

## PREFACE

In 2005 I had the honour to be appointed to the H.J.Scheltema chair of Byzantine Law at Groningen University. When I retired as Professor of Roman Law and its History in 2010, the Law Faculty decided to continue that chair and gave me the opportunity to offer a temporary professorship to someone of my choice. Prof. Dr Giuseppe Falcone, currently Professor of Roman Law at Palermo University, had published widely on Byzantine law; he held the Scheltema chair for several years. The present volume of the *Subseciva Groningana* is the result of the fruitful cooperation between Groningen and Palermo or, to put it more clearly, between Groningen and Italy. The few scholars who specialize in the exotic field of Byzantine law, are represented in this volume. Their contributions deal with the legal tradition of Byzantium from the days of Justinian (527-565) down to the reign of Constantine IX Monomachus (1042-1055). They clearly demonstrate the importance of Greco-Roman law for the knowledge of Eastern and Western legal history.

Special thanks are due to Tom van Bochove, who with his usual scrupulous accuracy went through all manuscripts in order to implement the editorial conventions. Without his daily exertions for more than half a year this volume would not have appeared. Warmest thanks also to Karen Mulders for her continuous secretarial support and professional competence.

It is to be hoped that this small, exquisite Byzantine garden will continue to flourish in the future as it has done during these recent years.

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