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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 third volume of *Series Byzantina* contains a collection of articles on *proskynetaria*, painted compositions with views of Jerusalem and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in a central position, surrounded by scenes from the lives of the Virgin Mary and Christ. These compositions were painted in Jerusalem ateliers. Canvas paintings were purchased as souvenirs by pilgrims from Europe, as well as those from Christian communities in the Near East. Of interest to art historians are the sources of this composition, which combines a number of elements of Latin origin to create a whole. European prints are particularly useful in these studies, as they had considerable influence on Orthodox Church iconography.

This collection of articles is the fruit of an international conference organized in October 2003 in Warsaw by the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University and Leiden University. The second part of the conference took place in September 2004 in Hernen Castle. The collection in this volume includes articles by researchers from Germany, Holland and Poland. Further discussion generated articles from scholars in Hungary and Serbia. Apart from presentations of unpublished objects from many European countries, as well as Syria, Israel, Egypt, Syria and Iraq, the volume includes articles on objects from the Holy Land. The volume also presents a list of references and a catalogue of objects from museum collections and churches.

Research on Byzantine and post-Byzantine art in Poland has brought interesting new results. An exhibition of Nubian wall paintings from the collection of the National Museum in Warsaw held at the Kunsthistorisches Museum in Vienna in 2004 was accompanied by a catalogue summing up current knowledge on the topic. The results of the most recent archaeological excavations in Sudan are going to be presented at the Nubiological Congress in Warsaw held in 2006.

In the field of icon painting, new editions of catalogues are of importance, including a study (published in 2004) devoted to the iconography of the Virgin Mary based on some of the icons from the collection of the National Museum in Warsaw.

The fourth volume of *Series Byzantina* will include articles on the Christian art of Palestine, Syria and Jordan in the Byzantine period. A bibliography of Polish Byzantologists researching topics in art history will also be published. The compilation of this bibliography was a project undertaken by seminar students from the Chair of Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Art History of the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw.

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1. View of Mount Sinai, wood painting from the St. Georg church in Drohobych (Ukraine), 18th century.