



## ONLINE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

### War in Byzantine and Mediterranean Contexts (9th-16th centuries) - History, Archaeology, Philosophy

Friday 8 - Sunday 10 December 2023



Zoom link:

<https://authgr.zoom.us/j/93460333328?pwd=Ulh1SnJjUWIYb09Fa1RsajliNUFZZz09>

Meeting ID: 93460333328

Passcode: 024102

Time schedule is Athens, GR (UTC/GMT + 2 hours)

#### ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

**Paschalis ANDROUDIS**, Associate Professor of Byzantine and Islamic Art and Archaeology, Department of History and Archaeology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, [pandroudis@hist.auth.gr](mailto:pandroudis@hist.auth.gr)

**Errikos MANIOTIS**, MA Archaeologist, PhD Candidate in Archaeology, Masaryk University Brno, Czech Republic, [riecos4@gmail.com](mailto:riecos4@gmail.com)

**Stoyan POPOV**, Assoc. prof., Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski", Faculty of Philosophy and History, Department of History and Archaeology, [mythos\\_sp2002@yahoo.com](mailto:mythos_sp2002@yahoo.com) [stoyan\\_popov@uni-plovdiv.bg](mailto:stoyan_popov@uni-plovdiv.bg)

**Georgios THEOTOKIS**, Assistant Professor, Ibn-Haldun University, Istanbul, [geo\\_theotokis@yahoo.gr](mailto:geo_theotokis@yahoo.gr)

## PROGRAM

**DAY 1    Friday, 8 December 2023**

**10.00- 10.10**        **The Organizing Committee**  
Welcoming remarks

**1st SESSION – Byzantium at War : texts and military treatises**  
Chair: Alexandra-Kyriaki WASSILIOU-SEIBT

**10.10- 10.25**        **Nike KOUTRAKOU**  
'Speaking of War' in Byzantine hagiographical texts. Actions and Reactions

**10.25- 10.40**        **Marina A. KURYSHEVA**  
Two Collections of Military Treatises (*Vat. gr. 1164, Paris. gr.2442 + Barb. gr. 276*): Paleography, Codicology, Illustration Style and Attribution of Customers

**10.40- 10.55**        **Marco MURESU**  
Weapons and lands: framing the military in Byzantine Sardinia (8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> c.)

**10.55- 11.10**        **Dimitrios SIDIROPOULOS**  
Chelandia, Dromones and Pamphyloi. The Byzantine navy of the 10th century through the "De Cerimoniis" of Constantine VII Porphyrogenitus

**11.10- 11.30**        Questions- Discussion

**2nd SESSION – Rus' and Varangians**  
Chair: Marek MEŠKO

**11.30- 11.45**        **Sverrir JAKOBSSON**  
The Origin of the Varangian contingent in the Byzantine Army - Conflicting Narratives

**11.45- 12.00**        **Aleksei S. SHCHAVELEV**

Military Culture & Warrior Ethos of Rus' People (From "Viking Type" to "Nomadic Type")

- 12.00- 12.15**      **Andrey FEDOSOV, Evgenii SHINAKOV**  
The campaigns of the Rus' in the Balkans in the middle of the ninth and end of the tenth centuries in Ukrainian historiography of the turn of the XX-XXI centuries
- 12.15- 12.30**      **Ann FEUERBACH**  
From Oath Swears to Varigians
- 12.30- 13.00**      Questions- Discussion
- 13.00- 13.10**      Break

**3rd SESSION – Issues on war in Middle Ages**  
**Chair: Georgios THEOTOKIS**

- 13.10- 13.25**      **Marek MEŠKO**  
The Overlooked Decisive Byzantine victory over the Pechenegs; the Battle of Lebounion (1091)
- 13.25- 13.40**      **Ioanna N. KOUKOUNI**  
Searching for Dalassenus' military camp
- 13.40- 13.55**      **Marco BÜTTNER**  
War-Legitimizing Reductionisms in Urban II's Crusade Sermon at Clermont (1095)
- 13.55- 14.10**      **Joppe GOSKER**  
Blending Traditions in the Kingdom of Jerusalem. Exploring the use of European and Eastern Weapons
- 14.10- 14.20**      Break
- 14.20- 14.35**      **Şerban MARIN**  
The Venetians and the Siege of Tyre in 1124. A Psychological Warfare?
- 14.35- 14.50**      **Ergün LAFLI**  
Costumes on funerary statues in Edessa and Oshroene (south-eastern Turkey)

- 14.50- 15.10      **Nafsika VASSILOPOULOU**  
Protected by the Virgin Mary: religious allusions to the Ottoman sieges of Byzantine cities (14th-15th c.)
- 15.10- 15.40      Questions- Discussion
- 15.40- 17.00      Lunch Break

**3rd SESSION – Military History, Texts and Tactics**

**Chair: Stoyan POPOV**

- 17.00- 17.15      **David NICOLLE**  
Bloody but Important - The Necessity of Studying Medieval Military History
- 17.15- 17.30      **Georgios THEOTOKIS**  
Strategy of annihilation in the *Strategikon* of Maurice
- 17.30- 17.45      **James GILMER**  
Battle by the Book? Evaluating the Ethnika of Byzantine Taktika in Practice
- 17.45- 17.50      Break
- 17.50- 18.05      **Christopher LILLINGTON-MARTIN**  
Military tactics at the Battle of Dara, 530
- 18.05- 18.20      **Kristiyan LASKOV**  
Battle Cries and “Jericho Trumpets” - Specific psychological techniques in the Byzantine Military Treatises of the IX- X centuries
- 18.20- 18.35      **Giuseppe HYERACI**  
The Role of Holiness in Wartime in Byzantine Calabria
- 18.35- 18.55      Questions- Discussion

**18.55- 19.25**            **KEYNOTE LECTURE**  
**Florin CURTA**  
Life as a soldier on the northern frontier of Byzantium, 6<sup>th</sup>  
and 11<sup>th</sup> century

**4th SESSION – Special issues on war and weapons**

**Chair: Ergün LAFLI**

**19.25- 19.40**            **Tianyu PANG**  
Knowledge flow of siege technology in ancient Asia and Europe  
in the perspective of technology diffusion - the example of  
Catapults

**19.40- 19.55**            **Anastasia CHIZHOVA**  
«The Alans Kingdom Treasures» in the State Hermitage Museum:  
temporary exhibition to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Alania's  
conversion to Christianity

**19.55- 20.10**            **Durmuş GÜR, Cahit KARAKÖK**  
Pseudo-Kufics in Byzantine Shield Depictions on the Art of War

**20.10- 20.25**            **Recep Efe ÇOBAN**  
A question on the bows of Turkic peoples of Altai in 6th-8th  
centuries: Are their structural design composite or reinforced?

**20.25- 20.50**            Questions- Discussion

**DAY 2    Saturday, 9 December 2023**

**5th SESSION – Armors and Warfare - I**

**Chair: Errikos MANIOTIS**

**09.30- 09.45**            **Martijn A. WIJNHOFEN**  
Mail making traditions in the Early Middle Ages (AD 500-  
1000). A case of Roman continuation or disruption?

- 09.45- 10.00**      **Ildar KAYUMOV**  
An Early Byzantine sword from the area of the village of Volkonka in the Lazarevsky district of Sochi
- 10.00- 10.15**      **Zeno Karl PINTER**  
A Byzantine Blade from the Museum in Alba Iulia (Romania)
- 10.15- 10.30**      **Stoyan POPOV**  
Regarding a rare sword with byzantine features from present-day northeastern Bulgaria
- 10.30- 10.45**      **Deyan RABOVYANOV, Iliyana ILIEVA**  
Late medieval sabre from the Museum of History “Iskra” in the town of Kazanlak
- 10.45- 11.00**      **Florian MESSNER**  
Swords of the Dolomites – The weapon production of Belluno for the armies of the Serenissima
- 11.00- 11.30**      Questions- Discussion
- 11.30- 11.35**      Coffee Break

## **6th SESSION – Armors and Warfare - II**

**Chair: Kristiyan LASKOV**

- 11.35- 11.50**      **Timothy George DAWSON**  
“It’s lamellar, Jim, but not as we know it” The mystery of the Great Palace Armor revisited
- 11.50- 12.05**      **Valeri YOTOV**  
Weapons and military equipment in the Balkans in the 11<sup>th</sup> century (Interplay between Scandinavian and Byzantine models)
- 12.05- 12.20**      **Yuliya STEPANOVA**  
Belt metal set in the burials of rural warriors of the 11th-12th centuries on the Upper Volga region
- 12.20- 12.35**      **Manuel FRALLICCIARDI**  
The military finds from Salerno and Sanseverino Castles (Southern Italy)

- 12.35- 13.05 Questions- Discussion  
13.05- 13.10 Break

**7th SESSION – Mounted warriors of the East, Seljuk Turks and Iranians**  
**Chair: Paschalis ANDROUDIS**

- 13.10- 13.25 **Christopher SZABÓ**  
Huns, Magyars, Byzantines, and the impact of the Mounted Archery of the Steppe
- 13.25- 13.40 **Jean-David RICHAUD-MAMMERI**  
Alp Arslān the *muğahīd*?
- 13.40- 13.55 **Paschalis ANDROUDIS**  
On a rare representation of Alexander the Great in Artukid Art (late 12th-early 13th c.)
- 13.55- 14.10 **Georgia GRAIKOU**  
The iconography of Mounted Warriors in 13th c. Anatolian Seljuk and Artukid art
- 14.10- 14.25 **Eleni FAKA, Petra LUČENIČOVÁ**  
Illustration of combats and weapons in the manuscript of the Romance “Varka ve Gülsah” (Konya, 13th c.)
- 14.25- 14.40 **Sara Nur YILDIZ**  
Mongol Qishlaqs on the Cappadocian Steppe
- 14.40- 14.55 **Manouchehr Moshtagh KHORASANI**  
An Analysis of the Types of Armor Shown in Persian Miniatures from the Il-Khanid Period to the End of the Timurid Period
- 14.55- 15.20 Questions- Discussion  
15.20- 17.00 Lunch Break

**8th SESSION – Armors and Warfare - III**

**Chair: Ivelin IVANOV**

- 17.00- 17.15**      **Marco MERLO**  
The evolution of European Armor in the Middle Ages
- 17.15- 17.30**      **Paschalis ANDROUDIS, Eleftheria KONSTANTINIDOU**  
Remarks on the Helmets that were found in the castle of the Venetian Chalkis (Negroponte) in Euboea, Greece
- 17.30- 17.45**      **Mark Charles FISSEL**  
The development of amphibious warfare in Byzantine and Mediterranean contexts
- 17.45- 18.00**      **Fabio ROMANONI**  
War and ships on the rivers and lakes of northern Italy (12th-15th centuries)
- 18.00- 18.15**      **Kalin YORDANOV**  
Transgressive objects of remembrance: the use of skull cups and other human war trophies in the Crusader era
- 18.15- 18.45**      Questions- Discussion
- 18.45- 18.55**      Break

