

**2nd ONLINE EDINBURGH
BYZANTINE BOOK FESTIVAL**

9-12 March 2023



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

**Centre for Late Antique, Islamic
and Byzantine Studies**

AIMS & SCOPE

The Edinburgh Byzantine Book Festival is the first of its kind as a way to learn about recently published books on any area of Late Antique and Byzantine Studies (AD ca.300–ca.1500), including literature, history, archaeology, and material culture. The Festival is an online event, allowing attendees from all over the world to join in. It holds every two years in order to promote a wider understanding and awareness of Byzantine scholarship in a spirit of collegiality. It is also intended to encourage future collaborations and networking among the various presenters and attendees.

The [2nd Online Edinburgh Byzantine Book Festival](#) includes volumes published in 2021 and 2022, and forthcoming books with an estimated publication date no later than June 2023. It features monographs published in English, French, German, Italian, and Turkish.

FORMAT & RECORDING

Each session is intended to last 30 minutes. All presentations will be in English. Fellow scholars acting as chairs will provide a short introduction of no more than 5 minutes for the author and their book, which will be followed by the author's presentation, lasting up to 10 minutes. This will leave time in the second part of the session for a 15-minute Question and Answer session moderated by the chair. Questions should be posted in the chat box of the online platform.

This event will be recorded for publication on the Festival's website on [YouTube](#).

TIME ZONE

The festival will take place in **UK local time (GMT +00:00)**.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank Niels Gaul for encouraging me to proceed with the organising of the 2nd Online Edinburgh Byzantine Book Festival. I am also grateful to the Head of History at the University of Edinburgh, Diana Paton, for awarding me an honorary fellowship in history, which allowed me to organise the second festival and make use of Edinburgh IT facilities. Special thanks go to the editors at the various publishers for their support in this endeavour and for agreeing to provide the chairs with access to the books. And last but not least, my warmest thanks to all those colleagues who have so wholeheartedly endorsed this initiative by presenting their recently published books or agreeing to act as chairs.

Petros Bouras-Vallianatos

Associate Professor of History of Science
Department of History & Philosophy of Science
National and Kapodistrian University of Athens

Honorary Fellow in History
School of History, Classics & Archaeology
University of Edinburgh

PROGRAMME

Thursday 9 March 2023

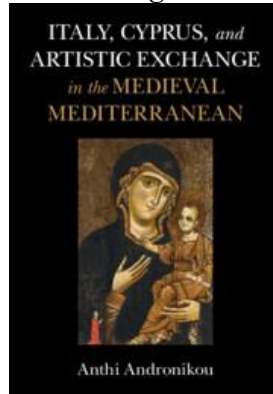
UK Time (GMT +00:00)

12:20 Introduction

Petros Bouras-Vallianatos, *University of Athens/University of Edinburgh*

12:30 – 13:00

Italy, Cyprus, and Artistic Exchange in the Medieval Mediterranean



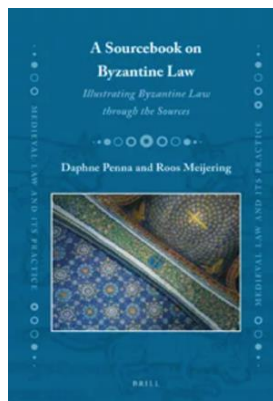
Cambridge University Press, 2022

Anthi Andronikou, *University of St Andrews*

Chair: Michele Bacci, *University of Fribourg*

13:00 – 13:30

A Sourcebook on Byzantine Law
Illustrating Byzantine Law through the
Sources



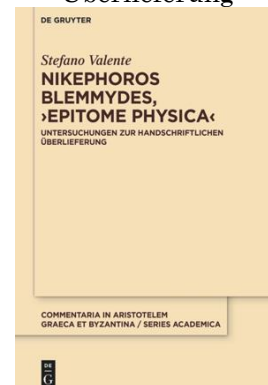
BRILL, 2022

Daphne Penna & Roos Meijering,
University of Groningen

Chair: Zachary Chitwood, *University of
Mainz*

13:30 – 14:00

Nikephoros Blemmydes, *Epitome
physica*
Untersuchungen zur handschriftlichen
Überlieferung



Walter De Gruyter, 2021

Stefano Valente, *University of
Hamburg*

Chair: Reinhart Ceulemans,
Katholieke Universiteit Leuven

14:00 – 14:10 Short Break

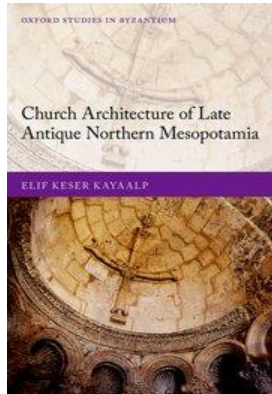
2nd ONLINE EDINBURGH BYZANTINE BOOK FESTIVAL 2023

Thursday 9 March

UK Time (GMT +00:00)

14:10 – 14:40

Church Architecture of Late Antique
Northern Mesopotamia



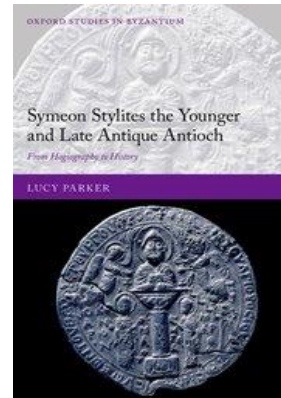
Oxford University Press, 2021

Elif Keser-Kayaalp, *Hacettepe
University*

Chair: Sean Leatherbury, *University
College Dublin*

14:40 – 15:10

Symeon Stylites the Younger and
Late Antique Antioch
From Hagiography to History



Oxford University Press, 2022

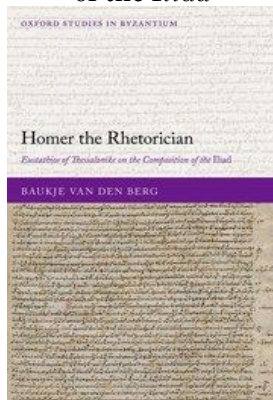
Lucy Parker, *University of Oxford*

Chair: Philip Booth, *University of
Oxford*

15:10 – 15:40 Break

15:40 – 16:10

Homer the Rhetorician
Eustathios of Thessalonike on the Composition
of the *Iliad*

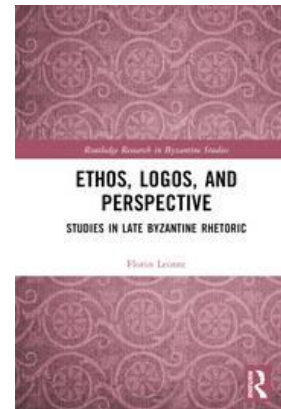


Oxford University Press, 2022

Baukje van den Berg,
Central European University
Chair: Divna Manolova, *SYRTE -
Observatoire de Paris and CNRS*

16:10 – 16:40

Ethos, Logos, and Perspective
Studies in Late Byzantine Rhetoric



Routledge, 2023

Florin Leonte, *University of Olomouc*
Chair: Niels Gaul, *University of
Edinburgh*

16:40 – 16:50 Short Break

2nd ONLINE EDINBURGH BYZANTINE BOOK FESTIVAL 2023

Thursday 9 March

UK Time (GMT +00:00)

16:50 – 17:20

The Disputatio of the Latins and the
Greeks, 1234

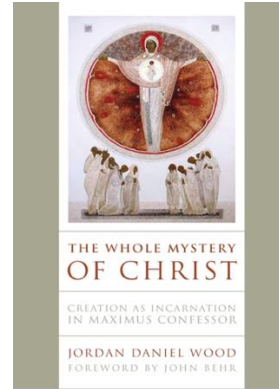


Liverpool University Press, 2023

Jeff Brubaker, *Canisius College*
Chair: Edward Siecienski, *Stockton*
University

17:20 – 17:50

The Whole Mystery of Christ
Creation as Incarnation in Maximus
Confessor



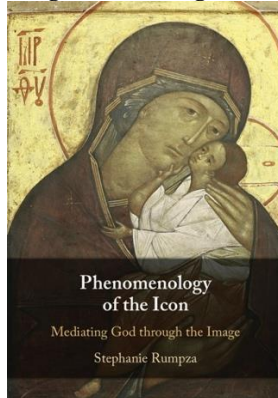
University of Notre Dame Press, 2022

Jordan Daniel Wood, *Independent*
Scholar
Chair: Paul Blowers, *Milligan*
University

17:50 – 18:00 Short Break

18:00 – 18:30

Phenomenology of the Icon
Mediating God through the Image

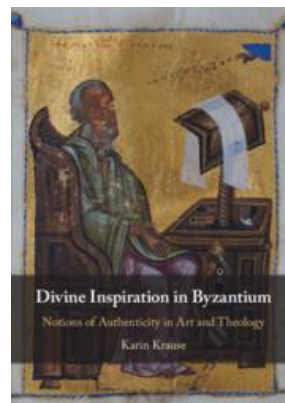


Cambridge University Press, 2023

Stephanie Rumpza, *Sorbonne*
Université
Chair: Charlie Barber, *Princeton*
University

18:30 – 19:00

Divine Inspiration in Byzantium
Notions of Authenticity in Art and Theology



Cambridge University Press, 2022

Karin Krause, *The University of*
Chicago Divinity School
Chair: Justin Willson, *The Cleveland*
Museum of Art

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Friday 10 March 2023

12:00 – 12:30

Flashpoint Hagia Sophia



FLASHPOINT
HAGIA SOPHIA

BRIAN CROKE

R

Routledge, 2022

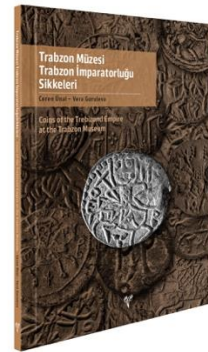
Brian Croke, *University of Sydney*
Chair: Elizabeth Jeffreys, *University of Oxford*

UK Time (GMT +00:00)

12:30 – 13:00

N Muzesi Trabzon İmparatorluğu
Sikkeleri

[Coins of the Trebizond Empire at the
Trabzon Museum]



Zero Produksiyon, 2022

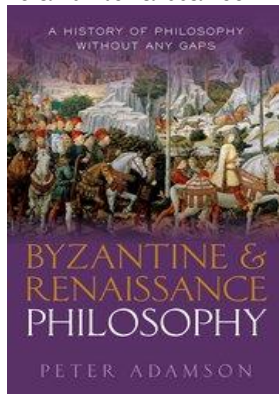
Vera Guruleva, *The State Hermitage Museum & Ceren Ünal, Manisa Celal Bayar University*
Chair: Julian Baker, *University of Oxford*

