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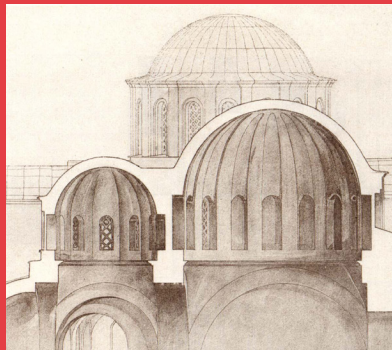
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“She established a monastery in the name of the Pantokrator, which is among the most outstanding in beauty and size. Such was this empress.” This is how John Kinnamos succinctly sums up Empress Piroška-Eirene’s character as reflected in the great building she patronized.

This collection of essays contributes to the rich crop of new scholarship on the Pantokrator Monastery with thirteen papers by international scholars. The chapters examine Piroška in context, highlighting her

Árpáadian heritage and the flourishing Greek spirituality and culture in the Kingdom of Hungary, and scrutinizing Eirene’s life, image, and impact in Constantinople. The volume offers new insights on the cultural and religious history of early Árpáadian Hungary, Hungarian-Byzantine diplomatic relations and shared devotion to the Mother of God, Constantinopolitan imperial representation, dynastic holiness, Byzantine art and architectural history. Piroška-Eirene played an active role in conceptualizing the Pantokrator Monastery as an innovative foundation that developed in the lifetime of its founders from a religious establishment into a monument of Komnenian piety and victory, from a monastery into a multifunctional medical and social complex.

Modern Istanbul preserves not one, but two portraits of Piroška-Eirene. One is the famous mosaic in the gallery of Hagia Sophia; the other is the Pantokrator. For which of the two would the Empress Piroška-Eirene wish to be remembered? The essays in this volume will help answer this question.



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Edited by
**MARIANNE SÁGHY and
ROBERT G. OUSTERHOUT**

PIROSKA AND THE PANTOKRATOR



PIROSKA AND THE PANTOKRATOR

*Dynastic Memory,
Healing,
and Salvation
in Komnenian
Constantinople*



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