

Byzantine Settlements and Monuments of Cappadocia: A Historiographic Review

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At the 1997 colloquium *La Turquie de Guillaume de Jerphanion*, organized in Rome, I presented an attempt of *status quaestionis* of the studies on Byzantine monuments of Cappadocia undertaken after de Jerphanion. The proceedings of this meeting were published by Philippe Luisier the following year in the *Mélanges de l'École française de Rome. Moyen âge*¹. With the time elapsed since this review, where do we stand today? In this brief report, I will try to sum up the more recent contributions and suggest a number of perspectives.

I would like to start with some positive points. The renewed interest in Cappadocia, especially evident since the 1980s, has been confirmed, and the region's heritage is now deemed worthy of mention in general syntheses on Byzantine art, as well as in specific studies, especially for its contribution to the study of material culture and realia of Byzantium², or in iconographic studies³. A few synthetic essays, whose rarity I deplored in 1997, have been published⁴, facilitating access to a plethora of documentation, which is not easy to approach for someone with no immediate knowledge of the terrain. As a consequence of the different surveys and specific studies undertaken in the region, the archaeological documentation has gradually increased, resulting in brief reports as well as publications of monographic nature.

Knowledge of western Cappadocia has thus been enriched and specified by the research of Albrecht Berger on Mokissos⁵, of Robert Ousterhout on the site of Çanlı kilise and its surroundings⁶, of Veronica Kalas on Selime and Yaprakhisar⁷, and of Rainer Warland on the region of Mamasun⁸. Hanna Wiemer-Enis has described a new church in the valley of Ihlara⁹, and Nicole Thierry a painting from a ruined church of Güzelyurt¹⁰, of which I have proposed a slightly different reading¹¹. Further to the north, Tolga Uyar has studied the paintings of the church of

Gökçetoprak¹². At the south-east of Ürgüp, the valley of Erdemli, near Yeşilhisar, whose interest was previously pointed out by Thierry and Nathalie Aldehuelo¹³, has been the object of several campaigns carried out by Nilay Karakaya and dedicated primarily to the study of wall paintings in rock-cut churches: apart from her reports on these missions¹⁴, a number of articles have been published¹⁵. New discoveries have also been made at Soğanlı¹⁶ and at Başköy¹⁷, and the survey led since 2009 by Nilüfer Peker and Uyar in the region of Güzөлöz (Mavrucan) and Başköy appears very promising¹⁸. A series of other rock-cut settlements and churches, placed further to the north, have also been discovered and published: near the village of Bahçeli¹⁹, in Tatlarin²⁰, Uçhisar²¹, and Göreme²².

* English translation by Svetlana Sobkovitch.

¹ Jolivet-Lévy 1998a; see also Thierry 1998a.

² Suffice it to cite Parani 2003; Ball 2005; Grotowski 2010.

³ See, for example, Meyer 2009a; *eadem* 2009b.

⁴ Jolivet-Lévy 2001a; Thierry 2002. For a more general approach, see Akyürek 2000.

⁵ Berger 1998.

⁶ Ousterhout 1999; *idem* 2005.

⁷ Kalas 2000; *eadem* 2006.

⁸ Warland 2008. For Ovaören and Gökçetoprak, see also Warland 2011.

⁹ Wiemer-Enis/Horn 1998.

¹⁰ Thierry 2009.

¹¹ Jolivet-Lévy 2009a.

¹² Uyar 2010, 620-621; *idem* 2011; *idem*, in press.

¹³ Aldehuelo 2003; Thierry 1989.

¹⁴ Karakaya 2003; *eadem* 2004; *eadem* 2005; *eadem* 2006.

¹⁵ Thierry 2006; Karakaya 2008; *eadem* 2010a; *eadem* 2011.

¹⁶ Blanchard/Couprie 2002; Karakaya 2010b.

¹⁷ Jolivet-Lévy 2005; Jolivet-Lévy/Uyar 2006.

¹⁸ Peker/Uyar 2011.

¹⁹ Jolivet-Lévy 2007a; Jolivet-Lévy/Lemaigre Demesnil 2009.

²⁰ Jolivet-Lévy 2001b; Uyar 2010, 622-625.

²¹ For this on-going study, see Jolivet-Lévy 2007b.

²² Thierry 2004; Jolivet-Lévy/Lemaigre Demesnil 2005.

