
Society News

Society for the Promotion of Byzantine Studies



Issue 19

November 2012

The 46th Spring Symposium of Byzantine Studies

BYZANTINE GREECE: MICROCOSM OF EMPIRE?

University of Birmingham, 23-25 March, 2013

This Symposium Series has not infrequently been devoted to a region, district, or city of the Byzantine world. Not before time therefore it turns the spotlight upon the richly documented space of Byzantine Greece, with a specific focus, in the invited lectures, upon Early and Middle Byzantine Greece. Under the overarching title and question *'Byzantine Greece: microcosm of empire?'* recent research into the history, archaeology, art, and architecture of the Greek space, between the fourth and twelfth centuries inclusive, will be explored in five sessions of lectures, in communications (which can range more widely), and in special presentations (open lectures) about the work of the Byzantine Sections of the Greek Archaeological Service and the Byzantine archives of the British School at Athens. Lectures will concern Late Antiquity, the 'Dark-Age' transition, urban and rural revival, Middle Byzantine patrons and patronage of art and architecture, and Middle Byzantine society within the Helladic space, led by discussants whose own work is related while being partly or largely focussed upon other or wider regions of the Early and Middle Byzantine world. Twenty-five distinguished scholars have agreed to present papers or act as discussants.

Call for Communications

Academics, research students, and other members of the scholarly community are invited to offer communications. Each session of communications will consist of five ten-minute presentations followed by discussions. Please send your abstract (of no more than 250 words) to a.w.dunn@bham.ac.uk by 31 December, 2012 at the latest.

Registration

Delegates are offered early registration at the following rates:

- Full: £85
- Members of the SPBS: £75
- Students / Unwaged: £40
- After 1 March, 2013 rates rise to £95, £85, and £45 respectively.

- The fees for one-day participation are £40 (full fee), £35 (Members of the SPBS), and £25 (Students/Unwaged).
- After 1 March, 2013 the fees for one-day participation are £45, £40, and £25 respectively.
- The fees cover lunches on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday (or specific days), refreshments, and Receptions.

Booking & Paying

On-line booking and payment will soon be available. Details will be announced shortly on the website of the Institute of Archaeology and Antiquity, University of Birmingham:
<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/bomgs>.

Accommodation

For delegates, details of a range of hotels will be provided, all with easy access to the Edgbaston Campus of the University.

Symposiarch

Dr Archie Dunn
a.w.dunn@bham.ac.uk

Speakers & Topics

Introduction: Archie Dunn

Late Antique Greece

Discussant: Andrew Poulter (University of Nottingham): *Comparative framework*

George Deligiannakis (Cyprus University): *Late Antique responses to non-christian monuments in town and country*

Aristotelis Mentzos (Thessaloniki University): *Dion: detailed case study in the transformation of a city (iii-viii cc.)*

John Bintliff (Leiden University): *Surveys and the transformation of the Late Antique Greek countryside*

Dark-Age Greece

Discussant: Michael Whitby (University of Birmingham): *The challenge of the Miracula Sancti Demetrii*

Florin Curta (Florida State University): *Ethnic-cultural change and the Balkan-wide archaeological challenge*

Enrico Zanini (Pisa University): *Gortyna, Crete: detailed case study of the further transformation of a city*
 Natalia Poulou-Papadimitriou (Thessaloniki University): *Material culture of the Aegean (economy and culture)*

Urban and rural revival

Discussant: Pamela Armstrong (Oxford): *Pottery and markets (texts and archaeology)*

Guy Sanders (American School of Classical Studies at Athens): *Corinth Excavations 1896-2013: detailed case study up to 13th c*

Joanita Vroom (Leiden University): *5-year comparative project (focus on Athens vis-a-vis Anatolia)*

Nikos Kontogiannis (23rd Byzantine Ephoreia)/Michael Heslop: *The defenses of Middle Byzantine Greece*

Patronage, Sacred Space, Cults (Middle Byzantine)

Discussant: Leslie Brubaker (University of Birmingham)

Sharon Gerstel (University of California at Los Angeles): *Middle Byzantine artistic patronage and cults*

Sophia Kalopisi-Verti (Athens University): *Patrons in Middle Byzantine and 13th-c Greece*
 Georgios Velenis (Emeritus, Thessaloniki University): *Religious architecture*

