



**ARISTOTLE UNIVERSITY OF THESSALONIKI
PRESS OFFICE**

ph. (+30)2310 997158 e-mail: press@auth.gr
Administration Building «K. Karatheodori» AUTH, P.C. 541 24, Thessaloniki

[f @Aristoteleio](https://www.facebook.com/Aristoteleio) [i @authuniversity](https://www.instagram.com/authuniversity) [X @Auth_University](https://twitter.com/Auth_University)

ANNOUNCEMENT

**Investiture Ceremony of the Centre for Byzantine Research of Aristotle
University**

Thessaloniki, 12/5/2026

Professor Emeritus Guntram Koch of the University of Marburg will be named Corresponding Member of the Centre for Byzantine Research of Aristotle University.

The Investiture Ceremony will take place on Thursday, 21 May 2026, at 10:00, in the main Lecture Hall of the Centre for Byzantine Research of Aristotle University (Melissa Building – 36 Vasilissis Olgas Street).

In honour of Professor Koch, a scientific workshop entitled “Topics in the Sculpture of Late Antiquity and the Middle Byzantine Period” will follow the ceremony from 12:00 to 15:30.

Investiture Ceremony Programme

Welcome addresses by the Rectorate Authorities and a representative of the Governing Council of Aristotle University

Laudatio delivered by the Director of the Archaeology Division of the School of History and Archaeology at Aristotle University, Associate Professor Paschalis Androudis

Investiture Ceremony

Presentation of the honorary scroll and commemorative plaque by the President of the Centre for Byzantine Research and Professor of the School of History and Archaeology, Melachroini Paisidou

Response and lecture by the honouree entitled: “Reuse of Roman Imperial Sarcophagi in the Early Christian Era: Some Unusual Examples from Asia Minor”

Brief Biography of the Honouree

Professor Guntram Koch was born in Germany in 1941. He studied Classical Archaeology, Christian Archaeology and Byzantine Art History, Art History, and Classical Philology at the Universities of Göttingen and Athens. He began his academic career at the University of Göttingen in the Chair of Christian Archaeology and was later elected Professor at the University of Marburg, where he taught Christian Archaeology and Byzantine Art History.

His scholarly work focuses on the study of Roman art and the art of Late Antiquity, as well as Early Christian and Byzantine archaeology. He has organized international symposia on Byzantine Art (Monumental Painting – Icons) and on sarcophagi. He also served as scientific editor of the *Corpus der antiken Sarkophagreliefs*, dedicated to the study of sarcophagi. His contribution to the study of Roman and Early Christian sarcophagi, together with his extensive editorial work in the field, has established him internationally as a leading expert on sarcophagi of the Roman Imperial and Early Christian periods.

His extensive body of publications includes studies on Roman and Christian sarcophagi, Christian art (architecture, painting, sarcophagi), as well as a cultural guide to the ancient and Christian art of Albania. The Christian Archaeological Society in Athens honoured him for his scholarly activity and extensive publications by naming him a Corresponding Member, while Aristotle University awarded him an honorary doctorate. He is also a member of the Croatian Academy of Sciences.

The event forms part of the celebrations marking the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the Centre for Byzantine Research and is held within the framework of the Aristotle Innovation Forum.

More information: <https://www.kbe.auth.gr/2026/05/05/τελετή-αναγόρευσης-αντεπιστέλλοντος/>

We kindly request that this event be published, broadcast, and covered by the media.