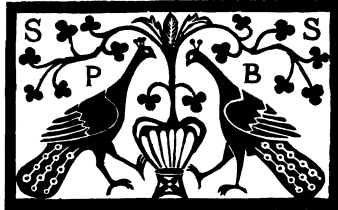

Society News

Society for the Promotion of Byzantine Studies



Issue 23

November 2016

The 50th Spring Symposium of Byzantine Studies

Global Byzantium

**Centre for Byzantine, Ottoman and Modern Greek
Studies, University of Birmingham
25-27 March 2017**



For its 50th anniversary, the Spring Symposium of Byzantine Studies returns to the University of Birmingham, where it began in 1967. On this anniversary of the discipline we ask what the language of globalism has to offer to Byzantine studies, and Byzantine studies to global narratives.

How global was Byzantium? Our understanding of the links which Byzantium had to far-flung parts of the world, and of its connections with near neighbours, continues to develop but the significance of these connections to Byzantium and its interlocutors remains keenly debated. Comparisons from or to Byzantium may also help in thinking about globalism, modern and historical. How, for example, might Byzantine legal structures, visual culture or military practice contribute to debates about the role of the medieval state or the relationship between modern cultural and national identities? Byzantine studies has always been an international discipline, marked by the interaction of its different national, regional and linguistic traditions of scholarship, as well as its highly interdisciplinary nature. How has this manifested in the interpretation of Byzantine history and how might practices of global scholarship be pursued in the future?

The programme and registration details will be available soon.

Website

<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/activity/bomgs/events/2017/global-byzantium.aspx>

Contact

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Daniel Reynolds
d.k.reynolds@bham.ac.uk

Information

The Centre for Byzantine, Ottoman and Modern Greek studies looks forward to welcoming you to Birmingham on 25 March 2017. Your delegate packs, which will include your programme and any further information about your stay, will be available for collection from the Muirhead tower upon arrival at the symposium. For speakers delivering the main papers, you will be contacted separately with details of your accommodation by a member of the organizing committee. Please let the organising committee know if you require a paper copy of the programme in advance at d.k.reynolds@bham.ac.uk



The Symposium Venue

'Global Byzantium' will take place on the University of Birmingham's Edgbaston campus which can easily be accessed by public transport or car:

<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/contact/directions/getting-here-edgbaston.aspx>

The campus offers a variety of facilities, including shops, banks and cash points and a number of cafeterias and bars.

Global Byzantium will be hosted in the Muirhead Tower located on the north side of the campus. A PDF campus map can be downloaded here:

<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/Documents/university/edgbaston-campus-map.pdf>

Travel

Train tickets, which are cheaper if booked in advance, can be purchased online and collected at any UK train station, from <https://www.thetrainline.com> or bought directly from the train companies at the following websites.

From London Euston:

<https://www.virgintrains.co.uk>
<http://www.londonmidland.com>

From London Marylebone:

<https://www.chilternrailways.co.uk>

The University of Birmingham has its own train station known as ‘University’. Trains depart every 20 minutes from Birmingham New Street Station (usually from platforms 10b or 11b).

Taxis Ask to be dropped off at the *North Gate* on Prichatts Road:

TOA Taxis: Tel: 0121 427 8888; <http://www.toataxis.co.uk/>

Castle Cars company: Tel: 0121 472 2222; <http://www.castlecars.co.uk/>

Parking: University-run Pay and Display parking (charges apply Monday-Friday) for delegates is available adjacent to campus, close to the Global Byzantium venue, in the North Car Park and Prichatts Road Car Park. Further information on parking and charges can be found here: <http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/contact/directions/getting-here-edgbaston.aspx>

iPhone/Android

The University of Birmingham hosts a number apps which offer information and services that may be useful to you during your stay: <http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/contact/app-store.aspx>

Library

The University of Birmingham’s main library (map reference R30) is open seven days a week. External members (including SCOUNL card holders) may apply for a day pass at the library reception which allows them to use the library facilities. Further information can be found here: <http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/libraries/index.aspx>

Staying in Birmingham

Places to stay: The University of Birmingham has a wide range of accommodation for events which can be reserved through Venue Bham at:

<http://www.venuebirmingham.com/accommodation/>

Alternatively, the city centre has a numerous hotels and youth hostels which are in easy reach of campus. Further information on visiting Birmingham can be accessed here: <http://visitbirmingham.com/>

