

**VLADIMÍR VAVŘÍNEK, *Encyklopedie Byzance* [*Encyclopedia of Byzantium*], s autorskou spoluprací PETRA BALCÁRKA, Nakladatelství LIBRI, Slovenský Ústav AV ČR, Praha 2011, pp. 550.**

This book represents a summa of Byzantine studies. It covers every aspect of Byzantine culture and history. Great knowledge and experience allowed Vladimír Vavřínek to write such a work on his own. In this impressive undertaking he was supported only by Petr Balcárek, a member of Institute of Pastoral and Spiritual Theology of Palacký University in Olomouc, who took part in writing the articles devoted to art, liturgy and theology. This fact is worth stressing because such works are usually created by a collective, just to mention *The Oxford Dictionary of Byzantium*, vol. I–III (ed. A.P. KAZHDAN, Oxford 1991), *Reallexikon zur byzantinischen Kunst* (Stuttgart 1963–), *A Biographical Dictionary of the Byzantine Empire* (ed. D.M. NICOL, London 1991) and *Encyklopedia kultury bizantyjskiej* (ed. O. JUREWICZ, Warszawa 2002).

Most of the Vavřínek's publications focus on Cyril and Methodius' mission to Great Moravia and connections between Slavic and Byzantine world (monographs: *Staroslověnské životy Konstantína a Metoděje* [*Old Slavonic Lives of Constantine and Methodius*], Praha 1963; *Církevní misie v dějinách Velké Moravy* [*Church missions in the history of Great Moravia*], Praha 1963; *Dějiny Byzance* [*History of Byzantium*], Praha 1992, as a co-author, *Dějiny Řecka* [*History of Greece*], Praha 1998 as a co-author, and others). Ancient history attracted Vavřínek's attention as well, which resulted in the creation of monographs: *La révolte d'Aristonicos*, Praha 1957; *Alexandr Veliký* (*Alexander the Great*), Praha 1967. He is the author of dozens of articles, co-organizer of numerous conferences and the editor of many post-conference volumes. Since 1970 he has been cooperating with the periodical "Byzantinoslavica", from 1990 to 2000 he was its editor-in-chief. Scholarly career of Vavřínek is connected primarily with Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic (before 1992: Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences), where he has been working since 1956. During the period 1998–2007 he occupied the position of the director of Institute of Slavonic Studies.

The main part of the book presented here (p. 11–524), preceded by introduction, editorial notes and list of abbreviations, contains nearly 1900 entries. Among them we find broad articles giving synthesis of knowledge on the given topics such as history of Byzantium (p. 84–105), women in Byzantium (p. 521–522), hagiography (p. 182–183), wages and salaries (p. 339), as well as much shorter entries explaining terms related to Byzantine art, literature, administration, economy, etc. (e.g.: *Bezant*, p. 63; *Demosios*, p. 127; *Idol*, p. 210; *Rûm* [Arab, Persian and Turkish name for Byzantine lands], p. 421; *Sekreton*, p. 430; *Zeugaratos*, p. 516). A significant part of this encyclopedia are topographical and prosopographical articles. The volume includes not only entries devoted to Byzantine culture and history but also covers selected topics related to neighbor countries as well. The stress was placed on orthodox Slavdom, in *Encyklopedie Byzance* we find e.g. a characteristic of Naum of Ohrid (p. 342), a description of the Boyana church near Sofia (p. 66), monastery in Staro Nagoričino (p. 446) or *Codex Suprasliensis* (p. 119), an explanation of the terms *paterikon* (p. 384) and *zlatostruj* (p. 517), but there are no detailed articles relating to e.g. Armenia (Mesrop Maštots or Ani do not have separate entries). This situation reflects Czech readers interests, to whom this work is mainly addressed, as the Author declared in the preface.

General bibliography, arranged by topic, is placed on p. 527–537, there is no bibliographical references in the articles. The book contains many illustrations and maps.

This volume, the fruit of years of research in Byzantine civilization by Vavřínek, would serve, as I believe, not only as a reference work for specialists but also as a useful guide to the Byzantine world for students and non-professionals, which will contribute to the popularization of Byzantine studies in the Czech Republic.

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