FoMA Summer Conference

Our Summer Conference was held on 12th June, via Zoom.

The first talk was given by Fr Maximos Constas:

**“I Waited Patiently for the Lord’ (Psalm 40:1): Elder Aimilianos of Simonopetra on Faith, Sickness, and Suffering.”**

A leading figure in the modern revival of monastic life on Mount Athos, Elder Aimilianos of Simonopetra (1934-2019) was an outstanding monastic teacher and theologian. Among the many themes that he addressed was the problem of sickness and suffering along with the proper human response to these unavoidable aspects of life. This talk presents the teachings of the Elder on this subject, which are biblically based, deeply rooted in the spirit of the Fathers of the Church, and profound in their exploration of the human condition.

The Very Revd Archimandrite Maximos Constas is Professor of Patristics and Orthodox Spirituality at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in Brookline, MA, and a former monk at the Holy Monastery of Simonopetra. In addition to his scholarly publications, Fr Maximos has translated four volumes of the writings of Elder Aimilianos of Simonopetra.

The second talk was given by Dr Olivier Delouis:

**“Hidden Treasures of Mount Athos: The Monasteries and their Archives”**

Athonite archives from Byzantine times have aroused a great curiosity and interest from scholars of all nationalities since the eighteenth century. This talk will present both their contents and the history of their study until recent years.

Dr Olivier Delouis is a senior researcher at the National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS), Paris. He is a member of the editorial team of the series ‘Archives de l’Athos’ and with M. Zivojinovic is author of *Actes de Chilandar II* (forthcoming in 2021).

The 32st AGM was held in between the talks. Dr Graham Speake, the outgoing chairman, referred to the growth of the society and its success over the years, and wished his successor, the Rev. Douglas Dales, and the committee well. Dr Speake remains on the committee.

The two talks and Dr Speake’s remarks can be watched here: 