Open Lectures

Cathy Morgan/Amalia Kakisis (BSA): *The Byzantine Research and Publication Fund's archives and its cultural context*

Eugenia Gerousi-Bendermacher (Greek Ministry of Culture): *The work of the Byzantine Ephoreias*

Olga Karagiorgou (Academy of Athens): *The sigillography of Middle Byzantine Greece*

Middle Byzantine Society

Discussant: Dimiter Angelov (University of Birmingham): *Ideology*

Theresa Shawcross (Amherst University): *The bishop*

Alan Harvey (Northumbria University): *The farmer*

Maria Gerolymatou (Greek National Research Foundation): *The merchant*

Exordium

John Haldon (Princeton): *Anatolia vis-a-vis Greece*

A message from the Chair of the SPBS

International News

Although it would be premature (and probably unwise!) to speak of a 'Byzantine Spring', the 'winds of change' are beginning to blow through the *Association Internationale des Etudes Byzantines (AIEB)*. Professor Johannes Koder has now become President of the Bureau of *AIEB* and has indicated his intention of implementing the idea of a Development Committee (an SPBS Proposal which was unanimously accepted at the *AIEB* Assembly in Bulgaria in 2011). Constitutional reform of the Bureau will certainly be on the Agenda at the 'Inter-Congress Meeting' of National Committees to be held in 2013. Serbian colleagues are already beginning to plan for the next Congress in Belgrade in 2016 and, after inviting comments and ideas from National Committees, have introduced some welcome reforms to the structure of the Congress (see separate Announcement below). Many thanks to all those members who sent in their impressions of the last Congress and suggestions for the next; we were the only Byzantine Society to undertake this exercise and our contribution was warmly welcomed in Belgrade.

The Society was asked for its support by the Byzantine Institute in Vienna, faced as it was by heavy cuts to its Budget from the Austrian Academy of Sciences. Its Director, Claudia Rapp, reporting a change of heart by the AAS, writes 'If the situation looks more positive

now, this outcome is in no small degree due to the outpouring of support from the international scholarly community'. The SPBS is very glad to have been able to help! Another appeal for support from SPBS came from Catherine Jolivet-Levy, Director of the *Collection Gabriel Millet* (a treasure-trove of visual resources, some in an extremely fragile state) in Paris. Catherine Jolivet-Levy reports that the situation is a little improved in that the room temperature of the Collection has been stabilised and that she has been granted a little funding for the purchase of conservation materials, but that manpower to help in her task is sorely lacking. She also hopes that the digitisation of the Collection undertaken by the Princeton Index of Christian Art can soon be resumed.

National News

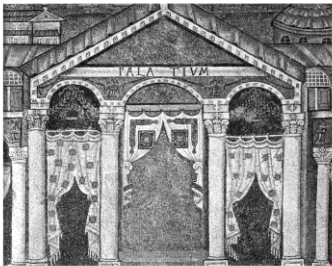
SPBS now proudly presents three public lectures in the Spring, Summer and Autumn! Our association with the London Hellenic Centre has continued. On 14 June, 2012 a large and appreciative audience assembled to hear Professor Judith Herrin lecture on *Creating a New Imperial Capital; the Case of Ravenna*; again we must thank the Director of the Hellenic Centre, Mrs. Agatha Kalisperas, for her kind hospitality. The Chair of the SPBS Membership Committee, Michael Heslop, took the lead in launching our other new collaboration, that with the Friends of the British School at Athens, when he lectured on 20 March on


Byzantine Defences in the Dodecanese Islands: Planned or Improvised? Our thanks to the BSA for hosting this event.

**SPBS & the Hellenic Centre present an
illustrated lecture by**

Professor Judith Herrin

**CREATING A NEW IMPERIAL CAPITAL –
THE CASE OF RAVENNA**



 THE HELLENIC CENTRE

**7.00 pm Thursday 14 June 2012, followed
by an informal reception, at the Great Hall,
Hellenic Centre, 16-19, Paddington St.,
London, W1U 5AS**

**Free entry for SPBS members but please confirm
attendance to Hellenic Centre 020 7563 9835 or
email press@helleniccentre.org**

To these Spring and Summer lectures, we must add our traditional Autumn Lecture, recently given on 8 November, 2012. A packed house in the Research Forum of the Courtauld Institute – thanks again to our colleagues there! - heard Professor Leslie Brubaker introduce an unpublished 13th-c. Byzantine Prayer Scroll in a fascinating piece of art-historical detective work entitled *The Princess and the Scroll*.

