

## The Reception of the Virgin in Byzantium

This book explores how the Virgin Mary's life is told in hymns, sermons, icons, art and other media in the Byzantine Empire before AD 1204. A group of international specialists examines material and textual evidence from both Byzantine and Muslim-ruled territories and seeks to explain why Byzantine artisans and writers chose to tell stories about Mary, the Mother of God, in such different ways. Sometimes the variation reflected the theological or narrative purposes of story-tellers; sometimes it expressed their personal spiritual preoccupations. Above all, the variety of aspects that this holy figure assumed in Byzantium reveals her paradoxical theological position as meeting-place and mediator between the divine and created realms. Narrative, whether 'historical', theological or purely literary, thus played a fundamental role in the development of the Marian cult from late antiquity onward.

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# The Reception of the Virgin in Byzantium

Marian Narratives in Texts and Images

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## Preface

The majority of chapters in this volume were first presented as papers at the workshop ‘Patristic Theology and Apocryphal Narratives in Byzantine Devotion to Mary the Mother of God’, which Mary Cunningham organised during the seventeenth International Patristics Conference in Oxford (August 2015). Further chapters were commissioned for the volume from scholars who are working in this field but who were unable to attend that workshop. All of the contributors and conversation partners who have commented or discussed this project with us along the way – including Phil Booth, Kosta Simić, Christos Simelidis and Niki Tsironis – deserve our heartfelt thanks. Two anonymous readers also helped us, as editors and individual contributors, to improve the book. Moreover, we have both been fortunate enough to spend time as Fellows at Dumbarton Oaks during the time that we were editing this book. We should like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to this excellent research library, along with its Director, Trustees and Senior Fellows for these fruitful periods. We are also very grateful to Michael Sharp and Sophie Taylor, as well as the production team at Cambridge University Press, for their expert advice in the preparation of the volume for publication.

Our method in the presentation of proper names – where there exist no standard Anglicised forms – requires some explanation. We have chosen throughout the book to adopt the spellings that we deem to be most familiar to particular groups of readers. Thus the names of figures who belong to the ‘patristic period’ (defined here as occurring before the sixth century) retain the more usual Latinised forms: thus ‘Nestorius’, ‘Proclus’ and so on. Names that belong to figures who lived after this period and wrote in Greek follow the current spelling conventions that are used by Byzantinists: that is, they are presented in their Hellenised forms, such as ‘Sophronios’, ‘Maximos’ and others. We realise that this leads to various inconsistencies, but unfortunately this would be true of any system. We use capital letters to indicate major Dominical or Marian feast-days, such as ‘Nativity’ (whether of Christ or the Virgin Mary), ‘Entrance’ and ‘Dormition’. However, when we are talking about the events themselves (whether historical or legendary), we use lower case. Individual contributors have some license to adopt their own conventions, but we have generally tried to achieve consistency in presentation throughout the volume.



## Abbreviations

AB	<i>Analecta Bollandiana</i>
ACO	Acta Conciliorum Oecumenicorum
BHG	<i>Bibliotheca hagiographica graeca</i> , ed. F. Halkin (Brussels: Société des Bollandistes)
BMGS	<i>Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies</i>
BOR	<i>Biserica Ortodoxă Română</i>
BZ	<i>Byzantinische Zeitschrift</i>
c.	century
ca.	circa
CANT	Corpus Apocryphorum Novi Testamenti (Turnhout: Brepols)
CArch	<i>Cahiers archéologiques</i>
CCCM	Corpus Christianorum Continuatio Mediaevalis (Turnhout: Brepols)
CCSG	Corpus Christianorum Series Graeca (Turnhout: Brepols)
CCSL	Corpus Christianorum Series Latina (Turnhout: Brepols)
CFHB	Corpus Fontium Historiae Byzantinae
CNRS	Centre National de Recherche Scientifique (Paris, France)
CPG	<i>Clavis Patrum Graecorum</i> , ed. M. Geerart, 5 vols. (Turnhout: Brepols, 1974–83)
CSCO	Corpus Scriptorum Christianorum Orientalium
CSEL	Corpus Scriptorum Ecclesiasticorum Latinorum, University of Salzburg (Vienna: Verlag der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften)
DChAE	<i>Deltion tes Christianikes Archaiologikes Hetaireias</i>
DHGE	<i>Dictionnaire d'histoire et de géographie ecclésiastique</i>
DOML	Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library
DOP	<i>Dumbarton Oaks Papers</i>
DOS	Dumbarton Oaks Studies
DS	<i>Dictionnaire de Spiritualité</i>
EEBS	<i>Epeteris Hetaireias Byzantinon Spoudon</i>
EO	<i>Échos d'Orient</i>
ETL	Ephemerides Theologicae Lovanienses



