

## **The Byzantine harbor of Thessaloniki**

### ABSTRACT

In the lecture it is presented the artificial harbor that was constructed in Thessaloniki in 322 – 323, upon the order of the Emperor Constantine the Great, as well as other byzantine ports of the city. Contemporary research is endeavoring to recreate the form, the importance, and the functions, of Constantine's harbor by combining information offered by the Byzantine sources and later travelers' texts with the finds of archaeological excavations and engravings, drawings, maps, and old photos of the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries.

For a better understanding of the importance of the Byzantine port of Thessaloniki, a brief mention of the characteristics of the city's location and the beginnings of its historical life is made.

### AUTHOR

**Anastasia Tourta** is an expert of late Byzantine and post-Byzantine painting and she has written numerous articles on the subject. She graduated from the School of Archaeology at the Faculty of Philosophy of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, and she pursued post-graduate studies in Paris (1981-1983) at the University of Paris I Pantheon-Sorbonne where she received a Diplôme d'Études Approfondies in the History and Culture of the Byzantine and Post-Byzantine World. She was awarded the first prize of the Order of Arts and Letters by the Academy of Athens for her thesis. As a staff member of the Hellenic Archaeological Service, she has been working for several years in the Ephorate of Byzantine Antiquities of Thessaloniki and the last decades she has been mostly engaged in organizing exhibitions on byzantine topics both in Greece and abroad, including the grand exhibition on Mount Athos Treasures held in 2009 at the Petit Palais in Paris. During her Directorship (2001–2008) in the Museum of Byzantine Culture the Museum was awarded the "Museum Prize" of the Council of Europe. She was also the scientific supervisor and coordinator of the permanent exhibition on Thessaloniki in the White Tower (a listed monument of 15th c.). Since 2008 she is the Director of the European Centre for Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Monuments, an organization specialized in the promotion of the byzantine culture outside Greece. Under this capacity, she has organized and supervised a series of projects undertaken by the EKBMM in the Balkans, the Black Sea and the Middle East. She is member of many scientific associations in Greece and abroad. She has been appointed by Unesco as expert for the listing of byzantine monuments in the World Heritage List. For six years she was a member of the European Heritage Prize - Committee of the Association of the European Archaeologist. In 2006 she was awarded by the Queen of Denmark Margrete II, and in 2015 she was awarded by the President of the Hellenic Democracy.