**9th SESSION – War and strategies in byzantine armies (12th-13th c.)**

**Chair: Konstantinos MOUSTAKAS**

- 18.55- 19.10**      **Ioannis SARANTIDIS**  
The Military Strategy of Manuel I Komnenos (1143-1180) during the Battle of Myriokephalon (1176): A New Interpretation
- 19.10- 19.25**      **Theocharis ALEXOPOULOS**  
Single combat in the works of Theodoros and “Manganeios” Prodromos (12<sup>th</sup> century)
- 19.25- 19.40**      **Francesco DALL’AGLIO**  
Kalojan’s Combined Arms: Waging War in Bulgaro-Vlach-Cuman Style



- 19.40- 19.55**      **Ivelin IVANOV**  
Number of troops in the military campaigns in the Balkans at the end of the 12th - beginning of the 13th century
- 19.55- 20.10**      **Evangelos ZARKADAS**  
Another Case of Crusader Orientalism: “Greekness” of Warfare in Frankish Morea
- 20.10- 20.25**      **Rafael D’AMATO**  
Some notes on Roman military equipment in the second half of the fourteenth century. The paintings of the Military Saints of the Metropolis of Edessa (1380 AD)
- 20.25- 20.50**      Questions- Discussion

**DAY 3    Sunday, 10 December 2023**

**10th SESSION – Warfare in 13th-15th c. and pictorial representations of weapons**

**Chair: Nikolaos KANELLOPOULOS**

- 10.00- 10.15**      **Konstantinos MOUSTAKAS**  
Successes and Failures of Military Colonization in the 13<sup>th</sup>-Century Eastern Wars of Byzantium: The Case of Maeander Cretans
- 10.15- 10.30**      **George MICHAILIDIS**  
Fighting with swords and words. Some remarks on the sieges of the First Palaiologan Civil War and the reign of Andronikos III Palaiologos (1321-1341)
- 10.30- 10.45**      **Piotr Ł. GROTOWSKI**  
Under Latin Yoke - Weapon and Armor depicted at Frescoes of St. Peter Church in Kalyvia Kouvara (Attica)
- 10.45- 11.00**      **Anastasios PAPADOPOULOS**  
Writing on Sharpened Iron. Painted Inscriptions on Byzantine Swords and their Meaning

- 11.00- 11.30 Questions- Discussion  
11.30- 11.40 Coffee Break

**11th SESSION – War at Late Byzantine Period (14th-15th c.)**

**Chair: Brendan OSSWALD**

- 11.40- 11.55 **Errikos MANIOTIS, Theodoros NTOGKAS**  
Late Byzantine Period Weapons hoard from the monastery of Hagios Nikolaos of Chrysokamarou in Sithonia, Chalkidiki, Greece
- 11.55- 12.10 **Nikolaos KANELLOPOULOS**  
Some thoughts on the late byzantine heavy cavalry
- 12.10- 12.25 **Stavroula SOLOMOU**  
War soundscapes in historiographical texts of the Palaiologan era
- 12.25- 12.40 **Brendan OSSWALD**  
A Portrait of Carlo Tocco as a Warlord (Western Greece, 15<sup>th</sup> c.)

- 12.40- 13.10 Questions- Discussion

**12th SESSION – War in Italian Contexts**

**Chair: Marco MERLO**

- 13.10- 13.25 **Simone LOMBARDO**  
Galleys, bombards and symbolic war. Innovations in the amphibious sieges of Chioggia between the Genoese and the Venetians (1379-1380)
- 13.25- 13.40 **Filippo VACCARO**  
Blocking the Straits. The usage of naval blockades in Late Middle Ages (14th-15th c.)
- 13.40- 13.55 **Katerina B. KORRE**  
Stradioti of Venice. The question of the origins

- 13.55- 14.10      **Defne Naz KUT**  
Beating Dragons; Eating Crescents: Images of War and Victory  
over the Ottomans in Venetian Art
- 14.10- 14.40      Questions- Discussion
- 14.40- 17.00      Lunch Break

**13th SESSION – On the Introduction of gunpowder**

**Chair: Andrea BABUIN**

- 17.00- 17.15      **Marco MERLO**  
The first repeating firearms
- 17.15- 17.30      **Nevyan MITEV**  
Weaponry and Equipment from the Crusades of Władysław  
Warneńczyk (1443–1444) according to data from archaeological  
found in the Bulgarian lands. Addenda et corrigenda
- 17.30- 17.45      **Andrea BABUIN**  
On the introduction of Gunpowder Ordnance in Byzantium
- 17.45- 18.00      **Katerina MANOUSOU-NTELLA**  
Firearms and cannon holes and balls on the medieval  
fortifications of Rhodes Town
- 18.00- 18.15      **Paschalis ANDROUDIS**  
On an unknown early cannon from Mt Athos, Greece
- 18.15- 18.30      **Fabrizio Antonio ANSANI**  
The “book of armaments” of King Ferrante. Artillery  
technology and visual ideology in Renaissance Naples
- 18.30- 19.00      Questions- Discussion
- 19.00                **END OF THE CONFERENCE**

**LIST OF SPEAKERS AND MODERATORS (Alphabetically, by surname)**

**ALEXOPOULOS, Theocharis**, Dr. Historian, National and Kapodistrian University

of Athens, [theocharis\\_alex@yahoo.gr](mailto:theocharis_alex@yahoo.gr)

**ANDROUDIS, Paschalis**, Dr. Archaeologist, MA in Conservation Studies, Architect, Associate Professor of Byzantine and Islamic Art and Archaeology, Department of History and Archaeology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, [pandroudis@hist.auth.gr](mailto:pandroudis@hist.auth.gr)

**ANSANI, Fabrizio Antonio**, British Academy Newton International Fellow, University of Exeter, U.K., [f.ansani@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:f.ansani@exeter.ac.uk)

**BABUIN, Andrea**, Assistant Professor, University of Ioannina, Greece, [ababuin@uoi.gr](mailto:ababuin@uoi.gr)

**BÜTTNER, Marco**, PhD student, RTG 2304 “Byzantium and the Euro-Mediterranean Cultures of War”, Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz, [marco.buettner@uni-mainz.de](mailto:marco.buettner@uni-mainz.de)

**CHIZHOVA, Anastasia**, The State Hermitage Museum, Oriental Department, Researcher, Curator of the early medieval Caucasian antiquities, [nestandjan@gmail.com](mailto:nestandjan@gmail.com), [chizhova@hermitage.ru](mailto:chizhova@hermitage.ru)

**CURTA, Florin**, Professor, University of Florida, [fcurta@ufl.edu](mailto:fcurta@ufl.edu)

**ÇOBAN, Recep Efe**, Res. Assist. & Dpt. of Social, Economic and Political Relations in Turkic World, the Institute of Turkic World Studies, Ege University, Turkey [recep.efe.coban@ege.edu.tr](mailto:recep.efe.coban@ege.edu.tr)

**D’AMATO, Rafael**, Dr., Laboratorio delle antiche Province Danubiane, Università di Ferrara, Dipartimento Prof. Livio Zerbini, [rdamato@hotmail.it](mailto:rdamato@hotmail.it)

**DALL’AGLIO, Francesco**, Research Fellow, Institute for Historical Studies, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, [fra.dallaglio@gmail.com](mailto:fra.dallaglio@gmail.com)

**DAWSON, Timothy George**, Dr. Unaffiliated, [timothy.dawson@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:timothy.dawson@hotmail.co.uk)

**FAKA, Eleni**, MA Student in Byzantine Archaeology, Department of History and Archaeology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, [fakaelenh@gmail.com](mailto:fakaelenh@gmail.com)

**FEDOSOV, Andrey**, Bryansk State University, Russia, [fedosov-andrey@yandex.ru](mailto:fedosov-andrey@yandex.ru)

**FEUERBACH Ann**, Associate Professor, SUNY Nassau, N, York, [annfeuerbach@gmail.com](mailto:annfeuerbach@gmail.com)

**FISSEL, Mark Charles**, Emeritus Professor of History, Augusta University, GA, [mfissel@augusta.edu](mailto:mfissel@augusta.edu)

**FRALLICCIARDI, Manuel**, Università degli Studi di Salerno, Italy, [frallicciardimanuel@gmail.com](mailto:frallicciardimanuel@gmail.com)

**GILMER, James**, User Services Librarian, Tiffin University, [gilmerjm@tiffin.edu](mailto:gilmerjm@tiffin.edu)

**GOSKER, Joppe**, Israel Antiquities Authority, [joppeg@gmail.com](mailto:joppeg@gmail.com)

**GRAIKOU, Georgia**, MA Archaeologist, PhD Candidate in Byzantine Archaeology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Department of History and Archaeology, [graikoug@hist.auth.gr](mailto:graikoug@hist.auth.gr)

**GROTOWSKI, Piotr Ł.**, PhD. (Assistant Professor), Institute of Art history & Culture, The Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow, [oxygenium@poczta.fm](mailto:oxygenium@poczta.fm)

**GÜR, Durmuş**, Asst. Prof. Durmuş GÜR, Karabük University, Safranbolu Yılmaz Dizdar Vocational School, Traditional Handicraft Pro., Karabük/Turkey, [durmusgur@gmail.com](mailto:durmusgur@gmail.com)

**HYERACI, Giuseppe**, Archaeologist, University of Genoa,

[giuseppehyeraci@gmail.com](mailto:giuseppehyeraci@gmail.com)

**ILIEVA, Iliyana**, Curator (Museum of history "Iskra" - Kazanlak), Bulgaria,

[iliyana.d@yahoo.com](mailto:iliyana.d@yahoo.com)

**IVANOV, Ivelin**, Professor, Ph.D., St. Cyril and St. Methodius University, Bulgaria,

[ivoar@abv.bg](mailto:ivoar@abv.bg) [i.ivanov@ts.uni-vt.bg](mailto:i.ivanov@ts.uni-vt.bg)

**JAKOBSSON, Sverrir**, Professor of Medieval History, Faculty of Philosophy,

History and Archaeology, University of Iceland, [sverrirj@hi.is](mailto:sverrirj@hi.is)

**KANELLOPOULOS, Nikolaos**, Assistant Professor, Hellenic Army Academy,

[nskanell@gmail.com](mailto:nskanell@gmail.com)

**KARAKÖK, Cahit**, Research Assistant at University of Necmettin Erbakan -Art

History - Department of Early Christian and Byzantine Art, Konya,

Turkey, [cahitkarakok@gmail.com](mailto:cahitkarakok@gmail.com)

**KAYUMOV, Ildar**, Independent Researcher, Ufa, Russia, [ildar@xlegio.ru](mailto:ildar@xlegio.ru)

**KHORASANI, Manouchehr Moshtagh**, Dr., Frankfurt School of Finance and

Management, [manouchehr@moshtaghkhorasani.com](mailto:manouchehr@moshtaghkhorasani.com)

**KONSTANTINIDOU, Eleftheria**, Architect, MSc in Architectural History and

Theory, PhD Candidate, National Technical University of Athens,

[elkon90@gmail.com](mailto:elkon90@gmail.com)

**KORRE, B. Katerina**, Dr. in Medieval European History, Lecturer of Medieval

European History, Department of History and Archaeology, University of

Patras, Greece; Scientific Associate of the Hellenic Institute of Byzantine

and Post-byzantine Studies in Venice, [korre@upatras.gr](mailto:korre@upatras.gr)

