The Transformation of Byzantium:
Law, Society and Literature in the Eleventh Century

International Workshop on Psellos’ Letters
under the auspices of the Oxford Centre for Byzantine Research

Saturday, 6 and Sunday, 7 November 2010
Ioannou Centre for Classical and Byzantine Studies

Organisers:
Professor Michael Jeffreys
Professor Marc Lauxtermann

Sponsored by the British Academy
Saturday, 6 November 2010

9.30 am Coffee and greeting

10 am Michael Grünbart (Münster), ‘Informality and epistolography: the case of Michael Psellos’.

11 am Michael Jefferys (Sydney/Oxford), ‘Psellos and the monastery’.

12 pm Diether Reinsch (Berlin), ‘Das vergiftete Lob. Bemerkungen zu den Briefen des Michael Psellos an Leon Paraspondylos’.

1 pm Lunch

2 pm Theo Van Lint (Oxford), ‘The epistolary of the Armenian nobleman Grigor Magistros Pahlawuni (985-1059)’.

3 pm Eustratios Papaioannou (Brown University), ‘Fragile literature: Byzantine letter collections and the case of Michael Psellos’ (read by him via Skype).

3.45 pm Round-table discussion introduced by the convenors, with questions and answers between them and Eustratios Papaioannou distributed in advance. News of the edition – how to make translations of a text under re-organisation – numbering of letters in the edition – a website at Brown – further ways of alerting historians etc. to relevant content – the publication of this workshop.

4.30 pm Questions for Eustratios Papaioannou via Skype, on his paper and the round-table. Speakers first, then a general discussion.

5.30 pm Reception

Sunday, 7 November 2010

9.30 am Marc Lauxtermann (Oxford), ‘The intertwined lives of Michael Psellos and John Mauropous’.

10.30 am Floris Bernard (Ghent), ‘Educational networks in the letters of Michael Psellos’.

11.30 am Efthymia Braounou-Pietsch (Vienna), ’Michael Psellos’ letter to the blinded Romanos Diogenes: a case of cynicism and sarcasm?’.

12.30 - 2 am Lunch, during which there may be a brief formal session, on an agenda decided at the time.