AUTUMN LECTURE


SOCIETY FOR THE PROMOTION OF BYZANTINE STUDIES

Professor Leslie Brubaker
(University of Birmingham)

The Princess and the Scroll

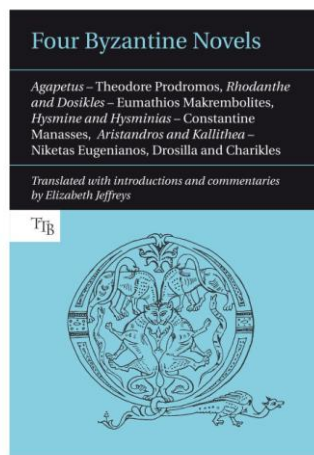
6 pm Thursday 8th November 2012
Research Forum of the Courtauld Institute, The Strand

ALL ARE WELCOME



For more information, including how to join, check our website:
www.byzantium.ac.uk or contact
The Membership Secretary, Dr Mike Saxby, Email: mss714@bham.ac.uk

We joined afterwards with the *Translated Texts for Byzantinists* editorial team and Liverpool University Press to celebrate the launch of the first volume in the series: *Four Byzantine Novels*, translated with introductions and notes by Elizabeth Jeffreys (ISBN 978-1-84631-825-2, LUP, 2012). Order it now!



Society News

The Treasurer

The AGM of the SPBS, held at the Oxford Spring Symposium, elected Simon Cockshutt as the new Treasurer of the Society.

Presidency of SPBS

The present term of office of the President of SPBS, Professor A.A.M. Bryer, ends in March 2103. The Executive of SPBS unanimously proposes that Professor Bryer be appointed for a further term and he has indicated his willingness to be put forward for election at the next AGM

Elections

Three places on the Executive Committee will, as usual, be up for election (or re-election) at the 2013 AGM. I myself intend to step down as Chair of the Society as from the next AGM. Please see the Secretary's announcements about these elections and do, please, consider putting yourself forward to serve the Society on its Executive Committee; like genial vampires, we are always on the lookout for 'new blood'!

Calling all doctoral students!

SPBS Executive is exploring ways of involving the UK graduate Byzantinist community more

closely in its activities. As a first step, we would like to invite any doctoral students at present registered in any UK University (you *must* be a paid-up member of SPBS) who would like to assist one of our Committees, to make themselves known to the Chair (**by the end of December, 2012, at the latest, please!**) In the first instance, just send in your name, institution and e-mail address and I will get back to you with further details. We have at present four Committees: Development, Publications, Bulletin (which includes this *Newsletter*) and Membership. Those interested in taking part in the further development of the SPBS web-site and 'social media' would be particularly welcome. Please do contact the Chair if you have any enquiries about this new development!

And finally...

- Please pay your subscription promptly: Mike Saxby (mss714@bham.ac.uk) is waiting to hear from you!
- Please feel free to contact me with any comments and suggestions you may have about what the Society is, or should be, doing!

See you in Birmingham!

Rosemary Morris
rosemary.morris@york.ac.uk

Future Society Events

- The **SPBS Autumn Lecture, 2013** will take place in **Birmingham** on **3 October, 2013** as part of the programme associated with the Barber Institute Exhibition: *Cityscapes: Panoramic Views on European Coins and Medals*. The speaker will be Professor Chryssa Maltezou.
- **Joint Lectures:** Following the two successful joint lectures with the **Hellenic Centre** and **Friends of the British School at Athens** earlier this year, it is planned to repeat both events next year. Full details of the events will be announced in due course.

23rd International Congress of Byzantine Studies Belgrade 2016

Act NOW to get involved!

The following information has been received from the Serbian Organising Committee of the 23rd International Congress of Byzantine Studies, Belgrade, 2016.

Date 22-27 August, 2016

Main theme Byzantium – A World of Changes / Byzance – un monde des changements.

