

Epigram, Art, and Devotion in Later Byzantium

This book explores the nexus of art, personal piety, and self-representation in the last centuries of Byzantium. Spanning the period from around 1100 to around 1450, it focuses upon the evidence of verse inscriptions, or epigrams, on works of art. Epigrammatic poetry, Professor Drpić argues, constitutes a critical, if largely neglected, source for reconstructing aesthetic and socio-cultural discourses that informed the making, use, and perception of art in the Byzantine world. Bringing together art-historical and literary modes of analysis, the book examines epigrams and other related texts alongside an array of objects, including icons, reliquaries, ecclesiastical textiles, mosaics, and entire church buildings. By attending to such diverse topics as devotional self-fashioning, the aesthetics of adornment, sacred giving, and the erotics of the icon, this study offers a penetrating and highly original account of Byzantine art and its place in Byzantine society and religious life.

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To Aleksandra and Filip and in memory of Nana

Contents

List of illustrations [page viii]

List of color plates [xvii]

Acknowledgments [xix]

Note to the reader [xxi]

Abbreviations [xxii]

Introduction [1]

1 From composition to performance: epigrams in context [18]

2 The patron's "I" [67]

3 *Kosmos* [118]

4 Golden words [186]

5 Devotional gifts [244]

6 The erotics of devotion [296]

7 Image of the beloved [332]

Conclusion [396]

Bibliography [403]

Index [475]

Illustrations

- 0.1 Icon of the Virgin *Elpis tōn Apelpismenōn*, third quarter of the fourteenth century, Diözesanmuseum, Freising (photo: Diözesanmuseum, Freising). For the colour version, please refer to the plate section. [page 2]
- 1.1 Icon of the Last Judgment, c. 1260–80, Saint Catherine’s monastery, Mount Sinai (photo: Kharbine-Tapabor / The Art Archive at Art Resource, NY) [20]
- 1.2a–b Ring, fourteenth century, National Archaeological Museum, Athens (photo: Hellenic Ministry of Culture, Education and Religious Affairs – National Archaeological Museum, Athens) [22]
- 1.3 Archangel Gabriel, 1294/95, church of the Virgin *Peribleptos*, Ohrid (photo: author) [30]
- 1.4 Pectoral cross-reliquary, ninth or tenth century, Saint Catherine’s monastery, Mount Sinai (photo: Michigan–Princeton–Alexandria Expedition to Mount Sinai) [40]
- 1.5a–d Details of the epigram on the pectoral cross-reliquary, ninth or tenth century, Saint Catherine’s monastery, Mount Sinai (photo: Michigan–Princeton–Alexandria Expedition to Mount Sinai) [41]
- 1.6 Ivory diptych, tenth/eleventh or thirteenth century, cathedral treasury, Chambéry (photo: Damien Lachas / Direction régionale des affaires culturelles Rhône-Alpes, Conservation régionale des monuments historiques). For the colour version, please refer to the plate section. [43]
- 1.7 Porphyry column of Constantine, Constantinople/Istanbul (photo: Pascal Sébah, c. 1870 / Suna and İnan Kiraç Foundation Photograph Collection) [50]
- 1.8 Detail of the porphyry column of Constantine with the dedicatory epigram of Manuel I Komnenos, Constantinople/Istanbul (photo: Robert Ousterhout) [51]
- 1.9 Sanctuary apse with the *Deēsis* and a section of the dedicatory epigram of the *tzaousios* Constantine Spanes, 1337/38, church of Saint Nicholas, Platsa in the Mani (photo: Michalis Kappas) [53]

