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# Society News

Society for the Promotion of Byzantine Studies



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Issue 25

December 2018

## The 52nd Spring Symposium of Byzantine Studies

### ‘Blood in Byzantium’

Churchill College and Trinity College, Cambridge  
30 March – 1 April, 2019

In 2019, the Symposium will be returning to Cambridge for the first time since 1990. The theme which has been chosen is ‘Blood in Byzantium’. This theme will facilitate interdisciplinary discussion of research and ideas embracing Byzantine religion, art history, military history, social history, and law, as well Byzantine medicine and philosophy, drawing upon the extensive theoretical and historical literature that has emerged on the body, blood, and medicine in Antiquity and the Middle Ages, but which has yet to be systematically applied to Byzantium and its neighbours. Sessions will be arranged around the themes of ‘The Blood of Christ’; ‘The Blood of the Martyrs’; ‘Blood, Dynasty and Kinship’; ‘Bloodshed’; and ‘Blood in Medicine, Philosophy and Art’.

The main sessions of the conference will be held at Churchill College, with a reception and dinner at Trinity College.

Confirmed speakers include Claudia Rapp, Jane Baun, Phil Booth, Ioannis Pappadogiannakis, Stavroula Constantinou, Anne Alwis, Elena Draghici-Vasilescu, Caroline Goodson, Philip Wood, Nick Evans, Ruth Macrides, Andrew Marsham, Peter Frankopan, Alexandra Vukovich, Teresa Shawcross, Theodora Antonopoulou, Mike Humphreys, Maroula Perisnadi, Yannis Stouraitis, Petros Bouras-Vallianatos, Rebecca Flemming and Barbara Zipser.

### Communications

The 52<sup>nd</sup> Spring Symposium invites Communications (of 10 minutes in duration) on current research and warmly invites abstracts (of not more than 500 words) from scholars within and

without the UK and in fields linked to Byzantine studies. Abstracts should be sent to Peter Sarris ([pavs2@cam.ac.uk](mailto:pavs2@cam.ac.uk)) by 20 December 2018.

## Practical Information

### Symposium Website

Link to the Symposium website from: <https://www.byzantium.ac.uk/spring-symposium/>

A dedicated site will be available soon:

<https://www.hist.cam.ac.uk/research/conferences/blood-in-byzantium>

Please keep checking the website periodically: further information will be added in due course, and continuously updated. The complete programme will be available in January 2019.

### Contact

If you have any queries, please contact Peter Sarris ([pavs2@cam.ac.uk](mailto:pavs2@cam.ac.uk))

### Registration

A link to register for the 52<sup>nd</sup> Spring Symposium of Byzantine Studies will be available on the website.

### Venue

The conference sessions will take place in the designated conference centre at Churchill College (<https://www.chu.cam.ac.uk/>) which has excellent transport connections and parking for cars, and is within walking distance of the city centre.



### Travel

Train tickets can be purchased online and collected at any UK train station from <https://www.thetrainline.com/>. Cambridge is connected to London via fast trains that run via King's Cross/St. Pancras and a slower train that runs via Liverpool Street. The closest airport is London Stansted (<https://www.thetrainline.com/>) but there are also good transport connections via London to Heathrow, Gatwick, and London Luton Airports. Within Cambridge, Churchill College is served via the X5 and Citi4 Bus (see [www.chu.cam.ac.uk/about/visit-us/find-us](http://www.chu.cam.ac.uk/about/visit-us/find-us)). A highly reliable taxi service is provided by

Panther Taxis (01223 715715). For further details of transport connections, see [www.visitcambridge.org](http://www.visitcambridge.org)

### Places to Stay

Accommodation is available on a first-come first-served basis at Churchill College ([www.chu.cam.ac.uk/conferences](http://www.chu.cam.ac.uk/conferences)). Alternatively, details of other options are available at [www.visitcambridge.org](http://www.visitcambridge.org)

### Places to Eat

Cambridge is home to many excellent (and inexpensive) restaurants. A list of suggested eateries will be included in the delegate pack.

**Peter Sarris**  
Symposiarch

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## A letter from the Chair of the SPBS

First, let me say that I am honoured to have been elected as the new Chair of the SPBS, and delighted to be able to continue a long and happy association with the Society in a new role. Over the past several decades, under the strong leadership of my predecessors, the SPBS has gone from strength to strength. Not least of its achievements is the growing role of Byzantine Studies in the UK and the international significance of Byzantine Studies in the UK: it was clear at the most recent inter-Congress meeting of the International Association of Byzantine Studies that the UK has one of the largest and most active of the national committees, and one of the largest scholarly communities of Byzantinists in the world. We will have an important presence at the meeting in Istanbul in 2021. With France and Austria, we are responsible for the largest number of Round Tables of any participating country, and it is a tribute to our membership that over half of the round tables we proposed were accepted by the Istanbul committee for inclusion.



