Late Antiquity, Patristics and Byzantine 2012
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This booklet includes new and key backlist Late Antiquity, Patristics and Byzantine titles
The Blessing of Waters and Epiphany
The Eastern Liturgical Tradition

Nicholas E. Denysenko,
Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, USA

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This book examines the historical development of the blessing of waters and its theology in the East, with an emphasis on the Byzantine tradition. Exploring how Eastern Christians have sought these waters as a source of healing, purification and communion with God, Denysenko unpacks their euchology and ritual context. Denysenko presents an alternative framework for understanding the activity of the Trinity, enabling readers to encounter a vision of how participants encounter God in and after ritual. This is informative for contemporary theologians, historians, pastors and students.

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Christians, Gnostics and Philosophers in Late Antiquity

Mark Edwards, Christ Church, Oxford, UK

Gnosticism, Christianity and late antique philosophy are often studied separately; when studied together they are too often conflated. These articles set out to show that we misunderstand all three phenomena if we take either approach. We cannot interpret, or even identify, Christian Gnosticism without Platonic evidence; we may even discover that Gnosticism throws unexpected light on the Platonic imagination. At the same time, if we read writers like Origen simply as Christian Platonists, or bring Christians and philosophers together under the porous umbrella of “monotheism”, we ignore fundamental features of both traditions.

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Markus Vinzent, King’s College London, UK

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Hannah Hunt, Leeds Trinity University College, UK
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This book explores religious anthropology and asceticism from its biblical and desert roots and within eastern patristic writers including Ephrem, Pseudo-Macarius and Climacus. Hunt examines the apparent paradox that Jesus' earthly existence and post resurrection appearances are experienced through consummately physical actions and attributes yet some ascetics within the Christian tradition appear to seek to deny the value of the human body, to find it deadening of spiritual life.

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Essays in Honor of John M. Riddle
Edited by Anne Van Arsdall and Timothy Graham, both at the University of New Mexico, USA
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Frances Young, University of Birmingham, UK
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Peter Turner
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Late Antiquity on the Eve of Islam
Edited by Averil Cameron, Keble College Oxford, UK

This volume reflects the huge upsurge of interest in the Near East and early Islam currently taking place among historians of late antiquity. At the same time, Islamicists and Qur’anic scholars are also increasingly seeking to place the life of Muhammad and the Qur’an in a late antique background. Averil Cameron, herself one of the leading scholars of late antiquity and Byzantium, has chosen eleven key articles that together give a rounded picture of the most important trends in late antique scholarship over the last decades, and provide a coherent context for the emergence of the new religion. A substantial introduction, with a detailed bibliography, surveys the present state of the field, as well as discussing some recent themes in Qur’anic and early Islamic scholarship from the point of view of a late antique historian.

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Series editors: Robert Hoyland, Oxford University, UK
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University of Hamburg, Germany

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Edited by Stephen H. Rapp, Jr, Sam Houston State University, Texas and Paul Crego, Library of Congress, USA

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The fourteen essays in this collection demonstrate a wide variety of approaches to the study of Byzantine architecture, a reflection of both newer trends and traditional scholarship in the field. Three papers examine Early Christian monuments, two of which expand the inquiry into their architectural afterlives. Others discuss later monuments in Byzantine territory and monuments in territories related to Byzantium such as Serbia, Armenia, and Norman Italy. No Orthodox Church being complete without interior decoration, two papers discuss issues connected to frescoes in late medieval Balkan churches. Finally, one study investigates the continued influence of Byzantine palace architecture long after the fall of Constantinople.

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Angeliki E. Laiou, formerly Harvard University, USA

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Nancy Patterson Ševčenko

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The Cult of the Mother of God in Byzantium

Texts and Images

Edited by Leslie Brubaker, University of Birmingham and Mary B. Cunningham, The University of Nottingham, UK

BIRMINGHAM BYZANTINE AND OTTOMAN STUDIES

‘This is a rich collection with a multiplicity of approaches…’

Elizabeth Jeffreys, Anglo-Hellenic Review

This volume, on the cult of the Theotokos (Virgin Mary) in Byzantium, focuses on textual and historical aspects of the subject, thus complementing previous work which has centered more on the cult of images of the Mother of God. This international cast of scholars, consider the development and transformation of the cult from approximately the fourth through the twelfth centuries. The aim of this volume is to build on recent work on the cult of the Virgin Mary in Byzantium and to explore new areas of study. The rationale is critical and historical, using literary, artistic, and archaeological sources to evaluate her role in the development of the Byzantine understanding of the ways in which God interacts with creation by means of icons, relics and the Theotokos.

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Introduction, Translation and Commentary

R.H. Jordan, formerly Institute of Byzantine Studies, Queen’s University of Belfast, UK and Rosemary Morris, University of York, UK

This book forms part of the Evergetis Project, which aims to investigate all surviving texts associated with the Theotokos Evergetis Monastery near Constantinople (founded 1049). Together with an English translation of the Hypotyposis (foundation document) of the Monastery, it provides a full commentary and a book-length introduction dealing with the historical significance of the house and its important place in the development of medieval Orthodox monasticism.

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