13:00 – 13:10 Short Break

13:10 – 13:40

A History of Philosophy Without Any
Gaps

Byzantine and Renaissance Philosophy

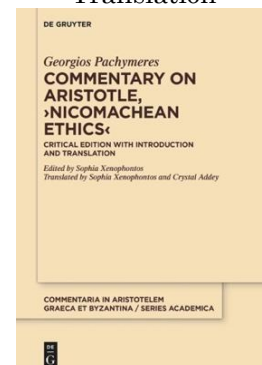


Oxford University Press, 2022

Peter Adamson,
University of Munich
Chair: Michele Trizio, *University of Bari Aldo Moro*

13:40 – 14:10

Georgios Pachymeres. Commentary
on Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*
Critical Edition with Introduction and
Translation



Walter De Gruyter, 2022

Sophia Xenophontos, *Aristotle University of Thessaloniki*
Chair: Pantelis Golitsis, *Aristotle University of Thessaloniki*

14:10 – 14:20 Short Break

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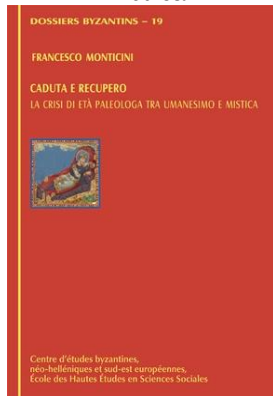
Friday 10 March

UK Time (GMT +00:00)

14:20 – 14:50

Caduta e recupero

La crisi di età paleologa tra umanesimo e
mistica



Centre d'études byzantines, EHESS, 2021

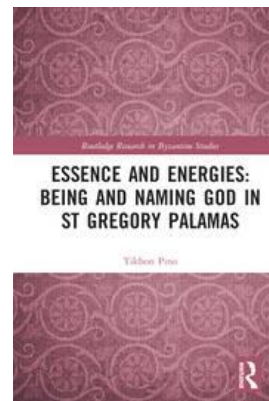
Francesco Monticini, *University of
Roma Tre*

Chair: Paolo Odorico, *EHESS – Paris*

14:50 – 15:20

Essence and Energies

Being and Naming God in St Gregory
Palamas



Routledge, 2022

Tikhon Pino, *Holy Cross Greek
Orthodox School of Theology*

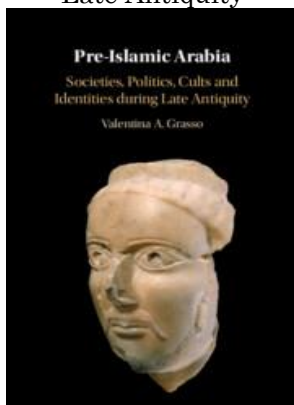
Chair: Marcus Plested, *Marquette
University*

15:20 – 15:50 Break

15:50 – 16:20

Pre-Islamic Arabia

Societies, Politics, Cults and Identities during
Late Antiquity



Cambridge University Press, 2022

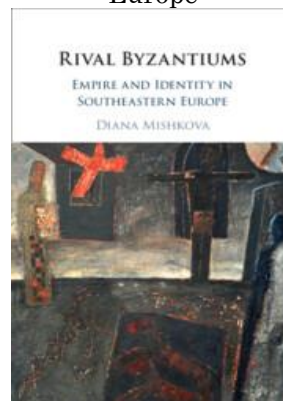
Valentina A. Grasso, *The Catholic
University of America*

Chair: Anthony Kaldellis, *University of
Chicago*

16:20 – 16:50

Rival Byzantiums

Empire and Identity in Southeastern
Europe



Cambridge University Press, 2022

Diana Mishkova, *Centre for
Advanced Study, Sofia*

Chair: Dimiter Angelov, *Harvard
University*

16:50 – 17:00 Short break

2nd ONLINE EDINBURGH BYZANTINE BOOK FESTIVAL 2023

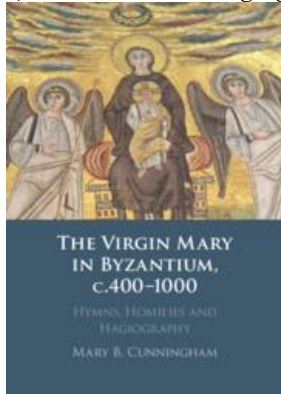
Friday 10 March

UK Time (GMT +00:00)

17:00 – 17:30

The Virgin Mary in Byzantium, c. 400 – 1000

Hymns, Homilies and Hagiography



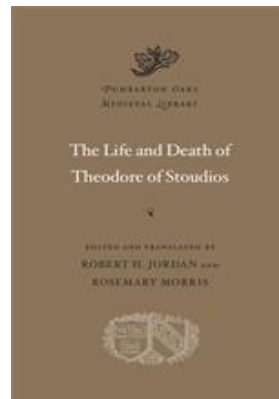
Cambridge University Press, 2021

Mary B. Cunningham, *University of Nottingham*

Chair: Margaret Mullett, *University of Edinburgh*

17:30 – 18:00

The Life and Death of Theodore of Studios



Harvard University Press, 2021

Robert H. Jordan, *Queen's University, Belfast* & Rosemary Morris, *University of York*

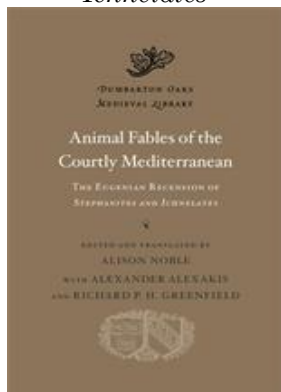
Chair: Olivier Delouis, *CNRS (Paris) and Maison Française d'Oxford*

18:00 – 18:10 Short break

18:10 – 18:40

Animal Fables of the Courtly Mediterranean

The Eugenic Recension of *Stephanites and Ichneutes*

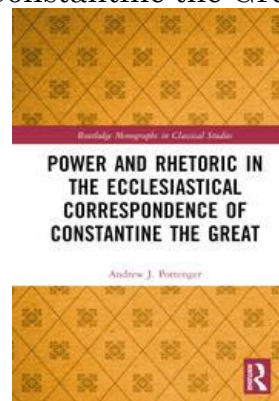


Harvard University Press, 2022

Alison Noble, *Independent Scholar*
Chair: Alexander Alexakis, *University of Ioannina*

18:40 – 19:10

Power and Rhetoric in the Ecclesiastical Correspondence of Constantine the Great



Routledge, 2022

Andrew J. Pottenger, *Nazarene Bible College*

Chair: Geordan Hammond, *Nazarene Theological College (Manchester)*

2nd ONLINE EDINBURGH BYZANTINE BOOK FESTIVAL 2023

Saturday 11 March 2023

UK Time (GMT +00:00)

12:00 – 12:30

Between Byzantine Men:
Desire, Homosexuality, and Brotherhood in the
Medieval Empire



Routledge, 2022

Mark Masterson, *Te Herenga
Waka/Victoria University of
Wellington, New Zealand*
Chair: Steven Smith, *Hofstra
University*

12:30 – 13:00

De très savants pasteurs
Conceptions et pratiques de l'autorité
épiscopale dans la société byzantine des XIe-
XIIe siècles



Éditions de la Sorbonne, 2022

Éditions de la Sorbonne, 2022

Jack Roskilly, *UMR 8167 Orient et
Méditerranée*
Chair: Marina Loukaki, *University of
Athens*

13:00 – 13:10 Short Break

13:10 – 13:40

Ancient Arms Race
Antiquity's Largest Fortresses and Sasanian
Military Networks of Northern Iran

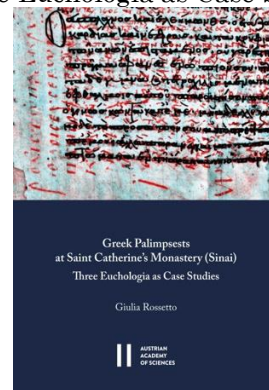


Oxbow, 2022

Eberhard Sauer, *University of
Edinburgh*, Jebrael Nokandeh,
National Museum of Iran, and Hamid
Omran Rekavandi, *ICHHTO, Gorgan*
Chair: Jim Crow, *University of
Edinburgh*

13:40 – 14:10

**Greek Palimpsests at Saint
Catherine's Monastery (Sinai)**
Three Euchologia as Case Studies



Austrian Academy of Sciences Press, 2023

Giulia Rossetto, *Austrian Academy
of Sciences*
Chair: Daniel Galadza, *Pontificio
Istituto Orientale*

14:10 – 14:20 Short Break

2nd ONLINE EDINBURGH BYZANTINE BOOK FESTIVAL 2023

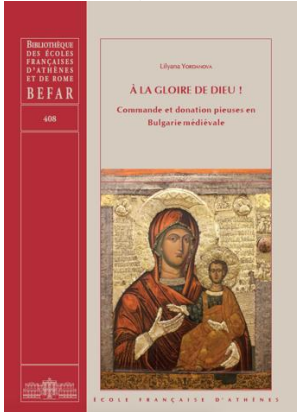
Saturday 11 March

UK Time (GMT +00:00)

14:20 – 14:50

À la gloire de Dieu !

Commande et donation pieuses en Bulgarie médiévale, XIIe-XVe s.



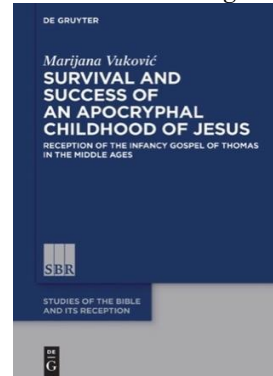
Éditions de l'École française d'Athènes, 2023

Lilyana Yordanova, *École française d'Athènes*

Chair: Annick Peters-Custot, Nantes Université

14:50 – 15:20

Survival and Success of an Apocryphal Childhood of Jesus
Reception of the Infancy Gospel of Thomas in the Middle Ages



Walter De Gruyter, 2022

Marijana Vuković, *University of Southern Denmark*

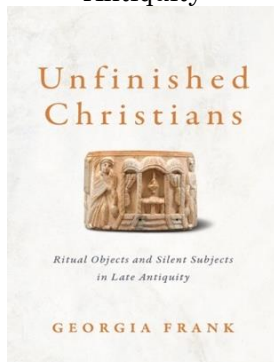
Chair: Reidar Aasgaard, *University of Oslo*

15:20 – 15:50 Break

15:50 – 16:20

Unfinished Christians

Ritual Objects and Silent Subjects in Late Antiquity

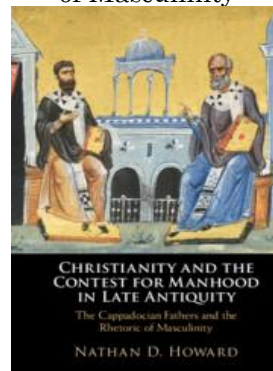


University of Pennsylvania Press, 2023

Georgia Frank, *Colgate University*
Chair: Derek Krueger, *University of North Carolina/Greensboro*

16:20 – 16:50

Christianity and the Contest for Manhood in Late Antiquity
The Cappadocian Fathers and the Rhetoric of Masculinity



