



DIONYSIOS SOLOMOS

FAITH AND
MOTHERLAND
COLLECTED POEMS

TRANSLATED FROM THE GREEK
WITH ANNOTATIONS AND AN INTRODUCTION BY

MARIOS BYRON RAIZIS

Faith and Motherland is the first English rendition of the collected poems of Dionysios Solomos (1798–1857), the national poet of Greece and composer of the celebrated “Hymn to Liberty,” the country’s national anthem. The volume should be of interest to students of history, comparative cultural studies, as well as students of modern Greece.

Goethe called Solomos “the Byron of the East,” and the Nobel Prize winner Odysseus Elytis “one of the world’s greatest poets of all times.” The aristocratic-born Solomos espoused and uplifted popular culture in Greece during the country’s struggle for independence and the emergence of the modern Greek state. It has been claimed that modern Greek literature begins with Solomos, who articulates two basic themes in the modern Greek cultural experience: freedom and language.

But Solomos is more than a national poet. Born on the island of Zakynthos and educated in Italy, he remained throughout his life conversant with European intellectual and literary currents. His affinities with his European contemporaries along with his poetic genius and passion for freedom make Solomos a European, indeed a world poet.

Marios Byron Raizis is professor of English at the University of Athens, where he has been teaching since 1978. Before that, he was professor of English and comparative literature at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale. A frequent contributor to scholarly journals, he is also known as a translator from Greek into English and English into Greek. His works include: *Dionysios Solomos; Greek Revolution and the American Muse: A Collection of Philhellenic Poetry, 1821–1828*; and *The Metaphysical Poets of England*.