

*Ἐν Σοφίᾳ μαθητεύσαντες*

Essays in Byzantine Material Culture and Society  
in Honour of Sophia Kalopissi-Verti

edited by

Charikleia Diamanti and Anastasia Vassiliou

in collaboration with

Smaragdi Arvaniti



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Sophia Kalopissi-Verti (June 2018)



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## Foreword

Charikleia Diamanti and Anastasia Vassiliou

We are overjoyed after a challenging editing journey, to have in front of us this collective volume in honour of Sophia Kalopissi-Verti, containing contributions from students of our beloved professor.

How can we even begin to write about such an inspiring person, who has affected our lives in such a decisive way? Sophia Kalopissi-Verti is characterized by the unique and multifaceted creativity seen in her numerous pioneering publications, by her discretion, modesty and patience and the motherly care she has always shown for her students. She instilled in us her love of Byzantine archaeology and has been and still is always eager to answer our numerous queries on issues related to her areas of expertise. Kalopissi-Verti is so methodical and systematic; her office, always open to us, was so neat with the numerous Post-it notes with bibliographical references for new or important publications for our essays. For many of us she was the one who invited us on our first excavation, for others she guided their academic life for many years and supervised their PhDs, while in other cases she gave students the opportunity to work on academic projects or opened their minds to totally new aspects of Byzantine archaeology. But for all of us she was a role model just by being herself, an outstanding academic, untiring teacher and highly esteemed colleague.

Sophia Kalopissi-Verti was born in Athens. After receiving a BA degree in Archaeology at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, she pursued graduate studies at the University of Munich thanks to a DAAD scholarship and subsequently at the University of Basel. In 1974 she was granted a doctorate degree (Dr. phil.) from the University of Munich. Taking part in a fieldwork project in the region of Mani in the Southern Peloponnese, under the direction of the late Professor N. B. Drandakis, in the early years of her career (1976-1983), was invaluable in developing her interests in wall painting and epigraphy.

In 1976 she was appointed curator of the Library of the Department of Archaeology and History of Art and in



Figure 1. Taking pictures at Hagios Petros, Gardenitsa, Mani. November 1984 (Photo: Th. Kalopissis).

1982 Lecturer in Byzantine Archaeology at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. She gradually rose through the academic ranks and was elected a full professor in 2001. During her academic career at the University of Athens she supervised many master's and doctoral theses and directed several research projects. She was Director of the Museum of Archaeology and History of Art of the University of Athens (2006-2012)



Figure 2. Looking at inscriptions with her children Yannis and Stephanos at Amphiaraeion. May 1985 (Photo: Th. Kalopissis).



Figure 3. At the excavation of the Early Byzantine settlement in Kardamaina on Kos. July 1992 (Photographic Archive of the Excavation).

and Curator of the Collection of Byzantine Pottery. She took part in numerous international conferences, round tables and workshops and gave many lectures in Greece and abroad. Furthermore, together with Maria Panayotidi-Kesisoglou she co-directed the excavations of Early Byzantine archaeological sites in ancient Halasarna on the island of Kos in the Dodecanese, where many students had their first practical experience of archaeological excavations, and in South Sinai as a member of the Hellenic Archaeological Mission.



Figure 4. Expedition to South Sinai, Holy Summit. May 1998 (Photographic Archive of S. Kalopissi-Verti).

Kalopissi-Verti was granted fellowships on the Program in Hellenic Studies of the University of Princeton and at Dumbarton Oaks, Washington DC. In 2010 she was given a 'Certificate of Appreciation Award' by the University of Belgrade for developing cooperation between the universities of Athens and Belgrade. In 2011 she was awarded a prize, with Maria Panayotidi-Kesisoglou, by the Academy of Athens for the book *Multilingual Illustrated Dictionary of Byzantine Architecture and Sculpture Terminology (Greek, English, Albanian, French, German, Italian, Romanian, Bulgarian, Russian, Serbian)*, Herakleion, Crete University Press 2010.

