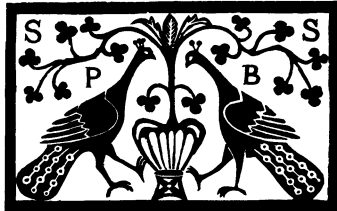

Society News

Society for the Promotion of Byzantine Studies



Issue 17

November 2010

**XLIV Spring Symposium of Byzantine Studies
Newcastle University – City Centre Campus
8 -10 April 2011**

Experiencing Byzantium

Our vision for ‘Experiencing Byzantium’ is to facilitate a dialogue that will encourage engagement with the affective and emotive aspects of life in Byzantium. From the reception of imperial *ekphraseis* in Hagia Sophia to the sounds and smells of the back streets of Constantinople, the sensory perception of Byzantium is an area that lends itself perfectly to an investigation into the experience of the Byzantine world. What was it like for a person to experience not only the monuments and places of Byzantium, but also Byzantine ideas? How are we to appreciate an experience of Byzantine landscapes, stories or of self?

This symposium will not be weighted in favour of any particular discipline, rather we hope that historians, art historians, archaeologists and palaeographers will meet together to help us approach an understanding of perceptions of Byzantium through a series of papers and sessions that complement each other by crossing traditional interdisciplinary boundaries.

The plenary sessions will each focus on one of several themes which will be

- Experiencing Landscape
- Experiencing Art
- Experiencing Stories
- Experiencing Faith
- Experiencing Self in Byzantium

We have invited papers which consider these themes in terms of the lives of real people in the Byzantine world. We very much hope that the result will be an engagement with the challenge of discovering answers to the question of what it was actually like to experience the Byzantine world.

SPEAKERS

Speakers currently include:

Paul Magdalino, Jim Crow, Liz James, Warren Woodfin, Leslie Brubaker, Margaret Mullet, Alexander Lingas, Beatrice Caseau, Scott Ashley, Dion Smythe, Andrew Louth, Nikolaos Karydis, Nikolas Bakirtzis.

SPECIAL EVENTS

In addition to the academic sessions we are delighted to be able to offer:

Evening Reception

Great North Museum: Hancock

Wine Reception. The Evening Wine Reception on Friday 8th (Sponsored by Ashgate) will be held at the new £26 million Great North Museum: Hancock (Newcastle University Map, Building 34)

Feast

The feast will take place on Saturday 9th April 2011 at 8pm. It will be held at Blackfriars Restaurant, Friars Street, NE1 4XN. A three course meal plus coffee in a 13th century building. The cost of the feast will be £30 per head.

(Blackfriars was recently awarded 'Best restaurant in the North East/Newcastle' by readers of The Observer, Metro Newspaper, and Hi-Life Dining Club. It has also gained an AA rosette, inclusion in the Which? Good Food Guide, Hardens and Michelin Guides.).

COMMUNICATIONS

We invite communications (maximum 13 minutes) to be delivered during the symposium. As usual we will read all proposals, but especially invite communications which engage with the theme of 'Experiencing Byzantium'. Please send offers of communications (title and 150 word abstract) to Dr Claire Nesbitt (claire.nesbitt@durham.ac.uk) by Monday 10th January.

REGISTRATION

We are offering early registration for the symposium at the following rates:

Full: £75

Members of the SPBS: £65

SPBS Students/concessions: £25

Full Students/concessions: £30

(after 9th March 2011 rates will rise to £85, £75 and £35 respectively).

The registration fee includes buffet lunches on April 9th (Saturday), April 10th (Sunday) and wine reception on Friday 8th April. It does not include the Saturday feast which is booked separately.

How to book and pay

To book and pay online please use the website hosted at Newcastle University which can be accessed by clicking on 'Spring Symposium' via the SPBS website: <http://www.byzantium.ac.uk/>

ACCOMMODATION

Newcastle is one of the top destinations for city breaks in the UK! This means that there is a wide variety of accommodation available in the city. Newcastle University is a campus University located very close to the city centre.

