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# Society News

Society for the Promotion of Byzantine Studies



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Issue 26

December 2019

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## The 53rd Spring Symposium of Byzantine Studies

### ‘Nature and the Environment’

Centre for Byzantine, Ottoman and Modern Greek Studies  
The University of Birmingham  
28-30 March 2020

#### Symposiarch

Dr Ruth Macrides †

#### Symposium organisers

Professor Leslie Brubaker & Dr Daniel Reynolds

Nature and the environment underpinned Byzantine life but have been little studied. How the Byzantines responded to, interacted with and understood the landscape, however, enables crucial new insights into East Roman perceptions of the world. Modern interest in the environment and eco-history makes this theme pertinent and timely. Current research on climate change and how it affected the East Mediterranean creates new paradigms for our understanding of Byzantine interactions with the environment. The 53rd Spring Symposium of Byzantine Studies draws together Byzantine literary and visual responses to nature and the environment as well as showcasing the most recent scientific research on historical climate change and environmental management in Byzantium.

This symposium was planned by Dr Ruth Macrides (University of Birmingham) and will be dedicated to her memory. The first two sessions of the symposium will consist of tributes to Ruth’s life and career by her former students and colleagues.

The Symposium will be followed, on Monday afternoon (30 March), by the second in what is planned as a regular series of professional development workshops targeted at Byzantine Studies

postgraduate students and sponsored by the SPBS. The workshop, *Climate, environment and history*, is intended to help early career academics in the humanities familiarise themselves with some of the key aspects of studying the way past human societies have interacted with their physical and climatic environments. Presenters will explain key methodological and interpretational issues and discuss how to avoid misunderstanding or misusing palaeoenvironmental and palaeoclimatic research results.



Image: Hailstorm devastating crops; Homilies of Gregory of Nazianzos, 9th century  
(Paris BNF gr.510, f.78r)

<https://www.byzantium.ac.uk/the-53rd-spring-symposium-of-byzantine-studies/>

## Call for communications

Abstracts are invited for proposals to deliver communications at the 53<sup>rd</sup> Spring Symposium of Byzantine Studies, to be held in Birmingham 28-30 March 2020 on the topic of Nature and the Environment. Communications are 12 minutes long, followed by 3 minutes of questions.

Abstracts should be 250 words in length (maximum), and are due by **Friday 3 January 2020**.

Please send to either [D.K.Reynolds@bham.ac.uk](mailto:D.K.Reynolds@bham.ac.uk) or [L.Brubaker@bham.ac.uk](mailto:L.Brubaker@bham.ac.uk). Successful applicants will be notified mid-January, in order to allow sufficient time to secure visas, if relevant.

## Provisional Programme

### Saturday 28 March

Alan Walters Building (Map R29)

**09.00-10.00: Registration (with refreshments)**

**Opening of the Symposium**

**Alan Walters Lecture Theatre 1**

**10.00-10.15: Welcome** by Professor Andrzej Gasiorek, Head, College of Arts and Law, University of Birmingham

10.15-11.00: *Tributes to Dr Ruth Macrides (1)*

11.00-11.30: tea and coffee

11.30-12.30: *Tributes to Dr Ruth Macrides (2)*

**12.30-13.00: Key Note address** - Adam Izdebski, *Byzantium, its environment, and environmental science*

**13.00-14.00: lunch**

### **Session One**

**Alan Walters Lecture Theatre 1**

**14.00-16.00: Perceptions of Natural world**

Thomas Arentzen, *Embracing trees in Byzantium*

Mary Cunningham, *Bramble bush and shaded mountain: the place of the Theotokos in the natural world*

Adam Goldwyn, *Some Byzantine Trees: an ecocritical approach to medieval Greek nature writing*

Martin Hinterberger, *Animals as part of the created world. Their role in literature on the Hexaemeron*

