
Society News

Society for the Promotion of Byzantine Studies



Issue 20

November 2013

The 47th Spring Symposium of Byzantine Studies

The Emperor in the Byzantine World

Cardiff University, 25-27 April 2014

In Byzantine Studies it is a strange fact that there exists no equivalent to Fergus Millar's *The Emperor in the Roman World*, despite the centrality of the ruler in the Byzantine world. This oddity is compounded by the recent publication of a plethora of books devoted to Byzantine empresses. This Symposium (the first Spring Symposium of Byzantine Studies to be held in Wales) seeks to address this oddity, placing the Byzantine emperor centre stage as both ruler and man. The Symposium will consist of five main sessions, of three papers each, addressing the following themes: Dynasty; Imperial Literature; The Imperial Court; Imperial Duties; and The Material Emperor. In addition there will be a series of communications, as well as a public lecture on Byzantium and Wales.



Call for Communications

Academics, research students, and other members of the scholarly community are invited to offer communications (short ten-minute papers). Abstracts (of no more than 250 words) of proposed communications should be sent to TougherSF@cardiff.ac.uk by 13 January 2014 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 April, 2014 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 April, 2014 the fees for one-day participation are £45, £40, and £25 respectively.
- The fees cover buffet lunches, refreshments, and a reception
- There will a conference dinner on the Saturday night in Aberdare Hall, to be paid for separately.

Booking & Paying

A booking form will soon be available online, on the website of the Cardiff School of History, Archaeology and Religious Studies (www.cardiff.ac.uk/share/), with details of how to pay.

Accommodation

A wide range of accommodation is available in Cardiff. The closest hotels to the main conference venues (Cardiff University's John Percival Building and Julian Hodge Building) are the Park Plaza (Greyfriar's Road), the Thistle (Park Place) and the Hilton (Kingsway). A budget option is the Ibis Budget Hotel (Tyndall Street), though it is further away from the venues. There are many B&Bs on Cathedral Road, a walk across Bute Park from the conference locations. Further guidance for delegates will be provided.

Symposiarch

Dr Shaun Tougher

TougherSF@cardiff.ac.uk

Speakers & Topics

Dynasty: Imperial Families

Mark Humphries (Swansea University): *Family, Dynasty, and the Construction of Legitimacy: The Roman Background*

Mike Humphreys (University of Cambridge): *The Dynasty of Heraclius*

Mark Masterson (Victoria University of Wellington): *Basil II and the Macedonian Dynasty*

Imperial Literature: The Emperor as Subject and Author

John Vanderspoel (University of Calgary): *Imperial Panegyric*

Athanasios Markopoulos (University of Athens): *Imperial Advice Literature – Constantine VII*

Savvas Kyriakidis (University of Johannesburg): *The Emperor in Historiography – The History of John Kantakouzenos*

The Imperial Court: The Emperor's Men

Meaghan McEvoy (Goethe University, Frankfurt): *The Court of Theodosius II and its Consequences*

Jonathan Shepard (Oxford): *Emperors and Administrators in the Middle Empire*

Jonathan Harris (Royal Holloway, University of London): *Who was who at the Court of Constantine XI (1449-1453)*

Imperial Duties: The Emperor as Ruler

Bernard Stolte (University of Groningen): *The Emperor and Law*

Michael Grünbart (University of Münster): *The Emperor and the Patriarch*

Frank Trombley (Cardiff University): *The Emperor and War*

The Material Emperor: Imperial Art and Architecture

Alicia Walker (Bryn Mawr College): *The Emperor in Art*

Eurydice Georganteli (University of Birmingham): *The Emperor and Coinage*

Lynn Jones (Florida State University): *Emperor and Palace*

Public Lecture:

