PREFACE

In 2015, Marianne Sághy invited me to Budapest to participate in a symposium on “Piroska and the Pantokrator,” which initiated the process that ultimately led to the publication of this volume. My response at the time was to wonder if I had anything new to say, so I told her I’d be happy to speak, but that I hoped she wasn’t planning a publication. Well, not only was she able to convince me to push my research further (and to write the chapter included here), she was also able to convince me to join her as co-editor of the volume. Indeed, it was the unique, persuasive powers and diligence of Marianne that brought this volume into being. As the other contributors will attest, none of us was able to say no when confronted by her infectious enthusiasm.

Alas, Marianne did not live to see Piroska and the Pantokrator in print, and one of her final requests of her friends was to see the volume through publication when she was no longer able to do so herself. It is thus our hope that this collection of essays will stand as a lasting tribute to our colleague and friend, Marianne Sághy. It was an honor and a pleasure to collaborate with her on this, her final scholarly project.

May her memory endure.

Robert G. Ousterhout
Philadelphia, October 2018