



# Byzantine Studies

The spirit of engagement and collaboration in the humanities that began at Dumbarton Oaks seventy-five years ago continued to flourish this year. Byzantine Studies hosted fellows, junior fellows, and visitors from institutions in sixteen countries (Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Russia, Serbia, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States), making this anniversary year one of international celebration and intellectual cross-fertilization.

## Summer Programs

The year began in July 2015, with the summer school in coins and seals directed by Professor Vasiliki (Vasso) Penna of the University of the Peloponnese and by Dr. Eric McGeer. Eight participants, from institutions in the United States, Italy, Greece, Hungary, and the United Kingdom, worked together in the coin room and discussed their research during long evenings in the gardens and in the Guest House.

An equally eclectic group of summer fellows made great strides in their work that will result in publications. Anne-Catherine Baudoin explored how noncanonical Christian texts spread in medieval Byzantium and neighboring lands. Branislav Cvetković studied the fifteenth-century reliquary of Barbara Frankopan Branković. Reyhan Durmaz worked on Christian and Islamic hagiographical traditions. Roberta Franchi examined evidence for female deaconesses in early Byzantine Constantinople. Przemyslaw Marciniak studied Byzantine

Jonathan Shea gives a presentation on Byzantine seals to the annual Teaching Fellows' Day attendees.

dialogues of *Hermippos*, *Hermodotos*, and *Musokles*. Mark Masterson examined same-sex male desire among elites in the Macedonian period. Brian Matz considered the Filioque controversy in the Middle Byzantine period. Phillip Mazero worked on Byzantine-Venetian frontier politics from the seventh to the twelfth century.

## The Academic Year

A vibrant community in Byzantine Studies coalesced early during the 2015–2016 fellowship year, setting the foundation for nearly nine months of intense intellectual exchange and productive research. Fellows and junior fellows from England, Greece, Italy, Norway, Russia, Switzerland, Turkey, and the United States comprised an exceptionally friendly and compatible group of scholars who made the most of their time at Dumbarton Oaks.

Six fellows and four junior fellows were in residence this year, augmented by Jeffrey Hamburger, a visiting professor from Harvard. Leslie Brubaker and Mary Cunningham gave their primary efforts to a coauthored book about the cult of the Virgin Mary in Byzantium between ca. 400–1204, working with both literary and visual materials. Stig Frøyshov considered the use of the Jerusalem Book of Hours in various ecclesiastical contexts in Constantinople. Jeffrey Hamburger drafted a book about medieval diagrams; the book is based on a series of lectures delivered at the University of Chicago that will be published as *From Cross to Crucifix: Berthold of Nuremberg's Reconfiguration of Hrabanus Maurus's Treatise on the Cross*. As part of a larger project on the development of Christian society in late antique Greece, Yuri Marano examined the phenomenon of burials near the body or relics of a saint or martyr. Textual matters concerned Fabio Pagani, who brought together philology, paleography, and textual criticism in a study of the place of classical philosophy in Byzantium in the late fourteenth century. Nikolaos Zagklas revised his dissertation into a book about the twelfth-century poet Theodore Prodromos, to be published by Oxford University Press.

The junior fellows were equally productive. They all finished their dissertations: Ludovic Bender wrote on monastic landscapes in eleventh- to fifteenth-century Laconia; Siren Celik completed a multifaceted biography of the emperor Manuel II Palaiologos; Bradley Hostetler wrote about Byzantine reliquaries inscribed with epigrams;

and Roman Shliakhtin studied the identity of Seljuk Turks as constructed by Byzantine writers. Çelik and Shliakhtin won postdoctoral fellowships at Koç University for next year, while Hostetler will be working at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

## Lectures and Discussions

The Byzantine community enjoyed an exceptionally rich panoply of speakers this year. In October, visiting scholar Claudia Rapp filled the Music Room with an illustrated public lecture on “Saint Catherine’s Monastery in the Sinai and Its Hidden Manuscript Treasures.” On April 6, visiting scholar Jonathan Shepard led a seminar on “Anna Komnena, Peter the Hermit, and Framing the First Crusade.” Something new was tried when Nicola Di Cosmo of the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, presented the first interprogram lecture, “Climate, Ecology, and Mobility in the History of Eurasian Steppe Nomads,” on December 9. Her presentation was aimed at a broad audience in all three programs of study to encourage and facilitate cross-disciplinary work.

