

**2006 International Congress of Byzantine Studies**  
**21-26 August 2006**  
**London**

The first International Congress of Byzantine Studies met in Bucharest in 1924. The founding fathers of the Association International des Etudes Byzantines (AIEB) included C. Diehl, H. Gregoire, N. Iorga, N. Kondakov, G. Millet and Sir W. Ramsay - all bearded. The first (and last) quinquennial Congress of the AIEB to be held in Great Britain was the 13th, in September 1966, in Oxford. Of its main organisers only two survive, but for a generation of younger Byzantinists it was a memorable stimulus to, and formative influence on, the international development of our subject.

Forty years on, it is clearly time to hold the 21st Congress (2006) in Great Britain again. The proposal of the British National Committee (BNC) of the AIEB, which is also the Executive of the SPBS (chair Robin Cormack) was accepted by the AIEB in 1998. In April 2000 it set up BYZCONG2006, a free-standing steering committee responsible to it and the AIEB, initially consisting of the following elected and co-opted members: Anthony Bryer (Convenor), Averil Cameron, Robin Cormack, James Crow, Judith Herrin, Liz James (Secretary), Elizabeth Jeffreys (Deputy Convenor), Ruth Macrides, Marlia Mango, Rosemary Morris and Margaret Mullett.

In the First Report of the Convenor, BBBS 27 (2001), pp 95-96. he wrote that "As hosts of the Congress all [*italics*] members of the SPBS are not just invited to contribute their views, but will be badgered to do so, through reports in this Bulletin [*italics*], the SPBS website, and at our annual Symposia, beginning in Oxford in March 2001." Foreign proposals were equally invited, culminating in the presentation of an outline plan by Bryer, Cormack and E. Jeffreys for discussion at an InterCongress meeting of the AIEB on Andros in May 2003.

By its 7th meeting on 31 October 2003, attended by the President (Peter Schreiner) and Secretary (Evangelos Chrysos) BYZCONG2006 had expanded to include domestic co-chairs, the current BNC, and professional and other officers, including Karen Wraith (Administrator), Philip Bowden (Treasurer), Fiona Haarer (Communications Manager), John Smedley (Publisher), Ruby Clark (Exhibition Researcher). Sub-committees include including Administration and Finance, Publications, London Exhibitions (Cormack) and Oxford ) M. Mango). BYZCONG2006 remains a working party, behind which I reiterate my original statement and plea: the entire British Byzantine community is host to the Congress. It is getting late to make your views known if you have not done so, but they are welcome by the Convenor at

[<bryer@compuserve.com>](mailto:bryer@compuserve.com).

Logistical decisions taken so far for a Congress of up to 1,000 Byzantinists, have been to book the Institute of Education, Bedford Way, London. There will be excursions certainly to Oxford for related exhibitions, and perhaps to York thereafter. Funding and sponsorship beyond registration fees (which will be gradated), is naturally a headache where any legal proposal is welcome. The £40,000 so far raised (including from the British Academy and private sponsors) is about a quarter of what is needed - especially if you want a parties as good as the exhibitions. [Cheques made out to 'BYZANTINE CONGRESS 2006' are acceptable. Send to the Treasurer, 55 Ravenhurst Road, Birmingham B17 9TB].

The framework is of eight Sections, each advised by a domestic and foreign co-chair. Most consist of three plenary papers, with a Commentator, and eight related Panels each of six speakers with co-ordinator. Between now and 31 December 2003 main speakers and Panel co-ordinators (but not panelists) are being approached and will be formally invited in early 2004.

A full Congress website c/o the SPBS one at <[www.byzantium.ac.uk](http://www.byzantium.ac.uk)> will be set up in mid-2004. [The AIEB website is at <[www.aiebnet.gr](http://www.aiebnet.gr)>. A first circular and call for Communications will be sent in early 2005. Thereafter the deadlines are 1 September 2005 for submission of main papers, abstracts of Panel papers and titles of Communications, for paper and web publication, and 1 April 2006 for the final submission of abstracts of Communications for web publication. Posters are welcome.

The principles of Youth and Internationality have informed the programme making. Easier said than done. We have also tried to anticipate and encourage fresh fields, as well as to respond to the demands of about 120 proposals. Well, that is the theory. But, more interestingly, Byzantine Congresses (e.g. Vienna, Washington, Moscow, Copenhagen) are commonly given identity by an overall theme. Since 2000 the proposed Congress theme of DISPLAY has been discussed and adopted in committee, in open Symposium meetings and on Andros. It is clearly controversial, so is already serving its purpose: to make Byzantinists think. Your BYZCONG2006 Committee can offer a decent platform, but the quality of the matter is entirely in your hands.

An outline programme will follow shortly. Further details of speakers will be announced in early 2004.

A.A.M.B.