**16.00-16.30: tea and coffee**

**1630-1700: Key Note Address** - Dimitra Koutola, *Nature and the Byzantine Research Fund Archive*

**1730-1830: Wine reception and exhibition viewing**

### **Sunday 29 March**

**Please note that the clocks go forward by + 1 hour (Summer Time)**

### **Session Two**

**Alan Walters Lecture Theatres 1 & 2**

**09.00-11.00: Communications Panels A + B**

(see communications programme, available later)

**09.00-11.00 SPBS executive meeting (Alan Walters Seminar Room 2)**

**11.00-11.30: tea and coffee**

### **Session Three**

**Alan Walters Lecture Theatre 1**

**11.30-13.30: Perceptions of Nature**

Liz James, *Nature into art the Byzantine way*

Henry Maguire, *Nature and the cross in Byzantine art*

Foteini Springou, *Living in pleasure: physis and the literati (10th-14th c) (New Voices)*

Myrto Veikou, *Setting sail in Byzantium: riding the waves, riding the tide, or trimming one's sails?*

**13.30-14.30: lunch**

**Annual General Meeting of the Society for the Promotion of Byzantine Studies**

### **Session Four**

**Alan Walters Lecture Theatre 1**

**14.30-16.00: Natural disasters and cultural responses**

Vicky Manopoulou, *The liturgical commemoration of earthquakes (New Voices)*

Lee Mordechai, *Natural disasters in the late antique east Mediterranean*

Tim Newfield, *Local dimming or global blackout? Mysterious clouding and climate change in the sixth century: science, sources, and reconstructions*

**16.00-16.30: tea and coffee**

## Session Five

### Alan Walters Lecture Theatre 1

#### 16.30-18.00: Management of resources and landscapes

Jim Crow, *Water, water, everywhere but not a drop to drink*, *Constantine's legacy and water management in medieval Constantinople*

Anna Kelley, *Cotton production and environmental adaptation in the first millennium: a chicken-or-egg argument* (**New Voices**)

Sam Turner, *Making the mountains fruitful: dating the boom in medieval terrace-building in the eastern Mediterranean*

#### 18.00-19.30: wine reception

#### 19.30: Symposium Feast

## Monday 30 March

### Session Six

#### Muirhead Tower

#### 09.00-11.00: Changing climates: reactions, responses and resilience

Neil Roberts, *The big picture: the Byzantine world in the Holocene*

Warren Eastwood & Hugh Elton, *Olives in Anatolia: some case studies*

John Haldon, *The grain supply of the Byzantine world revisited*

Jordan Pickett, *Water, climate and culture in early Byzantium*

#### 11.00-11.30: tea and coffee

#### 11.30-12.00: Concluding lecture:

Kristina Sessa, *History, text and science: critical observations*

#### 12.00-12.30: Final remarks:

Giulio Boccaletti, Chief Strategy Officer, The Nature Conservancy

Rebecca Darley, Senior Lecturer in Medieval History, Birkbeck, University of London

#### 12.30: Announcement of the 54<sup>th</sup> Spring Symposium of Byzantine Studies

#### 13.00-14.00: Lunch

#### 14.00-17.00: SPBS Early Career Workshop: *Climate, environment and history*

## Practical Information

The Centre for Byzantine, Ottoman and Modern Greek Studies, University of Birmingham, looks forward to welcoming you to Birmingham on the 28<sup>th</sup> March 2020. Your delegate packs, which will include your programme and any further information about your stay, will be available for collection from the Alan Walters Building 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 organising 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](mailto:d.k.reynolds@bham.ac.uk)

We have collected some information that you may find helpful prior to your arrival.

## Getting to campus

**'Nature and the Environment'** will take place on the University of Birmingham's Edgbaston campus which can easily be accessed by public transport or car. Details of how to reach us can be found here: <http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/contact/directions/getting-here-edgbaston.aspx>

### Purchasing train tickets

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

**By Avanti trains (from London Euston to Birmingham New Street: quicker but more expensive)**

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

**By West Midlands trains (from London Euston to Birmingham New Street: slower but cheaper)**

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

**By Chiltern Railways trains (from London Marylebone to Birmingham Moor Street: slower but cheaper)**

<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 platform 12b). Birmingham Moor Street is a short (5 minute) walk from Birmingham New Street (well sign-posted).

