

Belgrade, 25 August 2016

To the International Association of Byzantine Studies (AIEB)

PROPOSAL FOR THE REVIVAL OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE HISTORY OF BYZANTINE ART
WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE AIEB

In the present difficult environment, when research posts and university chairs dedicated to Byzantine Art worldwide are becoming fewer and struggling to survive, it is more important than ever to coordinate our efforts to promote knowledge and the rehabilitation of Byzantine Art and its study. For this reason, we believe it is important to revive the Committee for the History of Byzantine Art within the framework of the International Association of Byzantine Studies.

The primary aim of such an international Committee under the auspices of AIEB would be the co-ordination of efforts for the promotion and advance of the study of Byzantine Art and the dissemination of knowledge not only among Byzantinists but also the wider community of mediaeval art historians East and West. More specifically, the Committee will work towards

1. The development of research and educational tools
2. The collection and the dissemination of information drawn from various research projects whose outcome, though significant, at present, remains scattered and therefore relatively unexploited
3. The fostering of international and interdisciplinary collaboration between scholars, institutions and initiatives active in the field.

Such initiatives to create research and teaching tools and provide access to important data, linking people and places across the world, are highly valued today and can secure funding grants from various sources internationally.

As a first step towards achieving our goals, we propose the creation of an open-access web portal where electronic material on Byzantine art and material culture will be gathered, organized and be made easily accessible to all. Such a much-needed resource will serve as a valuable research and teaching resource, and as a means for updates, communication, and scientific collaboration.

Other future initiatives could include:

- The creation of a data-base with technical analyses of the materials and technology of Byzantine icons, wall paintings, mosaics, metalware, etc.
- The compilation of a multilingual lexicon of terms of Byzantine painting, the minor arts, etc. (comparable to that for architecture, the *Multilingual Illustrated Dictionary of Byzantine Architecture and Sculpture Terminology*)

We believe that the time is ripe for the revival of the International Committee of the History of Byzantine Art under AIEB to address effectively the serious challenges facing the field in the 21st century.

Yours sincerely,

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