

'Every Move You Make': Bridging People, Cultures, Languages (14th-17th century)

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This volume explores the literary, artistic, linguistic, and cultural interplay between East and West from the 14th to the 17th century, focusing on the evolution of this dialogue through both continuity and discontinuity. Central to our investigation is the reciprocity between Rome and Constantinople as seen through the dynamic processes of reception of antiquity, including not only the dissemination of Ancient Greek and Eastern Roman heritage in Italian Humanism, but also in Transalpine and Northern Humanism.

We adopt Lorna Hardwick's reading of reception not only as transmission of ancient texts but also as representations of ancient Roman collectivity through classical manuscripts, printed books (editions, translations, commentaries), and newly composed literary, historical, philosophical, and didactic works. A key question animating this volume is: What aspects of Roman antiquity—real or imagined—are emphasized in Byzantium through the dissemination and re-elaboration of texts and images? The collection interrogates the multiple forms of Roman reception across textual traditions and material media, viewed through a transdisciplinary lens and a comparative approach. We address a significant lacuna in current scholarship: the role of Byzantium not merely as a repository of classical learning, but as a dynamic site of literary identity and community construction.

Of particular interest is how this reception is reshaped by individuals in motion—scholars, artists, scribes—who serve as cultural intermediaries between antiquity and Byzantium. Their mobility highlights bilingualism and biculturalism as core to the idea of *romanitas*, situated between Western Romance culture(s) and Byzantine classicism. We emphasize the nexus between physical mobility and philological excavation, migrant knowledge and cross-cultural exchange, transculturality and intertextuality, East and West, North and South—all set against the backdrop of artistic innovation marked by the rise of the printing press and fifteenth-century Humanism. Our aim is to illuminate the interconnectedness of the Bosphorus region—a space geographically proximate to both Europe and Asia—while resisting Eurocentric narratives that treat Latin Europe and the Roman Empire as a unified, monolingual heritage. By foregrounding the peripatetic nature of Humanism and applying a comparative methodology that spans disciplines (from Classics to Comparative Literature) and critical frameworks (from Ecdotics to Reception Studies), this volume explores the mobility to and from Byzantium as emblematic of the Mediterranean's and Baltic Sea's multicultural legacy. Byzantium becomes not merely a crossroads, but a vital intellectual and cultural landfall for generations of thinkers who found in its multilayered tradition(s) a sense of belonging and citizenship.

The volume has a flexible approach to periodization, while keeping its focus on early modern time.

Possible Topics:

- Reception of ancient Greek
- Discontinuity/continuity between East and West, Latin and Greek, North and South, manuscripts and printed world
- Mapping mobility
- Renaissance encounters/ Global Renaissance
- Within and beyond Rome: diffusion and impact of *romanitas* in a post-Roman world
- Transmission, appropriation, and interplay of knowledge(s)
- Byzantium and Rome: linguistic exchanges/intercultural dialogues

- Mobility, philology, and materiality
- Greek communities in the West, Latin communities in the East
- Roman and Byzantines legacies
- Early-modernity identities and co-existence
- Greek-Byzantine Renaissance: scholars and teachers

Languages: Preferably in English (other languages may be considered)

Submission guidelines: We invite the submission of abstracts of up to 500 words accompanied by select bibliography and a short bio (maximum of 250 words). This material should be sent in one pdf-file by September 1, 2026 to the following addresses: • rricci@brynmawr.edu • omerisalo@gmail.com. Prospective contributors will be notified by October 1, 2026; complete first drafts are expected by May 2027. The publication is planned for end of 2027.