We enjoyed many in-house talks. Jeffrey Hamburger shared his enthusiasm and expertise with “The Diagram Paradigm: The Diagrammatic Mode in Medieval Art and Beyond” on October 20. Jonathan Shea gave the fellows an introduction to the seals collection on March 31, while Cécile Morrisson offered a seminar on the coin collection on April 27. Betsy Williams and Gudrun Bühl offered two seminars on the museum’s textile collection in May. Ludovic Bender spoke about a number of databases, including “Artifacts and Raw Materials in Byzantine Archival Documents” on October 21. Stig Frøyshov and Stephanos Alexopoulos introduced their Catalogue of Byzantine Manuscripts (CBM) on January 19, while one-month visitor Kristoffel Demoen explained his database of Byzantine book epigrams on May 3.

One of the great pleasures of the year was to welcome scholars from other institutions to give presentations on their current research. András Németh (Vatican Apostolic Library) spoke on “A Byzantine Appropriation of the Past: The Excerpta Constantiniana Revisited” on March 29. Dimitri Korobeinikov (State University of New York, Albany) talked about “Emperors of Byzantium and Sultans of Rûm: A Dual Sovereignty? Byzantine Aristocratic Families and

Their Relations with the Seljuks” on April 12. Maria Lidova (Oxford University) explained her “Empires of Faith” project on October 7, and Matt Savage (Louisiana State University) spoke about “Hırami Ahmet Paşa Camii: A Ninth-Century Cross-in-Square Church in Constantinople; Architecture, Liturgy, Function, Historical Significance” on April 19. All of these informal talks provoked intense and productive discussion.

Very practical matters came under discussion as well. After the Byzantine Studies Conference in New York, Michael Sharp, an editor at Cambridge University Press, came to Dumbarton Oaks to discuss academic publishing with the Byzantine group and to speak with them individually about projects underway. A few days later, Michael Maas held a workshop on writing letters of application for academic jobs. Many people attended from all three areas of study.

## Special Activities

Early in the first term, Byzantine Studies welcomed local Byzantinists to a potluck reception in the gardens.

Another highlight of the first semester was Byzantine Studies’ contribution to the 75th Anniversary celebration. On November 13, the Byzantine fellows and junior fellows presented “Byzantine Studies, Dumbarton Oaks, and the Humanities,” sharing their ideas about the challenges and opportunities faced by our field in the future. A large audience from all three programs participated in a lively discussion in the Oak Room at 1700 Wisconsin Avenue.

Once again, Teaching Fellows’ Day was a great success. On February 20, ninety-four undergraduate students and teachers from seven universities enjoyed talks by Jonathan Shea, Betsy Williams, and Eric McGeer on “Discovering Byzantine Lives: Evidence in Texts, Images, and Material Culture.”

An important new collaboration with the National Gallery of Art took place in two parts this spring. On February 11, before a large audience in the National Gallery, Ioli Kalavrezou, Jonathan Shea, and Dimitri Kastritsis presented papers on the afterlives of Alexander in the Byzantine world. Michael Maas moderated the panel and discussion; this presentation was followed by an entertaining and informative public lecture by Anthony Kaldellis entitled “From Olympus

to the Streets of Constantinople: The Byzantine Retirement of the Ancient Gods” on March 3 at the National Gallery of Art.

April 22–23 saw the annual Byzantine symposium on the “Worlds of Byzantium,” which was organized by Betsy Bolman, Scott Fitzgerald Johnson, and Jack Tannous. The speakers argued before a packed house in the Music Room for a “polycentric and interconnected Byzantium” that played an essential part in the larger medieval world of Europe and the Middle East.

Finally, this was a year of transition. Michael Maas completed a year as director of Byzantine Studies and, with the assistance of the indefatigable program coordinator Seh-Hee Koh, organized office procedures and publication materials to ensure a smooth passing of the torch to his successor Elena Boeck, whose term begins in July. During his year, Maas saw a volume of *Dumbarton Oaks Papers* transmitted to production; the volume *Knowing Bodies, Passionate Souls: Sense Perceptions in Byzantium*, edited by Margaret Mullett and Susan Harvey, also was prepared and transmitted for production.

## Scholarly Activities

### Annual Symposium

*Worlds of Byzantium*

April 22–23, 2016

Organized by **Elizabeth S. Bolman**, Temple University,

**Scott F. Johnson**, University of Oklahoma, and

**Jack Tannous**, Princeton University

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**Scott F. Johnson**, University of Oklahoma, “A New Byzantine Commonwealth”

**Kostis Kourelis**, Franklin and Marshall College, “How Byzantines became Greeks: Greek Nationalism and Byzantine Studies”

**Averil Cameron**, University of Oxford, “Byzantium and the Turn to the East”

**Antoine Borrut**, University of Maryland, “Islamic Late Antiquity, Byzantium, and Iran”

**Robin Darling Young**, Catholic University of America, “King and God(s) in Early Armenian Sagas”



Speakers at the Byzantine symposium “Worlds of Byzantium.”