### Taxi

If you wish to travel by taxi during your stay, the University of Birmingham recommends using TOA Taxis which can be contacted here: <http://www.toataxis.co.uk/>

TOA Tel: 0121 427 8888

Alternatively, the Castle Cars company, which is recommended by the Guild of Students, can be contacted here: <http://www.castlecars.co.uk/>

[Castle Cars Tel: 0121 472 2222](http://www.castlecars.co.uk/)

If you wish to travel directly to campus by taxi, we recommended that you ask to be dropped off at the **North Gate** on Prichatts Road. This will leave you with the shortest and most direct route to the symposium location. Except in the case of special arrangements for delegates with mobility issues, the campus is a traffic-free zone and cars are not permitted to enter.

### Parking

University-run Pay and Display parking (charges apply Monday-Friday) for delegates is available adjacent to campus, close to the symposium venue, in the 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>

## On campus

**'Nature and the Environment'** will be hosted at the University of Birmingham's main campus in Edgbaston, Birmingham. The campus offers a variety of facilities, including shops, banks and cash points and a number of cafeterias and bars. Please ask a member of the organising committee for further details.

### Symposium Venue

**'Nature and the Environment'** will be hosted in the Alan Walters Building (R29) 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>

### IPhone/Android

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

### Disability access

The University of Birmingham is fully compliant with European Union regulations for disability access. Further information can be found here:

<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/contact/directions/disability.aspx>

Please do not hesitate to contact us at [d.k.reynolds@bham.ac.uk](mailto:d.k.reynolds@bham.ac.uk) if you require any further information or assistance.

### Security

The University of Birmingham is staffed by a 24-hour security team that regularly patrols campus and other sites owned by the university. If you should encounter any problems during your stay, or require further advice, please contact the UB Safe team here:

<https://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/has/security/index.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/>

## Important Contact Details

### Medical

The University of Birmingham is close to one of the city's main hospitals (Queen Elizabeth Hospital Selly Oak) which runs a 24-hour accident and emergency service.

Emergency contact numbers 999 or 112.

Should you need to visit a doctor during your stay, details of out of hours and emergency appointments can be found here:

<http://www.nhs.uk/NHSEngland/AboutNHSservices/Emergencyandurgentcareservices/Pages/nhs-out-of-hours-services.aspx>

### **Consular assistance**

There are a number of consular offices in Birmingham should you require assistance from the consular authorities. Details may found here: <http://www.embassypages.com/uk>

### **Book Fair**

The Symposium will host a book fair, with a variety of new and pre-used books, on Byzantine and Medieval Studies. The fair will be located in the Alan Walters Building.

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

Welcome to the winter news bulletin from the SPBS, with memories of the brilliant last Spring Symposium, run by Peter Sarris in Cambridge, still lingering even as we prepare for the next one, this year in Birmingham, on the timely topic of Nature and the Environment (28-30 March 2020). One of the things I liked best about the Cambridge Sympo was the lunch I had with postgraduate and postdoctoral members of the Society, talking about what we, as a Society, can do for members of the Byzantinist community just starting out. A lot of excellent ideas came out of that lunch, and we are working toward implementing them.



The most immediate results are two-fold: we will continue the insertion of New Voices (initiated by Niels Gaul and his team at Edinburgh in 2018) into the programme of talks at the Symposium in 2020, and we will introduce a new SPBS-sponsored workshop for postgraduates and early career researchers on the Monday afternoon following the Symposium proper. This year's topic continues the main theme of the Symposium, and will be devoted to how humanities-trained Byzantinists can use (and not abuse) the science behind climate change. This is a topic of great international interest, obviously, but its impact on Byzantine Studies has been increasingly felt with, amongst other things, the steady rise DNA and C14 testing of bodies and artefacts, and the increasing refinement of dendrochronology. The recalibration of the dendrochronological indices moved the date of the rebuilding of Hagia Eirene from 754 to the later eighth century, for example, though my heart-break at discovering that my hero Constantine V was not, in fact, responsible for its rebuilding after the earthquake that destroyed large parts of the church in 740 was partially assuaged by its reattribution to Eirene – at least we have another major example of female imperial matronage!