Second, I would like to signal the development of our new website, and record my real gratitude – and that of the rest of the Society – to Brian McLaughlin, who has done wonders in turning round a rather creaking older structure and making it into a streamlined, efficient, and workable new model that looks terrific. We of course welcome suggestions for further development!

Third, membership. We have grown, and we are growing, and our membership apparatus needs to be updated to compensate. Michael Jeffreys has done an heroic job of modernising our computer base, and preparing it for the next stage: this is an unglamorous and invisible task that is time-consuming and requires more patience than most of us possess. The Society's thanks to Michael can never be sufficient – but thank you, anyway, Michael for all that you have done, and for flawlessly preparing the way for your successor!

Finally, may I say that I look forward to working with the Society across the next five years. I am particularly anxious to learn about the ways that our younger and newer members think that we might best help them, and the discipline, as the 21<sup>st</sup> century unfolds (and, it sometimes seems, unravels), but I am also conscious of a growing body of early career academics who are facing challenges that are quite different from those faced by scholars of my generation. Can we talk, please? I have asked Peter Sarris to set aside a time during the upcoming Symposium for me to meet with postgraduates and early career academics, just to get the conversation started. If you are planning to attend the Symposium, I hope you can make time for this - and if not, please let me know your thoughts by email.

With all best wishes,

**Leslie Brubaker**  
**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 52<sup>nd</sup> Spring Symposium at the University of Cambridge, on Sunday 31 March, 2019.

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 **Friday 15 March, 2019**.

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.

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

The fixed five-year term of office of the present Treasurer comes to an end at the Society's next Annual General Meeting which will be held in the University of Cambridge on Sunday 31 March, 2019.

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 the Treasurer (which for the avoidance of any doubt is an unpaid role!) 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 by email: [twg3@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:twg3@st-andrews.ac.uk)

If you wish to stand for this office, 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 **Friday 15 March, 2019**. You will need to include a one-page manifesto or personal statement as part of your submission so that all the members can learn something about you, your interests in Byzantium and your ideas for the future of the Society. These will be posted on the Society's website after nominations have closed so that members can read them in advance of the election which will take place during the AGM.

## Chair of the Membership sub-Committee of the Society for the Promotion of Byzantine Studies

The fixed five-year term of office of the Chair of the Membership sub-Committee comes to an end at the Society's next Annual General Meeting which will be held in the University of Cambridge on Sunday 31 March, 2019.

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 involved, 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 this office, 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

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These will be posted on the Society's website after nominations have closed so that members can read them in advance of the election which will take place during the AGM.

### **Calling all Postgrads! Graduate Associates of the Society for the Promotion of Byzantine Studies**

In 2013, the Executive of SPBS began an initiative to involve members of the UK graduate Byzantinist community more closely in the life and activities of the Society. It invited any doctoral student registered at a UK University and pursuing a Byzantine-focused PhD to consider applying to become a Graduate Associate. In the event, a group of five postgraduates came forward and contributed richly to the life of the Society; one of them is presently serving as the Society's Webmaster. In 2015 a second group of three students were appointed as Graduate Associates and they too participated in the activities of the Society. You may well have encountered two of them selling the remaining stock of the proceedings of past symposia in Birmingham in 2017! It was always anticipated that GAs would stand down when they were approaching completion or following submission of their PhDs and that indeed is what happened. In the meantime, the British Byzantine

Postgraduate Network has formed and postgraduate conferences continue to be convened on an annual basis in Birmingham, Edinburgh and Oxford, all with SPBS support. Nevertheless at the most recent Executive meeting we revisited how the Society relates to its Graduate members. As a first step, we have decided to issue a third call for applications to become Graduate Associates.

Therefore if you would like to find out more about the role of Graduate Associates in the life of the Society and how to apply, please get in touch with the Secretary, Tim Greenwood, before **15 January, 2019** and he can supply further details. His address is Department of Mediaeval History, University of St Andrews, 71 South Street, St Andrews, Fife KY16 9QW Scotland OR by email: [twg3@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:twg3@st-andrews.ac.uk) (For the avoidance of doubt, you must be a paid-up member of SPBS to become a Graduate Associate!)

