

***TRANSPORT AND TRAVEL/CULTURAL EXCHANGE IN MEDIEVAL AND
EARLY MODERN EUROPE***

Project leader: Eurydice Georganteli

Project start: 2005

End date: 2012

Internal partners:

Institute of Archaeology and Antiquity, Department of Music, The Barber Institute
Education Department

External partners:

The British Museum, La Bibliothèque nationale de France (Paris), The National Museum
of Serbia (Belgrade), The Hellenic Ministry of Culture

Project funded by:

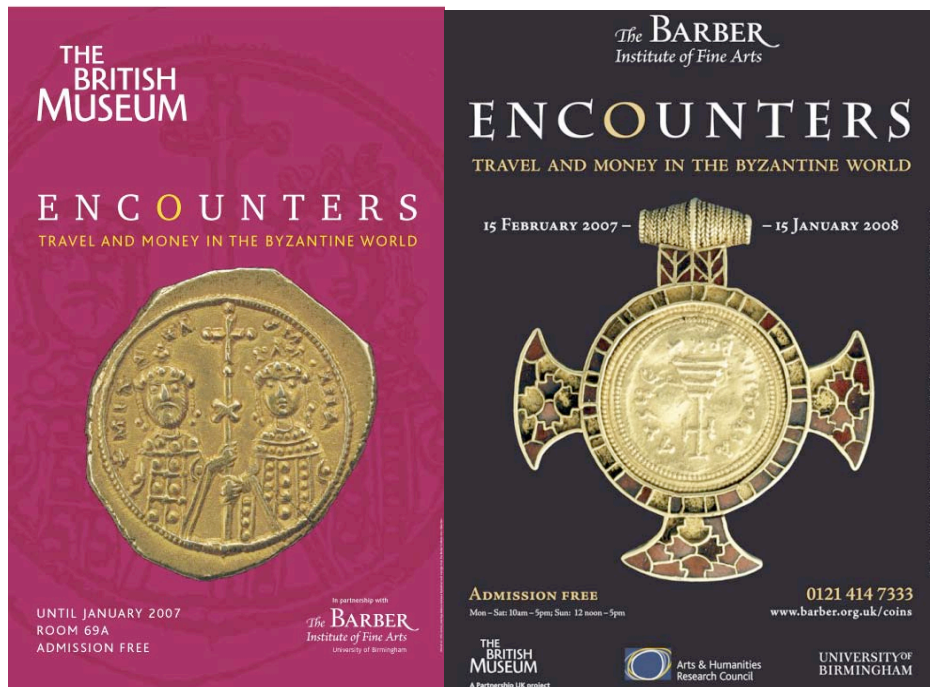
AHRC, The Costopoulos Foundation, Spink Ltd, The Royal Numismatic Society and the
UK Numismatic Trust

Description:

The research themes Transport and Travel and Cultural Exchange explore aspects of the circulation of people, commodities and artistic trends in medieval and early modern Europe through the study of coin finds and other archaeological material, written sources and the political geography of the period. At the heart of the project is the Barber Institute Coin Collection, one of the finest collections of Byzantine coins worldwide.

Byzantine coins were the manifestation of centralised economic planning and management, far ahead of that in western medieval Europe. They stretched across a thousand year of political, religious and economic changes in Europe, and were important vehicles for cultural and artistic encounters between Byzantium and its neighbours, providing a representation of authority to imitate or react against. In many cases Byzantine coinage was reused as jewellery. The research themes explore the story of everyday people meeting in city markets and in rural communities, along pilgrimage routes, as ambassadors and soldiers in foreign lands, and as merchants in custom offices. Byzantine coins found beyond the empire's borders are evidence of the reach of its direct and indirect influence. Byzantine-derived motifs used on the coins of other lands similarly echo the transmission of Byzantine culture and ideas of kingship, as Byzantium fluctuated in influence and power through the middle ages.

Exhibitions



1. *ENCOUNTERS. TRAVEL AND MONEY IN THE BYZANTINE WORLD*, The British Museum, June 2006-January 2007
2. *ENCOUNTERS. TRAVEL AND MONEY IN THE BYZANTINE WORLD*, The Barber Institute of Fine Arts, February 2007-January 2008 (additional loans from the Louvre, the Bibliothèque nationale de France, the National Museum of Serbia and the Hellenic Ministry of Culture)
3. *BYZANTIUM, 330-1453* (Royal Academy of Arts, 25 October 2008 - 22 March 2009). Participation in the exhibition with 65 loans, and in the exhibition publication

