



PANDELIS PREVELAKIS  
AND THE  
VALUE OF A HERITAGE  
*by* Andonis Decavalles

Pandelis Prevelakis, a major modern Greek writer, has produced over forty works of poetry, novel, plays and essays. Known in Greece as the national writer of Crete, his native island, his works have a quality of universality about them and have been translated into all European languages. Those available in English translation include *Nikos Kazantzakis and His Odyssey: A Study of the Poet and the Poem* (1961); *The Sun of Death* (1964); and *The Tale of a Town* (1976). Prevelakis has, for long, been in the shadow of the reputation of his close friend and fellow Cretan, Nikos Kazantzakis. It is time that the work of Prevelakis be allowed to reveal itself and be independently appraised in the non-Greek world as it has been in the Greek. This publication, which is the result of the Second Annual Celebration of Modern Greek Letters at the University of Minnesota, dedicated to Prevelakis, is a small contribution in that direction.

In addition to the main essay, "Pandelis Prevelakis and the Value of a Heritage," by Andonis Decavalles, this volume contains an essay by Prevelakis himself, "Rethymno as a Style of Life," translated by Jean H. Woodhead.

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Translator, scholar and poet, Andonis Decavalles is one of the leading neohellenists in the United States. His scholarly contribution and his poetry have appeared in several journals in the United States and abroad, and since 1960 he has served as executive co-editor of *The Charioteer: An Annual Review of Modern Greek Culture*. He is also a founding member of the Modern Greek Studies Association. In 1977 he received the Poetry Prize of the Academy of Athens. Currently, he is professor in the English Department at Farleigh Dickinson University, where he has been teaching since 1961.

Theofanis G. Stavrou is professor of history at the University of Minnesota, where he has been instrumental in developing a graduate program in modern Greek studies and Greek-Slavic cultural relations in modern times. He teaches courses on the intellectual and cultural history of modern Greece through the History Department and the Humanities Program. He has also been instrumental in establishing the Annual Celebration of Modern Greek Letters, which began in 1978 at the University of Minnesota.