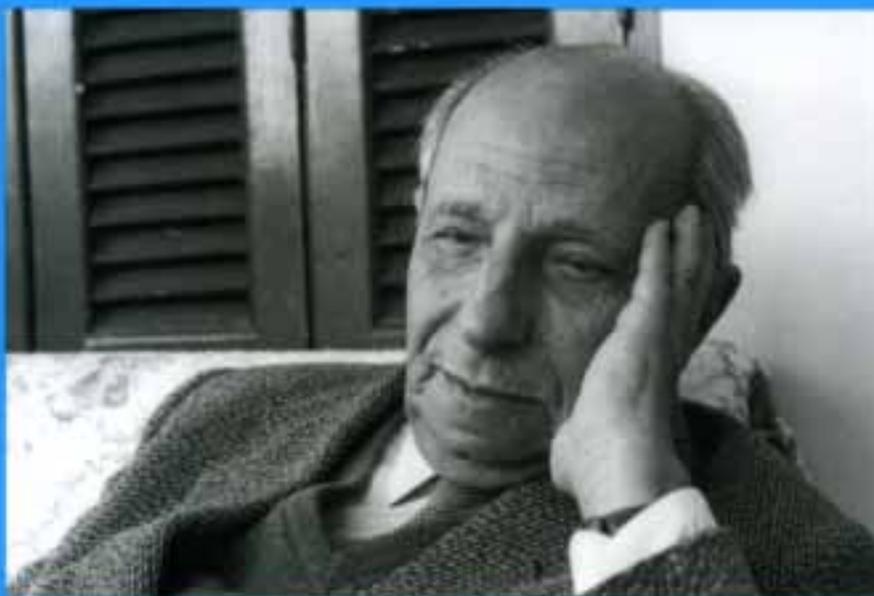


COSTAS MONTIS



CLOSED DOORS

AN ANSWER TO *BITTER LEMONS* BY
LAWRENCE DURRELL

TRANSLATED FROM GREEK BY
DAVID BOESSEL AND SOTERIOS G. STAVROU
WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY DAVID BOESSEL

Translated here for the first time, *Closed Doors*, an annoying and frustrating book according to its author, is an intriguing and eye-opening account of the struggle for independence of Cyprus, a small country which earlier this year (2004) joined the European Union. *Closed Doors* presents a moving and insightful contribution to postcolonial studies, intended by Costas Montis as an answer to *Bitter Lemons*, by well-known English author and colonial official Lawrence Durrell.

As stated in the translator's introduction, the two books constitute "a debate between two powerful artists who produced political books to influence the depiction of the narrative of the struggle for Cypriot independence. For Montis, *Closed Doors* was an attempt to reappropriate that narrative from Durrell, to present a picture of the struggle for freedom by a Cypriot who, as he says in his brief explanation, had lived through the entire four years of the revolt."

Costas Montis (1914–2004) was a leading member of what might be called the "Cypriot Renaissance," the generation which matured in the forties and fifties and set a firm foundation for modern Cypriot literature. His life and work were intricately woven with the island of Cyprus and its struggle for independence. As a writer and an artist, he was painfully concerned about the narrative of Cyprus's struggle for freedom.

David Roessel teaches Greek language and literature at the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey. He is the author of *In Byron's Shadow: Modern Greece in English and American Literature*, which received the 2001 Modern Language Association Prize for Independent Scholars and the 2002 Elma Dangerfield Award of the International Byron Society. He has lived in both Nicosia and Athens.

Soterios G. Stavrou was born in Cyprus and educated in the United States in English literature at Augsburg College and in ancient history and the classics at the University of Minnesota. His translations of Greek literature into English include *The Free Spirit* by George Theotokas and (with Donald E. Martin) *Tetralogy of the Times* by G. Philippou Pierides.