

3rd ONLINE ATHENS-
EDINBURGH BYZANTINE
BOOK FESTIVAL
REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

30-31 May 2025



HELLENIC REPUBLIC
**National and Kapodistrian
University of Athens**

EST. 1837



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH

MBurg. Transf. et fulps.

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 [3rd Online Athens-Edinburgh Byzantine Book Festival](#) includes volumes published in 2023 and 2024, and forthcoming books with an estimated publication date no later than June 2025. It features monographs published in English, French, and Italian.

FORMAT & RECORDING

Each session is intended to last 20 minutes. All presentations will be in English. Fellow scholars acting as chairs will provide a short introduction of no more than 2 minutes for the author and their book, which will be followed by the author's presentation, lasting up to 8 minutes. This will leave time in the second part of the session for a 10-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 +01:00)**.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank Niels Gaul for encouraging us to proceed with the organising of the 3rd Online Athens-Edinburgh Byzantine Book Festival. We are also grateful to the Centre for Late Antique, Islamic and Byzantine Studies (University of Edinburgh) and the Department of History and Philosophy of Science (National and Kapodistrian University of Athens) for co-hosting the event. 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, our 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, Lucas Butler, and Callum Hendleman

PROGRAMME

3rd ONLINE EDINBURGH BYZANTINE BOOK FESTIVAL 2025

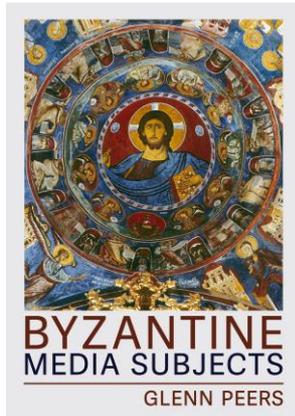
Friday 30th May

UK Time (BST +01:00)

12:50 Introduction

13:00 – 13:20

Byzantine Media Subjects

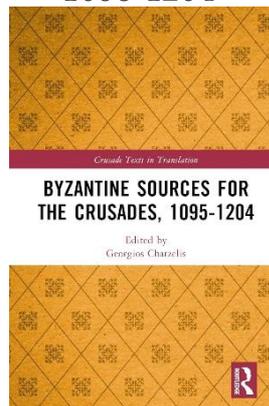


Cornell University Press, 2024

Glenn Peers, *University of Texas at Austin, Syracuse University*
Chair: Donato Loia, *School of the Art Institute of Chicago*

13:40 – 14:00

Byzantine Sources for the Crusades,
1095-1204

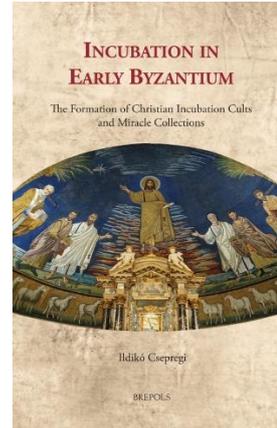


Routledge, 2025

Georgios Chatzelis (with Jonathan Harris), *Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Democritus University of Thrace, Hellenic Open University*
Chair: Nicholas Morton, *Nottingham Trent University*

13:20 – 13:40

Incubation in Early Byzantium
The Formation of Christian Incubation
Cults and Miracle Collections

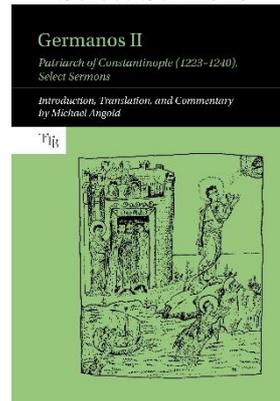


Brepols, 2024

Ildikó Csepregi, *University of Santiago de Compostela*
Chair: Petros Bouras-Vallianatos, *National and Kapodistrian University of Athens*

14:00 – 14:20

Germanos II, Patriarch of
Constantinople (1223-1240)
Select Sermons



Liverpool University Press, 2024

Michael Angold, *University of Edinburgh*
Chair: Judith Ryder, *University of Oxford*

14:20 – 14:30 Short Break

3rd ONLINE EDINBURGH BYZANTINE BOOK FESTIVAL 2025

Friday 30th May

UK Time (BST +01:00)

14:30 – 14:50

The Art of Dining in Medieval
Byzantium



THE ART OF DINING IN
MEDIEVAL BYZANTIUM

Lara Frentrop



Routledge, 2023

Lara Frentrop, *Heidelberg University*
Chair: Liz James, *University of Sussex*

14:50 – 15:10

The Sion Treasure Reconsidered
The Biographies and Multivalence of Sacred
Silver Objects in Sixth-Century Byzantium