Plenary papers

There will be 6 to 8 session units, each with one main speaker, one or two commentators and discussion. Papers will be published in advance on the website of the congress. The main speakers will present a summary of their papers (15-20 minutes) and commentators will speak for 15 minutes, leaving 30 minutes for plenary discussion. The overall duration of a plenary session will be 60-70 minutes. Speakers and commentators will be proposed by the Serbian Committee in cooperation with the Bureau and approved at the inter-congress meeting. The National Committees will be informed about the proposals before the meeting.

Round tables

There will be up to 36 round tables with a maximum of 10 participants at each.

The papers, previously edited by convenors, will be published in advance on the website of the congress. At the Congress, convenors will provide a general statement on the goal of the RT and on the

contents of the papers. Each participant will then each present a summary of his or her paper of not more than 10 minutes in length. There will then be general discussion. The overall duration of a RT will be not more than two hours. Themes and convenors will be proposed by National Committees and then selected by organizers. It is preferred that the proposals should follow the main theme of the congress, but they may diverge from it as well. There are no prescribed guidelines regarding the age and experience of proposed convenors. A welcome profile might be that of two convenors for a RT: a mature and a younger scholar. The most important criteria for accepting a proposed RT theme will be in regard to its scholarly value and interest for the field of Byzantine Studies.

Free Communications and Posters

The proposals of the themes with a summary of up to 300 words should be sent to the organizers who will decide on acceptance. Deadlines for this will be announced shortly.

What you need to do (UK-based members of SPBS only, please; foreign-based members should contact their own National Committees)

1. **Send proposals for Round Tables (noting the format outlined above) to Tim Greenwood (twg3@st-andrews.ac.uk) by 20 December, 2012 (at the latest).** He will then pass them on to Belgrade by 31 December. These should include title of the proposed RT, name(s) of the convenor(s) and, if possible, some of the participants. Try to be international and note the 'nod' towards the idea of including younger scholars! Previous experience suggests that a short statement of the goal/scope of the RT and a short C.V. of each participant (especially publications) can lead to a better chance of acceptance. If you can also provide a French summary, so much the better!
2. **Send suggestions for Plenary Speakers (don't be shy about nominating yourself!) to Rosemary Morris (rosemary.morris@york.ac.uk) by 31 December, 2012.** I will pass them on to Belgrade. Please be realistic about your chances of acceptance. In practice, only 'in-post post-doctoral academics', stand any chance of being chosen as a Plenary Speaker. A topic close to the theme of the Congress is vital! Again a short summary of your proposed paper (or a proposed theme for a Plenary) and a CV would be useful. There is, of course, no guarantee that the Serbian Committee will take note of any UK suggestions, but SPBS Executive feels strongly that it should promote the talents of its members!
3. **Postgraduates and post-docs.**
Please note that it appears that there will be a scrutiny system for Communications and Posters and thus not all will be selected. We will circulate the deadline for submissions as soon as we receive it from the Serbian Committee.

Hon. Secretary's Business

Chair of the Society for the Promotion of Byzantine Studies

After four years of dedicated service by Rosemary Morris, the Society for the Promotion of Byzantine Studies is looking for a NEW CHAIR.

This is your opportunity to become involved in the leadership and promotion of Byzantine Studies in the UK. Nominations are sought from across the full range of the existing

membership of the Society. Enthusiasm, organisation and a desire to promote Byzantine studies are much more important than holding an academic post. The only precondition is that you must be a UK-based member of the Society at the date of publication of this advertisement.

If you are interested in finding out more about the responsibilities of the Chair, please get in touch with the Secretary (Tim Greenwood, Department of Mediaeval History, University

of St Andrews, 71 South Street, St Andrews, Fife KY16 9QW Scotland OR email: twg3@st-andrews.ac.uk) and he will send a prepared outline to you.

If you wish to stand as Chair of the Society, please write to the Secretary at the above address or by email, with the names of your proposer and seconder (both of whom must also be existing members of the Society). Nominations close on 17 February 2013.

Please also include a one-page manifesto or personal statement as part of your submission so that all the members can learn something about you and your ideas for the financial future of the Society. All manifestoes and personal statements will be posted on the Society's website and circulated by email after nominations have closed so that members can read them in advance of the election.

The new Chair will be elected at the Society's Annual General Meeting on Sunday 24 March 2013 in the Symposium venue at the University of Birmingham.

