

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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Epigram, Art, and Devotion in Later Byzantium

IVAN DRPIĆ



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To Aleksandra and Filip and in memory of Nana

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Note to the reader

Unless otherwise indicated, all translations are my own. Scripture quotations in English follow the Revised Standard Version of the Bible. In a few instances however, all signaled in the notes, I have provided my own rendering of the scriptural text in English. As any attempt at consistency in the transliteration of Greek is bound to yield cumbersome results, I have used several systems. Long vowels are marked with a macron in Greek terms that appear in italics: hence *eikōn* rather than *eikon*. For the names of historical personages and locales, I have mostly adopted the spellings in A. P. Kazhdan (ed.), *The Oxford Dictionary of Byzantium* (hereafter *ODB*). The names of modern Greek scholars, when encountered in bibliographical references in Greek, are latinized, but without the application of macrons. The system of the Library of Congress has been employed for transliterating references to scholarly works in Bulgarian, Macedonian, and Russian. All bibliographical references in Serbian are rendered in the Latin alphabet. When citing S. Lampros' incomplete edition of the poems preserved in the *Anthologia Marciana* ("Ο Μαρκιανός κῶδιξ 524," *Νέος Ἑλληνομνήμων* 8 [1911] 2–59, 123–92, abbreviated as *Anthologia Marciana*), I have included a second number in parenthesis: e.g., *Anthologia Marciana*, no. 88 (B145). This second number refers to the new enumeration of the poems adopted in F. Spingou's forthcoming *Poetry for the Komnenoi. The Anthologia Marciana: Syllogae B & C*. When I use the term 'cat. no.', I am referring to the numbered catalog entry on a particular object within the catalog, the full reference to which is given in the Bibliography; when I give a name in brackets afterwards, this always refers to the author of the numbered entry, who is often not identical with the editor of the catalog. Lastly, Chapter 2 of the present book incorporates and expands upon parts of my article, "The Patron's 'I': Art, Selfhood, and the Later Byzantine Dedicatory Epigram," *Speculum* 89.4 (2014) 895–935. I am grateful to Cambridge University Press for granting me permission to reproduce this material.

Abbreviations

AASS	<i>Acta sanctorum</i> , 71 vols. (3rd edn.; Paris, Rome, Brussels: Victor Palmé, 1863–1940)
AB	<i>Analecta Bollandiana</i>
AP	<i>Anthologia Palatina</i>
ArtBull	<i>The Art Bulletin</i>
BEIÜ I	A. Rhoby, <i>Byzantinische Epigramme in inschriftlicher Überlieferung</i> , vol. I: <i>Byzantinische Epigramme auf Fresken und Mosaiken</i> (Vienna: Verlag der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften, 2009)
BEIÜ II	A. Rhoby, <i>Byzantinische Epigramme in inschriftlicher Überlieferung</i> , vol. II: <i>Byzantinische Epigramme auf Ikonen und Objekten der Kleinkunst. Nebst Addenda zu Band 1 ‘Byzantinische Epigramme auf Fresken und Mosaiken’</i> (Vienna: Verlag der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften, 2010)
BEIÜ III	A. Rhoby, <i>Byzantinische Epigramme in inschriftlicher Überlieferung</i> , vol. III: <i>Byzantinische Epigramme auf Stein. Nebst Addenda zu den Bänden 1 und 2</i> (Vienna: Verlag der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften, 2014)
BF	<i>Byzantinische Forschungen</i>
BMFD	J. Thomas and A. Constantinides Hero (eds.), <i>Byzantine Monastic Foundation Documents: a Complete Translation of the Surviving Founders’ Typika and Testaments</i> , 5 vols. (Washington, DC: Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection, 2000)
BMGS	<i>Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies</i>
BSI	<i>Byzantinoslavica</i>
ByzAD	L. Bender, M. Parani, B. Pitarakis, J.-M. Spieser, and A. Vuilloud, <i>Artefacts and Raw Materials in Byzantine Archival Documents / Objets et matériaux dans les documents d’archives byzantins</i> , URL: www.unifr.ch/go/typika