GCS	Die griechischen christlichen Schriftstellern der ersten drei Jahrhunderte
GRBS	<i>Greek, Roman and Byzantine Studies</i>
HA	<i>Handes Amsorya</i>
HThR	<i>Harvard Theological Review</i>
JACHr	<i>Jahrbuch für Antike und Christentum</i>
JECS	<i>Journal of Early Christian Studies</i>
JNES	<i>Journal of Near Eastern Studies</i>
JÖB	<i>Jahrbuch der Österreichischen Byzantinistik</i>
JSAH	<i>Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians</i>
JTS	<i>Journal of Theological Studies</i>
JWCI	<i>Journal of the Warburg and Courtauld Institutes</i>
LSJ	<i>Greek-English Lexicon</i> , ed. H. Liddell, R. Scott and H. S. Jones (Oxford University Press)
MGH Capit.	Monumenta Germaniae historica: Capitularia regum Francorum (Hanover: Hahn, 1883–97)
MGH Epist.	Monumenta Germaniae historica: Epistolarum, 8 vols. (Berlin, 1887–1939)
MGH SRL	Monumenta Germaniae historica: Scriptores rerum Langobardicarum et italicarum saec. VI–IX (Hanover: Hahn, 1878)
MGH SRM	Monumenta Germaniae historica: Scriptores rerum merovingicarum, 7 vols. (Hannover: Hahn, 1885–1920)
MS	<i>Medieval Studies</i>
NPNF	Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers
OCA	<i>Orientalia Christiana Analecta</i>
OCP	<i>Orientalia Christiana Periodica</i>
ODB	<i>Oxford Dictionary of Byzantium</i> , ed. A. Kazhdan (Oxford University Press, 1991), 3 vols.
PG	Patrologiae cursus completus, Series graeca, ed. J.-P. Migne, 161 vols. in 166 pts. (Paris, 1857–66)
PL	Patrologiae cursus completus, Series latina, ed. J.-P. Migne, 221 vols. in 222 pts. (Paris, 1944–80)
PTS	Patristische Texte und Studien, im Auftrag der Patristischen Kommission der Akademien der Wissenschaften zu Göttingen, Heidelberg, München und der Akademie der Wissenschaften und der Literatur zu Mainz, ed. K. Aland and W. Schneemelcher (Berlin and New York: Walter de Gruyter, 1964–)

<i>RAChr</i>	<i>Rivista di archeologia christiana</i>
<i>RBén</i>	<i>Revue Bénédictine</i>
<i>REA</i>	<i>Revue des études augustiniennes</i>
<i>REB</i>	<i>Revue des études byzantines</i>
<i>ROC</i>	<i>Revue de l'Orient chrétien</i>
<i>RSBN</i>	<i>Rivista di studi bizantini e neoellenici</i>
<i>SC</i>	Sources chrétiennes (Paris: Les Éditions du Cerf)
<i>SP</i>	Studia Patristica
<i>SPBS</i>	Society for the Promotion of Byzantine Studies (series)
<i>ST</i>	Studi e Testi
<i>SVS</i>	St Vladimir's Seminary
<i>SVTQ</i>	<i>St Vladimir's Theological Quarterly</i>
<i>TLG</i>	Thesaurus Linguae Graecae, A Digital Library of Greek Literature
<i>TM</i>	<i>Travaux et mémoires</i>
<i>TTH</i>	Translated Texts for Historians (Liverpool University Press)
<i>TU</i>	Texte und Untersuchungen zur Geschichte der altchristlichen Literatur (Leipzig: J.C. Hinrichs)
<i>VAMZ</i>	<i>Viestnik hrvatskoga arkeologičkoga društva (Journal of the Croatian Archaeological Society)</i>
<i>VetChr</i>	<i>Vetera Christianorum</i>
<i>VigChr</i>	<i>Vigiliae Christianae</i>
<i>VigChrSupp</i>	Supplements to <i>Vigiliae Christianae</i>