Cambridge University Press, 2022

Nathan D. Howard, *University of Tennessee at Martin*
Chair: Sandy Haney, *Independent Scholar*

16:50 – 17:00 Short Break

2nd ONLINE EDINBURGH BYZANTINE BOOK FESTIVAL 2023

Saturday 11 March

UK Time (GMT +00:00)

17:00 – 17:30

The Falls of Rome

Crises, Resilience and Resurgence in Late
Antiquity



Cambridge University Press, 2021

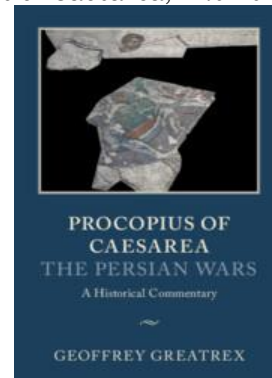
Michele Renee Salzman, *University of
California at Riverside*

Chair: Edward Watts, *University of
California, San Diego*

17:30 – 18:00

**Procopius of Caesarea, *The Persian
Wars***

A Historical Commentary
(and an accompanying translation volume,
Procopius of Caesarea, *The Persian Wars*)



Cambridge University Press, 2022

Geoffrey Greatrex, *University of
Ottawa*

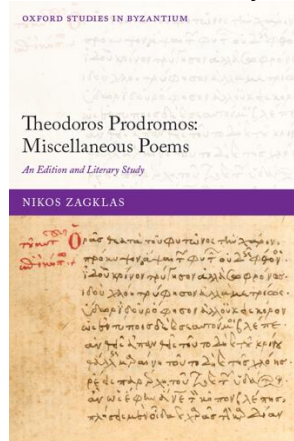
Chair: Averil Cameron, *University of
Oxford*

Sunday 12 March

UK Time (GMT +00:00)

12:30 – 13:00

Theodoros Prodromos Miscellaneous Poems
An Edition and Literary Study

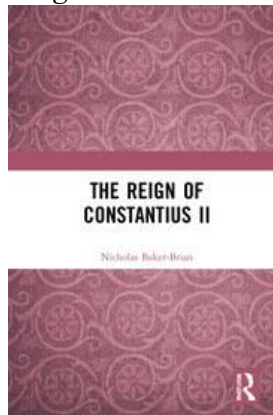


Oxford University Press, 2023

Nikolaos Zagklas, *University of Vienna*
Chair: Ingela Nilsson, *University of Uppsala*

13:00 – 13:30

The Reign of Constantius II

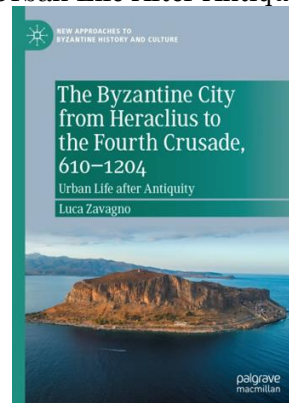


Routledge, 2022

Nicholas Baker-Brian,
Cardiff University
Chair: Shaun Tougher, *Cardiff University*

13:30 – 14:00

The Byzantine City from Heraclius to the Fourth Crusade, 610–1204
Urban Life After Antiquity



Palgrave Macmillan, 2022

Luca Zavagno,
Bilkent University
Chair: Nicholas Bakirtzis, *Cyprus Research Institute*

14:00 – 14:10 *Short Break*

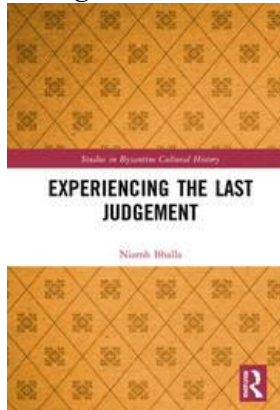
2nd ONLINE EDINBURGH BYZANTINE BOOK FESTIVAL 2023

Sunday 12 March

UK Time (GMT +00:00)

14:10 – 14:40

Experiencing the Last Judgement



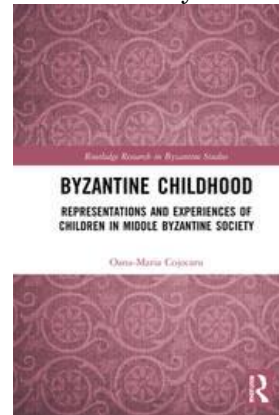
Routledge, 2021

Niamh Bhalla, *Northeastern University*
– London

Chair: Liz James, *University of Sussex*

14:40 – 15:10

Byzantine Childhood
Representations and Experiences of
Children in Middle Byzantine Society



Routledge, 2021

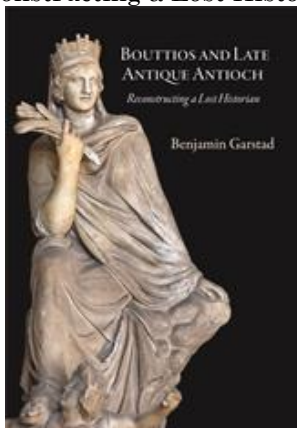
Oana-Maria Cojocaru, *Tampere*
Institute for Advanced Studies

Chair: Christian Laes, *The*
University of Manchester

15:10 – 15:40 Break

15:40 – 16:10

Bouttios and Late Antique Antioch
Reconstructing a Lost Historian



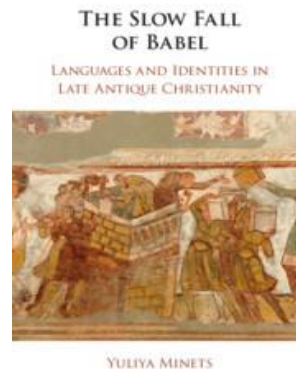
Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and
Collection, 2022

Benjamin Garstad, *MacEwan*
University

Chair: Colin Whiting, *Dumbarton Oaks*
Research Library and Collection

16:10 – 16:40

The Slow Fall of Babel
Languages and Identities in Late Antique
Christianity



Cambridge University Press, 2022

Yuliya Minets, *The University of*
Alabama

Chair: Arietta Papaconstantinou,
University of Reading

16:40 – 16:50 Short Break

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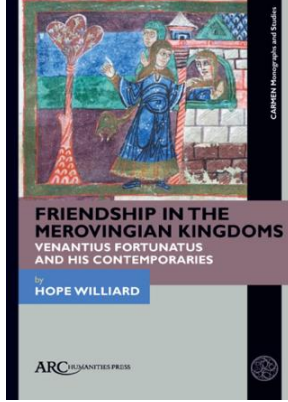
Sunday 12 March

UK Time (GMT +00:00)

16:50 – 17:20

**Friendship in the Merovingian
Kingdoms**

Venantius Fortunatus and His Contemporaries



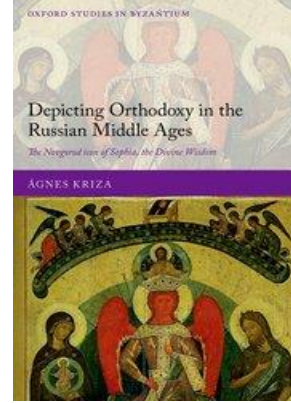
ARC Humanities Press, 2022

Hope Williard, *University of Lincoln*
Chair: Helmut Reimitz, *Princeton University*

17:20 – 17:50

**Depicting Orthodoxy in the Russian
Middle Ages**

The Novgorod Icon of Sophia, the Divine
Wisdom

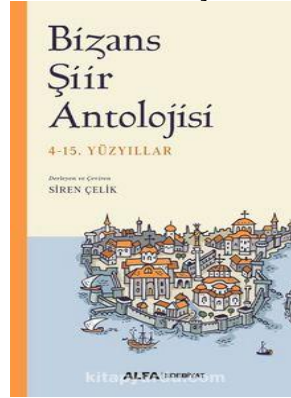


Oxford University Press, 2022

Ágnes Kriza, *Independent Scholar*
Chair: Elena N. Boeck, *DePaul University*

17:50 – 18:20

Bizans Şiir Antolojisi, 4-15. yüzyıllar [Byzantine Poetry Anthology, 4-15th centuries, in Turkish]



Alfa Publications (Istanbul), 2022

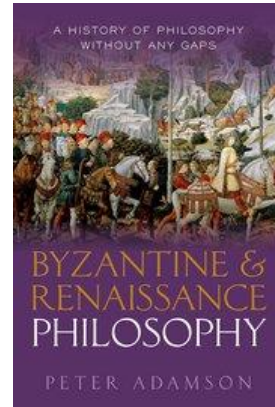
Siren Çelik, *Marmara University*
Chair: Suna Çağaptay, *Bahçeşehir University*

BOOK ABSTRACTS

[A History of Philosophy Without
Any Gaps](#)
[Byzantine and Renaissance Philosophy](#)

Peter Adamson, *University of Munich*

Oxford University Press, 2022

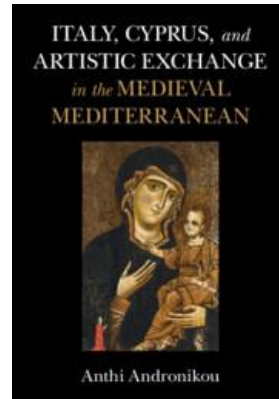


Peter Adamson presents an engaging and wide-ranging introduction to the thinkers and movements of two great intellectual cultures: Byzantium and the Italian Renaissance. First he traces the development of philosophy in the Eastern Christian world, from such early figures as John of Damascus in the eighth century to the late Byzantine scholars of the fifteenth century. He introduces major figures like Michael Psellos, Anna Komnene, and Gregory Palamas, and examines the philosophical significance of such cultural phenomena as iconoclasm and conceptions of gender. We discover the little-known traditions of philosophy in Syriac, Armenian, and Georgian. These chapters also explore the scientific, political, and historical literature of Byzantium. There is a close connection to the second half of the book, since thinkers of the Greek East helped to spark the humanist movement in Italy. Adamson tells the story of the rebirth of philosophy in Italy in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. We encounter such famous names as Christine de Pizan, Niccolò Machiavelli, Giordano Bruno, and Galileo, but as always in this book series such major figures are read alongside contemporaries who are not so well known, including such fascinating figures as Lorenzo Valla, Girolamo Savonarola, and Bernardino Telesio. Major historical themes include the humanist engagement with ancient literature, the emergence of women humanists, the flowering of Republican government in Renaissance Italy, the continuation of Aristotelian and scholastic philosophy alongside humanism, and breakthroughs in science. All areas of philosophy, from theories of economics and aesthetics to accounts of the human mind, are featured. This is the sixth volume of Adamson's *History of Philosophy Without Any Gaps*, taking us to the threshold of the early modern era.