Mark Redknap (National Museum Cardiff): *Byzantium and Wales*

A message from the Chair of the SPBS

International News


The main international news to report concerns the Inter-Congress meeting of the *Association Internationale des Etudes Byzantines* (AIEB). This took place in Athens on 20-22 September this year and was attended by representatives of almost all National Committees, with your Chair as the UK representative. The meeting was in fact made up of two General Assemblies. The first, an Extraordinary General Assembly, was to debate and ratify, if possible, the constitutional changes initiated during the Extraordinary General Assembly held in Paris in 2012 and subsequently discussed by e-mail by the National Committees – the changes are intended to produce greater transparency in decision making and a smooth hand-over should a President demit office before the end of his/her term. The proposals were agreed. The chief business of the second meeting, a regular General Assembly, was to hear the Serbian National Committee's presentation of their plans for the Belgrade Congress of 2016. After prolonged robust debate – on venues, air-conditioning, balance of papers etc etc – it was allowed that the programme seemed in good shape. Some 45 of the 130 or so proposals for Round Tables that had been submitted had been accepted provisionally: the intention is to offer the unsuccessful groups the possibility of forming clusters of communications. Professor Maximovic stressed, however, that although a list of Tables Rondes is circulating at present it is far from being definitive: no official offers have yet been made, and will not be made until well on into the coming year. With luck the UK will be well represented in Belgrade, even though it took time for proposals for Round Tables to emerge from the Society's membership. The other matter that will interest the Society's members is that the Development Commission, a UK initiative, has now been ratified, with a membership of 12 (the majority, regrettably, aged well over 40) with Jean-Michel Spieser (Switzerland) as convenor. Hopes are pinned on the new AIEB website as an outreach tool; it, however, is suffering teething problems similar to those of the SPBS site.

National News

The Society continues its own outreach programme. The Summer Lecture was held on June 19 in the Hellenic Centre in London, thanks to the kindness of its Director, Mrs Agatha Kalisperas, and the good offices of Michael Heslop, Chair of the Membership Committee. I spoke on 'A Byzantine Princess, two books and an icon', generating an unexpectedly heated discussion.

SPBS & the Hellenic Centre present an illustrated lecture by
Professor Elizabeth Jeffreys
**A Princess, Two Books and an Icon:
another Byzantine puzzle?**

Two of the most elaborately illustrated manuscripts from twelfth-century Byzantium present a curiously truncated life of the Theotokos in the form of six homilies. This lecture will suggest who might have sponsored the books and their subject-matter, and why.




THE SOCIETY FOR THE PROMOTION OF BYZANTINE STUDIES THE HELLENIC CENTRE

7.00 pm **Wednesday 19 June 2013**, 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

The Autumn Lecture moved to Birmingham, and – thanks to Eurydiki Georganteli and the Barber's Director, Nicola Kalinsky – was given in the Barber Institute on October 3 by Professor Chryssa Maltesou (Venice and Athens) on 'Venice and the Greeks: the history of Hellenism in the City of Saint Mark'. This was a win-win situation in which both the Barber Institute and the SPBS benefitted from an excellent speaker and enhanced publicity.

CITYSCAPES
PANORAMIC VIEWS ON EUROPEAN COINS AND MEDALS
17 APRIL 2013 - 4 OCTOBER 2013



LECTURE:
VENICE OF THE GREEKS
THE HISTORY OF HELLENISM IN THE CITY OF SAINT MARK

Chryssa Maltesou
Member of the Faculty of Athens, Professor Emerita at the University of Athens,
Former Director of the Hellenic Institute of Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Studies in Venice,
of the Barber Institute of Fine Arts, University of Birmingham
on Thursday 3 October 2013, 5pm.
The lecture will be followed by an informal reception.

ALL WELCOME / ADMISSION FREE

Further information: www.spbs.org.uk/cityscapes/ / www.birmingham.ac.uk
0121 359 3000 / info@barber.org.uk / © 2013 A.I.E.B.

This event has been jointly organised by:

THE BARBER INSTITUTE OF FINE ARTS UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

There are plans for a lecture in the spring with the Friends of the British School in Athens.

Society News

The Society is about to be presented with a new web-site! Its preparation has, however, proved to be a more long-drawn out task than any one expected – but it truly is nearly ready and should prove a more flexible communication tool than the previous site (which has served the Society well for so long).