**KOUKOUNI, Ioanna**, Dr., Independent Scholar, [inkoukounis@yahoo.com](mailto:inkoukounis@yahoo.com)

**KOUTRAKOU, Nike**, Dr. Byzantinist, External collaborator with the Late Byzantine

Hagiography Database Program, Institute of Historical Research, Hellenic

National Research Foundation, [n.koutrakou@gmail.com](mailto:n.koutrakou@gmail.com)

**KURYSHEVA, A. Marina**, Dr. in History, Senior researcher in Department of 'Special

Historical Disciplines', Institute of World History, Russian Academy of

Sciences, Moscow, [kurysheva@yandex.ru](mailto:kurysheva@yandex.ru)

**KUT, Defne Naz**, PhD Candidate, History of Art, Koç University, Istanbul,

[nkut14@ku.edu.tr](mailto:nkut14@ku.edu.tr)

**LAFLI, Ergün**, Professor of classical archaeology, Dokuz Eylül University, Izmir,

[elafli@yahoo.com](mailto:elafli@yahoo.com) [caelafli@yahoo.com](mailto:caelafli@yahoo.com)

**LASKOV, Kristiyan**, Assistant Professor, Plovdiv, Bulgaria, [krlaskov@abv.bg](mailto:krlaskov@abv.bg)

**LILLINGTON-MARTIN, Christopher**, Mr (Coventry University) & 'Professor'

(University of Barcelona), [Clillington-martin@ub.edu](mailto:Clillington-martin@ub.edu) &

[lillingc@coventry.ac.uk](mailto:lillingc@coventry.ac.uk)

**LOMBARDO, Simone**, Postdoctoral fellow, Universität Heidelberg (Germany),

[simone.lombardo@zegk.uni-heidelberg.de](mailto:simone.lombardo@zegk.uni-heidelberg.de)

**LUČENIČOVÁ, Petra**, MA Student in Byzantine Archaeology, Department of

History and Archaeology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki,

[lucenicovap@azet.sk](mailto:lucenicovap@azet.sk)

**MANIOTIS, Errikos**, MA Archaeologist, PhD Candidate in Archaeology,

Masaryk University Brno, Czech Republic, [riecos4@gmail.com](mailto:riecos4@gmail.com)

**MANOUSOU-NTELLA, Katerina**, Dr. Architect, Conservator of Ancient Monuments. Service for the Protection of Monuments in the Dodecanese, Rhodes, Hellenic Ministry of Culture, [kamanousou@gmail.com](mailto:kamanousou@gmail.com)

**MARIN, Șerban**, Dr., National Archives of Romania, [serbmarin@gmail.com](mailto:serbmarin@gmail.com)

**MERLO, Marco**, Conservatore del Museo delle Armi “Luigi Marzoli” di Brescia, [merlo@bresciamusei.com](mailto:merlo@bresciamusei.com)

**MEŠKO, Marek**, Dr., Institute of History, Philosophical Faculty, University of Hradec Králové, Hradec Králové, [marek.mesko@uhk.cz](mailto:marek.mesko@uhk.cz)

**MESSNER, Florian**, Mag. Dr., Institute of Archaeology, University Innsbruck (AT), [f.messner@uibk.ac.at](mailto:f.messner@uibk.ac.at) [messner.florian@outlook.com](mailto:messner.florian@outlook.com)

**MICHAILIDIS, George**, PhD candidate in Byzantine History, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, BA in Archaeology, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, [giorgmichbyz@gmail.com](mailto:giorgmichbyz@gmail.com)

**MITEV, Nevyan**, Dr., Park-Museum of Military Friendship – 1444, Varna (branch of The National Museum of Military History, Sofia, Bulgaria), [nevyan\\_1986@abv.bg](mailto:nevyan_1986@abv.bg)

**MOUSTAKAS, Konstantinos**, Dr., Assistant Professor in Byzantine History, University of Crete, [moustakas@uoc.gr](mailto:moustakas@uoc.gr)

**MURESU, Marco**, Lancaster University, University of Cagliari, [m.muresu@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:m.muresu@lancaster.ac.uk) [marco.muresu@unica.it](mailto:marco.muresu@unica.it)

**NICOLLE, David**, Honorary Research Fellow, Nottingham University, Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, Fellow of the Royal Asiatic Society, London, [david.c.nicolle@btinternet.com](mailto:david.c.nicolle@btinternet.com)

**NTOGKAS, Theodoros**, Archaeologist, Ephorate of the Antiquities of Halkidiki and Mt. Athos, [ntogkas@culture.gr](mailto:ntogkas@culture.gr)

**OSSWALD, Brendan**, Dr., Heidelberg Academy of Sciences, [Brendan.osswald@laposte.net](mailto:Brendan.osswald@laposte.net)

**PANG, Tianyu**, MA in History, PhD Candidate in History, [pangty1995@qq.com](mailto:pangty1995@qq.com)

**PAPADOPOULOS, Anastasios**, Archaeologist, MA in Byzantine Archaeology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, [tpap79@hotmail.com](mailto:tpap79@hotmail.com)

**PINTER, Karl Zeno**, Dr., German Archaeological Institute, Eurasien-Abteilung, Faculty Member, The Institute of Socio-Human Research Sibiu, History and Archaeology, [zenopinter@yahoo.de](mailto:zenopinter@yahoo.de)

**POPOV, Stoyan**, Assoc. professor, PhD in Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski”, Faculty of Philosophy and History, member of the Department of History and Archaeology; Plovdiv, Bulgaria, [mythos\\_sp2002@yahoo.com](mailto:mythos_sp2002@yahoo.com)  
[stoyan\\_popov@uni-plovdiv.bg](mailto:stoyan_popov@uni-plovdiv.bg)

**RABOVYANOV, Deyan**, Assistant professor (NAIM - BAS), Bulgaria, [rabovyanov@gmail.com](mailto:rabovyanov@gmail.com)

**RICHAUD-MAMMERI, Jean-David**, PhD Student in Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne, [jd.richaud@gmail.com](mailto:jd.richaud@gmail.com)

**ROMANONI, Fabio**, Società Italiana di Storia Militare, [fabior.romanoni@libero.it](mailto:fabior.romanoni@libero.it)

**SARANTIDIS, Ioannis**, PhD, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, [i\\_sarantidis@hotmail.com](mailto:i_sarantidis@hotmail.com)

**SHCHAVELEV, Aleksei, S.**, Dr. Hab. in History, Leading researcher in Department of 'History of Byzantium and Eastern Europe', Institute of World History, Russian Academy of Sciences; Professor of State Academy University of Humanities, Moscow, [alexissorel@gmail.com](mailto:alexissorel@gmail.com)

**SHINAKOV, Evgenii**, Bryansk State University professor, Dr. of History, [shinakov@mail.ru](mailto:shinakov@mail.ru)

**SIDIROPOULOS, Dimitrios**, MA Historian, PhD Candidate in History, Department of History and Archaeology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, [kozackal@yahoo.gr](mailto:kozackal@yahoo.gr)

**SOLOMOU, Stavroula**, Dr. Phil. (Byzantine Philology, N.K.U.A.) External Collaborator of the Institute of Historical Research of the National Hellenic Research Foundation, [stavroula.solomou@gmail.com](mailto:stavroula.solomou@gmail.com)

**STEPANOVA, Yuliya**, Institute of world history of Russian academy of science; Tver State University, Russia, [m000142@mail.ru](mailto:m000142@mail.ru)

**SZABÓ, Christopher**, University of Birmingham, M.A. graduate, independent researcher, South Africa, [cavszabo@netactive.co.za](mailto:cavszabo@netactive.co.za)

**THEOTOKIS, Georgios**, Assistant Professor, Ibn-Haldun University, Istanbul, [geo\\_theotokis@yahoo.gr](mailto:geo_theotokis@yahoo.gr)

**VACCARO, Filippo**, PhD student, Sapienza Università di Roma-Universität Heidelberg, [filippo.vaccaro@uniroma1.it](mailto:filippo.vaccaro@uniroma1.it)

**VASSILOPOULOU, Nafsika**, Postdoctoral teaching fellow, University of Crete (Current affiliation), [nafsika.vassilopoulou@gmail.com](mailto:nafsika.vassilopoulou@gmail.com)

**WASSILIOU-SEIBT, Alexandra-Kyriaki**, Professor of Byzantine History, Department of History and Archaeology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, [avassili@hist.auth.gr](mailto:avassili@hist.auth.gr)

**WIJNHOVEN, Martijn A.**, Dr., Institute of Archaeology Brno, Czech Academy of Sciences, [wijnhoven@arub.cz](mailto:wijnhoven@arub.cz)

**YILDIZ, Sara Nur, Dr.**, Middle East Technical University (METU), Department of History, [saranuryildiz@gmail.com](mailto:saranuryildiz@gmail.com)

**YORDANOV, Kalin**, Dr. Assoc. Prof. - Institute of Balkan Studies and Centre of Thracology at the Bulgarian Academy of Science, [kalin.kirilov@balkanstudies.bg](mailto:kalin.kirilov@balkanstudies.bg)

**YOTOV, Valeri**, Dr., Varna, Bulgaria, [valeri.yotov@gmail.com](mailto:valeri.yotov@gmail.com)

**ZARKADAS, Evangelos**, Independent Scholar, Portsmouth, US, [evanzarkadas@gmail.com](mailto:evanzarkadas@gmail.com)

## **ABSTRACTS OF PAPERS**

**ALEXOPOULOS, Theocharis**

**Single combat in the works of Theodoros and “Manganeios” Prodromos (12<sup>th</sup> century)**

This presentation studies the cases of single combat from non-historical sources from the 12<sup>th</sup> century. The works of the poet Theodoros Prodromos and of the so called “Manganeios” Prodromos contain a lot of useful information about single combat. There are also many interesting views of the campaigns of Manuel I Komnenos (1143-1180), against the Serbs, the Hungarians and the Turcomans, seen through the eyes of two civilians. An attempt was also made to record and categorize these cases in order to draw useful conclusions about the effect of the duel, as it is represented in non-military sources, on the Byzantine military tradition.

**ANDROUDIS, Paschalis**

**On a unique representation of Alexander the Great in Artukid Art (late 12<sup>th</sup>-early 13<sup>th</sup> c.)**

In our paper we present an unpublished small mirror with a representation of the Ascension of Alexander the Great, now kept in the Museum of Art of the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor, no. 1959/1.115). The work probably originates (like the inlaid plate with the Ascension of Alexander the Great, now in Innsbruck, Austria), from northern Mesopotamia of the Artukid realm. The mirror, made of cast brass, has a diameter of 6 cm. and a thickness of 0.3 cm. In the center is depicted the Greek king between two griffins. The other side is smooth and unpolished. The work could be ascribed to the second half of the 12<sup>th</sup>- first half of the 13<sup>th</sup> century and bears witness to the Macedonian king’s popularity in the Middle East.

**ANDROUDIS, Paschalis**

**On an unknown early cannon from Mt Athos, Greece**

Our paper deals with the presentation of an early 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> century cannon that is kept in the monastery of Megisti Lavra in Mt Athos.

