

Chronicle of the Activity of the Romanian Society for Byzantine Studies, 2020–2022

The Romanian Society for Byzantine Studies (SRSB, www.srsb.ro) operates under the auspices of the Institute for South-East European Studies (ISEES) of the Romanian Academy in Bucharest. The executive committee of the SRSB serves as the Romanian National Committee of the *Association Internationale des Études Byzantines* (AIEB).

1. *The SRSB (online) lecture series*

Building on its six-decade tradition, the SRSB organises monthly lectures (October–June), showcasing the research of both its members and invited guests from the international community of Byzantinists. The SRSB lectures, which usually take place at the ISEES on Tuesdays, at 11:00 EET, were moved online (on Zoom) at the beginning of 2020 due to the constraints of the Covid-19 pandemic. The obvious disadvantages of online encounters notwithstanding, this virtual setting enabled the participation of speakers and guests from across the world and warranted well-attended events. After two on-site lectures in early 2020 (January and February) and a four-month hiatus (March–June) due to the global sanitary crisis, the rest of the SRSB lectures have been since hosted online. There have been 23 lectures offered under the auspices of the Society in 2020–2022, listed below in chronological order:

Petre Guran (Bucharest), *Ideea ortodoxă. De ce s-a despărțit Biserica bizantină de Imperiul bizantin?* (28.01.2020, ISEES)

Alexandru Madgearu (Bucharest), *Revolta orășenilor din Larisa contra puterii centrale (1066)* (25.02.2020, ISEES)

Mircea Duluş (Bucharest), *Un (posibil) nou argument din Tratatul lui Porfir “Împotriva creștinilor” consemnat de Mihail Psellos în “Opusculul” 32 (“Cu privire la cele spuse în Cartea lui Iov că ‘diavolul s-a înfățișat și el înaintea Domnului’ printre îngerii Săi” – cf. Iov 1, 6)* (27.10.2020, Zoom)

Andra Jugănaru (Thessaloniki), *O analiză a colecțiilor de scrisori ale Părinților capadocieni folosind teoria rețelelor* (24.11.2020, Zoom)

Ioan-Gabriel Alexandru (Cambridge), *Catalogul ereziologic al lui Konstantinos Harmenopoulos: tehnici vechi de etichetare în conflictul isihast?* (8.12.2020, Zoom)

Alin Suci (Göttingen, Helsinki), *Corpusul ascetic al lui Ștefan Tebanul: context istoric și dosar de texte* (26.01.2021, Zoom)

Andrei Prohin (Chișinău), *“Mica eshatologie” în cronografele bizantine din Moldova și Țara Românească (sec. XVI–XVII)* (23.02.2021, Zoom)

Pantelis Charalampakis (Sofia), *“Ordinary people” and their professions: The contribution of sigillography to the study of Byzantine social history* (30.03.2021, Zoom)

Vlad Bedros and Andrei Dumitrescu (Bucharest), *Retorica imperială în Moldova: surse liturgice inedite și contexte iconografice (cca. 1480–1530)* (20.04.2021, Zoom)

Adrian C. Pirtea (Vienna), *Bizanțul în Asia Centrală: manuscrisele din Turfan și cultul Maicii Domnului în Orientul creștin* (25.05.2021, Zoom)

Ovidiu Sferlea (Oradea), *“...neîncetând vreodată să tindă spre cele dinainte și uitându-le pe cele dinapoi”. Pentru o tradiție a epectazei în teologia patristică și bizantină* (15.06.2021, Zoom)

Maria-Lucia Goiană (Vienna), *Viață monastică și poezie în Constantinopol în secolele VIII–IX: Opera imnografică a Sfântului Teodor Studitul (759–826)* (26.10.2021, Zoom)

Dan Batovici (Leuven), *“Clement către Corinteni”: epistole, pseudoepigrafie și tradiții manuscrise* (23.11.2021, Zoom)

Elena Boeck (Chicago), *A singular monument: Justinian’s bronze horseman and its global reach* (14.12.2021, Zoom)

Christos Simelidis (Thessaloniki), *Gregory of Nazianzus’ poems and Byzantine scholarship* (25.01.2022, Zoom)