THE SION TREASURE
RECONSIDERED

THE BIOGRAPHIES AND MULTIVALENCE OF SACRED
SILVER OBJECTS IN SIXTH-CENTURY BYZANTIUM

Ahmet Ari



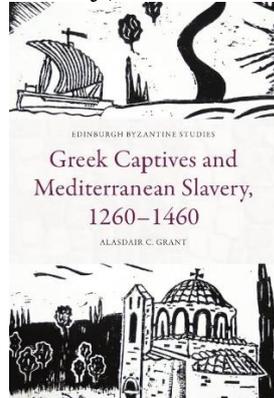
Routledge, 2024

Ahmet Ari, *Neveshir Haci Bektas
Veli University*

Chair: Liz James, *University of
Sussex*

15:10 – 15:30

Greek Captives and Mediterranean
Slavery, 1260–1460



Greek Captives and
Mediterranean Slavery,
1260–1460

ALASDAIR C. GRANT

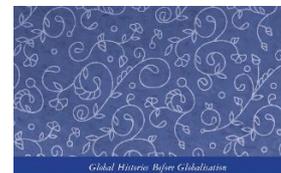
Edinburgh University Press, 2024

Alasdair Grant, *University of Hamburg,
Johannes Gutenberg University of
Mainz*

Chair: Mike Carr, *University of
Edinburgh*

15:30 – 15:50

Byzantine Ideas of Persia, 650–1461



BYZANTINE IDEAS OF
PERSIA, 650–1461

Rustam Shukurov



Routledge, 2023

Rustam Shukurov, *Austrian
Academy of Sciences*

Chair: Tim Greenwood, *University of
St Andrews*

15:50 – 16:00 Short Break

3rd ONLINE EDINBURGH BYZANTINE BOOK FESTIVAL 2025

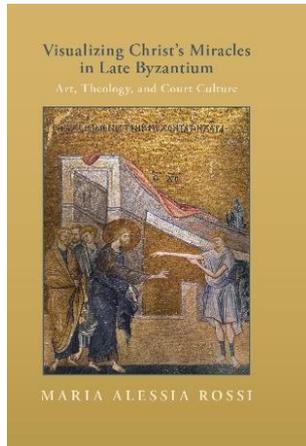
Friday 30th May

UK Time (BST +01:00)

16:00 – 16:20

Visualizing Christ's Miracles in Late
Byzantium

Art, Theology, and Court Culture



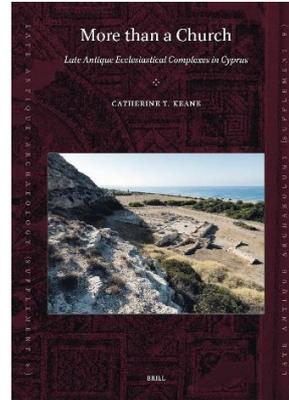
Cambridge University Press, 2024

Maria Alessia Rossi, *Princeton
University*

Chair: Maria Parani, *University of
Cyprus*

16:20 – 16:40

More Than a Church
Late Antique Ecclesiastical Complexes in
Cyprus



Brill, 2024

Catherine T. Keane, *University of
Tübingen*

Chair: Alkiviadis Ginalis, *German
Archaeological Institute*

3rd ONLINE EDINBURGH BYZANTINE BOOK FESTIVAL 2025

Saturday 31st May

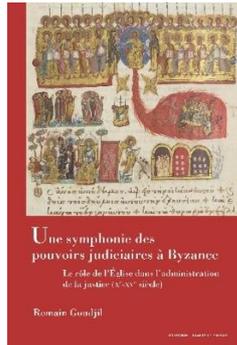
UK Time (BST +01:00)

13:00 – 13:20

Une symphonie des pouvoirs judiciaires
à Byzance

Le rôle de l'Église dans l'administration de la
justice (Xe-XVe siècle)

[*A Symphony of Judicial Powers in Byzantium: The Role of
the Church in the Administration of Justice (10th-15th
centuries)*]



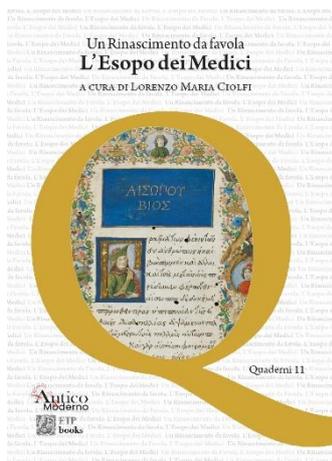
Sorbonne University Press, 2024

Romain Goudjil, *Sorbonne University*
Chair: Benoit Cantet, *Sorbonne
University*

13:40 – 14:00

Un Rinascimento da favola
L'Esopo dei Medici

[*A Fairy-tale Renaissance: The Medici Aesop*]



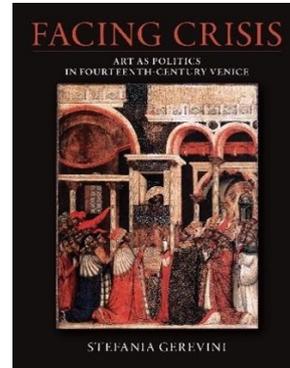
ETPbooks, 2025

Lorenzo Maria Ciolfi, *Complutense
University of Madrid*
Chair: Przemyslaw Marciniak,
University of Silesia

13:20 – 13:40

Facing Crisis

Art as Politics in Fourteenth-Century
Venice



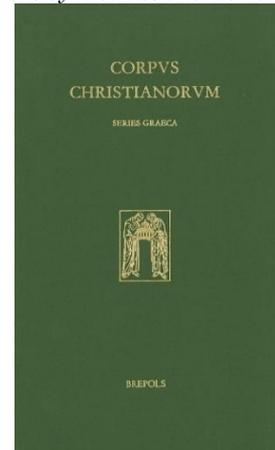
Dumbarton Oaks, 2024

Stefania Gerevini, *Bocconi
University*
Chair: Colin Whiting, *Dumbarton
Oaks Research Library and
Collection*

14:00 – 14:20

Thomae de Aquino De rationibus
fidei in Graecis versionibus Atoumis
et Demetrii Cydonis

[*Thomas Aquinas' On the Reasons of the Faith in the
Greek Versions by Atoumes and Demetrios Cydones*]



