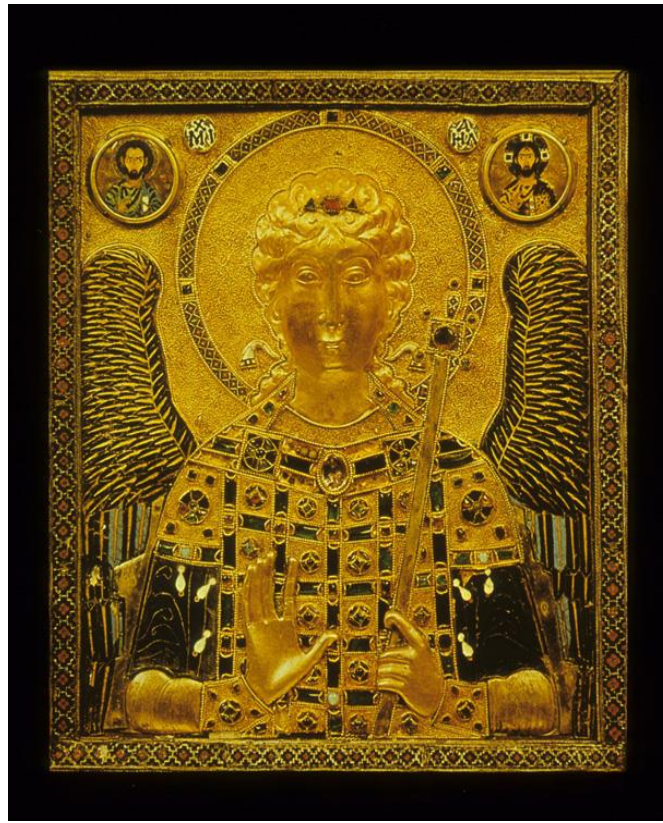


The Glories of Byzantium: 330 -1453 AD

The Arts Society Exmoor: Special Interest Day Thursday 17th November 2022



This is a day full of interest, which is illustrated with most beautiful works of art.

Jane Angelini, our lecturer, has an MA in Byzantine Studies and has lectured for the Arts Society and other organisations for many years as well as founding and running St James's Art Tours.

In 330 AD, the Roman Emperor, Constantine the Great, founded a second capital city from which to rule the wealthy eastern territories of the Empire. Constantinople was built to rival and overshadow Rome and it was built as a Christian capital, a turning point in the history of the world. When Rome fell in the late 5th century and the western part of the empire collapsed, Constantinople remained the sole surviving capital and for a thousand years to follow, the great city on the shores of the Bosphorus, straddling East and West, was the undisputed centre of Christendom and Mistress of the Mediterranean. To the rest of the world, Constantinople was seen as a symbol of wealth, power and cultural ascendancy.

During the first talk: ***Constantinople, the new Capital***, we will look together at the founding of the city; the Great Palace of the Emperors and the Hippodrome, which stood at the civic heart of the city, as well as the superb 6th century church of Santa Sophia, which stood at the heart of Christendom and is one of the wonders of the world.

The second talk: ***The Full Flowering***, discusses the period when Constantinople assumed the role of a Heavenly Jerusalem; churches and monasteries, with walls cascading in glittering mosaic, holy images, resplendent liturgical objects and religious processions are the backdrop to everyday life. Important to this topic is the role of the icon as a liturgical object and understanding how icons differ from western religious painting.

During the third talk: ***Byzantine Decorative Arts***, we will look at some of the most sumptuous works of art created anywhere during the mediaeval centuries. Byzantine gold and enamel work, jewellery, silks, manuscripts and ivories were valued. Perhaps the Pala D'Oro in Venice is the finest example of the exquisite craftsmanship of this remarkable culture.