

## PREFACE

The papers collected in this volume were presented at a workshop devoted to the city of Constantinople, which took place in Istanbul on 7–10 April 1999. The workshop, organized jointly by the History Department of Boğaziçi University and the Institut Français d'Études Anatoliennes (IFEA), was the most significant conference on Byzantine Studies to convene in Turkey since 1955, and the first scholarly forum of wide scope on the capital of the Byzantine Empire, attended by a distinguished group of international academics, to be held in Istanbul, the historic site of Constantinople. Taking full advantage of its unique location, the workshop participants undertook excursions to examine monuments and sites that were discussed in a number of papers. Two related special events accompanied the workshop: an exhibition entitled “The Mediterranean’s Purple Millenium—Byzantine Coins from the Yapı Kredi Coin Collection,” and a concert of Byzantine chants performed by Sister Marie Keyrouz and the Ensemble de la Paix, both organized and sponsored by Yapı Kredi Kültür Sanat Yayıncılık A.Ş.

The present publication, which includes all but two of the papers delivered at the workshop, brings together the work of Turkish Byzantinists with that of Byzantinists from several countries and makes an important contribution to scholarship on Byzantine Constantinople. In terms of chronological scope, the collection covers the entire course of the city’s history from the time of its foundation by Constantine I in 330 to its conquest by Mehmed II in 1453. Within the three main themes of the workshop enumerated in the title of this volume, individual papers address a wide range of topics, including topography, ritual and ideology, archaeology, art and architecture, daily life, economy, communities, urban development and planning. Interdisciplinary approaches, intended to generate fruitful interaction among historians, art historians and archaeologists of the Byzantine Empire, are featured in the collection whose appeal is by no means limited to Byzantinists.

This volume owes a considerable debt to all those who made the workshop possible—the sponsors, the staff assistants, the participants,

and above all the speakers. Special thanks are due to the following institutions and persons:

- Boğaziçi University, and particularly Selçuk Esenbel, Chair of the Department of History, Ayşe Soysal, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, and Üstün Ergüder, President of the University at the time, for enthusiastically supporting the workshop and making it possible for this institution to act as a pioneer in the field of Byzantine Studies in Turkey.
- The Boğaziçi University Foundation (BÜVAK) for contributing funds and providing free on-campus accommodation for the majority of participants.
- The Institut Français d'Études Anatoliennes (IFEA) for meeting the travel costs of the French and several other European participants, and for providing additional premises for accommodation.
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Finally, we would like to dedicate this volume, with fond memories and profound sadness, to Nikos Oikonomides, whose untimely death

has left Byzantinists deprived of the scholarly depth, the intellectual riches and the human warmth he brought to the field, which we were able to enjoy and benefit from, once again, on the occasion of his participation in our workshop.

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