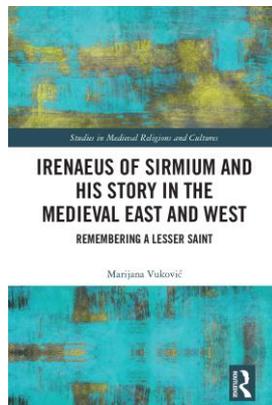
Brepols, 2025

Marie-Hélène Blanchet, *French
National Centre for Scientific
Research*
Chair: John Demetracopoulos,
University of Patras

14:20 – 14:30 Short Break

14:30 – 14:50

Irenaeus of Sirmium and His Story in
the Medieval East and West
Remembering a Lesser Saint

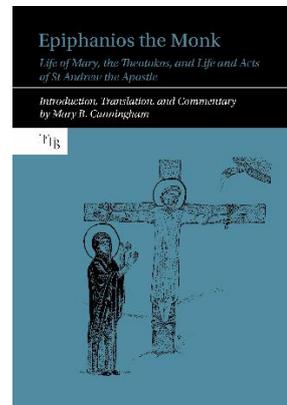


Routledge, 2023

Marijana Vukovic, *University of Southern Denmark*
Chair: Christian Høgel, *Lund University*

14:50 – 15:10

Epiphanius the Monk. Life of Mary,
the Theotokos, and Life and Acts of
St Andrew the Apostle
Introduction, Translation, and
Commentary



Liverpool University Press, 2024

Mary B. Cunningham, *University of Nottingham*
Chair: Judith Herrin, *King's College London*

15:10 – 15:20 Short Break

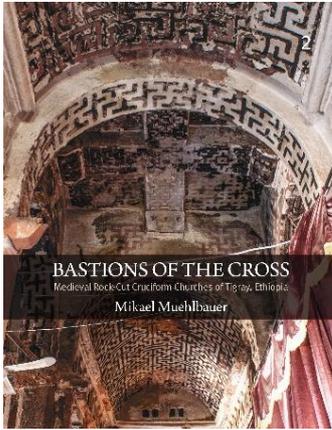
3rd ONLINE EDINBURGH BYZANTINE BOOK FESTIVAL 2025

Saturday 31st May

UK Time (BST +01:00)

15:20 – 15:40

Bastions of the Cross
Medieval Rock-Cut
Cruciform Churches of
Tigray, Ethiopia

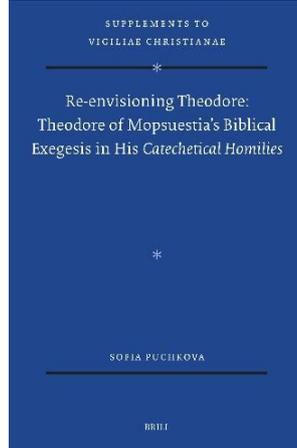


Dumbarton Oaks Press, 2023

Mikael Muehlbauer,
Independent Scholar
Chair: Alebachew Belay,
Debre Berhan
University, Grenoble
Alpes University

15:40 – 16:00

Re-envisioning Theodore
Theodore of Mopsuestia's
Biblical Exegesis in his
Catechetical Homilies

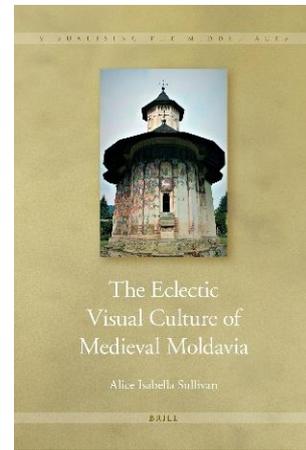


Brill, 2024

Sofia Puchkova, *Leicester*
University
Chair: Jane Heath,
Durham University

16:00 – 16:20

The Eclectic Visual
Culture of Medieval
Moldavia



Brill, 2023

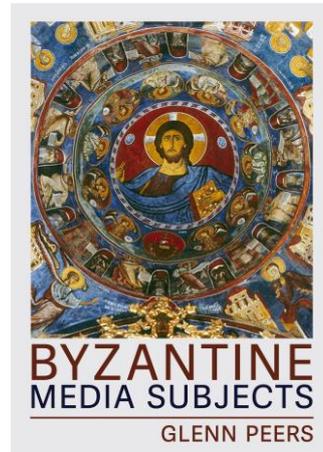
Alice Isabella Sullivan,
Tufts University
Chair: Tomasz
Grusiecki, *Boise State*
University

Book Abstracts

[Byzantine Media Subjects](#)

Glenn Peers, *University of Texas at Austin, Syracuse University*

Cornell University Press, 2024

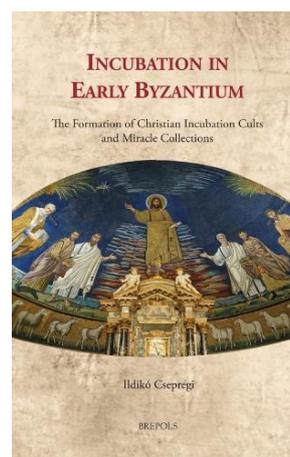


Byzantine Media Subjects invites readers into a world replete with images—icons, frescoes, and mosaics filling places of worship, politics, and community. It asks readers to think themselves into a world where representation reigned and humans followed, and indeed were formed. Interrogating the fundamental role of representation in the making of the Byzantine human, Peers argues that Byzantine culture was (already) posthuman. The Byzantine experience reveals the extent to which media like icons, manuscripts, music, animals, and mirrors fundamentally determine humans. In the Byzantine world, representation as such was deeply persuasive, even coercive; it had the power to affect human relationships, produce conflict, and form self-perception. Media studies has made its subject the modern world, but this book argues for media having made historical subjects. Here, it is shown that media long ago also made Byzantine humans, defining them, molding them, mediating their relationship to time, to nature, to God, and to themselves.