**ANDROUDIS, Paschalis, KONSTANTINIDOU, Eleftheria**



**Remarks on the types of helmets that were found in the castle of the Venetian Chalkis (Negroponte) in Euboea, Greece**

**ANSANI, Fabrizio Antonio**

**The “book of armaments” of King Ferrante. Artillery technology and visual ideology in Renaissance Naples.**

The rediscovery of a unique “book of armaments” belonged to king Ferrante of Naples offers a significant opportunity to analyze the production of guns in the South of Italy during the late fifteenth century. Indeed, the one hundred and thirty-five illustrations contained in this exceptional codex reveal the circulation of original technologies introduced by foreign gunmakers as well as the development in siege engines promoted by local statesmen. The decoration of the largest bombards will also be useful to demonstrate the celebratory use of the royal artillery according to a visual ideology of military power typical of Italian Renaissance governments.

**BABUIN, Andrea**

**On the introduction of Gunpowder Ordnance in Byzantium**

It is commonly believed that the introduction of ordnance in Byzantium was delayed due to lack of funds and the late empire's technological backwardness. According to specialist literature, the Byzantines did not have access to firearms technology at least until the end of the fourteenth century. Hitherto it was believed that the first incontrovertible evidence on the use of guns within the imperial armies dated back to 1422, when the Byzantine historian John Kananos states that the defenders of Constantinople used “bombards” to repel the Ottoman besiegers of the City.

Literary evidence dating to the middle of the fourteenth century casts a new light on the military capabilities of the Late Byzantine State and demands for a reappraisal of what was previously believed. A careful reading of two texts allows to backdate the introduction of gunpowder ordnance in Byzantium to a period in time that is contemporary with the appearance of these weapons in other Balkan countries and follows by less than two decades the first documented use of guns in the Western European battlefields.

**BÜTTNER, Marco**

**War-Legitimizing Reductionisms in Urban II's Crusade Sermon at Clermont (1095)**

The aim of the paper is to analyze the war-legitimizing effect of binary reductionisms such as just and unjust in the accounts of the Pope's crusade call at the council of Clermont. One such reductionism can be seen, for example, as that of “brigandism” and *milites Christi*, which appears as a motif in various sources. It is interesting to

note that such juxtapositions are not only used to contrast the *milites Christi* and the external enemy, but also, to delegitimize internal Christian conflicts by characterizing them as unjust. In my paper, therefore, I want to show how these binary reductionisms work and what significance they have for the legitimation of the early crusade movement.

**CHIZHOVA, Anastasia**

**«The Alans Kingdom Treasures» in the State Hermitage Museum: temporary exhibition to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Alania's conversion to Christianity**

The aim of the report is to present temporary exhibition in the State Hermitage Museum lasted since 20.12.2022 to 2.04.2023, devoted to history and archaeology of Caucasian Alania in the I-XX cc.AD.

Exhibition had united more than 500 items from 11 leading museums and scientific organizations of St. Petersburg, Moscow and Vladikavkaz.

Exposition shows development of the Alanian material culture in time until the Mongol and Timur invasions, influence of the conversion to Christianity to the local society and conservation of the traditions in the new era. Special focus will be on scientific aspects of the exhibition project.

**ÇOBAN, Recep Efe**

**A question on the bows of Turkic peoples of Altai in 6-8th centuries: Are their structural design composite or reinforced?**

Bow artifacts occupy an important place among the material cultural artifacts that have survived from the peoples of the Turkic Khaganate in Altai, renowned for their skill in horse archery. However, the fact that an intact bow has not been found in the kurgans and fenced memorials believed to belong to the Turkic Khaganate in the Altai region leaves some questions unanswered. This study aims to determine whether the structural design of the bows during the Turkic Khaganate period in the Altai region was composite or reinforced.

**CURTA, Florin**

**Life as a soldier on the northern frontier of Byzantium, 6<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> century**

Much has changed over the last few decades in the archaeology of the Byzantine frontier on the Lower Danube. New excavations have brought to light material relevant both to the last century of Roman power in the Balkans (6<sup>th</sup> and early 7<sup>th</sup> century) and to the first century of Byzantine power in the northern part of the Peninsula, following Emperor Basil II's war against Samuel (11<sup>th</sup> century). The enormous quantity of archaeological material, in the form of remains of military

equipment, but also of daily life (and death) has made possible historical reconstructions at a high resolution of detail. However, there has been no attempt at comparison. This keynote lecture aims to fill that gap. Taking the perspective of two individual soldiers (one from the 6<sup>th</sup>, the other from the 11<sup>th</sup> century), the paper brings to the fore the reconstruction of life in the early Byzantine and 11<sup>th</sup>-century fortifications along the right bank of the river Danube. While using data from several sites, the paper will focus for comparative purposes on Capidava (near Hârșova, Romania), a site with two phases of occupation, one dated to Late Antiquity (5<sup>th</sup> to early 7<sup>th</sup> century), the other medieval (11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> century).

**D'AMATO, Rafael**

**Some notes on Roman military equipment in the second half of the fourteenth century. The paintings of the Military Saints of the Metropolis of Edessa (1380 AD)**

**DALL'AGLIO, Francesco**

**Kalojan's Combined Arms: Waging War in Bulgaro-Vlach-Cuman Style**

Kalojan, who ruled Bulgaria from 1197 to 1207, was a very successful military leader, and employed an army that incorporated some peculiar features that he used to good advantage. It was made of soldiers with different ethnic backgrounds and different warfare styles, reflecting the variegated composition of the population of his kingdom, ranging from the raiding and guerrilla tactics of the transhumant Vlachs, to the field army organized in Byzantine style of the Bulgarians, and the nomadic cavalry of the Cumans. Focusing on some case studies (pitched battles, light infantry skirmishes, siege warfare) the paper will analyze the composite nature of this army, the various tactics it employed, and the reasons for its success.

**DAWSON, Timothy George**

**"It's lamellar, Jim, but not as we know it" The mystery of the Great Palace Armor revisited**

Despite all the fine archaeology that has been done over the last few decades in the territories of Rômania and adjacent areas, it remains the case that the only find of plate body armor that can be securely attributed to middle Byzantine warriors is that recovered from the Great Palace in the 1930s. The limited information that has been preserved about that material has spawned all sorts of curious and baseless theories and opinions.

While no new information has come to light, a comprehensive reconsideration of what there is can, nevertheless, tell us thought-provoking things about Byzantine armor technology in the period preceding the sack of 1204.

**FAKA, Eleni, LUČENIČOVÁ, Petra**

**Illustration of combats and weapons in the manuscript of the Romance “Varka ve Gülsah” (Konya, 13th c.)**

The “Varka ve Gülsah” manuscript, which dates back to the 13th century, is a masterpiece of Anatolian art; its 71 miniatures were illustrated in Konya by Hoylu Abdül Mümin bin Muhammad. The romantic poem of two young lovers, probably inspired by an earlier 7th-century Arabic narrative, is believed to have been first composed by the poet ‘Ayyūqī, in the 11th century, for the sultan Abu'l Kasim Mahmud, and later passed into Turkish literature, in the 14th century. The manuscript is now on display in the Topkapi Museum in Istanbul.

The good state of its preservation allows us to draw safe conclusions about the everyday and military costumes of the people, as well as their military equipment and modes of combat. The animal figures, chosen to be represented, retain a symbolic character.

The theme of the poem is the story of a bold youngster and a stunning youth whose fate and destiny tested their limits. The literary projects of "Leyla ve Mecnun" and "Ferhat ile Şirin" present similar thematic content. The tragedy of the story of the two lovers is a testament to the brutality of war. The visual narration of the events with its successive and detailed miniatures offers a perfect experience to the reader. The end of the story demonstrates that peace is the path to felicity, while piety and humanity are always rewarded.

**FEDOSOV, Andrey, SHINAKOV, Andrey**

**The campaigns of the Rus' in the Balkans in the middle of the ninth and end of the tenth centuries in Ukrainian historiography of the turn of the XX-XXI centuries**

The report includes preliminary results of the research on this topic within the framework of the grant of the Russian Science Foundation «Ukrainian Historiography of Medieval Rus' at the End of XX - Beginning of XXI Centuries: Concepts, Origins, Trends» (№23–28-00281). It draws attention mainly to the internal aspect and consequences of the campaigns of the Rus' against the "Greeks" and Bulgarians: changes in the composition of participants in connection with the dynamics of the structures of Rus' from the middle of the ninth to the end of the tenth century, creating favorable conditions for Christianization. From the external aspects the emphasis is made only on the desire of Svyatoslav to move the capital of Rus' to the territory of Bulgaria and the beginning of the Pecheneg aggression as a reaction of Byzantium to the campaigns of Svyatoslav.

Original, though contradictory to the sources, is the point of view that in 987 the "Tauro-Scythian" help to the basileus was rendered not against the rebellion of Bardas Phokas, but against the Bulgarians (Gorsky V., 1994). A lot of attention is paid to Vladimir's "forced" campaign to Korsun in 988, its religious and political

consequences. Also, an interesting idea by Pritsak, who calls the Rus' "the nomads of the sea" comparing their model of interaction with sedentary societies with that of the steppe nomads (Pritsak, 1981).

**FEUERBACH, Ann**

**From Oath Swears to Varigians**

The Varigians are well known as the elite military group of "Viking" mercenaries in the Byzantine army. However, they are not the only mercenary groups that fought for Christian kings. The paper will explore "Oath swears" and "prime signers" and how they are related to the Varigians.

**FISSEL, Mark Charles**

**The development of amphibious warfare in Byzantine and Mediterranean contexts**

This paper approaches the Byzantine Empire and the Mediterranean by applying broad strokes to illustrate how the eastern Mediterranean advanced amphibious warfare. For utilitarian purposes the paper will succinctly bifurcate between continuity and innovation. The analytical themes will be derived from those sketched out in chapters one and seven in *Amphibious Warfare 1000-1700* (Brill 2006), a pair of essays I co-wrote with DJB Trim as a template for analyzing amphibious campaigns and their sustenance. The eastern Mediterranean, as you know well, was a salubrious environment for experimentation with a type of warfare that was indispensable given the geographical challenges with which states in that region contended for their very survival (commercially as well as militarily). That the eastern Mediterranean was a nursery for amphibious warfare, and subsequent advances in naval warfare, is an argument that I have recently suggested in "Out of Africa: The Egyptian Origins of Amphibious Warfare" in the *Routledge Handbook of Global History of Warfare* edited by Kaushik Roy and Michael Charney (forthcoming 2024). A case study in the midst of these generalities is Crete, particularly the Byzantine expeditions to that island. Was Crete a "contact zone"? I'd like to pose that question against the backdrop of ancient amphibious warfare (as I've tried to propose in the forthcoming "Asia's ancient Mediterranean littoral as a military contact zone, 2500-498 BCE" in *Handbook of Asian Military History*, edited by Kaushik Roy and the late Dennis Showalter [forthcoming 2024, Oxford University Press – India]). In short, the breadth of coverage should appeal to a substantial audience and genuinely contextualize Byzantium's conduct of amphibious warfare.

**FRALLICCIARDI, Manuel**

**The military finds from Salerno and Sanseverino Castles (Southern Italy)**

From the old excavation campaigns in the castles of Salerno (1991-1993) and Mercato San Severino (2002-2006), emerged an interesting collection of finds related to the military life of these castles of the Tyrrhenian Campania (elements of “corazzine” and “brigantine”, arrowheads and darts, mace heads, lithic projectiles for artillery, caltrops, spurs). This rich repertoire allows us to analyze the types of armaments that circulated in the castles of late medieval Campania between the 13th and 15th centuries, through rare archaeological evidence of which, at the moment, there are few other comparisons.