The new scientific underpinning of much recent Byzantine scholarship is also evident in the spate of recent publications on the plague hitherto attributed to the reign of Justinian, and the widespread interest (and confusion) this has raised is one of the underpinnings of the workshop on Monday 30 March. A key focus of the workshop, which will be run by John Haldon (formerly

of this parish) and his team from Princeton, is how humanities-based scholars can use data outside their disciplinary boundaries with confidence. I look forward to seeing you there.

Nature and the Environment will not, however, be all science-oriented. The Symposium was originally planned by Ruth Macrides, and it will come as no surprise to you to learn that there is a solid underpinning of Byzantine cultural responses to nature and the world around them. We will honour Ruth's memory after her untimely death in April 2019 by introducing the Symposium with two sessions of tributes to her scholarship and support of younger scholars.

**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 53rd Spring Symposium at the University of Birmingham, on Sunday 29 March, 2020.

If you are interested in finding out more about the workings and responsibilities of the Executive, please get in touch with the Secretary, Dr 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 13 March, 2020**.

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.



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

The fixed five-year term of office of the present Secretary comes to an end at the Society's next Annual General Meeting.

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 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 Secretary please get in touch with the current secretary, Dr 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) and he will send a prepared outline to you.

If you wish to stand for this office, please write to the current 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 28 February, 2020**. 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, 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.

The new Secretary will be elected at the Society's AGM on Sunday 29 March 2020 during the 53<sup>rd</sup> Spring Symposium at the University of Birmingham.

### *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 trio of annual postgraduate conferences have been convened in Birmingham, Edinburgh and Oxford, all with SPBS support. At the Cambridge Symposium this year, Professor Brubaker and others met with several postgraduates and discussed how the Society could best support them. A number of new initiatives are in the pipeline but in the interim we have decided to issue another 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 2020** and he can supply further details. His address is Department of Medieval 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)

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## SPBS Publications

### 47<sup>th</sup> Spring Symposium

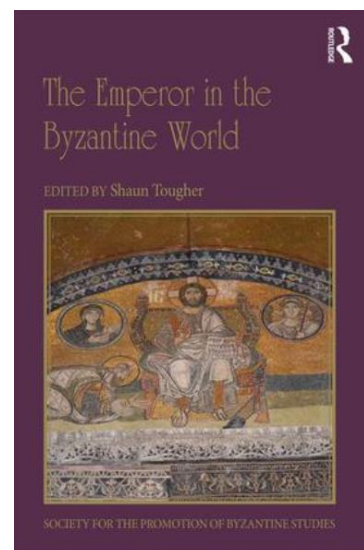
*The Emperor in the Byzantine World* edited by S. Tougher (London: Routledge 2019, vol. 21), the Proceedings of the **47<sup>th</sup> Spring Symposium** of Byzantine Studies which took place in Cardiff in 2014, came out in time for the 52<sup>nd</sup> Spring Symposium of Byzantine Studies in Cambridge in 2019.

### 49<sup>th</sup> Spring Symposium – in production

The final manuscript of the proceedings of the **49<sup>th</sup> Spring Symposium** of Byzantine Studies, *Inscribing Texts in Byzantium: Continuities and Transformations* (University of Oxford, 18-20 March 2016, symposiarchs M. Lauxtermann and I. Toth) was submitted to Routledge in early October 2019. The volume is expected to be out in time for the 53<sup>rd</sup> Spring Symposium of Byzantine Studies in Birmingham in 2020.

