News from the Byzantine Center at Dumbarton Oaks

Dumbarton Oaks Publications
The following books are due to be published in the fall of 1993:
Consent and Coercion to Sex and Marriage in Ancient and Medieval Societies, ed. Angeliki E. Laiou.
Ecclesiastical Silver Plate in Sixth-Century Byzantium (1986 Symposium), Editors: Susan Boyd and Marlia Mango.
Miniature Painting in the Armenian Kingdom of Cilicia, Sirarpie Der Nercissian.
Dumbarton Oaks is interested in publishing longer articles in Dumbarton Oaks Papers. Photo subsidies
are needed only for color photographs.

Round-table
On 20 November, 1992 there was a round-table on “Questions of Preservation and Interpretation of Historic Sites,” an event sponsored jointly with the Landscape Architecture and Pre-Columbian centers.
For the Byzantine area, Michael Vergason and Klaus Klein spoke on “Master Plan for Kourion and Koukla Archaeological Sites,” and Haris Kalligas on “Monemvasia”.

Colloquium
On February 27, 1993 a colloquium was held on “Magic and Visual Culture in Byzantium.” Papers were read by Matthew Dickie, John Duffy, Marie-Theres Fögen, Richard Greenfield, Anna Kartsonis, Alexander Kazhdan, Henry Maguire, Robert Mathiesen, James Russell, and Gary Vikan. There are plans for publication of the papers.

Summer Seminar, 1993
From June 14 to July 9th a seminar was held on “Byzantine Epigrams Devoted to Works of Art.” Sessions were presented by Wolfram Hörandner, Henry Maguire, Ihor Ševčenko, and Alice-Mary Talbot. Some of the results will be published.
Symposium 1994

The 1994 Symposium will be on “Byzantine Court Culture from 829-1204.” It will cover the period from Theophilos to the 4th Crusade, and topics to be considered will include palace architecture, gardens, silks, regalia, cult objects, court intellectuals, rhetoric, titles, and the social composition of the court. The dates for the symposium are April 22-24, 1994.

Project News

1) The Hagiography Translations project, under the guidance of Alice-Mary Talbot, recently won an N.E.H. grant, of approximately $58,000, for producing a series of translations of saint’s lives. The three planned volumes will include two collective volumes (lives of saintly women and saints of the iconoclastic period), and a one volume life of Lazaros of Mt. Galesios.

2) The Hagiography Database, a project to enter Byzantine saint’s lives onto a computer database, is now exploring ways to include both English categories and Greek texts, allowing for searches by both subject and Greek words. The subject categories are very wide-ranging, including realia, names, emotions, bodily gestures, sins, etc. All of the 9th-century lives will be entered by the end of the next academic year, after which the data will become available at a terminal at Dumbarton Oaks, and possibly also on disk and/or on Internet.

3) The Venice Project, a joint project between Dumbarton Oaks and the Istituto Ellenico di Studi bizantini e postbizantini at Venice, will publish documents in the Venetian archives relevant to Byzantium or Greek populations of formerly Byzantine territories. Sally McKee, who was appointed as Research Associate for the academic year 1992-3, has been transcribing the fourteenth-century testaments from Venetian Crete.

4) Materials analysis of Byzantine glazed ceramics. A new project in cooperation with the Walters Art Gallery and the Ephoreia of Byzantine Antiquities at Kavala will analyze, primarily by neutron activation, the chemical composition of medieval Byzantine pottery, including polychrome ware vessels, glazed tiles, and two-color sgraffito ware from Northern Greece, in order to determine provenance and manufacturing methods.
Acquisitions Lists

This fall the Byzantine Library aims to start producing an expanded acquisition list, which will include series titles and articles in journals, with brief annotations if the contents are not obvious from the title. These lists will be cumulative, and online, which will allow possible issue of diskettes, in addition to hard copy, or online searches through Internet.

