

Number 8

Winter 1991

JOURNAL OF MODERN HELLENISM



3 9345 01197294 4



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
W.A.C. BENNETT LIBRARY

©Copyright 1992 by Hellenic College Press
Published by HELLENIC COLLEGE PRESS
50 Goddard Avenue
Brookline, Massachusetts 02146

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

ISSN 0743-7749

COVER DESIGN by MARY C. VAPORIS

Acknowledgements

The publication of this issue was made possible, in part, by grants from the Jewish and Ethnic Studies Project of Queens College, which is funded by the New York State Educational Department in Albany, and from the Hellenic College/Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology.

The advertisement on the inside cover was financed 70% through EEC funds. We are grateful to them.

Journal of Modern Hellenism

Edited by
Harry J. Psomiades and N. M. Vaporis



HELLENIC COLLEGE PRESS

Published jointly by the Greek Studies Program of
Hellenic College and by the Center for Byzantine
and Modern Greek Studies of Queens College,
City University of New York

Journal of Modern Hellenism is published annually for the Greek Studies Program of Hellenic College and for the Center for Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies of Queens College of the City University of New York which bear full editorial responsibility for its content.

The purpose of the *Journal* is to reflect activities of both institutions in promoting scholarly work on the history, language, institutions, and culture of the Greek people from the late Byzantine period to the present. The articles which appear in the *Journal of Modern Hellenism* are those prepared by the faculty or the Greek Studies Program of Hellenic College and of the Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies Program of Queens College of the City University of New York, and those outside scholars offered in seminars, conferences, and special lectures sponsored by either Hellenic College or Queens College, CUNY.

The views expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the sponsoring institutions.

The annual subscription to the *Journal* is \$15.00. A limited number of copies of Numbers 1-7 are available at \$10.00 each. To subscribe or acquire back copies, write to Managing Editor, *Journal of Modern Hellenism*, 50 Goddard Avenue, Brookline, MA, 02146, U.S.A.

EDITORS

Harry J. Psomiades, *Queens College, CUNY*
Nomikos Michael Vaporis, *Hellenic College*

MANAGING EDITORS

Effie Lekas, *Queens College*
John-Cyril Vaporis, *Hellenic College*

PUBLISHER

Hellenic College Press

SPONSORS

Hellenic College
Queens College of the City University of New York
Center for Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies

In honor of
Dr. Thomas and Anna Leontis
Benefactors of Hellenic and Religious Studies
In appreciation

CONTENTS

Poetry and Politics: The Greek Cultural Dilemma JOHN CHIOLES	1
Radicalizing Modernism: The Conception of an Ethnic Avant-Garde in N. Valaorites' <i>My Afterlife Guaranteed</i> PANAYOTIS BOSNAKIS	15
On the Border of Culture and Feminism M. PAPACOSTAKI	27
British Espionage in Greece 1941-1942 ANDRE GEROLYMATOS	37
The Making of Modern Urban Identity: The Transfor- mation of Greek Town in the Nineteenth Century V HASTAOGLOU-MARTINIDIS, K. KAFKOULA, N. PAPAMIHOS	49
Was Athena Really Black? The Current Attack on the Western Tradition JOHN E. REXINE	63
Cincinnati Hellenism: Two Early Greek Pioneers, Zachos and Hearn EVA C. TOPPING	77
The Rise and Fall of the Greek Military Regime: 1967-1974 CONSTANTINE ARVANITOPOULOS	97
Separate Spheres: An Overview of United States Policy in the Interwar Years Toward Greece and Turkey S. J. RAPHALIDES	117

The Question of Waldheim's Wartime Guilt in the Balkans
HAGEN FLEISCHER

131

Contributors

143

Poetry and Politics: The Greek Cultural Dilemma

JOHN CHIOLES

TONIGHT I WILL SPEAK TO YOU ABOUT POETRY, GREEK POETRY, in itself a powerful experience at any time in the historical span of that culture. But to speak of Greek poetry is to speak of politics—not so much in the rarefied aesthetic sense of the old duality: poetry versus philosophy, that old Aristotelian kind of politics; rather, in the raw sense of poetry as crisis, as the rhythm and heartbeat of a nation's identity. And, politics as when a soldier says "in my *politike zoe* I am a carpenter," meaning in his 'civilian life,' using precisely the same term normally used for a "political life." Poetry, then, as one of the primary acts of the *zoon politikon*. And politics as when a civic model becomes workable *after* it has been heralded by the vanguard art of that culture, which has always been poetry.

In a country where for the last century and a half at least poetry and politico-cultural crisis, or better yet, poetry and revolution, have been virtually synonymous, it seems most apt to use the method of "cultural discourse" in understanding what I take to be a current crisis in poetry.

The good news is that we continue to have poetry in Greece after the last major political struggle of 1967-1974. The bad news is that it has virtually become useless to a wider public; it is no longer invested with danger; it has already begun to point more and more in the direction of those Western European democracies where poetry has no real subject-matter, only an ostensible one, and only occasionally in subversive use, where the subject-matter of poetry is poetry itself in a narcissistic, confessional, stranglehold on consciousness. Post-1974 Greek poetry concerns itself with urban boredom, with highly personal states of mind, with the failure of nerve, with the fragility of urban neuroses—