[Incubation in Early Byzantium](#) [The Formation of Christian Incubation Cults and Miracle Collections](#)

Ildikó Csepregi, *University of Santiago de Compostela*

Brepols, 2024



Incubation (temple sleep) was a well-known ritual in the Near East and became increasingly popular in Classical and Hellenistic Greece, becoming attached to Asclepius and other divinities. It flourished in the Eastern Mediterranean, where it was encountered by the emergent Christianity. Temple sleep was so widespread

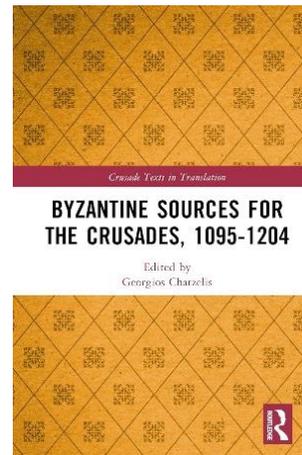
that it was impossible to ban. The Christianization of the incubation ritual was thus a detailed (but successful) process that encompassed several aspects of the Church's self-definition, including important social and theological issues of the era. The list of relevant issues is extensive: the fate of Greek temples and the reinterpretation of sacred space, confronting Hippocratic medicine, and the learned Greek intelligentsia.

This first comprehensive monograph on Christian incubation examines the rich material of all the relevant Greek miracle collections, unfolding the transformation of healing sites and practices related to dreams as they spread across Byzantium, from rural Asia Minor to Constantinople and Alexandria.

[Byzantine Sources for the Crusades, 1095-1204](#)

Georgios Chatzelis (with Jonathan Harris), *Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Democritus University of Thrace, Hellenic Open University*

Routledge, 2025

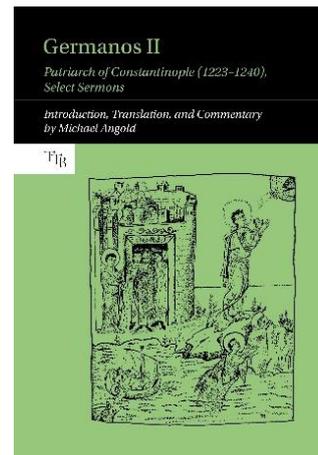


The book brings together important Byzantine sources on the Crusades, covering up to the Fourth Crusade. It includes a diverse range of genres, such as hagiography, historical narratives, orations, poems, treatises, letters, and descriptions of the Holy Places. Some texts, such as John Kinnamos' and Niketas Choniates' writings on the Second and Third Crusade, constitute established accounts and are presented in revised translations. Others, translated here into English for the first time, are neglected and less well-known, providing valuable information about crusaders passing through the Byzantine Empire, and recording more immediate Byzantine responses to the first four Crusades, up to c. 1215. This volume will appeal to scholars and students alike, studying the era of the Crusades and the perspectives and accounts of Byzantine writers both at the time and after, as well as all those interested in the history of the Byzantine Empire in the 11th–13th centuries.

Germanos II, Patriarch of Constantinople (1223-1240)
Select Sermons

Michael Angold, *University of Edinburgh*

Liverpool University Press, 2024

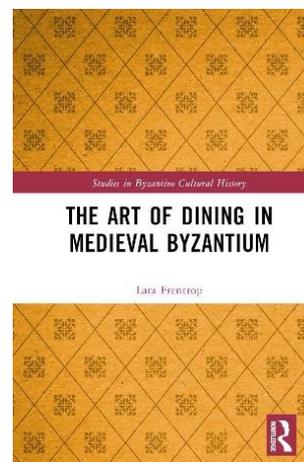


Germanos II (1223-40) was the Orthodox patriarch of Constantinople at a critical period after its fall in 1204 to the fourth crusade, when Byzantium looked doomed to irrelevance, as its emperor and patriarch eked out a shadowy existence in exile at Nicaea. Germanos II's major achievement was to give his office renewed substance by obtaining recognition of his ecumenical authority not only from the community of Orthodox churches, but tacitly from the papacy itself. Remarkable as his legacy was, it has gone largely unrecognised both by contemporaries and by modern scholarship. The twenty-one sermons translated here represent a sustained effort to bring about both social and moral reform as a precondition for the recovery of Constantinople from the Latins. This new translation of a neglected source casts light on the surprising survival of Byzantium at a critical moment in its history.