Elections to the Executive Committee of the Society for the Promotion of Byzantine Studies

Are you interested in serving on the Executive Committee of the Society and based in the UK? Every year, one third of the elected members of the Executive Committee are required under our Constitution to retire by rotation. In practice this normally means that there are three places on the Executive Committee to be filled. The elections take place at the Society's Annual General Meeting which next year will be held during the 46th Spring Symposium at the University of Birmingham, on Sunday 24 March 2013.

If you are interested in finding out more about the workings and responsibilities of the

Executive, please get in touch with the Secretary (Tim Greenwood, Department of Mediaeval History, University of St Andrews, 71 South Street, St Andrews, Fife KY16 9QW Scotland OR email: twg3@st-andrews.ac.uk).

If you wish to stand for election to the Executive Committee, please write to the Secretary at the above address or by email indicating that you wish your name to go forward for the election to the Executive Committee with the names of your proposer and seconder. Both proposer and seconder must also be existing members of the Society and both must write to the Secretary indicating their willingness to propose/second your nomination. All correspondence, whether hard copy or email, must have been received by the Secretary not less than 14 days before the AGM; realistically this means receipt by 12 noon on Saturday 9 March 2013.

Email Plea!

As many of you will know, the Membership Secretary, Dr Mike Saxby, has been working on the SPBS email distribution list over the autumn. He wrote to all the members who had previously supplied their email addresses, asking them whether they wished to be added or removed from BEDLAM (Byzantine Electronic Distribution List And Mailing). But (of course!) he could not email those members who were not on the SPBS email list or whose email addresses had changed. If you want to be added to the SPBS email distribution list, please could you email Mike on mss714@bham.ac.uk. It would also be helpful if you could specify whether or not you would like to be added to BEDLAM as well.

Please note that the Society's email list is used only by the Society's committees. It is not published internally to members nor is it made available to any person or organisation outside the Society.

Spring Symposium and Conference Grants

The Society offers grants for the following: Attendance at the annual Spring Symposium of Byzantine Studies, Travel to conferences and Conference organisation.

Spring Symposium Grants

The SPBS 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. 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.

Conference Travel Grants

The SPBS offers travel grants to fund **postgraduate students** to attend conferences and exhibitions abroad. It is limited to students studying for a postgraduate degree at a British university. Priority will be given to students who have had papers accepted for delivery at the

conference for which they are applying.

Conference Organisation Grants

The SPBS also offers small grants to help with the **organisation** of one-off small conferences, workshops, conferences, day-schools or seminars. Here applicants must be the event organiser and be based in the UK. Applications from postgraduate students will be given priority.

NB: Conference Organisation Grants will next be available in 2014.

Deadlines

- For **2012-2013**, applications for **Spring Symposium Grants** and **Conference Travel Grants** will be considered in March 2013. The deadline for these two categories of grants is **1 March 2013**.
- From **2013-2014**, applications for all three grants will be considered **annually**. Applications should reach the Chair of the Development Committee, Dr Ruth Macrides, by **1 March 2014**.
- Application Forms may be downloaded from the SPBS website (www.byzantium.ac.uk).

Membership Matters

Annual Subscriptions

Please note that if you pay your subscription annually then your payment for 2013 is due by 31 January 2013. (The only exception to this is for new members joining between 1 September to 31 December 2012; your subscription will then cover your membership until 31 December 2013). Subscriptions for UK members remain £20 ordinary and £10 student; for overseas members, the sterling equivalent of these rates. Please make cheques payable to 'SPBS' and send to:

Dr Mike Saxby
Membership Secretary
Institute of Archaeology and Antiquity
College of Arts and Law
University of Birmingham
Birmingham B15 2TT

Any UK member wishing to pay by banker's order should request a banker's order form from the Membership Secretary.

News from Birmingham

Centre for Byzantine, Ottoman and Modern Greek Studies

13th Annual Postgraduate Colloquium 2012

Thanks to the generous contribution of the Society for the Promotion of Byzantine Studies, a group of students from the Centre of Byzantine, Ottoman and Modern Greek Studies organised their annual inter-disciplinary postgraduate colloquium. This 13th Annual postgraduate colloquium of the Centre for Byzantine, Ottoman and Modern Greek Studies was entitled '*Middle Earth: exchange, influence, memory and legacy.*' This theme was chosen to facilitate its accessibility to all research students of the Centre, as well as the IAA and CESMA, as well as postgraduates of other research institutions. The colloquium aimed to explore the idea of the Mediterranean, and the concept of 'shared past', as a symbolic resource for the construction of communal (and later national) identity. This colloquium also endeavoured to challenge the tendency to isolate studies of Byzantium and the Ottoman world from broader narratives of medieval history and to place the Eastern Mediterranean at the heart of a global Middle Ages.