Knowledge Transfer



- *Tales of Alexander the Great in the Medieval East and West*, October 2007. Educational activity. In collaboration with B. Scholes (Barber Institute Education officer) (**PRODUCE LINK**)
- *Encounters: The Journeys of a Byzantine Merchant across Late Medieval Europe*, February 2007. Family activity leaflet. Created in collaboration with J. Shea (PhD candidate), E. Mileham (Barber Gallery Assistant, 2006/07) and B. Scholes (Barber Institute Education officer) (**PRODUCE LINK**)
- *EnCounterPoints*: Birmingham Early Music Festival 2007 In collaboration with Birmingham University Department of Music
- *Art and Society in the Crusader period*, April 2005. Educational activity

Conference initiatives

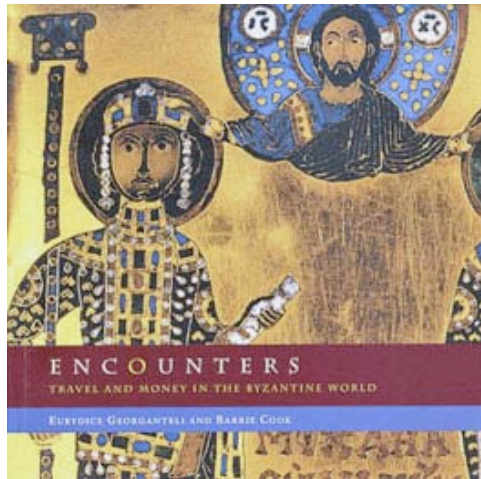


1. ***Encounters, 13th-16th Centuries, University of Birmingham, 2007-2008.*** Organiser of an international series of seminars, focusing on artistic, political, religious and economic encounters in the late medieval and early modern period. With the support of AHRC.
2. ***Seventh-Century Syrian Round Table 2007, University of Birmingham, 26-27 May 2007.*** Organiser, in collaboration with T. Goodwin. The two-day conference brought together historians, art historians, archaeologists and numismatists from the UK, the Netherlands, Germany, Belgium and the USA. With the support of the Royal Numismatic Society (PROVIDE LINK)
3. ***Coins and Communications in the Late Medieval Balkans, Eastern Mediterranean and the Black Sea, International Round Table, under the auspices of the 21st International Congress of Byzantine Studies, London, August 2006.*** Organiser, in collaboration with Dr A. Burnett, FSA, FBA (Deputy Director, The British Museum)

Invited papers

- * ***21st International Congress of Byzantine Studies, London, August 2006***
'East meets west: coins and communications on the northern Black Sea coast, 13th to 15th centuries'. In collaboration with V. Guruljova (Hermitage Museum, St Petersburg)
- * ***European Colloquium: The Transport of Coins through the Ages, Bibliothèque royale de Belgique, Brussels, May 2005***
'Currencies and communications in the late medieval Balkans: the merchants' tale'
- * ***Bristol Anglo-Hellenic Society, Bristol 21/05/08***
'Royal Encounters: Marriages, Coinage and Politics in the Byzantine World'

Publications



1. E. Georganteli & B. Cook, *Encounters. Travel and Money in the Byzantine World*, London 2006. **Winner of the Royal Numismatic Society Lhotka Prize 2007 & runner-up in the AXA Art & Art Newspaper Award for Best Exhibition Publication 2007**
2. E. Georganteli & V. Guruljova, 'East meets West: coins and communications on the Black Sea, thirteenth-fifteenth centuries', *21st International Congress of Byzantine Studies II*, London 2006, pp. 106-7
3. E. Georganteli & J. Shea, 'Numismatic considerations of Byzantium's maritime border, 7th-9th c', *Oriental Numismatic Newsletter* 2007
4. E. Georganteli, 'Instrumenta Studiorum: Numismatics' in E. Jeffreys & J. Haldon (eds), *Oxford Handbook of Byzantium* (Oxford University Press), Oxford 2008
5. _____, 'Byzantine coins' in R. Cormack and M. Vassilaki (eds), *Byzantium 330-1453* (Royal Academy of Arts), London 2008
6. _____, 'Trapezuntine Money in the Balkans, Anatolia and the Black Sea, 13th-15th c.' in T. Kyriakides (ed.), *Thessaloniki* 2009
7. _____, 'Transposed images. Currencies and Legitimacy in the late medieval eastern Mediterranean' in C. Holmes & J. Harris (eds), *Between Byzantium and the Turks*, Oxford (forthcoming)

In progress

- E. Georganteli and A. Burnett (eds), *Coins and Communications in the Balkans, the Aegean and the Black Sea, 13th-15th Centuries* (Royal Numismatic Society, Special Publications Series)
- E. Georganteli, 'Byzantine finds from the Winchester excavations, 1961-71', *Winchester Studies* 8