

**THE COMMISSION FOR BYZANTINE EPIGRAPHY**  
*Association Internationale des Études Byzantines – AIEB*  
Inter-Congress Meeting  
Athens, 12-13 April 2024

**REPORT OF THE CHAIR FOR THE PERIOD 2022-24**  
(Ida Toth)

**CURRENT MEMBERSHIP:**

Denis Feissel (France)  
Sophia Kalopissi- Verti (Greece)  
Bojan Miljković (Serbia)  
Emmanuel Moutafov (Bulgaria)  
Katerina Nikolaou (Greece)  
Andreas Rhoby (Austria)  
Charlotte Roueché (UK)  
Mustafa Sayar (Turkey)  
Peter Schreiner (Germany)  
Claudia Sode (Germany)  
Ida Toth, Chair from 2022 (UK)  
Georgios Velenis (Greece)  
Andrey Vinogradov (Russia)

**ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF BYZANTINE EPIGRAPHY (2022-2024)**

**1. Events dedicated to Byzantine Epigraphy:**

**Conferences and Workshops:**

- ‘In Stein gemeißelt – aus Gold gesetzt. Schrift im Kirchenraum – der lateinische Westen und griechische Osten im Vergleich’, 6-7 October 2022, Heidelberg (Germany), organised by Solvejg Langer and Franziska Wenig
- ‘Inscriptions as Networks and Entanglements in the Medieval Eastern Mediterranean’ Sponsor: *ERC GRAPH-EAST: Latin as an Alien Script in the Medieval Latin East*, Centre d’études supérieures de civilisation médiévale, Medieval Congress July 2023, Leeds (UK)
- ‘Les graffitis médiévaux: de Marmande à Bethléem, restaurer, étudier valoriser’, 13 octobre 2023, Poitiers (France), organised by Clément Dussart, Estelle Ingrand-Varenne, and Véronique Kleiner
- ‘Stonecutters and Mosaicists at Work: Identifying Craftspeople and Their Workshops Through the Lens of Epigraphy’, 30 November-1 December 2023, Warsaw (Poland), organised by Pawel Nowakowski
- ‘Epigraphies of Pious Travel: Three Thousand Years of Pilgrimage Graffiti (1500 BC–1500 AD)’, 24-26 January 2024, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna (Austria), organised by Rachael Helen Banes

Forthcoming:

- ‘Multilingual Textual Display in Urban Public Spaces, Workshop’, Cyprus 2025, (co-organised by Estelle Ingrand-Varenne, Pawel Nowakowski, Andreas Rhoby, Ida Toth)

- The Round Table and Thematic Session ‘Epigraphic Diversities: Byzantine Inscriptions from Comparative and Cross-Cultural Perspectives’, 25th International Congress of Byzantine Studies, Vienna 2026 (proposal submitted by Pawel Nowakowski, Arietta Papaconstantinou and Ida Toth)

### **Training Programmes:**

- Advanced Summer Programme ‘Byzantine Epigraphy *in situ*’ The Centre for Excellence ‘Heritage BG’, Nessebar, Bulgaria, 12-15 September 2023: <https://phd-edu.nasledstvo.bg/>. Co-convened by Emmanuel Moutafov, Andreas Rhoby, Ida Toth; with contributions from Antonio Felle and Georgios Pallis: training programme to doctoral and early-career scholars, who wished to gain experience in using epigraphic material for research. The aim of the course was to advance the knowledge of medieval and early modern Greek inscriptional culture and its contributions to the overall heritage of Byzantium and the Balkans. The course provided a unique opportunity to read, examine, and interpret inscriptions *in situ*, that is, in their architectural, iconographic, liturgical, art-historical, social, and cultural contexts.
- ‘Digital Approaches to Post-Byzantine Inscriptions’, 4–7 December, 2023, Cologne, Germany (and online): <https://currentepigraphy.org/2023/07/24/digital-approaches-to-post-byzantine-inscriptions-dec-4-7-2023-koln/>. Led by Tsvetan Vasilev and Dimitar Iliev: an introduction to the fascinating world of post-Byzantine church murals and their accompanying texts. Topics covered included the place of the text in the iconographic programme of an Orthodox religious building, text reuse and intertextuality, church inscriptions as a part of cultural code and group identity on the Balkans during the Ottoman period, language contact and multilingualism. Participants were also introduced to the digital methods of encoding and visualisation of such inscriptions, including EpiDoc XML, front-end tools, indices, and authority files.
- ‘Inscriptions in a Digital Environment: An Introduction to EpiDoc for Byzantinists’ (online) 5, 12, 26 April 2024: <https://maryjahariscenter.org/events/inscriptions-in-a-digital-environment>. Organised by Martina Filosa: participants will explore the use of EpiDoc, the established standard for digitally encoding ancient inscriptions, papyri, and other primary and documentary texts in TEI XML for online publication and interchange. The workshop will include asynchronous tutorials, real-time sessions, and guided hands-on exercises. Participants will have the opportunity to work with their own epigraphic material, broadly understood.
- ‘The Summer School in Medieval Epigraphy’, 8-12 July 2024, Centre d’études supérieures de civilisation médiévale in Poitiers, France: <https://grapheast.hypotheses.org/3019>. Organized by the ERC GRAPH-EAST team: training programme to doctoral and early-career scholars, who wish to gain experience using epigraphic materials for research. The aims of the course are to provide theoretical and practical training in epigraphy so that medieval inscriptions and graffiti can be identified, read, used, and preserved.