### **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 <https://www.byzantium.ac.uk/giving-to-the-society/> 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)

## Development Committee News

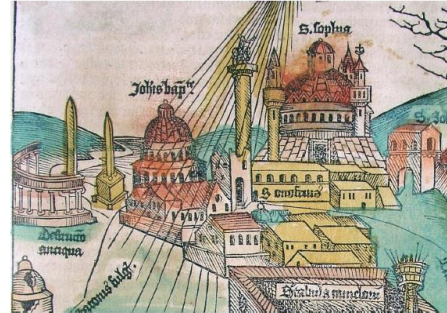
### The Public Lecture Programme

The Spring Lecture, which is organised jointly with the Friends of the British School at Athens, was hosted again by Senate House, University of London. Angeliki Lymberopoulou of the Open University presented the conclusions of her extensive fieldwork at over one hundred Byzantine and Post-Byzantine churches on Crete that contain images of Hell.

The Society has suspended its Summer Lecture (also held in London), but its aim of organising more events outside of London started to be fulfilled when the Autumn Lecture took place in the Arts Building, University of Birmingham on 22 November. This was given by Paul Magdalino, with the title *The church of St John the Theologian and the end of Antiquity in Constantinople*.

The Society for the Promotion of Byzantine Studies Autumn Lecture

### The Church of St John at the Hippodrome and the End of Antiquity in Constantinople



Professor Paul Magdalino  
(St Andrews)

5.15pm, Thursday 22 November 2018  
Whitting Room (Arts 436)  
University of Birmingham



[www.byzantium.ac.uk](http://www.byzantium.ac.uk)

### Save the Date!

The next Spring Lecture will be held on 5 March, at Senate House, University of London (Speaker and title tbc).

### Conferences supported by the Development Committee

The Society's support for sessions of congresses, and one-day or two-day meetings, has been able to grow. A new and most welcome feature is collaboration with the British Academy's overseas or 'International' Research Institutes. The following events were or are being supported (essentially co-funded) by the Society:

- A session at the Leeds International Medieval Congress, entitled *Remembering Constantinople in the 15<sup>th</sup> century*, the work of Dr Aslihan Akışık, Dr Annika Asp, and Dr Anna Calia (3 July, 2018)
- The 20<sup>th</sup> conference of the Oxford University Byzantine Society, whose theme was *Space and Dimension in Late Antiquity and Byzantium*, organised by Constanta Burlacu, Adele Curness and Sydney Taylor (23 – 24 February, 2018)
- *The Late Antique and Medieval Dynasties Workshop*, held in the Centre for Byzantine, Ottoman and Modern Greek Studies, University of Birmingham, organised by Joseph Parsonage and Alistair Davidson (25 – 26 May, 2018)

- The 19<sup>th</sup> Postgraduate Colloquium of the Centre for Byzantine, Ottoman and Modern Greek Studies, University of Birmingham, with the theme *Hurt and healing: people, texts and material culture in the Eastern Mediterranean*, organised by Flavia Vanni, Vasiliki Kaisidou, and Stephanie Novasio (2 June, 2018)
- A conference entitled *Constructing city walls in Late Antiquity (3<sup>rd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> c.): an empire-wide perspective*, organised by Dr Emanuele Intagliata in collaboration with the British School at Rome and the Swedish Institute of Classical Studies in Rome (20 – 21 June, 2018)
- A conference entitled *Marginalisation from Rome to Byzantium: methods, patterns, and perspectives*, organised by Dr Maroula Perisanidi and Dr Jack Lennon in collaboration with the British School at Rome (27 June, 2018)
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> International Graduate Edinburgh Byzantine Conference, with the theme *Reception, appropriation, and innovation: Byzantium between the Christian and Islamic worlds* (30 November – 1 December, 2018)

All of those held attracted participants from abroad (Europe and beyond). Several intend to publish their proceedings.

## Grants Offered 2019

### 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. Download an application form:

<https://www.byzantium.ac.uk/spring-symposium-attendance/>

### 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. Download an application form:

<https://www.byzantium.ac.uk/conference-organisation/>

### 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.**

## International Medieval Conference, University of Leeds 2020

From 2015 the SPBS has made available £500 to support a Byzantine panel at the IMCL. Applications for Leeds IMC should be submitted by **1 September** of the preceding year (e.g. 1 September 2019 for Leeds IMC 2020).