**GILMER, James**

### **Battle by the Book? Evaluating the *Ethnika* of Byzantine *Taktika* in Practice**

In this paper I will examine the conduct of Byzantine generals – primarily Flavius Belisarios and Alexios I Komnenos – and compare the records of the historical chronicles with the recommended military tactics of contemporary and near-contemporary military manuals. I have chosen to examine the military careers of Flavius Belisarios and Alexios I Komnenos because both commanded Byzantine armies against foes whose tactics are explicitly described in the *Ethnika* portions of Maurice’s *Strategikon* and the *Taktika* of Leo VI the Wise, respectively; thus, both commanders serve as ideal case studies. In examining the military careers of these two commanders I will be able to ascertain if either modified their tactics in response to the expected tactics of their eastern or western adversaries, applying advice provided by the *taktika* and thus reinforcing the notion that the Byzantines produced military manuals for practical application, not merely as an encyclopedic exercise.

**GOSKER, Joppe**

### **Blending Traditions in the Kingdom of Jerusalem, Exploring the use of European and Eastern Weapons**

The Kingdom of Jerusalem, established after the First Crusade in 1099 and lasting until the fall of `Akko in 1291, witnessed the adaptation of the Franks to local conditions. This extended to the realm of weaponry, where they incorporated Eastern weapons alongside those common in Western Europe, sometimes displacing them. This paper explores the reasons behind the adoption of specific weapons, highlighting the intricate considerations beyond the notion of technological superiority. Although the archaeological record is biased towards smaller objects, the examination of all types of weapons provides valuable insights into the period. The abundance of discovered arrowheads provides a strong foundation for formulating interpretive theories. Nonetheless, the meticulous examination of a single sword or mace head yields equally valuable insights. By unraveling the entanglement of these finds with the social, technological, and political contexts of Medieval Europe and the Levant, this paper sheds light on warfare in general. Through the study of Frankish weapons adoption, his research illuminates the blending of traditions and

the unique hybridity that characterized the military practices of the Kingdom of Jerusalem.

**GROTOWSKI, Piotr Ł.**

**Under Latin Yoke - Weapon and Armor depicted at Frescoes of St. Peter Church in Kalyvia Kouvara (Attica)**

The conquest of the domain ruled by revolted governor of Nafplion, Leo Sgouros by crusaders in 1205 created new political reality. Newly created Duchy of Athens ruled by Otto de la Roche replaced Orthodox ecclesiastical organization by Latin and in 1209 pope Innocent III established Berard as new, Roman-Catholic bishop of Athens. Nevertheless Greek population remained faithful to the old beliefs and the Greek Church was tolerated in the principality. Seeking ways of communication with new regime newly erected churches were dedicated to the saints associated with western Christendom (as was in the case of St. Peter church in Kalyvia Kouvara). On the other hand Orthodox founders tried to express their disappointment of the Frankokratia by the visual message created on the walls of new shrines. In my paper I will analyze the case of Kalyvia Kouvara church created around the year 1232/1233.

**GÜR, Durmuş, KARAKÖK, Cahit**

**Pseudo-kufics in Byzantine Shield Depictions on the Art of War**

The subject of the study consists of Pseudo-Kufics in Byzantine shield depictions dated to the 11th -14th centuries. Pseudo-Kufics, which began to appear in Byzantine art in the 9th century, were interpreted as decoration, unreadable words, or apotropaic expressions. Pseudo-Kufics, applied in architecture, frescoes, textiles and small artworks during the Byzantine period, became widespread in the 11th and 12th centuries and enhanced as of the 15th century. Pseudo-Kufics, whose readable status was mostly ignored with their particular and apotropaic meanings, were also applied to the weapons and shields of Byzantine soldiers based on the belief that they had special powers. The Pseudo-Kufics, which had a wide range of applications due to the conquests, occupations, trade activities, the influence of prisoners of war, and interactions in other fields in Byzantine shield depictions, were examined in the present study.

**HYERACI, Giuseppe**

**The Role of Holiness in Wartime in Byzantine Calabria**

The frontier role of Calabria, endemically exposed, between the 9th and 11th centuries, to constant solicitations at a military level, is accompanied by the elaboration of a historical literature, inherent in the regional hagiographic production, in which the direct involvement of various social categories emerges, starting from

the most charismatic components with their projective symbols. This literature - implicitly or explicitly - was intended to weld ideally, politically and militarily the entire Calabrian-Greek society at its core. According to a consolidated hagiographic tradition which "politicises" the role of holiness, the empire then lined up, alongside the armies, the powerful celestial militia; it actively intervenes in the Arab-Byzantine conflict, fulfilling its mission as a "shield" for cities and communities in various forms, sometimes assuming over time the function of an urban *palladium*. Within this perspective, Italo-Greek monasticism represents itself according to military attributes, declining its pastoral mission and its virtues in relation to the complexity and the circumstances of the conflict and making its faculties available for the realization of higher teleological plans.

**IVANOV, Ivelin**

**Number of troops in the military campaigns in the Balkans at the end of the 12th - beginning of the 13th century**

The talk discusses the number of troops in the military campaigns in the Balkans and partly in Asia Minor at the end of the 12th - the beginning of the 13th century. Analyzing the data from written sources and some archaeological information, the author examines the number of troops of the Third and the Fourth Crusade, of the Latin principalities in the Southern Balkans, and those of the opposing forces - Byzantines, Bulgarians, Vlachs, Cumans, and Nicaeans. In conclusion, the author supports the view of rather limited military forces, in contrast to most information from written sources.

**JAKOBSSON, Sverrir**

**The Origin of the Varangian contingent in the Byzantine Army – Conflicting Narratives**

The role of Prince Vladimir of Kiev in the Christianization of the Rus and the formation of the Varangian guard had generally been regarded as crucial. An analysis of the twelfth-century Primary Chronicle deconstructs it as a reliable source for ninth- and tenth-century events and the ideological and political aspects of the Chronicle are emphasized. Thus, more emphasis is placed on earlier sources in the analysis of Prince Vladimir and his relationship with the Roman Empire. This paper examines conflicting narratives of this event and analyses crucial differences between them.

**KANELLOPOULOS, Nikolaos**

**Some thoughts on the late byzantine heavy cavalry**



It is commonplace to refer to the unsuitability of the heavy cavalry of the late byzantine armies, especially when they faced the heavy cavalry of the Latins. This paper aims to examine the evidence for the late byzantine heavy cavalry, such as training, tactics, armament and horses, and to explore the reasons why it was considered inferior to the Western cavalry -if indeed it was inferior- as well as the measures taken by the Byzantines to improve its performance on the battlefield.

**KAYUMOV, Ildar**

**An Early Byzantine sword from the area of the village of Volkonka in the Lazarevsky district of Sochi**

In 2011, during earthworks on an old logging road near the village of Volkonka, workers found a long iron sword and a gilded bronze buckle. The sword belongs to the Early Byzantine type "Aradac-Kölked-Corinth" common in the late 6th – first half of the 7th centuries CE. Unlike the most swords of this type, this sword has an iron handguard instead of the usual bronze. The buckle can also be dated to the first half of the 7th century CE. About a mile from the site of the discovery, in the village of Volkonka proper, there are ruins of the Godlik fortress named after the river at the mouth of which it is located. Some researchers identify the fortress with the Byzantine Nicopsis.

**KHORASANI, Manouchehr Moshtagh**

**An Analysis of the Types of Armor Shown in Persian Miniatures from the Il-Khanid Period to the End of the Timurid Period**

The following article examines the lamellar and laminated armor depicted in Persian miniatures from Il-Khanid to the end of the Timurid period. The article offers a clear distinction between lamellar and laminated armor, and also discusses different types of lamellar plates used in the construction of lamellar armor. In addition, the article discusses the role of round steel plates used in various types of Persian lamellar and laminated armor from these periods. Typically, these armor sets had four steel plates: a round steel plate in front of the body to protect the chest, a round steel plate in the back to protect the back, and two smaller steel plates under the armpits to protect these vital areas against upward sword cuts and spear thrusts. Since these small plates are not often shown in miniatures, many researchers have assumed that these armor sets had only two round steel plates in the front and back of the armor. The following article also discusses the materials used to make the plates for the lamellar armor and the laminated plates for the laminated armor. The earlier examples use hardened hide plates and the later examples use steel plates. The article also discusses the materials used to join the plates together, such as leather cords and riveted rings for Joshan armor.

**KORRE, Katerina, B.**

**Stradioti of Venice. The question of the origins**

The emergence of the study of the *stradioti* mercenary cavalrymen, within a few decades after the foundation of the modern Greek state in the 19th century, covered the historical phenomenon with ideological interpretations relevant to certain definitions of "ethnic or national identity", thus putting it at the very core of the then accepted concept of the "continuity". However, this instrumentalistic view prevented the scientific research in the coming decades. As a significant phenomenon perceived *in the long run* - because its essence is captured more by its transformations and less by its constants - its origins are lost in the early European Middle Ages while its estuary forms the early modern period of European history. The aim of our presentation is the collected, documented and - above all - combined interpretation of this social category, with socio-economic terms and a methodology based on unbiased historical research.

**KOUKOUNI, Ioanna**

**Searching for Dalassenus' military camp**

In the seventh book of the *Alexiad*, Anna Komnene recounts the military preparations and the victory of the Byzantine admiral Dalassenus against the pirate Tzachas. "Dalassenus succeeded in collecting his troops and sail for Volissos, a small rural fortified town in the NW part of Chios island. There, at Volissos, he refitted his ships, prepared siege-engines, gave his soldiers a rest and collected some more ..."

This paper examines a deserted site, *Tou Kokkinou to chorio*, located to the southwest of the settlement of Volissos, and attempts to make a start in the direction of locating the Byzantine military camp of Dalassenus.

**KOUTRAKOU, Nike**

**'Speaking of War' in Byzantine hagiographical texts. Actions and Reactions**

The metaphorical use of war vocabulary in order to describe a saint's endeavors towards sanctity is a literary *topos* already in the early hagiographical texts, with the *Life* of St Anthony the Great being a prime example. Hagiographical tradition in its several literary subgenres (*Saints' Passions, Lives, Encomia* etc) often presents saints battling temptations in the form of demons, dragons, etc, in short, the devil and Evil as the saint's formal enemy. There are numerous descriptions of saints holding the cross as a sword and sheltering under the shield of their faith. However, depictions of real wars and battles are not absent from such texts. They range from casual references to events that happened during a saint's lifetime to scenes in which the saint's intervention (in person or miraculously) is inherent in the outcome of the

battle or in saving combatants (and enhance the saint's cult in a particular area or period), to full-fledged detailed battle descriptions. Although often the hagiographical point of view is the one of the victim of war and its terminology is one of catastrophes, raids and fear, the opposite is also true. Hagiographical texts even mention specific issues that are more compatible with strategic manuals, such as a battle's geographical context, what Leo VI's *Tactica* would term τὴν τῶν τόπων ἐπιτηδειότητα. Taking into account the hagiographers' eventual literary influences and ideological involvement, this study, based on specific hagiographical texts from each period, aims at presenting a typology of such scenes with a view of discerning specific purposes on the part of the hagiographers, as well as trends and changes, in particular during the last centuries of Byzantium.

