

The Commission for Byzantine Epigraphy
Association Internationale des Études Byzantines – AIEB
24th International Congress of Byzantine Studies
Venice – Padua, 22-27 August 2022

Report of the Chair

1. The meeting of the Commission for Byzantine Epigraphy was held on 25 August 2022 in Padua.

The updated list of members was acknowledged. It is as follows:

Denis Feissel
Sophia Kalopissi- Verti
Bojan Miljković
Emmanuel Moutafov
Katerina Nikolaou
Andreas Rhoby
Charlotte Roueché
Mustafa Sayar
Peter Schreiner
Claudia Sode
Ida Toth (Chair from 2022)
Georgios Velenis
Andrey Vinogradov

The members of the Commission discussed progress in the field of Byzantine Epigraphy in the period 2018-2022. They concluded that the list of activities was very impressive, and that it bode well for the future of the discipline.

2. *Studies in Byzantine Epigraphy* (Brepols)

The idea of creating a publication platform for presenting and examining Byzantine inscriptional material was realized in 2019, when the Commission established a series *Studies in Byzantine Epigraphy* (SBE) with Peter Schreiner as its founder and Andreas Rhoby and Ida Toth as co-editors. This initiative was generously supported and funded by the AIEB. Brepols Publishers provided a welcoming home and pledged to promote excellence

and innovation in the modern scholarship of Byzantine Epigraphy. The SBE is envisioned as a scholarly hub for a wide range of publications: editions of Byzantine inscriptional material, monographs on specific aspects of Byzantine epigraphic culture, and collective volumes with contributions to individual epigraphic themes. It aims to create an outstanding academic resource exploring new avenues of research and setting agendas for the future of the discipline. The ambition is to open the field to scholars in related disciplines, such as history, art history, and literature, and to reach out to a wider readership in classical, medieval, and early modern studies.

The first volume of the Studies in Byzantine Epigraphy is due to be published in autumn 2022: <https://www.brepols.net/products/IS-9782503590226-1>

This volume includes selected papers from the two panels dedicated to Byzantine Epigraphy held at the 23rd International Congress of Byzantine Studies in Belgrade, August 2016, and the 15th International Congress of Greek and Latin Epigraphy in Vienna, August/September 2017.

3. Activities in the field of Byzantine Epigraphy (2018-2022)

-With the inclusion of the discipline of Byzantine Epigraphy in the programme of the *Union Académique Internationale*, the field has gained a strong institutional support. This initiative is led by A. Rhoby on behalf of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, and it connects the following Academies, universities and their representatives:

- Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres (D. Feissel);
- Accademia dei Lincei (G. Cavallo);
- Akademia Athenon (O. Karagiorgou, Chr. Maltezou);
- Bulgarskata Akademija na Naukite (E. Moutafov);
- The British Academy (St. Mitchell);
- Athens University (G. Pallis);
- Bari University (A. Felle);
- Higher School of Economics, Moscow (A. Vinogradov);
- Istanbul University (M. Sayar);
- Oxford University (I. Toth).

-Despite many difficulties caused by the pandemic, epigraphic scholarship continued to be published. Significant contributions to the field have been made by P. Nowakowski, *Inscribing the Saints in Late Antique Anatolia* (Warsaw 2018); M. Lauxtermann and I. Toth, eds. *Inscribing Texts in Byzantium. Continuities and Transformations* (Routledge 2020); I. Toth and A. Rhoby, eds., *Materials for the Study of Late Antique and Medieval Greek and Latin Inscriptions in Istanbul. A Revised and Expanded Booklet* (Oxford and Vienna 2020); B. Ward-Perkins and A. E. Felle, eds., *Cultic Graffiti in the Late Antique Mediterranean and Beyond* (Turnhout, 2021), A. Rhoby, ed., *Global Epigraphy II. Perception and Representation of the Foreign* (Medieval Worlds. Comparative & Interdisciplinary Studies, Volume 16, 2022); E. Moutafov, *The Metropolitan Cathedral of St Stephen in Nessebar and Its Artistic Circle: Cultural Context, Intertextuality and Intervisuality* (Sofia 2022).

-Events dedicated to Byzantine Epigraphy have included: The Summer Programme in Byzantine Epigraphy, Istanbul 2018 (organised by Andreas Rhoby and Ida Toth); the online conference on Current Trends in (Digital) Epigraphy 2021 (organised by Claudia Sode and Dimiter Iliev); *The Graphic Signs in the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, Jerusalem 2022*; (organised by Estelle Ingrand-Varenne and Clément Dussart); The Round Table and Thematic Session at the 24th International Congress of Byzantine Studies on Constantinopolitan Epigraphic Traditions, Venice/Padua 2022 (organised by Andreas Rhoby and Ida Toth).

-Newly funded projects:

- Andreas Rhoby and Arkadiy Avdokhin, *Epigraphies of Pious Travel* (The Russian Foundation for Basic research (RFBR) and The Austrian Science Fund (FWF));
- Estelle Ingrand-Varenne, *GraphEast: Latin as an Alien Script in the Medieval 'Latin East'* (ERC Starting grant);
- Pawel Nowakowski, *Epigraphy and Identity in the Early Byzantine Near East* (The National Science Centre, Poland);

- Pawel Nowakowski, Masters of the Stone. The Stonecutters' Workshops and the Rise of Late Antique Epigraphical Cultures (AD 3rd-5th centuries), (ERC Starting grant);
- Emmanuel Moutafov, Corpus of the 16th century mural paintings in Bulgaria: Greek and Cyrillic Inscriptions (The Bulgarian Ministry of Education and Research);
- Maria Parani, A Digital Corpus of Painted Greek Inscriptions from Medieval Cyprus (The University of Cyprus Internal Research Programme);
- Claudia Sode, Seals and Digital Humanities (SigiDoc); Creating a Sustainable Digital Infrastructure for Research-Based Teaching in Byzantine Studies (DiBS) (Volkswagenstiftung).

4. Plans for 2022-2024

Our aim is to continue strengthening networks among a wide spectrum of specialists in Byzantine Epigraphy, and to carry on inspiring, supporting and organising scholarly events, training sessions, and publication projects.