BZ	<i>Byzantinische Zeitschrift</i>
CA	<i>Cahiers archéologiques</i>
DACL	F. Cabrol and H. Leclercq (eds.), <i>Dictionnaire d'archéologie chrétienne et de liturgie</i> , 15 vols. (Paris: Letouzey et Ané, 1907–53)
ΔΧΑΕ	<i>Δελτίον τῆς Χριστιανικῆς Ἀρχαιολογικῆς Ἑταιρείας</i>
Demetrakos	D. Demetrakos, <i>Μέγα λεξικόν ὅλης τῆς ἐλληνικῆς γλώσσης</i> (Athens: Δ. Δημητράκος, 1936–50)
DOP	<i>Dumbarton Oaks Papers</i>
EAM	<i>Enciclopedia dell'arte medievale</i> , 12 vols. (Rome: Istituto della enciclopedia italiana, 1991–2002)
ΕΕΒΣ	<i>Ἑπετηρίς Ἑταιρείας Βυζαντινῶν Σπουδῶν</i>
GRBS	<i>Greek, Roman, and Byzantine Studies</i>
HSCPh	<i>Harvard Studies in Classical Philology</i>
IRAİK	<i>Izvestiia Russkago arkheologicheskago instituta v Konstantinopole</i>
JÖB	<i>Jahrbuch der Österreichischen Byzantinistik</i>
Lampe	G. W. H. Lampe, <i>A Patristic Greek Lexicon</i> (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1961)
LBG	E. Trapp (ed.), <i>Lexikon zur byzantinischen Gräzität, besonders des 9.–12. Jahrhunderts</i> (Vienna: Verlag der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften, 1994–)
LSJ	H. G. Liddell, R. Scott, and H. S. Jones, <i>A Greek-English Lexicon</i> (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1996)
Mansi	G. D. Mansi, <i>Sacrorum conciliorum nova et amplissima collectio</i> , 53 vols. (Paris: H. Welter, 1901–27)
MEG	<i>Medioevo Greco</i>
MM	F. Miklosich and J. Müller (eds.), <i>Acta et diplomata graeca medii aevi sacra et profana</i> , 6 vols. (Vienna: C. Gerold, 1860–90)
MSpätAByz	<i>Mitteilungen zur spätantiken Archäologie und byzantinischen Kunstgeschichte</i>
NE	<i>Νέος Ἑλληνομνήμων</i>
NRh	<i>Νέα Ῥώμη: Rivista di ricerche bizantinistiche</i>
OCP	<i>Orientalia Christiana Periodica</i>
ODB	A. P. Kazhdan (ed.), <i>The Oxford Dictionary of Byzantium</i> , 3 vols. (New York: Oxford University Press, 1991)
OED	J. A. Simpson and E. S. C. Weiner (eds.), <i>The Oxford English Dictionary</i> , 2nd edn. (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1989)

<i>PG</i>	J.-P. Migne (ed.), <i>Patrologiae cursus completes. Series graeca</i> , 161 vols. (Paris: Petit-Montrouge, 1857–66)
<i>PLP</i>	E. Trapp (ed.), <i>Prosopographisches Lexikon der Palaiologenzeit</i> (Vienna: Verlag der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften, 1976–96)
<i>RbK</i>	K. Wessel (ed.), <i>Reallexikon zur byzantinischen Kunst</i> (Stuttgart: A. Hiersemann, 1963–)
<i>RE</i>	G. Wissowa and W. Kroll (eds.), <i>Paulys Real-Encyclopädie der classischen Altertumswissenschaft</i> (rev. edn.; Stuttgart: J. B. Metzler, 1894–1980)
<i>REB</i>	<i>Revue des études byzantines</i>
<i>REG</i>	<i>Revue des études grecques</i>
<i>RSBN</i>	<i>Rivista di studi bizantini e neoellenici</i>
<i>ΘHE</i>	<i>Θρησκευτική και Ἱθική Ἐγκυκλοπαιδεία</i> , 12 vols. (Athens: Ἰθανάσιος Μαρτίνοσ, 1962–68)
<i>TM</i>	<i>Travaux et mémoires</i>
<i>VizVrem</i>	<i>Vizantiiskii vremennik</i>
<i>WSt</i>	<i>Wiener Studien</i>
<i>ZLUMS</i>	<i>Zbornik za likovne umetnosti Matice srpske</i>
<i>ZRVI</i>	<i>Zbornik radova Vizantološkog instituta</i>