The Art of Dining in Medieval Byzantium

Lara Frentrop, *Heidelberg University*

Routledge, 2023



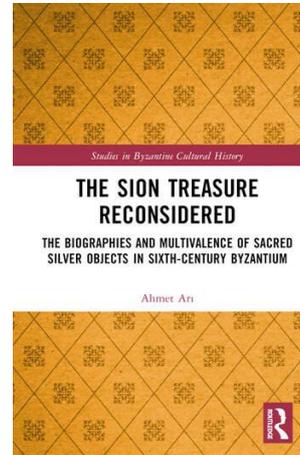
The art of dining in medieval Byzantium is made up of the ubiquitous, yet understudied, decorated ceramic bowls, plates, and fragments, along with a handful of precious metal bowls and plates. This art of dining was effervescent, at turns irreverent and deadly serious, visually stunning and fun. It is suggestive of ways in which those viewing the objects used a quotidian and biologically necessary (f)act – that of eating – to reflect on their lives and deaths, their aspirations and their realities. This book examines the ceramic and metal vessels in terms of the information offered on those who owned them and those who looked at them: the foods eaten, the foods desired and their status; the spectacle of the

banquet; the relationship between word and image; the dangers of taste; the emergence of new moral and social ideals; and the use of dining as a tool in constructing and enforcing hierarchy.

The Sion Treasure Reconsidered
The Biographies and Multivalence of
Sacred Silver Objects in Sixth-Century
Byzantium

Ahmet Ari, *Neveshir Hacı Bektas Veli*
University

Routledge, 2024



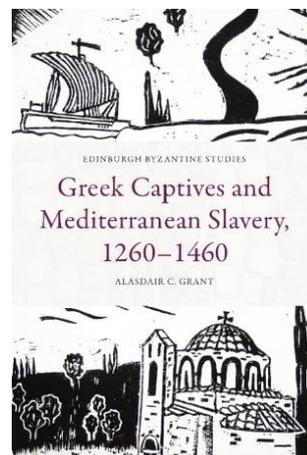
In 1963 a collection of fifty-seven silver vessels was discovered during illegal excavations by villagers in Antalya Province, Turkey. The Sion Treasure, named after the inscription 'Holy Sion' on several vessels in the hoard, is now divided between five collections: Antalya Museum (Turkey), Dumbarton Oaks (United States), a private collection in Geneva, the Digby-Jones collection and Hewett collection (United Kingdom).

This book builds on the studies of the Sion Treasure and examines questions regarding silver mining, manufacture, and the economic and cultural role of the silver vessels. It considers the treasure using the concept of the cultural biography of objects. The vessels from the Sion Treasure have not previously been considered in this context and the book highlights the fact that the value and significance of the objects at the time they were created does not lie exclusively in their visual characteristics and aesthetics since their relationship to, and with, people is also significant. While their functionality lends them one life story, another biography is gained through their users: the producers, patrons, and individuals within the church, not only the clergy, who engaged with the objects.

Greek Captives and
Mediterranean Slavery, 1260–1460

Alasdair Grant, *University of*
Hamburg, Johannes Gutenberg
University of Mainz

Edinburgh University Press, 2024

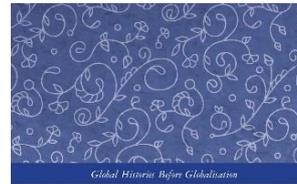


Captivity and enslavement were characteristic experiences of Greek Christians in the late medieval Mediterranean. During this time, Muslim Turks and Christian western Europeans conquered and traded at the expense of the shrinking Byzantine Empire. By bringing together literary and documentary sources spanning a geographical canvas from the Aegean to Egypt and from Cyprus to Catalonia, this book tells that story in full for the first time. It traces this crisis of captivity from its origins in thirteenth-century Asia Minor to its explosion into a Mediterranean-wide phenomenon, interrogating different types of unfreedom and forced movement and evaluating their significance for Greeks' religious and diplomatic relationships with their neighbours, both Christian and Muslim.

**Byzantine Ideas of Persia, 650–
1461**

Rustam Shukurov, *Austrian Academy
of Sciences*

Routledge, 2023



**BYZANTINE IDEAS OF
PERSIA, 650–1461**

Rustam Shukurov

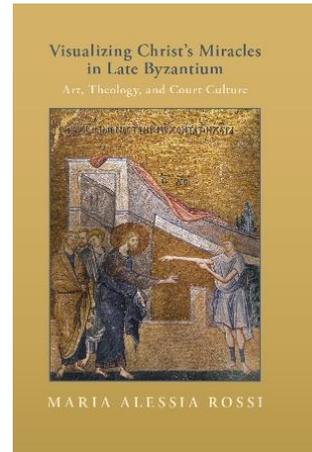


Offering a comprehensive study into the perceptions of ancient and medieval Iran in the Byzantine empire, this book explores the effects of Persian culture upon Byzantine intellectualism, society and culture. *Byzantine Ideas of Persia, 650–1461* focusses on the enduring position of ancient Persia in Byzantine cultural memory, encompassing both in the 'religious' and the 'secular' significance. By analysing a wide range of historical sources – from church literature to belles-lettres – this book examines the intricate relationship between ancient Persia and Byzantine cultural memory, as well as the integration and function of Persian motifs in the Byzantine mentality. Additionally, the author uses these sources to analyse thoroughly the knowledge Byzantines had about contemporary Iranian culture, the presence of ethnic Iranians, and the circulation and usage of the Persian language in Byzantium. Finally, this book concludes with an insightful exploration of the importance and influence of Iranian science on Byzantine scholars. This book will appeal to scholars and students in the fields of Byzantine and Iranian History, particularly to those studying the cross-cultural and social influence between the two societies during the Middle Ages.