- 1.10 Detail of the dedicatory epigram of the *tzaousios* Constantine Spanes, 1337/38, church of Saint Nicholas, Platsa in the Mani (photo: Michalis Kappas) [53]
- 1.11 Detail of the dedicatory epigram of Justinian I and Theodora, mid-520s, church of Saints Sergios and Bakchos, Constantinople/Istanbul (photo: author) [55]
- 1.12 Steatite *panagiaron* of Alexios Komnenos Angelos, fourteenth century, formerly in the Panteleimon monastery, Mount Athos (photo: after Kondakov 1902, pl. XXXI) [59]
- 1.13 Mosaic of the Striding Lion, fifth century, The Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore (photo: Mitro Hood / The Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore) [64]
- 2.1 Embroidered *podea*(?) with the archangel Michael and the supplicant Manuel, fourteenth or early fifteenth century, Museo di Palazzo Ducale, Urbino (photo: Soprintendenza per i Beni Storici Artistici ed Etnoantropologici delle Marche, Urbino). For the colour version, please refer to the plate section. [68]
- 2.2 Dedicatory epigram, 1314/15, church of the *Anastasis*, Berroia (photo: Εφορεία Αρχαιοτήτων Ημαθίας, Berroia) [73]
- 2.3 Exonarthex of the cathedral church of Hagia Sophia, Ohrid (photo: Zoran Letra) [76]
- 2.4 Dedicatory epigram of the archbishop Gregory, 1313/14, cathedral church of Hagia Sophia, Ohrid (photo: Zoran Letra) [76]
- 2.5 Church of the Dormition of the Virgin, Skripou in Boeotia (photo: Amy Papalexandrou) [77]
- 2.6 Dedicatory epigram of the *prōtopatharios* Leo, 873/74, church of the Dormition of the Virgin, Skripou in Boeotia (photo: Εφορεία Αρχαιοτήτων Βοιωτίας, Thebes) [78]
- 2.7 Church of the *Hagia Monē*, Areia (photo: Christina Pinatsi) [81]
- 2.8 Dedicatory epigram of the bishop Leo, 1149, church of the *Hagia Monē*, Areia (photo: Christina Pinatsi) [82]
- 2.9 Dedicatory mosaic panel with the Virgin, Christ, and George of Antioch, c. 1143–51, Santa Maria dell’Ammiraglio, Palermo (photo: Alfredo Dagli Orti / Art Resource, NY) [83]
- 2.10 Medallion with the Virgin and Child and the dedicatory epigram of the *prōtostratōr* John Phrangopoulos, c. 1430, church of the Virgin *Pantanassa*, Mistra (photo: Εφορεία Αρχαιοτήτων Λακωνίας, Sparta) [84]

- 2.11a–b Seal of Basil, metropolitan of Thessalonike, middle of the twelfth century, Dumbarton Oaks, Washington, DC (photo: Dumbarton Oaks, Byzantine Collection, Washington, DC) [106]
- 2.12 Icon of Saint Irene with the supplicant Nicholas, eighth or ninth century, Saint Catherine's monastery, Mount Sinai (photo: Michigan–Princeton–Alexandria Expedition to Mount Sinai) [109]
- 2.13 Joshua before the archangel and the entombment of Joshua, so-called *Mēnologion* of Basil II, Ms. Vat. gr. 1613, p. 3, c. 1000, Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana, Vatican City (photo: Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana) [110]
- 2.14 Embroidered paten veil with the Communion of the Apostles, twelfth century, cathedral treasury, Halberstadt (photo: Juraj Lipták / Landesamt für Denkmalpflege und Archäologie Sachsen-Anhalt) [112]
- 2.15 Embroidered chalice veil with the Communion of the Apostles, twelfth century, cathedral treasury, Halberstadt (photo: Juraj Lipták / Landesamt für Denkmalpflege und Archäologie Sachsen-Anhalt) [113]
- 3.1 Icon of Christ with the silver frame dedicated by the archbishop Demetrios Chomatenos, 1216/17–c. 1236, formerly in the church of the Virgin *Peribleptos*, Ohrid (photo: after Filov 1922) [119]
- 3.2 Personification of *Ktisis* from the basilica at Ras al-Hilal, sixth century, Apollonia Museum, Souza/Sozousa (photo: Jane Chick) [122]
- 3.3 Personification of *Kosmēsis* from the basilica at Ras al-Hilal, sixth century, Apollonia Museum, Souza/Sozousa (photo: Jane Chick) [123]
- 3.4 Metropolis of Saints Theodores, Serres (photo: author) [126]
- 3.5 The Ascension of Christ, middle of the eleventh century, cathedral church of Hagia Sophia, Ohrid (photo: Erich Lessing / Art Resource, NY) [128]
- 3.6 Front cover of the so-called Phokas or *Skeuophylakion* Lectionary, tenth or eleventh century, Great Lavra, Mount Athos (photo: Kurt Weitzmann Archive, Department of Art and Archaeology, Princeton University) [131]
- 3.7 Icon of Saint John the Theologian, twelfth century (with fifteenth- and nineteenth-century repainting), monastery of Saint John the Theologian, Patmos (photo: Monastery of Saint John the Theologian, Patmos) [133]