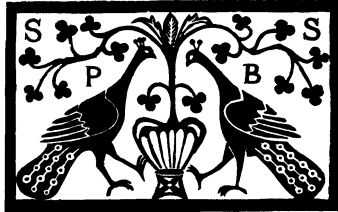


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# Society News

Society for the Promotion of Byzantine Studies



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Issue 24

November 2017

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**The 51<sup>st</sup> Spring Symposium of Byzantine Studies**

**The Post-1204 Byzantine World: New Approaches and  
Novel Directions**

**School of History, Classics & Archaeology  
University of Edinburgh  
13-15 April 2018**



The 2018 symposium will be dedicated to the later Byzantine world, taking its starting point from the cataclysmic events of 1204.

Especially in recent years, the late Byzantine period has seen an increasing amount of exciting research activity: from continuing *Grundlagenforschung* (palaeography, critical editions, translations and commentaries) via the reevaluation of key social, political, and economic practices to the application of new methods such as network studies or sociolinguistics, our understanding of the society and politics of the final two hundred and fifty years of Roman

rule in the eastern Mediterranean have much increased. If down to the late 1990s Laskarid and Palaiologan Byzantium was often still perceived as one of the (many) Cinderellas of Byzantine Studies, this is clearly no longer the case. Wherever one looks these days, exciting postgraduate projects are under way; in an increasing number of universities, Byzantine Studies is taught by colleagues with expertise in the later Byzantine period.

The 51<sup>st</sup> Spring Symposium of Byzantine Studies seeks to take stock of these novel approaches to the post-1204 Byzantine world by bringing together established researchers, new voices, and open communications on all aspects of this newly polycentric world that stretched from Constantinople to Mystras and from Arta to Trebizond: we will explore the functioning of late Byzantine politics – the interaction of emperors and rulers with aristocratic, ecclesiastical, urban elites and the demos – look at the cultural, religious, and literary life in the various post-1204 polities from various angles, and explore the fragile position of the dwindling Eastern Roman polities in their wider Mediterranean context, from the Italian powers via the Balkans to the Mamluks, Ottomans, and Mongols.

Confirmed speakers include Dimiter Angelov, Michael Angold, Daniele Bianconi, Marie-Helene Congourdeau, Nikolaos Chrissis, Andrea Cuomo, Sharon Gerstel, Cecily Hilsdale, Dimitri Kastritsis, Tonia Kiousopoulou, Ruth Macrides, Paul Magdalino, Christos Malatras, Nevra Necipoglu, Johannes Pahlitzsch, Inmaculada Perez Martin, Antonio Rigo, Alexander Riehle, Teresa Shawcross, Dionysios Stathakopoulos, Ida Toth, and Ionut Alexander Tudorie.

### **Call for ‘New Voices’ Papers and Communications**

The 51<sup>st</sup> Spring Symposium invites contributions for ‘New Voices’ papers and Communications on any of these themes and warmly invites abstracts from scholars within and without the UK and in fields linked to Byzantine studies. ‘New Voices’ papers (20 minutes) are open to post-doctoral scholars as well as doctoral students in the final year of dissertation writing and should introduce an aspect of current research pertinent to the Symposium theme. They will be considered for publication in the Symposium proceedings alongside main papers (subject to peer review). Communications (10 minutes) are open to everybody, and will not normally be published.

The call for ‘New Voices’ papers and Communications is now open. If you would like to offer a ‘New Voices’ paper or a Communication on the theme of the Symposium, please send an abstract of no more than 500 words (for a ‘New Voices’ paper) or no more than 250 words (for a Communication) to [byzantium2018@ed.ac.uk](mailto:byzantium2018@ed.ac.uk) by **1 December 2017**. Successful submissions will be informed no later than 15 December 2017. Some bursaries will be available to selected speakers, especially to attendees from outside the UK. If you would like to be considered for a bursary please indicate this on your abstract and we will send you further information about the application process if appropriate.

### **Practical Information**

#### **Symposium website**

<https://www.ed.ac.uk/history-classics-archaeology/news-events/events/51st-spring-symposium-of-byzantine-studies>

Please keep checking this website periodically: further information will be added in due course, and continuously updated. The complete programme will be available in January 2018.



### Contact

If you have any queries, please contact the symposiarchs at: [byzantium2018@ed.ac.uk](mailto:byzantium2018@ed.ac.uk).