[Visualizing Christ's Miracles in
Late Byzantium
Art, Theology, and Court Culture](#)

Maria Alessia Rossi, *Princeton
University*

Cambridge University Press, 2024

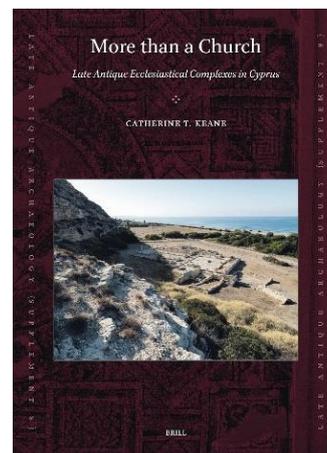


This book investigates the political and spiritual agenda behind monumental paintings of Christ's miracles in late Byzantine churches in Constantinople, Mystras, Thessaloniki, Mount Athos, Ohrid, and Kastoria. It is the first exhaustive examination of Christ's miracles in monumental decoration, offering a comparative and detailed analysis of their selection, grouping, and layout and redefining the significance of this diverse and unique iconography in the early Palaiologan period. Maria Alessia Rossi argues that these painted cycles were carefully and inventively crafted by the cultural milieu, secular and religious, surrounding Emperor Andronikos II (r. 1282–1328) at a time of ferment in the early Palaiologan era. Furthermore, by adopting an interdisciplinary approach, she demonstrates that the novel flowering of Christ's miracles in art was not an isolated phenomenon, but rather emerged as part of a larger surge in literary commissions, and reveals how miracles became a tool to rewrite history and promote Orthodoxy.

[More Than a Church
Late Antique Ecclesiastical Complexes in
Cyprus](#)

Catherine T. Keane, *University of
Tübingen*

Brill, 2024



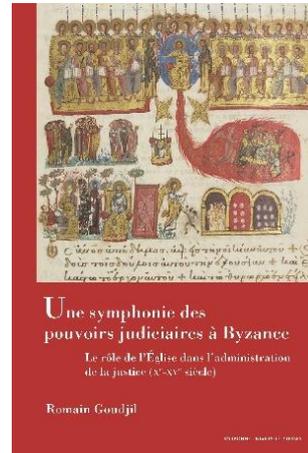
The church annexes of late antique Cyprus were bustling places of industry, producing olive oil, flour, bread, ceramics, and metal products. From its earliest centuries, the church was an economic player, participating in agricultural and artisanal production. *More than a Church* brings together architecture, ceramics, numismatics, landscape archaeology, and unpublished excavation material, alongside consideration of Cyprus's dynamic and prosperous 4th–10th-century history. Keane offers a rich picture of the association between sacred buildings

and agricultural and industrial facilities—comprehensively presenting, for the first time, the church's economic role and impact in late antique Cyprus.

**Une symphonie des pouvoirs
judiciaires à Byzance**
**Le rôle de l'Église dans l'administration
de la justice (Xe-XVe siècle)**

Romain Goudjil, *Sorbonne University*

Sorbonne University Press, 2024

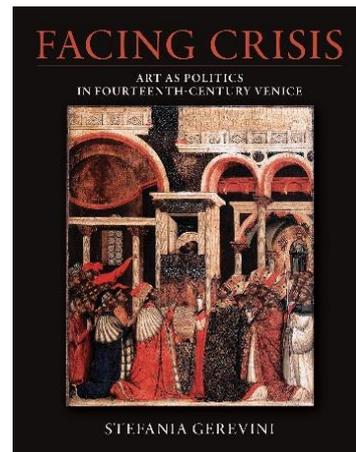


This book aims to give a better understanding of the relationship between the imperial power and the Church within the administration of Justice in Byzantium. Did the Church gain new judicial competences during the Late Byzantine Period? What cases were actually adjudicated by the ecclesiastical courts? Why did Byzantine laymen turn to them? It looks at the active role played by clerics in resolving litigations in imperial courts of justice, in arbitrations and in their notarial activities. It also tries to define their degree of independence *vis-à-vis* the emperor. While providing an overview of the everyday litigations, as well as more serious matters of the Byzantine State, this book also shed a new light on the relationship between Byzantine written law and its use in courts. Romain Goudjil shows that the judicial activities of the Church were well regulated by imperial written laws and served the interests of the emperor.

Facing Crisis
**Art as Politics in Fourteenth-Century
Venice**

Stefania Gerevini, *Bocconi University*

Dumbarton Oaks, 2024



Though Venice emerged as a leading Mediterranean power in the Trecento, the city faced a series of crises during a brief but cataclysmic period (1340–1355): earthquakes, disease, military conflicts, and dramatic institutional tensions. It was nevertheless precisely at this time that the government sponsored the ambitious artistic campaigns in San Marco that are the subject of this book: a

reliquary-chapel, a baptistery, and a folding altarpiece, all masterpieces blending Byzantine and Italianate visual forms.

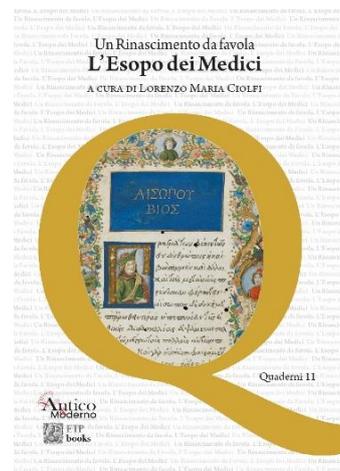
These works were affirmative political interventions that interrogated the meaning of community, authority, and (shared) political leadership at a time when those notions were unsettled. Looking beyond established concepts of triumph and imperialism, *Facing Crisis* situates the artistic interactions between Byzantium and Venice into ongoing processes of state formation and attests to the power of images to inform—and transform—political imaginations in troubled times. This study thus offers new insights into how medieval communities understood and responded to uncertainty through the visual, and, in doing so, probes the value of “crisis” as a methodological framework.

