

CURRICULUM VITAE

His Grace Bishop Joachim of Amissos (John Cotsonis), Ph.D.

Address:

Office:

The Archbishop Iakovos Library
Hellenic College/Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology
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Biographical Data:

Ordained to the Diaconate-9 December 1979
Ordained to the Priesthood-23 December 1979
Elevated to the rank of Archimandrite-16 May 1999
Ordained to the Episcopacy-22 December 2019

Positions Held:

1997-Current:

Director of The Archbishop Iakovos Library
Hellenic College/Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology Brookline, MA

1996-1997

Visiting Professor of Byzantine Studies
Christ the Saviour Orthodox Seminary
Johnstown, PA

1993-1995

Museum Exhibition Associate/Temporary Appointment, Byzantine Collection
Dumbarton Oaks/Harvard Center for Byzantine Studies
Washington, D.C.
Exhibition: *Byzantine Figural Processional Crosses*

1992-1993

Assistant Bibliographer/Temporary Appointment, Byzantine Author Index Project, Byzantine Library
Dumbarton Oaks/Harvard Center for Byzantine Studies
Washington, D.C

Education:

PhD-Byzantine Art History: The Pennsylvania State University:1992

Dissertation: "A Society & Its Images: The Religious Iconography of Byzantine Lead Seals"

Areas of Specialization: Byzantine Art with minors in Roman Imperial Art and Western Medieval Art from 800-1200

MLIS-Simmons College: 2009

MA-Byzantine Art History: The Pennsylvania State University: 1986

Thesis: "New Light on the Dionysiou Lectionary"

MDiv-Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology: 1979

BS-University of Maryland: 1976

Publications:

Books:

Saint Nicholas National Shrine at the World Trade Center: The Iconographic Program (Scala Arts Publishers, Inc.: London/New York, 2026)

Catalogue of Byzantine Seals at Dumbarton Oaks and in the Fogg Museum of Art, Volume 7: Anonymous, with Bilateral Religious Imagery (Dumbarton Oaks: Washington, DC, 2020)

The Religious Figural Imagery of Byzantine Lead Seals, I: Studies on the Image of Christ, the Virgin and Narrative Scenes; II: Studies on Images of the Saints and on Personal Piety, Variorum Collected Studies no. 1086 (Routledge: London, 2020)

Greek, Roman & Byzantine Objects from the Archbishop Iakovos Collection (Brookline, 2012) (with Maria Kouroumali)

Byzantine Figural Processional Crosses (Dumbarton Oaks: Washington, D.C., 1994)

Scholarly Articles:

"A Unique Image of the Holy Patriarch Germanos I on a Lead Seal" *Dumbarton Oaks Papers* 77 (2023), 321-328

"The Sphragistic Images of the Virgin and Saints Portrayed with Their Hands Raised before Their Breast: A Sign of Intercession and Purity," *Jahrbuch der österreichischen Byzantinistik* 71 (2021), 155-173

"An Image of Saint Nicholas with the 'Tongues of Fire' on a Byzantine Lead Seal," *Studies in Byzantine Sigillography* 13 (2019), 151-166

"The Virgin *Lysiponos* ("The Deliverer from Pain") on a Byzantine Lead Seal and the Transformation of a Marian Epithet," *Byzantion* 87 (2017), 159-179

"Chaired Saints on Byzantine Lead Seals & Their Significance (Sixth-Twelfth Centuries): A Preliminary Report," *Travaux et mémoires* 21:1 (Mélanges Jean-Claude Cheynet) (2017), 53-66

"'What Shall We Call You, O Holy Ones?' (Martyrikon Automelon, Plagal 4th): Images of Saints and Their Invocations on Byzantine Lead Seals as Means of Investigating Personal Piety (6th-12th Centuries)," *Travaux et mémoires* 20:2 (Mélanges Catherine Jolivet-Lévy) (2016), 69-88

"Religious Figural Images on Byzantine Lead Seals as a Reflection of Visual Piety during the Iconoclastic Controversy," *Cahiers archéologiques* 56 (2015), 5-34

"To Invoke or Not to Invoke the Image of Christ on Byzantine Lead Seals. That is the Question," *Revue numismatique* 170 (2013), 549-582

"The Image of the Virgin Nursing (*Galaktotrophousa*) and a Unique Inscription on the Seals of Romanos, Metropolitan of Kyzikos," *Dumbarton Oaks Papers* 65/66 (2011/2012), 193-207

