

NEW METROPOLITAN PERSPECTIVES 2022

FOCUS SESSIONS - FS

FS-IC12

BYZANTINE CALABRIA: MEMORIES, TRADITIONS, PERSPECTIVES

Keywords: Byzantine Calabria; Italo-Greek Monasticism; Byzantine Frescoes; Byzantine Tradition; Byzantine Architecture.

For over half a millennium (6th-11th century), the history of the region has been in harmony with that of Byzantium and even the name Calabria is assigned in the 7th century by the Byzantines to the Bruttium. From the mid-eighth century, monasticism, the civil and ecclesiastical order, the liturgy, the (Greek) language and artistic, architectural and literary experiences that lasted well beyond the Norman age were Byzantine. But it is above all in the period of the „second Hellenization“ (IX-X century) that we witness the birth of new well-structured urban centers, the *kastra*, and the spread of small churches, oratories, hermit caves and monastic settlements in rural areas. All these factors, together with the constant influx of new peoples from the Mediterranean (Armenians, Syrians, etc.), have contributed, in a decisive way, to delineate Calabria and the Calabrians of our time. Although the Greek rite was abolished in Bova only in 1573, the monasteries of the Greek tradition were already in strong decline in the mid-fifteenth century. Despite this epilogue, the spiritual, social and cultural heritage that has been transmitted to us is to be considered immense. Even today, therefore, Calabria can be considered, with all its contradictions, a land of the East.

The session intends to stimulate the scientific debate around the Byzantine cultural heritage that still characterizes the Calabrian territory and society today. The papers may therefore concern the different forms through which this inheritance is manifested, such as: the architectural, literary and visual arts evidences; urban structure and its relationship with the system of monastic settlements; linguistic aspects and popular traditions; ethnobotany; etc.

CHAIR

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