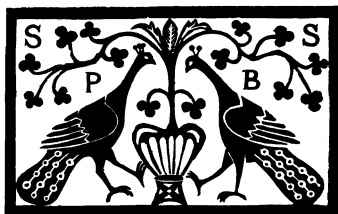

Society News

Society for the Promotion of Byzantine Studies



Issue 13

November 2006

**The 40th Spring Symposium of Byzantine Studies
Byzantine History as Literature
University of Birmingham
13-16 April 2007**

The Spring Symposium of Byzantine Studies returns to the University of Birmingham to celebrate its 40th year in its original home. The subject of the symposium is the literary analysis of Byzantine historical writing. Perceived since the 16th century as the most impressive literary achievement of Byzantine culture, historical writing nevertheless remains unstudied as literature and underdeveloped as a field of study. Historical texts are still read first and foremost for the information they contain, as main sources for the reconstruction of the events of Byzantine history. Whatever is literary in these works is rejected. The features which Byzantine writers of historical texts inherited, imitated and absorbed from the classical tradition are regarded as standing in the way of understanding the meaning of the text. The Symposium will be the first conference devoted exclusively to the techniques and methodologies of the literary interpretation of Byzantine historical writing. Visual narrative in illustrated manuscripts will also be examined.

The symposium will begin with a joint meeting of the Classical Association which Margaret Mullett will address, speaking on 'History and truth, lies and fiction: Byzantium and the classical tradition, twenty-five years on'. There will be 16 main papers, organised in 4 sessions of 30-minute papers. 12-minute communications will be solicited in January.

A reception at the Barber Institute of Art will include an opportunity to view the coin exhibition. 'Encounters: Travel and money in the Byzantine world'.

Speakers include Dmitry Afinogenov, Elena Boeck, Brian Croke, Anthony Kaldellis, Martin Hinterberger, Stratis Papaioannou, Paolo Odorico.

For further information contact the symposiarch: R.J.Macrides@bham.ac.uk

A letter from the chairman

Dear members,

The year 2006 will be remembered in various ways: sadly, the year in which we lost three great Byzantinists (Joan Hussey, Philip Grierson and Peter Megaw, all in their 90s), the year in which Manuel II's *Dialogue* shot to astounding (and puzzling) prominence in the world's press, and of course, more happily, the Congress.

We shall print obituaries as usual in the Bulletin in the spring, plans are afoot in London to hold a meeting to rehabilitate Manuel, whose words more than anyone's were taken out of context in the furore over Pope Benedict's lecture, and a final word appears below by the Congress's coordinator, Anthony Bryer.

But this newsletter is an opportunity to put on record the thanks of the Society to those who made the Congress happen. It was an astounding achievement, and our visitors will never forget its highlights: great communications and discussions, the party in the Great Court, dusk beside the Hermitage on the Thames, Cappella singing in King's Chapel, the hospitality of Lambeth Palace: everyone will have different memories. These will remain memories (apart from the CD of course) and we shall not forget that it was Judith Herrin and her London committee who tirelessly organised events, exhibitions and parties.

The core academic business of the congress will be remembered even by those who were not there through the volumes edited by Elizabeth Jeffreys, and Fiona Haarer, and produced beautifully by Byzantium's publisher, John Smedley. Still available is the website, for which we must thank Gavin Wraith. The practical organisation was superb: the red-T-shirted assistants, administrator Karen Wraith, Liz James, secretary to the Congress, Fiona Haarer who took on the gigantic task of the communications. The Society owes its greatest thanks to Bryer who had the original dream and the determination to turn it into reality, and above all to Elizabeth Jeffreys who made it work.