Frederick Lauritzen (Venice), *Psellos the monk on Mt. Olympus (1055)* (22.02.2022, Zoom)

Foteini Spingou (Edinburgh), *Losing your beautiful city: Niketas Choniates’ De Signis, Helen of Troy and 1204* (22.03.2022, Zoom)

Anna Gioffreda (Rome), *The witnesses of Manuel Philes’ Metaphrasis of the Psalms* (12.04.2022, Zoom)

Lev Likhovitskiy (Moscow), *The forbidden word: historical reflections and unspoken accusations in the icon controversy under Alexios I Komnenos* (24.05.2022, Zoom)

Leslie Brubaker (Birmingham), *A Byzantine princess and her private prayer scroll* (21.06.2022, Zoom)

Francesco Monticini (Rome), *La prétendue Chronique de Jacopo Tedaldi: l'histoire textuelle d'une « information » sur la chute de Constantinople* (18.10.2022, Zoom)

Cristian Gaşpar (Vienna), *Navigating diglossia: linguistic varieties, stylistic registers, and rhetorical strategies in post-classical Greek* (15.11.2022, Zoom)

Florin Leonte (Olomouc), *Thinking with visual analogies in late Byzantine rhetoric* (13.12.2022, Zoom)

2. The publications of the SRSB

*Études byzantines et post-byzantines (EBPB)*¹

The flagship publication of the SRSB, *Études byzantines et post-byzantines*, established in 1979, has been revitalised by Andrei Timotin in 2019 with the launch of a new yearly series published with Herlo Verlag (Heidelberg). Continuing the mission of the old series (I–VII, published between 1979–2016), the new series showcases state-of-the-art research in (post-) Byzantine studies carried by scholars of Byzantium. The first volume of the new series, I (VIII), gathers studies presented at the conference *Faith and Community around the Mediterranean in Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages*, organised in 2016 in Bucharest in honour of Peter Brown. The next three volumes, II–IV (IX–XI), spring from the homonymous round tables organized at the 12th International Congress of South-East European Studies (Bucharest, 2–6 September 2019)²:

EBPB, new series, I (VIII), 2019

Faith and Community around the Mediterranean. In Honor of Peter R. L. Brown.

Edited by Petre Guran and David A. Michelson.

EBPB, new series, II (IX), 2020

La culture écrite des périphéries byzantines du Moyen-Âge à l'époque moderne.

Edited by Paolo Odorico.

EBPB, new series, III (X), 2021

Afterlives of Byzantine Monuments in Post-Byzantine Times.

Edited by Elena N. Boeck.

¹ <https://srsb.ro/ebpb/>

² <https://www.congressaiesee2019.acadsudest.ro/>

EBPB, new series, IV (XI), 2022

Byzantine Heritage in South-Eastern Europe in the Middle Ages and Early Modern Period.

Edited by Andrei Timotin, Srđan Pirivatrić, and Oana Iacubovschi.

The next volume of the *EBPB* V (XII), edited by Nunzio Bianchi and Mircea Duluş, to be published in 2023, will explore the ways in which the interaction between classical heritage, religious beliefs and polemics shaped the representations of religious identity within the ever-shifting political boundaries of Byzantine state and its sphere of influence.

*Supplementa Études byzantines et post-byzantines (SEBPB)*³

The president of the SRSB, Andrei Timotin, established in 2021 the *SEBPB*, published also with Herlo Verlag, as a springboard for monographs, proceedings volumes, as well as critical editions accompanied by modern translations and comprehensive introductions. The first two volumes have been published and the third and fourth volumes are now in press:

SEBPB I (2021)

Petre Guran, *Rendre la couronne au Christ. Étude sur la fin de l'idée impériale byzantine.*

SEBPB II (2021)

Ivan Biliarsky, *Defending the True Faith in the Twilight of the Empire. The Palaeologian Synodicon for the Sunday of Orthodoxy in Its Slavic Translation* (with an Annexe by Antonio Rigo, *The Tome of Condemnation of the Holy Mountain*, beginning of 1345).