Churches and their painted programmes, which are our main – and often unique – source of information about the patrons and users of rock-cut monuments, and consequently, on the society of which they are an expression, and on the context of which they are part, continuously account for an important share of studies on Cappadocia²³. New propositions on the dating of the oldest programmes have been made by Maria Xenaki in the framework of her doctoral thesis²⁴, while Uyar has re-evaluated the paintings of the thirteenth century, enriching the known corpus of new programmes and defining their place in the social, economic, and political environment of Cappadocia under the Seljuks²⁵. Despite the contempt often shown today for studies of churches and of their wall paintings²⁶, these remain an essential source of information, not only about the artistic expression, but also for the society and history of the region. The wealth of iconographic repertory preserved in Cappadocia, offering, in many cases, examples of iconography

which are more precocious or abundant than in other regions of the Byzantine world, has made possible new syntheses and specific studies²⁷.

If wall paintings have always represented an important field of research, they are no longer approached in the same manner, and this, since a good twenty years. The analyses of iconographic programmes have become more subtle, joining the studies of the relations between architecture, imagery, and liturgy, the role of the patron and the function of place, the questions of conception and perception. Research has also involved the organization of ‘workshops’, the identity and social status of painters, and the material conditions of their activity²⁸. Traditional studies of style are completed nowadays by the analysis of painterly techniques, down to the plastering and pigment specifics²⁹. An ambitious project, headed by Maria Andaloro, is underway since 2007 to set up a database of wall painting materials and techniques; to this day, analyses have primarily concerned the paintings of the Church of the Forty Martyrs at Şahinefendi³⁰, but one can hope to see other monuments given the same attention. The value of this endeavour is obvious, considering that our knowledge of iconography and style has significantly progressed over the past fifty years, while that about materials and painting techniques has remained quite limited. The study of churches and of their painted decoration thus remains a fundamental component of research on Cappadocia, and its contribution cannot be denied.

Yet, a positive aspect of research on Cappadocia since the last fifteen years has been the diversification of subjects and approaches, which was already apparent when I established my report in 1997, and this tendency has been confirmed since then. Religious architecture – both rock-cut³¹ and masonry churches³² – as well as sculpted decoration³³, have given rise to more profound studies. Carving techniques have been the subject of a small book by Gül Öztürk³⁴. But the most remarkable phenomenon is the shift of interest from the study of churches and monasteries towards secular complexes and their topographical contexts. Domestic architecture has been identified on many sites, especially in western Cappadocia³⁵. Residences, often qualified as ‘aristocratic’, of which some had been – and still are sometimes – considered as monasteries, have been described, shedding an interesting new light on habitations, villages, and

²³ See, for example, Jolivet-Lévy 1998b; *eadem* 2001c; *eadem* 2002; *eadem* 2009b; Tsakalos 2012. See also the doctoral dissertations defended in Paris by A. Tsakalos (2006), M. Xenaki (2011), and T. Uyar (2011).

²⁴ Xenaki 2011.

²⁵ Uyar 2011.

²⁶ Suffice it to quote here, as an example, Veronica Kalas (2009a, 150): “During the twentieth century, a focus by art historians on the hundreds of painted Byzantine churches in Cappadocia is largely responsible for the perturbation of this outlook of the region”.

²⁷ Jolivet-Lévy 2006; *eadem* 2007c; *eadem* 2008. On the donors, see Karamaouna/Peker/Uyar 2014; and the general article by Maria Andaloro (2011). On the funerary installations and iconography, see Weissbrod 2003.

²⁸ Xenaki 2011, 488-543; Uyar 2011, 383-527; Jolivet-Lévy, *in press*¹.

²⁹ Thierry 2003; Wisseman/Sarin/Ousterhout 2002; Restle 2007.

³⁰ Andaloro 2008; and the following reports in *Araştırma Sonuçları Toplantısı* 26 (2009), II, 187-200; 28 (2011), III, 155-172; as well as in *Arkeometri Sonuçları Toplantısı* 24 (2009), 307-316; 25 (2010), 517-533, 535-552; 26 (2011), 147-160.

³¹ Lemaigre Demesnil 2010.

³² Ousterhout 2004.

³³ Lemaigre Demesnil 2002; *eadem* 2010.

³⁴ Öztürk 2009.