In everything our international colleagues were hugely helpful, especially international co-chairs and co-organisers of exhibitions, and the presence of the Greek academic and cultural

establishment was particularly appreciated. But without sponsors it could not have happened. We cannot thank enough those who contributed:

A.G. Leventis Foundation, Alexander A. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation, Anonymous, Association Internationale des Etudes Byzantines, The British Academy, The British Council (Istanbul), The British Institute at Ankara, The British School at Athens, The Classical Association, The J.F.Costopoulos Foundation, Nicholas and Matrona Egon, The Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, Mrs M.C. Franks, Friends of Academic Research in Georgia, St Hilary Trust, The Michael Marks Charitable Trust, The Schilizzi Foundation, The Society of Jesus (British Province), The Society for the Promotion of Byzantine Studies, The Society for the Promotion of Hellenic Studies, The Society for the Promotion of Roman Studies, The Egon Wellesz Foundation of the *Wiener Gesellschaft der Musikfreunde*, The Whitting Fund, and Judge Christopher Young.

Your Society now turns to new plans and activities. As well as the annual Symposium, Bulletin, symposium volumes and London lecture, we are looking to develop and support Byzantium all round the country. There will for example be a major exhibition in the Royal Academy in 2008, and your committee is thinking of ways of organising associated events to bring Byzantium before an even wider public. Ideas from the membership are particularly welcome now, on what the Society can do for members, and how Byzantine Studies may be promoted most effectively. I hope to hear from you, and to see you at Birmingham!

Margaret Mullett

21st International Congress of Byzantine Studies, London, August 2006

Our printed *Programme* and website www.byzantinecongress.org.uk reflects the Congress at its opening on 21 August 2006, when participants received its printed papers, one volume of Plenary Papers, and two volumes of abstracts of Panel Papers, Communications & Posters. These are now published for sale as *Proceedings of the 21st International Congress of Byzantine Studies*,

ed. Elizabeth Jeffreys and others, 3 volumes (Ashgate, Aldershot, 2006).

The website remains open because it includes contributions which arrived too late for publication or are expanded texts of the printed abstracts (see *Programme*). Under *Information* will be found a record of related exhibitions, concerts and receptions held in the British Museum, the British Library, Lambeth Palace, St Pancras church, Somerset House and King's College London. For special exhibitions, participants received Eurydice Georganteli and Barrie Cook, *Encounters. Travel and Money in the Byzantine world* (2006); and Clare Brown, Julian Chrysostomides and Charalambos Dendrinou, *The Greek Manuscript Collection of Lambeth Palace Library* (2006). The Byzantine Festival in London gave participants a CD of music performed for the Congress.

The Congress brought together over 1000 registered participants from over 40 countries. Perhaps the most telling statistic is that over 800 participants contributed formally to its Programme. There can be no Authorised Version of it beyond its *Programme*, *Proceedings* and website, for each Sponsor and participant has their own tale. But it demonstrated three things:

1. *Byzantine Studies*, so vast and so comparatively new a concept, were confirmed as a coherent discipline, where students of, say, hagiography must speak to economic, literary or art historians. For example, participants would have been alert to the different layers of context in the seventh debate of Manuel II Palaiologos with a Muslim cleric in Ankara in 1391. This text put Byzantine Studies in the news when the Pope cited it three weeks after the Congress. The Congress was a good reflection of today's interests and future concerns.

2. The Congress was the first to use the website so extensively – how did we communicate before? But it demonstrated that there is no substitute for Byzantinists meeting and speaking face to face – indeed enjoying convivial debate.

3. The Congress was blessed with great Sponsors, including the SPBS. Sponsorship and Registration each provided near £140,000

toward the costs of the Congress. But we are especially grateful for the lively contribution of *all* participants and wish the organizers of the 22nd International Congress of Byzantine Studies (Sofia, 2011) similar good fortune.

The Organizing Committee

Grants to attend the 2007 Symposium

XL Spring Symposium of Byzantine Studies, University of Birmingham, 13-16 April, 2007 Byzantine History as Literature

The **Society for the Promotion of Byzantine Studies** offers a number of grants to subsidise the cost of attending the Spring Symposium. They are available to those registering for the whole conference and are designed to enable those who would otherwise be unable to afford the cost of the symposium to attend. Awards will be made of a minimum of £50. Priority will be given to students at UK universities and to the unwaged in the UK. Byzantinists based outside the UK who wish to attend the symposium are encouraged to apply to their own national committee of the AIEB for financial support if needed.

