

THE POST BYZANTINE PAINTINGS FROM THE CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION (MBORJE)

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Abstract

The church of Resurrection comprise one of the oldest and in the same time the most beautiful, medieval religious buildings in Albania. It is situated in southeastern part of Korça, nearby the mountain of Morava. The original structure belongs to the group of cross – in – square plan and the links with Constantinopolitan architecture have long been claimed. The interior was decorated with fresco paintings, which the scholarly studies have attributed to the same workshop engaged at the church of St. Mary of Mal Grad, St. Athanasius of Kastoria, etc., dated in the same period and belonging to the group of late palaeologan painting. A few centuries later the original plan of the church underwent some changes with the addition of an exonarthex and the paintings of the western and northern façade. Despite their significance and the fact that the academic world has been for long been aware of them, the post byzantine paintings of the exonarthex have nevertheless been adequately studied. The painting program of the exonarthex consists in scenes inspired from the Apocalypse of John. The most interesting part is the representation of the donor’s portrait in the composition of Hetoimasia. Based on stylistic and historical analysis of the painting the authors have argued that the authorship belongs to the master known as teacher Constantine, which has also inscribed his authorship. The painting of the exonarthex is dated in the second half of 17th century.

Keywords: *post byzantine, teacher Constantine, Korça.*