³⁵ Mathews/Daskalakis-Mathews 1997 has played a decisive role in the identification of these complexes. See Ousterhout 2005; Kalas 2000; *eadem* 2006; Warland 2008; *idem* 2011.

social contexts. In this regard, the book by Ousterhout on Çanlı kilise has been a turning point: for the first time, systematic survey and description embraced an entire site, with a view to determining the nature of this rock-cut settlement, thus bringing up a series of questions – still open today – on the distinction between secular and monastic architecture, and consequently, on the function of such complexes³⁶. The author concludes that it was a prosperous town lodging the military of the garrison stationed at the neighbouring fortress of Akhisar, landowners, civil and ecclesiastical officials, as well as a population of a more modest background. Numerous studies enter into the same line, the most important being those of Kalas on Selime and Yaprakhisar, which pay special attention not only to ‘ceremonial’ spaces, but also to utilitarian rooms such as kitchens³⁷, and of Warland on Mamasun³⁸. Rock-cut monuments of Açıksaray, already described by Lyn Rodley, have also been re-evaluated³⁹.

Another promising direction of research is the study of rock-cut defensive and agricultural facilities: since 1991, the *Centro studi sotterranei* of Genova has been exploring in a systematic fashion the artificial cavities of Anatolia with a view to assembling precise documentation (topographical surveys, drawings, photographs) on the studied sites, including those of Cappadocia. Research so far has concerned localization, exploration, and documentation of underground refuge sites to the west of Nevşehir, on the supplementary structures of Derinkuyu, and more generally, on the defence systems in the so-called underground cities of Cappadocia. The Italian team has also been interested in hydraulic systems, indicating collectors, water channels, and gutters excavated in eroded valleys (zone of Göreme), as well as in some agricultural facilities, such as rock-cut apiaries and dovecotes⁴⁰. Water-mills and irrigation systems have also been mentioned on the sites of Güzelöz/Mavrucan⁴¹. Barns and stables are frequent⁴², as well as wine presses⁴³, while grain millstones and furnaces have been rarely reported⁴⁴. Despite the frequent absence of precise chronological reference points, all this documentation is precious for the knowledge of rural life and agricultural activity in the region in the medieval period.

Notwithstanding the accomplished progress, research on the monuments of Cappadocia remains hindered by the absence of consensus on the essen-

tial issues of the rock-cut establishments’ chronology and function. For the oldest monuments, research undertaken by Nicole Lemaigre Demesnil has demonstrated the early dating – fifth to seventh centuries – of some churches and settlements⁴⁵. New discoveries confirm this, such as the church of Matiane (Göreme village today), dedicated most probably to St Sergios, where are preserved cryptographic inscriptions from the sixth century; carved by the same workshop as the church 3 of Güllüdere, it allows a sure dating of the latter to the same period⁴⁶. More recently, inscriptions of the sixth century have allowed us to identify a martyrrium of St Kerykos at the place called Gorgoli, which owned a sacred source going back to Antiquity⁴⁷. Examples could be multiplied: not only part of the Christian heritage preserved in the region surely dates back to the Early Byzantine period, but one observes, at certain sites, the continuity between pagan and Christian settlements.

As for the emergence of monasticism in Cappadocia, this is not a post-iconoclast phenomenon, as has been often repeated recently, under the pretext that “there is virtually no evidence of monastic settlements that may be securely dated before the tenth century”⁴⁸. Written sources attest to the presence of monks and existence of monasteries in Cappadocia in the fourth-sixth centuries⁴⁹. If no Cappadocian

³⁶ Ousterhout 2005.

³⁷ Kalas 2007; *eadem* 2009a; *eadem* 2009b; Öztürk 2012.

³⁸ Warland 2008.

³⁹ Grishin 2002, 167-171; Öztürk 2010.

⁴⁰ Medieval dovecotes, first pointed out by Guy Demenge (1995), have been mentioned on many sites, as at the Çanlı kilise settlement, but a comprehensive study is still lacking. Among the numerous publications by the Italian team since 1997, see Bixio/Castellani 2000; Bixio/Castellani/Succhiarelli 2002; Bixio/Dal Cin/Traverso 2002; Bixio/Bologna/Traverso 2004; Decker 2007.

⁴¹ Peker/Uyar 2011.

⁴² Tütüncü 2008.

⁴³ Aldehuelo 2003; Jolivet-Lévy/Lemaigre Demesnil 2009; Karakaya 2008; Peker/Uyar 2011.

⁴⁴ Aldehuelo 2003; Karakaya 2008.

⁴⁵ Lemaigre Demesnil 2010.

⁴⁶ Jolivet-Lévy/Lemaigre Demesnil 2005.

⁴⁷ Jolivet-Lévy/Kiourtzian 2013.