Elections

You are, as ever, urged to consider putting yourself forward to serve on the Executive

Committee: see the Secretary's announcements elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Subscriptions & Society Finances

Again, as ever, you are urged to pay your subscriptions promptly. Please see the Membership Secretary's notice, and take heed of his dire warnings about the impact non-payment has on the Society's finances, and thus on its activities. Of which, of course, one of the most significant is the Symposium –

I hope to see you in large numbers in Cardiff next April!

Elizabeth Jeffreys
elizabeth.jeffreys@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk

THE PRESIDENT'S BIRTHDAY

ΠΟΛΙΑ ΤΑ ΕΤΗ


Bryer celebrated his 76th birthday this year on October 31. Warmest birthday greetings come to him from all members of the Society:

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Future Society Events

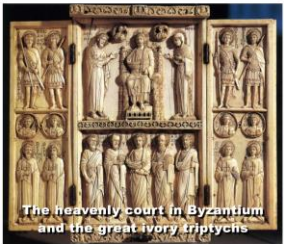
Joint Lectures: The next Joint Lecture with the Friends of the British School at Athens will be delivered by Dr Tony Eastmond: *The Heavenly Court in Byzantium and the great ivory triptychs* at 6pm on Tuesday 18 March, 2014, Room G22/26 Senate House.

Spring 2014: There will be a special **Hands On Day** for members of the SPBS at the **British Museum** in early 2014. The purpose of this programme is to permit SPBS members, especially those who do not generally have the opportunity to personally examine Byzantine material culture, to hear a presentation about some of the most beautiful Byzantine artefacts at the British Museum from one of the Curators and then to examine them. Only a small group can be accommodated in this programme, so keep an eye out for the day and time. More information will be posted on the website (www.byzantium.ac.uk) and emailed to members.



SPBS & The Friends of the British School at Athens present an illustrated lecture by

Dr Tony Eastmond



The heavenly court in Byzantium and the great ivory triptychs

6.00 pm Tuesday 18 March 2014, followed by an informal reception, at Room G22/26, Ground Floor, South Block, Senate House, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HU

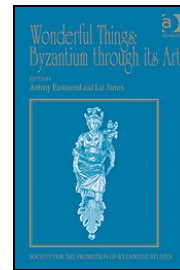
The nearest tube station is Russell Square. Free entry for SPBS members but please confirm attendance to Michael Saxby mss714@bham.ac.uk

New Publications

Vol 16: *Wonderful Things: Byzantium through its Art*

Papers from the Forty-Second Spring Symposium of Byzantine Studies, London, March 2009.

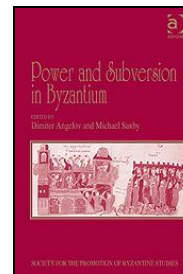
Edited by Antony Eastmond, Courtauld Institute of Art and Liz James, University of Sussex
Ashgate, August 2013



Vol 17: *Power and Subversion in Byzantium*

Papers from the Forty-third Spring Symposium of Byzantine Studies, University of Birmingham, March 2010.

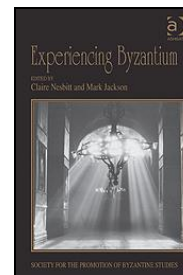
Edited by Dimiter Angelov and Michael Saxby, University of Birmingham
Ashgate, October 2013



Vol 18: *Experiencing Byzantium*

Papers from the Forty-fourth Spring Symposium of Byzantine Studies, Newcastle and Durham, April 2011.

Edited by Claire Nesbitt, University of Durham and Mark Jackson, University of Newcastle
Ashgate, November 2013



See the full list of Symposium volumes and buy here: <http://www.ashgate.com/SPBSSeries>

Hon. Secretary's Business

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 47th Spring Symposium at the University of Cardiff, on Sunday 27 April 2014.

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 12 April 2014.

Please note! You do not need to hold an academic position or to have held such a position to serve the Society in this way. The Executive has always benefitted from a diversity of experience and we welcome all expressions of interest.

Tim Greenwood
twg3@st-andrews.ac.uk

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.