[ANTHONY BRYER](#): Convenor

[ELIZABETH JEFFREYS](#): Deputy

[LIZ JAMES](#): Secretary

## PROGRAMME

### I EMPIRE DISPLAYED

Co-chairs: J. Herrin  
Plenary speakers: (3)  
Commentator: (1)

Panel I i Rival empires  
Panel I ii Mechanisms of Empire  
Panel I iii Byzantium and theory of 'empire'  
Panel I iv Byzantine states after 1204  
Panel I v Empire and art  
Panel I vi Institutions of empire  
Panel I vii Monasticism and evangelisation  
Panel I viii Being Byzantine

### II WORKS AND DAYS: material and historical evidence for everyday life

Co-chairs: J. Crow  
Plenary speakers: (3)  
Commentator: (1)

Panel II i Landscape, archaeology and society  
Panel II ii Logistics and transport  
Panel II iii Vessels and tableware  
Panel II iv Burial and funerary practice  
Panel II v Secular and vernacular space  
Panel II vi The economic history of Byzantium since Dumbarton Oaks  
Panel II vii The Natural World (N. Sevcenko)  
Panel II viii Medicine and pharmacology

### III INFRASTRUCTURES

Co-chairs: Michael Jeffreys  
Plenary reporters: a range of representatives chosen from a number of disciplines, as usual. Their reports will be pre-printed and pre-circulated, but discussed in panel III.1.  
Plenary speaker: a distinguished Byzantinist to give a personal view (for 30 mins.) of the state of the discipline, with particular reference to its infrastructure.  
This should be preceded or followed by a segment called "News". This will consist of 10 developments in the infrastructure of Byzantine Studies published or inaugurated since the Paris Congress..

Panel III i Instrumenta studiorum (reports from appropriate disciplines)  
Panel III ii Technology in the service of Byzantine studies  
Panel III iii From BZ to display@byzantium.com  
A range of publishers of books, periodicals and monograph series, including those who have embraced new technology and those who have

not, those with large resources and those without.

Panel III iv The uses of the computer (including the internet) in Byzantine studies (including teaching)

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Panel III v Sigillography

Panel III vi Numismatics

Panel III vii Prosopography

Panel III viii Science

#### **IV DISPLAYING WORDS**

Co-chairs: M. Mullett

Plenary speakers: (3)

Commentator: (1)

Panel IV i Words on the page

Panel IV ii Epigraphy and epigrams

Panel IV iii Literature, liturgy and ceremony

Panel IV iv Hymnography and homilies

Panel IV v Byzantine book culture

Panel IV vii Letter collections

Panel IV vi Epideictic oratory

Panel IV viii Translations and travel (but cf. V v)

#### **V DISPLAYING TEXTS**

Co-chairs: R. Macrides

Plenary speakers: (3)

Commentator: (1)

Panel V i Historiography and chronology

Panel V ii Historiography and hagiography

Panel V iii Rhetoric and gender

Panel V iv The texts of ceremony

Panel V v Translation and interpretation but cf. IV viii

Panel V vi Documents as literature

Panel V vii Displaying knowledge

Panel V viii Mimesis of Byzantine texts in foreign languages

#### **VI DISPLAYING ORTHODOXY**

Co-chairs: Averil Cameron

Plenary speakers: (3)

Commentator: (1)

Panel VI i Control of belief

Panel VI ii Philosophy and freedom of thought

Panel VI iii Texts, theology and orthodoxy

Panel VI iv Sacred space

Panel VI v Dissenting minorities

Panel VI vi orthodoxy and heterodoxy in action

Panel VI vii Monastic mountains and deserts

Panel VI viii Art and orthodoxy  
VII BYZANTIUM AS DISPLAY

### **VII BYZANTIUM AS DISPLAY**

Co-chairs: L. Brubaker  
Plenary speakers: (3)  
Commentator: (1)

Panel VII i Orthodoxy on display: ecclesiastical and monastic decoration

Panel VII ii The Great Palaces and courtly display

Panel VII iii On display in the street

Panel VII iv On display in the village

Panel VII v The movable feast: portable objects and display

Panel VII vi Displaying the world: images of landscape, topography and paradise

Panel VII vii Displaying Byzantium abroad

Panel VII viii Byzantium on the catwalk: dress and fashion

### **VIII PAST AND FUTURE**

Co-chairs: R. Cormack  
Plenary speakers: (3)  
Commentator: (1)

Panel VIII i Conservation of monuments

Panel VIII ii Constantinople/Istanbul

Panel VIII iii St Catherine's at Sinai

Panel VIII iv Anatolia

Panel VIII v Georgia and Armenia

Panel VII vi Ethiopia, Syria, Egypt

Panel VIII vii Collectors of Byzantium

Panel VII viii Byzantium in peril

Opening: C. Mango

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