed materials during the Congress. This initiative was welcomed by some delegates but challenged by others who wanted a printed book of abstracts to keep in their libraries. Overall, the Viennese organizing committee demonstrated that they have already accomplished a great deal of work, promising an exciting Congress ahead.

After the report from the 2026 organizers, five delegates presented their National Committee's bid to host the 2031 Congress. Cyprus was the first to start its bid, emphasizing that the year 2031 would mark a major anniversary of the Cypriot Church's autocephaly. It was stated that several Cypriot universities and other institutions would join forces to fund and organize the event. The second bid came from Athens, highlighting the National Committee's proven track record in organizing large events, along with the numerous Byzantine sites participants could explore while in the city. The third candidate was Madrid, whose delegation remarked that Spain has never hosted a congress and that the city could showcase several Byzantine artifacts during the stay. The Spanish National Committee has also promoted the topic for the Congress, Identities in and around Byzantium, with an Iberian connection to the Kingdom of Aragon recognized as a potential subject. The fourth candidate city was Budapest, which offered to host the congress, citing its long tradition in Byzantine Studies and several artefacts available for viewing. Lastly, the fifth candidate was Paris, whose delegation proposed the theme Faces of Byzantium. This theme emphasizes new perspectives and methods in Byzantine Studies that have emerged since the last congress held in Paris. The host for the 26th Congress of Byzantine Studies will be decided during the upcoming congress in Vienna.

With the bids of the five candidate cities for 2031, the Réunion Inter-Congrès came to an end. The delegates of all national committees were generously hosted for a farewell dinner at the Faculty Clubhouse of the University of Athens by the host from the Greek National Committee.

Aleksandar Jovanovic

**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 has now been approved. 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

**BYZANTINE BOOKS MOVE TO OTTAWA
JULY 2024**



The current & former presidents of CCB

In late July this year I hired a van and drove with the help of a kind friend, Julie Vaillancourt, the 700 km or so to London, Ontario, to pick up a consignment of books that our former president, Antony Littlewood, wanted to pass on to a good home. As Chair of my department (until 30 June 2024) I had made sure earlier to have extra shelves installed in our reading



room to house the books. With the help of a Western student, James Kenneth, we loaded up the van and brought the collection, comprising many useful texts and works of secondary literature, back to Ottawa the next day. Once back in Ottawa, we were able to unload the books, divide them into various categories, and place them on the shelves. Several helpful students assisted in this process, notably Una Greenwood, Jasmin Holtz and Tom Wort.

SHORT NOTICES

All the Greek Manuscripts of El Escorial Accessible Online

I am pleased to inform you that the DIGITESC project (Digitization, Description and Online Access to the Greek manuscript collection of El Escorial, TED2021-130178B-I00, NextGenerationEU) has come to an end after having achieved the goal of putting online all the Greek codices of the Royal Library of the Monastery of El Escorial. You can access the manuscripts through Pinakes (<https://pinakes.irht.cnrs.fr>) or through RBME Digital (<https://rbme.patrimoniacionacional.es>).

There remains the task of improving and completing the description of the manuscripts.

Video on the Greek manuscripts in Spain and the project DIGITESC:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=arD1G6mz5ms>

Inmaculada Pérez Martín (PI of DIGITESC)

Open-access Databases of the National Hellenic Research Foundation

The Institute of Historical Research (IHR) of the National Hellenic Research Foundation (NHRF) provides open access to 16 databases concerning Byzantine History and especially Byzantine Greece: <https://anavathmis.eu/?lang=en>.

Based on the scrutiny of a large body of primary and secondary sources by members of the Section of Byzantine Research of the IHR/NHRF and associated scholars, the databases provide various search possibilities in certain types of texts (historiography and hagiography) and in specific topics (e.g. gastronomy, bookbinding, imported ceramics, raw materials, natural resources and agricultural products, domestic and wild fauna, Greek merchants), as well as a catalogue of the Byzantine documents kept in the archives of the monastery of Saint John the Theologian in Patmos, notes found in manuscripts of the same monastery, the diplomatic transcriptions of Greek post-Byzantine documents kept in the archives of the monasteries of Mount Athos, a gazetteer of late Byzantine conflicts, a prosopographical index (for the Venetian colonies in Greece), a catalogue of western religious orders in Greece. Of special note is the “Kyrtou Plegmata” platform, which offers search possibilities in the trade and communication networks in and around Greece from Prehistory to the 19th c.

The IHR/NHRF also provides open access to a number of e-books regarding Byzantine History:

<https://anavathmis.eu/e-books/?lang=en#1573422809019-ffd3837c-0760>

Undergraduate Essay Contest in Byzantine Studies

We are pleased to announce the latest 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 312 to 1453 CE. Applicants do not need to be a major in a pertinent discipline (Archaeology, Art History, Classics, History, Medieval Studies, Near Eastern Studies, Religious 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, Manitoba
Canada
Tel.: 204-786-9879
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 8-20 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, 2025. The winner will be notified in September (2025) and will be announced in a subsequent CAN-BYZ newsletter.

This past year there were **no submissions**. Any interested instructors and students should consider submitting essays over the course of the academic year, as **all essays offered will be given serious consideration**. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to email me, Conor Whately, at c.whately@uwinnipeg.ca.