She is or has been a member of several learned societies, administrative boards, editing boards or academic committees of journals and series in Greece and abroad. She was President of the Christian Archaeological Society for over ten years (2007-2018) and Deputy Secretary General of the International Association of Byzantine Studies between 2011 and 2016. She is currently President of the Administrative Board of the European Centre for Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Monuments, Thessaloniki, and a member of the Academic Board of the Leibniz-WissenschaftsCampus Mainz. She has also been a collaborator of the *Byzantinische Zeitschrift* for the Bibliography section since 1995.

But first and foremost, Sophia Kalopissi-Verti has been and still is for us an exemplary professor and this volume represents a warm tribute from her students. And not only the ones, by far the more numerous, who wrote their PhD thesis under her supervision but also those with whom she worked as a member of their doctoral committee and those who were inspired by her undergraduate courses to continue their studies in Byzantine archaeology or related fields in universities abroad. Most of them are working today in the Hellenic Archaeological Service of the Ministry of Culture and Sports as curator archaeologists, while others have followed in her footsteps as university professors.

The initial proposal for this collective volume came from Charikleia Diamanti. In the beginning, Smaragdi Arvaniti offered invaluable assistance, while in its main phase the challenging project was undertaken by the editors, Charikleia Diamanti and Anastasia Vassiliou. The laborious task of text editing was carried out meticulously by Giannis Vaxevanis and Anastasia Vassiliou.



Figure 5. Receiving an award at the University of Belgrade for establishing cooperation between the Universities of Athens and Belgrade. 15-4-2010 (Photographic Archive of S. Kalopissi-Verti).



Figure 6. With Gojko Subotić and Theodore Kalopissis at the University of Belgrade. 15-4-2010 (Photographic Archive of S. Kalopissi-Verti).

The studies in this volume cover a large variety of topics, which have been divided into the following seven thematic sections: Urbanism and Architecture; Painting and Iconography; Stone Carving and Sculpture; Ceramics; Bone, Metal and Textiles; Coinage and Sigillography; Inscriptions, Portraits and Patronage. The essays extend chronologically from the Early Byzantine to the Post-Byzantine period and geographically from Constantinople to South Sinai and Cyprus and Antiocheia to the Aegean islands, continental Greece and Italy. Special emphasis is placed on the presentation of unpublished archaeological material as well as on proposing new approaches to various aspects of Byzantine archaeology, material culture and art history. Meanwhile, the essays' wide thematic, chronological and geographic range reflects the broad area of Kalopissi-Verti's interests and pioneering research, to which she introduced us and with which she inspired us.

We would like to thank the anonymous reviewers of the studies, who so willingly offered their assistance. Many thanks are owed to all the contributors for their eagerness to participate in this volume and their patience during the long process of

Figure 7. Academy of Athens, receiving an award for the *Multilingual Illustrated Dictionary of Byzantine Architecture and Sculpture Terminology*, with Maria Panayotidi-Kesisoglou. 29-12-2011. (Photo: Photo Press Th. and A. Anagnostopoulos).





Figure 8. At the 35th Symposium of the Christian Archaeological Society, Athens, Byzantine and Christian Museum. 23-4-2015 (Photo: N. Mylonas).

compilation, editing and publication. Finally, we are grateful to Archaeopress Publishing and its director Dr David Davison for accepting our proposal and including this collected volume in their publications as well as for their exemplary collaboration.



Figure 9. Galatsi, Omorphi Ekklesia, on a visit organized by the Christian Archaeological Society. February 2019 (Photo: F. Kaimaki).



Figure 10. Alepochori, Church of the Saviour, on a trip organized by the Christian Archaeological Society. March 2015 (Photo: A. Vassiliou).



Figure 11. Messenia, Samarina, Church of Zoodochos Pigi.  
November 2017 (Photo: M. Kappas).

