

notes of the writers and contributors supplement this collective work, which is in every respect a useful addition to the literature on Byzantine art. In their easily comprehensible and extremely informative texts, the writers present a succinct picture of Byzantine pottery, so that the value of this particular volume far exceeds the narrow confines of a mere exhibition catalogue of glazed ceramic art from Serres. It also provides a vivid picture of the productive and artistic activity of Serres' pottery workshops in the late Byzantine period, thus shedding more light on the economic, social, and cultural life of this major urban centre in Eastern Macedonia.

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Bessarione e l'umanesimo. Catalogo della mostra, published by the Istituto Italiano per gli Studi Filosofici and the Biblioteca Nazionale Marchiana, Napoli (Vivarium) 1994, 28×24.5 cm., pp. 544+XVI.

Bessarion, the Greek from Trebizond on the Black Sea, is today considered one of the most important personalities in the history of the European spirit, a leading figure in the Byzantine world who contributed to the revival of the Classical tradition in Western Europe. This assessment belongs to Professor Giovanni Pugliese Carratelli, director of the Italian Institute of Philosophical Studies, and to the enterprising head of the Marciana Library of Venice, Marino Zorzi. Both supervised the above monumental work.

We are not dealing here with the usual catalogue of exhibits (manuscripts and mementoes of Bessarion). This is a book with impeccable academic specifications, printed with enviable artistic sensitivity. It includes 26 studies, written by European experts who have been involved with the life and activity of Bessarion. It is, moreover, embellished with rare, or hitherto unknown, colour and black-and-white tables, miniatures, facsimiles of documents and autographs of Bess., wood-cuts, engravings, views of cities, diagrams, sketches, maps and photographs of wonderful quality. In essence, the reader has before him a work of art, both as regards the typographical presentation as well as the contents.

I know of no other intellectual personality of medieval and modern Hellenism who has been so deservedly honoured in Europe. Bessarion's decision, in 1468, to donate his library, consisting of manuscript codices of

texts by Greek and Latin authors, to the Venetian Republic has so far been amply justified.

The published works cover the greater part of the book - the first 378 pages. The subjects enable us to plot the activities of the Greek humanist and his environment more fully. The titles of these works are quite indicative:

— References to the Life and Personality of Bessarion, by Marino Zorzi.
 — The Byzantine Tradition, the Greek East, and Southern Italy, by Gianfranco Fiaccadori. — Works of the Young Bessarion with a Theological Content, by Antonio Rigo. — Bessarion as Poet and the Last Imperial Court of Byzantium, by Sylvia Ronchey. — Bessarion at the Council of Florence: Humanism and Ecumenism, by Luca d'Ascia. — Philosophical Thought of Bessarion: the Platonic Tradition, by Brunello Lotti. — Bessarion's Interests in Astronomy, by Antonio Rigo. — Rome and the Bessarionian Academy, by Concetta Bianca. — Bessarion and the Roman Basilica of the Twelve Apostles, by Lorenzo Finocchi Ghersi. — Cardinal Bessarion as Papal Legate in Bologna (1450-1455), by Franco Bacchelli. — Bessarion and the Fine Arts, by Fabrizio Lollini. — Miniatures in the Latin Manuscripts of Bessarion, by Susy Marcon. — Bessarion and Venice, by Marino Zorzi. — The Formation of Bessarion's Greek Library, by Elpidio Mioni (†). — Bessarion and Crete, by Henri Saffrey¹. — Letter from Bessarion to the Pro-Union Priests in Crete, by Paolo Eleuteri. — Eastern Europe and the Union of the Churches, by Gaetano Platania. — Bessarion and the Turks, by Giacomo Carretto. — The Portraits of Bessarion, by Fabrizio Lollini. — Concerning the Portraying of Bessarion, by Lotte Labewsky (†). — Carpaccio and Bessarion, by Augusto

