

**Harry J. Psomiades:
Pioneering Scholar and Educator
1928–2011**

Christos P. Ioannides

The issue at hand of the *Journal of Modern Hellenism* (JMH) is dedicated to the memory of its founder, Harry J. Psomiades, who passed away on August 13, 2011, at the age of 82. It was Professor Psomiades who, along with Nomikos Vaporis, founded the *JMH* in 1984 and led it until 2002. Under his guidance, the *JMH* emerged as an important scholarly publication with an interdisciplinary approach to the study of the modern Greek world. The scope of the *JMH* covers Greece, Cyprus and their regional environment, as well as the Greek Diaspora with special emphasis on Greek American community dynamics. As such, the *JMH* offers a valuable platform which promotes research and advances knowledge on the phenomenon of modern Hellenism. In this regard, the *JMH* constitutes a lasting legacy of Professor Psomiades.

To this legacy, one must include the other multifaceted contributions of Harry J. Psomiades to the fields of Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies in America. His academic career was characterized by an unrivalled ethos, fairness, and respect for the other point of view, all reflecting the nobility of his spirit. Coming from Columbia University, he founded the Center for Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies at Queens College in 1974. He was Director of the Center for three decades, and during his tenure, with Assistant Director

Effie Lekas as his right hand since 1985, he elevated it to a beacon of Hellenic letters through the teaching and study of Byzantium, modern Greece, Cyprus, and the Greek American community. With regard to Byzantine Studies, Professor Angela Constantinides Hero, a renowned Byzantinist, was a close collaborator of Professor Psomiades over the years. As an academic teacher, he was loved by his students who benefited from his wisdom. As a researcher and author, he covered a wide spectrum of topics, reflecting his vast knowledge of subjects ranging, from Greek politics, to Greek-Turkish relations, to the Ecumenical Patriarchate, to the Cyprus issue, to the Balkans, to the Greek American community. He paid special attention to Asia Minor Hellenism and the Pontos. His parents came from Pontos and he was proud of his Pontian roots.

Throughout his life, through his academic and community activities, Harry Psomiades strived towards achieving the recognition of the Pontian genocide by the United States. His dedication to Asia Minor Hellenism and the plight of the Greek refugees, following the Asia Minor Catastrophe, led him to pursue an ambitious project regarding their story. He was able to bring this project to fruition, but unfortunately, his *Fridtjof Nansen and the Greek Refugee Question, 1922–1924* had to be published posthumously. As such, this last book by Professor Psomiades will remain a classic in this field. In this issue, we are publishing a selection from that title.

Given his contributions to Hellenism, we believe it is quite fitting, therefore, to dedicate the present issue of the *JMH* to the memory of its founder, a giant of Greek *paideia* in America, Harry J. Psomiades. The contributors to this issue, under the editorial supervision of Dan Georgakas, are academics and diplomats, all colleagues and friends of Professor Psomiades. They are honoring his memory through their writings because *scripta manet*. Their articles are related to subjects that preoccupied this enlightened scholar during his illustrious career. Below is a synopsis of Harry J. Psomiades' academic career.

Educational Accomplishments

Harry J. Psomiades graduated from the Boston Public Latin School in 1946. He proceeded to Boston University earning an A.B. (Magna cum Laude) in 1953. He went on to Columbia University where he earned an M.I.A in International Affairs in 1955, and a Ph.D. in Public Law and Government in 1962. Subsequently, he received a Diploma from the United States Army War College, Carlyle Barracks, Pennsylvania, 1977. Apropos of his military studies, he served at the US Army as Regular (1946–1950) and as a Reserve with the rank of Colonel (1950–1983). In 1985, he earned a Litt. D. from Hellenic College / Holy Cross Orthodox Seminary.

Founder of the Center for Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies at Queens College in 1974, serving as its Director, 1976–2002.

Professor of Political Science, Queens College and Graduate School, City University of New York, 1970–2002.

Program Director, Seminar on the Modern Greek State, Center for European Studies, The Graduate Center, City University of New York, 1976–94 and City University of New York Academy of Humanities & Sciences, 1994–2002.

Founder and Coeditor and frequent contributor of the *Journal of Modern Hellenism*, 1984–2002.

Consulting faculty, U.S. Army Command & General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, 1968–1983.

Member, Columbia University Seminar on the Problems of Peace (1971–), Co-Director, 1978–1983.