**Un Rinascimento da favola
L'Esopo dei Medici**

[*A Fairy-tale Renaissance: The Medici Aesop*]

Lorenzo Maria Ciolfi, *Complutense
University of Madrid*

ETPbooks, 2025



After 1478, Lorenzo the Magnificent strengthened his family’s rule over Florence and promoted the arts, designating his young son Piero as the heir to his farsighted political and cultural vision.

Entrusted to the learned care of Politian, Piero received a luxurious manuscript of Aesop’s Fables. At the very moment when the *editio princeps* of Aesop was coming to light, this exquisite volume – featuring the finest calligraphy and decorative art of the time – stood as the last great monument of the long tradition of ancient and Byzantine fable literature.

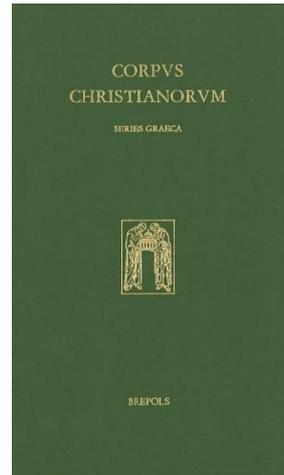
Now reunited from two surviving volumes, the Medici Aesop text is presented here alongside Giulio Landi’s refined Italian translation. As they turn its elegant pages, modern readers will have the opportunity to immerse themselves in the vibrant cultural atmosphere that fuelled the rediscovery and revival of the Classics during the Italian Renaissance.

**Thomae de Aquino De rationibus
fidei in Graecis versionibus
Atoumis et Demetrii Cydonis**

[*Thomas Aquinas' On the Reasons of the Faith
in the Greek Versions by Atoumes and
Demetrios Cydonis*]

Marie-Hélène Blanchet, *French
National Centre for Scientific
Research*

Brepols, 2025

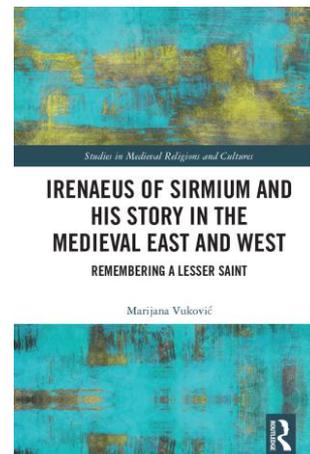


Thomas Aquinas (1225/1226–1274) is widely regarded as one of the foremost representatives of Scholastic thought in the West. The reception of his work among Byzantine theologians has proven to be a challenge to trace. To address this lacuna in scholarship, an international project has been initiated: Thomas de Aquino Byzantinus. This project has resulted in two critical editions being published for the first time in the present volume: Aquinas's *De rationibus fidei* was translated on two separate occasions in the 14th century, by a certain Atoumes and by Demetrios Kydones. The existence of two different translations from the same period (1350s/1360s) offers an exceptional opportunity to compare Byzantine interpretations of Aquinas's concepts. The book meticulously analyses translation techniques, textual fidelity, and vocabulary choices. For Atoumes's translation, the Latin source text has been identified, allowing for an in-depth study of his methodology.

**Irenaeus of Sirmium and His
Story in the Medieval East and
West
Remembering a Lesser Saint**

Marijana Vukovic, *University of
Southern Denmark*

Routledge, 2023



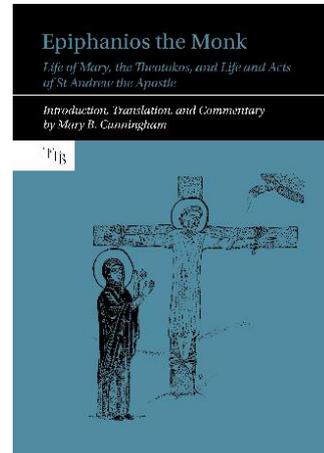
The contemporary scholarship on hagiography has generally focused on more prominent saints of late antiquity and the Middle Ages who inspired long-lasting veneration. It has caused many lesser-known saints to be pushed aside and forgotten. This book examines one such saint, Irenaeus, a martyr killed in 304 CE in Sirmium, Pannonia. His short-lived cult, feast day, and the account of his martyrdom (translated into Latin, Greek, Old Slavonic, Georgian, and Armenian) were neglected and eventually forgotten during the Middle Ages. This book explores Irenaeus of Sirmium's cult, sainthood, and eventual disappearance from

the memory of medieval Christendom in the context of a broader study on the memory of those lesser-known saints who, like Irenaeus, became neglected and eventually forgotten. The book will interest scholars and students of hagiography, medieval literature, history in general, and the religious history of Byzantium, medieval Europe, and the Slavic world.

