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Introduction

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Artykuł został opracowany do udostępnienia w internecie przez Muzeum Historii Polski w ramach prac podejmowanych na rzecz zapewnienia otwartego, powszechnego i trwałego dostępu do polskiego dorobku naukowego i kulturalnego. Artykuł jest umieszczony w kolekcji cyfrowej bazhum.muzhp.pl, gromadzącej zawartość polskich czasopism humanistycznych i społecznych.

Tekst jest udostępniony do wykorzystania w ramach dozwolonego użytku.

Introduction

The latest volume in the *Series Byzantina* includes papers that are a follow up to the discussions during two conferences presenting historic objects from the Holy Land, in Warsaw in 2003 and in Hernen Castle in 2004 (the proceedings of this congress published in second volume of *Eastern Christian Art in its Late Antique and Islamic Contexts*). We are presenting some results of the newest archaeological research being conducted in Israel by Polish archaeologists. Successive articles concern Proskynetaria or painted images of Jerusalem that are now in Kosovo and Hungary. We would like to continue this series of presentations and welcome information about unpublished objects of this type. Future volumes of our series are open for articles on this subject. We also anticipate holding another conference devoted to this topic, this time in 2008.

The volume also contains a bibliography of Polish Byzantine and Post-Byzantine studies, prepared by students from the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw (Aneta Bojanowska, Anna Borkowska, Anna Czerwińska, Izabela Iwanicka, Magdalena Kłos, Magdalena Lachowska, Magdalena Łukasiewicz, rev. Norbert Mojżyn, Magdalena Stasiak, rev. Marek Wojnarowski). The works listed are primarily by Polish researchers, but foreign scholars currently working in Poland have also been included. The latter are most often doctoral candidates of the European Board of Polish and Ukrainian Universities in Lublin. We plan to publish other 'national' bibliographies in the future.

Open borders and scholarly exchange programs have stimulated lively research on Orthodox religious art in Eastern Europe. In 2005, the Museum in Białystok organized a conference devoted to the Old Believers. Invited guests from many countries presented a number of previously unknown objects. The proceedings of the conference introduce the reader to the

religious issues of a group inhabiting northeastern Poland. Ages of persecution in Russia had caused a steady flowing of these peoples to the Baltic states and Poland. During the conference, which took place in a fine monastery on the Wigry lake, Lithuanian researchers were also able to present the results of an international research team that they had put together to conduct investigations in the Baltic states. The Polish organizers are already preparing another meeting which will be devoted to presenting the recording work accomplished by historians dealing with these issues.

In 2006, the Cracow center prepared a conference dedicated to the ties between Byzantium and the Balkan countries. Upon the initiative of Maciej Salamon, many interested researchers were invited, not only from the field of art history. Complementing this topic of studies was a conference organized at the University in Białystok, which focused on the ties between the Balkans and the Polish Commonwealth in the Modern Age. Researchers from Poland, Russia and Greece participated in this meeting.

Several studies of a regional character have recently been published in Poland. In her book, Zofia Szanter introduces readers to the issues of wooden Orthodox churches in southeastern Poland, referring extensively to archival material in an effort to follow the growing trend in this type of studies.

The next volume of *Series Byzantina* will contain the proceedings of the Polish conference *Oriens ex alto. Sztuka i liturgia w Kościołach Wschodnich (Art and liturgy in the Eastern Churches)*, organized by the Institute of Art History of Wszechnica Uniwersytecka. The objective of the conference was to present works of art in the context of their function in liturgical space, which is so important in the culture of the Christian East.

The 21st International Congress of Byzantine Studies took place in 2006. Polish art historians and their colleagues from neighboring countries also participated. In London, successive topical fascicules have been planned. The sixth volume will contain a collection of articles devoted to Romanian art of the 15th and 16th centuries, thus we shall return to issues already presented in the first volume of *Series Byzantina*.

We invite cooperation from interested scholars, not only in presenting substantive papers, but also in the preparation of the next topical volumes on Byzantine and Post-Byzantine art.

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