### 50<sup>th</sup> Spring Symposium -contract signed

The papers of the proceedings of the **50<sup>th</sup> Spring Symposium** of Byzantine Studies, *Global Byzantium* (University of Birmingham, 25-27 March 2017, symposiarchs L. Brubaker, D. Reynolds and R. Darley) are currently being peer-reviewed by the SPBS Publication Committee



## 51<sup>th</sup> Spring Symposium – contract signed

A manuscript of the proceedings of the 51<sup>th</sup> Spring Symposium of Byzantine Studies, *The Post-1204 Byzantine World: New Approaches and Novel Directions* (University of Edinburgh, 13-15 April 2018, symposiarchs N. Gaul, M. Carr and Y. Stouraitis) is currently in preparation.

You will 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-ByzantineStudies/book-series/PSPBS>

**Angeliki Lymberopoulou**  
Chair, Publications Committee

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## Development Committee News

### The Public Lecture Programme

The Spring Lecture, which is organised jointly with the Committee of the Friends of the British School at Athens, was hosted again by Senate House, University of London. The late Ruth Macrides gave a lecture entitled *Byzantium and Modern Greece in Scotland*, illuminating the roles of Dr Antonius Jannaris and the Third Marquis of Bute. Thanks to the British School at Athens, a version of this will be made available on the Society's website.

Meanwhile the Society's annual Autumn Lecture took place in the Arts Building, University of Birmingham, on 31 October. It was given by Averil Cameron, with the title *Byzantium: commonwealth, empire, or nation-state?*

The next Spring Lecture will be held at 5.30pm on 31 March, 2020 at Senate House, University of London, and will be delivered by James Petre FCIS, FSA Scot, with the title *The fortifications of Byzantine and Crusader Cyprus – some thoughts on the origins, forms and functions.*

The Society for the Promotion of Byzantine Studies Spring Lecture  
in association with The Friends of the British School at Athens

## Byzantium and Modern Greece in Scotland






Image: Dr Antonius Jannaris (L) and the Third Marquis of Bute (R)

### Dr Ruth Macrides (Birmingham)

The lecture will be followed by an informal reception.

NB: There is a suggested donation of £8.50 for the lecture (£10.50 for anyone not a member of the BSA or of the SPBS), in order to cover costs. Cheques should be made payable to "The British School at Athens". Members of the SPBS intending to attend must RSVP to Kate Smith at [bsa@britac.ac.uk](mailto:bsa@britac.ac.uk), and present a cheque at the door. Applications will be acknowledged on request.

**6pm, Tuesday 5 March 2019**  
Room G22/26, South Block, Senate House  
Malet Street, London WC1



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

The Development Committee has reinstated the Summer Lecture, the next of which will take place in London in 2020 – details will be advertised on the website and in the *BBBS* 46.

The Society for the Promotion of Byzantine Studies Autumn Lecture

**Byzantium: commonwealth,  
empire or nation-state?**





Image: Modern replica of Cod. Marc. gr. 17, f. 3r (Wikimedia Commons)

**Dame Averil Cameron**  
(Oxford)

5.15pm, Thursday 31 October 2019  
Whitting Room (Arts 436)  
University of Birmingham



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

The Society for the Promotion of Byzantine Studies Spring Lecture  
in association with the Friends of the British School at Athens

**The fortifications of Byzantine  
and Crusader Cyprus:**  
Some thoughts on origins, forms and  
functions





Image: NE corner of Kyrenia Castle, Cyprus

**Dr James Petre** FCIS, FSA Scot

5.30pm, Tuesday 31 March 2020  
Room 349, South Block, Senate House  
Malet Street, London WC1



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

## Conferences and other events supported by the Development Committee

- A conference entitled *Mapping the sacred in Byzantium: construction, experience and representation*, organised by Dr Mihail Mitrea, was held in the School of History, Classics and Archaeology, Newcastle University (20-21 September 2019)
- A Seminar Series, *The Byzantine Worlds Seminar* (successor of the *Cambridge Byzantine Seminar*), was organised at Cambridge University by Dr Nick Evans and collaborators (2019-2020)

The increasing level of institutional support (at some universities) for meetings or seminars in Byzantine Studies allows the SPBS more flexibility in the range of activities that it will consider supporting.