Places to eat: Birmingham city centre has over 300 restaurants and bars to choose from, should you wish to venture out into the city. Details of the best dining spots in the city can be found here: <http://visitbirmingham.com/what-to-do/food-drink/restaurants/>

Leslie Brubaker & Daniel Reynolds
Symposiarchs

A message from the Chair of the SPBS

International



Opening Ceremony

The major international event this year has been, of course, the 23rd Quinquennial International Congress of Byzantine Studies, held in Belgrade from 23-27 August. The weather was kind, the lecture rooms conveniently contiguous – as were the cafés –, most speakers kept to time, the hubbub was intense: a typical congress experience? The Serbian National Committee is to be congratulated on a thoughtful programme supported by a well-organized and well-populated website. UK Byzantinists of all generations were present in good numbers, and I at least had a great time catching up with old friends and sampling Serbian cuisine.



Felix Romuliana (one of the Congress excursions)

At the General Meeting of the Association Internationale des Études Byzantines there were two retirements from the AIEB Bureau: President Johannes Koder (Vienna) and Treasurer Michel Kaplan (Paris). In their places the representatives of the member National Committees elected John Haldon (now Princeton, previously Birmingham) as President, and Béatrice Caseau (Paris) as Treasurer; Athanasios Markopoulos (Athens) continues as Secretary. After a reasonably rational debate, it was decided with a clear majority that the 24th International Congress in 2021 will take place in Istanbul.

National

The national scene has been quiet, stunned by Brexit with the future implications still to become apparent. Less dramatically, on elevation to dizzy bureaucratic heights, Tony Eastmond relinquished his management of the invaluable bulletin board *Bedlam*, which he set up ten years ago, and handed responsibility over to Rosemary Morris. UK Byzantinists are greatly indebted to Tony and Rosemary for his past and her future willingness to take on this service, which adds so much to the quality of our Byzantine experience.

Society

The Society's programme of lectures has continued, with Archie Dunn taking over the organisation from Michael Heslop. The Spring Lecture, held jointly with the Friends of the British School at Athens, was an intriguing demonstration by Charalambos Dendrinou, Philip Taylor and Christopher Wright, all from RHUL, of how many ingenious commands can be tied onto a digitized manuscript, and then played with. At the Summer Lecture, held in conjunction with the Hellenic Centre,

Paddington Street, London, Liz James discussed how incorporeal beings can be fixed in glass tesserae. The Autumn Lecture, to be held in Oxford, will see Jim Crow discussing why there is more than cheese and potatoes on medieval Naxos. For posters of these events, with explanatory details, go to the Society's web-site which is always worth looking at for information about what is going on: www.byzantium.ac.uk.

Elections

Here I make the Chair's usual plea that members read the Secretary's notices about vacancies on the Executive, and think about putting themselves forward. It is a cliché, but nonetheless true, that this is

your Society, and **you** can make a difference. The Exec meetings might well surprise you (they frequently do me).

Subscriptions

Also the usual plea: could members, please, please, heed the reminders that come, and pay promptly. Better still, pay by Banker's Order – ask the Membership Secretary for a form (instructions on the web-site under Join the SPBS).

I look forward to a bumper attendance at the SPBS Golden Jubilee celebration in 2017 of Global Byzantium.

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

Professor A.A.M. Bryer

It is with great sadness that we inform you that Professor Anthony Applemore Mornington Bryer (b. 31.10.1937), OBE, died on Saturday, 22 October 2016 at home peacefully after many years of illness. The founder of the Centre for Byzantine, Ottoman and Modern Greek Studies at the University of Birmingham, which he directed from 1976 until 1994, co-founder in 1975 of the journal *Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies*, founder of the SPBS and, at his death, its President, his contribution to Byzantine Studies in the United Kingdom and world-wide was remarkable. He is survived by his widow Jenny, his three daughters and their families. The funeral took place on 10 November at 2pm in St Peter's church, Harbourne. There will be an obituary in the next *Bulletin of British Byzantine Studies*.

Professor L. Brubaker, Birmingham



Remembering Bryer: Contributions sought

To remember Bryer – we should collect stories about Bryer and photos of him before it's too late! If you have a Bryer memory you are willing to share, please send it to one of Ruth Macrides (R.J.Macrides@bham.ac.uk), Margaret Mullett (margaret.mullett@aol.co.uk) or Liz James (E.James@sussex.ac.uk). We are hoping that we can organise something for the 2017 Spring Symposium in Birmingham.

