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Title: “Verse inscriptions on Byzantine religious artifacts: The case of Manuel Philes”

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It is a well-known fact that only a very small number of Byzantine literary epigrams transmitted in manuscripts can also be found as verse inscriptions *in situ*. Famous examples include the charioteer inscribed epigrams on the marble bases of statues in the Hippodrome at Constantinople transmitted in the Planudean Appendix in the Palatine Anthology. These verse inscriptions date from the 5th century AD and became literary epigrams after being copied from stone onto paper. Unfortunately, we rarely find such happy pairings. The aim of this paper is to present the verse inscriptions of Manuel Philes (14th century) on various religious artifacts (particularly on icons, handwritten codexes, textiles, frescoes and miniatures), as also on churches and monasteries (particularly verse inscriptions on mosaics as dedications). Πρόσωπα of depiction on these religious artifacts and monuments are mainly Christ and the Virgin Mary, the Archangels, the Apostles, Saints and Martyrs. The verse inscriptions of Manuel Philes are divided in three categories: the inscriptions on the Monastery of the Theotokos tes Peges (the Virgin of the Source), the inscriptions on religious artifacts, and inscriptions as dedications. In the composition of these verse inscriptions Philes makes use of very different motifs and technics. This paper, then, will explore the relation between the inscriptions' texts, as they were inscribed on various materials, and the different utilitarian religious objects. The paper will be concluded with new findings and projects of the Byzantine inscriptions on religious objects.