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Introduction

What binds this volume together is people rather than the topics of the contributions – we invited authors who have cooperated with us for some time on various other projects related to Byzantine Studies. Our aim is to present texts of both researchers from the University of Silesia (the contributions of Tomasz Labuk and Andrzej Wilanowski) as well as our friends and colleagues from other centers – Georgia Kolovou (Paris), Adam Goldwyn (Fargo, ND) and Andrew Walker White (Washington, DC).

To quote Mauropous, we offer ‘a small taste’ rather than an abundant bouquet¹. This seems right, since Byzantine Studies in Katowice is a very young discipline. This volume is also special because its publication coincides with the establishment of the Center for Studies on Byzantine Literature and Reception, which should serve as an institutional umbrella for people interested in pursuing Byzantine Studies in Katowice. This collection of papers mirrors quite well the interests of the people gathered around the Center – twelfth century literature, Byzantine education, the performative side of Byzantine culture and, finally, the reception of ancient literature in Byzantium.

This volume would not have been possible without the financial support of the grant funded by the National

¹ ‘γέυμα μικρὸν δαψιλοῦς ἀνθοσμίου’ (1.29). See also *Poetry and its Contexts in eleventh-century Byzantium*. Eds. BERNARD F. and DEMOEN K. Farnham–Burlington: Ashgate, 2012, p. 3.

Science Center no. UMO–2013/10/E/HS2/00170. We would also like to use this opportunity to thank all of the people from the University – our Deans as well as the administrative staff – whose kindness and help have made and still make our various Byzantine endeavours possible.

Przemysław Marciniak