APPENDIX: SELECT TEXTS

One of the longest of the Byzantine texts is the Narratio; its interest is not in the least diminished by its open use of other material. We quote from section 4 on, the first three sections being only a résumé of the New Testament Andrew.

4. The most Blessed and First-Called Andrew, crossing like a falling star from the East to the West, preached in every city Christ to be God’s Son. In crossing the province of Bithynia he entered one of its cities, Nicæa by name, where he taught the Savior-Word and performed some miracle, as is the tradition by some historians of that same city; for down by the East Gate, in a snare of the Arch-Evil One, evil spirits sat down and made it unpassable for men. Informed of this, the First-Called went down to the place and drove the spirits out by calling on Christ our God and, having purified the place of their ambush, made it an unhindered way for all wishing to walk by. From there passing over to Thrace and afterwards sailing to Scythia, he came to great Sevastopol, where the rivers Apsaros and Phâsis form an encampment and the interior Ethiopians dwell. He preached everywhere and proclaimed the true faith of our God.

5. Leaving behind the Euxine Sea, he entered a city called Sinope, where the inhabitants are blood-thirsty savages, wilder than beasts in their understanding and disposition, not only against each other but also against every new- and in-comer. Against these last, they were merciless in their savage place, as they were against the Blessed Matthias, as the book has stated, when he happened to go there for the sake of preaching Christ, our True God, and was unharmed by their outrage and shut up under guard. Afterward they were violently brought to justice. Now the Most Holy First-Called of the Apostles, Andrew, when he came by (as is written) in this city, knew that the Apostle Matthias was locked up with other faithful; by prayer he killed the guards and, opening the doors of the prison, brought out the same Apostle and those with him. When he had freed them, they wished to go on.

6. Hearing of this, the inhabitants of that small town, beastlike in their thought, seized the Apostle and dragged him all over the city, putting him to a public torture. They threw him back into prison, thinking that after all that he would die, mostly because he preached the Lord Jesus the Anointed and reproached their inhuman, bestial, untamed state. At that time the Blessed Apostle Andrew prayed that they be punished until they turned their thoughts and reason to tradition of the faith he preached. Approaching some stone statue of a man, he laid his hands and put a seal on it, saying “I tell you, statue, fear the sign of the cross and pour water until the very harsh inhabitants of this city are punished and turn themselves to the knowledge and faith of the True God, the Father and His Only-Begotten Son and the Life-Giving Spirit.”

7. And immediately there came out water from the mouth of the statue
in flood-like quantity. The city’s inhabitants watched it go higher and higher and knew that it was because of their mistreatment of the Apostle. Running to the prison with great weeping and trembling, they fell before the Apostle and begged him to stop such a threatening ruin and give them the Light of the Anointed’s faith. Seeing their sincere conversion and repentance, and feeling merciful, the First-Called said to the statue, “No more let water come out of your mouth, for see, I come to preach to this people the faith of my Lord and God and Savior, Jesus the Anointed.” This said, immediately the water’s flow stopped. At that time the Apostle came out of the prison, instructed and taught them, and baptised, and founded a church. Staying there seven days, he enlightened them with, and confirmed them in, the faith of the Anointed.

8. From there he went away along the coast of the same Euxine Sea, which flows towards Byzantium, and he proceeded on the right-hand side. He settled at a town called Argyropolis and founded there a church. He laid his hands on one of the Seventy Disciples, by name Stachys, (whom the Apostle Paul, the Anointed’s mouth, the body of the elite, mentioned in his Epistle to the Romans as his “beloved”) and ordained him bishop of Byzantium. He preached the Savior-Word but went away because of the prevailing idolatrous godlessness there and because of the cruelty of the tyrannous and idol-mad Zeuxippos, who sat in that place in state. He went to the western parts and enlightened with his godly teaching even the western darkness.

9. Going thru Thessaly and Greece, he founded in these cities the mystery of the grace of God’s Anointed and went on to Achaia. In a city there called Patrae where the light had not shone, he taught them to reject Hellenism’s darkness while resorting to Christianity’s light, to take off idolatrous vanity while putting on true righteousness, to detest the deceitful sacrifice of falsely-called gods while worshipping the True God in Trinity and Unity and resorting to piety in the nature of the convert, to go away from the glory of evil demons while coming to the glorified faith of God’s Son, to deny all Greek boastings and customs while affirming the teachings that the True God’s Anointed became a Man in the flesh by the grace of His birth in the Virgin.

10. Discussing these matters daily with the people, he persuaded them by his teaching to resort to the bath of immortality and to be born again thru God’s baptism and to serve the Anointed he preached, Who is God with His Co-existent and Co-ruling Father and the All-Holy Spirit. Among them was the wife of the proconsul at that time, Aegeates, who excelled all men in his cruel and bestial temper. Andrew persuaded her to spit on the Greek holy things and together with her relative Ephidamia to resort to the preaching of the correct faith of the Christians.

11. Informed of these matters, Aegeates was moved to a rage by the unclean demon which dwelled in him, and, seizing the Blessed One, locked him in prison near the sea. He threatened him repeatedly with all forms of tortures unless Andrew would persuade his wife Maximilla to resume Hellenism and her wife’s duties. Altho Andrew was imprisoned, some of the people he had taught used to come to the prison and to hear his words,