Italy, Cyprus, and Artistic Exchange in the Medieval Mediterranean

Anthi Andronikou, *University of St Andrews*

Cambridge University Press, 2022

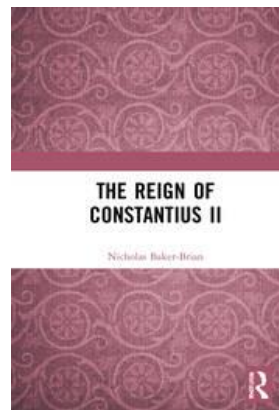


In this volume Anthi Andronikou explores the social, cultural, religious and trade encounters between Italy and Cyprus during the late Middle Ages, from ca. 1200-1400, and situates them within several Mediterranean contexts. Revealing the complex artistic exchange between the two regions for the first time, she probes the rich but neglected cultural interaction through comparison of the intriguing thirteenth-century wall paintings in rock-cut churches of Apulia and Basilicata, the puzzling panels of the Madonna della Madia and the Madonna di Andria, and painted chapels in Cyprus, Lebanon, and Syria. Andronikou also investigates fourteenth-century cross-currents that have not been adequately studied, notably the cult of Saint Thomas Aquinas in Cyprus, Crusader propaganda in Santa Maria Novella in Florence, and a unique series of icons crafted by Venetian painters working in Cyprus. Offering new insights into Italian and Byzantine visual cultures, her book contributes to a broader understanding of cultural production and worldviews of the medieval Mediterranean.

The Reign of Constantius II

Nicholas Baker-Brian, *Cardiff University*

Routledge, 2022



This book examines the dynastic, political and cultural impact of Constantius' reign as a member of the Constantinian family on the later empire, first as a joint ruler with his brothers and then as sole Augustus. The chapters investigate Constantius's role in the imperial, administrative, legal, religious and cultural life of the Roman Empire in the fourth century. Constantius' handling of various threats to Roman hegemony such as the ambitions of the neighbouring Sasanians, and his relationships with Gallus and with Julian, are explored. The book's analysis is guided by the epigraphic, iconographic, literary and legal evidence of the Roman and Byzantine periods but it is not a conventional imperial 'biography'. Rather, it examines Constantius in light of the numerous historiographical issues

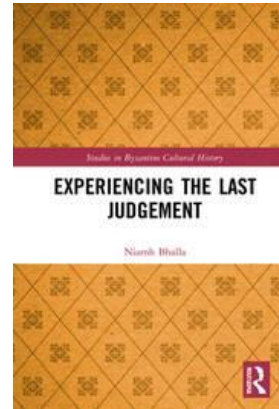
2nd ONLINE EDINBURGH BYZANTINE BOOK FESTIVAL 2023

surrounding his memorialisation in the sources, for instance as ‘Arian’ tyrant or as internecine murderer. The over-arching aim is to investigate power in the post-Constantine period, and the way in which imperial and episcopal networks related to one another with the ambition of participating in the exercise of power.

Experiencing the Last Judgement

Niamh Bhalla, *Northeastern University – London*

Routledge, 2021

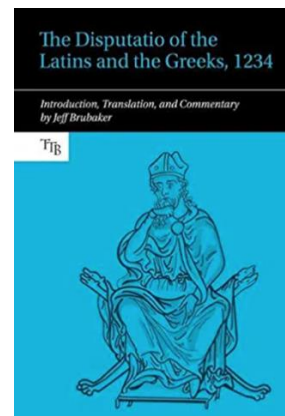


Experiencing the Last Judgement opens up new ways of understanding a Byzantine image type that has hitherto been considered largely uniform in its manifestations and to a great extent frightening, coercive and paralysing. It moves beyond a purely didactic understanding of the Byzantine image of the Last Judgement, as a visual eschatological text to be ‘read’ and learned from, and proposes instead an appreciation of each unique image as a dynamic site to be experienced. Paintings, icons and mosaics from the tenth to the fourteenth century, from inside and outside of the Byzantine Empire, are placed within their specific socio-historical milieus, their immediate decorative programmes and their architectural contexts to demonstrate that each unique image constituted a carefully orchestrated and immersive experience of judgement.

The Disputatio of the Latins and the Greeks, 1234

Jeff Brubaker, *Canisius College*

Liverpool University Press, 2023



In 1234, four friars arrived in Nicaea to discuss a possible union between the Greek and Roman Churches. The controversy between the churches had taken on a new urgency in the thirteenth century. The conquest of Constantinople by the Fourth Crusade created an atmosphere of nearly continuous conflict, and yet the two sides agreed to meet in hopes of a peaceful settlement. Presented in translation for the first time, the report of those friars illuminates the full spectrum of motivations and implications surrounding the prospect of church union after 1204. The letters exchanged by Pope Gregory IX and Patriarch

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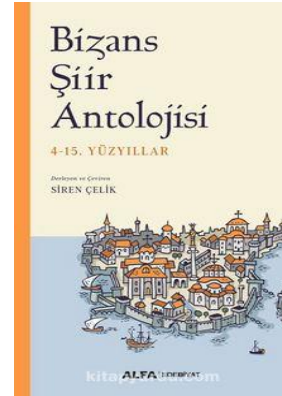
Germanos II demonstrate the terms under which both sides entered the negotiations. Brought together, these sources represent a crucial episode of dialogue between the churches. Translation and analysis of these sources call into question the long-held view that attempts to end the schism of the churches were perpetually doomed to fail.

[Bizans Şiir Antolojisi, 4-15. yüzyıllar](#)

[Byzantine Poetry Anthology, 4-15th centuries in Turkish]

Siren Çelik, *Marmara University*

Alfa Publications (Istanbul), 2023

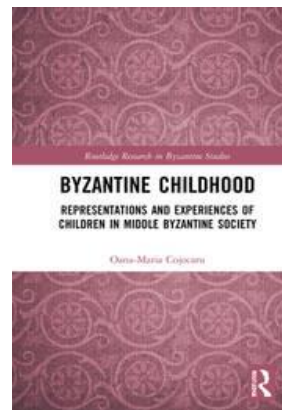


This Byzantine Poetry Anthology is first of its kind in Turkey and has only few specimens in international scholarship. It offers Turkish translations of sixty poems from 4-15th centuries, accompanied by the original Greek and extensive annotation regarding historical and literary issues. Approximately twenty-two poets are presented; their works range from religious, political, didactic and love poetry to verses on art and architecture, as well as daily life. Each poet receives a brief essay, while the volume opens with a comprehensive essay on Byzantine literature. As few Byzantine texts are translated into Turkish and Byzantine literature is a little studied field in Turkey, this volume will make a substantive contribution to Turkish scholarship. Not only it makes Byzantine poetry more accessible to scholars but also showcases the importance of engaging with Byzantine literature in their own work. The anthology is also marketed for the general readership and introduces Byzantine poetry to a broader audience.

[Byzantine Childhood Representations and Experiences of Children in Middle Byzantine Society](#)

Oana-Maria Cojocaru, *Tampere Institute for Advanced Studies*

Routledge, 2021



The book examines the intricacies of growing up in medieval Byzantium, children's everyday experiences, and their agency. By piecing together a wide range of sources and utilising several methodological approaches inspired by intersectionality, history from below and microhistory, it analyses the life course of Byzantine boys and girls and how medieval Byzantine society perceived and treated them according to societal and cultural expectations surrounding age, gender, and status. Ultimately, it seeks to reconstruct a more plausible picture of

the everyday life of children, one of the most vulnerable social groups throughout history and often a neglected subject in scholarship.

[Flashpoint Hagia Sophia](#)

Suna Brian Croke, *University of Sydney*

Routledge, 2022



FLASHPOINT
HAGIA SOPHIA

BRIAN CROKE



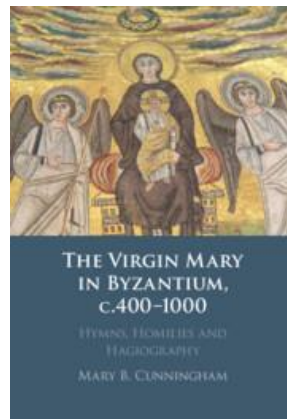
As Byzantium's best-known and most visited monument, Hagia Sophia remains the living epitome of Byzantine culture and civilisation. However, since July 2020 it has been a mosque and the future of its Byzantine heritage and character remains murky. This book explains President Erdoğan's controversial decision, against the pleading of UNESCO, Russia, Greece, US and EU, as well as Byzantinists world-wide, to turn Hagia Sophia into a mosque. It focuses on Türkiye's modern political imperatives (national, independent, legal, Islamic), and its response to the mosque massacre in Christchurch in March 2019 when Erdoğan's life was threatened by the gunman. Any consideration of Hagia Sophia's present and future also requires appreciation of the almost 1,500-year old story of this architectural marvel, as church (537-1453), mosque (1453-1934) and museum (1934-2020). Türkiye's increasing marginalisation of its Byzantine past, exemplified by Hagia Sophia, is a live challenge for the international community.

[The Virgin Mary in Byzantium, c. 400 – 1000](#)

[Hymns, Homilies and Hagiography](#)

Mary B. Cunningham, *University of Nottingham*

Cambridge University Press, 2021



THE VIRGIN MARY
IN BYZANTIUM,
c. 400-1000

HYMNS, HOMILIES AND
HAGIOGRAPHY
MARY B. CUNNINGHAM

The Virgin Mary assumed a position of central importance in Byzantium. This book examines her portrayal in liturgical texts during the first six centuries of Byzantine history. Focusing on three main literary genres that celebrated this holy figure, it highlights the ways in which writers adapted their messages for different audiences. Mary is portrayed variously as defender of the imperial city, Constantinople, virginal Mother of God, and ascetic disciple of Christ. Preachers, hymnographers and hagiographers used rhetoric to enhance Mary's powerful status in Eastern Christian society, depicting her as virgin and mother, warrior

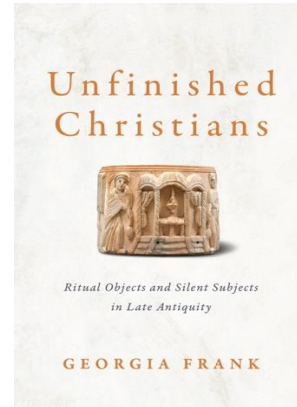
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and ascetic, human and all-holy figure. Their paradoxical statements were based on the fundamental mystery that Mary embodied: she was the mother of Christ, the Word of God, who provided him with the human nature that he assumed in his incarnation.

[Unfinished Christians](#) [Ritual Objects and Silent Subjects in](#) [Late Antiquity](#)

Georgia Frank, *Colgate University*

University of Pennsylvania Press, 2023

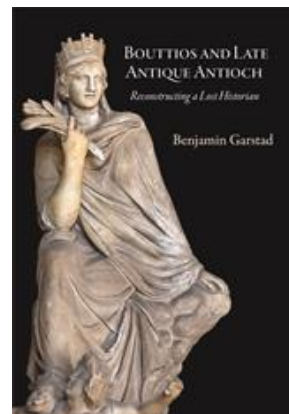


What can we know about the everyday experiences of Christians during the fourth, fifth, and sixth centuries? *Unfinished Christians* explores the sensory and affective dimensions of ordinary Christians who assembled for rituals. With precious few first-person accounts by common Christians, it relies on written sources not typically associated with lived religion: sermons, liturgical instruction books, and festal hymns. All three genres of writing are composed by clergy for use in ritual settings. Yet they may also provide glimpses of everyday Christians' lives and experiences. This book investigates the habits, objects, behaviours, and movements of ordinary Christians by mining festal preaching by John Chrysostom, Cyril of Jerusalem, Gregory of Nyssa, and Romanos the Melodist, among others. The book includes chapters on baptismal instructions, processions, liturgical feasts, and night vigils.

