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# Journal of Modern Hellenism

Vasileios Marinis  
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Christos P. Ioannides,  
Dan Georgakas, André Gerolymatos,  
Michael Cosmopoulos and Ellen Lanzano  
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The purpose of the *Journal* is to reflect activities of the sponsoring 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 of the institutions, and those of outside scholars offered in seminars, conferences, and special lectures sponsored by them.

The views expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the sponsoring institutions. It should be noted that wherever possible Greek names are written in their Greek form.

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This issue of the  
*Journal of Modern Hellenism*  
is dedicated to

Byzantium:  
Essays in Honor of Angela Constantinides Hero

## NOTES FROM THE GUEST EDITOR

The essays in the present volume of the *Journal of Modern Hellenism* are dedicated to Angela Constantinides Hero, a renowned scholar of Byzantine history and philology who needs no introduction to Byzantine specialists. Professor Hero's numerous scholarly contributions are outlined by Alice-Mary Talbot. What is less known is her impact as a teacher. Even today, several years after her retirement, she is fondly remembered at Queens College by both colleagues and former students. Elena Frangakis-Syrret sheds valuable light on this aspect of her career. Suffice to say here that many of the contributors to this volume, including its editor, owe a great deal to Professor Hero, whose unwavering guidance, support, and dedication have been a constant source of encouragement.

Byzantine studies in the United States still remain, by necessity and by accident, peripheral to the larger discipline of humanistic studies. This fate, however, is shared by the majority of the specializations within the Humanities, especially those focused on the premodern era. Nonetheless, the variety of topics discussed in the present volume is a testimony to the vibrancy of the field and the exciting perspectives that lay ahead of us. The vast majority of the contributors are still at the beginning of their professional careers, a deliberate choice of the editor. The decision not to

have an overarching theme was also intentional, so that these young scholars could find an appropriate vehicle to present their current research. The essays range from the architecture of Constantinople to the habits of Byzantine monastics, and from apotropaic amulets to an engraved copper plate and the relationship between Byzantine chant and Greek folk music. Some revisit old and well-known problems, others investigate new and unfamiliar material. They all offer novel methodological approaches and compelling insights. It is my firm belief that the careful reader will be greatly satisfied by both the heterogeneity and the high quality of the contents of the volume at hand.

The editor is greatly indebted to Christos Ioannides, director, and Effie Lekas, assistant director of the Center for Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies at Queens College, CUNY, for their continuous support, financial and otherwise. Helen Evans, the Mary and Michael Jaharis Curator for Byzantine Art at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, has been an enthusiastic supporter of the project since its inception. The contributors agreed to share their expertise and to endure menacing deadlines with a great deal of humor and dedication. Finally, this volume would not have been possible without the counsel and advice of Dan Georgakas, consulting editor of this journal.

Vasileios Marinis

### **The Contribution of Angela Constantinides Hero to Byzantine Studies**

Alice-Mary Talbot

*It is my great honor and pleasure to write for this volume some introductory words about the contributions to Byzantine Studies of my fellow student, colleague and dear friend Angela Hero. I first met Angela over forty years ago when we were both graduate students at Columbia University and in 1964-65 participated in the same seminar with Ihor Ševčenko on the second period of iconoclasm.*

Angela Constantinides Hero's lifelong interest in the edition and translation of texts of the Palaiologan period was first stimulated by Ihor Ševčenko under whose mentorship she prepared a master's thesis on five homilies of Isidore Glabas, metropolitan of Thessaloniki in the late fourteenth century. After Ševčenko's departure from Columbia to take up an appointment at Dumbarton Oaks, she moved to Fordham University for her doctoral studies under the guidance of John Meyendorff. It was he who first suggested to her the editing of the letters of the fourteenth-century theologian Gregory Akindynos for her doctoral dissertation. Akindynos is one of the most fascinating figures of the hesychastic controversy, beginning as a moderate and ending up on the losing side, repeatedly condemned and excommunicated for his anti-Palamite views. His name figures prominently