**KURYSHEVA, Marina A.**

**Two Collections of Military Treatises (*Vat. gr. 1164, Paris. gr. 2442 + Barb. gr. 276*):  
Paleography, Codicology, Illustration Style, and Attribution of Customers**

One of the basic sources on the history of Byzantine military affairs and war ideology are collections of Ancient and Byzantine polemological treatises. Obviously, correct work with this historical source requires a reasonable solution of the issues of dating and attribution of the manuscripts in which they have come down to us. In my report I propose the analyses of paleography, codicology & style of illustrations of two manuscripts *Vat. gr. 1164, Paris. gr. 2442 + Barb. gr. 276* written in *Perlschrift*. In historiography these two codices always referred to the beginning – the first half of the 11<sup>th</sup> c. But according to their paleographic characteristics, they should be dated the second half of the 10<sup>th</sup> c. The perfect codicology of manuscripts and its refined design, including complicated illustrations, finally confirm their origin from the Palace library in Constantinople. It is possible that these manuscripts were commissioned by Emperor Nikephoros II Phokas and his brothers, who were also famous warlords. My dating and attribution of the codices provides a unique opportunity to study them as original collections, living artifacts of the Macedonian Renaissance.

**KUT, Defne Naz**

**Beating Dragons; Eating Crescents: Images of War and Victory over the Ottomans  
in Venetian Art**

This study aims to explore the recurrent allegorical symbols in Venetian art, including paintings, frescoes and engravings by Venetian artists, representing their victories in naval battles against the Ottoman Empire. The Ottoman territorial expansion gained an immense pace during the 15<sup>th</sup> century and resulted in severe political opposition (conflicts?) between the Republic of Venice and the Ottoman Empire in the Mediterranean. These conflicts, particularly the two major Venetian

victories of the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries, namely the Battle of Lepanto (1571) and the Morean War (1684-99) resulted in a great number of visual political propaganda against the Ottomans, through the paintings, frescoes, engravings and illustrated pamphlets. The recurrent allegorical iconography of the Venetian victory included the Lion of St. Mark beating the uncontrollable and savage “dragon”; or eating off the “crescent”, the symbol of Muslim “other”. The Ottoman soldiers, easily recognizable by their Oriental turbans are depicted “falling” and defeated, as a sign of Venetian triumph in “controlling the uncontrollable”. This visual narrative, emphasized through this allegorical imagery, created a visual tradition in Venetian art against its centuries-long political opponent. Through demonstrations of similar iconographies from different periods of war, this paper aims to analyze the establishment of Venetian symbolism vis-à-vis the Ottoman Empire and the Republic’s naval victories against the Empire.

**LAFLLI, Ergün**

**Costumes on funerary statues in Edessa and Oshroene (south-eastern Turkey)**

This paper covers many aspects of military textile and clothing research from detailed analyses of specific cloths, weaves or dyes to discussions of technological developments in textile manufacture and production through the figures on statues in the local museum of Sanliurfa in south-eastern Turkey. The aim of the paper is to report Roman-Byzantine military garments in such a specific context, and their techniques in Roman Asia Minor. So far not much efforts was given to the textile research in Asia Minor. Thus, this presentation will be a new approach on this subject with some examples.

**LASKOV, Kristiyan**

**Battle Cries and “Jericho Trumpets”- Specific psychological techniques in the Byzantine Military Treatises of the IX- X centuries**

The article attempts to examine the presence of various psychological techniques in the Byzantine military treaties during the Macedonian dynasty. The applied interdisciplinary methods of study, from the field of psychology and psychobiology, sets out to analyze the mechanisms of fear and certain human instincts. The practical implementation of the psychological concepts used in the Byzantine military treatises is illustrated by examples and comparison with the historical sources of the era such as John Skylitzes and Leo the Deacon.

**LILLINGTON-MARTIN, Christopher**

**Military tactics at the Battle of Dara, 530**

This paper will challenge current scholarship and change narratives. It will consider the battle of Dara, described by three ancient primary sources (including Procopius). It took place in a valley directly to the south of Dara. There has been considerable debate regarding how far south of Dara the battle took place. Arguments have been summarized by Geoffrey Geatrex (2022: 180-2)\* and will be challenged by Michael Whitby (2023 forthcoming). I shall review and illustrate the arguments, and provide new ones to support that the battle was fought approximately 2.5 km south of Dara, based on studies of the landscape and the textual sources.

\* Geatrex, G. (2022). *Procopius of Caesarea: The Persian Wars: A Historical Commentary*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

**LOMBARDO, Simone**

**Galleys, bombards and symbolic war. Innovations in the amphibious sieges of Chioggia between the Genoese and the Venetians (1379-1380)**

The battles fought between the Genoese and the Venetians in the lagoon of Chioggia, between 1379 and 1380, marked a turning point for naval warfare. These battles saw the first-time massive use of embarked artillery, in a process carried out thanks to the navies in the Mediterranean rather than in the Northern seas. Since Chioggia, naval warfare had not only been left in the hands of crossbowmen and crew, but it would have become also one of exhausting bombardments. It is possible to analyze the tactics and aims of the Genoese, the symbolic dimension of the conflict, with the stealing of relics and insignias. This will allow to carry out an in-depth analysis on the ways of managing an uncommon amphibian siege. This naval and trenches warfare, in which artillery was for the first time relevant, marked one of the transformations that preconized following centuries.

**MANIOTIS, Errikos, NTOGKAS, Theodoros**

**Late Byzantine Period Weapons hoard from the monastery of Hagios Nikolaos of Chrysokamarou in Sithonia, Chalkidike, Greece**

During the excavations that had been conducted by the Ephorate of Antiquities of Chalkidike and Mount Athos back in 2000 in the Mytari peninsula in Pyrgos of Hagios Nikolaos in the region of Sithonia, Chalkidike, a complex of medieval buildings, such as towers of different largeness, a fortified wall and monastic cells, had been discovered. A manuscript that is kept in the library of the monastery of Xenophontos in Mount Athos, dated in 1338, mentions that the monastery of the Hagios Nikolaos of Chrysokamarou is related with the medieval phase of the previously mentioned complex, which is in the Mytari peninsula.

In a destruction layer, a hoard of offensive weapons such as parts of curved blades, arrowheads and parts of crossbows and ballistae had been discovered. Our presentation aims on the studying of this weaponry, which is unique, because

according to our knowledge this is probably the sole example of weapons in Greece, which has been found during a systematic excavation, dated in the late Byzantine period.

**MANOUSOU-NTELLA, Katerina**

**Firearms and cannon holes and balls on the medieval fortifications of Rhodes Town**

Rhodes reflects the characteristic historic period during which the Military and Welfare Order of the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem derived from the Crusades survived in the East Mediterranean. The widespread use of gunpowder played an important role to the development of the fortifications during the 15<sup>th</sup> century. The large fortress of Rhodes survived intact since 1522 and provides us with the opportunity to study all the experiments that military architecture attempted to cope with enemy fire and to return it. The aim of the paper is to try to match the battle positions and the cannon slots that still exist on the Walls with the graphic depictions of the travelers of the Turkish era and the surviving weapons in Rhodes and Europe.

**MARIN, Șerban**

**The Venetians and the Siege of Tyre in 1124. A Psychological Warfare?**

The paper relies upon a number of around 200 Venetian chronicles, among which almost all of them deal with the so-called "Venetian crusade" in 1122-1124. The climax of this crusade was represented by the siege of Tyre that finally surrendered to the Venetian and non-Venetian crusaders after more than four months of resistance from the side of the 'Infidels'. The representation of this event in the Venetian chronicles considered that the conquest of the city was due to a fake letter written by the crusaders and sent to those that defended Tyre. The paper makes an attempt to investigate the manner in which this represented a psychological warfare.

**MERLO, Marco**

**The evolution of European Armor in the Middle Ages**

The evolution of armor in Western Europe in the Middle Ages is still a little known topic. Although it was a process that took place at different times depending on the geographical area, some fundamental moments can be identified that involved all of Europe: - The armor of the High Middle Ages, still linked to late antique traditions - The 11th century and the approval of armaments, also thanks to the transfer of the Normans - The years between the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, with the introduction of new helmets and the first protections in cooked leather - The birth of

metal plate armor Through this periodization, written and iconographic sources can be better interpreted and the tactics used by armies better understood

**MERLO, Marco**

**The first repeating firearms**

The idea of designing a firearm capable of firing multiple consecutive shots had already been successfully approached in the 16th century, for use in naval battles. However, the first ingenious specimens date back to the 17th century, the most interesting of which are kept in the Armory of Palazzo Ducale Venice. Records of these weapons, including the world's oldest machine gun, confirm that they were used in naval warfare, where the possibility of reloading was less than in land battles. Analyzing the weapons of Venice, it is possible to recognize other firearms designed to fire several consecutive shots in other museums, such as the six-barreled pistol of the Bargello in Florence or the arquebus with three rotating barrels of the "Luigi Marzoli" Museum of Weapons in Brescia

**MEŠKO, Marek**

**The Overlooked Decisive Byzantine victory over the Pechenegs; the Battle of Lebounion (1091)**

Alexios Komnenos' war against the Pechenegs (1083-1091) is one of the frequently, yet undeservedly overlooked events that took place during the reign of this important Byzantine emperor. In her *Alexiad*, Anna Komnene describes this particular war and the crucial role of her father, the emperor Alexios I Komnenos, with many vivid details. Despite having this valuable data at hand, there has been no systematic attempt to create a more precise chronological and geographical framework of this war based on the Byzantine princess' narration (except myself). The reason for this state of affairs may be the fact that the Pechenegs, as one of the nomadic peoples invading European territory from the steppes, are more difficult for us to understand and in modern perception thus are relegated to the "other" Europe, of lesser importance for European history than classic medieval states. This tendency to overlook the Pechenegs (and other nomadic peoples as well) is corroborated by the fact that the nomadic communities are totally absent in present-day Europe. To redeem this neglect, in my contribution I shall attempt to create a full account of the final stage of the Byzantine war against the Pechenegs, which took place in the spring of 1091 and led to the decisive Byzantine victory in the battle of Lebounion (29/4/1091).

**MESSNER, Florian**

## **Swords of the Dolomites – The weapon production of Belluno for the armies of the Serenissima**

The Dolomites in Italy are not only home to a majestic mountain world, but also to a rich cultural heritage. In the mines of this border region between the Holy Roman Empire and the Republic of Venice, Tyrolean miners extracted particularly high-quality iron. However, the biggest consumer of the blades made in the city of Belluno was the Serenissima. Venice not only equipped its land armies with these weapons, but also its fleet, with which it dominated vast areas of the Mediterranean region.

This contribution aims to present the history of blade making in Belluno, starting with the mining of the ore, until the forging of the actual weapons, which can now be found in museums all over the world. The background for this research originates from the Interreg project "KLANG - Swords from Lions and Eagles" where the author was involved as deputy project leader.