⁴⁸ See, for example, Ousterhout 2013, 92-93; *idem* 2011, 5; Kalas 2009a, 147: “given that not a single Byzantine source of any era refers to the region as one of asceticism or monasticism, it is surprising that modern scholars continue to endorse this interpretation”.

⁴⁹ See Métivier 2005, 365-366.

monk is lauded in this period for his asceticism or reclusive ways, the communal way of life, as preached by St Basil, is attested, and many monks of Cappadocia are known to leave their homeland (and their monastery) for Palestine, Syria, and Egypt, striving for a life of isolation and asceticism. Monks hailing from Cappadocia were instrumental in the establishment of *lavras* and coenobitic monasteries of Palestine, the first among them being St Sabas, the founder of the *lavra* bearing his name. To be sure, monasteries were not very numerous in Early Byzantine Cappadocia, but they were not absent either, as is also confirmed by archaeological remains⁵⁰.

The chronology of the oldest wall paintings is more difficult to establish, and the dating of some murals to the pre-iconoclast period remains controversial. The question has been recently re-examined by Xenaki, who introduced new arguments in favour of a later date – the ninth century – for programmes previously attributed to the sixth-ninth centuries⁵¹. In any case, it seems that the question is not definitely resolved, and that the existence of paintings dating back to the seventh century cannot be excluded, but further research, and maybe findings, are needed to ascertain this. The issue of the role of iconoclasm equally remains open to discussion, but in our opinion, decorative programmes which might be related to Byzantine iconoclasm are extremely rare⁵².

There is also the question of break or continuity in the rural life and monumental activity in the time of the Arab raids⁵³. Studies undertaken at various sites have produced contrasting results: if abandonment can be established for some of them, others reveal traces of activity which was on-going or resumed in the ninth-tenth centuries. Palaeoecological investigation of the sediments from the volcanic Nar lake, realized as a collaborative and interdisciplinary research project⁵⁴, has provided new chronological indices, which complement data from other sources, documentary as well as archaeological. Landscape ecological changes between Antiquity and our time, in this region close to Nazianzos/Nenezi, have revealed a period of decline in agricultural activities (grain and trees growing, cattle breeding) from the years 664/678 to the end of the ninth century, or the period which coincides with that of Arab armies' expeditions. Starting with this date – the end of the ninth century – grain growing and stock-raising are expanding again for two centuries, until the arrival of the Turks. These results corroborate data from the historical sources: though the impact of Arab expeditions on demographic decrease and economic decline should probably not be overestimated⁵⁵, the raids were certainly an aggravating factor in the decline of activities. Nevertheless, these results do not allow evaluating the proportions of this decline: economic evolution does not imply the desertification and abandonment of the region, as is attested by the creation of the themes of Cappadocia, at the turn of the eighth and ninth centuries, and of Charisianon in the second part of the ninth century, as well as by some seals which can be dated by end of the seventh and the eighth century⁵⁶.

Another apple of discord: the thirteenth century. The 'German school', represented by Marcell Restle⁵⁷, Wiemer-Enis⁵⁸, and Warland⁵⁹, continues to attribute the climax of monumental and artistic activity in Cappadocia to the period of Seljuk rule, in the thirteenth century, dating to this time, on grounds that remain essentially stylistic, the churches which have been until now attributed to the tenth (the New Tokalı, for example) and the eleventh century (the 'column churches' at Göreme). Meanwhile, studies conducted by Uyar on a corpus of programmes whose thirteenth-century dating is incontestable⁶⁰, as some are dated by inscriptions, and the discovery of a new dedication dated by 1217-1219 in the catholicon of Cemil

⁵⁰ See, for example, Jolivet-Lévy/Lemaigre Demesnil 2001; Lemaigre Demesnil 2010, 10-15 (Özkonak), 37-41 (Güllüdere 3), 107-112 (Balkan dere 3), 119-135 (Archangelos at Cemil). The discovery, at some sites (Archangelos at Cemil, Bahçeli, Çat, etc.), of monastic cells, is not taken into consideration by Ousterhout and Kalas.

⁵¹ Xenaki 2011.

⁵² For the attribution of decorations to the iconoclast period, see Thierry 1998b. The monuments of Cappadocia are literally excluded from the discussion of iconoclasm by Leslie Brubaker (2001; *eadem* 2004, 581-584, 587-589) and Ousterhout (2001, 4-5, 24-25). Lastly, see Jolivet-Lévy, *in press*².

⁵³ On this question, see Thierry 1995.

⁵⁴ England *et al.* 2008; Eastwood *et al.* 2009.

