



ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE
D'ÉTUDES PATRISTIQUES
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
PATRISTIC STUDIES

5 March 2017

Dear colleagues,

I am delighted to extend the good wishes of the International Association of Patristic Studies to the organizers and participants of the Second International Conference on Patristic Studies and the First Meeting on Patristic Studies in Ibero-America.

The theme of the conference—the significance of ancient manuscripts in today's world—explores a fundamental but often unnoticed dimension of our field of study. Were it not for the work of ancient and medieval scribes, we would be mute. What they wrote, what they chose not to write, the languages they knew, their ability to interpret and translate, the mistakes they made, the writing materials available to them, the influence of their own context and later circumstances on the selection and survival of the texts they wrote—all these dynamics of the writing and preservation of a text on a manuscript are at the heart of the importance of manuscripts as witnesses to cultures of the past. These dynamics also make the study of manuscripts a source of continuous discovery today, quite apart from the remarkable finds of individual manuscripts or collections of manuscripts which have at times invigorated scholarship in our field.

Manuscripts are more than texts: they are witnesses whose testimony can only be elicited with patient and probing questioning. I hope that the conference affords you many occasions to explore lines of inquiry with one another, and that in so doing it yields some discoveries of its own.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Theodore de Bruyn".

Theodore de Bruyn, President
Association Internationale d'Études Patristiques
International Association of Patristic Studies