Deputy Executive Officer, Ph. D. Program in Political Science, Graduate School, City University of New York, 1975–1976.

Founder of the *Modern Greek Studies Research Series*, 1976.

Visiting Research Associate, Middle East Institute, Columbia University, 1971–1972.

Chairman, Department of Political Science, Queens College, City University of New York, 1969–1971.

Director, Carnegie Program in Diplomacy, Columbia University, 1960–1971.

Associate Professor of Political Science, Queens College and Graduate School, City University of New York, 1965–1969.

Assistant Dean (1959–1962), Associate Dean (1962–1965), Graduate School of International Affairs, Columbia University.

Lecturer in Government, Columbia University, 1959–1965.

Books: Authored

Psomiades, Harry J. *Fridtjof Nansen and the Greek Refugee Crisis: 1922–1924*. New York: Pella Publishing Company in cooperation with the Asia Minor and Pontos Hellenic Research Center, 2011.

_____. *The Eastern Question: The Last Phase—A Study in Greek-Turkish Diplomacy*. Thessaloniki: Institute for Balkan Studies, 1968. Reprinted with an introduction by Van Coufoudakis: New York: Pella Publishing Company, 2000.

_____. *The Phantom Republic of Pontos and the Megali Catastrophe*. Melbourne, Australia: Hellenic Studies Forum, 1992.

_____. *The Ecumenical Patriarchate in Captive: Problems and Prospects*. New York: Knights of St. Andrew, 1978.

_____. *Political Elites and the Process of Modernization*. Stanford, CN: Stanford University Press, 1969.

_____. *The Economic and Social Transformation of Modern Greece*. NY: Columbia University School of International Affairs, Institute on East Central Europe, 1965.

_____. *The Ecumenical Patriarchate Under the Turkish Republic: The First Ten Years*. New York: Greek Archdiocese of North and South America, 1964.

Books: Co-authored/edited

Coufoudakis, Van, Harry J. Psomiades, and Andre Gerolymatos (eds.). *Greece and the New Balkans: Challenges and Opportunities*. New York: Pella Publishing Co., 1999.

Tsemberis, Sam. J., Harry J. Psomiades, and Anna Karpathakis. *Greek American Families in Traditions and Transformations*. New York: Pella Publishing Co., 1999.

Psomiades, Harry J. and Stavros Thomadakes. *Greece, the New Europe, and the Changing International Order*. New York: Pella Publishing Co., 1993.

Orfanos, Spyros D., Harry J. Psomiades, and John Spyridakis (eds.). *Education and Greek Americans: Process and Prospects*. New York: Pella Publishing Co., 1987.

Psomiades, Harry J. *The Teaching of Modern Greek in the English-Speaking World*. Brookline, MA: Hellenic College Press, 1985.

Psomiades, Harry J., Alice Scourby, and John G. Zenelis (eds.). *The Greek Community in Transition*. New York: Pella Publishing Co., 1982.

Couloumbis, Theodore A., John Anthony Petropoulos, and Harry J. Psomiades (eds.). *Foreign Interference in Greek Politics: An Historical Perspective*. New York: Pella Publishing Co., 1976.

Sperlios, Thomas and Harry J. Psomiades. *Pictorial History of Greece*. New York: Crown Publishers, 1967.

Selected Essays

"Soviet Russia and the Orthodox Church in the Middle East," *Middle East Journal*, XI (Autumn, 1957), 291-298.

"Turkey, Progress and Problems," *Middle Eastern Affairs*, VII.3 (1957), 90-97.

"Some Remarks on Christian-Muslim Relations in the Balkans and Anatolia," *St. Vladimir's Seminary Quarterly*, New Series I.3 (1957), 36-45.

"The Ecumenical Patriarchate Under the Turkish Republic: The First Ten Years," *Balkans Studies*, I.2. (1961), 47-70. Reprinted with modifications in *The Greek Orthodox Theological Review*, VI, 16 (1961), 55-80.

"Cyprus," *Report* I.6 (1964), 19-21.

Greece and Turkey: Mutual Economic Interests, NATO Parliamentarians Conference of Nov. 1964. Entered into *Congressional Record* III, 100 (June 3, 1965).

"The Economic and Social Transformation of Modern Greece," *Journal of International Affairs*, XIX. 2 (1965), 194-205.

"The Cyprus Dispute," *Current History*, 49. No. 285 (May 1965), 169-276, 305-206.