SEBPB III (2022)

Ioan-Gabriel Alexandru, *Konstantinos Harmenopoulos, De haeresibus.* Edition, Übersetzung, Anmerkungen.

SEBPB IV (forthcoming)

Mircea Duluş, *The Homilies of Philagathos of Cerami: Orthodoxy, Polemics, and Rhetoric in the Norman Kingdom of Sicily.*

3. The SRSB at the 24th International Congress of Byzantine Studies

The SRSB had a considerable presence at the 24th International Congress of Byzantine Studies, *Byzantium – Bridge between Worlds* (Venice and Padua, 22–27 August 2022), with a number of round tables (RT), thematic sessions (TS), papers, and free communications (FC) organised and presented by its members (on-site and online). The president of the SRSB, Andrei Timotin, co-organised with Paul Magdalino the RT25–*The Use of Prophecy in the Byzantine and Ottoman Empires.*

³ <https://srsb.ro/sebpb/>

Alongside other Byzantinists and friends of the Society (Marie-Hélène Congourdeau, Nikolas Pissis, Pablo Alejandro Ubierna), this RT featured three papers offered by members of the SRSB: Petre Guran, *Individualism as spiritual and social value in middle Byzantine eschatology: A contribution to the anthropological unity of Christianity*, Ovidiu Olar, *Prophecy in context (Moldavia and Wallachia, late 18th–early 19th century)*, and Andrei Prohin, *Historical thought and spiritual message in the Byzantine apocalypses from the Slavonic-Romanian manuscripts (15th–16th c.)*. Ecaterina Lung and Andra Jugănaru convened the TS59–*Connecting Worlds: Instances of Diplomatic, Cultural and Material Exchanges between Byzantium and Its Neighbors*, which featured papers offered by Lung, *Roman and Byzantine artifacts in post-Roman areas of the Carpathian basin and lower Danube (4th–7th centuries)*, Jugănaru, *Instances of letter exchanges between Eastern and Western bishops at the end of the 4th century*, and Ana-Maria Răducan, *Connecting worlds in the Library of Photius: Inside and outside the Byzantine borders*. Maria-Lucia Goiană was one of the conveners of the TS43–*Manuscript Catenae on the Psalms: Contexts of Production and Use in Byzantium*. Florin Leonte offered a paper on *Rhetorical questions as oral compositional devices in late Byzantine rhetoric of praise* in the framework of the RT33 dedicated to *Byzantine Literature between Orality and Textuality*, Iustina Barbu spoke on *The image of the Jew in the Byzantine hagiographies (10th to 11th centuries)* in the TS3–*Jews and Judaism in Middle Byzantine Hagiography*, Oana Iacubovschi offered a paper on *Phlogotheël, Syhail and Misail: The sparse iconographic evidence of a popular devotion. From 11th-century Cappadocia to late 15th-century Moldavia* in the FC23–*Mural Paintings, Frescoes, and Their Interaction with Architecture and Iconographic Programmes (I)*, Anca Mihaela Sapovici talked about “*Τὸ θαῦμα πανάμωμε τῆς σῆς εἰκόνοϋ, ὁρῶντες θαυμάζομεν*”: *The canon for the miraculous icon of Theothokos Acheiropoietia from Eikosifoinissa Monastery by Matthew of Myra*, Manuela Dobre presented *L’image des Occidentaux dans les sources byzantines du XII^e siècle* in the FC58–*Historiography: Authors, Sources, Themes and Narrative Techniques (11th–15th Centuries)*, Adrian Pirtea presented a paper on *Greek collections of “Ascetica” in early Islamic Palestine: Manuscripts, selection criteria, audience* in the FC66–*Manuscripts: Textual Traditions, Philology, Palaeography and Codicology (I)*, while Alexandru Madgearu spoke about *The Danube mouths region during the reign of Michael VIII Palaiologos* in the FC83–*Political and Military History: Middle and Late Byzantine Period (I)*. Finally, several papers were offered online. Vlad Bedros explored *Limits of iconicity: Whirling discs and spiraled visual motifs as conveyors of divine presence in post-Byzantine wall paintings from Moldavia* and Andrei Dumitrescu spoke about “*A hand from Heaven*”: *The Archangel Michael and the baptism of Constantine the Great in late 15th- and early 16th-century Moldavian representations* in the framework of the FC27–*Mural Paintings, Frescoes, and Their Interaction with Architecture and Iconographic Programmes (V)*, Elisabeta Negrău talked about

