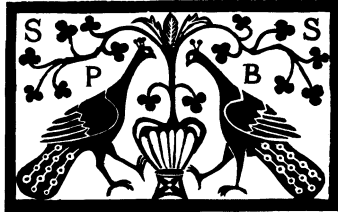


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# Society News

Society for the Promotion of Byzantine Studies



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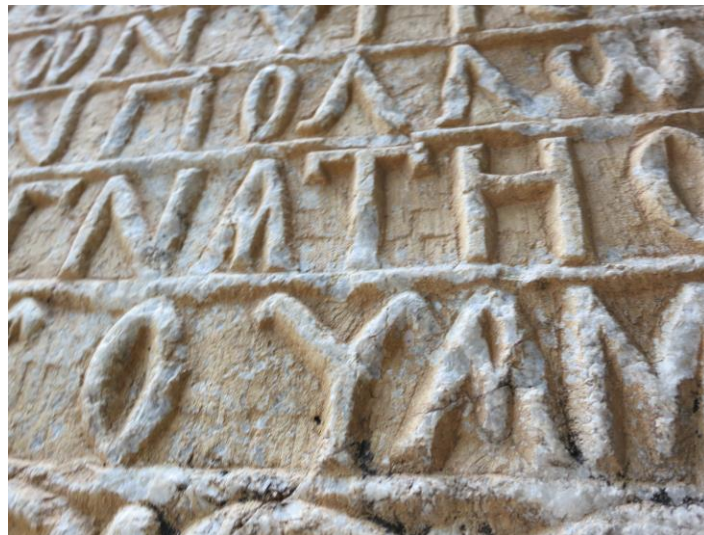
Issue 22

December 2015

The 49<sup>th</sup> Spring Symposium of Byzantine Studies

*Inscribing Texts in Byzantium:  
Continuities & Transformations*

Exeter College, Oxford, 18-20 March 2016



In spite of the striking abundance of extant primary material – over 4000 Greek texts produced in the period between the sixth and fifteenth centuries – Byzantine Epigraphy remains largely uncharted territory, with a reputation for being elusive and esoteric that obstinately persists. References to inscriptions in our texts show how ubiquitous and deeply engrained the epigraphic habit was in Byzantine society, and underscore the significance of epigraphy as an auxiliary discipline. The growing interest in material culture, including inscriptions, has opened

new avenues of research and led to various explorations in the field of epigraphy, but what is urgently needed is a synthetic approach that incorporates literacy, built environment, social and political contexts, and human agency. The SPBS Symposium 2016 has invited specialists in the field to examine diverse epigraphic material in order to trace individual epigraphic habits, and outline overall inscriptional traditions. In addition to the customary format of panel papers and shorter communications, the Symposium will organize a round table, whose participants will lead a debate on the topics presented in the panel papers, and discuss the methodological questions of collection, presentation and interpretation of Byzantine inscriptional material.

## Panels

Panel One: Collecting and reading inscriptions in Byzantium

Panel Two: Traditions and transitions

Panel Three: Seventh-century epigraphy three ways

Panel Four: Place, placement, paratextuality

Panel Five: The (in)formality of the inscribed word

Panel Six: Material turn

Round Table: SPBS Debate on Byzantine epigraphy

## Call for Communications

Academics, research students, and other members of the scholarly community are invited to offer communications – ten minutes papers – that explore any aspect of Byzantine Epigraphy from a textual, visual, historical, religious, social or cultural angle. Abstracts of no more than 300 words of proposed communications, including their titles, should be sent to Ida Toth ([ida.toth@history.ox.ac.uk](mailto:ida.toth@history.ox.ac.uk)) by 15 January 2016 at the latest.

## Registration

Delegates are offered early registration at the following rates:

- Full: £95
- Members of the SPBS: £85
- Students / Unwaged: £45
- From 1 March 2016 rates rise to £105, £95, and £50 respectively
- The fees for one-day registration are £45 (full fee), £40 (Members of the SPBS), and £30 (Students / Unwaged)
- From 1 March 2016, the fees for one day participation are £55, £50 and £40 respectively

## Booking & Paying

A booking form will soon be available online, on the website of the History Faculty (Oxford University), with further details of registration and payment.