### Registration

A link to register for the 51<sup>st</sup> Spring Symposium of Byzantine Studies will be available from the Symposium website:

<https://www.ed.ac.uk/history-classics-archaeology/news-events/events/51st-spring-symposium-of-byzantine-studies>

### Venue

The Symposium will take place in the central, George Square area: <https://www.ed.ac.uk/maps/maps> (exact venue to be confirmed at a later date). This map can also be downloaded: <https://www.ed.ac.uk/maps/download>

The University of Edinburgh's Central Area is within convenient walking distance of Waverley Railway Station, Princes Street and the Royal Mile, and close to the National Museum of Scotland: <https://www.nms.ac.uk/national-museum-of-scotland>.

### 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 be bought directly from the train companies, such as

- ScotRail: <https://www.scotrail.co.uk>,
- CrossCountry: <https://www.crosscountrytrains.co.uk>, or
- Virgin Trains East Coast: <https://www.virgintraineastcoast.com>

For air travel, Edinburgh Airport (<http://www.edinburghairport.com>) is best, with Glasgow and Newcastle airports within acceptable commuting distance.

### Transport in Edinburgh

From the airport, both AirLink buses (blue, no. 100) and the tram system provide regular service to the city centre and Waverley Railway Station. A single AirLink ticket currently costs £4.50, a period return ticket is £7.50. An adult single for the tram is £5.50, a return ticket £8.50.

Edinburgh has a very reliable public transport network with an equally reliable route planner: <https://lothianbuses.co.uk/getting-around/journey-planner>

Single bus tickets are £1.60 per ride; please note that drivers will not give change (you are expected to pay the exact amount in cash when embarking on the bus). Delegates may want to consider downloading the m-tickets app to their smartphones as an easier way to pay: <https://lothianbuses.co.uk/tickets/m-tickets>. This app also covers the AirLink and tram, but unfortunately, any purchase of tickets done this way must be above £10. (Please note that public transport fares might change between now and April 2018.)

Taxis are easily available at the airport, Waverley, or throughout the city centre. A cab ride from the airport to the Symposium location should be about £20, and much cheaper from Waverley or other locations closer by. Reliable taxi companies include

- Central Taxis: <http://taxi-edinburgh.co.uk>, 0131 229 2468
- City Cabs: <https://www.citycabs.co.uk>, 0131 228 1211.

Private hire companies include Capital Cars (<http://www.capitalcarsscotland.co.uk>) and Uber (<https://www.uber.com/en-GB/ride>).

### **Library**

The University of Edinburgh's main library (map reference 20) is now open non-stop throughout the night and during weekends. Members of the public may apply for membership: <https://www.ed.ac.uk/information-services/library-museum-gallery/using-library/join-the-library/members-public>

### **Places to stay**

The University of Edinburgh offers accommodation via its EdinburghFirst service: [www.edinburghfirst.co.uk/for-accommodation](http://www.edinburghfirst.co.uk/for-accommodation)

Delegates may find want to shop for deals via commercial websites though, including [www.booking.com](http://www.booking.com) and [www.trivago.co.uk](http://www.trivago.co.uk).

### **Places to eat**

There is a wide variety of restaurants and pubs around the George Square area and across Edinburgh city centre. Delegates will find recommendations included in their welcome packs.

**Niels Gaul, Mike Carr, Yannis Stouraitis**  
**Symposiarchs**

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## **A message from the Chair of the SPBS**

Greetings to all members of the SPBS! I offer some comments here that may not reach you from other directions.

### **International News**

I should like first to draw your attention to the website (<http://aiebnet.gr/>) of the International Association of Byzantine Studies (AIEB), which has recently had a make-over. It is intended to be easy to post matters of common interest, in particular via its Newsletter, which is accessible from the menu on the site's main page: I urge you to investigate. Next, it has just been announced by the Turkish National Committee that the 24<sup>th</sup> International Congress, which will be held in Istanbul, will take place from 23 – 28 August 2021. Further information will be forthcoming at the Inter-Congress meeting of the Bureau of the AIEB in Athens in August 2018, to which as usual the British National Committee will be sending two delegates. The quinquennial International Congresses are always keenly anticipated and rarely fail to throw up excitements of many sorts. Younger SPBS members who attended the 2016 Congress in Belgrade were enthusiastic over the opportunities it gave to meet, and make, friends and contacts.

