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- Center for Russian and East European Studies
- Department of History
- Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies
- Medieval & Early Modern Studies
- Modern Greek Program

About John V.A. Fine, Jr.

John V.A. Fine, Jr., was born in 1939 and grew up in Princeton, New Jersey. His father, John V.A. Fine, was Professor of Greek History in the Classics Department of Princeton University; his mother, Elizabeth Bunting Fine, was also a classicist and taught Latin and Greek in a private school, Miss Fine’s School. John’s undergraduate and graduate training was at Harvard University, where he studied Byzantium, the Balkans, and medieval Russia. He earned his Ph.D. in 1968 and began teaching at the University of Michigan in 1969. His academic interests range from theology and the history of Christianity to Byzantium and the medieval and modern Balkans. His publications have become standard in the field, notably his surveys of the Medieval Balkans (1983 and 1987). He has also revolutionized the way scholars understand the Bosnian Church (first published in 1975; republished in England in 2006), showing that it was not heretical. John recently published a study of notions of ethnicity in Croatia from the medieval period to the nineteenth century: When Ethnicity Did not Matter in the Balkans (2006). He has also raised understanding of Bosnian history, working tirelessly to correct popular misconceptions, especially during the Balkan wars of the 1990s. He co-authored Bosnia and Hercegovina: A Tradition Betrayed with former student Bob Donia (1994), a work published in England, the US, and in Bosnian translation in wartime Sarajevo (1995). He traveled to and lectured in the besieged cities of Sarajevo and Mostar during the war. John and his wife Gena have two sons, Alexander (Sasha) and Paul. Paul and his wife, Joanna Reed, have added a new generation of Fines, with their daughter Maria, to continue the family tradition.

A TRADITION CONTINUED:
TRIBUTE AND SYMPOSIUM IN HONOR OF JOHN V.A. FINE, JR., PROFESSOR OF HISTORY

Tribute: Fri., Sept. 28, 5–7pm
Michigan League, Vandenberg Room

Symposium: Sat., Sept. 29, 9–5pm
Michigan League, Henderson Room
International Symposium on Byzantine, Balkan, & Church History
Saturday, September 29, 2007, 9:30am–5:00pm

9:00 Continental Breakfast

9:30 Introduction, Irina Livezeanu, Assoc. Professor, Dept. of History, U. Pittsburgh

MORNING SESSION

Church History & Byzantium—Traianos Gagos Moderator, Assoc. Prof., Greek and Papyrology, Archivist of Papyrology, Director, Advanced Papyrological Information System (APIS), University of Michigan

10:00 Partisans and Their Doctrines, from the Origenists to Tito
Adam M. Schor, Asst. Professor, History Dept., Long Island University, C.W. Post Campus

10:30 The Legacy of St. Antony in the United States, Twentieth Century & Beyond
Matthew T. Herbst, Director, Making of the Modern World Program, U. California San Diego

11:00 The "Myth" of Romanos IV Diogenes: Byzantine Propaganda and Some Medieval and Modern Greek Uses
Dimitrios Krallis, Asst. Professor, History Dept., Simon Fraser University

11:30 Did Ethnicity Matter in Byzantium?
Anthony Kaldellis, Assoc. Professor, Dept. of Greek and Latin, The Ohio State University

12:00 –1:30 LUNCH [Michigan Room]

AFTERNOON SESSION

Byzantium & Balkans—John Forsyth Moderator, Bibliographer, University Libraries, Bowling Green State University

1:30 What the Balkans Did to the Turks
Rudi Paul Lindner, Professor, History Dept., University of Michigan

2:00 What Did Matter in the Balkans: Another Look at Christianity, Islam, and the Tradition Betrayed
Patrick Patterson, Asst. Prof., History Dept., University of California San Diego

2:30 The Origins of Last Judgment Iconography in the Carpathian Mountains
John-Paul Himka, Prof., Dept. of History and Classics, University of Alberta

3:00 ****Coffee Break****

3:30 Struggles over Citizenship in the Post-Ottoman Balkans
Anna Mirkova, Open Society Institute Fellow, Department of the History and Theory of Culture, Sofia University

4:00 Bosnia Beyond Dayton
Bruce Hitchner, Professor & Chair, Dept. of Classics, Director, Archaeology Program, Chairman, Dayton Peace Accords Projects, Tufts University

4:30 Symposium Conclusion & Discussion—Ian Mladjov, Moderator, Asst. Professor, Dept. of History, Bowling Green State University