**MICHAILIDIS, George**

### **Fighting with swords and words. Some remarks on the sieges of the First Palaiologan Civil War and the reign of Andronikos III Palaiologos (1321-1341)**

The periods of the First Palaiologan Civil War 1321-1328 as well as the reign of Andronikos III Palaiologos 1328-1341 are characterized, in the domain of warfare, by the activity of small armies in operations of limited duration. The power struggle of the feuding Palaiologans and later the efforts of Andronikos III Palaiologos to recover Byzantine territories heavily involved the sieges. The proposed paper aspires to present and analyze the sieges that were conducted by the Byzantine forces during the period of the First Palaiologan Civil War and the reign of Andronikos III Palaiologos in order to highlight the means, techniques and outcomes of the sieges.

**MITEV, Nevyan**

### **Weaponry and Equipment from the Crusades of Władysław Warneńczyk (1443 – 1444) according to data from archaeological finds found in the Bulgarian lands. Addenda et corrigenda**

In 2020, I published my book "The Crusades of Władysław Warneńczyk from 1443 - 1444 (according to written and archaeological data)", which is based on my PhD dissertation defended at the University of Veliko Tarnovo in 2019. In the monograph thesis I made an attempt to collect, analyze and document all known archaeological finds related to these events. I focused public attention on the fact that some of the finds were controversially dated and interpreted and might not be from the anti-Ottoman campaigns. In the present publication I will report on new published and unpublished pieces of weaponry and equipment which may have resulted from the



above-mentioned episodes. Also, some rather questionable weapons will be discussed, about which various assumptions have been made.

**MOUSTAKAS, Konstantinos**

**Successes and Failures of Military Colonization in the 13<sup>th</sup>-Century Eastern Wars of Byzantium: The Case of Maeander Cretans**

On several occasions the Byzantine emperors resorted to the mass employment of concrete large groups of a foreign element, who were conscripted en bloc and sometimes settled in the byzantine territories in order to strengthen their defenses. Such was the case of a group of refugees from Crete, who had to leave their homeland after a failed revolt against its Venetian overlords. They were received by the emperor Michael VIII Palaiologos, enlisted in the Byzantine army and settled in the town of Anea, by the estuary of Maeander river, where they faced the Turkish advance. Their presence there can be dated from the late 1270's to the 1290's or 1300's, but they mostly came to light with regard to their involvement in the affairs of Alexios Philanthropinos (1295-96). The successes and failures of theirs during their presence in that frontier sector, are discussed in the light of the broader theme of mass enlistment and/or military colonization of foreign elements in Late Byzantium, and the conditions it depended upon to be successful.

**MURESU, Marco**

**Weapons and lands: framing the military in Byzantine Sardinia (8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> c.)**

The paper aims to focus on a series of metal objects found in Sardinia and dating back to the 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> c. CE. Such evidence, based on fragments of swords, shields, spear heads and spurs, along with other artefacts of clothing and apparel, recalls the existence of armed forces in the Island when it was still included in the Byzantine Empire, despite having already started its path to the independence and the formation of the medieval Giudicati. Most of the discoveries of weapons and military equipment come from archaeological excavations of both urban and rural contexts. The latter assume even more importance considering many findings has been discovered in graves inside *nuraghi*, the latter a typical megalithic architecture of the Island, of original prehistoric age. Given such, on the concurrent analysis of objects and contexts, the paper will try to give an updated framework on Byzantine military in Sardinia, which could have been their weaponry and how the their presence could have define the Late Antique and Medieval landscape of the Island.

**NICOLLE, David**

**Bloody but Important - The Necessity of Studying Medieval Military History**

There was a time when the study of military history was widely frowned upon. Put simply, it was viewed as what might now be called "Politically Incorrect". Fortunately, that view has changed, or at least is changing. In contrast, in a medieval context warfare tended to be seen as almost ever-present. That was a similarly erroneous view, which is also changing. This Conference will hopefully contribute to a more balanced and nuanced study of the significance of warfare of warfare in the Byzantine and Mediterranean Contexts.

**OSSWALD, Brendan**

**A Portrait of Carlo Tocco as a Warlord (Western Greece, 15<sup>th</sup> c.)**

Carlo I Tocco ruled from ca. 1375 until 1429 as Count of Cephalonia, Duke of Leukas and finally Despot of Epirus. His reign was characterized by an almost constant warfare, which resulted, despite some failures, in a considerable territorial expansion of his dominion. This paper, based mainly on the so-called *Chronicle of the Tocco*, will aim at presenting how Carlo Tocco was as a military chief on the strategic and tactical levels: how he organized his army, prepared and conducted war, and sometimes physically participated to the fight.

**PANG, Tianyu**

**Knowledge flow of siege technology in ancient Asia and Europe in the perspective of technology diffusion - the example of Catapults**

The Silk Road was an important network linking the two ends of Asia and Europe in ancient times, through which the Eastern and Western worlds exchanged technologies, species and cultures, greatly enriching the spiritual and material life of the communities along the route. The interaction between the agrarian and nomadic worlds of Eurasia was accompanied by conflict, and as a result the advanced military technologies of the East and West spread along the Silk Road, influencing the evolution and development of civilisations in another form. This article takes the example of two types of catapults that spread through the Silk Road to illustrate the impact that this spread of military technology had on the history of the world connected by the Silk Road.

**PAPADOPOULOS, Anastasios**

**Writing on Sharpened Iron. Painted Inscriptions on Byzantine Swords and their Meaning**

Byzantine frescoes are providing us with an abundance of painted weapons, shields, armors, and many other components of the equipment which a Byzantine warrior used to have, fulfilling the gap of the scarcity of the material objects that have

survived to our day. Depictions of military saints, scenes of martyrdom, Christ's passion, and crucifixion, are usually the best sources that help us form a better idea of the Byzantine weapons which are often painted in the aforementioned scenes. In some cases, the artists are painting marks, inscriptions, and even their signatures on the sharpened blades of the swords. In this presentation we are suggesting an explanation for the meaning of this rare phenomenon, presenting some of the most interesting examples of inscribed swords and shields of the monumental Byzantine painting.

**PINTER, Karl Zeno**

**A Byzantine Blade from the Museum in Alba Iulia (Romania)**

**POPOV, Stoyan**

**Regarding a rare sword with byzantine features from present-day northeastern Bulgaria**

This paper presents a sword kept in the Vatevi collection in Plovdiv, Bulgaria. The weapon bears the main characteristic features of swords of Byzantine origin. Along with that, certain elements of it have a shape found in sabers of non-Byzantine attribution – the guard reminds those of the so-called "Magyar" sabers, and the cap of the hilt has a similar shape to the caps of the early mediaeval Bulgarian type sabers. Another rare characteristic of the sword in question is the length of its hilt, which places it in the group of hand-and-a-half swords. Based on the characteristics of its elements, the weapon is dated within the 10<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> c.

**RABOVYANOV, Deyan, ILIEVA, Iliyana**

**Late medieval sabre from the Museum of History "Iskra" in the town of Kazanlak**

The study presents a sabre in good condition from Ottoman period kept in Museum of history in town of Kazanlak, Central Bulgaria. The cross guard and hilt elements missing, but the weapon can be attributed to type used in Balkans and Hungary during late 15-16 c. It finds analogies between real weapons and works of arts too.

**RICHAUD-MAMMERI Jean-David**

**Alp Arslān the *muğahīd*?**

Alp Arslān is viewed in the Muslim sources as a great *muğahīd* because of the wars in Anatolia, specially the Mantzikert victory. On the opposite side, the Christian sources present the sultan as an archetypal enemy contrary to his son Malikšāh. I will study the motivations of the wars in Anatolia during the reign of Alp Arslān, the

way they were viewed by the sultan and the difference between his vision of Anatolian wars and the Muslim historians' vision.

**ROMANONI, Fabio**

**War and ships on the rivers and lakes of northern Italy (12th-15th centuries)**

Rivers, lakes and canals in northern Italy have been fundamental over the centuries for the development of communications and commerce. However, during the medieval wars they were the scene of furious clashes, roads for moving armies, war machines, artillery, prisoners and booty, and bringing devastation, besieging cities and fortified places. The presence of a fleet to decide the outcome of a conflict could have been such as to undertake even a colossal enterprise like the one completed by Venice between 1438 and 1439: the transport of large galleys and numerous other boats from the Adda to Garda through valleys and mountains. The paper will deal with the conflicts on the internal waters of northern Italy in the Middle Ages, the types of ships used during the clashes, the ways in which navigation took place, to finally examine the methods of use and combat of the river fleets in the battles between the 12th and 15th centuries.

**SARANTIDIS, Ioannis**

**The Military Strategy of Manuel I Komnenos (1143-1180) during the Battle of Myriokephalon (1176): A New Interpretation**

The rivalry between the Byzantine and the Seljuks of Rūm for dominance over the territories of Asia Minor reached its peak in the 1170s. The Byzantine emperor Manuel I Komnenos (1143-1180) gathered a massive expeditionary force in order to strike his opponent, the Seljuk sultan Kılıç Arslan II (1156-1192), at his capital city Ikonium- Konya. The decisive battle between the two opposing armies took place in a mountain pass near a ruined castle called Myriokephalon, west of Ikonium. The imperial army led by Manuel himself was trapped and suffered a humiliating defeat by Kılıç Arslan's force in September 1176. The description of the Battle of Myriokephalon is given in detail by the Byzantine historian Niketas Choniates. However, Choniate's testimonies are contradictory and biased against Manuel. In this paper, I will examine Manuel's military strategy against the Seljuks in 1176. In particular, through the reevaluation of the historical narrative of Niketas Choniates, I will attempt to research: first, the operational planning and strategic objectives of Manuel in the context of the Komnenian grand strategy in Asia Minor; second, the influences on Manuel's military strategy; third, the causes of the Byzantine failure in the field of the Battle of Myriokephalon.

**SHCHAVELEV, Aleksei S.**

## **Military Culture & Warrior Ethos of Rus' People (From "Viking Type" to "Nomadic Type")**

Groups of the Rus' people in the 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> c. were characterized by an exceptional degree of militarization and a focus on military occupations. Their military culture changed rapidly from the North-European "Viking" to the "Eurasian" nomadic type. In the 9<sup>th</sup>- first half of the 10<sup>th</sup> c. the Rus' were distinguished by specific naval technologies and the tactics of "marines" and heavy infantry. From the mid of the 10<sup>th</sup> c. Rus' began to master the horsemanship and the accompanying technique (first two accounts - "History" by Leo Deacon & military treatise "Campaign Organization & Tactics"). At the end of the 11<sup>th</sup> c. the Rus' already fought as typical *cataphracts* ("knights"). Rus' specific military ethos was constantly war-centered. In the treaties with Greeks in 10<sup>th</sup> c. a unique description of a ritual of swearing on the weapon is preserved. Judging by them, Rus' gave sacral value to swords, shields and bows with arrows. Behind these oaths was the notion that oath-breakers would be punished and killed with their own weapons - an epic motif known also in the Old Norse myths & sagas, as well as in the folklore of the Caucasian peoples. Rus' warriors had a taboo to fall into captivity, based on the idea that the executed captives would be slaves of their executioners in the afterlife. Byzantine and Persian authors Leo Deacon & Ibn Miskawayh independently recorded the "*hara-kiri*" type ritual suicide of Rus' warriors, requiring very specific psychophysical peculiarities.