"The Imagery of Patriarch Ignatios' Lead Seals and the *Rota Fortunae* of Ninth-Century Byzantine Ecclesio- Political Policies," *Servant of the Gospel: Studies in Honor of His-All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew*, ed. T. FitzGerald (Brookline, 2011), 52-98

(with John Nesbitt) "An Early Byzantine Lead Seal with the Image of the Incredulity of Thomas," *Byzantion* 81 (2011), 127-137

"Narrative Scenes on Byzantine Lead Seals (Sixth-Twelfth Centuries): Frequency, Iconography, and Clientele," *Gesta* 48:1 (2009), 55-86

(with John Nesbitt) "The Virgin Aigyptia (the Egyptian) on a Byzantine Lead Seal of Attaleia," *Byzantion* 78 (2008), 103-113

"The Imagery of Patriarch Methodios I's Lead Seals and the New World Order of Ninth-Century Byzantium," *Legacy of Achievement: Metropolitan Methodios of Boston Festal Volume on the 25th Anniversary of His Consecration to the Episcopate, 1982-2007*, ed. G. Dragas (Boston, 2008), 366-387

"Onomastics, Gender, Office and Images on Byzantine Lead Seals: A Means of Investigating Personal Piety," *Byzantine & Modern Greek Studies* 32:1 (2008), 1-37

(with John Nesbitt) "A Seal of Patriarch Nicholas II," *Byzantion* 76 (2006), 423-432

"The Contribution of Byzantine Lead Seals to the Study of the Cult of the Saints (Sixth-Twelfth Century)," *Byzantion* 75 (2005), 383-497

"The Seals of the *Ekklesiekdikoi* of Hagia Sophia," *Catalogue of Byzantine Seals at Dumbarton Oaks & in the Fogg Museum of Art V* (Dumbarton Oaks, Washington, D.C., 2005), 88-89

(with John Nesbitt) "An Eleventh-Century Seal with a Representation of Patriarch Antony II Kauleas," *Byzantion* 74 (2004), 517-526

"Icon with Deesis and Five Saints" (#219), "Iconostasis Beam With Scenes From the Life of Christ" (#220); "Icon of the Nativity" (#221); and "Icon of the Baptism" (#222); *Byzantium: Faith and Power (1261-1557), Exhibition Catalogue, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York*, ed. Helen Evans (New York, 2004)

"Saints & Cult Centers: A Geographic & Administrative Perspective in Light of Byzantine Lead Seals," *Studies in Byzantine Sigillography* 8 (2003), 9-26

"The Virgin & Justinian on Seals of the *Ekklesiekdikoi* of Hagia Sophia," *Dumbarton Oaks Papers* 56 (2002), 41- 55

"The Archbishop Iakovos Library & Learning Resource Center," *Greek Orthodox Theological Review* 45 (2000), 307-342

"The Virgin with the 'Tongues of Fire' on Byzantine Lead Seals," *Dumbarton Oaks Papers* 48 (1994), 221-227

"On Some Illustrations in the Lectionary, Athos, Dionysiou 587," *Byzantion* 59 (1989), 5-19

Assistant Editor:

Greek Orthodox Theological Review 45 (2000)

Exhibitions Curated:

Greek, Roman & Byzantine Objects from the Archbishop Iakovos Collection, Hellenic College/Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School Theology, 1 November 2012-permanent display (with Maria Kouroumali)

Kontoglou: The Return of the Byzantine Icon, Hellenic College/Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School Theology, 4 October 2010-5 November 2010

Byzantine Figural Processional Crosses, Dumbarton Oaks, Harvard Center for Byzantine Studies, 23 September 1994-29 January 1995

Sigillographic Iconographic Consultant for Dumbarton Oaks:

Focused study of “iconographic” seals for the online Dumbarton Oaks Byzantine Lead Seals database, Dumbarton Oaks, Harvard Center for Byzantine Studies, Washington, DC, 7 July-6 August 2016

Focused study of “iconographic” seals for the online Dumbarton Oaks Byzantine Lead Seals database, Dumbarton Oaks, Harvard Center for Byzantine Studies, Washington, DC, 5-16 July 2015

3rd International Sigillographic Workshop for the Digital Cataloguing of Byzantine Lead Seals (SigiDoc Workshop), Dumbarton Oaks, Harvard Center for Byzantine Studies, Washington, DC, 8-11 July 2011

2nd International Sigillographic Workshop for the Digital Cataloguing of Byzantine Lead Seals (SigiDoc Workshop), Dumbarton Oaks, Harvard Center for Byzantine Studies, Washington, DC, 7-9 December 2010

Presentations of Papers:

Scholarly:

