



BYZANTINE STUDIES NEWSLETTER
APRIL 2012



SPRING 2012 SYMPOSIUM

April 27-29, 2012

The short period of Byzantine rule in the Maghrib belies the region's importance to the empire in the sixth and seventh centuries. Given the profound economic and strategic significance of the province of "Africa," the territory was also highly contested in the Byzantine period – between the empire, Berber kingdoms, and eventually also Muslim Arabs – as each of these groups sought to gain, retain control of, and exploit the region to its own advantage. In light of this charged history, scholars have typically taken the failure of the Byzantine endeavor in Africa as a foregone conclusion. This symposium seeks to reassess this pessimistic vision both by examining those elements of Romano-African identity that provided continuity in a period of remarkable transition, and by seeking to understand the transformations in African society in the context of developments in the larger post-Roman Mediterranean. An international group of highly-respected researchers from North America, Europe, and North Africa, including both well-established and emerging scholars, will address topics including the legacy of Vandal rule in Africa, history-writing and literature, art and architectural history, the ar-

lands, the economy, the family, theology, the cult of saints, Berbers, and the Islamic conquest, in an effort to consider the ways in which the imperial legacy was re-interpreted, re-imagined, and put to new uses in Byzantine and early Islamic Africa.

INFORMAL TALKS

April 5, 2012: Aglae Pizzone
Starving for Deceit: Readers' Response to Byzantine Fiction

April 11, 2012: Panagiotis Agapitos
The Poetics of Exoticism: the "Greek" Cligès and the "Latin" Livistros

April 18, 2012: Ken Holum
A Harbor Church at Caesarea: Commerce and Cult in Late Antiquity

April 25, 2012: Jonathan Shea
Insomnia, City of Merchants

RESEARCH REPORT

April 16, 2012: Asa Eger
The Islamic-Byzantine Frontier: Interaction and Exchange among Muslim and Christian Communities

THE BYZANTINE
COMMUNITY

STAFF

Sue Boyd (emerita)
Gudrun Buehl and Michael Sohn
Deb Brown
Örgü Dalgıç and Vasileios Marinis
Susannah and Michael Italiano
Scott and Carol Johnson
Joel and Colette Kalvesmaki
Margaret Mullett and Michael McGann
John (emeritus) and Carla Nesbitt
Irfan and Mary Shahid
Jonathan Shea
Alice-Mary (emerita) and Bill Talbot
Jack and Jeannette Tannous
Natalia Teteriatnikov (emerita)
Günder Varinlioğlu
Stephen Zwirn

FELLOWS

Asa Eger, University of North Carolina,
Greensboro
Kateryna Kovalchuk, Katholieke Universiteit
Leuven
Kostis Smyrlis, New York University
Michele Trizio, Università degli Studi di Bari
Aldo Moro

JUNIOR FELLOWS

Daniel Galadza, Pontificio Istituto Orientale
Divna Manolova, Central European
University
Nebojsa Stankovic, Princeton University
Nikos Tsivikis, University of Crete
Jeffrey Wickes, University of Notre Dame

VISITING SCHOLAR

Panagiotis Agapitos

READERS

Ayça Tiryaki
Inci Turkoglu
Andrew Walker White