

Fountains and Water Culture in Byzantium

This book restores the fountains of Roman Byzantium, Byzantine Constantinople and Ottoman Istanbul, reviving the sounds, shapes, smells and sights of past water cultures. Constantinople, the capital of the Byzantine and Ottoman Empires, is surrounded on three sides by sea, and has no major river to deliver clean, potable water. However, the cultures that thrived in this remarkable waterscape through millennia have developed and sustained diverse water cultures and a water delivery system that has supported countless fountains, some of which survive today. Scholars address the delivery system that conveyed and stored water, and the fountains, large and small, from which it gushed. Papers consider spring water, rainwater and seawater; water suitable for drinking, bathing and baptism; fountains real, imagined and symbolic. Experts in the history of art and culture, archaeology and theology, poetry and prose, offer reflections on water and fountains across two millennia in one location.

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Fountains and Water Culture in Byzantium

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Contents

List of illustrations [vii]

List of contributors [xiv]

Introduction [1]

BROOKE SHILLING AND PAUL STEPHENSON

- 1 Where do we go now? The archaeology of monumental fountains
in the Roman and early Byzantine East [15]
JULIAN RICHARD
- 2 Monumental waterworks in late antique Constantinople [36]
PAUL STEPHENSON AND RAGNAR HEDLUND
- 3 Fistulae and water fraud in late antique Constantinople [55]
GERDA DE KLEIJN
- 4 The Silah tarağa statues in context [68]
BRENDA LONGFELLOW
- 5 The bronze goose from the Hippodrome [87]
ROWENA LOVERANCE
- 6 The Serpent Column fountain [103]
PAUL STEPHENSON
- 7 The culture of water in the ‘Macedonian renaissance’ [130]
PAUL MAGDALINO
- 8 When bath became church: spatial fusion in late antique
Constantinople and beyond [145]
JESPER BLID KULLBERG
- 9 Zoomorphic rainwater spouts [163]
PHILIPP NIEWÖHNER
- 10 Spouts and finials defining fountains by giving water shape
and sound [182]
EUNICE DAUTERMAN MAGUIRE

- 11 Fountains of paradise in early Byzantine art, homilies
and hymns [208]
BROOKE SHILLING
- 12 Where did the waters of paradise go after iconoclasm? [229]
HENRY MAGUIRE
- 13 ‘Rejoice, spring’: the Theotokos as fountain in the liturgical
practice of Byzantine hymnography [246]
HELENA BODIN
- 14 Words, water and power: literary fountains and metaphors of
patronage in eleventh- and twelfth-century Byzantium [265]
INGELA NILSSON
- 15 Ancient water in fictional fountains: waterworks in Byzantine
novels and romances [281]
TERÉSE NILSSON
- 16 The shrine of the Theotokos at the Pege [299]
ISABEL KIMMELFIELD
- 17 A dome for the water: canopied fountains and cypress trees in
Byzantine and early Ottoman Constantinople [314]
FEDERICA BROILO
- 18 Sinan’s ablution fountains [324]
JOHAN MÅRTELIUS
- Bibliography* [341]
Index [384]

Illustrations

Maps

- 1 Plan of the topography and water channels in Byzantine Constantinople, drawn by Richard Bayliss (with permission). [40]
- 2 Location of ninth- to tenth-century waterworks in region I of Constantinople, adapted by Paul Magdalino from Crow, Bardill and Bayliss 2008. [131]

Plates

Colour plates can be found between pages 210 and 211.

- 1 Breccia basin standing in the exonarthex of Hagia Sophia.
Photograph: Paul Stephenson.
- 2 The Kazlı Çeşme, Istanbul, dated by its inscription to 1537,
incorporates a tenth- or eleventh-century marble relief of a goose.
Photograph: Henry Maguire.
- 3 Mosaic of the Annunciation to St Anne, Daphni, Greece.
Photograph: Josephine Powell Photograph, courtesy of Special
Collections, Fine Arts Library, Harvard College Library (with
permission).
- 4 Mosaic of the Annunciation to St Anne, Kariye Camii (Chora),
Istanbul. Photograph: The Byzantine Institute and Dumbarton Oaks
Fieldwork Records and Papers, Trustees for Harvard University,
Washington, DC (with permission).
- 5 Manuscript containing homilies of James, monk of Kokkinobaphos,
Vat. gr. 1162, fol. 16v., Constantinople, twelfth century.
Photograph: Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana (with permission).
- 6 Bronze strobilion, Great Lavra, Mount Athos.
Photograph: Charalambos Bouras (with permission).
- 7 The fountain in the crypt at St Demetrios at Thessaloniki.
Photograph: Jesper Blid Kullberg.