The colloquium was held on 26 May 2012 in the European Research Institute, a new choice of venue which offered the opportunity to accommodate more participants and provide speakers with a more diverse range of technical equipment to use during their presentation. Our morning session was opened by a key note address delivered by Dr Peter Sarris from the University of Cambridge. The event was attended by eighty academic participants, as well as members of the local Greek and Cypriot community, reflecting the ever-expanding profile of this event. Twenty seven communications were delivered on a diverse range of topics covering East Mediterranean studies by students of the Centre for Byzantine, Ottoman and Modern Greek studies, Princeton University, The University of Oxford, The University of Edinburgh, The University of Athens, Leiden University and The University of the San Marino. After each panel, a discussion session was held for 20 minutes to enable the speakers to answer questions.

Refreshments were served in the ERI atrium to offer students the opportunity to interact and network with the speakers and participants of the event. This was augmented by a dinner and a wine reception, kindly sponsored by the Society for the Promotion of Byzantine Studies, held in the evening to provide students and faculty members with a further opportunity to network. Following lunch, participants were given a further opportunity to attend tours of a selection of Byzantine, Ottoman and Early Islamic manuscripts housed in Special Collections; a tour of the Barber Institute of Fine Arts coin collection and to learn about the activities of the VISTA centre: one of the best archaeological visualisation laboratories in Europe.

In addition, the centre hosted an outreach event for a group of high achieving 'A' Level students who attend state schools with low university progression rates, in the Sandwell and Dudley district. Thanks to the kind support of the Barber Institute and Special Collections, students were able to experience 'hands-on' sessions with selections from the Mingana Collection and illuminated Byzantine gospels and the coin collection housed in the Barber Institute. Each student was presented with a work pack which included a prospectus; information on studying history or archaeology at the University of Birmingham; information about junior history societies as well as an introductory book on Byzantine history, to provide them with further information about the discipline. The students were also given further information about studying at University and guidance on the best way to pursue their interest in East Mediterranean history at an undergraduate level.

The aims for the 2013 colloquium are to increase the participation of students from other departments within the University and to solidify links with other institutions. Furthermore, in order to increase the profile of the event and the research impact of the vibrant postgraduate community of the centre, plans have been made to publish a selection of the papers delivered at the 2011 and 2012 colloquia in a volume edited by Frouke Schrijver and Daniel Reynolds.

In addition to my gratitude for the generous contribution by the Society for the Promotion of Byzantine Studies, I would like to thank the Barber Institute of Fine Arts and the University of Birmingham College of Arts and Law postgraduate development fund. My personal thanks also go to Dr Eurydice Georganteli, Curator of The Barber Institute Coin Collection, Dr Sue Worrall, Director of Special Collections and University Archivist and all of the staff of the Centre for Byzantine, Ottoman and Modern Greek studies for their support. Particular thanks are also due to Rebecca Day, Georgia Michael, Weisheng Lin, Sirencik Çelik, George Makris and Annika Asp-Talwar for their invaluable assistance in organising the event.

Daniel Reynolds

Byzantium Matters: University of Birmingham Outreach

Earlier this year, the Centre for Byzantine, Ottoman and Modern Greek Studies (CBOMGS) launched its outreach programme aimed at promoting East Mediterranean studies to school students from the Birmingham and Sandwell area. The project was developed by three doctoral students of the Centre, Daniel Reynolds, Rebecca Day and Georgia Michael, and was sponsored by the generous support of Sandwell council. The project aims to work closely with school students who demonstrate a passion and aptitude for historical studies but who attend schools with low University progression rates.



A grant of £5000 was awarded to the Centre for the purpose of running six outreach days over the next two years for students aged 14, 16 and 17 which are designed to augment the historical education that students receive in schools and to hone their critical thinking skills. The core aims of the project are to work closely with students at critical stages of their education (GCSE, A-Level or University selection respectively) with the view of offering guidance to students in developing their interest in history at degree level.