**Symposiarchs**  
**Marc Lauxtermann and Ida Toth**

# A message from the Chair of the SPBS

## International News

The main piece of international news is that the 23<sup>rd</sup> International Congress of Byzantine Studies takes place in less than a year's time. As most of you will know, it will be held in Belgrade from 23-27 August 2016. The Congress web-site is open and is gradually being populated with information: it is worth checking regularly at [www.byz2016.rs](http://www.byz2016.rs). Early Registration at €120 closes on 29 February, and rises inexorably thereafter: so get in early! A number of UK Byzantinists are involved in presenting main papers and round tables. There is still scope for offering individual communications or for gathering colleagues into a group session of communications: information is on the Congress web-site. The SPBS is offering substantial grants to enable graduate students to attend: details will be on the society's web-site in January (and see below).

## National News

The exciting news nationally for Byzantine Studies is again probably known to most of you. This is that the newly established A.G. Leventis Chair of Byzantine Studies at Edinburgh University has been filled, and is now occupied by Niels Gaul, formerly of the Central European University, Budapest. Niels is well known to UK Byzantinists from his time in Oxford in the Dilts-Lyell Lectureship in Greek Palaeography when, amongst other activities, he initiated the biennial Oxford Summer School in Greek Palaeography. However, as you will soon come to realize (if you have not already), palaeography is far from being the sole focus of Niel's scholarly activities. The Society welcomes Niels warmly and looks forward to a long and fruitful collaboration with him.

## Society News

The Society's now regular programme of Spring, Summer and Autumn Lectures has taken place. In the spring Dennis Stathakopoulos spoke on 'Hell is other People' in London University's Senate House on 17 March; this was a joint event with the Friends of the British School at Athens. In the summer, on 22 June in Paddington, London, Averil Cameron spoke on 'The emperor and the cardinals' in an evening shared with the London Hellenic Centre. Most recently, James Howard-Johnston presented the autumn lecture on 5 November, speaking in King's College London in conjunction with the Centre for Hellenic Studies; his topic was 'Byzantium's First Encounter with the Turks'. For those of you who could not join the large audience in KCL's Anatomy Theatre (an experience in itself), you can catch up on the event via the recording available from the SPBS web-site ([www.byzantium.ac.uk/events/autumn-lecture.html](http://www.byzantium.ac.uk/events/autumn-lecture.html)) and follow the links. The Society is very grateful to Michael Heslop for the time and effort he has put into establishing the connections that make these lectures possible. We look forward to a similar programme next year.

The Society's 'new' web-site, now over a year old, continues to function well, thanks to the efficient ministrations of Brian McLaughlin, the web-master. Do please look at it regularly as Brian is assiduous in entering up information on events and jobs that will be of interest to all the Society's members. The latest venture is that SPBS is now on Facebook: follow the link on the site's main page.

The latest, breaking news, is the setting up of The British Byzantine Postgraduate Network (BBPN) by post-graduates in

Byzantine Studies in the UK, an initiative whole-heartedly supported by the Society. There will shortly be a dedicated page for BBPN on the SPBS site.

## **Elections**

Once more, do please heed the Secretary's notice elsewhere in this Newsletter about vacancies on the Executive. This is *your* Society and it needs your participation to make it work!

## **Subscriptions and Society Finances**

Again, the usual plea that members pay their subscriptions promptly – this year it has a particular urgency as even more of

you than usual seem not to have heeded the passage of time, and not paid. The Chair of the Membership Committee has just blitzed out rather too many reminders for his comfort. Without your subscriptions the Society cannot continue to function. The easy solution is to pay by Banker's Order: just ask the Membership Secretary for the form (instructions on the website under Join the SPBS); do think about this.

Finally, I look forward to seeing you all at the 2016 Symposium in Oxford when the symposiarchs will open up the intriguing world of Byzantium's 'epigraphic habit'.