- 8 Ayia Napa on Cyprus, lion-headed water spout with channel, probably from the sixth-century church of St Polyeuktos at Saraçhane in Istanbul. Photograph: Tassos Papacostas.
- 9 Istanbul, Archaeological Museums, marble relief from St George of the Mangana. The Virgin as a fountain. Photograph: Paul Stephenson.
- 10 Stobi, Baptistery, floor mosaic. Photograph: Brooke Shilling.
- 11 Leiden University Library, Codex Lugdunensis Scaligeranus 55, fol. 62r. An early sixteenth-century manuscript transmitting the one existent version of *Kallimachos and Chrysorrhoe* and two of the six versions of *Libistros and Rhodamne*, which has the only miniature illuminating the vernacular romances. Photograph, Leiden University Library (with permission).

Figures

- 1.1 The Septizodium in Rome by Antonio Lafreri. Courtesy University of Chicago, Special Collections Research Center. [16]
- 1.2 Ground plan of the late Hadrianic Nymphaeum at Sagalassos drawn by the team of K. G. Lanckoroński, after Lanckoroński 1892, Abb. 104. [17]
- 1.3 Olympia, Exedra of Herodes Atticus. Tentative reconstitution of the elevation by F. Adler, after Treu 1897, Abb. 294. [19]
- 1.4 Diagram illustrating the functional spectrum of Roman monumental fountains, drawn by Julian Richard. [25]
- 1.5 Ephesos, Nymphaeum Traiani. Cross-section with tentative indication of the flow of water through the fountain, after Quatember 2006, 76 (with permission). [31]
- 1.6 Stratonikeia (Caria), Severan Nymphaeum. Negative traces of terracotta pipelines diverting water out of the main basin. Photograph: Julian Richard. [31]
- 2.1 Roman monumental fountain or *nymphaeum* at Aspendos, Turkey. Photograph: Paul Stephenson. [37]
- 2.2 Roman monumental fountain at Perge, Turkey. Photograph: Paul Stephenson. [38]
- 2.3 Subterranean freshwater stream, thought to be the River Lykos, flowing into the site of the Theodosian Harbour (Yenikapi, Istanbul). Photograph: Paul Stephenson. [41]

- 2.4 Large marble water pipes, discovered in 1964 beneath what was the Mese, Constantinople's central street, Istanbul Archaeological Museums. Photograph: Paul Stephenson. [45]
- 2.5 Base of the Masonry Obelisk in the Hippodrome, drilled and plumbed to serve as a fountain. Photograph: Paul Stephenson. [48]
- 2.6 Base of the Theodosian Obelisk in the Hippodrome, modified to create a water feature. Photograph: Paul Stephenson. [49]
- 2.7 Statue base from the Baths of Zeuxippos, Istanbul Archaeological Museums. Photograph: Paul Stephenson. [50]
- 4.1 Silahtarağa statues, Istanbul Archaeological Museums. Photograph: Brenda Longfellow. [69]
- 4.2 Plan of the excavations at Silahtarağa, after Chaisemartin and Örgen 1984, fig. 1 (with permission). [69]
- 4.3 Torso of a giant, Silahtarağa group, Istanbul Archaeological Museums 5082T. Photograph: DAI Istanbul (with permission). [73]
- 4.4 Head of a giant, Silahtarağa group, Istanbul Archaeological Museums 5066T. Photograph: DAI Istanbul (with permission). [74]
- 4.5 Mosaic from Piazza Armerina, Sicily. Photograph: Fototeca Unione 13048 (with permission). [75]
- 4.6 Head of Helios, Istanbul Archaeological Museums 5059T. Photograph: DAI Istanbul 78/112 (W. Schiele) (with permission). [76]
- 4.7 Head of Artemis, Istanbul Archaeological Museums. Photograph: DAI Istanbul R. 30.454 (D. Johannes) (with permission). [78]
- 5.1 Bronze figure of a goose, British Museum, BM 1959, 0601.1. Photograph: Trustees of the British Museum (with permission). [88]
- 5.2 Photograph of the Hippodrome at Istanbul by James D. Robertson in 1850. Photograph: RMN-Grand Palais / Art Resource, NY (with permission). [89]
- 5.3 Copper alloy vessel mount in the shape of a goose head, with niello silver inlaid eyes, BM 2001, 0701.1. Photograph: Trustees of the British Museum (with permission). [91]
- 5.4 New York lion, Metropolitan Museum of Art, L.2000.84. Photograph: Mari-Cha Collection Ltd (with permission). [98]

