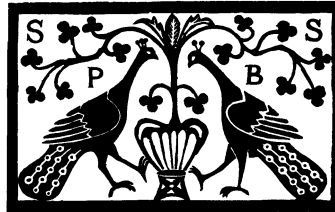


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# Society News

Society for the Promotion of Byzantine Studies

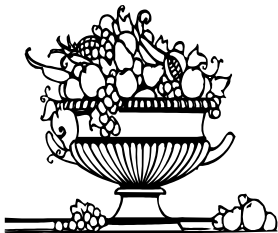


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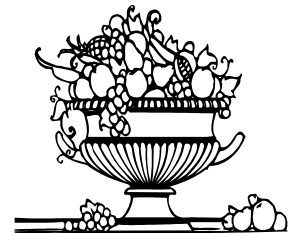
Issue 9

November 2002

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**Eat, drink, and be merry (Luke 12:19):**  
**Production, consumption and**  
**celebration of food and wine in**  
**Byzantium**



is the theme of the 37<sup>th</sup> **Spring Symposium of Byzantine Studies**, to be held 29-31 March 2002 at the University of Birmingham, under the auspices of the Centre for Byzantine, Ottoman and Modern Greek Studies (Institute of Archaeology and Antiquity). The Symposiasts will consider the rituals of eating together in the Byzantine world ('Guess who's coming to dinner?'), the material culture of Byzantine food and wine consumption ('The art of eating'), the transport and exchange of agricultural products ('Over the river and through the woods'), and a variety of other topics, including: dancing at dinner, banquets in Byzantium, monastic dining, what to wear to dinner, the Byzantine diet, where to eat and what to drink, and the symbolism of eating in Byzantine hagiography. There will be opening and closing lectures, four sessions of 30-minute papers, and a series of shorter papers. In addition, 12-minute communications on the theme will be solicited in the New Year.

The Symposiarch is Leslie Brubaker. To date, confirmed participants include:

P. Armstrong	L. Brubaker	AAM Bryer	A. Cameron
R. Cormack	B. Crostini Lappin	J. Crow	M. Cunningham
M. Decker	A. Dunn	A. Eastmond	C. Galatariotou
M. Grünbart	J.F. Haldon	M. Harlow	A. Harvey
J. Herrin	L. James	E. Kislinger	J. Koder
A. Lymberopoulou	R. Macrides	P. Magdalino	S. Malmberg
C. Mango	M.M. Mango	R. Morris	K. Moustakas
M. Mullet	J. Munitz	M. Parani	J. Smedley
D. Smythe	D. Stathakopoulos	A-M. Talbot	J. Vroom
M. Whittow	C. Wickham	A. Williams	

For further information contact: Anna Williams, Flat 6, 31 Putney Hill, Putney, London SW15 6BQ [anna\\_byz@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:anna_byz@hotmail.co.uk)

## **Byzantine Studies in China (Professor Averil Cameron)**

I was lucky enough to spend two and a half weeks in China in September visiting five Chinese universities, giving talks and meeting Byzantinist colleagues and students there (yes, Byzantine studies exists in China!). The visit was arranged as a result of a visit to Oxford in 2001 by Professor Xu Jialing of North East Normal University as a K.C. Wong Fellow, and through her I think I must have met most if not all of the active Byzantinists and many of their students. Though few in number, they are very keen to have contact with Byzantinists abroad, and also to make connections where possible with institutions for exchange visits or graduate programmes. There could also be some opportunities for visitors, including e.g. recent PhD's, to spend some time teaching (there is a particular shortage of people to teach Greek). The students I met were extremely keen, and their English is good, but they do often lack access to current books and periodicals. A lot of them were very keen to know how they could set about studying abroad. We could help them in all these ways, and I'm sure they would be very pleased to hear from interested institutions or individuals. Byzantine studies is taught mainly in departments of history as part of world history courses, and with a heavy emphasis on comparative history. I was asked to speak about, e.g., Byzantine studies in the west (this provoked lively discussion), and about the transition from late Roman empire to Byzantium; I also spoke about Constantine, and in general the questions ranged very widely, e.g. about Alexios I and the 11<sup>th</sup> century. Lots of people also came along who were not Byzantinists, and I was very impressed with the general interest and enthusiasm. The academics I met have a good internal network, but I did not get the impression that many of them were in close current contact with Byzantinists abroad. However I am sure they would like to be, and for example to receive information about email lists or Byzantine web resources. If you do make contact please mention my name!

