organize on **Friday and Saturday September 11 – 12, 2015** on the occasion of the 40th death anniversary of the eminent Czech Byzantinist

msgre ThDr. et PhDr. Francis Dvorník,
professor of Charles University and Harvard University

an international workshop

**LIVES, ROLES AND ACTIONS OF THE BYZANTINE EMPRESSES (4th – 15th c.).**

The symposium will take place at the conference center of the Czech Academy of Sciences **Villa Lanna** (Prague 6, V Sadech 1). Guests are heartily welcomed. Due to limited space, the organizers request that the guests register with the secretary of the symposium Dr. Martina Čechová at cechova@slu.cas.cz. Please note that guests will be served on the first come first serve basis and no registrations will be accepted after September 7.
Program September 11, 2015

Judith Herrin, Opening remarks

8.30–10.30 Section 1: The roles of the Byzantine Empresses

Chair: Judith Herrin

Leslie Brubaker (Birmingham), Empresses and Agency
Katerina Nikolaou (Athens), Empresses and augustae as wives, lovers and mistresses
(5th – 11th c.)
Günter Prinzing (Mainz), Frauen als Garanten machtpolitischer Konstellationen. Ihre
Rolle und ihr "Stellenwert" beim Abschluss und Scheitern politisch-dynastischer
Eheverbindungen zwischen Byzanz und seinen Nachbarn

Discussion

10.30–11 Coffee break

11–12 Section 2: Late Antique Empresses

Chair: Elisabeth Malamut

Judith Herrin (London), Fifth century empresses in East and West compared.
Cecily Hennessy (London), Galla Placidia: Patronage and Myth

Discussion

Break

14–15 Section 3: Middle Byzantine Empresses of Foreign Origin

Chair: Peter Van Deun

Lynda Garland (Armidale), Empress Mart’a–Maria of Alania (c. 1052 – 1103+) and the
Byzantine ‘Natural World’
Elisabeth Malamut (Aix-en-Provence), Margaret-Marie de Hongrie (1185–1223). Imperatrice byzantine et reine de Thessalonique: une personnalité troublante

Discussion

15–16.30 Section 4: Byzantine and Foreign Empresses in the Neighboring Countries

Chair: Michael Grünbart

Ekaterini Mitsiou (Athens), A Collapsed Empire and its Empresses: the Case of Nicea
Małgorzata Dąbrowska (Łódź), The Trebizondian Empress in the 14th Century
Mihailo Popović (Vienna), Byzantine Princesses and Serbian Rulers in the 14th and 15th
Centuries – A Story to be Told

Discussion
16,30–17,00  Coffee break

17–18  Section 5: Early Life and Afterlife of the Byzantine Empresses

Chair: Lynda Garland

Despoina Arianzti (Mainz), Childhood and adolescence of Byzantine empresses in medieval Byzantium
Lioba Theis (Vienna), The empresses and their afterlife

Program September 12, 2015

9–10,30 Section 6: Byzantine Historiographers on Empresses

Chair: Małgorzata Dąbrowska

Michael Grünbart (Münster), Like man, like woman: Byzantine historiographers describe empresses
Milan Vukašinović (Paris/Belgrade), “Great is the Imperial Dignity”: Constructing the Image of the First Macedonian Empresses
Petra Melichar (Prague), Misogyny and xenophobia or a faulty marital policy of the late Byzantine emperors?

Discussion

10,30–11 Coffee break

11–12,30 Section 7: Byzantine Empresses in/on Manuscripts, Seals and Coins

Chair: Günther Prinzinger

Peter Van Deun (Leuven), Markos Monachos and the Byzantine Court
Christos Tsatsoulis (Iaonnina/Vienna), The Empresses of Byzantium, their role and position, viewed by the evidence of seals
Pavla Gkantzios-Drápelová (Athens), Byzantine Empresses on coins in Early Byzantine period (565 – 610): Problems of Interpretation and Identification. A survey

Discussion

Leslie Brubaker, Closing remarks

Festive conclusion

14,30 – 17,30 Excursion