"The Imagery of Byzantine Lead Seals," Seals and Society in the Medieval World: Byzantine Studies Virtual Colloquium (Dumbarton Oaks, 29 October 2021)

"Kontoglou: The Return of the Byzantine Icon," 38th Annual Byzantine Studies Conference (Hellenic College/Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, November 2012)

"The Image of the Doubting Thomas on an Unpublished Seal of the Sixth Century," 10th International Symposium of Byzantine Sigillography (University of Ioannina, October 2009: co-authored by John Nesbitt)

"The Cult of Saints in Light of Byzantine Lead Seals," 8th International Byzantine Sigillographic Symposium (Berlin, Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften, October 2003)

"The Power of Byzantine Art," Guest Lecturer, Liturgy & the Arts (BTI Course-Holy Cross G. O. School of Theology, January 2002)

"Cult Centers & Their Seals: A Geographic & Administrative Perspective (part 2)," 20th International Congress of Byzantine Studies (Paris-Collège de France-Sorbonne, August 2001)

"The Virgin & Justinian on Seals of the *Ekdikoi*," 26th Annual Byzantine Studies Conference (Harvard University, October 2000)

"Saints & Cult Centers: The Evidence of the Seals (part 1)," 25th Annual Byzantine Studies Conference (University of Maryland, November 1999)

"Late Antique-Early Byzantine Mosaics," Guest Lecturer, Early Byzantine History Class (University of Maryland, November 1993)

"Women & Sphragistic Iconography: A Means of Investigating Gender-Related Piety," 19th Annual Byzantine Studies Conference (Princeton University, November 1993)

"An Overlooked Iconographic Detail on Lead Seals: The Virgin Flanked by Tear-Shaped Globules," 18th Annual Byzantine Studies Conference (University of Illinois-Champaign-Urbana, October 1992)

"The Significance of Homonymous Saints on Byzantine Lead Seals: A Preliminary Report," 15th Annual Byzantine Studies Conference (University of Massachusetts-Amherst, October 1989)

"More Light on the Dionysiou Lectionary," 11th Annual Byzantine Studies Conference (University of Toronto, October 1985)

"New Light on the Dionysiou Lectionary," 10th Annual Byzantine Studies Conference (University of Cincinnati, November 1984)

General:

"Anthony Cutler-A BSC Remembrance," 50th Annual Byzantine Studies Conference (Fordham University, October 2024)

"Tour and Overview of the Iconographic Program of the Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church & National Shrine, World Trade Center, New York," 50th Annual Byzantine Studies Conference (Fordham University, October 2024)

"The Image of the Mother of God on Byzantine Lead Seals: Ubiquitous Presence/Rare Selection," Public Lecture, Dumbarton Oaks, Harvard Center for Byzantine Studies, Washington, DC, 23 September 2022

Exegesis of the recently installed iconographic program at the Dormition of the Theotokos Greek Orthodox Church of Southampton, NY as part of the celebration honoring the iconographer George Filippakis, Heaven on Earth: A Retrospective Exhibition of the Iconography & Art of George Filippakis (30 June 2019)

"The Icon of Extreme Humility & Themes of Lenten Lamentations," (Holy Dormition of the Theotokos Greek Orthodox Church, Oakmont, PA; 16 April 2016)

"The History of the Image of and Devotion to St. Nicholas," (Orthodox Inter-Seminary Movement [OISM] Annual Meeting, Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, Brookline, MA; 7 November 2009)

"The Icon of Extreme Humility & Themes of Lenten Lamentations," (Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral Center, Brookline, MA; 27 February 2009)

"Welcome and Introductory Presentation," for Manuscripts from Byzantium as Links to the World of Classical Greek Literature (Greek Orthodox Archdiocese Annual Celebration of Greek Letters & Culture-The Metropolitan Museum of Art: New York, January 2008)

"General Concepts for Iconographic Programs of Orthodox Churches," (St. Catherine Greek Orthodox Church, Braintree, MA; 6 December 2007)

"The 'Sarah' Chalice (527-565)," Recorded Interview-Audio Tour (Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; 19 May 2003)

"The Power of Byzantine Images," Spiritual Odyssey (Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church, Belmont, CA; 29 March 2003)

"The Icon of Extreme Humility & Themes of Lenten Lamentations," (Metropolis of Boston-Clergy Lenten Retreat; 19 March 2003)

"The Icon of Extreme Humility & Themes of Lenten Lamentations," Symposium on The Veneration of the Cross (Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church, Belmont, CA; March 2001)

