

VARIA

“Venezia e Bisanzio, intrecci millenari tra storia e leggenda” (conference of Byzantium Cultural Association)

Settled in the Venetian lagoon, the island of San Servolo was the host of the conference entitled *Venezia e Bisanzio, intrecci millenari tra storia e leggenda*, organized by Byzantium Cultural Association which has been active in Venice since 2003, due to a group of young researchers gathered around the portal of Byzantine Studies (www.imperobizantino.it).

The conference took place on December 4-5, 2010 and gathered scholars involved in the study of the millennial history of Byzantium in its various respects, especially in the manner in which the Eastern Empire and the West came into contact.

During the first day of the conference, the projects that Byzantium Cultural Association participated in were presented by Nicola Bergamo (president of the association) and Matteo Brogгинi (editor-in-chief of “Porphyra” review). Among the officialities, we note the presence of Raffaele Speranzon (from the side of the Association of Culture and Sports of the province of Venice) and Yuri Calliandro (editor-in-chief of “Il Gazzettino illustrato”), but the scientific level of the event was mostly represented by the speech held by Giorgio Ravegnani, the well-known Byzantinologist.

The first part of the conference was marked by the presentations of the same Giorgio Ravegnani (director of Historical Studies Department at Ca' Foscari University in Venice), Sandra Origone (University of Genua) and Paolo Cesaretti (University of Bergamo). However, it was rather about an introductory roundtable, in which the speakers emphasized the importance of the relationship between Byzantium and the West, especially from the period when Venice began to express its independence – that is, during the 11th century – to the fall of Byzantium under the Ottoman Turks.

All the other papers were grouped in the second day and they were divided in two workshops. The first of them, entitled *Dall'Italia bizantina all'Impero latino* gathered the papers delivered by Salvatore Liccardo (*Romani e Goti: separati in casa*), Mirko Rizzotto (*Pietro Patrizio e la diplomazia bizantina nell'Italia del VI secolo*), Antonio Pio Di Cosmo (*Bisanzio “madre di civiltà”*), Federica Broilo (*Fons mirabilis, appunto per uno studio sulle fontane byzantine per le abluzioni*), Giovanni Roman (Trebaseleghe: *«tres basilicas» o denominazione di culto?*), Andrea Nocera (*Gli ultimi anni di Manuele Comneno visti da Guglielmo di Tiro*) and Șerban Marin (*Caroldo's Byzantine Emperors before the Fourth Crusade*).

Under the title of *Bisanzio, Venezia e l'Europa in età Paleologa*, the second workshop, it included the presentations of Daniele Dorattiotto (*La Trebisonda dei Grandi Comneni*), Claudio Parisotto (*I détours di Vettor Pisani. Paralipomeni diplomatici*), Christian Caselli (*Alfonso il magnanimo e i suoi rapporti con Venezia e Costantinopoli negli ultimi anni dell'impero bizantino*), Alessandro Angelucci (*Scontro per Negroponte*), Halûk Çetinkaya (*Byzantine Masters at the Service of the Catholic Church at Constantinople*), Paolo Maltagliati (*La caduta di Costantinopoli e i suoi riflessi nella*

documentazione diplomatica Sforzesca) and Maureen McGuire (*Bessarion's Gift to Venice: His Final Plea on Behalf of Byzantium*).

The papers were eventually published online in "Porphyra"¹, the main periodical of Byzantium Cultural Association.

Șerban V. Marin

International Medieval Congress in Leeds

Organized and administered by the Institute for Medieval Studies (IMS) since 1994, the International Medieval Congress (IMC) has established itself as an annual event with an attendance of a huge number of medievalists from all over the world. Nowadays, it became the largest conference of its kind in Europe.

Drawing medievalists from all the continents, presenting yearly hundreds of individual papers and tenths of academic sessions, along with a wide range of round tables, concerts, performances, readings, excursions, bookfairs and associated events, the Leeds International Medieval Congress is Europe's largest annual gathering in the field of humanities.

The two already traditional locations for the congress, Weetwood and Bodington, made that the participants to run shuttle service, before the two campuses being renovated, so that the congress in 2013 would take place in other locations.

For 2012, the congress committee (Axel E. W. Müller, Linette Withers, Marta Cobb, Joanna Phillips, Lauren Moreau, and their team) established 'Rules to Follow (or Not)' as special thematic strand. However, as usual in these important congresses, the fields dealt with by several papers expanded beyond this general topic.

Naturally, the greatest number of the medievalists that participated on July 8-12, 2012 in the congress represented institutions in United Kingdom (more than 400), followed by the ones in USA (around 160), Germany, Austria, the Netherlands, Spain, France (almost 70 each other), Italy (more than 50), Belgium, Canada, Romania, Poland, Norway (between 20 and 30), Denmark, Australia, Eire, Finland, Sweden, Hungary, Switzerland (between ten and 20), Japan, Portugal, Israel, Greece, Croatia, the Russian Federation (between five and ten), and less institutions from Czech Republic, Brazil, Turkey, Iceland, Estonia, Taiwan, New Zealand, South Africa, Cyprus, Georgia, Argentina, Ukraine, China, Lebanon, Serbia, Slovakia, Bulgaria, and Peru². It results a total number of 1,381 medievalists.

As for the presence of the Romanian institution, it was indeed an important number of medievalists representing them. However, one could conclude that it was to a certain extent about a kind of caste feeling. This conclusion could be drawn from the fact that some of them were grouped together in one and the same sessions organized by the Romanian Academy, as if the medieval studies in Romania has less to do with the science

¹ See http://www.porphyra.it/Porphyra_16_1.pdf and http://www.porphyra.it/Porphyra_16_2.pdf.

² As a matter of fact, these figures refer to the institutional representation of the participants, and not to their nationality. Actually, nowadays it became inappropriate to refer to nationalities, since each scholar could very well make his/her research in other countries than the native one. To refer to nationalities in sciences represents nothing but a tribute to relic times.