[Bouttios and Late Antique](#) [Antioch](#) [Reconstructing a Lost Historian](#)

Benjamin Garstad, *MacEwan*
University

Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and
Collection, 2022



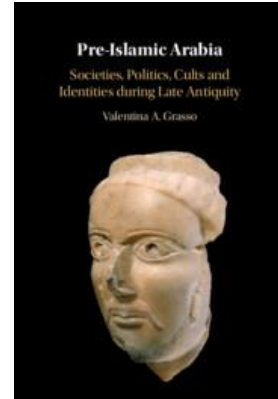
Bouttios and Late Antique Antioch undertakes the exciting, if laborious, task of assembling clues and piecing back together a book that had disappeared from our library of Greek and Roman works. But it does not merely add another author to the bibliography of antiquity and place him in fourth-century Antioch. It shows how the gods could be reduced to historical characters, the powerful goddess of luck turned into a pitiful victim of virgin sacrifice, and respected emperors defamed as despots—and, in sum, how the writing of history could be exploited for partisan purposes. We see how people in what we consider the distant past

thought about their own history, and how they discussed momentous political and social issues across a seemingly insurmountable divide in a period of existential crisis.

Pre-Islamic Arabia
Societies, Politics, Cults and Identities
during Late Antiquity

Valentina A. Grasso, *The Catholic*
University of America

Cambridge University Press, 2023

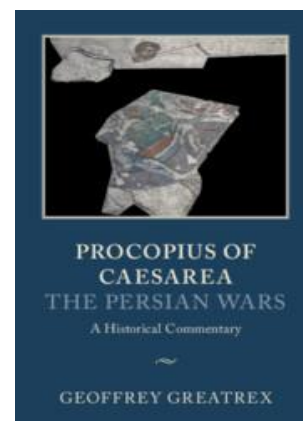


This book delves into the political and cultural developments of pre-Islamic Arabia, focusing on the religious attitudes of the inhabitants of the Arabian Peninsula and its northern extension into the Syrian desert. Between the third and the seventh century, Arabia was on the edge of three great empires (Iran, Rome and Aksum) and at the centre of a lucrative network of trade routes. Valentina A. Grasso offers an interpretative framework which contextualizes the choice of Arabian elites to become Jewish sympathisers and/or convert to Christianity and Islam by probing the mobilization of faith in the shaping of Arabian identities. For the first time the Arabians of the period are granted autonomy from marginalizing (mostly Western) narratives framing them as 'barbarians' inhabiting the fringes of Rome and Iran and/or deterministic analyses in which they are depicted retrospectively as exemplified by the Muslims' definition of the period as Jāhiliyah, 'ignorance'.

Procopius of Caesarea, The
Persian Wars.
A Historical Commentary
(and an accompanying translation
volume, Procopius of Caesarea, The
Persian Wars)

Geoffrey Greatrex, *University of*
Ottawa

Cambridge University Press, 2022



This is the first extensive commentary on his Persian Wars since the nineteenth century. The work is among the most varied of the author, incorporating the history and geography not only of Mesopotamia and the Caucasus, but also of southern Arabia and Ethiopia, Iran and Central Asia, and Constantinople itself. Each major section is introduced by a section on the history of the events

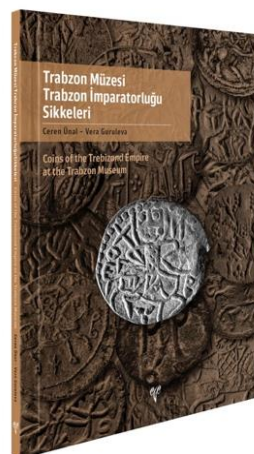
concerned and on the treatment of these events by Procopius and other sources. The volume is equipped with an introduction, three appendices, and numerous maps and plans. All sections of the work that are commented on are translated. The book will therefore be of use to specialists and the general reader alike. A complete translation of the work, with lighter annotation, is being published separately.

N Muzesi Trabzon İmparatorluğu
Sikkeleri

**[Coins of the Trebizond Empire at the
Trabzon Museum]**

Vera Guruleva, *The State Hermitage
Museum*
&
Ceren Ünal, Manisa *Celal Bayar*
University

Zero Produksiyon, 2022

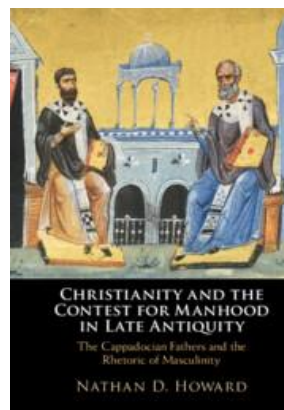


In our study, coins dated to the Trebizond Empire from the Trebizond Museum were examined. Among the coins of the Trebizond Empire registered in the Trebizond Museum inventory, 152 silver and copper coins that were able to be classified and provide chronological data were selected for inclusion in the study. The silver and copper coins from the Trebizond Empire date from the period of Manuel I Comnenus (1238-1263) to the period of John IV Comnenus (1446-1458).

Christianity and the Contest for
Manhood in Late Antiquity
The Cappadocian Fathers and the
Rhetoric of Masculinity

Nathan D. Howard, *University of
Tennessee at Martin*

Cambridge University Press, 2022



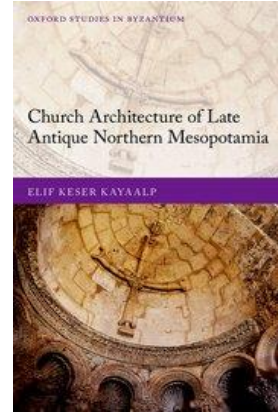
This book explores gender and identity formation in fourth-century Cappadocia, where pro-Nicene bishops used a rhetoric of contest that aligned with conventions of classical Greek masculinity. Howard argues that epistolary exhibitions during this period served as “a locus for” asserting manhood. These performances illustrate how a culture of orality that previously had defined manhood now was reimagined as a contest in which status came through composition. Through letter exchange, the Cappadocians reordered the body and materiality as components of manhood. Fourth-century theology subsequently developed into a rhetorical battle predicated largely on gender. In this polemic, the Cappadocians crafted

personifications of masculinity that supported their theology and cast doubt on non-Trinitarian rivals, individuals they cast as effeminate. These biographies of saints show that tropes based on classical standards of gender contributed to the formation of Trinitarian orthodoxy.

**Church Architecture of Late
Antique Northern Mesopotamia**

Elif Keser-Kayaalp, *Hacettepe
University*

Oxford University Press, 2021

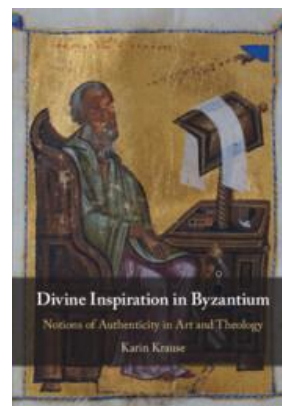


Church Architecture of Late Antique Northern Mesopotamia examines the church architecture of Northern Mesopotamia between the fourth and eighth centuries. It focuses on settlements, plan types, artistic encounters, the remarkable continuity of the classical tradition in the architectural decoration, the heterogeneity of the building techniques, patrons, imperial motivations, dedications of churches, and stories that claim and make spaces. Employing archaeological and epigraphical material and hagiographical and historical sources, the book presents a holistic picture of the church architecture of this frontier region, encompassing the cities of Nisibis (Nusaybin), Edessa (Şanlıurfa), Amida (Diyarbakir), Anastasiopolis (Dara/Oğuz), Martyropolis (Silvan), Constantia (Viranşehir), and their surroundings, and the rural Tur Abdin region. The period covered spans the last centuries of Byzantine and the first century and a half of Arab rule, when the region was, on the one hand, a stage of war and riven by religious controversies, and a cultural interspace on the other. The book discusses the different dynamics in this frontier region and the resulting built environment and church architecture in pursuit of providing a regional contribution to the study of the transformation that the Byzantine civilization underwent in the late antique period and understanding the continuities and changes after the Arab conquest.

**Divine Inspiration in Byzantium
Notions of Authenticity in Art and
Theology**

Karin Krause, *The University of
Chicago Divinity School*

Cambridge University Press, 2022

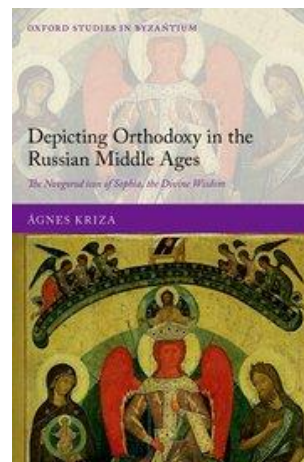


In this volume, Karin Krause examines conceptions of divine inspiration and authenticity in the religious literature and visual arts of Byzantium. During antiquity and the medieval era, “inspiration” encompassed a range of ideas regarding the divine contribution to the creation of holy texts, icons, and other material objects by human beings. Krause traces the origins of the notion of divine inspiration in the Jewish and polytheistic cultures of the ancient Mediterranean and Near Eastern worlds and their reception in Byzantine religious culture. Exploring how conceptions of authenticity are employed in Byzantium to claim religious authority, she analyzes texts in a range of genres, as well as images in different media including manuscript illumination, icons, and mosaics. Her interdisciplinary study demonstrates the pivotal role that claims to the divine inspiration of religious literature and art played in the construction of Byzantine cultural identity.

[Depicting Orthodoxy in the
Russian Middle Ages](#)
[The Novgorod Icon of Sophia, the Divine
Wisdom](#)

Ágnes Kriza, *Independent Scholar*

Oxford University Press, 2022

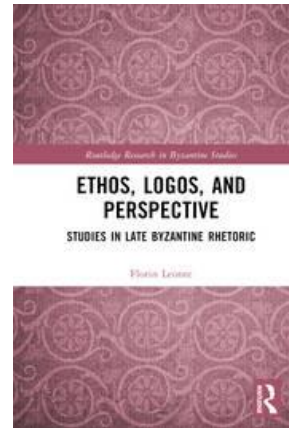


Depicting Orthodoxy in the Russian Middle Ages: The Novgorod Icon of Sophia, the Divine Wisdom provides a new, so far unexplored history of a well-known, but much contested enigmatic medieval Russian icon: the icon of Sophia, the Divine Wisdom. By shedding light on the overlooked ecclesiological symbolism of the image of the winged royal Sophia created in the fifteenth-century Novgorod, this book is an innovative attempt to survey how Orthodoxy was perceived and visualized in Rus. It identifies the theological questions that constituted the basis of Orthodox identity in the Middle Ages and reveals the significance of the polemics between the Catholic and Orthodox Churches for the history of art in Rus.

