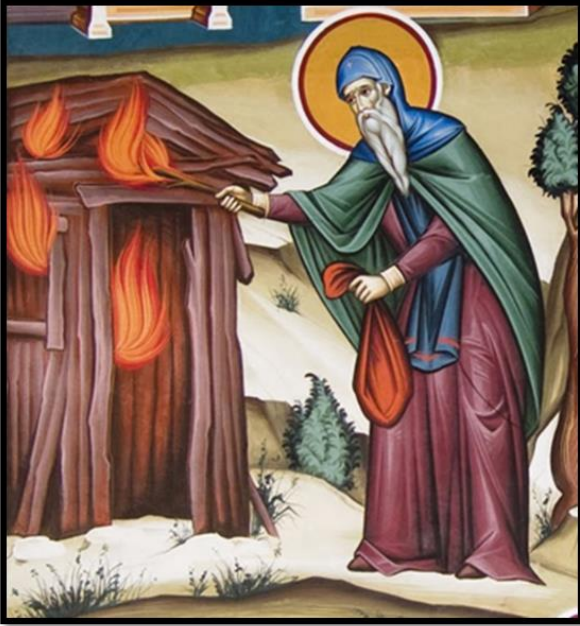


2014-2015 MEDIEVAL LECTURE SERIES

MAXING THE SANCTITY:

ASCETICISM, MIRACLE AND AUTHORIAL ENHANCEMENT IN THE LATE BYZANTINE LIVES OF MAXIMOS "THE HUTBURNER"

DR. RICHARD GREENFIELD (DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY, QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY)



The two earliest Lives of the celebrated Athonite ascetic Maximos Kavsolkalybites (1270/1285-1365/80), by the hieromonk Niphon and by Theophanes, are an important source for the influential Late Byzantine genre of individualistic contemplative monasticism, and are thus included in the forthcoming Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library volume, *Holy Men of Mount Athos*. They may also give unique insight into the way in which the holiness of these men was initially recorded, interpreted, and developed by their associates. Set alongside each other, the two accounts thus provide revealing insight into the process of hagiographic composition and construction. It is possible to see which of Niphon's stories were omitted from Theophanes' Life, apparently because they were considered too trivial, perhaps unreliable, and possibly even too controversial. More importantly, Theophanes' framing of Maximos as a holy fool and then as a hesychast visionary, ascetic and teacher is so emphatically handled, yet so different from Niphon's perspective, that it must raise intriguing questions of authorial interpretation, enhancement, or even creativity.

Richard Greenfield has taught Byzantine and Crusade history, and a range of loosely related subjects to undergraduate and graduate students at Queen's for the past 26 years. He holds a B.D. and Ph.D. from King's College, University of London. His primary research focus is on Byzantine popular religion. He is the author of three books and a number of scholarly publications on Byzantine demonology, magic, hagiography, and pilgrimage, as well as way-side shrines in Greece. His most recent book a translation and edition of Niketas Stethatos's *Life of Saint Symeon the New Theologian* was published by Harvard UP in the Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library series in 2013. He is a member of the Byzantine Greek editorial board of that series and is the co-author, with Alice-Mary Talbot, of a forthcoming volume of *Lives of Holy Men of Mount Athos*.

February 5, 2015 - 5:00 – 6:00pm Lecture

St. Jerome's University - Room 3027, Reception at 4:30pm
Snacks and refreshments provided

MEDIEVAL STUDIES PROGRAM

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