⁵⁵ As has been shown by Métivier/Prigent 2010.

⁵⁶ Métivier/Prigent 2010; Métivier 2009a, 71-73.

⁵⁷ Restle 1988.

⁵⁸ Wiemer-Enis 1998; *eadem* 2000.

⁵⁹ Warland 2000a; *idem* 2000b.

⁶⁰ Uyar 2010; *idem* 2011.

monastery⁶¹, have introduced new data on the thirteenth century and allowed, at the same time, to establish a more precise relative chronology of paintings, and to propose the identification of workshops active in the region at the time. One can hope, therefore, that a global study of monuments (architecture, sculpture, paintings, technique, iconography, and style, but also inscriptions), connected to their historical context, and confronted with comparative material from other regions, allows to proceed with the chronology of rock-cut settlements of Cappadocia, providing a more solid basis for it.

Identification of the nature and function of rock-cut complexes is still more delicate. The same organization of rock-cut spaces, often around a courtyard, is characteristic, indeed, of both secular residences and monasteries. If the absence of a church obviously indicates a non-ecclesiastical complex, other criteria which have been put forward – such as the place of the church or the absence of a refectory with a carved table – are not decisive. The attribution of these mansions to the Cappadocian ‘aristocracy’ is also questionable: would not grand landowners and military officers of high rank rather have commissioned regular masonry houses, gone today? Despite the paucity of evidence, built architecture existed in Cappadocia, nowadays destroyed or still buried underground.

In any case, attention to secular architecture and identification of housing structures have been crucial for advancing the knowledge of Byzantine Cappadocia, and this has been accepted by everybody. So, is there still a need today to keep circulating a so-called monastic myth in order to demonstrate the value of this new perspective⁶²? It has been a long time, indeed, that Cappadocia is not considered anymore, in scholarly works, as a holy land inhabited by monks and hermits, with the exception maybe of some research in the English language⁶³ and of works for a general public. One cannot help, therefore, being surprised at reading statements along the lines of “Although Lucas was active in the early eighteenth century, his perception of Cappadocia reflects the norm of interpretation until the present day⁶⁴, which are injurious to the research undertaken in the past fifty years⁶⁵. If it has been agreed for decades that Cappadocia was a monastic land no more than any other region throughout the Byzantine Empire, this does not allow, however, to deny the significant role of

monasticism. Insufficient knowledge of the terrain and, simultaneously, of the francophone research, can explain statements which do not take into account either the archaeological reality or data from historical sources.

I am not going back to the aforementioned supposition attributing the emergence of Cappadocian monasticism to the Middle Byzantine period. Evidence of refectories’ multiplication at Göreme has recently prompted Ousterhout to propose a new hypothesis: monasticism could have developed in Cappadocia “in response to broader social concerns of the middle Byzantine period, such as the rise of powerful families and the commemoration of the dead”⁶⁶, these refectories being understood as spaces used for commemorative meals for the dead (refrigeria). This hypothesis raises difficulties. First of all, the majority of ensembles (monastic or not) dotting the Cappadocian countryside cannot be related to the provincial elite of powerful landowners, on the rise in the course of the tenth century: these are small complexes, which could have been founded by peasants on their land, probably, indeed, for burial purposes, and to ensure monks’ prayer; their life-span appears quite ephemeral. Besides, was not the obsession with death, ascribed to the inhabitants of Cappadocia, a preoccupation of any medieval person, while it is solely owing to the conservation conditions that the region gives the impression of a higher concentration of funerary installations? Why is it that the supposedly growing importance of commemorative services for the dead would have led to the multiplication of refectories only in a single, well-defined zone of the rupestrian region, at Göreme? Finally, the hypothesis takes little heed of the modifications caused by the passing of time and erosion: isolated today, these refectories could be linked to other rooms or to chapels since destroyed or buried in the ground.

⁶¹ Kiourtzian 2008; Uyar 2008.

⁶² Above all, in Kalas 2004; *eadem* 2009a.

⁶³ Kostof 1972.

⁶⁴ Kalas 2009a, 150.

⁶⁵ It would be enough to refer, for example, to a general-public work such as Jolivet-Lévy 1997, 69, 80 and *passim*.

⁶⁶ Ousterhout 2010; *idem* 2005, 5. The hypothesis is essentially founded on the great number of funerary structures, already emphasized by A. Grishin (2002, 167), and on the presence of numerous refectories without visible association to churches.

