

Center, Province and Periphery
in the Age of Constantine VII Porphyrogennetos

Mainzer Veröffentlichungen zur Byzantinistik

Herausgegeben von
Johannes Pahlitzsch und Günter Prinzing

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Center, Province and Periphery
in the Age of Constantine VII
Porphyrogennetos

From *De Ceremoniis* to *De Administrando Imperio*

Edited by
Niels Gaul, Volker Menze
and Csanád Bálint

2018

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Cover illustration: The tenth-century triptych leaf on the cover, nowadays in the possession of the Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection (BZ.1947.11), depicts a Byzantine emperor, probably Constantine I. Together with his mother, Helena, Constantine I was often shown flanking a representation of the True Cross. In this case, the emperor's effigy bears a strong resemblance to Constantine VII Porphyrogennetos as depicted on coins – see Ivan Marić's chapter below with figure 3.5 – or the famous ivory plaque nowadays in the State Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts, Moscow, that shows Christ crowning Constantine VII. There is at least one other instance in which a legendary figure was fashioned in Constantine VII's likeness: an icon on Mt. Sinai shows Constantine VII in the role of the King Abgar of Edessa, the legendary recipient of Christ's *mandylion*. | © Dumbarton Oaks, Byzantine Collection, Washington, DC.

Die Vignette gibt ein Musterdetail der Kasel des Mainzer Erzbischofs Willigis wieder, die im Bischöflichen Dom- und Diözesanmuseum, Mainz, unter der Inventar-Nr. T 005 aufbewahrt wird. Der goldgelbe byzantinische Seidenstoff, aus dem die Kasel angefertigt wurde, stammt aus der Zeit um das Jahr 1000.

The vignette on the series title page reproduces a pattern detail from the chasuble of Archbishop Willigis of Mainz which is kept in the Episcopal Cathedral and Diocesan Museum Mainz under inventory no. T 005. The golden-yellow Byzantine silk material, of which the chasuble was made, dates from the period around the year 1000.

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Hungarians in the Carpathian Basin, 2008); *Turulok és Árpádok. Nemzeti emlékezet és a koratörténeti emlékek (Turuls and Árpáds: National Memories and the Remains of the Early Historical Period*, 2017)—as well as of numerous articles on the Byzantine archaeological record in the tenth-century Carpathian Basin.

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Acknowledgements

The essays in this volume represent the revised versions of papers originally read at an international symposium convened in Budapest in November 2009 in memory of Professor Gyula Moravcsik, the doyen of Byzantine Studies in Hungary and renowned editor of Constantine VII Porphyrogenetos's *De administrando imperio*. Constantine VII and his contemporaries could not have known the present-day city of Budapest, or even the medieval castle of Buda – first attested in 1241 – that came to house the only surviving complete copy of Constantine's famous *De ceremoniis* in the library of Renaissance king Matthias Corvinus, until this precious manuscript moved on to Leipzig after the latter's death. However, they would have been all too aware of the Magyars, or *Tourkoi*, as they called them, on the fringes of the empire, of whom Constantine VII made ample mention in his *De administrando imperio*: thus the idea arose to make the emperor's three treatises the *filon rouge* along which presentations were invited for the conference, and are organized in this volume, from *De ceremoniis* (evoking Constantinople and the imperial palace at the center of empire) via *De thematibus* (representing the provinces) to *De administrando imperio*, that enigmatic clockwise assessment of the empire's periphery.

The idea for the symposium originated with Dr. András Németh (then a doctoral candidate in the Department of Medieval Studies at Central European University, now a curator of Greek manuscripts in the Vatican Library) and Dr. Ádám Bollók (then a doctoral student, now a research fellow in the Archaeological Institute of the Hungarian Academy of Science), who realized that in 2009, the 1050th anniversary of Constantine VII Porphyrogenetos's death in 959 and the 60th anniversary of the *editio princeps* of *De administrando imperio* (Budapest, 1949) coincided; both were members of the organizing committee in addition to the undersigned. The conference was realized in successful cooperation between the Archaeological Institute of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and the Center for Hellenic Traditions (now Center for Eastern Mediterranean Studies) at Central European University Budapest.

For a series of unforeseen and unfortunate events, publication of these essays was delayed for far too long; as a result, we lost one chapter and gained another.¹ Literature is generally up to date until late 2014/early 2015, when a stroke of ill luck with our then publisher delayed the volume further.

The editors have compiled a huge debt of gratitude over these many years: First to the Fritz Thyssen Stiftung and the Exzellenzcluster "Religion und Politik in den Kulturen der

1 Theodora Antonopoulou's paper ("What Agreement Has the Temple of God with Idols? Christian Homilies, Ancient Myths, and the 'Macedonian Renaissance'") appeared in *BZ* 106 (2013): 595–621. Among the chapters in this volume, Ivan Marić's was not read at the 2009 conference.

Vormoderne und Moderne” at the University of Münster, who generously supported the 2009 symposium. Now eight years later, Central European University’s Center for Eastern Mediterranean Studies equally generously picked up the bill for producing this volume.

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Third to our doctoral students at Central European University Budapest and the University of Edinburgh, who assisted with the various editorial tasks around this volume: Ivan Marić and Elif Demirtiken were enormously helpful with compiling the general Bibliography and devoted many hours to the painstaking task of transforming the whole volume from Harvard to Chicago citation style when an earlier change of publisher necessitated this effort. Aristotelis Nayfa kindly checked the English throughout the volume. With tremendous skill and acumen, Iuliana Soficaru, with the assistance of Vedran Bileta, Nirvana Silnović, Matea Laginja and Dunja Milenković, compiled the detailed index.

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Niels Gaul
Volker Menze
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