

# Preface

The core of the present work was undertaken as part of the preparation for a talk given at the international conference *Hinter den Mauern und auf dem offenen Land: Neue Forschungen zum Leben im Byzantinischen Reich* (3-6 June 2010), organised by Falko Daim and Jörg Drauschke (Byzantinische Archäologie Mainz), to whom I extend my warm thanks for the invitation. This was the trigger that made me try to put in order all this information with which I have been struggling, on and off, since the early 1990s. At this time, I participated in the salvage excavations conducted by the Ephorate of Byzantine Antiquities of Thessaloniki and I was trying to place the fragmentary finds from small plots in an historical and urban context. This research continued some years later when I participated in the preparation of an exhibition of the Museum of Byzantine Culture at the White Tower, Thessaloniki. In this exhibition, different aspects of life in Thessaloniki during its 2,300-year history were presented and consequently required study and assessment, thoroughly and diachronically, up until the twentieth century<sup>1</sup>.

However, the overall outcome of this book rests upon the work of generations of archaeologists engaged during the twentieth century in the laborious work of salvage excavations in this populous, thriving and ever-growing city. Due to their nature, salvage excavations almost always only offer a glimpse of the different layers of the history that is buried in every corner of Thessaloniki. To these colleagues, past and present, I offer this book in gratitude for their involvement with the archaeology of the city and especially in discovering and identifying artisanal activity.

The artisanal remains are usually the least well-preserved and present the greatest difficulty in being identified properly or even discovered in the first place. I have tried to organise these fragmentary finds, along with what few references have survived, in order to make the material accessible and thus useful to other researchers. I have in my mind especially those researchers who have not personally worked in Thessaloniki, those who do not have access to the archives of the Archaeological Service and those to whom Greek, in which most of the information is written, presents an obstacle.

I would like to thank the following institutions for their permission to publish hitherto unpublished archaeological information, together with the relevant photographs and

drawings: the Ephorate of Antiquities of the City of Thessaloniki, which incorporates parts of the former 16<sup>th</sup> Ephorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities and the 9<sup>th</sup> Ephorate of Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Antiquities; the Museum of Byzantine Culture; and the Archaeological Museum of Thessaloniki. In addition, I would like to thank the following people: Professor Dr Falko Daim and Dr Jörg Drauschke for their enthusiasm for the book and their decision to include it in the publication series of the *Leibniz-WissenschaftsCampus Mainz: Byzanz zwischen Orient und Okzident*; Dr Antje Bosselmann-Ruickbie and Dr Leo Ruickbie for text-editing, proof-reading and linguistic improvement of the text, as well as useful remarks and notes on the contents; Dr Reinhard Köster and Dr Claudia Nickel of the RGZM publishing house for their great support; and Franz Siegmeth for graphic design and artwork.

Apart from the names of historical persons, which appear in the standard form known in the English language, all names of streets, cities, sites, monuments and proper names, as well as Greek names of authors and the abbreviations of Greek titles in the bibliography are transliterated according to the standardised system of Romanisation of Greek employed by the American Library Association and the United States' Library of Congress (ALA LC) (<http://www.loc.gov/catdir/cpso/romanization/greek.pdf>).

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Thessaloniki 2016

1 All information, texts and photos of the exhibition can be accessed online at <http://www.lpth.gr>.