



METADATA

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Abstract

The book, which is divided in nine chapters and two appendices, presents the basic elements of Byzantine Hymnography, i.e. liturgical poetry, from the first hymns, to which a brief mention is made, to the original creations of the Byzantine era, the hymnographic genres of the apogee of hymnography, i.e. the Kontakion and the Canon. For these two kinds of hymns a relatively detailed presentation of their characteristics as well as the various theories related to their birth, establishment and presentation is made. At the same time, the most important representatives of the genres and translated and annotated excerpts from some of their important works are presented. The work of Romanos the Melodist has a special place in this collection, to whom two chapters (3 and 4) are dedicated.

In a separate chapter (chapter 5) the presentation of the most important kontakion, the Akathistos Hymn, is made. The second large part of the book consists of four chapters and is dedicated to the textual genre of the Canon. The first of these (chap. 6) is dedicated to the theory related to the Canon (characteristics, birth, use, etc.), while the next three chapters present the most important Byzantine canon writers and excerpts from their works. The most extensive of these is chapter 8 in which the most important hymn writers of the apogee of the genre (9th-10th centuries) are presented. The content of the book closes with two appendices, the first of which briefly presents the most important Byzantine female hymn writer, Cassia, while the second is the glossary of the manual.

