



**KOSTIS PALAMAS: A PORTRAIT and
AN APPRECIATION**

by Theofanis G. Stavrou and Constantine A. Trypanis

INCLUDING

Lambs and Anapaests and Asclepius

by Kostis Palamas

Kostis Palamas (1859–1943) was the first modern Greek man of letters to be nominated for the Nobel Prize for literature, and Romain Rolland, who nominated him for the honor in 1930, claimed him as the greatest living poet in Europe. Other Europeans, including Oscar Wilde, Jean Moréas, Miguel de Unamuno, and Philéas Lebèsque, recognized Palamas as a significant writer, and his works, especially *The Twelve Words of the Gypsy* and *The King's Flute*, as major poetic accomplishments. In Greece itself, for nearly half a century he cast his shadow on the cultural scene as a poet, prose writer, critic, and above all as the champion of demoticism during the linguistic controversy which raged wildly in the land. In short, he became a national symbol whose impact is still felt.

This volume, the result of the Fifth Annual Celebration of Modern Greek Letters at the University of Minnesota, contains two introductory essays on the life and work of the poet as well as two of Palamas's poetic works: *Iambes and Anapests* and *Ascraeus*. The first is generally considered a turning point in Palamas's poetic development. In this volume it is accompanied by an essay, "How I Remember the *Iambes and Anapests*," written by Palamas, which, among other things, reveals some of his views as an artist. The second, *Ascraeus*, considered one of Palamas's best poems, is here preceded by an insightful introduction by one of the most astute of Palamas scholars, the critic Andreas Karandonis. Included also in this volume is Palamas's *Olympic Hymn*, written in 1895 in connection with the first modern Olympics, held in Athens.

Constantine Athanasius Trypanis, a distinguished scholar of classical, medieval, and modern Greek literature and language, has taught at the Universities of Athens, Oxford, and Chicago, and has lectured at many other universities in Europe, the United States, South Africa, and Australia. He is the recipient of many prestigious awards and a member as well as secretary of the Academy of Athens. A prolific writer and poet in his own right, he has published several collections of poetry, scholarly books, and articles, among them his well-known anthologies, *Medieval and Modern Greek Poetry* (1951) and *The Penguin Book of Modern Greek Verse* (1971). His most recent accomplishment is the monumental *Greek Poetry: From Homer to Seferis* (1982).

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 has also been instrumental in establishing the Annual Celebration of Modern Greek Letters, which began in 1978 at the University of Minnesota. He teaches and publishes in both the Slavic and Greek fields. His publications include *Russian Interests in Palestine 1882–1914: A Study in Religious and Educational Enterprise* (1963); *Russian Orthodoxy under the Old Regime*

(1978); *Art and Culture in Nineteenth-Century Russia* (1983); and a series of essays on modern Greek writers, the most recent of which are *Dionysios Solomos* (1983) and *Alexandros Papadiamantis* (1984).