



About the books

E. Papagianni and D. Penna (eds.), *A Companion to Byzantine Law: From the Foundation of Constantinople (330) until the End of the Macedonian Dynasty (1056)*, Brill 2026

The so-called Byzantine Empire, which existed for more than a thousand years with Constantinople as its capital, demonstrates the birth of a new world with the wedding of Western and Eastern traditions. This study of Byzantine legal texts, mainly from the 6th to the 11th centuries, illustrates this clearly, following the evolution of Roman law into Byzantine law. By outlining and analysing the influence of various historical, social, and religious factors on this progression, the present handbook not only presents a condensed picture of the evolution of law in the area beyond the Adriatic Sea, but also indirectly sheds light on Byzantine society more broadly. The present handbook consists of 21 chapters written by 16 authors who specialise in Byzantine law. This volume is quite special, as it is the first time that many specialists have collaborated to write on the development of Byzantine law. Contributors are: Kalliopi (Kelly) Bourdara, Wolfram Brandes, Zachary Chitwood, Giuseppe Falcone, Andreas Gkoutzioukostas, Fausto Gorla, Vasileios-Alexandros Kollias, Alexander Liarmacopulus, Valerio Massimo Minale, Eleftheria Papagianni, Kalliopi Papakonstantinou, Daphne Penna, Peter Sarris, Dieter Simon, Marios Th. Tantalos, Spyros Troianos†, and Thomas van Bochove.

D. Penna, *Byzantine Law. The Roman Law of the Eastern Roman Empire*, Cambridge University Press 2026

The purpose of this small book is to introduce the study of later Roman law (Byzantine law) to a wider academic audience. Currently a great deal of specialized knowledge is necessary to approach the field of Byzantine law. This book works to break down the barriers to this fascinating subject by providing a brief, clear introduction to the topic. It makes a scholarly contribution by placing Byzantine law in a broader perspective and by reconsidering some of the aspects of the study of Byzantine law. The book places Byzantine law outside of the box by comparing, for example, Byzantine law to the European legal tradition and highlighting the role that Byzantine law can have in unravelling the common legal past of Europe. It also gives information on the status of Byzantine legal studies and makes suggestions on how to study Byzantine law and why.

Meet the editors:



Eleftheria Papagianni served as Professor of History of Law at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens Law School, where she taught History of Law and Byzantine Law. She retired on the 31st of August 2024. Since 1981 she has participated in the international research project for the republication of Byzantine legal sources of the Göttingen Academy of Sciences based in Frankfurt am Main (Max-Planck-Institut für europäische Rechtsgeschichte). She served as director of the project (2008 to 2011) and since then, until its completion (31/12/2020), as member of its Steering Committee. She is the author of many books and articles, mainly on Byzantine civil law.



Daphne Penna is Assistant Professor of Legal History at the University of Groningen and Associate Professor of Roman Law at the Catholic University of Leuven (KU Leuven). She is the author of *The Byzantine Imperial Acts to Venice, Pisa and Genoa, 10th–12th Centuries. A Comparative Legal Study* (The Hague, 2012) and co-author of *A Sourcebook on Byzantine Law. Illustrating Byzantine Law through the Sources* (Leiden, 2022, co-author: R. Meijering). Penna's interests lie in Roman and Byzantine law and especially in their influence on the European legal tradition; she has published extensively on this area (ca. 50 publications).