- 6.1 The Serpent Column in the Hippodrome, today Istanbul's Atmeydanı. Photograph: Jeffery Archive, University of Oxford (with permission). [104]
- 6.2 Base of the Serpent Column showing a large hole cut in the bronze and a channel carved in the marble base, both to allow water to exit. Photograph: Paul Stephenson. [105]
- 6.3 Bronze upper jaw of a serpent, now in Istanbul Archaeological Museums. Photograph: Paul Stephenson. [108]
- 6.4 Bronze strobilion, detail of lower tier, Great Lavra, Mount Athos. Photograph: Charalambos Bouras (with permission). [115]
- 6.5 The Larnaca Tympanum, Victoria and Albert Museum, London. Photograph: Paul Stephenson. [116]
- 6.6 The Larnaca Tympanum, detail, Victoria and Albert Museum, London. Photograph: Paul Stephenson. [117]
- 6.7 Entwined serpent fountain in a depiction of the Annunciation, Church of the Panagia, Moutoullas, Cyprus. Photograph: Paul Stephenson. [118]
- 6.8 Eadwine Psalter, Wren Library, Trinity College, Cambridge, MS R. 17. 1, fol. 43v. Photograph: Master and Fellows of Trinity College, Cambridge (with permission). [120]
- 6.9 Great Canterbury Psalter, Paris BN Lat. 8846, fol. 43v. (with permission). [121]
- 8.1 The Roman baths of the Kalenderhane complex, drawn by Jesper Blid Kullberg after Striker and Kuban 1997, figs. 11 and 12. [147]
- 8.2 The North Church of the Kalenderhane complex, drawn by Jesper Blid Kullberg after Striker and Kuban 1997, figs. 16 and 18A. [148]
- 8.3 The fountain of the Kalenderhane complex, drawn by Jesper Blid Kullberg after Striker and Kuban 1997, figs. 58 and 59. [149]
- 8.4 The East Church Complex at Carian Labraunda, drawn by Jesper Blid Kullberg. [152]
- 8.5 The Kaplıcalar-Basilica at Phrygian Hierapolis. Photograph: Jesper Blid Kullberg; plan drawn by Jesper Blid Kullberg after de Bernardi Ferrero 1987, 127. [153]
- 9.1 Goeleon/Kayakent near Germia in Galatia Salutaris, lion-headed water spout with channel. Photograph: Philipp Niewöhner. [164]
- 9.2 Goeleon/Kayakent near Germia in Galatia Salutaris, lion-headed water spout with channel. Photograph: Philipp Niewöhner [166]
- 9.3 Kellibara/Yediler Monastery on Mount Latmos in Caria, lion-headed water spout with channel. Photograph: Philipp Niewöhner [167]

- 9.4 Archaeological Museum Nicaea/Iznik, lion-headed water spout with channel. Photograph: Philipp Niewöhner [168]
- 9.5 Archaeological Museum Nicaea/Iznik, lion-headed water spout with channel. Photograph: Philipp Niewöhner [169]
- 9.6 Archaeological Museum Nicaea/Iznik, lion-headed water spout with channel. Photograph: Philipp Niewöhner [170]
- 9.7 Archaeological Museum Nicaea/Iznik, lion-headed water spout with channel. Photograph: Philipp Niewöhner. [171]
- 9.8 Hosios Loukas, Theotokos, *sima* with lion-headed water spout, tenth century, after L. Bouras 1980, fig. 43 (with permission). [171]
- 9.9 Genoa, Palazzo di San Giorgio, west wall, lion-headed water spout, reused and inscribed MCCLX. Photograph: Robert Nelson. [173]
- 9.10 Genoa, Palazzo di San Giorgio, west wall, lion-headed water spout, reused. Photograph: Rebecca Müller. [173]
- 9.11 Genoa, Palazzo di San Giorgio, gateway to the inner court, lion-headed water spout with two birds or harpies and two smaller beasts on top, reused. Photograph: Rebecca Müller. [174]
- 9.12 Venice, San Marco, narthex, middle Byzantine capital with lion protomes and flanking birds, from Constantinople. Photograph: DAI Rome (D-DAI-ROM-66.332). [176]
- 9.13 Istanbul, Topkapı gate, middle Byzantine impost with lion protomes and smaller hunting beasts with lion heads, wings and tails. Photograph: DAI Istanbul (D-DAI-ISTANBUL-R34621). [177]
- 10.1 Homilies of Gregory Nazianzus, author portrait, Sinai MS gr. 339 fol. 4v. (with permission). [184]
- 10.2 Lectionary, Athos, Iviron Cod. 1404, fol. 333, detail from upper margin, drawn by Peter Wheeler after Kadas 1997. [189]
- 10.3 New York Cruciform Lectionary, The Pierpont Morgan Library MS M692, fol. 2, detail from upper margin, drawn by Peter Wheeler. [196]
- 10.4 Pierced marble slab with fountain relief, Iznik Museum Inv. No. 758, drawn by Peter Wheeler. [202]
- 11.1 Ohrid, Baptistery, floor mosaic. Photograph: Brooke Shilling. [210]
- 11.2 Istanbul Archaeological Museums, marble relief from Ankara. Photograph: Brooke Shilling. [211]
- 11.3 Kiti, Church of the Panagia Angeloktistos, apse mosaic. Photograph: Brooke Shilling. [213]