**Ethos, Logos, and Perspective
Studies in Late Byzantine Rhetoric**

Florin Leonte, *University of Olomouc*

Routledge, 2023

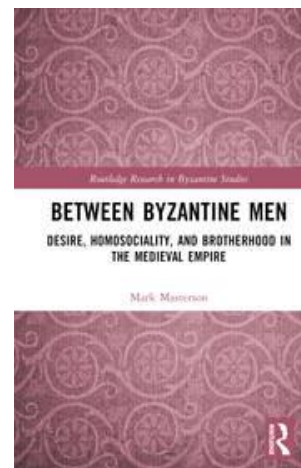


Ethos, Logos, and Perspective represents the first comprehensive study of late Byzantine court rhetorical praise as a general phenomenon surfacing in many types of rhetorical epideictic compositions dating from the fourteenth and the fifteenth centuries: panegyrics, encomia, city descriptions, encomiastic verses, or letters. The aim of this book is to reconstruct the two perspectives, idealism and pragmatism, that shaped authorial choices in matters of rhetorical style and composition. This study uncovers a little-known period in the history of Byzantine rhetoric. Proceeding from a nuanced understanding of the ancient concepts of ethos and logos, it analyzes the rhetoric of Byzantine praise in a modern theoretical framework. The present research traces the structures and meanings that ultimately influenced the political attitudes and values circulating in the last century of Byzantine history.

**Between Byzantine Men
Desire, Homosociality, and Brotherhood
in the Medieval Empire**

Mark Masterson, *Te Herenga
Waka/Victoria University of
Wellington, New Zealand*

Routledge, 2022



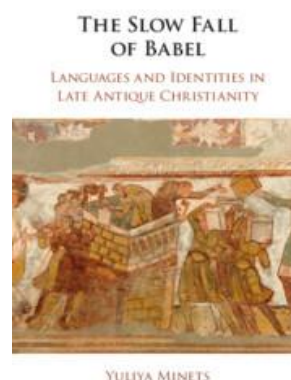
The presence and importance of same-sex desire between men in the Byzantine Empire has been understudied. While John Boswell and others tried to open a conversation about desire between Byzantine men decades ago, the field reverted to emphasis on prohibition and an inability to read the evidence of same-sex desire between men in the sources. *Between Byzantine Men* challenges and transforms this situation by placing at centre stage Byzantine men's desiring relations with one another. This book foregrounds desire between men in and around the imperial court of the 900s. Analysis of Greek sources (many untranslated until now) and of material culture reveals a situation both more liberal than the medieval West and important for its rite of brother-making, which was a precursor

to today's same-sex marriage. This book transforms understandings of Byzantine elite men's culture and adds to the history of sex and desire between men.

The Slow Fall of Babel
Languages and Identities in Late
Antique Christianity

Yuliya Minets, *The University of*
Alabama

Cambridge University Press, 2022

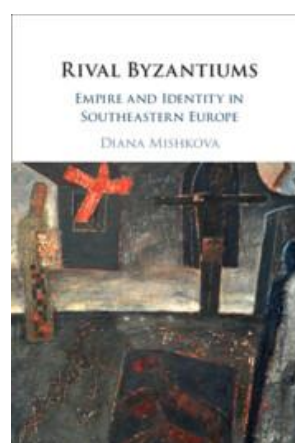


The *slow fall of Babel* is the story about the transformation of the ways in which the increasingly Christianized elites of the late antique Mediterranean experienced and conceptualized linguistic differences. The metaphor of Babel stands for the magnificent edifice of classical culture that was about to reach the sky, but remained self-sufficient and self-contained in its virtual monolingualism – the paradigm within which even Latin was occasionally considered just a dialect of Greek. The gradual erosion of this vision is the *slow fall of Babel* that took place in the hearts and minds of a good number of early Christian writers and intellectuals who represented various languages and literary traditions. This step-by-step process included discovering and internalizing the fact that there were multiple other languages in the world as well as subsequent attempts to meaningfully incorporate their speakers into the holistic and distinctly Christian picture of the universe.

Rival Byzantiums
Empire and Identity in Southeastern
Europe

Diana Mishkova, *Centre for Advanced*
Study, Sofia

Cambridge University Press, 2022



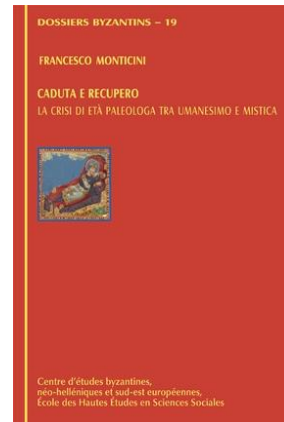
This pioneering book presents a comprehensive comparative view of the way the phenomenon of Byzantium has been treated by the historiographies of the polities that have emerged from its remains – Bulgaria, Greece, Romania, Serbia and Turkey – from the Enlightenment to the present day. Synthesising a sprawling mass of material largely unknown to academic audiences, it highlights the important place Byzantium's representations occupy in the identity building and historical consciousness in that part of Europe. The diverse interpretations of the Byzantine phenomenon across and within these historiographic traditions are

scrutinised against the backdrop of shifting geopolitical and cultural contexts, in constant dialogue and competition with each other and in communication with extra-regional, western and Russian, academic currents.

Caduta e recupero
La crisi di età paleologa tra umanesimo e
mistica

Francesco Monticini, *University of
Roma Tre*

Centre d'études byzantines, EHESS, 2021

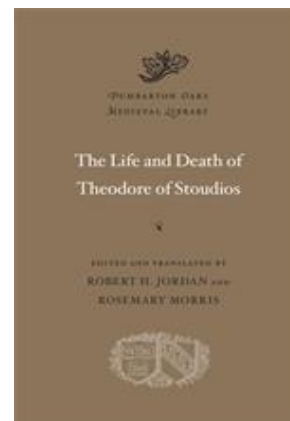


This monograph offers a historical and cultural analysis of the so-called 'Palaiologan Renaissance.' In the author's view, the Byzantines found themselves dealing with a profound identity crisis after the Fourth Crusade. Although Constantinople was reconquered by its former occupants in 1261, it became pressing for the Byzantine ruling class to reconsider its historical-political concept of the Basileia. The author argues that this crisis caused two different reactions: on the one hand, the *fièvre de classicisme* of those scholars calling themselves 'Hellenes;' on the other hand, the mysticism typical of most monastic milieux. The starting point of this investigation is the analysis of a hitherto inedited and anonymous fourteenth-century commentary on Synesius of Cyrene's *On Dreams*. The examination of the Neoplatonic accounts addressed by this work is crucial to an understanding of the core difference between the two reactions to this crisis of the Byzantine Empire.

The Life and Death of Theodore of
Stoudios

Robert H. Jordan, *Queen's University,
Belfast* & Rosemary Morris,
University of York

Harvard University Press, 2021



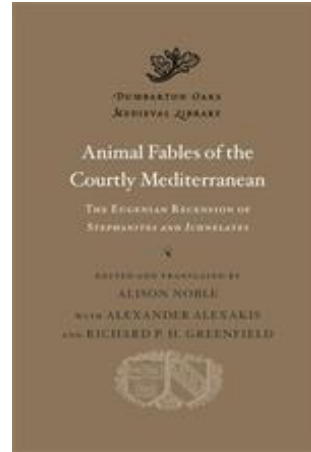
Theodore (750–826), hegoumenos of the influential Monastery of Stoudios in Constantinople, is celebrated as a saint in the Orthodox Church for his defence of icon veneration and for his monastic reforms. Three important texts promoting the monastery and the memory of its founder are collected in *The Life and Death of Theodore of Stoudios*. *The Life of Theodore* by Michael the Monk (the earliest surviving vita) describes a golden age at Stoudios as well as Theodore's often antagonistic encounters with imperial rulers. *The Encyclical Letter of Naukratios*,

written in 826 by Theodore's successor, informed the scattered Stoudites of their leader's death. The Translation and Burial contains brief biographies of Theodore and his brother, Joseph, along with an eyewitness account of the reburial of their remains at Stoudios. They are translated into English for the first time and appear alongside new editions of the Byzantine Greek texts.

[Animal Fables of the Courtly
Mediterranean](#)
[The Eugenic Recension of Stephanites
and Ichneulates](#)

Alison Noble, *Independent Scholar*

Harvard University Press, 2022

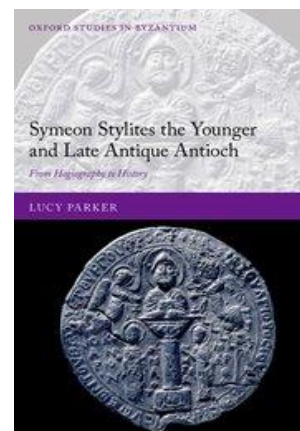


Animal Fables of the Courtly Mediterranean: The Eugenic Recension of Stephanites and Ichneulates presents a Greek text with facing-page English translation of a collection of stories containing lessons on how to succeed in life. These mostly feature animal protagonists, including the two jackals Stephanites and Ichneulates. At the heart of the collection are tales from the Sanskrit *Panchatantra* and *Mahabharata*, to which more stories were added, both at the time when the original Middle Persian version was created in the sixth century, and also when this was translated into Arabic in the eighth-century (the well-known work *Kalīla wa-Dimna*). In the eleventh century, in Constantinople, Symeon Seth created an abbreviated Greek version, translated from the Arabic. The present volume presents a more complete Greek version, originating in twelfth-century Sicily and connected with Admiral Eugenius of Palermo. It contains prefaces only found in this version, and includes the material omitted by Seth.

[Symeon Stylites the Younger and
Late Antique Antioch](#)
[From Hagiography to History](#)

Lucy Parker, *University of Oxford*

Oxford University Press, 2022



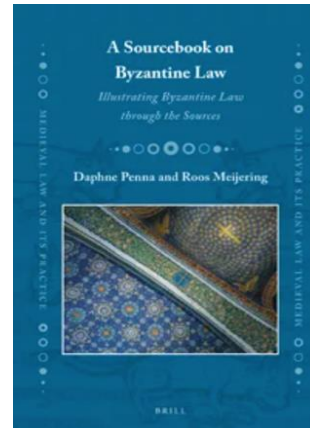
Symeon Stylites the Younger and Late Antique Antioch is a study of the authority of the holy man and its limits in times of crisis. The work focuses on Symeon the Younger (c.521-592), who, from his vantage point on a column on a mountain near

Antioch, witnessed a period of exceptional turbulence in the local area, which, in the sixth century, experienced plague, earthquakes, and Persian invasion. It reveals that the stylite was a divisive figure who played upon social tensions to carve out a role for himself as prophet and spiritual authority in the face of considerable opposition. It sets Symeon's life in the context of Antioch and eastern Roman society, offering a new perspective on the state of the empire before the rise of Islam. It argues that hagiography is an exceptionally rich source for the historian, offering insights into tensions which reached to the heart of Christianity.