"The Middle East," *The Book of Knowledge Annual* (New York: Grolier Publishers, 1965) and subsequent annuals through 1972.

"Cyprus," *The American Annual* (New York: Encyclopedia Americana, 1966 and 1967).

"The Cyprus Triangle," *Journal of International Affairs*, XXII. 2 (1968), 257-81.

"Soviet-American Rivalry in the Mediterranean and Beyond," *Studies for a New Central Europe Series*, 2. 4 (1969), p. 228-233.

"Middle East Prospects," *Military Review*, XLIX 7 (July 1969), 44-54.

"Political Elites and the Process of Modernization-Greece," *Journal of International Affairs*, XXIV, 1 (1970), 113-118.

"The Diplomacy of Theodoros Pangalos, 1925-26," *Balkans Studies*, XIII. 1 (1972), 1-16.

"Greek History and Politics," *Eastern Central European Studies: A Handbook for Graduate Students*, edited by S.A. Blejwas, Columbus, OH: American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies, 1974, 41-43.

"The Diplomacy of Eleftherios Venizelos, 1928-1930," in *Essays in Memory of Basil Laourdas*, Thessaloniki: E. Sfakianakis & Sons, 1975, 555-568.

"Greek-Turkish Relations since the Cyprus Invasion," in *U.S. Foreign Policy Towards Greece and Cyprus*, edited by Theodore A. Couloumbis. Washington D.C., Center of Mediterranean Studies, 1975, 146-148.

"The Geopolitics of the Mediterranean Triangle," *Greek World*

(Nov.-Dec. 1976) reprinted in the *National Herald* (September 1-13, 1977).

"The Character of the New Greek State," in *Hellenism and the First Greek War of Liberation (1821-1830)* edited by N. Diamandouros. Thessaloniki: Institute for Balkans Studies, 1967, 147-155.

"To the Shores of Tripoli: Greek Soldiers and the American-Tripolitan War of 1801-1805," *Greek World* (March-April 1977), 22-23.

"The United States and the Mediterranean Triangle-Greece, Turkey, and Cyprus: A New Phase," in *Cyprus Revisited*, edited by Michael Attalides (Nicosia, Cyprus: Zavalis Press, 1977), 199-211.

"The Common Traditions of Greek and Turkish Diplomats," *Greek World* (Special issues, 1978), 14-15.

"American Images of Greece and Turkey Since 1945," in *Greek-American Relations: A Critical Review* edited by T. A. Couloumbis and J. D. Iatrides (NY: Pella Publishing Co., 1980), 91-105, 247.

"The Meaning of the PASOK Victory," *The National Herald* (Oct. 11, 1981), 9.

"Greece: From the Colonel's Rule to Democracy," in *From Dictatorship to Democracy: Coping with the legacies of Authoritarianism and Totalitarianism*, edited by John Herz (Westport, CN: Greenwood Press, 1982), 251-273.

"Inside Looking Around: Studies of American Culture," *American Ethnologist*, V.11, No. 2, 371-377.

"The Phantom Republic of Pontos and the Megali Catastrophe," *Occasional Paper*, No. 1 (Melbourne, Australia: Hellenic Studies Forum, 1992).

"The Skopje Regime and Greece, *Eseis*, No. 116 (May 1-14, 1993), 70-72.

"Greece and the Diaspora: Problems and Prospects," *Greeks in English Speaking Countries* (Melbourne, Australia: Hellenic Studies Forum, 1993) 139-152.

"Ethnic Politics in America: Greek-Americans," *Mediterranean Quarterly*, Vol. 5, N. 2 (Winter, 1994), 56-64.

"The Post-Communist Balkans: A Regional System in Transition," *Makedonia*, Vol. 31 (Winter, 1995) 15-21.

Academic and Professional Honors

Phi Beta Kappa (1953).

Ford Foundation Fellow (1954-58).

Honorary Academician: Society of Macedonian Studies, Thessaloniki, Greece (1970-72).

American Philosophical Society Research Award (1980).

Legion of Merit, U.S. Department of Defense (1983).

Senior Fulbright Research Fellow in Athens (1986-87).

CUNY Research Foundation Award-France (1987).

CUNY Research Foundation Award-Greece (1993).

Senior Research Fellow, Speros B. Vyronis Center for the Study of Hellenism (Fall, 1993/Fall, 1994).

Commander, Order of Honor, the Greek Republic (1996).