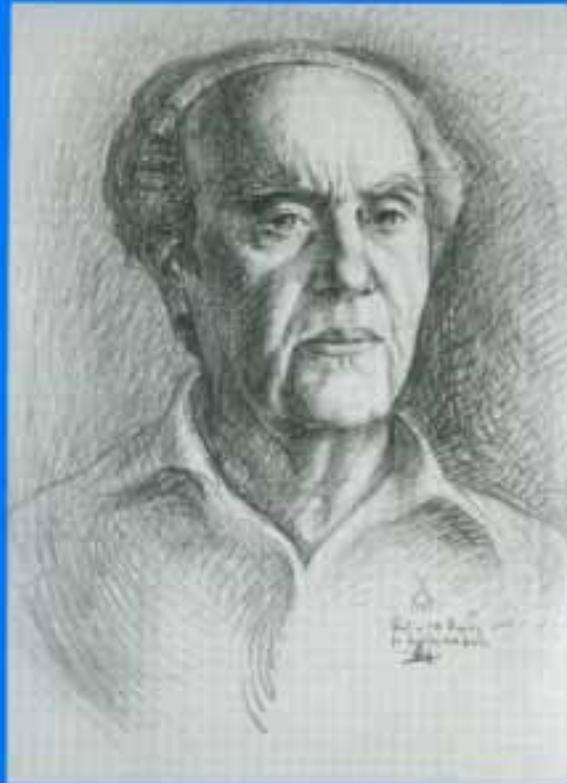


G. PHILIPPOU PIERIDES



TETRALOGY OF THE TIMES
STORIES OF CYPRUS

TRANSLATED FROM GREEK BY
DONALD E. MARTIN AND SOTERIOS G. STAVROU
WITH A PREFACE BY THEOFANIS G. STAVROU

Tetralogy of the Times is a powerful document capturing the mood of the Cypriot people, in Chekhovian sensibility, from the years of their British colonial status to their present predicament. As the author points out, “The shocking events of 1955–1959 in Cyprus moved me—as they moved other writers, too—to attempt to express the events and the climate of that era. Of course, I did so in my own way and from my own spiritual and sentimental vantage point.”

The first section of the *Tetralogy*, “Times Immovable,” portrays the period before 1955 when Cyprus was a British colony. It is followed by “Times of Difficulty,” which canvasses the struggle of the Cypriot people for independence. “The skimpy independence of 1960,” to use the author’s words, was achieved as a result of the Zurich and London agreements, which established the Republic of Cyprus. The first years of independent Cyprus are captured in the third collection of stories called “Times of Affluence.” It brings the story to 1974, when the coup d’etat against Archbishop Makarios took place, an incident which gave Turkey the opportunity and excuse to invade Cyprus. The Turkish invasion and its consequences—political, social, and moral—are dealt with in the fourth section, “Times of Suffering.”

Tetralogy of the Times is an impressive saga chronicled through successful storytelling of an island and its people.

G. Philippou Pierides was born in Cyprus in 1904. He grew up and lived many years in Egypt where, among other things, he worked in the cotton industry. After the Second World War, he returned and settled in Cyprus, where he worked primarily as a librarian. His writings reflect his observations and/or experiences in both Egypt (*The Cotton Growers*) and Cyprus (*Tetralogy of the Times*).

Donald E. Martin teaches Greek and English at Rockford College. He has also taught at the University of Cyprus. Educated in the classics (University of Cincinnati), his involvement with modern Greek letters began with a fellowship to the University of Thessaloniki (1966–67). He is the recipient of the Armand G. Erpf Award, given by the Translation Center at Columbia University, for his English translation of the novel *Leonis* by George Theotokas.

Soterios G. Stavrou was born in Cyprus and educated in the United States in English literature (Augsburg College) and in ancient history and the classics (University of Minnesota). He is currently teaching modern Greek at the University of Minnesota. His translations of Greek literature into English include *The Free Spirit* by George Theotokas.