1. May I be allowed to note that the bull by Pope Pius II, dated 11 May 1463, to which the author refers (p. 244), as does P. Eleuteri (p. 248), had already been published by Georg Hofmann, *Papst Pius II. und die Kircheneinheit des Ostens*, OCP 12 (1946) 217-223, and a commentary on its contents was provided by Zacharias Tsirpanlis, *The Legacy of Cardinal Bessarion to the Supporters of Union in Crete under the Venetians (1439-17th century)*, Thessaloniki 1967, pp. 98-101. H. D. Saffrey re-published this bull from the same archive (*Arch. Segr. Vat. - Reg. Vat.* 490, f. 311^v-314^v) in *Thesaurismata* 16 (1979) 46-50, unaware that Hofmann had published it earlier and that Tsirpanlis had commented on it. Saffrey is familiar with the latter's book and refers to it, but for other matters, not the commentary on the above bull. I should also like to make it clear that the note in Bessarion's own hand (in *Monac. Gr.* 547, f. 359^r), first published by Saffrey (in *Byzantion* 35, 1965, 549), was published again more fully by Tsirpanlis, *op. cit.*, pp. 251-254, with comments which decipher the rather obscure contents. Besides, for the land-holdings of the Latin Patriarchate of Constantinople in Crete (location, incomes - expenses, rents etc), see also my latest study: *The Villages of the Latin Patriarchate of Constantinople in Crete under the Venetians (New Evidence - 17th Century)*, *Onomata* 13 (1989-1990) 274-284.

Gentili. — Carpaccio's "Saint Augustine in his Study": a portrait within another?, by Patricia Fortini Brown. — Bessarion's Small Work "That Nature Acts Wittingly" (*Quod natura consulto agat*), by John Monfasani. — The Urban Outline and Architecture of Mistra (1249-1460), by Gianluigi Ciotta. — The Astrolabe Presented to Bessarion in 1462 by Regiomontanus, by David King and Gerard Turner. — The Cross-Holder of Bessarion, by Renato Polacco.

Then follows a detailed inventory of 129 exhibits, most of which are from the Marciana Library, the Vatican Library, St.-Nikolaus-Hospital Bernkastel-Kues, Grottaferrata etc., as well as icons from the Greek Institute in Venice, reliquaries, diptychs, chalices and patens and other items directly connected with Bessarion and his times.

The extensive bibliography (pp. 527-544), at the end, provides tangible proof of the international scientific community's interest in Bessarion².

The initiative of the Marciana Library³, with the exhibition and the well-documented work which accompanies it, constitutes a new challenge to assess and reassess the cultural inheritance of the Greek cardinal.

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2. To this most useful bibliographical record, it is worth adding the following small contributions: Carmelo Capizzi, *Il Bessarione tra affari e carità: a proposito di tre atti notarili inediti*, in: XVI. Internationaler Byzantinisten Kongress, Wien, 4.-9. Oktober 1981, Akten II/6 (= *Jahrbuch der Österreichischen Byzantinistik*, 32/6), Wien 1982, pp. 27-42. - A. F. van Gemert, "Michael Apostolis as Teacher of Greek", *Ellinikā* 37 (1986) 141-145. - Igor P. Medvedev, "Bolonskaja gramota Vissariona Nikejskogo v Archive LOII SSSR AN SSSR" [= A Letter from Bessarion of Nicea from Bologna in the Leningrad Archive - Department of the Institute of History of the Soviet Union, the Academy of Sciences], *Vizantijskij Vremennik* 47 (1986) 134-144. - Nelson H. Minnich, "Alexios Celadenos: a disciple of Bessarion in renaissance Italy", in his book: *The Catholic Reformation*, Variorum, London 1993.

3. In 1968, too, on the occasion of the 500th anniversary of Bessarion's donation, the Library, as an expression of its gratitude towards its benefactor, organized scientific meetings and an exhibition of codices, with the relevant publication: *Cento Codici Bessarionei, catalogo di mostra*, a cura di Tullia Gasparini Leporace ed Elpidio Mioni, Venezia 1968. Likewise, a special volume was published with 34 studies dedicated to Bessarion and the Marciana Library: *Miscellanea Marciana di Studi Bessarionei (a coronamento della donazione nicena)*, Padova 1976 (Medioevo e Umanesimo - 24).