

Ilia Curto Pelle

PhD Student, Princeton University
Fondovi Zhilishta 211 A, entr. G, ap. 77, Sofia 1233, Bulgaria, tel. (359) 878 898712,
e-mail: ilia@curtopelle.com; web: <http://curtopelle.com>

EDUCATION:

- 2024 - Princeton University: **Ph.D. in History**
- Proposed PhD topic: "Merchant Identity in the Eastern Mediterranean between the 5th and 10th Centuries."
- 2022 - 2024 University of Oxford: **MPhil in Late Antique and Byzantine Studies**, graduated with distinction
- Master thesis on "13th-century Byzantine Coin Imitations." Supervisors: Julien Baker and Ida Toth
 - Independent project on "Trading Goods in Justinianic Law: A Goods-driven Approach to Monetary Policy." Supervisor: Mike Humphreys
 - Independent project on "An Eternal Home away from Home: The Epigraphy of Migrant and Itinerant Merchants in the Early Byzantine Period (5th-7th c.)." Supervisor: Ida Toth
 - Independent project on "A Conceptual Model for Black Sea Trade in the 7th-10th Centuries." Supervisor: Julien Baker
- 2018 - 2022 Princeton University: **A.B. in Classics | Ancient History concentration. Certificates in Hellenic Studies, Medieval Studies and History and Practice of Diplomacy**, 3.98/4.00 GPA, graduated with highest honors
- Senior thesis on "The Transformation of the Balkan Aristocracy between the 3rd and 7th centuries. Supervisors: Daniela Mairhofer and John Haldon
 - Independent project on "Changes in Coin Circulation in the Northern Balkans (6th-8th c.): Intersections of Economic and Scientific Evidence for the Barbarian Invasions." Supervisor: Alan Stahl
 - Junior paper on "Julius Vindex and the Histories of Tacitus: Memory, history, and imperial ideology." Supervisor: Andrew Feldherr
 - Junior paper on "The Araxa Honorary Decree for Orthagoras: Dating and Historical Context." Supervisor: Marc Domingo Gyax
- 2013 - 2018 National High School for Ancient Languages and Cultures "St. Constantine-Cyril the Philosopher"
-

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

- 2024 Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection. Washington, DC, USA. **Summer Fellow**
- Studied, photographed, measured, researched, and prepared for publication a coin hoard containing 792 Byzantine, Bulgarian, and Latin imitative coins from the late 12th and early 13th centuries in the Dumbarton Oaks coin cabinet.
- 2020 – Framing the Late Antique and early Medieval Economy (FLAME) Project. Princeton University, USA. **Assistant Coordinator and Member of executive committee**
- Input over 300,000 coins from France, the Northern Balkans, and Italy into the FLAME Project's database
 - Vetted and corrected bugs from more than 1000 finds from our contributors
 - Project ambassador at international conferences and in discussions with scholars and other institutions
- 2022 - 2024 Research Assistance Support Team. Saïd Business School, University of Oxford, UK. **Administrator.**
- Management and administration of the Research Assistance Support Team
 - Processing and allocation of RA requests from faculty to team members
 - Storage and organization of RAST-related documentation and feedback
- 2022 - 2023 Dr. Michael Maas, Rice University, Houston, TX, USA. **Research Assistant.**
- Reading, checking, and editing of footnotes
 - Verification of citations from primary and secondary sources, including translations in Greek and Latin
- 2018 – 2022 Princeton University Numismatic Collection. Princeton University, USA. **Cataloger.**
- Cataloged coins within the online database of the Numismatic Collection's, reviewed other student's finds to ensure consistency across the Roman, Seleucid, and Byzantine collection and prepared the data for linking to Nomisma.org project

PUBLICATIONS AND AWARDS:

Articles

Curto Pelle, Ilia. "The Araxa Honorary Decree for Orthagoras: Dating and Historical Context." *The Macksey Journal* 2, no. 1 (September 2021) <https://bit.ly/2Ya7nwg>.

Curto Pelle, Ilia. "The transformation of Mard ō Mard from a Persian tradition to a literary topos." *Helicon: The Yale Undergraduate Journal of Classics* (Spring 2022): 36-48, <https://bit.ly/34pmJ3U>.

Presentations

- July 2024 2024 International Medieval Congress. Leeds, UK: "The impact of "Slavic invasions" on coin circulation in the Northern Balkans"
- June 2024 XX Congresso Internazionale di Archeologia Classica, Paris, France: "The FLAME Project: Using Digital Tools Study Coin Use in Lived Spaces."
- July 2023 2023 International Medieval Congress. Leeds, UK: "The Byzantine Oikoumene: A Medieval International Society?"
- May 2023 58th International Congress on Medieval Studies. Kalamazoo, MI, USA: "Challenges and Perspectives for Studying the Circulation of Sassanian Coinage."
- February 2023 98th Annual Meeting of the Medieval Academy of America. Washington, DC, USA: "The Byzantine Oikoumene: A Medieval International Society?"
- September 2022 XVI International Numismatic Congress. University of Warsaw, Warsaw, Poland: "The impact of "Slavic invasions" on coin circulation in the Northern Balkans."
- January 2022 Small Change: New Perspectives on Early Medieval Money. Cambridge University, Cambridge, UK: "The FLAME Project: a Digital Perspective on Early Medieval Coinage."

Awards

- 2024 Summer Fellow in Byzantine Studies, Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection, Washington DC, USA
- 2022 Wakeham Humanities Scholarship, St. Catherine's College, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK
- 2022 Membership of Phi Beta Kappa (ΦBK) honor society, Phi Beta Kappa, Princeton chapter, Princeton, NJ, USA
- 2022 John J. Keane Prize for best senior thesis, Classics Department, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, USA
- 2022 Judith Laffan Memorial Prize, Department of Near Eastern Studies, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, USA
- 2022 Seeger Center for Hellenic Studies Senior Thesis Prize, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, USA
- 2020 2019-2020 Shapiro Prize for Academic Excellence, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, USA

RELEVANT SKILLS:

Languages

- Bulgarian native fluency
- English C2, Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE), 221/230; IELTS, Band 8
- Italian native fluency
- Russian native fluency
- German C1, Goethe-Zertifikat C1, 79.5/100
- Latin academic-level (five years in high school); SAT Latin, 800/800; CLA 232 (Introduction to Medieval Latin), A grade.
- Ancient Greek academic-level (four years in high school); CLA 105 (Socrates), A grade.
- French B2, (five years in high school)
- Church Slavonic academic-level (three years in high school); SLA 422 (Church Slavonic and History of Slavic), A grade.
- Middle Persian academic-level (Introduction to Middle Persian), Distinction
- Ge'ez intermediate, CLA 410 (Introductory Classical Ethiopic), A grade
- Arabic intermediate, ARA 101-102 (Elementary Arabic), A+ grade

Digital qualifications

Frequent user of Microsoft Office Packet (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access). Proficiency with Zotero digital libraries. Proficiency with Project management software (Gantt Charts, Microsoft Teams, Teamseer)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP:

- 2021 - American Numismatic Society, member
- 2021 - Medieval Academy of America, member
- 2023 - 2024 Oxford University Byzantine Society, secretary