**Elizabeth Jeffreys**

[elizabeth.jeffreys@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk](mailto:elizabeth.jeffreys@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk)

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## **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 49<sup>th</sup> Spring Symposium at Exeter College, Oxford on Sunday 20 March 2016.

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](mailto: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 5 March 2016**.

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 particularly welcome members from outside the academic profession who wish to contribute to the future of the Society.

## **Chairs of the Development and Membership sub-Committees of the Society for the Promotion of Byzantine Studies**

The fixed five-year term of office of the present Chair of the Development sub-Committee, Dr Ruth Macrides, comes to an end at the Society's next AGM in March 2016. In addition, the present Chair of the Membership sub-Committee, Dr Dionysios Stathakopoulos, has indicated his intention to resign from his position, also with effect from the Society's next AGM in March 2016. We therefore have two vacancies in these important roles.

This is your opportunity to become involved in the 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 fully paid-up member of the Society at the date of publication of this advertisement.

If you are interested in finding out more about the responsibilities of either position, 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](mailto:twg3@st-andrews.ac.uk) and he will send a prepared outline to you.

If you wish to stand for election to either of the positions, 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 at **12 noon on 20 February 2016**.

Please also include a short 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 future of the Society from either a development or a membership perspective. These will be posted on the Society's website.

The new sub-Committee Chairs will be elected at the Society's Annual General Meeting on Sunday 20 March 2016 in the Symposium venue at Exeter College, University of Oxford.

## **Donations and Legacies**

If you are interested in making a single gift or a regular gift to the Society, or are considering leaving a legacy bequest to the Society in your will, there is now a dedicated area on the website which gives

you further information and advice. Please go to <http://www.byzantium.ac.uk/join-spbs.html> and click on Giving to the Society and then either Donations or Legacies.

**Tim Greenwood**  
[twg3@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:twg3@st-andrews.ac.uk)

# The Development Committee

## Grants 2015

In the last year, the Development Committee has awarded the following grants. Reports will be published in the Bulletin of British Byzantine Studies 42 (2016).

### Symposium Grants, Open University 2015

**Alex Rodriguez Suarez** delivered a communication: *Bell-ringing in Byzantium during the late Byzantine period: an introduction*

### Conference Organisation

A grant was offered to **Alexandra Vukovich** at the University of Cambridge to support speaker expenses at a seminar series.

### International Medieval Conference, Leeds

A grant was offered to **Mike Carr** (University of Edinburgh) to support a Byzantine panel.

## Grants 2016

### 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 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

Applications for conference organisation and symposium attendance are considered on an annual basis, only in late March of each year. **The deadline is 1 March.**

Application Forms may be downloaded from the SPBS website:

<http://www.byzantium.ac.uk/grants.html>

## 23<sup>rd</sup> International Congress of Byzantine Studies 22-27 August 2016 Belgrade

Grants have just been announced by the Serbian Organizing Committee for younger scholars who would like to participate in the Congress with a paper or a poster presentation. UK early career researchers

and doctoral students are urged to apply for these grants in the first instance.

See: [www.byz2016.rs](http://www.byz2016.rs) for further details.

The SPBS will also offer grants with an application deadline of 1 March. Preference will also be given to UK early career researchers and doctoral students, although applications from other members of the

Society will also be considered. Visit the SPBS website for application forms and further information:

<http://byzantium.ac.uk/grants.html>

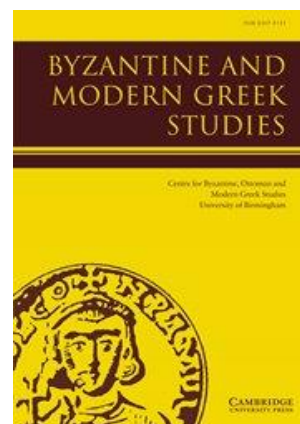
## International Medieval Conference, University of Leeds 2017

In addition to the grant opportunities above, the SPBS will again make available £500 to support a Byzantine panel at Leeds International Medieval Conference. Applications for Leeds 2017 should be sent by 1 September 2016 to **Dr Ruth**

**Macrides** ([r.j.macrides@bham.ac.uk](mailto:r.j.macrides@bham.ac.uk)). Applicants must be members of the Society. The proposal chosen by the Development Committee can then be submitted by organisers of the panel in time for consideration at Leeds.

