



# Byzantium: Empire of the Sea

Papers are invited for the 21st Conference of the **Australasian Association for Byzantine Studies**, University of Queensland, St Lucia Campus, Brisbane, June 2-5.

## **Conference Program (subject to revision):**

June 2 – Opening Reception at Milns Museum & **Empires of the Sea** Exhibition Launch, 5 pm  
 June 3 – Fryer Library Greek Papers of Lady Diamantina Roma Bowen & Constantinople  
 June 4 – AABS Papers, 3 pm Keynote Lecture by Professor Georgia Frank (Colgate) & Dinner  
 June 5 – AABS Biennial General Meeting & AABS Papers

## **Call for Papers:**

Send abstracts of 150-200 words maximum, for 20 minute papers. Submissions should include name, institution or affiliation, and, if relevant, a short letter of application for a \$500 AABS Student Bursary to attend the conference from Australia or New Zealand.

*Deadline for submission April 24, 2023*, e-mail for submission [conference@aabs.org.au](mailto:conference@aabs.org.au)

Byzantium was an empire on, and of, the ancient Mediterranean and Black seas. Romans of this 'late' empire inherited a political, military and cultural system of waterborne trade and interconnections centred on the harbour city of Byzantium. Constantine's new capital city of Constantinople swiftly replaced Rome as the Mediterranean entrepot of goods from east and west, building on the foundations of Byzantium, once the ideal Greek *emporium*. We seek papers engaging with this topic on any level of analysis, from history to hagiography, the city to the empire, and from letters, art and iconography to harbour architecture or fishermen's saints. Papers could consider (among other topics) Severan Byzantium, the Greek colony or Istanbul; maritime aspects of the Roman empire centred on Constantinople from the 4th to the 15th centuries; or Byzantium's legacy in the Black Sea, on the Aegean islands, in the Italian maritime republics, or along the rivers, bays and coasts to her northeast, south or west.

## **Paper topics might include:**

Naval warfare, the Roman Navy, Greek Fire, galleys, sieges of Constantinople  
 Harbours of Byzantium, trade goods, merchants, ship-building, maps, cartography  
 Seafaring traditions, St Nicholas, the Panagia, fishermen, pagan/Christian festivals  
 Metaphors in sermons, hymns, novels, poetry etc. drawn from the sea  
 Islands, e.g. Proconnesus for marble, Cyprus, Crete, Malta, Kythera  
 Relations with the Kievan Rus, the Varangian Guard, Vikings, Slavs, rivers of the north  
 Relations with Arabs, Jews, Egyptians, Church of the East, Turks, etc.  
 Relations with Venice, Genoa, Pisa, Italians, immigrants, explorers  
 Products of the sea like fish, shellfish, shells, dyes, seabirds (and attitudes to them)  
 Positive and negative associations of the sea in Greek literature, fantastical seabeasts  
 Pirates, slaves, hostages, Crusaders, Military orders travel, letter carriers, the Post

*Or any other topic in Byzantine studies which members wish to submit for presentation!*

**Convenor: Dr Amelia R. Brown (UQ)**