Here are some of the people I met, and their institutions:

### **Beijing University, Centre of Hellenic Studies**

Professor Zhu Xiao Yuan, Director

(zhupku@sohu.com)

Professor Peng Xiaoyu ([jerome@pke.edu.cn](mailto:jerome@pke.edu.cn))

The Centre is new and Professors Zhu and Peng are not Hellenists, but they are keen to develop it, and in particular need a Greek teacher)

### **Tsinghua University, Beijing**

Professor Zhang Xushan

([xszzhang@mail.tsinghua.edu.cn](mailto:xszzhang@mail.tsinghua.edu.cn))

Professor Zhang did his doctoral work at Ioannina on Byzantium and China, and is the author of a 1998 book in Greek on contacts in the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> centuries.

### **Nankai University, Tianjin**

Professor Chen Zhi-qiang ([markchen@eyou.com](mailto:markchen@eyou.com)),

also spent some years at Ioannina, and is the author of a book in Chinese on the Byzantine empire.

Professor Wang Yixin

(yixinwang63@hotmail.com)

Professor Wang Dunshu

([dshuwang@tj.cnuninet.net](mailto:dshuwang@tj.cnuninet.net)), doyen of Roman and early Byzantine history, and organizer of two international historical congresses, has visited London and Oxford.

### **North East Normal University, Changchun**

Professor Xu Jialing ([xujl49@mail.jl.cn](mailto:xujl49@mail.jl.cn)), did doctoral work at Thessaloniki, the author of a book in Chinese on the reign of Justinian. Professor Xu has had two visits to Oxford in 2001 and 2002, and attended the Paris Congress last year.

Professor Gong Xiuhua ([xh@public.cc.jl.cn](mailto:xh@public.cc.jl.cn)), late Roman history.

Also at North East Normal University is the Institute of Ancient Civilization, founded in 1984, which can receive overseas visitors (and needs language teachers – Latin is currently being taught by a Russian graduate student still doing her PhD from Yale. They would particularly like visitors willing to teach some Greek). It covers Assyriology, Egyptology, Greek, Latin and Ancient History. Nankai University and NENU at Changchun seem to be the places where there is greatest critical mass in the subject, but I also visited Shanghai (Fu Dan University), where Professor Huang Yang (PhD from King's College London in Greek history) teaches ancient history, and got a very large audience for a lecture on Constantine. Please get in touch if you would like more information and I will do my best to answer (averil.cameron@keb.ox.ac.uk).

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## Conference Report

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### *Reconstructing Byzantine Constantinople: New Perspectives from Archaeology and History.*

Reading, 26 October 2002

This one-day colloquium was organised by Ken Dark of the Research Centre for Late Antique and Byzantine Studies (University of Reading), and Jonathan Harris of the Hellenic Institute at Royal Holloway College (University of London).

Eight speakers examined themes which covered the city's history from its foundation by Constantine in 330 through to its restoration to Byzantine rule by Michael VIII Palaeologus in 1261. Jan Kostanec, visiting from the University of Prague, looked at the latest evidence for the first phase of the great palace, before it developed into the sprawling complex that it later became. Peter Sarris traced the fortunes of Egyptians in sixth century Constantinople and the support networks they established there. Bryan Ward-Perkins compared the vicissitudes of Constantinople in the fifth to ninth centuries with those of Rome, and cast considerable light on this notoriously obscure period. Nikolai Serikoff revealed the existence of an Arabic version of an account of the building of Hagia Sophia, preserved in the Wellcome Trust library in London. A beautifully illustrated presentation by Antony Littlewood looked at the gardens of Constantinople. The great public parks and palace gardens were seen as a symbol of wealth and power, so that a Byzantine ambassador to Baghdad berated the caliph for the lack of greenery in his palace. Professor Littlewood also revealed evidence for private gardens and roof terraces that must have dotted the urban landscape. Ken Dark discussed tantalising traces that may remain of the great church of the Holy Apostles, built into the fifteenth century mosque of the Conqueror (Fatih Camii). Jonathan Harris looked at attitudes to the monks and hermits of Constantinople in the middle and Byzantine period. Aphrodite Papayianni took the evidence of western and Arab travellers to assess what remained of the great sites and sights of the city, after its sack by the crusaders in 1204. The full conference programme and titles of papers can be found on the internet at:

<http://www1.rhul.ac.uk/hellenic-institute/>

About 65 people attended, including many MA and PhD students. The organisers would like to thank Anthea Harris, Zoe Harris and Charalambos Dendrinou for their help and hard work in making the day a success.

## BYZANTINE GREEK SUMMER SCHOOL JUNE 2-27, 2003

Dumbarton Oaks is again offering an intensive four-week course in medieval Greek and paleography in the early summer of 2003. A limited number of places will be available for graduate students currently pursuing a doctoral degree in any field of Byzantine studies.