## National News

The academic members of the SPBS may be interested to know that the Society has once again been asked to nominate a suitable person or persons to serve on the Classics Panel for REF 2021 (the Classics Panel covers Byzantine and Modern Greek as well as Classics proper).

More generally it is to be noted with pleasure that King's College London is in the process of appointing a successor to Professor Roderick Beaton in its Korraes Chair. Like the somewhat older Bywater and Sotheby Chair in Oxford, this chair has an amazingly wide remit, its full title being Korraes Professor of Modern Greek and Byzantine History, Language and Literature. The SPBS has enjoyed happy collaboration with Roddy over the thirty or more years that he has been in post and we wish him a productive retirement; we anticipate greeting his successor in due course.



## Society News



For members who were not at the Spring Symposium in Birmingham or have not read the SPBS website's list of Society officers recently, I would like to draw your attention to our new President: Professor Dame Averil Cameron. Averil was much involved with the initial stages of the SPBS and subsequently persuaded Bryer that it was a good thing to publish the annual symposia. She has graciously accepted the Executive's nomination for position of President, and we look forward to working with her.

The Society's programme of seasonal lectures has continued, attracting audiences of varying sizes. In March, at the lecture hosted jointly with the Friends of the British School at Athens, Ken Dark spoke on recent archaeological work at Hagia Sophia in Istanbul; in June, at the Hellenic Centre in Paddington, Mark Whittow explored the very dangerous life of a Byzantine emperor; and most recently, in November, following the Executive Meeting at the Open University building in Camden Town, Georgi Parpulov gave a linguistically complex exposition of the doctrinal and political clashes on Mount Athos in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. It will not have escaped your notice that all these events took place in London, and it has not escaped the notice of the Executive either – though solutions are not straightforward, it is hoped that more events in the future can be arranged away from the Great Wen.

## Elections

Once again, here comes the usual plea that members read the Secretary's notices about vacancies on the Executive and seriously consider putting themselves forward for election. If you are in doubt about what might be involved, any of the Society's officers or committee members (lists are on the website) would be happy to answer questions.

SPBS & the Hellenic Centre present a lecture by  
**Dr Mark Whittow**

Staying on Top: the very Dangerous Life  
of a Byzantine Emperor



7.15 pm Monday 5th June 2017, followed by  
an informal reception, at the Friends Room,  
Hellenic Centre, 16-18, 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](mailto:press@helleniccentre.org)

The Society for the Promotion of Byzantine Studies Autumn Lecture

**Mount Athos and the Church  
Union of 1439: Greeks, Slavs,  
History and Hagiography**



**Dr Georgi Parpulov**  
(The British Museum)

6pm, Thursday 9 November 2017  
The Open University in London,  
1-11 Raven Court, Camden NW1 8NP

For further information on the SPBS, [www.spbsociety.org](http://www.spbsociety.org)

## Subscriptions

The Society cannot function without its members, and their subscriptions: prompt payment delights the heart of the Treasurer and the Membership Secretary. Take note, and read the Membership Secretary's message below.

## Farewell

This message is my last in a Newsletter as my term of office comes to an end at the AGM during the symposium in Edinburgh next April – so the Chair is one of the positions for which nominations are called by the Secretary. For me the past five years have been thoroughly interesting, demanding at times but also eye-opening and worthwhile. The Chair, however, is but one element in the Society's structure and I would like to pay tribute to the SPBS's Executive Committee as a whole for their work for the Society, and in particular to Tim Greenwood, its Secretary, who keeps meticulous minutes and offers sage advice. The SPBC has my very best wishes for all its future activities.

**Elizabeth Jeffreys**  
**Chair**

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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 51<sup>st</sup> Spring Symposium at the University of Edinburgh on Sunday 15 April 2018.

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 – you must be a

paid-up member to be eligible! – 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 31 March 2018**.

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.

## Chair of the Society for the Promotion of Byzantine Studies

After five years of dedicated service by Elizabeth Jeffreys, 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](mailto: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 at **5pm on Friday 2 March 2018**.

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 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 15 April 2018 in the Symposium venue at the University of Edinburgh.

## 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](mailto:twg3@st-andrews.ac.uk)

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## The Development Committee

### Grants Awarded 2017 & 2018

In the last year, the Development Committee has awarded the following grants. Reports will be published in the *Bulletin of British Byzantine Studies* 44 (2018).

