

BYZANTINOSLAVICA

REVUE INTERNATIONALE DES ÉTUDES BYZANTINES

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Photo Jan Kysela

Vladimír Vavřínek
* 5. 8. 1930

editorial

Dear readers of *Byzantinoslavica*,

As the newly appointed editor-in-chief, I would like to briefly inform you about the changes which took place in *Byzantinoslavica* in the past year, as well as about the events related to Byzantine Studies organized in the Czech Republic. First, however, I would like to thank my predecessor, PhDr. Lubomíra Havlíková, Ph.D., CSc., for her care and diligent work, which she performed on behalf of the journal over the past twelve years (2003–2014).

With sadness, I would like to acknowledge the loss of a great scholar and member of our editorial board, Professor Růžena Dostálová, who passed away in August 2014. A great promoter of both Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies, Professor Dostálová was an eminent board member and contributor of *Byzantinoslavica*, in which she published since 1956.¹ She is much missed and fondly remembered by the Czech Byzantinists.

In respect to the international editorial board, I am also pleased to inform you that all its members consented to continue their work on behalf of the journal. In addition, I would like to welcome Professor Leslie Brubaker, Director of Byzantine, Ottoman and Modern Greek Studies at the University of Birmingham and specialist on Byzantine art, who joined the international editorial board earlier this year. As for the internal team, I would like to welcome Martina Čechová, an archaeologist specializing at present on the Byzantine Cherson, as the new executive editor of the journal. It is also a great joy to us that the eminent Czech Byzantinist Vladimír Vavřínek expressed his willingness to lend his advice and experience to the *Byzantinoslavica* editorial board. As working with various languages requires numerous proofreadings, let me introduce the members of the new language coordination group, Daniel Larison, Mathieu Panoryia, Jamie Smet and Brian Salas. I hope each of these new members of the *Byzantinoslavica* team finds his or her work stimulating and enriching!

In respect to the organization of the journal, the format mostly remains the same. In order to facilitate communication with scholars and authors interested in publishing in *Byzantinoslavica*, we have created a new web page, which can be found at <http://www.slu.cas.cz/4.html#byzantinoslavica>. Here, visitors will find a new manual to help authors prepare their contributions for the peer review process, information about upcoming events, a history of the journal, the tables of contents of recent issues and details about how to subscribe. Martina Čechová also recently launched a new Facebook page for *Byzantinoslavica*, where we hope to advertise

1 For an obituary note on the life and work of Professor Dostálová see the section Notices.

events and offer space for feedback and communication within the international community interested in the various fields related to Byzantium and the medieval world.

Between fall 2014 and fall 2015, three important Byzantine Studies events took place in the Czech Republic. In November 2014 Markéta Kulhánková from Masaryk University (Brno) organized an international workshop titled *Diegesis in Greek Literature of Late Antiquity and Early Middle Ages (4th to 11th c.)*, which focused on the fascinating genre of Byzantine tales beneficial to the soul.² On September 10, 2015 an international symposium remembered the famous Czech Byzantinist Francis Dvorník, professor of Charles University and Harvard University and a long-term fellow of Dumbarton Oaks on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of his death. Titled *Francis Dvorník – Scholar and His Work*, the event, which took place under the aegis of Cardinal Dominik Duka OP, Archbishop of Prague, and was presided over by Vladimír Vavřínek, inquired into the life and work of the great scholar.³ On the following days, September 11 – 12, another international workshop took place in Villa Lanna. Titled *Lives, Roles and Actions of the Byzantine Empresses (4th – 15th c.)*, the contributions examined various personalities, objects, roles and perceptions of the Byzantine empresses.⁴

The present volume, *Byzantinoslavica* LXXIII/1–2, offers contributions to different genres of Byzantine Studies and I hope it will capture the interest of scholars across the field. On this occasion, I would like to thank all of the collaborators, reviewers, authors and language editors who worked with us this year and sent their contributions, reviews and corrections often at a very short notice.

Finally, in the name of the national and international editorial board, I would like to congratulate Vladimír Vavřínek on his 85th birthday. For twenty years, he was a member of the editorial board of *Byzantinoslavica* before he became its editor-in-chief in 1990 and edited the journal until 1999. An excellent scholar, his work centers mainly on the mission of Cyril and Methodius, issues connected with Great Moravia and various aspects of the middle Byzantine Empire. Recently, his study on the two Thessalonian brothers who brought Christianity to Great Moravia, *Cyrl a Metoděj: Mezi Konstantinopolí a Římem (Cyril and Methodius: Between Constantinople and Rome)*, Prague: Vyšehrad, 2013) became a Czech bestseller and attracted much public attention. Being a very modest man, Vladimír Vavřínek refused a volume of collected studies in his honor. I would therefore like to dedicate to him, on behalf of *Byzantinoslavica*, this volume, in order to show our appreciation for him and his work as scholar, colleague, advisor and teacher.

Χρόνια πολλά, Vladimír!

Petra Melichar

Prague June 15, 2015

2 For details see the report by Nikos Zagklas in the section Notices.

3 For details see the report by Filippo Ronconi in the section Notices.

4 For details see the report by Lynda Garland in the section Notices.

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