**Course Offerings:** The principal course will be a daily 1 ½ hour session devoted to the translation of sample Byzantine texts. Each week texts will be selected from a different genre, e.g., historiography, hagiography, poetry, epistolography. One additional hour weekly will be used for instruction in the basic bibliography of Byzantine philology (dictionaries, grammars, etc.) and electronic tools, such as the Thesaurus Linguae Graecae and the Dumbarton Oaks Hagiography Database. Twice a week there will be one-hour sessions on Byzantine paleography. In addition each student will receive a minimum of one hour per week of individual tutorial. Thus 11 ½ hours per week will be devoted to formal classroom instruction. It is anticipated that students will require the remaining hours of the week to prepare their assignments. If they should have extra time, they may use the resources of the Dumbarton Oaks library for their personal research.

**Faculty:** Alexander Alexakis, The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey; Alice-Mary Talbot, Dumbarton Oaks

**Accommodation and Costs:** No tuition fees will be charged. Successful candidates from outside the Washington area will be provided with housing in the Fellows Building at no cost and complimentary breakfast and lunch on weekdays. Local area students will not be offered accommodation, but will receive free lunch on weekdays. Students are expected to cover their own transportation expenses.

**Requirements for Admission:** Applicants must be graduate students in a field of Byzantine studies. Two years of university level ancient Greek (or the equivalent) are a prerequisite; a diagnostic test will be administered to finalist applicants before the final selection of successful candidates is made. The program is now being made available to students at European universities; applicants from non-Anglophone universities must clearly demonstrate their

superior command of spoken and written English, and their ability to translate Greek into English.

**Application Procedure:** Applicants should send a letter by January 15, 2003, to Dr. Talbot, describing their academic background, career goals, previous study of Greek, fluency in English (where applicable), and reasons for wishing to attend the summer school. The application should also include a curriculum vitae and a transcript of the graduate school record. Two letters of recommendation should be sent separately, one from the student's advisor, and one from an instructor in Greek, assessing the candidate's present level of competence in ancient or medieval Greek. For non-Anglophone students the letters should include an assessment of the candidate's ability to translate Greek into English. Principles of selection will be previous meritorious achievement, need for intensive study of Byzantine Greek, and future direction of research. Awards will be announced in February 2003, and must be accepted by March 15.

**DUMBARTON OAKS**  
**Program in Byzantine Studies**  
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Washington, D.C. 20007  
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FAX: 202-339-6419  
E-mail: [Byzantine@doaks.org](mailto:Byzantine@doaks.org)

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## **British Institute of Archaeology at Ankara**

The Institute exists to support, promote and publish British research into the archaeology and related subjects (e.g. anthropology, geography, history, art history, literature) of Turkey and surrounding regions such as the Black Sea littoral.

### **Grants and Fellowships**

Annually the Institute offers research grants to help scholars undertake research in Turkey and surrounding regions; study grants to support the completion of PhDs or discrete pieces of post-doctoral research; travel grants to enable students to travel to and in Turkey and surrounding regions; a fieldwork grant (sponsored by the Society for the Promotion of Hellenic Studies) to enable a student to participate in an excavation or survey project that relates to Hellenic Studies; and conference grants to support conferences, day schools or seminars on the archaeology, history and related subjects of Turkey and surrounding regions. In addition the Institute

funds an annual Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship. Information about all these schemes can be found on the Institute's website ([www.biaa.ac.uk](http://www.biaa.ac.uk)).

### **The British Academy Black Sea Initiative**

The British Academy Black Sea Initiative is a new programme of research in the Black Sea region sponsored by the British Academy and co-ordinated by the British Institute of Archaeology at Ankara. Hitherto artificial modern boundaries have sliced through a region for which the sea was not so much a division as a central highway. The Initiative aims to support and promote study in the Black Sea region within British universities and to initiate increased interaction between British academics and scholars from the countries neighbouring the Black Sea and within a wider international context. While the solid core of existing British Institute of Archaeology at Ankara expertise and practice can be built on, this initiative actively reaches out to a wide range of disciplines (e.g. anthropology, ethnography, geography, history, art history, linguistics and literature). The promotion of a thematic approach will explicitly expand the academic base while contributing to an inter-disciplinary synergy. This initiative aims to lay the ground for much longer-term development of study in the region. Various funding opportunities are available. Please visit the website for further information: [www.biaa.ac.uk/babsi/](http://www.biaa.ac.uk/babsi/).

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### **From the Treasurer...**

Please could members make cheques for book purchases payable to the **SPBS P Account** (not just to the SPBS).

### **From the Membership Secretary....**

Please could members who have not already done so send their e-mail address to: [fiona.nicks@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:fiona.nicks@kcl.ac.uk)