Fieldwork

Dumbarton Oaks has produced a new brochure setting out the terms of the project grants more clearly and giving a new application deadline of November 1st. These small grants average between $3,000 and $10,000 and have a maximum award of $15,000. Projects granted support are primarily concerned with archaeological research and should be self-contained in some manner (for example, funds could be requested to excavate a Byzantine component of a larger site, or to carry out work on recently excavated Byzantine materials). Applicants should contact the Director of Byzantine Studies by October 1 to determine the suitability of their projects. Short reports of completed projects will be published in Dumbarton Oaks Papers. There is a new emphasis in Visual Resources on acquiring photographs of monuments at risk of destruction from neglect or other causes. Photographs of monuments in Turkish Thrace, Asia Minor, Palestine, Israel, and Georgia are currently being obtained. The photograph library is always interested in acquiring good photographs of such "monuments at risk," either by purchase or exchange. Please contact the Curator of Visual Resources, Natalia Teteriatnikov.

Slide sets of Byzantine Fieldwork

Slide sets of the frescoes at Lagoudera and Asinou are now available for $10 each from the Museum Shop.

Byzantine Collection News

The Byzantine Collection has recently purchased the Eagleton Chalice, a major work of Early Byzantine silver from the village of Kaper Koraon in Syria. It has been on loan to the Byzantine Collection since 1977. The first of a series of exhibitions to be organized by the Exhibition Associates opened on September 17, 1993. It is a small, but rich, exhibition of Late Antique numismatic jewelry, organized by Jutta Bruhn. There is a catalogue, Coins and Costume in Late Antique Jewelry, priced at
$12. The exhibition will be on view until January 31, 1994. John Cotsonis was appointed Exhibition Associate for 1993-5. He will prepare an exhibition on Byzantine figured processional crosses, to open next fall.

Index of Byzantine Studies

Jelisaveta Allen retired from full-time work at the Byzantine Center in June, but will continue to be with us on a part-time basis to advise on library acquisitions. Seka has enriched the discipline through her bibliographies based on the B.Z. index. Together with Helen Claire and John Cotsonis, she has almost finished putting together the cards for the 2nd volume of the microfiche Author Index of Byzantine Studies, containing the years 1982-1990. We hope it will be published next year.

1993-4 Byzantine Project Grants

Margaret Alexander (Archaeological Study, Carthage)
Mark B. Garrison (Excavation Analysis, Carthage)
James Russell (Architectural Drawings of Churches of Anemurium)
Steven Sidebotham (Archaeological Excavations at 'Abu Sha'ar)
Mehmet Tunay (Photography of Monuments, Istanbul)

1993-4 Fellowships

Junior Fellows:
Dimitris Cacharelis “The Byzantine Illuminated Codex, Mount Athos, Esphigmenou No. 14”
Vassa Contoumas “The Composition of the Fount of Knowledge of St. John of Damascus (& before 750)”

Fellows:
William Adler “Chronographic Schools in Byzantium and Syria”
Gunnar Brands “Architecture and Architectural Decoration of Rešafa-Sergiopolis and Northern Mesopotamia”
Alexandra A. Chekalova “The Senatorial Aristocracy in Early Byzantium”
Marie Theres Fögen “The Byzantine Political Concept” (fall only)
Paul Magdalino “Problems in Twelfth-Century Byzantine Literature” (spring only)
Nevra Necipoğlu “Byzantium Between the Ottomans and the Latins: A Study of Political Attitudes in the Late Palaeologan Period, 1370-1460”


Yoram Tsafrir “Bet Shean (Scythopolis) in the Roman, Byzantine, and Early Arab Periods - Publication of Recent Excavations” (spring only)

William N. Turpin “The Emperor and the Law”

Panayiotis L. Vocotopoulos “The Mytilene Gospels” (fall only)

David H. Wright “Art of Late Antiquity and the Dark Ages, 300 to 800 [Pelican History of Art Volume]” (fall only)

Summer Fellows:

Chrysanthi Baltoyanni “The Virgin Galaktotrophousa and Its Relationship with the Semiology of the Passion”

Nadezhda F. Kavrus “Byzantine Scriptoria in the Ninth-Thirteenth Centuries and Byzantine Writing Styles”

Svetlana Emilova Kujumdžieva “The Kekragarion in the Byzantine-Slavic Tradition”

Michael F. Pavković “Roman Military Institutions Reflected in Byzantine Treatises”

Engelina Smirnova “Russian Icons of the Eleventh - First Third of the Thirteenth Centuries”

Jean-Michel Spieser “Decorative Programs of Middle Byzantine Churches”

Bliss Prize Fellow:

Anne McCabe