Proposals should include:

- Title of the proposed session
- Short session abstract (100 words)
- Moderator name and academic affiliation



- For each of the three papers: name of presenter, academic affiliation, proposed title, 100 word abstract

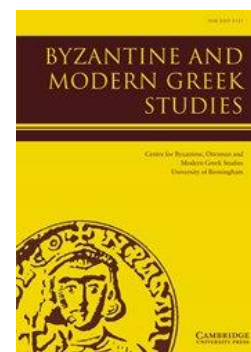
The proposal chosen by the Development Committee can then be submitted by organisers of the panel in time for

consideration at Leeds. Note that applicants **must** be members of the Society. Any questions should be addressed to:

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

## *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**

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

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## The Bryer Postgraduate Travel Fund

The Bryer Postgraduate Travel Fund was established in March 2017 in memory of Anthony Bryer to support adventurous and innovative research in Byzantine studies (broadly construed). Following an initial fundraising effort, and the tremendous generosity of donors worldwide (well over £10,000 was raised in the first year of operations), the Fund will be accepting applications for the first round of grants in March 2019. Please see the SPBS website for further information about the Fund, including guidelines for application and ways to donate. Additional donations to the Fund are extremely welcome, and the more that is raised, the greater the support that can be offered to develop postgraduate research.

<https://www.byzantium.ac.uk/the-bryer-fund/>



**Rebecca Darley**  
Secretary, The Bryer Fund

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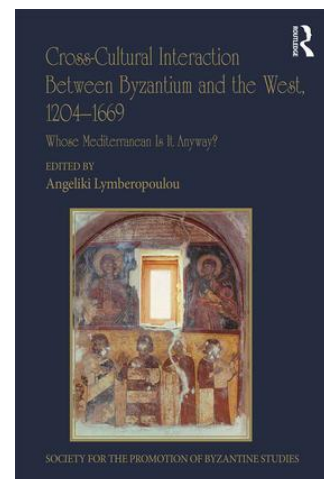
## SPBS Publications

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, to whom we owe enormous gratitude and debt, we are now building a new relationship with Routledge. Our commissioning editor is Michael Greenwood, who is very keen to pick up the baton from where John left it. We are enormously grateful for his enthusiasm in embracing this task.

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.

The second volume, *Cross-Cultural Interaction between Byzantium and the West, 1204-1669: Whose Mediterranean is it anyway?*, the Proceedings of the 2015 Milton Keynes Open University Symposium was published in time for the 51<sup>st</sup> Spring Symposium in Edinburgh in 2018. You can access the volume here:

<https://rdcu.be/0FRN>



The manuscripts of the Proceedings of the 46<sup>th</sup> (*Byzantine Greece: Microcosm of Empire?*), 49<sup>th</sup>

(*Texts in Byzantium: Continuities and Transformations*), 50<sup>th</sup> (*Global Byzantium*), and 51<sup>st</sup> (*The Post-1204 World: New Approaches and Novel Directions*) Symposia are in various stages of preparation. The final manuscript of the proceedings of the 47<sup>th</sup> Spring Symposium of Byzantine Studies, *The Emperor in the Byzantine World* (University of Cardiff) was handed to the commissioning editor in October 2018; look out for its publication in 2019!

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>

**Angeliki Lymberopoulou**  
Chair, Publications Committee

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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 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.

To continue to receive the *Newsletter*, *Bulletin*, reduced registration fees at the Byzantine Symposium, and other offers, please make sure your subscription is up to date!

### SUBSCRIPTIONS

Current subscription rates:

£20.00 (full)

£10.00 (student)

£100.00 (life, for the over 65s).

**To renew or join online using paypal:**

<https://www.byzantium.ac.uk/joining-spbs-online/>

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.

**To renew or join by cheque, bank transfer or standing order:**

<https://www.byzantium.ac.uk/joining-spbs-offline/>

**Use the following details to make a bank transfer:**

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

**UNLOCK GIFTAID!**

If you are a UK tax payer, please consider signing a gift aid form which will add 25% to your subscription.

## SPBS MAILINGS AND THE BEDLAM LISTING

The SPBS circulates by email only notices concerning Society events. For other

information of Byzantine interest, including activities in the UK and worldwide, please sign up to:  
[bedlamlist@gmail.com](mailto:bedlamlist@gmail.com)

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### Advance Notice Free Communications 24th International Congress of Byzantine Studies Istanbul 2021

The open call for individual participation in the free communication sessions at the 24th ICBS in Istanbul will be announced on the official Congress website on 15 April 2019. The website (<http://byzcongress2021.org>) will only start functioning from that date.

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## Bulletin of British Byzantine Studies 45 (2019)

### Call for Contributions

This is our annual invitation to all members of the Society to send us their information, for inclusion in **BBBS 45**, due to appear in March 2019. 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, 2018**. Please email in advance if your entry will arrive after the deadline.

Please include the following information:

**Name**

**Publications:** 2018.

**Publications:** forthcoming.

**Work in Progress**

**Fieldwork:** excavations, surveys, study & conservation (completed in 2018 and planned for 2019).

**Theses:** not previously reported; begun in 2018; completed since *BBBS* 44. 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)