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Reinventing the ancient Greeks : the self-representation of Byzantine scholars in Renaissance Italy

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The self-representation of Byzantine scholars in Renaissance Italy

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This study is dedicated to the memory of Hippolyte Noiret who died, aged 24, in Venice in 1888.

Conventions and Abbreviations

The word ‘Byzantines’ to refer to the inhabitants of the Eastern Roman Empire (330 until 1453) was coined not before the sixteenth century. If only for this reason, a brief note on how the ‘Byzantines’ are called throughout this thesis is in order. In discussions of primary sources in Greek or Latin, the choice of the original authors was followed. This means that ‘Graecus’ or ‘Γραικός’ has been rendered as Greek, “Ἕλλην” as Hellene, both ‘Romanus’ and “Ῥωμαῖος” as Roman, and ‘Romaes’ as Romaeen. The rare Latin ‘Romaei’ has been translated with ‘Romaeans’ in order to differentiate it from the more frequent Latin word ‘Romani’, Romans. Unlike the Latins, the Byzantines used “Ῥωμαῖοι” to refer to both themselves and the ancient Romans they identified with. To my best knowledge, only three Byzantine authors used “Ῥωμαῖοι” and “Ῥωμᾶνοι” to denote different groups. These are Constantine Porphyrogenitus in *De administrando imperio* (ca. 952), Kanavoutzes in *In Dionysium Halicarnassensem commentarius* (1st half of the 15th cent.), and Doukas in his *Historia Turcobyzantina* (ca. 1462). While Doukas (13.8.11) and Kanavoutzes (*passim*) used “Ῥωμαῖοι” and “Ῥωμᾶνοι” to differentiate between eastern and western Romans respectively, Porphyrogenitus (29.1-53) distinguished between Byzantines (“Ῥωμαῖοι”) and the Roman colonists who had settled in Dalmatia and elsewhere under emperor Diocletian (“Ῥωμᾶνοι”). Outside the analysis of primary sources, the terms ‘Byzantines’ and ‘eastern Romans’ or ‘Romans of the East’ are used interchangeably in order to remind the reader that ‘our’ Byzantines actually called themselves Romans.

Inconsistent choices had to be made regarding the names of places and individuals. After Speake (2000) xxxvi, ancient Greek names have been given in their most common ‘Latin’ forms, whereas medieval and modern Greek names have been given in their ‘Greek’ (i.e. transliterated) forms. Transliterations are on the basis of ISO 843: 1997 without indicating accents and diacritics. Exceptions have been made for names with widely used equivalents in English (e.g. George Plethon instead of Georgios Plithon). If possible, the names of contemporary Greeks follow their own transliterations. In the same vein, the names of Renaissance humanists have been given in the Latinised forms they in general preferred unless anglicisations clearly prevailed in academic usage (as with Petrarch and Cyriac of Ancona). All personal names can be looked up in the *index nominum*, where vernacular names are given together with dates of birth and death.

References to ancient authors and their works in the footnotes generally follow the abbreviations used in the fourth edition of *The Oxford Classical Dictionary*, edited by Simon Hornblower, Antony Spawforth, and Esther Eidinow (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012). An exception to this are references to Pliny's *Naturalis historia* (NH) which the editors of OCD abbreviated to HN. Authors and works not included in the OCD are referred to in accordance with the ninth edition of *A Greek-English Lexicon*, edited by Henry George Liddell, Robert Scott, and Henry Stuart Jones (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1996) and the first edition of the *Oxford Latin Dictionary*, edited by P.G.W. Glare (Oxford & New York: Clarendon Press, 1982). For later Latin authors the third edition of *A Glossary of Later Latin to 600 A.D.*, edited by Alexander Souter (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1964) and the *Latinitatis Italicae Medii Aevi Lexicon (saec. V ex. – saec. XI in.)*: *Index auctorum et operum*, edited by Paschali Smiraglia and Michaelis Di Marco (Firenze: Sismel, 2008) have been helpful. Whenever an author or work remained unmentioned in these reference works, full name or title is cited.

Further abbreviations used in the footnotes are:

BA	Biblioteca Angelica, Rome
BAM	Biblioteca Ambrosiana, Milan
BAV	Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana, Vatican City
BE	Biblioteca Estense, Modena
BML	Biblioteca Medicea Laurenziana, Florence
BNC	Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale, Florence
BNE	Biblioteca Nacional de España, Madrid
BNM	Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana, Venice
BNP	Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris
BSB	Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, Munich
LSJ	<i>A Greek-English Lexicon</i> , ed. Henry George Liddell, Robert Scott, and Henry Stuart Jones. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1996.
MLW	<i>Mittellateinisches Wörterbuch bis zum ausgehenden 13. Jahrhundert</i> , ed. Otto Prinz and Heinz Antony. München: Beck, 1959.
NP	<i>Der Neue Pauly</i> , ed. Hubert Cancik, Helmuth Schneider and Manfred Landfester. Brill Online, 2012.
ODB	<i>Oxford Dictionary of Byzantium</i> , ed. Alexander P. Kazhdan. 3 vols. Oxford & New York: Oxford University Press, 1991.

PLP	<i>Prosopografisches Lexikon der Paläologenzzeit</i> , ed. Erich Trapp. 12 vols. Wien: Verlag der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften, 1976–1994.
SB	Staatsbibliothek, Berlin

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