Deadlines

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

Late Payment of 2013 and 2012 Subscriptions

The Membership Committee notes with concern the increasing number of members who are paying their subscriptions very late. The number of members who have not yet paid their subscriptions for 2013 has increased significantly over the number who were in

arrears for the 2012 subscription at the same time last year. In addition some people are in arrears for both 2012 and 2013. Please note that all subscriptions are due in January each year. For their subscriptions members receive two surface mailings a year; regular e-mailings of events and publications; discounted rates at the Spring Symposium; and discounted prices on Society publications; and the chance to contribute to BBBS. The Society is facing

increasing financial demands on what is in effect a contracting revenue base.

Members in arrears will find individual notifications in this mailing. Please support your Society and renew now.

2014 Subscriptions

Subscriptions for 2014 will be due in January 2014. The Society is grateful to those members who pay by standing order and to those who pay regularly in January. Prompt renewal will be appreciated very much. If you do not pay by standing order but would like to do so, please contact the Membership Secretary, Mike Saxby, (mss714@bham.ac.uk) for a form.

Subscription rates: full £20; student £10.

Please make cheques payable to 'SPBS' and send to the Membership Secretary:

Dr Mike Saxby
Centre for Byzantine, Ottoman and Modern Greek Studies
3rd Floor Arts Building
University of Birmingham
Birmingham B15 2TT.

Please note that PayPal, which accepts card payments, has been installed on the Society's new website and should be available by the end of 2013.

Michael Heslop
Chair, Membership Committee

Job Announcement

The Society is looking to appoint a new Membership Secretary. Duties include dealing with all enquiries concerning membership for individual members and institutions, and maintaining the Society's membership and institutional databases.

(S)he will be responsible for the mailing to all members of the Society the *Bulletin of British Byzantine Studies* in the spring, and the Society's *Newsletter* in the autumn; and for sending out regular e-communications to members.

(S)he will also play an important role in publicising the activities of the Society, and in attracting new members at conferences, lectures, exhibitions, and in university departments. Ideas for generating new publicity will be an important part of the post.

Applicants should have an interest in Byzantine Studies and be familiar with MS Word and Excel. The annual honorarium is £1500.

If you are interested, please contact Michael Heslop, the Chair of the Membership Committee (michaelheslop@ntlworld.com). Interviews will be held during the 2014 Spring Symposium in Cardiff (April 25-27), or at another mutually convenient time. The successful candidate should be available to start on 1 October 2014.

If you would like to discuss any aspects of the position, please contact Mike Saxby, the current Membership Secretary (mss714@bham.ac.uk).

Bulletin of British Byzantine Studies 40 (2014)

Call for Contributions

This is our annual invitation to all members of the Society to send us their information, for inclusion in **BBBS 40**, due to appear in March

2014. 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, 2013. Please email in advance if your entry will arrive after the deadline.

Please include the following information:

Name

Publications: 2013.

Publications: forthcoming.

Work in Progress

Fieldwork: excavations, surveys, study & conservation (completed in 2013 and planned for 2014).

Theses: not previously reported; begun in 2013; completed since BBBS 39. 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



FAITH & FORTUNE

Visualising the divine on Byzantine and Early Islamic coinage
Barber Institute of Fine Arts, Birmingham

Coins have always provided a stage on which the dramas of religion and politics, statehood and rebellion, marriage and succession, and triumph and desperation are played.

In the first quarter of the seventh century, the East Roman Emperor Herakleios requisitioned silver from the churches of Constantinople to pay his army. The coins bore the petition 'God help the Romans'. A generation later the leader of the first Muslim Empire, the Umayyad Caliph Abd Al-Malik, created a gold coinage emblazoned with Islamic verse, which transformed the nature of Muslim coinage for centuries.

This fascinating exhibition explores the relationship between the neighbouring Byzantine and Muslim empires in Late Antiquity. Trade, intellectual exchange and military confrontation can be traced on coinage and unique manuscripts brought together from University of Birmingham and Barber Institute collections. Witness expressions of cultural difference, from a princess's private prayer scroll to the small change of empires. Follow the evolution of Muslim and Christian concepts of the divine, which continue to shape global interactions.

Exhibition opens 8 November 2013 (until 30 November 2014).

For further information visit: <http://barber.org.uk/faith-fortune/>

Or contact Rebecca Darley: rrd883@bham.ac.uk