## SPBS Symposium 2017– *Global Byzantium*, University of Birmingham

Jeff Brubaker, University of Birmingham: *What is Byzantine about 'Byzantine' diplomacy?*  
Mirela Ivanova, University of Oxford (attendance)  
Gang Wu, King's College London (attendance)  
Yang Zhang, King's College London (attendance)

## International Medieval Congress 2017, Leeds

Matthew Kinloch, University of Oxford: *Byzantine narratives of "Reconquest": thirteenth-century and modern historiographies*

## International Medieval Congress 2018, Leeds

Aslıhan Akışık-Karakullukçu, Annika Asp-Talwar, and Anna Calia: *Remembering Constantinople in the fifteenth century* (session organisers)

## International Graduate Conference in Byzantine Studies 2017 – *Byzantium Compared*, University of Edinburgh

A. Grant, University of Edinburgh (conference organiser)

## Grants Offered 2018

### 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 2019

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 2019 should be sent by **1 September 2018** to **Dr Archie Dunn** ([a.w.dunn@bham.ac.uk](mailto:a.w.dunn@bham.ac.uk)). Applicants must be members of the Society. The proposal

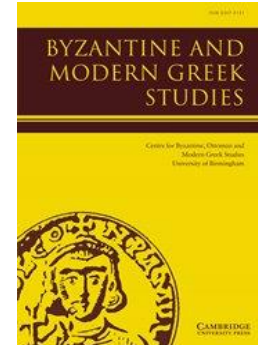


chosen by the Development Committee  
can then be submitted by session

organisers and speakers 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:

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T: +1 845 353 7500

**Archie Dunn**  
**Chair, Development Committee**  
[a.w.dunn@bham.ac.uk](mailto:a.w.dunn@bham.ac.uk)

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### Membership Matters

The subscriptions we pay to SPBS play an important role in supporting and promoting the study of Byzantium, especially in the UK. They help to fund and organise the annual SPBS Spring Symposia and publish the proceedings. They bring out the annual Bulletin of British Byzantine Studies (an opportunity for you to advertise your own Byzantine

activities) and this Newsletter, both distributed free to members. They offer assistance and grants to graduate students to attend distant scholarly events at home and abroad, and contribute to the organisation of Byzantium-related conferences and workshops. They help to support several lectures and other events each year, which are well attended. For all

this, the SPBS subscriptions are augmented only by a few royalties accruing from our publications.

### **SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Members, who can benefit from these activities, are invited to respond by subscribing regularly, and in a timely way. This will keep the subscription cost low, despite pressures to increase it. Current rates (UK currency please) are £20.00 (full), £10.00 (student), £100.00 (life, for the over 65s). There are several ways of paying:

**Bank transfer:** Our account: Bank of Scotland, 33 Old Broad Street, London EC2N 1HZ, UK. Branch code: 12-11-03. Account number: 00741345

If transferring money from outside the UK use the following codes:

BIC: BOFSGB21238

IBAN: GB71 BOFS 1211 0300 7413 45

Bank transfers often reach SPBS with minimal information about the payer. If you are a new member, please ensure that we have necessary information about you, by printing out and filling in the form on the left at:

<http://byzantium.ac.uk/join-spbs/membership-form-joining-offline.html>

**Standing order:** Request forms from [michael.jeffreys@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk](mailto:michael.jeffreys@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk)

**Paypal:**

<http://byzantium.ac.uk/join-spbs/join-online.html>. You may wish to create an account, or just pay your subscription by credit card. This is a good method for those who have no easy access to British pounds.

Nobody will have to pay another subscription till a year has elapsed from their last payment, however it was paid.

### **UNLOCK GIFTAID!**

Dozens of members have been sending in their subscriptions for years, using the charitable status of SPBS to reduce their tax, but without employing the other half of the GiftAid pattern to benefit SPBS. If you pay UK income tax, please print out and fill in the form on the right at <http://byzantium.ac.uk/join-spbs/membership-form-joining-offline.html>.

This will add 25% to the effectiveness of your subscription, and may be backdated to include all your subscriptions since 2000. All you need to do is fill in a short form and sign it and send it to the Hon Treasurer, SPBS, 2 Boxhill Station House, West Humble Street, Surrey RH5 6BT.

