



24th
International Congress
of Byzantine Studies
VENICE AND PADUA, 22-27 AUGUST 2022

Abstracts of the Free Communications, Thematic Sessions, Round Tables and Posters



Edizioni
Ca' Foscari



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**The 24th International Congress
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Proceedings

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Antonio Rigo

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**Abstract of the Free Communications,
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FC	Free Communication
PO	Poster
RT	Round Table
TS	Thematic Session

of the church father's life in a high rhetorical style. Geometres glorifies his favorite literary exemplar, while at the same time he expresses his personal views on a variety of rhetorical and philosophical issues. The purpose of my talk is to analyze the manuscript context, the ideas, the literary sources, the rhetorical style and overall the function of the *encomium* through illustrative specimens of my text's edition. This presentation will bring to light an important unpublished text and it will provide a new insight into Geometres' activity as a rhetor and hagiographer. It will also broaden our knowledge on the reception of Gregory of Nazianzus in Byzantium.

“Host of the King of Heaven” Armed Holy Protectors in Medieval Serbian Art

Marka Tomić
Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Belgrade

TS

A special place in the pantheon of saints venerated among the medieval Serbs belonged to those whose protective powers had been affirmed in their military triumphs – the most famous of warrior saints and the bodiless *archistrategoï* of the heavenly host – the holy archangels Michael and Gabriel. The objective of this paper is to present the iconographic corpus of holy warriors in old Serbian art. It aims to offer an insight into the appearance, manner of representation, place and importance ascribed to soldier saints and the archangels Gabriel and Michael in the thematic programs of Serbian churches.

The End of Pagan Sanctuaries in Thrace

Ivo Topalilov
Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia

FC

It is accepted that the end of the pagan sanctuaries in Thrace is connected with the religious rage of the Christians to the pagan structures. With this Thrace joined such regions as Egypt, Syria and Palestine. The archaeology reveals, however, that the process was more complex and the violent end of a huge number of sanctuaries in Thrace valley and the outskirts that are dated to the time of Valens and Theodosius, and those in western Thrace that met their end in the 40s of 5th century was due to vast barbarian invasions tried to destroy the Roman world and the imperial infrastructure in the region.

Dal cavallo all'elefante Percorsi iconografici e deviazioni 'esotiche' nell'immaginario bizantino del potere

Andrea Torno Ginnasi
University of Milan

FC

L'intervento concerne l'immagine del sovrano sul carro trainato dagli elefanti nell'arte proto-bizantina in rapporto al dato materiale e testuale. Il tema compare già nel repertorio classico per scene di apoteosi imperiale e concorre alla celebrazione della vastità geografica dei successi militari, configurandosi come declinazione 'esotica' della più consueta tipologia equestre. Oltre al significato ideologico

dell'elefante nell'immaginario del potere, sarà valutata la diffusione del soggetto in relazione ai cerimoniali del trionfo che, come per il coinvolgimento del cavallo, trovano nello spazio ritualizzato dell'ippodromo la sede privilegiata.

Hungarians in the *Chronicle of Morea*

Ábel Török

Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest

FC

The presentation examines the role and perception of Hungarians in the *Chronicle of Morea*. It presents the passages in which the *Chronicle* mentions the Hungarian people or the Kingdom of Hungary, and compares them with passages in other contemporary literary and historical works in Old French and Byzantine Greek that also mention Hungarians. It proposes a solution to the question of why the *Chronicle* speaks of the Hungarians – who were generally close to Byzantium and helped the successor states of the Byzantine Empire – in a more laudatory tone and in more praiseworthy terms than other contemporary sources closer to the Hungarians: the reason for this is to be found primarily in the reputation of Béla III's daughter Margaret and her grandchildren, the Saint-Omer brothers.

Echoes of a Divine Harmony Sound, Emotion and *Taxis* in Procession Rituals

Marie-Emmanuelle Torres

CNRS, UMR 7298 "LA3M"; Aix-Marseille University

FC

This paper will question the function of sound in processions, using both literary and historical sources. It will examine how sound is used to create multi-part unity. By giving each group a specific sound, a procession summons, organizes and harmonizes all the classes of the society. By moving through the urban space, it creates a bridge between the aulic, sacred and collective areas. By performing a collective harmony through soundscape, it brings the earth and the heavens into resonance. By perpetuating rituals which have been performed since the beginning, it creates a sense of historical continuity and serves Byzantine collective memory.

To Feel Divine Authority Sound, Space and Performance in Byzantine Imperial Coronations

Marie-Emmanuelle Torres

CNRS, UMR 7298 "LA3M"; Aix-Marseille University

TS

This paper will contribute to the round table by studying the aural performance/experience of Byzantine imperial coronations. This ritual gesture confirms the emperor who has already been created through collective acclamation. However, under the extraordinary cupola of Hagia Sophia, the coronation offers a sensory experience of God's choice and harmony. In this acoustic-enhanced space, the singers' voices bring earth and heaven closer into one celebration. The community is structured, unified and invited to participate in this theophany from afar. The Emperor remains silent to fully assume his role as earthly lieutenant.