[A Sourcebook on Byzantine Law
Illustrating Byzantine Law through the
Sources](#)

Daphne Penna & Roos Meijering,
University of Groningen

BRILL, 2022

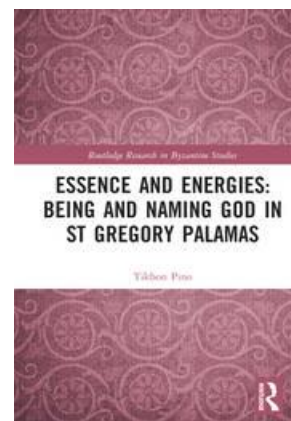


This is the first book in English providing a wide range of Byzantine legal sources. In six chapters, this book explains and illustrates Byzantine law through a selection of fundamental Byzantine legal sources, beginning with the sources before the time of Justinian, and extending up to AD 1453. For all sources English translations are provided next to the original Greek (and Latin) text. In some cases, tables or other features are included that help further elucidate the source and illustrate its nature. The volume offers a clear yet detailed primer to Byzantine law, its sources, and its significance.

[Essence and Energies
Being and Naming God in St Gregory
Palamas](#)

Tikhon Pino, *Holy Cross Greek
Orthodox School of Theology*

Routledge, 2022



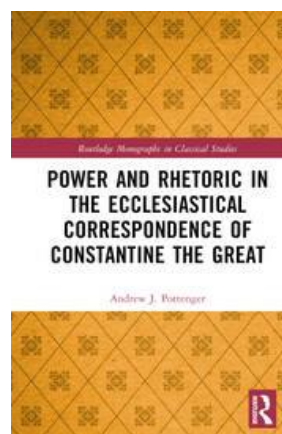
St Gregory Palamas (ca. 1296 – 1357) is remembered especially for his distinction between God's essence and energies, and his celebrated doctrine still generates a great deal of debate. What does Palamas actually mean by the term energies? Are they 'activities' that God performs, and if so, how can they be eternal and uncreated? Indeed, how could God be simple if he possesses energies distinct from his essence? Going beyond the *Triads* and the *One Hundred and Fifty Chapters*,

this book explores Palamas's answers to these long-standing questions by analyzing all of the treatises produced by Palamas between the years 1338 and 1357. It seeks to understand what Palamas means when he speaks of God's energies, how he seeks to prove that they are distinct from the divine essence, and how he explains that this distinction in no way violates the unity and simplicity of the one God in Trinity.

Power and Rhetoric in the Ecclesiastical Correspondence of Constantine the Great

Andrew J. Pottenger, *Nazarene Bible College*

Routledge, 2022



This volume examines patterns of rhetoric in surviving correspondence by Constantine on conflicts among Christians that occurred during his reign. Commonly remembered as the 'first Christian emperor', Constantine's rule sealed an alliance between church and state for over a millennium. His well-known involvement with Christianity led him to engage with two major disputes that divided his Christian subjects: the 'Donatist schism' and 'Arian controversy'. This book examines a number of letters associated with Constantine that directly address both of these disagreements, exploring his point of view and motivations to better understand how and why this emperor applied his power to internal church divisions. Based on a close analysis of prominent themes and their functions in the rhetoric of his correspondence, Pottenger argues that three 'doctrines of power' served to inform and direct Constantine's use of power as he engaged with these problems of schism and heresy.

**De très savants pasteurs
Conceptions et pratiques de l'autorité
épiscopale dans la société byzantine des
XIe-XIIe siècles**

Jack Roskilly, *UMR 8167 Orient et Méditerranée*

Éditions de la Sorbonne, 2022



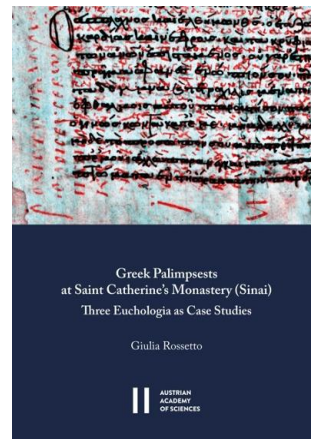
This book studies the Byzantine bishops at a key period of the history of the Empire. The main change is found in the conception of bishop's authority, which relies on their intellectual competence and knowledge. The recruitment of bishops in the highest literate clergy of Constantinople changes the representation of their

authority for an intellectual model which is close to a form of charismatic authority. The education of bishops and the relationships they maintain with the intellectual circles of the capital have many consequences on the government of their diocese. The prelates have taken their function very seriously, despite the growing material and symbolic opposition between the provinces and the capital. They use their intellectual and rhetorical competence to govern their flock, defend the economic and fiscal interests of their diocese and participate in the Church administration at the permanent synod of Constantinople. Their relations with the highest aristocracy are materialized in letters and praises and appear to be crucial in order to lead their government.

[Greek Palimpsests at Saint Catherine's Monastery \(Sinai\)](#)
[Three Euchologia as Case Studies](#)

Giulia Rossetto, *Austrian Academy of Sciences*

Austrian Academy of Sciences Press, 2023

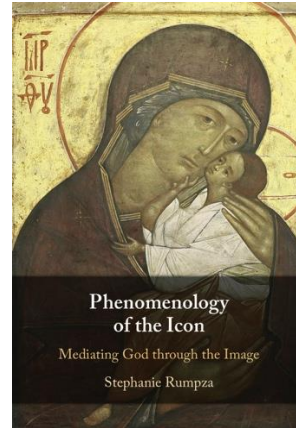


Built in the 6th century by Emperor Justinian, the Monastery of Saint Catherine in the Sinai preserves the oldest Christian monastic library with an uninterrupted history. It houses one of the largest collections of manuscripts in the world. These include a significant number of palimpsest manuscripts, which reflect the long history and the multicultural nature of the Sinai collection. This book lies at the intersection of palimpsest studies and the investigation of the Byzantine Greek Euchologion (prayer book), with an additional focus on the history of the Sinai library. It offers the first full inventory of the Greek palimpsests preserved at Saint Catherine's including a list of newly identified *membra disiecta sinaitica*. The second part contains the detailed description and historical analysis of three Sinai Euchologia written on recycled parchment. This study thus offers new insights into the history and development of the Sinai collection of manuscripts over the centuries.

[Phenomenology of the Icon](#)
[Mediating God through the Image](#)

Stephanie Rumpza, *Sorbonne*
Université

Cambridge University Press, 2023



How can something finite mediate an infinite God? Weaving patristics, theology, art history, aesthetics, and religious practice with the hermeneutic phenomenology of Hans-Georg Gadamer and Jean-Luc Marion, Stephanie Rumpza proposes a new answer to this paradox by offering a fresh and original approach to the Byzantine icon. She demonstrates the power and relevance of the phenomenological method to integrate hermeneutic aesthetics and divine transcendence, illustrating how the material and visual dimensions of the icon are illuminated by traditional practices of prayer. Rumpza's study targets a problem that marks a major fault line in continental philosophy of religion – how to understand the integrity of finite beings in relation to a God that transcends them. For philosophers, her book demonstrates the relevance of a cherished religious practice of Eastern Christianity. For art historians, she proposes a novel philosophical paradigm for understanding the icon as it is approached in practice.

[The Falls of Rome](#)
[Crises, Resilience and Resurgence in](#)
[Late Antiquity](#)

Michele Renee Salzman, *University of*
California at Riverside

Cambridge University Press, 2021



Over the course of the fourth through seventh centuries, Rome witnessed a succession of five significant political and military crises, including the Sack of Rome, the Vandal occupation, and the demise of the Senate. Historians have traditionally considered these crises as defining events, and thus critical to our understanding of the 'decline and fall of Rome.' In this volume, Michele Renee Salzman offers a fresh interpretation of the tumultuous events that occurred in Rome during Late Antiquity. Focusing on the resilience of successive generations of Roman men and women and their ability to reconstitute their city and society, Salzman demonstrates the central role that senatorial aristocracy played, and the limited influence of the papacy during this period. Her provocative study provides

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a new explanation for the longevity of Rome and its ability, not merely to survive, but even to thrive over the last three centuries of the Western Roman Empire.

[Ancient Arms Race](#) [Antiquity's Largest Fortresses and Sasanian Military Networks of Northern Iran](#)

Eberhard Sauer, *University of Edinburgh*, Jebrael Nokandeh, *National Museum of Iran*, and Hamid Omrani Rekavandi, *ICHHTO, Gorgan*

Oxbow, 2022

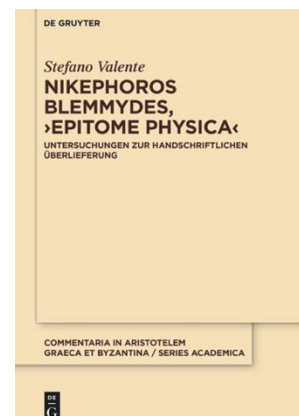


Few realise that Sasanian defensive barriers and fortresses, the latter often covering 40 ha and sometimes even 125–210 ha, dwarf those of the Late Roman state. Persia built up, between the fourth and sixth centuries AD, the most massive military infrastructure of any ancient or medieval Near Eastern empire – if not the ancient and medieval world. Much of the known defensive network was directed against Persia's powerful neighbours in the north. Recent excavations in Iran have enabled us to precision-date two of the largest fortresses of South-west Asia, both larger than any in the Roman world. Excavations in a Gorgan Wall fort have shed much new light on frontier life, and we have unearthed a massive bridge nearby and the terminal of a long wall submerged in the Caspian Sea. Persia's impressive northern defences kept its key assets secure and allowed it to expand whilst Roman territory shrank in size.

[Nikephoros Blemmydes, Epitome physica](#) [Untersuchungen zur handschriftlichen Überlieferung](#)

Stefano Valente, *University of Hamburg*

Walter De Gruyter, 2021

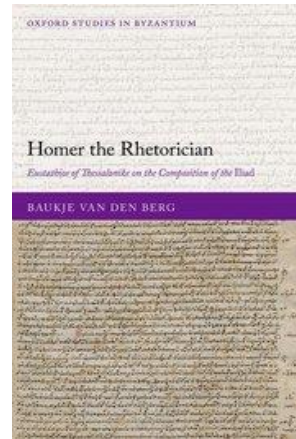


The *Epitome physica* by Nikephoros Blemmydes (1197–after 1269) was one of the most widely disseminated textbooks of Aristotelian natural philosophy in the Byzantine and post-Byzantine worlds. This volume provides a palaeographic, stemmatological and philological examination of the text's history in the Palaeologan Age up to the Renaissance, also delving into the dissemination of the *Epitome physica* in the Byzantine world and in the European Early Renaissance.

