

Invitation to a guest lecture

by **Piotr Głogowski**
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*STEPHANUS OF BYZANTIUM WITHIN THE ANCIENT GEOGRAPHICAL
TRADITION. THE IMPACT OF EMPIRES ON THE CONCEPTUAL
STRUCTURE OF THE OIKOUMENE*

The *Ethnica*, a late antique lexicon of Stephanus of Byzantium (the 6th cent. CE), are in fact one of the most important ancient Greek texts. Being a grammatical work, it records not only the correct spelling of thousands of toponyms but also gives basic information about a particular place like its geographical location, the etymology of its name, mythological trivia etc. derived from hundreds of Greek authors of different epochs of antiquity. Because of that, the lexicon provides us with an invaluable insight into the Classical perception of the inhabited world, *Oikoumene*, and the geographical knowledge that has been accumulated throughout the ages within the Greco-Roman civilization. Stephanus took advantage and quoted a significant number of older sources that are very often known to us mostly due to his account. For instance, almost 80% of all identified fragments of Hecataeus of Miletus that are known to us today come from the *Ethnica*. In this paper we will discuss the geographical and diachronic aspects of Stephanus' work, the modern scholarship devoted to that text, and its place within the ancient geographical tradition with a special emphasis on the imperial dimension.

Thursday, 25th April 2024 | 18:00-19:30 | seminar room 4

Ágnes-Heller-Haus (1st floor)
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Organization: **Alexander Steiner**