



MODERN GREEK STUDIES YEARBOOK

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EDITOR'S NOTE

THE IDEA for a *Modern Greek Studies Yearbook* was conceived and announced three years ago, at a time when scholars, working in the relatively young field it seeks to represent, were becoming increasingly concerned about difficulties they encountered as they sought to publish and share their findings with colleagues in the academic community and beyond. The future of the journal *Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies*, then serving neohellenists in the English-speaking world, was uncertain, as was that of *Neo-Hellenika*, founded and edited by Professor George Arnakis (1917-1976) of the University of Texas. As it turned out, *Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies* ceased publication and has since been replaced by *The Journal of Modern Greek Studies*. The latter operates, as its predecessor did, as the official organ of the Modern Greek Studies Association. *Neo-Hellenika* has not fared as well following the death of Professor Arnakis despite efforts by the Arnakis family and Professor Costas Proussis to keep it going. For a while it looked as if *Neo-Hellenika* might have found a new home at the University of Minnesota. When that possibility did not materialize, the decision was made to start a new annual publication carrying the title *Modern Greek Studies Yearbook*. The decision reflected a new dimension in the development of modern Greek studies at the University of Minnesota.

The main objective of this annual publication is the dissemination of scholarly information in the field of modern Greek studies. The field is broadly defined to include the social sciences and the humanities, indeed any body of knowledge that touches on the modern Greek experience. And whereas the term modern is frequently associated with the last three centuries, and this period will certainly receive the greatest attention, topics dealing with earlier periods, the Byzantine and even the classical, will be considered provided they relate to aspects of later Greek history and culture. The hope is that an ongoing discussion will emerge of "the Greeks and their heritages," to use Arnold Toynbee's expression, as well as of contemporary problems in their

historical perspective. Chronology, then, is viewed as an expansive, not limiting factor, as, indeed, is the case with geography. In other words, as the essays in this first volume suggest, the forum will not be limited to studies pertaining only to mainland Greece or the "Helladic space" as the territory associated with the modern Greek state is frequently referred to, but will include every place where neohellenism flourished and made significant contributions, the shrinking or expanding of political frontiers notwithstanding. Furthermore, the Greeks of the diaspora have always been a crucial factor in the evolution of hellenism both in the adopted lands and in the original homeland. In a sense, it was the Greeks of the diaspora that rescued neohellenism from parochial obscurity by providing for it an ever-expanding context beginning with the Mediterranean world, to be followed by Europe, and finally in our century chiefly by the United States and Australia. At the same time, the Greeks of the diaspora, either as individuals or as groups, in their own way were profoundly affected or sustained by the memory and the dynamics of their political and cultural metropolis, that is to say, the modern Greek state. Contextualizing the discussion of "the Greeks and their heritages" may help modify the "dilemma" perpetuated in the past by historians and presently by politicians as to whether Greece should be viewed as a Balkan or a Mediterranean country and whether it belongs to the east or the west. To the extent that it is possible and supportable, the emphasis will be on connections, that is to say, on interrelationships, thematic as well as geographic and chronological, highlighting the cultural pluralism of the regions where the modern Greeks moved and had their being, an emphasis to which a variety of disciplines and methods may be called upon to contribute. The essays of this first volume reflect this approach.

Another important objective of this publication is that it will represent the international scholarly community. It will especially seek to develop a dialogue involving scholars and men of letters from Greece itself. The research carried on by Greek scholars in Greece deserves much greater attention than it has received thus far. In addition to many distinguished scholars of the "older" generation, an impressive number of young scholars trained both in Greece and abroad are making significant contributions in rethinking modern Greek history and culture. Outside Greece, awareness of their work thus far has, on the whole, been limited to a few specialists. Representing young as well as established scholars from different parts of the globe will be one of the objectives of the *Yearbook*, although it is anticipated that the majority of the contributors will most likely be from the United States.