## *Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies*

*Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies* is an internationally recognised, peer-reviewed journal and one of the leading publications in its field. Published twice a year in spring and autumn, its remit is to facilitate the publication of high-quality research and discussion in all aspects of Byzantine and Modern Greek scholarship, whether historical, literary or social-anthropological. The journal welcomes research, criticism, contributions on theory and method in the form of articles, critical studies and short notes.



## Discount for Members of the SPBS

From January 2016, *Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies* (BMGS) will be published by Cambridge University Press, who are offering a discounted subscription rate to members of the Society for the Promotion of Byzantine Studies:

**Print & online subscription: £48**

**Online-only subscription: £42**

To subscribe, please contact Cambridge University Press Customer Services department:

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T: +1 845 353 7500

**Ruth Macrides**  
[r.j.macrides@bham.ac.uk](mailto:r.j.macrides@bham.ac.uk)

# Membership Matters

## Urgent Message from the Membership Committee

### 2016 Subscriptions

As you know, the Society plays an important role in supporting and promoting the study of the Byzantine Empire in a number of ways. It helps to fund and organise the annual Spring Symposia of Byzantine Studies and to publish their proceedings; it publishes the annual Bulletin of British Byzantine Studies and Newsletter; it offers assistance and grants to graduate students and colleagues in order to attend international scholarly events and to organise Byzantium-related conferences and workshops; and it organises a number of events per year dedicated to the study of the Byzantine Empire that are very well attended. As a member you profit from all these activities. As you also know, the Society's sole income derives from membership fees and royalties from our publications. It is, therefore, crucial that members pay their fees in a timely way. The Society is very grateful to those members who pay by standing order and to those who pay regularly in January. Prompt renewal will be appreciated very much. There is now a hassle-free way to pay your membership fee online through PayPal, which accepts card payments, and is readily available on the Society's website:

<http://byzantium.ac.uk/joinspbs/join-online.html>

If you do not pay by standing order but would like to do so, please contact the membership secretary Liz Mincin for a form: [emincin@googlemail.com](mailto:emincin@googlemail.com)

**Please keep your membership status up to date to ensure that the Society can go on supporting Byzantine Studies.**

Subscription rates: full £20; student £10.

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

Dr Elisabeth Mincin  
Flat 2 Columbia Court  
68 The Avenue  
Beckenham  
BR3 5ES

Or pay online here:  
<http://byzantium.ac.uk/joinspbs/join-online.html>

**Dionysios Stathakopoulos**  
[dionysios.stathakopoulos@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:dionysios.stathakopoulos@kcl.ac.uk)

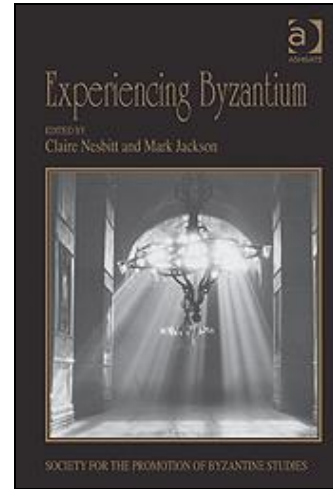


# SPBS Publications

## ABSOLUTELY FINAL SPBS BOOK SALE

Up till now SPBS members have been able to buy Symposium volumes at a hefty discount as part of their membership. We've found, however, that most members have increasingly preferred to buy direct from Ashgate. We've now signed a new contract with Ashgate whereby they will process all the sales, so we need to clear ALL our back stocks of Symposium volumes. So if you've got a gap in your Symposium series, or just fancy a one-off volume, come to the Oxford Symposium, for this never-to-be-repeated opportunity to acquire copies at knock-down prices....