- 11.4 Kiti, Church of the Panagia Angeloktistos, apse mosaic, detail of border. Photograph: Image Collections and Fieldwork Archives, Dumbarton Oaks, Trustees for Harvard University, Washington, DC (with permission). [215]
- 11.5 Khirbat al-Mukkhayat, Upper Chapel of the Priest John, nave, floor mosaic. Photograph: Courtesy of the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land, Mt. Nebo, and the American Center of Oriental Research, Amman. [216]
- 11.6 Jerash, Church of the Bishop Isaiah, chancel, floor mosaic. Photograph: Courtesy of the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land, Mt. Nebo, and the American Center of Oriental Research, Amman. [222]
- 12.1 Lagoudera, Panagia tou Arakos, fresco. The Evangelists John and Luke. Photograph: Richard Anderson, Image Collections and Fieldwork Archives, Dumbarton Oaks, Trustees for Harvard University, Washington, DC (with permission). [232]
- 12.2 Kastoria, Church of the Hagioi Anargyroi, fresco. The Annunciation to the Virgin by the Well. Photograph: Photo Lykides (with permission). [235]
- 12.3 Kastoria, Church of the Hagioi Anargyroi, fresco. The Annunciation to the Virgin. Photograph: Photo Lykides (with permission). [236]
- 12.4 Daphni, Monastery Church, vault mosaic. The Annunciation to the Virgin. Photograph: Josephine Powell Photograph, courtesy of Special Collections, Fine Arts Library, Harvard College Library (with permission). [237]
- 12.5 Daphni, Monastery Church, wall mosaic. The Annunciation to St Anne. Photograph: Josephine Powell Photograph, courtesy of Special Collections, Fine Arts Library, Harvard College Library (with permission). [238]
- 12.6 Istanbul Archaeological Museums, marble relief from St George of the Mangana, detail. The Virgin as a fountain. Photograph: Paul Stephenson. [239]
- 12.7 Mistra, Hagioi Theodoroi, fresco. The Virgin as *Zoodochos Pege*, after Millet 1910, pl. 90.2. [240]
- 12.8 Istanbul, Kariye Camii (the Monastery of the Chora), mosaic. The Virgin as *Zoodochos Pege*. Photograph: Henry Maguire. [241]
- 17.1 Giuliano da Sangallo, Hagia Sophia, interior west wall and exterior from the west, Vat. Barb. lat. 4424, fol. 28r., after Huelsen 1910. [315]

- 17.2 Marble slab from the *şadırvan* of Sultan Mustafa Mosque with cypresses flanking the water spout, Rhodes, 1764. Photograph: Federica Broilo. [319]
- 18.1 Şehzade mosque, 1543–8, inner courtyard with *şadırvan*. The canopy was added in the early seventeenth century. Photograph: Johan Mårtelius. [326]
- 18.2 *Şadırvan* in the courtyard of the madrasa in the Şehzade complex, taking its shape from Seldjuk tombs. Photograph: Johan Mårtelius. [328]
- 18.3 Mihrümah Sultan mosque in Üsküdar, 1547, with the *şadırvan* covered by an extension of the outer portico. Photograph: Johan Mårtelius. [329]
- 18.4 Sinan Paşa mosque in Beşiktaş, 1556, with its *şadırvan* of the sarcophagus type. Photograph: Johan Mårtelius. [330]
- 18.5 Inner courtyard of the Süleymaniye mosque, 1550–7, with its fountain providing water for drinking, but not for ablutions. Photograph: Johan Mårtelius. [331]
- 18.6 Sokollu Mehmet Paşa mosque, 1571, with the madrasa framing the courtyard, its *dershane* or lecture room on the central axis with the *şadırvan* and hall for prayers, all domed. Photograph: Johan Mårtelius. [335]
- 18.7 Selimiye mosque in Edirne, 1568–74, inner courtyard with open *şadırvan* and four diagonal channels for water outflow. Photograph: Johan Mårtelius. [336]
- 18.8 Kılıç Ali Paşa mosque, 1578–82, its courtyard combining the domed *şadırvan* with water taps along the back wall. Photograph: Johan Mårtelius. [337]
- 18.9 Mesih Mehmet Paşa mosque, 1585, its courtyard with taps for ablution along the back wall, while the central polygonal structure instead of the traditional *şadırvan* contains the founder's tomb. Photograph: Johan Mårtelius. [338]
- 18.10 The water-dispenser, 1587, by Sinan's tomb below the terrace of the Süleymaniye complex, and with a distant view towards the Topkapı Palace. Photograph: Johan Mårtelius. [339]

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