

# DIFAB

# DIGITAL RESEARCH ARCHIVE FOR BYZANTIUM

# DIGITALES FORSCHUNGSARCHIV BYZANZ

The Digital Research Archive for Byzantium is a visual resource database devoted to the cultural legacy of Byzantium. Its aim is to digitize archives of historical photographs, associate this material with new photographic images and make them easily accessible to an international scholarly community. DiFaB is based upon PHAIDRA, the customised Digital Asset Management System supported by the IT Department of the University of Vienna. By adhering to the highest standards in long-term archival practice and employing equally high standards for metadata creation and management, DiFaB not only preserves documentation of the monuments, but also makes new scientific insights possible.



Çanlı Kilise, Çeltik, Turkey  
(G. Bell 1907/H. Hallensleben 1975)

## The Collections

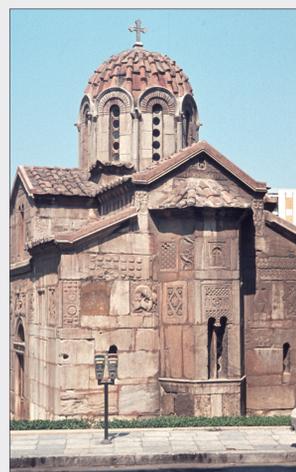
Housed at the Department of History of Art at the University of Vienna, DiFaB incorporates private visual material of important art historians, such as Josef Strzygowski, Otto Demus, Marcell Restle and Horst Hallensleben, as well as the TIB photographic archives. In preserving and promoting the integrity of individual accomplishments, DiFaB is building a vast corpus of collections which maintain their independent archival structure while being associated with each other and with contemporary digital photographs. Bringing these collections together creates a database that establishes new grounds for academic research.



Svetla Bogoroditsa Petrichka, Asenovgrad, Bulgaria  
(Unknown ca.1915/F. Gargova 2007)

## The virtual Byzantium

The Byzantine Empire was an entity of complex cultural, geographic, socio-economic, and political structure marked by constant change. Through the vast corpus of photographic images that DiFaB aspires to attain, the database interlinks the material and information to create, for the first time, a virtual Byzantium that can help us to understand the complexity of this society. In this respect, the use of standards offers the easy implementation of new technologies and thus preparation for future developments.



Panagia Gorgoepikoos, Athens, Greece  
(Unknown/H. Hallensleben 1970s)

## Open Source & Open Access

DiFaB's policy is to rely on open source solutions. DiFaB digitizes the analogue visual material in publication quality, thereby preserving the historical originals. The long-term archiving of the digital counterpart using open formats enables the future translation into newer formats and media. Equally important, the collected material is made openly accessible to the scientific community while ensuring documentation of authorship.

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