

“Byzantium and Arabs: Influences and interactions”

ABSTRACT

The subject of the lecture is to discuss the relationships developed between Byzantium and the Arabs from the 7th -10th c. and mainly before the appearance of the Seljuk Turks in Anatolia. As it comes from the historic sources and the archaeological findings, this period, besides the wars that lead to the loss of lands for the Byzantine Empire, it presents a great interest due to the great interactions that characterized the development of the society and the culture as well. Through the study and presentation of examples of the everyday life as well as of the architectural and artistic characteristics of the era, it will be pursued to be presented the influence of Constantinople to the court of caliphs of Ummayyad and Abbasid, as well as the later influence of Arabs in the byzantine art, especially in the terms of of incorporating Arabic decoration styles and scripture in the monuments of the byzantine world.

AUTHOR

Flora Karagianni has studied History and Archaeology in the School of Philosophy of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. Her dissertation was on the field of Byzantine Archaeology. Since 1995 she has been working in the Ministry of Culture, whereas since 2008 she is Head of the Office for the Promotion of Scientific Research of the European Centre for Byzantine and Postbyzantine Monuments. At the same time she is adjunct lecturer in the MA “Black Sea and Eastern Mediterranean Studies” of the International Hellenic University. She has written several studies related to various topics of the byzantine civilization, architecture, city-planning, archaeology and art. She has participated in international and national symposia and has numerous publications on Byzantine architecture and art. She is scientific coordinator of projects for the Black Sea and Mediterranean implemented by the European Centre for Byzantine and Postbyzantine Monuments with the collaboration of bodies (universities, museums, research centres) from Greece and abroad.