**Stephen Rapp**, Sam Houston State University, “Byzantine Georgia / Georgian Byzantium”

**Alicia Walker**, Bryn Mawr College, “Art at the Edges: Shifting Perceptions of the Middle Byzantine Eastern Periphery”

**Elizabeth Bolman**, Temple University, “The Dynamics of Place and Space in Early Byzantine Visual Culture”

**Arietta Papaconstantinou**, University of Reading, “Babel on the Bosphorus? Languages in the Byzantine World”

**Jack Tannous**, Princeton University, “Byzantine Syriac and Byzantine Arabic”

**Daniel Galadza**, University of Vienna, “Jerusalem’s Liturgy and Its Byzantinization”

**Cecily Hilsdale**, McGill University, “The Social Lives of Things East of Byzantium”

**Columba Stewart**, Hill Museum and Manuscript Library / Saint John’s University, “East of Byzantium Revisited”

### Teaching Fellows’ Day

*Discovering Byzantine Lives: Evidence in Texts, Images, and Material Culture*

February 20, 2016

**Elizabeth Williams**, Dumbarton Oaks, “Dress and Identity in Early Byzantium”

**Jonathan Shea**, Dumbarton Oaks, “Knowing Me, Knowing You: Seals and Self-Identity”

**Eric McGeer**, Dumbarton Oaks, “Better a Lion Command Deer Than a Deer Command Lions”

### Public Lectures

October 1, 2015

**Claudia Rapp**, University of Vienna, “Saint Catherine’s Monastery in the Sinai and its Hidden Manuscript Treasures”

December 9, 2015

**Nicola Di Cosmo**, Institute for Advanced Study, “Climate, Ecology, and Mobility in the History of Eurasian Steppe Nomads”

March 3, 2016

**Anthony Kaldellis**, Ohio State University, “From Olympus to the Streets of Constantinople: The Byzantine Retirement of the Ancient Gods” at the National Gallery of Art

### Talks

September 28, 2015

**Ludovic Bender**, University of Fribourg, “Hermitages and Rock-Monasteries of Laconia (Eleventh–Fifteenth Century): The Landscape of Monasticism in a Byzantine Region”

October 19, 2015

**Nathaniel Aschenbrenner**, Harvard University, “Rome Contested: Byzantine, Humanist, and Holy Roman Discourses of Empire in the Fifteenth Century”

October 20, 2015

**Jeffrey Hamburger**, Harvard University, “The Diagram Paradigm: The Diagrammatic Mode in Medieval Art and Beyond”

November 9, 2015

**Siren Celik**, University of Birmingham, “A Historical Biography of Manuel II Palaiologos (1350–1425)”

November 23, 2015

**Roman Shliakhtin**, Central European University, “The Image of the Seljuk Turks among the Byzantine Literati of the Eleventh and Twelfth Centuries”

November 30, 2015

**Stig Frøyshov**, University of Oslo, “The Horologion in Constantinople and Peripheries: Palatine, Secular, and Monastic Contexts”

February 1, 2016

**Leslie Brubaker**, University of Birmingham, “The Virgin Mary in the Byzantine World, 400–1200”

February 22, 2016

**David Ungvary**, Harvard University, “Anxiety, Artifice, and Asceticism: Christian Latin Poetic Culture, AD 500–700”

March 7, 2016

**Bradley Hostetler**, Florida State University, “The Function of Text: Byzantine Reliquaries with Metrical Inscriptions, 843–1204.”

March 14, 2016

**Mary Cunningham**, University of Nottingham, “The Virgin Mary in the Byzantine World, 400–1200: Images, Texts, Relics, and Ceremony”

April 4, 2016

**Yuri Marano**, Collège de France, Monde Byzantin, “The Privileged Burials of Early Byzantine Greece (Early Fourth to Early Seventh Century CE)”

April 11, 2016

**Fabio Pagani**, Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities, “Studying Plato at Mystra: New Perspectives on Gemistos Pletho and His School”

April 25, 2016

**Nikolaos Zagklas**, University of Silesia, “Theodore Prodromos: Writing Poetry and Schedography in Twelfth-Century Constantinople”

## Summer Program

Byzantine Coins and Seals Summer Program

July 6–31, 2015

Faculty: **Eric McGeer** and **Vasiliki Penna**

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Participants: Sergio Basso, Stefanos Dimitriadis, Polina Ivanova, Rózsa Márton, Nikolaos Mastrochristos, Brian Salas, Panagiotis Theodoropoulos, and Rossana Valente