Those wishing to apply should fill in the form that can be downloaded from the SPBS website (<http://www.byzantium.ac.uk>). Forms are also available by sending an s.a.e. to **Liz James** at **Department of Art History, University of Sussex, Falmer, Brighton BN1 9QN** by 19 January 2007. Forms which are incomplete, or which arrive after the deadline will be discarded.

British School at Athens VISITING FELLOWSHIP 2008

Applications are invited for a Visiting Fellowship at the British School at Athens for 2-3 months in 2008 in any branch of the arts or sciences related to Greece. The Fellowship is non-stipendiary but accommodation and airfare and reasonable travelling expenses are provided. The Fellow will be required to submit a report on his/her research and a short general report on their time at the School to the School's Council.

The Visiting Fellow should be an established scholar who is expected to conduct a programme

of his/her own research, give one public lecture at the School and an open seminar as part of the established programme. He/she should also be willing to concern himself/herself with the current students and their work and may wish to contribute additional lectures or seminars as appropriate in discussion with the Director. The most effective time to take the Fellowship is between January and March when the maximum number of long-term students is in Athens and a large number of external events take place.

The Fellow is offered free accommodation in the Visiting Fellow's flat in the Hostel and accommodation is also offered to accompanying spouse/partner, who is most welcome, at a daily rate of €7. Regrettably, children cannot be accommodated in the Hostel. The School will pay one return airfare London-Athens.

Applicants should submit a covering letter, a Curriculum Vitae and a statement of their proposed programme of research in Greece.

Applications should be sent by five hard copies to:

The Secretary, British School at Athens, Senate House, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HU (bsa@sas.ac.uk) by **Friday 8th December 2006**. Further information about the School can be found at www.bsa.gla.ac.uk or from the above office (tel.020 7862 8732).

The British Institute at Ankara Study Grants 2007/8

The British Institute at Ankara supports, facilitates, promotes and publishes British research focused on Turkey and the Black Sea littoral in all academic disciplines within the arts, humanities and social sciences, whilst maintaining a centre of excellence in Ankara focused on the archaeology and related subjects of Turkey.

Study grants are intended to support doctoral or post-doctoral research in the fields of the arts, humanities and the social sciences related to Turkey and the Black Sea littoral. Specifically, the grants are intended to support scholars in defined aspects of doctoral research that will significantly progress the research, in the completion of PhDs, or in discrete pieces of post-doctoral research. These grants are not intended to support fieldwork. They can be used to

provide access to the particularly good Institute library, to support use of the Institute archive resources, and to study in the wider academic context within Turkey.

Periods of study from one to three months will be supported. An airfare (£300) and funding for basic subsistence and accommodation (£500 per month) is the expected level of funding. Use of the Institute hostel is encouraged and full access to the Institute facilities will be provided. It is expected that normally the study will be based in Ankara but specific applications based elsewhere in Turkey are not excluded.

Applicants must be based in a British University. Applications should be made on the appropriate form which may be downloaded from the Institute's website (www.biaa.ac.uk).

Applications must be supported by a reference from the supervisor of the PhD or, for post-doctoral applicants, another suitable academic. Applications will be considered by the BIAA Research Committee at half-yearly intervals, and the next deadline for submissions will be 15 November 2006. The period of study must take place between April 2007 and March 2008. For further information, please visit the Institute's website at www.biaa.ac.uk or email biaa@britac.ac.uk.

Koç University is accepting applications for junior and senior residential fellowships for the 2007-2008 academic year at its Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations in Istanbul. The deadline for applications is December 15, 2006. For an on-line application form and information about the residential fellowship program and the RCAC, please visit <http://rcac.ku.edu.tr>

From the Treasurer...

Please could members remember that annual subscription to the Society is due by 31st January, 2006 (£20 / \$40 / 40 euros / or £10 / \$20 / 20 euros for students).