A reminder of available volumes is below:



Claire Nesbitt and Mark Jackson, ed., *Experiencing Byzantium*. Papers from the 44th Spring Symposium of Byzantine Studies, Newcastle and Durham, 2011. SPBS Publications 18 (Variorum, Farnham 2013)

Dimitar Angelov and Michael Saxby, ed., *Power and Subversion in Byzantium*. Papers from the 43<sup>rd</sup> Spring Symposium of Byzantine Studies, University of Birmingham, 2010. SPBS Publications 17 (Variorum, Farnham 2013)

Antony Eastmond and Liz James, ed., *Wonderful Things: Byzantium through its Art*. Papers from the 42<sup>nd</sup> Spring Symposium of Byzantine Studies, London, 2009. SPBS Publications 16 (Variorum, Farnham 2013)

Ruth Macrides, ed., *History as Literature in Byzantium*. Papers from the 40<sup>th</sup> Spring Symposium of Byzantine Studies, University of Birmingham, 2007. SPBS Publications 15 (Variorum, Farnham 2010)

M.M. Mango, ed., *Byzantine trade, 4<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> centuries: the archaeology of local, regional and international exchange*. Papers from the 38<sup>th</sup> Spring Symposium of Byzantine Studies, University of Oxford, 2009. SPBS Publications 14 (Variorum, Farnham 2009).

Leslie Brubaker and Kallirroe Linardou, ed., *Eat, Drink, and Be Merry (Luke 12.19) – Food and Wine in Byzantium*. Papers from the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Symposium of Byzantine Studies, in Honour of Professor A.A.M. Bryer, University of Birmingham, 2003. SPBS Publications 13 (Variorum, Aldershot 2007).

Andrew Louth and Augustine Cassidy, ed., *Byzantine Orthodoxies*. Papers from the 36<sup>th</sup> Spring Symposium of Byzantine Studies, University of Durham, 2002. SPBS Publications 12 (Variorum, Aldershot 2006).

Elizabeth Jeffreys, ed., *Rhetoric in Byzantium*. Papers from the 35<sup>th</sup> Spring Symposium of Byzantine Studies, Exeter College, University of Oxford, 2001. SPBS Publications 11 (Variorum, Aldershot 2003).

Ruth Macrides, ed., *Travel in the Byzantine World*. Papers from the 34<sup>th</sup> Spring Symposium of Byzantine Studies, University of Birmingham, 2000. SPBS Publications 10 (Variorum, Aldershot 2002)

Antony Eastmond, ed., *Eastern Approaches to Byzantium*. Papers from the 33<sup>rd</sup> Spring Symposium of Byzantine Studies, University of Warwick, 1999. SPBS Publications 9 (Variorum, Aldershot 2001)

Dion Smythe, ed., *Strangers to Themselves: The Byzantine Outsider*. Papers from the 32<sup>nd</sup> Spring Symposium of Byzantine Studies, University of Sussex, Brighton, March 1998. SPBS Publications 8 (Variorum, Aldershot 2000)

Liz James, ed., *Desire and Denial in Byzantium*. Papers from the 31<sup>st</sup> Spring Symposium, University of Sussex, March 1997. SPBS Publications 6 (Variorum, Aldershot 1999)

**Rowena Loverance**  
**Chair, Publications Committee**

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## Bulletin of British Byzantine Studies 42 (2016)

### Call for Contributions

This is our annual invitation to all members of the Society to send us their information, for inclusion in **BBBS 42**, due to appear in March 2016. Please send details by email (or email attachment) where possible: [fiona.haarer@kcl.ac.uk](mailto: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, 2015**. Please email in advance if your entry will arrive after the deadline.

Please include the following information:

**Name**

**Publications:** 2015.

**Publications:** forthcoming.

**Work in Progress**

**Fieldwork:** excavations, surveys, study & conservation (completed in 2015 and planned for 2016).

**Theses:** not previously reported; begun in 2015; completed since *BBBS* 41. 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.