The Newcastle-Gateshead initiative has reserved rooms for 'Experiencing Byzantium'. These reserved places (which include a range of prices) will be conveniently located for our speakers and delegates and can be booked via the following website:

https://www.conferencebookings.co.uk/delegate/N_GIBYZANTINE

TRAVEL TO NEWCASTLE

A useful website providing information about travel to Newcastle can be found at:

<http://www.ncl.ac.uk/about/visit/travel/>

Train fares to Newcastle can be very cheap if booked early but very expensive if booked late. Please remember to book Your Train Ticket early!

To receive an email alert from EastCoast (London-Newcastle) about the release of tickets for 8th April sign up at:

<http://www.eastcoast.co.uk/travel-information/Advanced-Ticket-Alert/>

Newcastle University Maps

<http://www.ncl.ac.uk/about/visit/maps.htm>

Student accommodation

For those students on a shoe-string, the Byzantine students at Newcastle have generously offered to look after visiting students. Any students looking for floor space please email: Maiju Pohjola, email: m.a.pohjola@ncl.ac.uk

Symposiarchs

Mark Jackson (University of Newcastle)

Claire Nesbitt (University of Durham)

Email:

m.p.c.jackson@ncl.ac.uk

claire.nesbitt@dur.ac.uk

A message from the Chair of the SPBS

Academic News

The times are challenging for Byzantine Studies as for all Arts and Humanities subjects and the university sector in general. But much can be achieved by making our voices heard! Many Members and friends of SPBS contributed to the avalanche of e-mails, letters and on-line petition signatures that was produced earlier in the year expressing concern at proposed changes to the Byzantine and Modern Greek Department at King's College London. New proposals have since been brought forward by the College; the Society will, of course, support the re-launched Centre for Hellenic Studies at KCL in any way it can. The Executive of the Society (along with the British Academy) has nominated Professor Leslie Brubaker (a member of the SPBS Executive) as an Assessor for the approaching REF; we very much hope that such an experienced Byzantinist and friend of SPBS will indeed be appointed to the Classics panel.

International News

The International Congress in Sofia (22-27 August, 2011) is fast approaching; concerns about travel arrangements have been somewhat mitigated by the appearance of a Congress website devoted to hotels and trips! See <http://22byzantinecongress.org/> for all Congress information. The SPBS will be using its dedicated '2006 Fund' to assist graduate Byzantinists from UK Universities to attend the Congress; do, however, remember that we expect all applicants for funds to have applied for the Sofia Congress Student Grants BEFORE they apply to SPBS. More information on our website: www.byzantium.ac.uk, and see below.

National News

The Autumn Lecture of the Society on 4th November, 2010 saw a packed house in the Courtauld Institute Research Forum hear a lecture by Metropolitan Kallistos of Diokleia on 'The Council of Ferrara-Florence; Why was it a "success that failed"?'. The audience contained many who were not members of SPBS; we hope such an interesting occasion will encourage them to come

and join us! The Membership Committee of SPBS has had a particularly active year. Under the leadership of Michael Heslop and our new Membership Secretary, Mike Saxby, a new electronic membership list is being drawn up and Members may already have seen one of the splendid new 'grasshoppers' (collapsible posters and stands) which the Society aims to have prominently displayed at all events sponsored by the Society. Please do contact Mike (mss714@bham.ac.uk) if you think your e-mail might be out of date! And if you are one of the 80 members who are in arrears with their 2010 subscription..... **'Your Society Needs You!' PLEASE PAY UP!! Mike is waiting to hear from YOU!!**

The Future

The SPBS Executive is actively exploring a number of new initiatives including payment of dues by credit card; developing the scope of our website; exploring links with other societies with similar interests and mounting more events and lectures during the year. I shall hope to report on them at the Annual General Meeting in Newcastle in 2011. Meanwhile, the Executive always welcomes all suggestions from members about what they would like to see the SPBS doing (or indeed, not doing!). Please do contact me at: rosemary.morris@york.ac.uk

Bursaries for the 22nd International Congress of Byzantine Studies, Sofia, 22-27 August, 2011

The SPBS proposes to offer, from The 2006 Fund, bursaries to support graduate students registered at UK universities for courses in Byzantine Studies to attend the 22nd International Congress of Byzantine Studies, to be held in Sofia, 22-27 August, 2011.

