

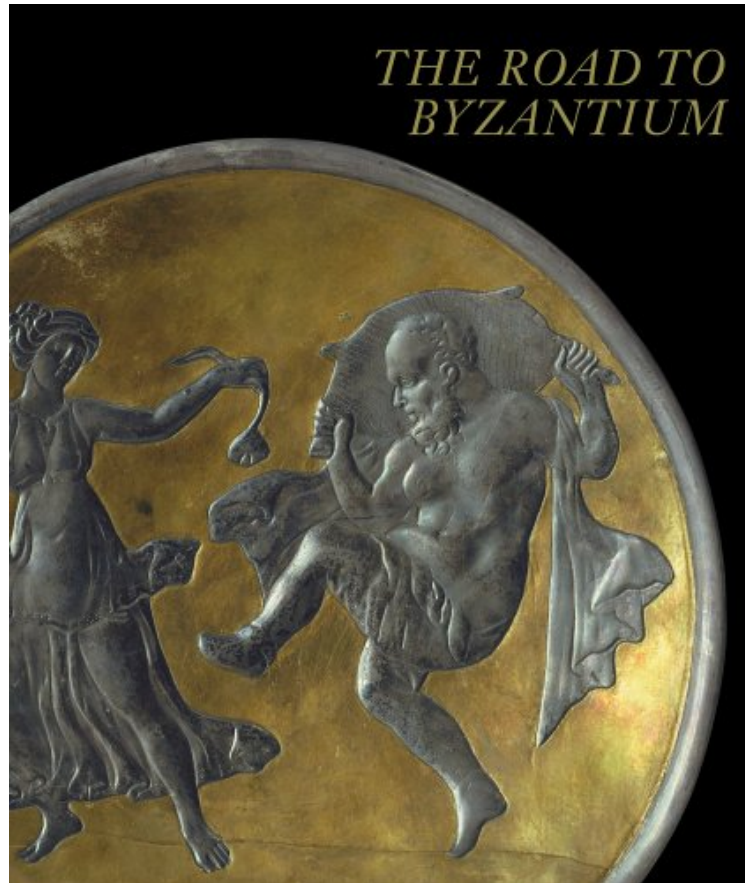
#4271910 in Books Fontanka Publishers 2006-07-31Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 12.11 x .85 x 10.281,

3.31 #File Name: 0954309553192 pages | File size: 22.Mb



*Andrei Alekseyev*

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## **The Road to Byzantium: Luxury Arts of Antiquity**

**Andrei Alekseyev : The Road to Byzantium: Luxury Arts of Antiquity** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised [The Road to Byzantium: Luxury Arts of Antiquity](#):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A ROAD WELL TAKENBy Critical MassByzantium is the modern name for what was once the Christianized Eastern part of the Roman Empire that outlasted its Western half by almost a thousand years. This book with multiple authorship is a visual masterpiece in addition to an excellent text. Since the 1950s more and more books have been appearing that deal with Byzantine history and/or art which have finally closed the gap in our knowledge and enjoyment of this once significant and enduring civilization/empire. With Constantinople (now Istanbul) as its capital, Byzantium influenced the art of Venice and the Italian Renaissance in addition to serving as the primary cultural and religious source for what became Russia and its empire.The Road to Byzantium contains 8 extremely informative chapters with illustrations provided from the collection of the Hermitage Museum. Greek and Roman art are discussed and presented at the beginning of the book which ultimately leads to Byzantine art proper. The influence and continuity of the former on the latter is highlighted and admirably detailed. The so-called "Minor Arts" (an unfortunate title) of Byzantium, such as silver, metal work, and lead seals among other items are illustrated in rich color. This oversized book of nearly 200 pages contains more than 160 illustrations each of

which is accompanied by a text. A vast Bibliography in multiple languages complements the entire book. The price for this book is an absolute bargain whether used or new. Highly recommended for anyone studying or just interested in the art of the Classical and Byzantine worlds.

The Road to Byzantium offers a striking new perspective on the art of the Greek, Roman and Byzantine worlds. It focuses on the luxury art s, mostly objects made for wealthy patrons from precious materials such as gold, silver and ivory. Such works were commissioned to exalt their owners and to impress and delight others.