"Welcome and Introductory Presentation," for Byzantium: The Art of Transforming Cultures (Greek Orthodox Archdiocese Annual Celebration of Greek Letters & Culture-The Metropolitan Museum of Art: New York, February 2001)

"The Archbishop Iakovos Library & Learning Resource Center," Benefit Concert (Rye, New York, October 2000)

"Sanctuary Imagery," Annual Diocesan Priests' Convocation-Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese (New Jersey, May 2000)

"Welcome & Introductory Presentation," for Gifts From a Forgotten Empire: Byzantium & the Western Heritage (Greek Orthodox Archdiocese Annual Celebration of Greek Letters & Culture-Waldorf Astoria, New York, February 1998)

"The Role of Images in Priestly Ministry," Annual Diocesan Educational Conference-Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese (Camp Nazareth, Pennsylvania, October 1997)

Courses:

"The Iconography of Byzantine Lead Seals," Graduate Summer Program in Byzantine Coins & Seals at Dumbarton Oaks (Washington, D.C., 18 July 2025)

"The Iconography of Byzantine Lead Seals," Graduate Summer Program in Byzantine Coins & Seals at Dumbarton Oaks (Washington, D.C., 7 July 2023)

"The Iconography of Byzantine Lead Seals," Graduate Summer Program in Byzantine Coins & Seals at Dumbarton Oaks (Washington, D.C., 15 July 2021)

"The Iconography of Byzantine Lead Seals," Graduate Summer Program in Byzantine Coins & Seals at Dumbarton Oaks (Washington, D.C., 12 July 2019)

"Medieval Coins & Seals Workshop," Trading Places: Byzantium and the Mediterranean World in the Later Middle Ages Symposium (Harvard University, 17 April 2015; co-offered with Eurydice Georganteli)

"The Iconography of Byzantine Lead Seals," Graduate Summer Program in Byzantine Sigillography at Dumbarton Oaks (Washington, D.C., July 2002)

"Introduction to Orthodox Spirituality," Hellenic College (Fall 1997)

"Images of the Festal Cycle," Christ the Saviour Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Seminary (Fall 1996)

"Images of the Passion Cycle," Christ the Saviour Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Seminary (Spring 1997)

Committees/Memberships:

Iconographic Consultant for the Saint Nicholas Shrine, Ground Zero at the World Trade Center (September 2020-December 2023)

Local Arrangements Committee, 38th Annual Byzantine Studies Conference (Hellenic College/Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, November 2012)

Member, The Mary Jaharis Center for Byzantine Art & Culture at Hellenic College/Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology (2009- current)

Program Committee, 30th Annual Byzantine Studies Conference (The Walters Art Museum & The Johns Hopkins University, October 2004)

Chair, "Session XIII: Byzantine Law," 29th Annual Byzantine Studies Conference (Bates College, October 2003)

Treasurer, Byzantine Studies Conference (October 2002-October 2003)

Voted Member, United States National Committee for Byzantine Studies (liaison for Association International des études Byzantines [January 2002)

Chair, "Session IV: Liturgical Texts & Manuscripts," 27th Annual Byzantine Studies Conference (University of Notre Dame, November 2001)

Member, Governing Board, Annual Byzantine Studies Conference (1999-2003)

Member, International Center of Medieval Art (New York, 1997-current)

Member, College Art Association (New York, 1988-current)

Member, American Theological Library Association (Chicago, 1997-current)

Fellowships, Honors, etc.:

Distinguished Ministries Award, Hellenic College/Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology (2022)

Alumni Award; Department of Art History, College of Arts and Architecture, The Pennsylvania State University (13 April 2007)

The Francis E. Hyslop Memorial Fellowship; Department of Art History, The Pennsylvania State University (1991)

Junior Fellow; Dumbarton Oaks, Harvard Center for Byzantine Studies (Washington, D. C., 1990-1991)

The Louise D. Purcell-Knight Ridder Travel Grant (1990)

Graduate School Research Fellowship, The Pennsylvania State University (1989-1990)

College of Arts & Architecture Graduate Award for Creative Achievement, The Pennsylvania State University (1989)

Awarded Graduate Student Membership into the Central Pennsylvania Society of the Archaeological Institute of America (1988-1989)

First Prize, The Pennsylvania State University Graduate Student Competition for The Medieval Studies Essay Contest (1985)

Spero Samer Scholarship-Memorial Fund (1982-1989)

The University of Maryland Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society (1975-1976)

Service/Outreach:

Iconographic Consultant for Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and various parishes

Languages:

Reading: Greek (Ancient and Modern), Latin, French, German

Spoken: English & Greek