## Grants Offered 2020

### 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, training events 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 2021

From 2015 the SPBS has made available £500 to support a Byzantine panel at the IMCL. Applications for Leeds IMC should be submitted by **15 October** of the preceding year (e.g. 15 October 2020 for Leeds IMC 2021).

Proposals should include:

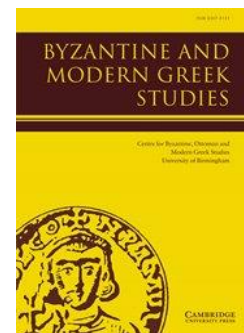
- Title of the proposed session
- Short session abstract (100 words)
- Moderator name and academic affiliation

- 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 started to accept applications for the first round of grants in March 2019. The next deadline will be **1 March 2020**. 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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### **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.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

We have held members' subscriptions at the same level for many, many years, but the gradual increase in costs has meant that we now have to put up our subscription rates. From 1 January 2020, the revised subscription rates will be:

£30.00 (Full)  
£15.00 (Student)  
£100 (Life, for the over 70s)

### 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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## Dumbarton Oaks

### Upcoming Opportunities and Events



- **2020 Byzantine Greek Summer School**

<https://www.doaks.org/research/byzantine/scholarly-activities/2020-byzantine-greek-summer-school> Deadline: February 1, 2020

- **2020 Dumbarton Oaks/HMML Syriac and Armenian Summer School**

<https://www.doaks.org/research/byzantine/scholarly-activities/2020-dumbarton-oaks-hmml-syriac-and-armenian-summer-school> Deadline: February 15, 2020

- **One Month Research Awards**

<https://www.doaks.org/research/awards-and-grants/one-month-research-awards>

Deadline: March 1

- **Short-Term Predoctoral Residencies**

<https://www.doaks.org/research/awards-and-grants/short-term-predoctoral-residencies>

No Deadline

- **Ornament: Fragments of Byzantine Fashion Exhibition**  
<https://www.doaks.org/visit/museum/exhibitions/ornament>  
September 10, 2019-January 5, 2020
- **Woven Interiors: Furnishing Early Medieval Egypt Exhibition**  
<https://www.doaks.org/visit/museum/exhibitions/woven-interiors>  
August 31, 2019-January 5, 2020
- **Museum Director Job Posting at Dumbarton Oaks**  
<https://www.doaks.org/about/employment/museum-director-1>

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## Bulletin of British Byzantine Studies 46 (2020)

### Call for Contributions

This is our annual invitation to all members of the Society to send us their information, for inclusion in **BBBS 46**, due to appear in March 2020. 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 **10 January, 2020**. Please email in advance if your entry will arrive after the deadline.

Please include the following information:

**Name**

**Publications:** 2019.

**Publications:** forthcoming.

**Work in Progress**

**Fieldwork:** excavations, surveys, study & conservation (completed in 2019 and planned for 2020).

**Theses:** not previously reported; begun in 2019; completed since *BBBS 45*. 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.

We have recently digitised all past volumes of the *BBBS* and these will be available on the website shortly. However, we are missing volumes 1, 2, 3, 5 and 7 of the *Bulletin*. If any members have copies of these issues and do not mind if we remove any binding while scanning, please send them to me at the Dept of Classics, King's College, Strand, London WC2R 2LS.

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

**N.B.** If you are receiving this Newsletter in hard copy, it means that we do not hold a current email address for you. Please contact the Membership Secretary, Katerina Vavaliou ([membership.secretary@byzantium.ac.uk](mailto:membership.secretary@byzantium.ac.uk)), so we can update your details.