

My thesis is entitled "The picture of monks in the light of accounts of authors of *Ecclesiastical Histories* in early Byzantium". The monograph is limited to the first centuries of this movement – from the end of the 3rd century to the end of the 6th century. Special attention was paid to three main provinces – Egypt, Syria and Palestine. The aspect which interested me is the way in which chosen historians perceived monks and their activity. *Ecclesiastical Histories* devote a significant amount of place to monks, but treat their lives and activity as one of many topics mentioned. Furthermore, compared to the problems of heresy and conflicts between representatives of the Church, monasticism was just a minor issue.

My thesis is divided into four chapters. In the first one I discuss the question of sources on which the paper is based. The second chapter deals with the substantial parts of the topic. On the basis of the sources presented in chapter one, I depicted the image of monasticism recorded in the writings of Church historians. The third chapter was entitled *The organisation of monastery communities in the eyes of Church historians*. The most extensive part of my thesis is chapter four, in which I presented the relations between monks and Byzantine society, according to the accounts of ecclesiastical historians. This chapter was divided into five subchapters, the first of which presents the relations between monks and pagans, the second – with heretics. The third and fourth subchapters deal with the problem of the relations between monks and state and Church authorities and the fifth subchapter focuses on the charity activity of representatives of the monastic circles.

Katarzyna Skotnicka