### **SHINAKOV, Evgenii**

#### **The campaigns of the Rus' in the Balkans in the middle of the ninth and end of the tenth centuries in Ukrainian historiography of the turn of the XX - XXI centuries**

The report includes preliminary results of the research on this topic within the framework of the grant of the Russian Science Foundation «Ukrainian Historiography of Medieval Rus' at the End of XX - Beginning of XXI Centuries: Concepts, Origins, Trends» (№23 - 28-00281). It draws attention mainly to the internal aspect and consequences of the campaigns of the Rus' against the "Greeks" and Bulgarians: changes in the composition of participants in connection with the dynamics of the structures of Rus' from the middle of the ninth to the end of the tenth century, creating favorable conditions for Christianization. From the external aspects the emphasis is made only on the desire of Svyatoslav to move the capital of Rus' to the territory of Bulgaria and the beginning of the Pecheneg aggression as a reaction of Byzantium to the campaigns of Svyatoslav.

Original, though contradictory to the sources, is the point of view that in 987 the "Tauro-Scythian" help to the basileus was rendered not against the rebellion of Bardas Phokas, but against the Bulgarians (Gorsky V., 1994). A lot of attention is paid to Vladimir's "forced" campaign to Korsun in 988, its religious and political consequences. Also, an interesting idea by Pritsak, who calls the Rus' "the nomads of

the sea", comparing their model of interaction with sedentary societies with that of the steppe nomads.

**SIDIROPOULOS, Dimitrios**

**Chelandia, Dromones and Pamphyloi. The Byzantine navy of the 10th century through the "De Cerimoniis" of Constantine VII Porphyrogenitus**

The typology of Byzantine warships is a problem that continues to plague researchers, while at the same time giving rise to a fruitful academic debate.

A tenth-century text, the *De Cerimoniis*, attributed to Constantine VII Porphyrogenitus' era, is a source of important information, not only on state ceremonies, which, after all, constitute the bulk of the work, but also on warships, among other things. The use of terms, many times within the same chapter, but with different meanings, creates additional confusion. The technical terms *chelandion* (χελάνδιον), *dromon* (δρόμων), *pamphylos* (πάμφυλος), along with the enigmatic *ousiakon* (ουσιακόν) are found in the campaigns of 911 (probably against Crete) and 949 (this one surely bound for the island).

We will try to show why the two main types of warships were *dromons* and *chelandia*, with all other references being merely designations of the above types based on their crew and nothing more.

**SOLOMOU, Stavroula**

**War soundscapes in historiographical texts of the Palaiologan era**

Soundscapes, i.e. acoustic environments where natural or artificial sounds prevail, have attracted the interest of modern Byzantinists. In the context of such scholarship, and in view of the anthropological perspective, this paper examines the presence of war soundscapes in the historiography of the Palaiologan era. Sounds of battles and sieges are analysed on the basis of their sensory and stylistic features and placed in their historical context. The paper addresses: (a) the extent to which Byzantine authors reflect historical reality through war soundscapes, (b) the variability among historiographers, and (c) the relation the literary war soundscapes bear to the orality of Byzantine culture.

**STEPANOVA, Yuliya**

**Belt metal set in the burials of rural warriors of the 11th-12th centuries on the Upper Volga region**

The report is devoted to the metal belt set found in the burials of male warriors of the 11-12th centuries on the territory of the Upper Volga basin. The belt set included metal buckles, plaques, separation rings accompanied by small finds (knives, sets for

cutting fire) and purses. Among the items of the belt set the buckles-masks are found, singly identified in Novgorod, Western Dvina and Dnieper areas.

The forms and sets have analogies in the North-West, North-East and Southern Rus', which reflects the borderline nature of the territory of the Upper Volga region.

**SZABÓ, Christopher**

**Huns, Magyars, Byzantines, and the impact of the Mounted Archery of the Steppe**

The mounted archery of the Magyars is mentioned by contemporary Byzantine authors. Emperor Leo VI 'The Wise' described the Magyars' use of the bow, saying that when pursued, they used their bows highly effectively. Regino of Prüm said of them in this period that while they killed but few with swords, they killed many with arrows, and that these were difficult to avoid. The Magyar composite bow was powerful and had a longer range than most of their opponents. The combination of mobility provided by the horse and the hitting power of the bow gave the Magyars of the ninth and tenth Centuries the upper hand in their battles and did this for the Hungarian Kingdom later. The Magyars had a complete system of archery, mobility, horse tack, stirrups and horsemanship which they inherited from the Huns, Sarmatians and Avars. Both Huns and Avars also influenced Byzantine warfare, as Emperor Maurice describes, including the use of stirrups. The use of the tree saddle and stirrups made steppe warfare more effective, and the Hun bow, and saddle were copied by the Romans, both East and West. Both were lost in the West, but copied incorrectly from the Avars, while in the East both were copied correctly. Emperor Maurice explicitly suggests adopting Avar clothing items and stirrups. Magyar warfare will give an insight into later Hungarian and Steppe warfare generally and its influence on Byzantine warfare.

**THEOTOKIS, Georgios**

**Strategy of annihilation in the *Strategikon* of Maurice**

The aim of war and battle, as we read in both the *Strategikon* of Maurice and in Clausewitz's *On War*, was to 'disarm' the adversary, to 'annihilate his armed forces,' an action that did not involve any killing of prisoners or civilians but solely targeted the enemy's army. Once this was achieved, the theory ran, one would be free to dictate one's own political aims to the enemy, so that there would be a "firm and beneficial peace." Therefore, in this paper I will investigate the origins of and compare the ideas of "the annihilation" (*τελεία καταλύσει*) of the enemy forces, and the "agreeing to an advantageous treaty" (*ἑπωφελῶν συμφώνων*), throughout the ages and see how and when both outcomes of a battle -still- fell within "whatever we think will be to our advantage."

**VACCARO, Filippo**

**Blocking the Straits. The usage of naval blockades in Late Middle Ages (14th-15th c.)**

The concept of war at sea in the Middle Ages implies various practices. Among them, the naval blockade, mentioned as *devetum*, became one of the most widely used solutions. This paper aims to examine the connotations of this technique and its development between the 14th and 15th centuries, more precisely between the Genoese blockade of the Bosphorus (1350) and the Catalan blockade inflicted on Genoa itself (1456), basing the analysis on documentary sources of the *Diversorum* and *Litterarum* series of the Genoese Archive and the deliberations of the Venetian Senate. A specific focus will be devoted to the Straits, due to their importance as the object of such an offensive.

**VASSILOPOULOU, Nafsika**

**Protected by the Virgin Mary: religious allusions to the Ottoman sieges of Byzantine cities (14th-15th c.)**

One of the key elements in the commemoration of the siege and/or fall of a city is that of divine intervention, usually when resulted in a happy outcome for the defending Byzantine forces. Sieges of major cities, like Constantinople and Thessaloniki, inspired works that give ample information about the history, society and war culture of the period, and highlighting facets like religion in both individual and institutional level, literary treatment of non-Christian population and opponents during wartime, and spirituality of the authors.

**WIJNHOFEN, Martijn A.**

**Mail making traditions in the Early Middle Ages (AD 500-1000). A case of Roman continuation or disruption?**

As any craftsman is able to tell, there are many ways to make an artifact. The manner in which a craftsman goes about and the tools used, are all part of a workshop tradition. While fabricating the same object, different traditions will result in differences in the final product.

This paper takes an artifact-based approach to illustrate how careful observance of seemingly trivial details in mail armor can be highly informative. They offer the possibility to determine if the Late Roman mail making tradition continued into the medieval period or ceased to exist.

**YILDIZ, Sara Nur**

**Mongol Qishlaqs on the Cappadocian Steppe**



This paper assesses the Mongol administrative and military presence in Anatolia in the steppe hinterland of the urban centers of Aksaray, Kırşehir, and Niğde of Cappadocia. The burgeoning Ilkhanid satellite administration in Anatolia was first established at Aksaray by the Muslim Ilkhanid official, Tāj al-Dīn Mu'tazz in 1260, when he was sent to Anatolia by Hülegü, the founder of the Ilkhanate. Aksaray not only served as the center of the Ilkhanid financial administration of Anatolia under the direction of Tāj al-Dīn Mu'tazz, but the steppelands of the Cappadocian hinterland was a particularly valued by the Mongols for its vast stretches of rich winter pasturage and grazing land or *qishlaq* necessary for the maintenance of their armies. This paper evaluates how the location of Mongol *qishlaqs* in Cappadocia related to the developing Ilkhanid-Mamluk conflict in the Jaziran frontier.

**YORDANOV, Kalin**

**Transgressive objects of remembrance: the use of skull cups and other human war trophies in the Crusader era**

The article discusses the use of enemy's body parts as war trophies, focusing on the collection of crusaders' skulls and other body parts as war trophies by their enemies in the Holy Land and in the Balkans (Seljuk Turks, Cumans and Bulgarians) during the XIIth and XIIIth centuries, and on the treatment of these objects after the war.

**YOTOV, Valeri**

**Weapons and military equipment in the Balkans in the 11<sup>th</sup> century (Interplay between Scandinavian and Byzantine models)**

Determining the origin of Scandinavian and Byzantine weapons and equipment in the Balkans depends on the analysis of written sources and data on archaeological finds.

In the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, this topic was sporadically examined by Romanian (I. Barnea, 1954; R. Popa 1984) and Bulgarian scholars (V. Guzelev 2002). In recent decades, the examples of Weapons and military equipment in the 10<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> century from the Balkans have increased and reached several dozen (Yotov 2016).

According to the author, the interplay of Scandinavian and Byzantine examples of Weapons and military equipment can be traced mainly for the 11<sup>th</sup> century.

In the first half of the 11<sup>th</sup> century, there are many Scandinavian mercenaries (Emperor guards and regular detachments). Also, after the Battle of Hastings 14 October 1066 and the Norman conquest of England many emigrants arrival in the Empire. The spread of examples of Scandinavian and Byzantine examples of weapons and military equipment locates several areas: in fortresses; in battlefields; in escape routes after battles and... of course random / obscure places of discovery.

All are presented with examples by: swords and details of them (pomels; sword-guards; scabbard-shapes etc.); spear-heads; battle hammers; stirrups and some others. The joint service of local military units and mercenaries in the Byzantine army have led to an interplay of the weapons and equipment and exchange of experience. All this it also a demonstrated in the Byzantine art.

**ZARKADAS, Evangelos**

**Another Case of Crusader Orientalism: "Greekness" of Warfare in Frankish Morea**

This paper explores the dichotomy of empowerment versus disempowerment during warfare descriptions in the *Chronicle of Morea* between the crusading Franks and the Byzantine Greeks in the Frankish state of the Despotate of Morea. The deliberate alienation and vilification of warfare techniques used by the Byzantine forces falls under the broader context of the western views of other eastern peoples and cultures as subservient, weak, decadent, and corrupt. This paper argues that this western identification of the Byzantine warfare with the negative charged term "Greek" and all the characteristics that come with it, have a place under the broader framework of Crusader Orientalism which meant to reflect the needs and desires of the west and promote western practices of warfare as superior to those of others.