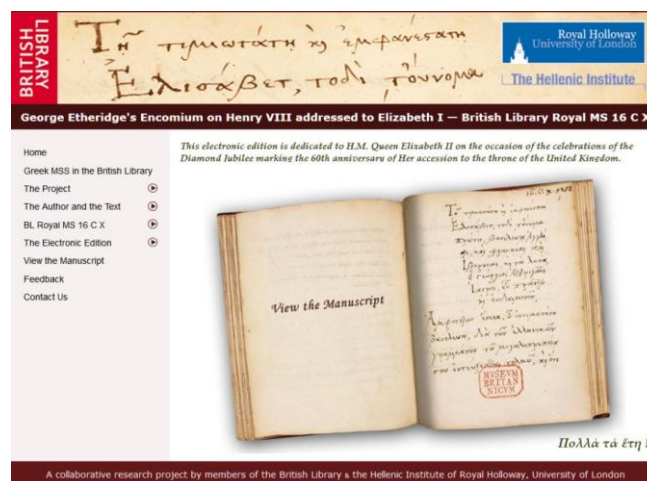
**Fiona Haarer, Editor**  
[fiona.haarer@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:fiona.haarer@kcl.ac.uk)



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

**Charalambos Dendrinios, Philip Taylor & Christopher Wright**  
*Hellenic Institute, Royal Holloway, University of London*

*Hellenic Studies in Tudor England*  
*An online interactive edition of*  
*an unpublished Greek encomium on Henry VIII*



**6.00 pm Tuesday 15 March 2016, 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 Liz Mincin*  
*emincin@googlemail.com*

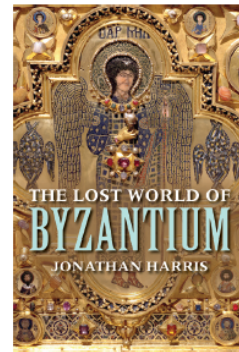
# THE LOST WORLD OF BYZANTIUM

JONATHAN HARRIS

**A fresh, concise and accessible history of one of the medieval world's greatest empires**

'Harris has succeeded triumphantly in producing a fresh and highly readable account of this extraordinary institution ... An acute eye for detail is sustained throughout ... The book is beautifully constructed on the back of highly intelligent narrative choices ... take[s] the reader to the heart of what it meant to be Byzantine.' – Peter Heather, *BBC History Magazine*

'Harris presents his case not only with lightness of hand but also surety of foot ... The writing is elegant, the facts are carefully controlled and the narrative enlightened by revealing anecdotes and suggestive extracts from the primary sources.' – Peter Sarris, *Literary Review*



Illustrated  
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For more than a millennium, the Byzantine Empire presided over the juncture between East and West, as well as the transition from the classical to the modern world. Jonathan Harris, a leading scholar of Byzantium, eschews the usual run-through of emperors and battles and instead recounts the empire's extraordinary history by focusing each chronological chapter on an archetypal figure, family, place or event.

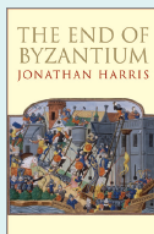
Harris's action-packed introduction presents a civilisation rich in contrasts, combining orthodox Christianity with paganism, and classical Greek learning with Roman power. Frequently assailed by numerous armies – including those of Islam – Byzantium nonetheless survived and even flourished by dint of its somewhat unorthodox foreign policy and its sumptuous art and

architecture, which helped to embed a deep sense of Byzantine identity in its people.

Enormously engaging and utilising a wealth of sources to cover all major aspects of the empire's social, political, military, religious, cultural and artistic history, Harris's study illuminates the very heart of Byzantine civilisation and explores its remarkable and lasting influence on its neighbours and on the modern world.

JONATHAN HARRIS is Professor of the History of Byzantium at the University of London and the author of numerous publications.

*Also by Jonathan Harris*



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## THE END OF BYZANTIUM

'A saga seething with treachery and avarice with rich political overtones and giant cannonades. Christendom is at flashpoint in this scholarly journey into a barbaric age.' – Colin Gardner, *Oxford Times*

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