As already indicated, undertaking the publication of the *Modern Greek Studies Yearbook* reflects a new stage or dimension in the development of modern Greek studies at the University of Minnesota. Originating under the auspices of the History Department, the field developed as part of a graduate studies program in Russian-Near Eastern cultural relations with special emphasis on Greek-Slavic cultural relations in modern times, a field in which

several graduate students have completed their training thus far. Quite appropriately, then, the first two essays by Professors Robert Nichols and Theophilus Prousis, respectively, touch on this aspect of modern Greek history and culture. And whereas the essay by Professor Nichols on "The Orthodox Elders (*Startsy*) of Imperial Russia" belongs more to the Slavic than the Greek world, it serves as an excellent example of the importance of considering the modern Greek experience and its cultural contributions in a wider context, this time the context under consideration being the Eastern Orthodox world or the "Orthodox Commonwealth" at large. For scholarly as well as programmatic reasons, this aspect of the modern Greek experience, the Greek-Slavic connection, will receive appreciable and systematic attention in each subsequent issue of the *Yearbook*. Similarly, duly noted will be any other meaningful connections between Minnesota and modern Greek studies, whether as in the case of this first volume, they deal with the impact of the poet George Seferis on a Minnesota senator with a poetic bent, Eugene McCarthy, or the late Professor Theodore Saloutos, historian of the Greeks in the United States, whose library and archive on the subject are now part of the University of Minnesota Immigration History Research Center.

A central feature of each volume will be the translation into English of a significant Greek text, accompanied when appropriate by a commentary. The text may be literary or historical and it should illuminate some important aspect of modern Greek culture. It is quite fitting that the first such text should be *The Woman of Zakynthos* by the national poet of Greece, Dionysios Solomos, with whom modern Greek literature begins and whose impact on the development of the modern Greek language is indisputable. The text was translated faithfully by Professors Michael Green and Peter Colaclides who also provided an introduction.[°]

An attempt will be made to review a wide range of publications touching on a variety of disciplines. As with this issue, there will be a tendency to encourage the use of review articles as a means of discussing extensively scholarship or other pertinent developments on a particular topic. For the same reason, the length of book reviews will not be arbitrarily set. Within reasonable limits, scholars should have the freedom to determine the length of their critical appraisals. Books received but not reviewed in the current volume will be listed under the section "Other Books Received." This does not necessarily preclude subsequent review in future issues of the *Yearbook*. In fact, some of them may be used in connection with review articles. It should also be pointed out that one of the hoped-for features of the *Yearbook* is a selective annual bibliography on modern Greece which will include works in Greek as well as non-Greek languages.

[°] The translation of this text should also serve as a tribute to Professor Colaclides who died unexpectedly in the spring of 1985, while this volume was in press.

Finally, a word about the problem of transliteration which is a constant source of confusion and frustration for both neohellenists and editors. As much as possible, the inclination and policy of this publication will be toward simplicity and, hopefully, consistency, taking into consideration the actual "sounds" of a living language whose fate until recently has been almost entirely determined by the classical tradition and established library systems. This simplicity in transliteration will become even more imperative as linguistic reforms in Greece continue their trimming job. Still, it is awkward to render differently some names which the Western eye has been accustomed to seeing written in their classical spelling. Some of the traditional forms have, therefore, been retained but, in general, the simplified style has been favored and this tendency will continue until a new consensus on the subject emerges, if that will ever be possible. In certain cases, the wishes of individual authors with regard to transliteration have been honored even though this has contributed toward inconsistency. The subject of transliteration merits an imaginative as well as practical essay which could conceivably appear in a future issue of the *Yearbook*.

Starting a new professional journal is never an easy matter. This first issue is the result of the cooperation of several scholars from around the world. Two individuals deserve special recognition for their contribution toward making this publication venture an integral part of our modern Greek studies program at the University of Minnesota and a forum for scholars in the field of modern Greek history and culture. They are Professor Fred E. Lukermann, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, and Stanford E. Lehmborg, Chairman of the History Department.

Theofanis G. Stavrou
Director, Modern Greek Studies
University of Minnesota