[Epiphanius the Monk. Life of Mary, the Theotokos, and Life and Acts of St Andrew the Apostle](#)
[Introduction, Translation, and Commentary](#)

Mary B. Cunnigham, *University of Nottingham*

Liverpool University Press, 2024

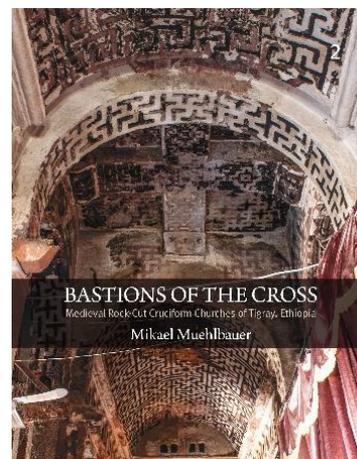


This book provides the first English translation of two early ninth-century hagiographical texts that deal with the Virgin Mary and the apostle Andrew. Both texts are attributed to a Constantinopolitan monk and priest called Epiphanius of the Monastery of Kallistratos. The *Life* of the Virgin is probably the earliest attempt by a Greek-speaking Christian author to provide a full-length biography of this holy figure, from the time of her conception to her death and assumption into heaven. The *Life* of St Andrew not only provides a brief account of this apostle's life and mission, but also traces the dissemination of his cult, including relics and an icon, in Asia Minor especially during the iconoclast period. Epiphanius the Monk reveals his iconophile opinions in this text, accusing iconoclasts of having attempted to destroy some of these objects. Translations of the texts are accompanied by detailed commentaries, bibliography, and indices.

[Bastions of the Cross](#)
[Medieval Rock-Cut Cruciform Churches of Tigray, Ethiopia](#)

Mikael Muehlbauer, *Independent Scholar*

Dumbarton Oaks Press, 2023



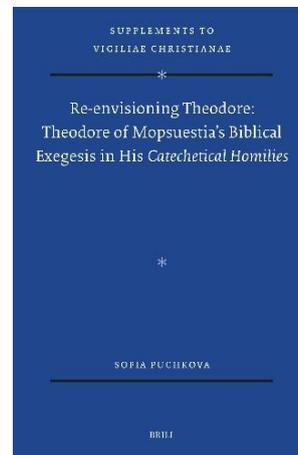
In the late eleventh century, Ethiopian masons hewed great cruciform churches out of mountains in the eastern highlands of Tigray, Ethiopia's northernmost province. Hitherto unparalleled in scale, these monuments were royal

foundations, instruments of political centralization and re-Christianization that anticipated the great thirteenth century churches at Lalibela. *Bastions of the Cross*, the first study devoted to the subject, examines the cruciform churches of Abreha wa-Atsbeha, Wuqro Cherqos, and Mika'el Amba and connects them to one of the great architectural movements of the Middle Ages: the millennial revival of the early Byzantine aisled, cruciform church. These were also the first to incorporate vaulting, and uniquely did so in the service of centralized spatial hierarchy. Through resuscitated pilgrimage networks, Ethiopian craftsmen revisited architectural types abandoned since Late Antiquity, while Islamic mercantile channels brought precious textiles from South Asia that inspired trans-material conceptions of architectural space. *Bastions of the Cross* reveals the eleventh century, in contrast to its popular reputation as a “dark age,” to be a forgotten watershed in the architectural history of Ethiopia and Eastern Christianity.

Re-envisioning Theodore
Theodore of Mopsuestia's Biblical
Exegesis in his Catechetical Homilies

Sofia Puchkova, *Leicester University*

Brill, 2024

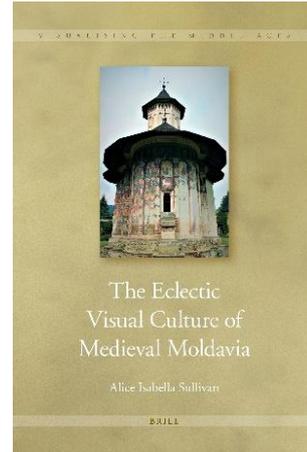


Re-envisioning Theodore is the first comprehensive study of the biblical interpretation of the prominent Near Eastern theologian and biblical exegete Theodore of Mopsuestia (ca 350-428) in his *Catechetical Homilies*. It challenges the common yet reductionist view of Theodore's exegetical approach as “historical,” offering a balanced portrayal of this exegete. Theodore is not a slave of his interpretative methodology, and he may omit the exposition of the historical setting of the Bible and introduce elements not present in the biblical narrative. *Re-envisioning Theodore* also reveals Theodore's previously little known exegetical ties with Pro-Nicenes and, through them, with Origen. For the first time, this book shows that his exegesis incorporates Greco-Syrian liturgical imagery.

[The Eclectic Visual Culture of
Medieval Moldavia](#)

Alice Isabella Sullivan, *Tufts
University*

Brill, 2023



Medieval Moldavia – which was located within present-day northeastern Romania and the Republic of Moldova – developed a bold and eclectic visual culture beginning in the 15th century. Within this networked Carpathian Mountain region, art and architecture reflect the creativity and diversity of the cultural landscapes of Eastern Europe.

Moldavian objects and monuments – ranging from fortified monasteries and churches enveloped in fresco cycles to silk embroideries, delicately carved woodwork and metalwork, as well as manuscripts gifted to Mount Athos and other Christian centers – negotiate the complex issues of patronage and community in the region. The works attest to processes of cultural contact and translation, revealing how Western medieval, Byzantine, and Slavic traditions were mediated in Moldavian contexts in the post-Byzantine period.

This book is the winner of the 2023 Early Slavic Studies Book Prize, awarded by the Early Slavic Studies Association (ESSA) for the best book published between Sept 1, 2021 and August 31, 2023 in the field of Early Slavic Studies (pre-1800). The awarding committee praised the volume as ‘the first English monograph to provide a comprehensive overview of Moldavia's artistic and architectural landscape during the 15th and 16th centuries, locating the region as a significant facet in the global map of art history.’