

Table of Contents

Foreword	7
Introduction	13
I. Historical Circumstances – The Documentary Inscriptions	19
1. The Donors Inscription in Mosaic	19
2. The Votive Column Inscription	25
3. An Artist’s Signature in Mosaic	28
II. The Program	31
1. Enwrapping the Holy Place of the Nativity – The Mosaics of the Grotto and the Triconch	34
2. Prophecy and Genealogy – The Tree of Abraham and the Forefather’s Gallery	49
3. Theological Foundation – The Church Councils	59
4. The Councils – A Visual Associative Net	83
5. Forecast and Fulfillment – Decoding the Program	105
6. History and Authorship	110
III. Stylistic and Technical Consistency	115
1. The Mosaics	115
2. The Column Paintings	133

Afterword:
Place and History: A Crusader Visual Discourse at the Nativity Site 141

Appendix:
The Bilingual Inscription in the Bema and the Conciliar
Inscriptions in the Nave – A New Edition by Erich Lamberz 145

Bibliography 166

List of Illustrations 175

Index 176