Equally, it aims to solidify links with school communities where rising costs of University education will make applying to their local institutions a more pertinent issue in the coming decade.

The project has sought to model itself closely on the current government guidelines for history education in the UK, which focus on issues of ethnic diversity, cultural interactions, chronological change and change and continuity: issues which have a direct resonance to Byzantine studies and provide a useful platform to promote the project's core message – Byzantium matters.



One of the central ambitions of the project is to generate further awareness and appreciation of Byzantine society by introducing students to 'hands on' sessions with primary material. Students who attend the outreach events will have an opportunity to handle and work closely with materials from the University of Birmingham's Special Collections including the Mingana collection, the Barber Institute of Fine Arts Coin Collection and the Barber Institute Art Gallery.



On the 17 September, 35 pupils from three institutions in the Sandwell area came to the University of Birmingham for the first outreach experience. The day was organised around the central theme of the manuscript and was designed to get students thinking about manuscripts not just as literary documents but as products of economic networks, artisanal production and cultural contexts.

In the morning each student group attended three sessions developed around these three themes. Working with the Mingana collection, students learnt about the important relationship between text and image in a series of Byzantine illuminated Gospels. This was then followed by a coin handling session, where students discussed ideas relating to trade and exchange and where they learnt about the messages which coins often convey. The last session of the morning was dedicated to visual culture. Here, students discussed issues of medieval representation and the importance of analysing images in their original, rather than contemporary, contexts.



Following a brief lunch, the students spent an afternoon producing their own illuminated initials using parchment. This was designed to reinforce student understanding of manuscripts as products of considerable financial, human and intellectual investment.

With the help of the Special Collections team, students had an opportunity to practise making tempera paints using natural mineral compounds which were then applied to their own manuscripts. Sandwell's generous funding also enabled us to hire a professional guild member, who demonstrated how manuscripts were illuminated with gold leaf and who was able to guide the students with embellishing their own initials.



The feedback for the day was highly positive with both students and school teachers commenting on how informative the day had been and how exciting it was to be able to work with real primary materials. The next outreach day is scheduled to take place on the 14 December. It is hoped that the success of the next two years will enable the funding and outreach activities to become a permanent fixture in the CBOMGS calendar.

We would like to thank Vanvy Arif of Sandwell City Council for her support for this scheme. Thanks are also due to Professor Leslie Brubaker and the staff at the Centre for Byzantine, Ottoman and Modern Greek studies for their encouragement and guidance. Special thanks are also due to Sue Worrall and her team from Special Collections who generously donated their time and expertise to the project.

Finally, we would like to thank all of the postgraduate students of the Centre for Byzantine, Ottoman and Modern Greek Studies for their work and contribution to this scheme: Siren Çelik, George Makris, Wei Sheng-Lin, Lauren Wainwright, Alasitair Davidson and Drew Longacre.

Daniel Reynolds, Rebecca Day, Georgia Michael
Dkr893@bham.ac.uk

Bulletin of British Byzantine Studies 39 (2013)

Call for Contributions

This is our annual invitation to all members of the Society to send us their information, for inclusion in **BBBS 39**, due to appear in March 2013. Please send details by email (or email attachment) where possible:

fiona.haarer@kcl.ac.uk, or by post: Dr Fiona Haarer, Dept of Classics, King's College, Strand, London, WC2R 2LS. The deadline is **31 December, 2012**. Please email in advance if your entry will arrive after the deadline.

Please include the following information:

Name

Publications: 2012.

Publications: forthcoming.

Work in Progress

Fieldwork: excavations, surveys, study & conservation (completed in 2012 and planned for 2013).

Theses: not previously reported; begun in 2012; completed since BBBS 38. Please send abstracts of all completed theses.

Conferences, Lectures, Seminar Series, Summer Schools: programmes & papers given at recent and forthcoming events.

Conference Reports

Exhibitions: reports of recent exhibitions and notices of forthcoming exhibitions.

University News: new courses; student grants offered.

Obituaries

Books & Websites: notices & reviews of recently published or forthcoming works; new journals; new websites.

Announcements: Please add any information you wish to bring to the attention of members.

Fiona Haarer, *Editor*
fiona.haarer@kcl.ac.uk