### **2. Publications:**

E. Angliker, I. Bultrighini, eds., *New Approaches to the Materiality of Text in the Ancient Mediterranean from Monuments and Buildings to Small Portable Objects*, Turhout 2023

Y. Minets and P. Nowakowski, eds., *Shaping Letters, Shaping Communities: Multilingualism and Linguistic Practice in the Late Antique Near East and Egypt*, Leiden 2023

E. Moutafov, *The Metropolitan Cathedral of St Stephen in Nessebar and Its Artistic Circle: Cultural Context, Intertextuality and Intervisuality*, Sofia 2022

A. Rhoby, ed., ‘Global Epigraphy II. Perception and Representation of the Foreign’, in: *Medieval Worlds. Comparative & Interdisciplinary Studies*, Volume 16 (2022)

L. Di Segni, *An Introduction to Late Antique Epigraphy in the Holy Land*, Milan 2022

A. Sitz, *Pagan Inscriptions, Christian Viewers. The Afterlives of Temples and Their Texts in the Late Antique Eastern Mediterranean*, New York 2023

N. Zarras, *Ideology and Patronage in Byzantium - Dedicatory Inscriptions and Patron Images from Middle Byzantine Macedonia and Thrace*, Turnhout 2023

Forthcoming:

V. Tsamakda, *Greek Inscriptions of Crete, 13th-17th centuries* (with palaeographic and philological commentaries by A. Rhoby), completion expected by the end of 2024.

***Studies in Byzantine Epigraphy (Brepols)***

The Commission for Byzantine Epigraphy established the series *Studies in Byzantine Epigraphy* (SBE) in 2019 with Andreas Rhoby and Ida Toth serving as commissioning editors. This initiative was supported and funded by the AIEB. 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 topics.

Published:

A. Rhoby, I. Toth, eds., *Studies in Byzantine Epigraphy*, vol. 1, Turnhout 2022  
<https://www.brepols.net/products/IS-9782503590226-1>

Commissioned:

G. Agosti and I. Tantillo eds., *Iscrizioni metriche nel tardo impero romano: società, politica e cultura fra Oriente e Occidente*, *Studies in Byzantine Epigraphy*, vol. 2 (2025)

I. Toth and A. Rhoby, eds., *Constantinople Inscribed: Epigraphic Habits in the Imperial City from Antiquity to the Ottoman Period*, *Studies in Byzantine Epigraphy*, vol. 3 (2025)

P. Nowakowski, ed., *Stonecutters and Mosaicists at Work: Identifying Craftspeople and Their Workshops Through the Lens of Epigraphy*, *Studies in Byzantine Epigraphy*, vol. 4 (2026)

S. Langer and F. Wenig, eds., *In Stein gemeißelt – aus Gold gesetzt. Schrift im Kirchenraum – der lateinische Westen und griechische Osten im Vergleich*, *Studies in Byzantine Epigraphy*, vol. 5 (2026)

**3. Ongoing epigraphy projects:**

- Andreas Rhoby and Arkadiy Avdokhin, Epigraphies of Pious Travel (The Austrian Science Fund (FWF) and the Russian Foundation for Basic Research (RFBR))  
<https://www.oeaw.ac.at/byzanz/gesellschaft-und-landschaft/epigraphik/epigraphies-of-pious-travel>
- Estelle Ingrand-Varenne, GraphEast: Latin as an Alien Script in the Medieval 'Latin East' (ERC Starting grant): <https://grapheast.hypotheses.org/>
- Pawel Nowakowski, Masters of the Stone. The Stonecutters' Workshops and the Rise of Late Antique Epigraphical Cultures (AD 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> centuries), (ERC Starting grant): <https://stonemasters.uw.edu.pl/>

- 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): <https://ifa.phil-fak.uni-koeln.de/en/forschung/byzantinistik-und-neugriechische-philologie-forschung/drittmittel-projekte/dibs-digital-byzantine-studies>

#### **4. Aims for 2022-2024**

- To inspire, support, and organise scholarly events, training sessions, and publication projects;
- To build networks and encourage collaborations among specialists in Byzantine Epigraphy;
- To investigate the possibility of collaborating with the existing AIEB commissions;
- To explore new avenues of research and set agendas for the future of the discipline, especially regarding the meaningful and productive application of digital and AI technologies to epigraphic scholarship;
- To open the field to scholars in related disciplines, such as history, art history, and literature, and to reach out to academics in classical, medieval, and early modern studies;