The project ‘RICONTRANS’

and the need of documenting inscriptions...

- ERC Consolidator Grant (May 2019 – April 2024, Grant agreement ID: 818791)

Field: Art History

Principal Investigator: Yuliana Boycheva
- Centre of Art History "El Greco“, Institute of Mediterranean Studies - FORTH

Partners
- The Benaki Museum (Greece)
- Department of History of Art / University of Belgrade (Serbia)
- National Museum of the Union (Romania)
- Institute of Balkan Studies & Center of Thracology / Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (Bulgaria)
- Research Center “Episteme in Motion” / Free University of Berlin (Germany)
- Centre for Cultural Informatics / Institute of Computer Science – FORTH

https://ricontrans-project.eu/
RICONTRANS – The research focus

- The **Russian religious artefacts** (icons and ecclesiastical furnishings) brought from Russia to the Balkans from the 16th until the 20th century, preserved in monasteries, churches, and museums
  - What are the paths and the mediums of their transfers as well as the moving factors?
  - What are the aesthetic, ideological, political and social factors that shaped the context of their reception in the various social and cultural environments?
  - What is their influence on the visual culture of the host societies?

- Collection of primary and secondary **sources** in large regions of Europe:
  - Greece, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Croatia, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Bulgaria, Romania and Russia
RICONTRANS – The data

- (Meta)data about:
  - Art objects (Icons, Triptychs, Crosses, Censers, …)
    - Inscriptions, decorations and stamps are of high interest!
  - Object transfers (e.g., transfers of icons from Russia to Greece)
  - Historical figures (Archbishops, Priests, Emperors, Saints, …)
  - Locations (Cities, Villages, Monasteries, Churches, Museums, …)

- Information Sources
  - Archival sources / Oral History Sources
  - Old books / newspapers
  - Periodicals / Reviews

- Research data and knowledge
  - Researcher comments, research findings, …

- Digital files
  - Images, Scans, Documents (PDFs / DOCs), …
Documentation using the SYNTHESIS system

Objects and Transfers

Objects
Object Transfers
Routes

Sources
Archival Sources
Books
Newspapers and Periodicals/Reviews
Oral History Sources
Web Sources

Related Bibliography
Bibliography

Passages and Comments
Source Passages
Collection of Source Passages
Researcher Comments

Objects
Showing: All

Filter Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Object name (Ricontrans)</th>
<th>Originator of Reference</th>
<th>Current Location</th>
<th>Archive</th>
<th>Creator</th>
<th>Card Status</th>
<th>Id</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chalice in Margarites parish in Crete</td>
<td>.../Organization/225, Parish of Margarites village, Rethymno</td>
<td>.../Location/81, Margarites, Rethymno</td>
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<td>katopi</td>
<td>unpublished</td>
<td>Object/10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Icon of the Resurrection and Descent to the Hell with Twelve Great Feasts</td>
<td>.../Organization/146, Byzantine museum Kastoria</td>
<td>.../Location/79, Byzantine museum Kastoria</td>
<td></td>
<td>mailezak</td>
<td>unpublished</td>
<td>Object/100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Triptychs in the Holy kalyve of Timios Stavros</td>
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<td>seraideri</td>
<td>unpublished</td>
<td>Object/1002</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Documentation using the SYNTHESIS system

Current usage stats
- 38 users (10 institutions, 5 countries)
- 1084 objects
- 367 object transfers
- 150 archival sources
- 46 books
- 92 newspapers and periodicals/Reviews
- 3 oral history sources
- 55 web sources
- 520 source passages
- 203 historical figures
- 33 historical events
- 487 locations
- 390 organisations
Documentation using the **SYNTHESIS** system

**Icon:** Saint George with the Dragon
(Church of Saint George of Politeia, Kastoria)
**Documenting information about an inscription**

| Inscriptions | Icon: Saint George with the Dragon  
(Church of Saint George of Politeia, Kastoria) |
<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Inscription Position</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Inscription Content</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Inscription Script</strong></td>
<td>ΟΒΕΡΑΖ Σ[ΒΛ]ΤΩΤΟ ΒΕΛΙΚΟ ΜΟΤΕНИΚΑ ΓΕΩΡΓΙΑ ΠΟΒΕΔΩΝΟΣΑ</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Inscription Edition</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Inscription Language</strong></td>
<td>Church Slavonic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Inscription Transliteration (suggested format: Byzantine Publications / Dumbarton Oaks Papers)</strong></td>
<td>GOSPOD VSEDERGITEL BLAGOSLOVI GD M GEORGIYA NA POBEDU [NAD ZMEI] [GRADA NAVERU TC[A]RYA I LYUDI ([...])</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Inscription Translation</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Inscription Representation</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Inscription Source Of Content</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Inscription - Comments</strong></td>
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</table>
Documenting information about an **inscription**

### Inscription

#### Inscription Position
- around the rim

#### Inscription Content

##### Inscription Script

+ΤΑΞΕΙΝΟΣ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΧΟΠΟΣ ΕΛΑΣΣΟΝΟΣ ΚΑΙ ΤΟΝ ΑΡΧΑΓΓΕΛΟΝ ΤΗΣ ΜΕΓΑΛΗΣ ΜΟΣΧΟΒΙΑΣ ΑΡΣΕΝΙΟΣ ΣΤΕΛΛΩ ΤΟΝ ΠΑΡΟΝ ΔΙΣΚΟΝ ΕΙΣ ΤΗΝ ΜΟΝΗ ΤΟΝ ΑΓΙΩΝ ΠΑΝΤΩΝ ΤΗΝ ΕΠΩΝΟΜΑΖΟΜΕΝΗ ΒΑΡΛΑΑΜ ΠΛΗΣΙΟΝ ΜΕΤΕΩΡΟΥ ΑΠΟ ΜΕΓΑΛΗΣ ΡΩΣΙΑΣ, ζρζ'

##### Inscription Edition

##### Inscription Language
- Greek

##### Inscription Transliteration (suggested format: Byzantine Publications / Dumbarton Oaks Papers)

+ΤΑΞΕΙΝΟΣ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΧΟΠΟΣ ΕΛΑΣΣΟΝΟΣ ΚΑΙ ΤΟΝ ΑΡΧΑΓΓΕΛΟΝ ΤΗΣ ΜΕΓΑΛΗΣ ΜΟΣΧΟΒΙΑΣ ΣΤΕΛΛΩ ΤΟΝ ΠΑΡΟΝ ΔΙΣΚΟΝ ΕΙΣ ΤΗΝ ΜΟΝΗ ΤΟΝ ΑΓΙΩΝ ΠΑΝΤΩΝ ΤΗΝ ΕΠΩΝΟΜΑΖΟΜΕΝΗ ΒΑΡΛΑΑΜ ΠΛΗΣΙΟΝ ΜΕΤΕΩΡΟΥ ΑΠΟ ΜΕΓΑΛΗΣ ΡΩΣΙΑΣ, ζρζ'

##### Inscription Translation

+ I, ARSENIOS, HUMBLE ARCHBISHOP OF ELASSONA AND OF THE ARCHANGELS CATHEDRAL OF GREAT MOSCOW, I AM SENDING THE PRESENT PATEN FROM RUSSIA TO THE MONASTERY OF HAGION PANTON, CALLED VARLAAM, NEAR METEORA, zrz'

#### Inscription Representation

##### Photo

- ![Image of a silver paten](./Images/Varlaam_Monastery_Silver_Paten.png)

##### Link

- .../DigitalObject/3, Varlaam Monastery Silver Disk

##### Comments

- 

##### Drawing