Students should have applied in the first instance for a Student Grant offered by the Sofia Congress Organizing Committee:

<http://22byzantinecongress.org/student-grants/> [closing date 31 October 2010]). These grants of 350 Euros cover the Student registration fee (80 Euros) and living costs only. Successful applicants, who should inform the Chair of the SPBS Development Committee immediately on receipt of news of their Congress Committee Grant, will be offered a supplementary travel grant of up to £200 from The 2006 Fund. Unsuccessful applicants should apply by 31 March 2011 to the Chair,

Development Committee, SPBS for a bursary which will cover the registration fee, accommodation costs and travel, up to a limit of £500. Proof of registration for the Congress will be required; only travel and accommodation will be reimbursed, in the terms set out on the Application form.

Once the SPBS bursary has been granted, applicants must submit proof of expenditure on travel and accommodation to the Chair of the SPBS Development Committee. Only after this will the bursary be paid. It is expected that all applicants will be paid-up members of SPBS.

If funds permit, grants may be available to past and present post-holders in Byzantine Studies in UK universities and other paid-up members of SPBS. Applicants from these groups should use the same application form and should submit their application before the same deadline, 31 March 2011.

The application form is available on the SPBS website:

http://www.byzantium.ac.uk/frameset_spbsgrants.htm

Any queries about these arrangements should be addressed to the Secretary of the SPBS.

Membership Matters

Annual Subscriptions

Please note that your subscription is due by January 31st 2011 (£20 ordinary members; £10 students; for overseas subscriptions please see separate announcement below.) It is regretted that members in arrears will not receive the *Bulletin of British Byzantine Studies* 37, nor be eligible for a discount at the 2011 Symposium. Please make cheques payable to 'SPBS' and send to the new membership secretary:

Dr Mike Saxby

Institute of Archaeology and Antiquity

College of Arts and Law

University of Birmingham

Birmingham B15 2TT.

Email Addresses

The Membership Committee noted at its last meeting that some email addresses held by the Society are not up to date. The Committee would like to update this list and emphasises that this list will not be published internally to members or externally, and would be used only by committees

of the Society. It would be appreciated if all members who are willing to receive emails from the Society would send their email addresses to the membership secretary, Dr Mike Saxby, at mss714@bham.ac.uk. Please note that members who have joined since January 1st 2010 do not need to send their email addresses unless there has been a change since joining.

Overseas Subscriptions

The Membership Committee has reviewed subscriptions for overseas members and agreed that these should be standardised from January 1st 2011 as the sterling equivalent (ordinary members £20, student members £10). Payment can be made by sterling cheque, International Money Order, or in cash. The Society can also accept euros or US dollars to the nearest sterling equivalent.

The Membership Committee is aware of requests for payment by credit card and has reviewed the Society's payment arrangements. The Committee regrets that at present the costs to the Society of credit card payments would unfortunately outweigh the benefits, but will keep this matter under review.

Other News

Oxford University has just established The Centre for Byzantine Research, based in the Ioannou Centre for Classical & Byzantine Studies. The new Centre presents and promotes research activity by senior scholars and emeriti working in Byzantine Studies and related fields at and in Oxford. It is a major new initiative to help strengthen the subject at Oxford and internationally, and is the result of collaboration between the faculties of History, Classics, Modern and Medieval Languages, Oriental Studies and Theology, as well as the School of Archaeology. The Centre has an active programme for 2010-11, including workshops on the Transformation of Byzantium in the eleventh century, colloquia on the book production and on the manuscripts of St. Catherine's of Sinai, as well as special lectures taking place throughout the year. Travel grants and research awards are also being established and will be available this year.

More details about the Centre, whose Director is Dr. Peter Frankopan and Chair Prof. Dame Averil Cameron, can be found at www.ocbr.ox.ac.uk.

Fiona Haarer (Editor)
fiona.haarer@kcl.ac.uk