Forgotten saints: Thracian and Dacian saints in the Balkan medieval Menologia in the FC 61–*Hagiographical Sources in Context: Saints, Cults and Political Use of Sanctity*, while Șerban Marin gave a paper on *The story of an island in the Black Sea in 1261: The case of Keşken (Daphnousia)* in the TS46–*Black Sea Region between West and East, 13th to 15th Centuries*.

The SRSB also presented its publications to the wider community of Byzantinists. In addition to the *EBPB* and *SEBPB* volumes, the book fair featured the (hitherto unpublished) doctoral dissertation of the late Nicolae-Șerban Tanașoca, *Cuvinte latine la scriitorii bizantini din secolele VI–X* (Brăila, 2021), and a number of volumes from the ISEES's series *Bibliothèque de l'Institut d'Études Sud-Est Européennes* (BIESEE),⁴ published with Istros Publishing House (Brăila):

BIESEE 2 (2018)

Nicolae-Șerban Tanașoca, *Études byzantines et balkaniques*.

Edited by Oana Iacubovschi and Andrei Timotin.

BIESEE 5 (2019)

Maria Ana Musicescu, *Tradition et innovation dans l'art du Sud-Est européen du XV^e au XIX^e siècle*.

Edited by Oana Iacubovschi.

BIESEE 9 (2020)

Vasile Grecu, *Byzantinische und neugriechische Forschungen*.

Edited by Octavian-Adrian Negoită.

BIESEE 14 (2020)

Translations of Patristic Literature in South-Eastern Europe.

Edited by Lora Taseva and Roland Marti.

BIESEE 15 (2021)

Religious Rhetoric of Power in Byzantium and South-Eastern Europe.

Edited by Ivan Biliarsky, Mihail Mitrea, and Andrei Timotin.

BIESEE 16 (2021)

Biblical Apocrypha in South-Eastern Europe and Related Areas.

Edited by Maria Cioată, Anissava Miltenova, and Emanuela Timotin.

Finally, with the occasion of the elections of the new committee of the AIEB, Antonio Rigo was elected president, Christos Stavrakos secretary, and Béatrice Caseau was re-elected as the AIEB's treasurer. The president of the SRSB, Andrei Timotin, was appointed as the deputy president (*président suppléant*) of the AIEB.

⁴www.acadsudest.ro/content/bibliothèque-de-linstitut-d'études-sud-est-européennes-biesee

4. Obituary

In the past two years the SRSB has grown with the inclusion of new members. Unfortunately, one of its long-standing and most active and distinguished members, Alexandru Avram (Le Mans University) sadly passed away on August 2, 2021. A leading specialist in the field of Greek and Latin epigraphy, Professor Avram was a renowned archaeologist and epigraphist whose prolific record of publications included *Inscriptions grecques et latines de Scythie Mineure*, vol. VI. *Suppléments*, fasc. 2: *Tomis et son territoire* (Bucharest–Paris, 2018, with Maria Bărbulescu and Livia Buzoianu), *Prosopographia Ponti Euxini Externa* (Leuven, 2013), *Les diasporas grecques du VIII^e siècle à la fin du III^e siècle* (Paris, 2012), *Histria VII. La zone sacrée d'époque grecque* (Bucharest–Paris, 2005), *Inscriptions grecques et latines de Scythie Mineure*, vol. III. *Callatis et son territoire* (Bucharest–Paris, 1999), *Der Vertrag zwischen Rom und Kallatis: ein Beitrag zum römischen Völkerrecht* (Amsterdam, 1999), and *Histria VIII. Les timbres amphoriques. 1. Thasos* (Bucharest–Paris, 1996).

Αἰωνία ἡ μνήμη, αἰωνία ἡ μνήμη, αἰωνία αὐτοῦ ἡ μνήμη!

Mihail Mitrea
(deputy secretary of the SRSB)