Identification of monasteries in Cappadocia remains an open question, and should be treated on a case-by-case basis. The situation varies, indeed, from one site to another, and the study of rock-cut complexes in all their diversity should lead to a picture far more nuanced than the one offered to us today. If ‘residences’, studied by Ousterhout and Kalas, can be identified at numerous sites of western Cappadocia, the majority of rock-cut complexes preserved in the region of Ürgüp are quite different. No doubt, the countless churches strewn the Cappadocian countryside were not all attached to monasteries, but most cannot either be interpreted as private chapels of ‘aristocratic residences’. They are rather the result of private initiative by modest commissioners, founding a family chapel, often for burial purposes, which could – or not – carry an attachment of a small monastery, and these little foundations were in all likelihood rather ephemeral.

This short historiographic review reveals the undeniable vitality of research, attested by the diversity of recent studies, which give rise to new questions and allow a better evaluation of a part of the archaeological documentation. Fresh lines of investigation are opened. Nevertheless, the progress is not so spectacular, which is explained by a series of factors, starting with the absence of archaeological excavations: the study of settlements, of dwellings, of monastic, funerary, agricultural or defensive structures cannot dispense with archaeology⁶⁷. The very conditions of fieldwork, the absence of cooperation among researchers, and for some, of sufficient knowledge of the terrain, also hinder the advancement of knowledge. More alarming in my opinion is the progressively generalized ignorance of bibliography in the French language, evident in claims to new ‘discoveries’⁶⁸ or in rash and schematic judgments⁶⁹. The archaeological and artistic heritage of Cappadocia is sufficiently rich and varied to be studied from different points of view, and it is a sterile undertaking to oppose different approaches which, far from being mutually exclusive, are – or should be – complementary.

What, finally, are the perspectives for the years to come? In the absence of proper excavations, more surveys and site studies, in different parts of Cappadocia, are required, in order to document the establishments’ relationship to their setting in a broad perspective, and to better place the Cappadocian communities within their topographical context. But a comprehensive understanding of the region, of its settlements and monuments is impossible without a global approach which would certainly take into account domestic, utilitarian, and funerary structures, but also churches, their decoration and inscriptions⁷⁰, as well as historical and documentary sources⁷¹.

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⁶⁷ The rare excavations underway in the region do not concern rock-cut establishments. For that of Şahinefendi, see: Yenipınar 2003; Yenipınar/Gülyaz/Tutar 2006. For Göreme at Mt. Argaeus, see: Karakaya 2010c. For Tyana (Kemerhisar), see: Berges/Nollé 2000; Rosada 2004; *idem* 2005; Rosada/Lachin 2008; Rosada *et al.* 2006. Excavations have accompanied the restoration works at the (constructed) church of Eski Andaval: see the reports of M.S. Pekak, in the *Kazi Sonuçları Toplantısı* 20/2 (1998), 502-524; 21/2 (1999), 373-384; 23/2 (2001), 391-400; 24 (2002), 405-414. The same hold true for the on-going restoration of Kızıl kilise: Çelebioğlu/Ağaryılmaz 2008.

⁶⁸ Thus L. Jones (2010) rediscovers in the church of Meryemana, at Göreme, five figures which had all of them already been identified by G. de Jerphanion (1925-1942), I, 245-248; or S. Gabelić (2009) on the figures of Archippos and of the archangel, identified in Jolivet-Lévy 1991, 37.

⁶⁹ A florilegium in the articles by V. Kalas; see, for example, Kalas 2009a, 151, 153: “These studies [of art historians] are fundamentally guided by the principles of art historical connoisseurship, a method deeply rooted in the nineteenth-century foundations of the discipline...”, or elsewhere, carved spaces “are almost always misunderstood as caves, that is naturally formed spaces...”, (!) etc.

⁷⁰ We are still lacking a collection of Greek Christian inscriptions known in Cappadocia, but the publication of epigraphic inscriptions by Andreas Rhoby (2009, 275-303; *idem* 2010, 403-408), and the project of corpus of graffiti by Maria Xenaki attest to the renewed interest in epigraphic documentation.

⁷¹ As in the fundamental works of Sophie Métivier. See Métivier 2005; 2006; 2008; 2009a; 2009b; Métivier/Prigent 2010; Métivier 2012. The books by J. E. Cooper and M.J. Decker, *Life and Society in Byzantine Cappadocia*, Basingstoke 2012, and R. Warland, *Byzantinisches Kappadokien*, Darmstadt 2013, came out too late to be considered here.

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