

PREFACE

The Christian Archaeological Society (ChAE) is particularly pleased to present the first volume in its new publication effort, *Ηλεκτρονικές Εκδόσεις της Χριστιανικής Αρχαιολογικής Εταιρείας (ΧΑΕ η-εκδόσεις) / Online Publications of the Christian Archaeological Society (ChAE e-press)*, which will include original scholarly monographs and collections of studies on topics in Byzantine and Post-Byzantine art and archaeology. This new series is being inaugurated at the initiative and with the collaboration of the National Documentation Centre as a pilot activity to encourage the publication of new and reputable open access monographs in the humanities and social sciences within the framework of the action “National Information System for Research & Technology / Social Networks - User Generated Content” (Sub-project 1). The project is being implemented by the National Documentation Centre within the framework of the Operational Programme “Digital Convergence” (NSRF), co-funded by Greece and the European Union - European Regional Development Fund, in an effort to strengthen the humanities and social sciences.

This new publishing activity by ChAE, with the collaboration and support of the National Documentation Centre, aims to establish high-quality electronic publications which will be available online through open access and with explicit quality standards. This involves both the scholarly and publishing sides of production (publication rules, assessment) as well as the technical one, which takes advantage of the possibilities offered by technology to make the book and its contents interlinked online objects (e.g., the Chicago system is employed for footnotes, which allows such linking). At the same time, *Online Publications (ChAE e-press)* will offer open access to already-published and digitized ChAE monographs. For the realization of this initial pilot programme, we extend especial thanks to the Director of the National Documentation Centre, Dr. Evi Sachini, and her collaborators Dr. Victoria Tsoukala and Dr. Alexandros Nafpliotis for their trust in us, their excellent collaboration, and their effectiveness.

With the goal of prompt dissemination and easy access to scientific knowledge, a goal to which ChAE one of the country’s oldest scientific societies, has been dedicated since its founding in 1884, ChAE has proceeded to this action, supporting the regular publication of its *Deltion*, which since 2012 has also been published online in collaboration with the National Documentation Centre (ejournals.e-publishing.ekt.gr/index.php/deltion). In this way, publication of ChAE monographs will continue in online format in accordance with contemporary standards. This new publication activity will operate in parallel to the series *Studies of Christian Archaeology and Art (Τετράδια Χριστιανικής Αρχαιολογίας και Τέχνης)*, in which nine monographs have already been published, and which we hope will continue to be enriched.

The first monograph to be selected in ChAE's new e-publishing series following an open call for submissions and internal-external assessment is that by Dr. Konstantia Kefala entitled *Οι τοιχογραφίες του 13ου αιώνα στις εκκλησίες της Ρόδου (Thirteenth-Century Wall Paintings in the Churches of Rhodes)*. In 2014, ChAE awarded the study a prize in memory of Titos Papamastorakis. In this volume, the author offers a detailed and documented presentation of the monumental art of Rhodes during the turbulent 13th century, evaluating it in relation to painting in the other islands of the Dodecanese, relating it to the historical, political, and social conditions prevailing on the island, and showing its links with the art of Nicaea and Constantinople, along with the gradual dominance of local provincial tendencies.

We warmly thank the anonymous readers for reviewing the monograph. Our warm thanks go to graphic designer Sotiris Papadimas and text editor Christina Tzortzaki-Mitropoulou for their timely preparation of this e-publication under tremendous time pressure, for the excellent collaboration and efficacy. The contribution of Dr. Ioanna Bitha, a member of the ChAE administrative board, was decisive in making the publication of this volume possible. We thank her very much. Thanks are also owed to the Research Centre for Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Art of the Academy of Athens, and to the Ephorate of Antiquities of Dodecanese for granting publication rights to most of the volume's photographs.

We believe that the originality and validity of research as well as assessment and strict compliance with the standards and procedures for publication will ensure the high quality of the Society's online publications. It is our hope and wish that this new online series, *ChAE e-press*, will continue and become established in the future alongside the print series *Studies of Christian Archaeology and Art* so that important Greek scientific-scholarly production may become widely-known and receive the prominence it deserves.

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