Homer the Rhetorician
Eustathios of Thessalonike on the
Composition of the *Iliad*

Baukje van den Berg, *Central*
European University

Oxford University Press, 2022

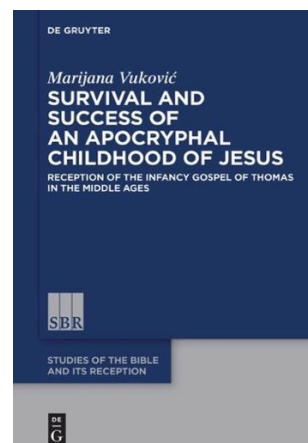


Homer the Rhetorician is the first monograph study devoted to the monumental *Commentary on the Iliad* by Eustathios of Thessalonike, one of the most renowned orators and teachers of the Byzantine twelfth century. Homeric poetry was a fixture in the Byzantine educational curriculum and enjoyed special popularity under the Komnenian emperors. For Eustathios, Homer was the supreme paradigm of eloquence and wisdom. Writing for an audience of aspiring or practising prose writers, he explains in his commentary what it is that makes Homer's composition so successful in rhetorical terms. This study explores the exemplary qualities that Eustathios recognizes in the poet as author and the *Iliad* as rhetorical masterpiece. In this way, it advances our understanding of the rhetorical thought of a leading intellectual and the role of a cultural authority as respected as Homer in one of the most fertile periods in Byzantine literary history.

Survival and Success of an
Apocryphal Childhood of Jesus
Reception of the Infancy Gospel of
Thomas in the Middle Ages

Marijana Vuković, *University of*
Southern Denmark

Walter De Gruyter, 2022

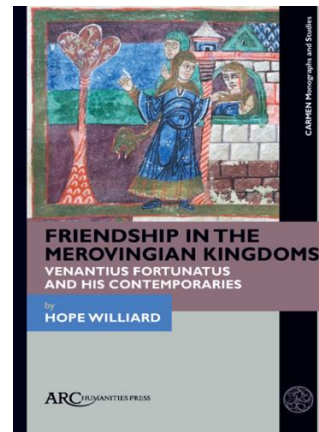


This book discusses the reception of an early Christian apocryphal narrative in the Middle Ages in the Latin West, Byzantium, and the Slavic world. The narrative – the *Infancy Gospel of Thomas* – comprises a series of episodes in which Jesus, a “terrible child,” works miracles, kills, and blinds other children and adults. The book demonstrates (on the example of this text) that the Apocryphal literature – the literature on the margins – has been commonly read in medieval monastic settings; it was, at times, used in the liturgy. The narrative not only survived; moreover, it had a voice in the transfers of ideas and mentalities that shaped medieval minds in the East and the West. The book attests that it also supported the enhancement of anti-Jewish sentiments, the development of Jesus’ image as “more human” and “more child-like,” and the growth of the cult of Mary.

[Friendship in the Merovingian Kingdoms](#)
[Venantius Fortunatus and His Contemporaries](#)

Hope Williard, *University of Lincoln*

ARC Humanities Press, 2022

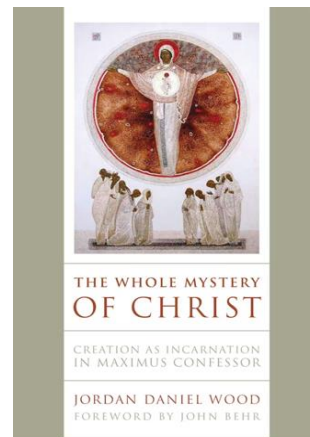


This book explores how one early medieval poet survived and thrived amidst the political turbulence of sixth century Gaul—with a little help from his friends. Born in northern Italy, Venantius Fortunatus made his career writing for and about members of the Merovingian elite. Although he is no longer dismissed as an opportunistic poetaster who wrote undistinguished flattery for undeserving kings and aristocrats, his work remains unduly neglected. This book reframes Fortunatus as a writer uniquely suited to his times, a professional poet who addressed his contemporaries' needs and wishes for the prestige and sophistication of Classical culture. His writings enabled his aristocratic patrons to situate themselves in networks, which they made and maintained in order to navigate a post-imperial but not post-Roman world. It makes an important contribution to our understanding of friendship in the Middle Ages and offers a fresh look at the Frankish kingdoms of Merovingian Gaul.

[The Whole Mystery of Christ](#)
[Creation as Incarnation in Maximus Confessor](#)

Jordan Daniel Wood, *Independent Scholar*

University of Notre Dame Press, 2022



This book seeks to understand the relationship between God's act of creation and Incarnation by offering an extensive and original interpretation to Maximus's declaration that "The Word of God, very God, wills always and in all things to actualize the mystery of his Incarnation" (*Amb* 7.22). Wood argues that for Maximus creation and Incarnation are two aspects of God's single act of being God. That theological vision forms an illuminating horizon under which Wood reassesses a host of major themes in Maximus's writings: Christology proper, protology, participation, deification, nature and grace, the Body of Christ, the Fall, the spiritual life and its practices, and the relation between time and the Incarnation, among others. What emerges is a new appreciation and ramification

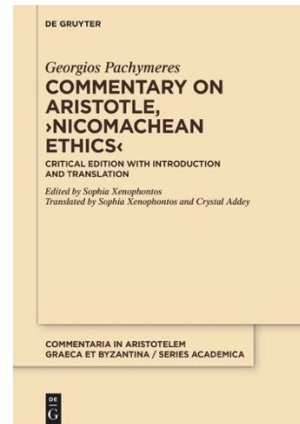
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of Maximus's singularly synthetic mind, perhaps unparalleled in the patristic era, a presentation intent on making Maximus's vision as viable and necessary for our age as it was since his own.

Georgios Pachymeres.
Commentary on Aristotle,
Nicomachean Ethics
Critical Edition with Introduction and
Translation

Sophia Xenophontos, *Aristotle*
University of Thessaloniki

Walter De Gruyter, 2022

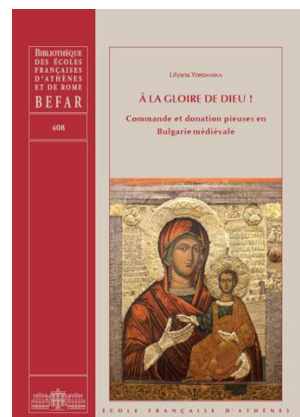


The Greek commentary tradition devoted to explicating Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics* (*NE*) was extensive. It began in antiquity with Aspasius and reached a point of immense sophistication in the twelfth century with the commentaries of Eustratius of Nicaea and Michael of Ephesus, which primarily served educational purposes. The use of Aristotle's ethics in the classroom continued into the late Byzantine period, but until recently scholastic use of the *NE* was known mostly through George Pachymeres' epitome of the *NE* (Book 11 of his *Philosophia*). This volume radically changes the landscape by providing the *editio princeps* of the last surviving exegetical commentary on the *NE* *stricto sensu*, also penned by Pachymeres. This represents a new witness to the importance of Aristotelian studies in the cultural revival of late Byzantium. The *editio princeps* is accompanied by an English translation and a thorough introduction, which offers an informed reading of the commentary's genre and layout, relationship to its sources, exegetical strategies, and philosophical originality. This book also includes the edition of diagrams and scholia accompanying Pachymeres' exegesis, whose paratextual function is key to a full understanding of the work.

À la gloire de Dieu !
Commande et donation pieuses en
Bulgarie médiévale, XIIe-XVe s.

Lilyana Yordanova, *École française*
d'Athènes

Éditions de l'École française d'Athènes, 2023

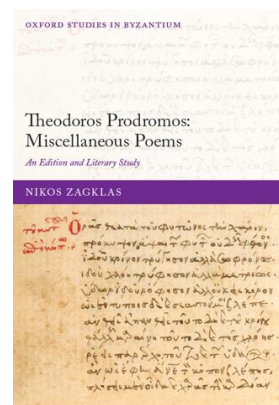


This book offers the first comprehensive study of pious patronage in Medieval Bulgaria as a social phenomenon. It assesses the mechanisms of gift-giving during the 12th-15th centuries, its complexities and periods of growth and crisis, at a time when Bulgarian lands were incorporated successively within the Byzantine, Second Bulgarian and Ottoman Empires. The book further explores the role of pious patronage in shaping space, Church and society, and how in turn it has been conditioned by them, in a process of continuous transformation and adaptation. An extensive corpus of monuments, religious objects, manuscripts and legal sources, some of which hitherto neglected, has been used for the purpose. Scrupulously documented, translated and examined anew, this material informs not only on the magnanimity of the elite, and the rise in power of the clergy, but it also sheds light on modest forms of generosity, thus amplifying our knowledge about the agency of pious patronage in the Late Middle Ages.

[Theodoros Prodromos](#)
[Miscellaneous Poems](#)
[An Edition and Literary Study](#)

Nikolaos Zagklas, *University of Vienna*

Oxford University Press, 2023

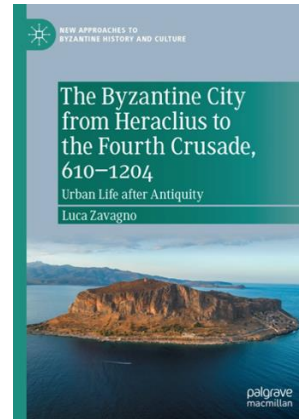


In twelfth-century Byzantium, poetry played a key part in various contexts of textual production and consumption. One of the leading poets of this period was Theodoros Prodromos, whose surviving corpus comprises approximately 17,000 verses. Even though most of his poetry has been presented in modern critical editions, a group of his works has been overlooked by modern philologists and literary scholars alike. This corpus conventionally designated as *Miscellaneous Poems* consists of texts on various themes and in a wide range of genres. This book includes the first critical edition of these poems, accompanied by English translations and commentaries. Their study provides entirely new insights into Prodromos' activity in the different settings of Constantinopolitan intellectual life. It also sheds new light on the complex relationship between patronage and other aspects of literary activity and the circulation of the same text in different performative contexts.

**The Byzantine City from
Heraclius to the Fourth Crusade,
610–1204
Urban Life after Antiquity**

Luca Zavagno, *Bilkent University*

Palgrave Macmillan, 2021



The book sums up the nature and characteristics of the changes in urbanism in Byzantium from the inception of the Orthodox Empire to 1204. It presents the reader with variations (in regional and sub-regional terms) which allow us to sketch different trajectories of development for the cities of the Byzantine empire across six centuries. They should be pitted against each other to understand how different local needs produced different multifunctional real “urban” answers to the problems and challenges which presented themselves along with the ebbs and flows of the history of *an Empire that would not die* and indeed managed to navigate through *streams of gold and rivers of blood* until it fell (but not for the last time) with the Fourth Crusade and the sack of Constantinople by the hands of the Franks and the Venetians.