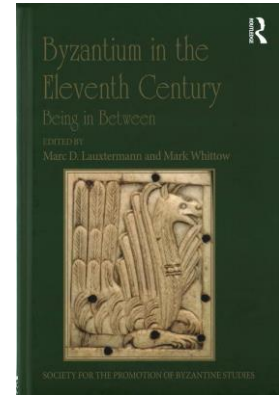
### **SPBS MAILINGS AND THE BEDLAM LISTING**

It has been the practice recently for the SPBS Membership Secretary to send out members' notices publicising matters of potential Byzantine interest. Most of this duplicates material circulated by our website: <http://byzantium.ac.uk>, university and student societies, and the Bedlam listing, which only exists to circulate information of Byzantine interest. At the recent meeting of the SPBS Executive Committee, it was decided that the SPBS would circulate by email only notices concerning SPBS events, avoiding duplication of effort and unnecessary stuffing of members' mailboxes. You are therefore encouraged to sign up to Bedlam at [bedlamlist@gmail.com](mailto:bedlamlist@gmail.com) in order to be kept fully informed of Byzantine activities in the UK and the wider world.

**Michael Jeffreys**  
**Membership Secretary**  
[michael.jeffreys@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk](mailto:michael.jeffreys@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk)

## SPBS Publications

In February 2016, Ashgate became part of Routledge, which is itself part of Taylor & Francis. So after our long relationship with Ashgate, masterminded by John Smedley, we are now building a new relationship with Routledge, where our commissioning editor is Michael Greenwood. The first volume under the Routledge imprint, *Byzantium in the Eleventh Century. Being in Between*, the Proceedings of the 2012 Oxford Symposium, came out in time for the 50th Spring Symposium in Birmingham in 2017, and the five subsequent volumes are in various stages of preparation. Look out for the 2015 volume, *Cross-Cultural Interaction between Byzantium and the West, 1204-1669: Whose Mediterranean is it anyway?* which we hope will be available by the time of the next symposium.



Since most society members clearly preferred to buy their copies direct from the publisher, we had already agreed with Ashgate that, rather than make copies available to members at a reduced rate, all sales would be handled by the publisher. So that is now the arrangement with Routledge. You'll find full details of current publications, and the print-on-demand availability of previous volumes, on the SPBS page on the Routledge website.

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

Rowena Loverance  
Chair, Publications Committee

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## Bulletin of British Byzantine Studies 44 (2018)

### Call for Contributions

This is our annual invitation to all members of the Society to send us their information, for inclusion in **BBBS 44**, due to appear in March 2018. 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, 2017**. Please note the earlier deadline and email in advance if your entry will arrive after the deadline.

Please include the following information:

**Name**

**Publications:** 2017.

**Publications:** forthcoming.

### Work in Progress

**Fieldwork:** excavations, surveys, study & conservation (completed in 2017 and planned for 2018).

**Theses:** not previously reported; begun in 2017; completed since *BBBS* 43. 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)

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## Virtual Centre for Late Antiquity [vcla.org.uk](http://vcla.org.uk)

The VCLA is a non-profit, independent research organization, established in May 2017. The VCLA is a private company limited by guarantee (No.10750650) without shareholding, with exemption from using 'Limited' in the name on grounds of educational objects and an asset lock. Late Antiquity, the period from about AD200-700, witnessed the fall of the Roman and Persian empires, and the rise of Christianity and Islam. These formative processes in western civilization are often widely misunderstood, and even hijacked for modern causes. The VCLA aims to promote both academic research and public understanding. Its thematic and geographical range is wide – covering the political, economic, social, cultural and religious history, including the textual and material culture, of much of Europe, Africa and Asia.

The VCLA is currently preparing a programme of activity for 2018. This will include the

- VCLA Research Webinar Series, an international dialogue in the form of live video conferencing. It is currently planned that the first meeting will be on the subject of Procopius.
- VCLA Podcast Series: In Conversation, based on a projected series of worldwide visits to speak to scholars in the field. The focus in 2018 is expected to be on Central, Eastern and Southern Europe, beginning with conversations with researchers at universities in Bucharest and Iași, in Romania.

If you are interested in more information, please visit the website ([vcla.org.uk](http://vcla.org.uk)) where you can look around and sign up to our mailing list.

**Dr Alexander Skinner**  
[director@vcla.org.uk](mailto:director@vcla.org.uk)  
<https://vcla.org.uk>

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## Stop Press: The SPBS and the Friends of the British School at Athens Spring Lecture

27 March, 2018, Senate House  
Dr Angeliki Lymberopoulou (title & time tbc).