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## **Konstantinos Paparrigopoulos and the Early Byzantine Empire**

**On Sunday, November 12, 2023, at 3:00 pm Central Time, Hellenic Link-Midwest will present *Professor Young Kim* in a talk titled: “*Konstantinos Paparrigopoulos and the Early Byzantine Empire*.” The event will be held at the lecture hall of the Holy Taxiarchai and Saint Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church, 7373 N Caldwell Ave, Niles, Illinois.**

Konstantinos Paparrigopoulos (1815–91) was the “Herodotus” of Modern Greece, and his monumental *History of the Hellenic Nation* offered a grand narrative of Greek history from antiquity to his own day. Paparrigopoulos challenged the view prevalent among European intellectuals in the nineteenth century, of a discontinuity between the Greeks of the classical world and those of the modern Greek state. According to this “Enlightened” perspective, between the inspired giants of Pericles and Plato, and the backward peasants of the fledgling nation, stood the behemoth of Byzantium, a state burdened by decadence and superstitious religiosity. Paparrigopoulos was among a handful of Greek intellectuals who thought otherwise, and he told a story of continuity, of an unbroken but ever-evolving Hellenism. This lecture considers how Paparrigopoulos thought about key moments in the early Byzantine Empire and how he (re)interpreted them as part of the larger story of the Greek people.

*Dr. Young Richard Kim* is Associate Professor and Head of the Classics and Mediterranean Studies Department at the University of Illinois at Chicago. He is a historian of the ancient Mediterranean world, with a focus on late ancient Christianity, early Byzantium, and the history of Cyprus. Prior to his position at UIC, Dr. Kim worked as the Director of Educational Programs at the Onassis Foundation USA.

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