Professor Liz James, Sussex University

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 50th Spring Symposium at Exeter College, Oxford on Sunday 26 March 2017.

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 11 March 2017**.

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.

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
Secretary
twg3@st-andrews.ac.uk

The Development Committee

Grants 2016

In the last year, the Development Committee has awarded the following grants. Reports will be published in the *Bulletin of British Byzantine Studies* 43 (2017).

Conference Organisation

Maria Alessia Rossi (Courtauld Institute of Art) and Andrea Mattiello (University of Birmingham): *Reconsidering the Concept of Decline and the Arts of the Palaiologan Era*, 24-25 February 2017.

Lauren Wainwright (University of Birmingham): The British Byzantine Postgraduate Network
Daniel Neary (University of Cambridge): The Cambridge Byzantine Seminar

International Congress of Byzantine Studies, Belgrade

Ioanna Christoforaki, Associate Researcher, Academy of Athens
Olga Grinchenko, Teaching Associate, Nottingham
Matthew Kinloch, DPhil candidate, Oxford
Dimitra Kotoula, Greek Ministry of Culture / BSA
Theodora Panella, PhD student, Birmingham
Maria Alessia Rossi, PhD student, London

Grants 2017

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>

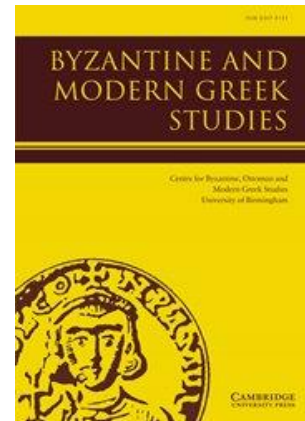
International Medieval Conference, University of Leeds 2018

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 2018 should be sent by **20 September 2017** to **Dr Archie**

Dunn (a.w.dunn@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

Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies (BMGS) is published by Cambridge University Press, who offer 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:

For United Kingdom, Europe and Rest of the World:

E: journals@cambridge.org

T: +44 (0)1223 326070

Customers in the Americas:

E: subscriptions_newyork@cambridge.org

T: +1 845 353 7500

Archie Dunn
Chair, Development Committee
a.w.dunn@bham.ac.uk
(with thanks to Ruth Macrides)

Membership Matters

2016/7 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

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/join-spbs/join-online.html>

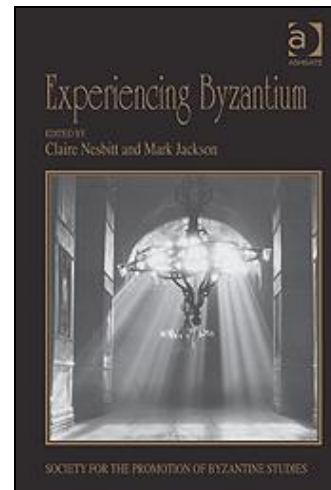
Hannah Hunt
Chair, Membership Committee
h.hunt@open.ac.uk

SPBS Publications

The SPBS volumes are now available from Routledge.

A full list of available and forthcoming volumes is available here:

<https://www.routledge.com/Publications-of-the-Society-for-the-Promotion-of-Byzantine-Studies/book-series/PSPBS>



Rowena Loverance
Chair, Publications Committee

Bulletin of British Byzantine Studies 43 (2017)

Call for Contributions

This is our annual invitation to all members of the Society to send us their information, for inclusion in **BBBS 43**, due to appear in March 2017. 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 **15 December, 2016**. Please note the earlier deadline and email in advance if your entry will arrive after the deadline.

Please include the following information:

Name

Publications: 2016.

Publications: forthcoming.

Work in Progress

Fieldwork: excavations, surveys, study & conservation (completed in 2016 and planned for 2017).

Theses: not previously reported; begun in 2016; completed since *BBBS* 42. 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

The Society for the Promotion of Byzantine Studies Autumn Lecture

Not just cheese and potatoes: Recent research on Naxos and the Byzantine Aegean



Professor Jim Crow
University of Edinburgh

5pm, Wednesday 23 November 2016
The Ioannou Centre,
61 St Giles, Oxford



For further information on the SPBS, www.byzantium.ac.uk



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

Dr Ken Dark

University of Reading

**Building Orthodoxy:
Recent Archaeological Work at Haghia Sophia**



6.00 pm Tuesday 21 March 2017, 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*