**Albrecht Berger, *Constantinople – home of intellect and intellectuals***

After the inauguration of Constantinople in 330 a literary tradition had to be created in order to encourage the new inhabitants to identify with the city. However, as a result of Constantine the Great’s ambiguous religious policy reports of the city’s pagan beginnings were soon suppressed and did not reappear until the sixth century. Although Themistios had already propagated Constantinople’s future role in the intellectual sphere in 357, there was still a long way to go before the city became a centre of education with the founding of the “university” in 425. In fact, Constantinople only attained supremacy in this field in the middle Byzantine period, when the older centres in the Roman East were lost and, soime time later, the systematic transcription of ancient texts from papyrus to parchment took place here. Education in Constantinople now experienced a new rise: literary works were produced whose authors attempted to return to the form and language of antiquity, schools were founded and the study of ancient philosophy was resumed. And although the intellectual perception of ancient culture focussed much more on literature and philosophy than on the visual arts, there was even a renaissance of antiquity in contemporary Byzantine art.