

ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΕΘΝΙΚΗΣ ΠΑΙΔΕΙΑΣ ΚΑΙ ΘΡΗΣΚΕΥΜΑΤΩΝ
MINISTRY OF NATIONAL EDUCATION AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS

ΚΕΝΤΡΟ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗΣ ΓΛΩΣΣΑΣ
CENTRE FOR THE GREEK LANGUAGE

**Η ΛΕΞΙΚΟΓΡΑΦΙΑ ΤΗΣ ΑΡΧΑΙΑΣ,
ΜΕΣΑΙΩΝΙΚΗΣ ΚΑΙ ΝΕΑΣ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗΣ ΓΡΑΜΜΑΤΕΙΑΣ**

**THE LEXICOGRAPHY OF ANCIENT,
MEDIEVAL AND MODERN GREEK LITERATURE**

ΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΟΝΙΚΗ ΕΠΙΜΕΛΕΙΑ:
I.N. KAZAZIS

EDITOR:
J.N. KAZAZIS

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Η ΛΕΞΙΚΟΓΡΑΦΙΑ ΤΗΣ ΑΡΧΑΙΑΣ, ΜΕΣΑΙΩΝΙΚΗΣ
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PRESENT STATE AND PROSPECTS OF
CURRENT MAJOR PROJECTS

Πρακτικά Διεθνούς Ημερίδας
Θεσσαλονίκη, 9 Νοεμβρίου 1997

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EDITOR: J.N. KAZAZIS

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PROLOGUE

The present volume features papers presented at the first International Conference organized by the Centre for the Greek Language on November 9, 1997 in Thessaloniki, Greece, “The Lexicography of Ancient, Medieval and Modern Greek Literature: Present State and Prospects of Current Major Projects”.

Participants included Greek scholars as well as distinguished Hellenists from abroad. Papers dealing with ancient Greek lexica were presented by F.R. Adrados and E. Gangutia (on the *Greek-Spanish Lexicon*), M. Pantelia (on the *TLG*, of which she is Director), and Anne Thompson (on the *Intermediate Greek-English Lexicon* being planned by Oxford). Papers on Byzantine and post-Byzantine lexica were presented by E. Trapp (*Lexikon zur Byzantinischen Gräzität*) and E. Kriaras (*Dictionary of Medieval Vulgar Greek Literature*). Those presenting papers related to Modern Greek lexica included J.N. Kazazis (on Prof. D.J. Georgacas’ Modern Greek-English Dictionary), Ch. Charalambakis (on the *Historical Dictionary* of the Academy of Athens), G. Karayannis (on a planned multilingual/multimedia lexicon for children), A. Tzivanopoulou (on the *Dictionary of the Common Modern Greek Language* by the Institute of Modern Greek Studies), and T. Markaki (on the *Greek-Dutch Lexicon*). G. Crane presented the open database for Ancient Greek he has produced, while W. Martin discussed the lexicographical programme he has created for Dutch bilingual lexica.

I will borrow the words of colleagues at this point, to whom I express my gratitude for their participation and contributions to discussion. M. Pantelia: “All the Conference participants noted the *high priority* for coordination among various research programmes on Greek lexicography. A second common point for all was that, while small and specialized lexica can still be created using traditional methods, lexica like *Liddell-Scott-Jones* can no longer be produced without the assistance of new technologies”. She continued by noting the need for “the creation of a common electronic database, which will contain all the Greek texts as well as articles, electronic lexica and other materials, which could be used for the creation of new lexica and other research tools... The electronic recording of the *Thesaurus Linguae Graecae* (*TLG*) in California has essentially completed its work with ancient and Byzantine texts (7th-15th c) and what remains are the post-Byzantine texts. *Perseus*’ grammatical and lexicographical programmes could be enriched for use with Modern Greek literature as well. Coordination of efforts will discourage the unproductive simultaneous efforts by many scholars working on similar aids”. I recall as well the comment by E. Trapp, who in the course of the

discussion that followed applauded the expansion of the *TLG* through inclusion of Byzantine texts. He spoke of the urgent need for “cooperation among Byzantine scholars in this effort, since, in contrast with ancient texts, those from the Byzantine period are quite scattered, frequently poorly edited, and difficult to obtain in libraries”. He also stressed the services that can be offered by lexica and databases to primary and secondary school students.

At the end of the Conference, the President of the Centre for the Greek Language, D.N. Maronitis, expressed the gratitude of the Centre towards Emmanuel Kriaras for his concurrence to the work of the Centre and proclaimed him “Honorary Member of the Centre for the Greek Language”.

In the intervening period since the Conference itself, events have continued to run their course. Among promises kept are included the editing and publication of the sixth volume of the *Greek-Spanish Lexicon* (2002), the successful lexicographical conference at Oxford in 2002 organized by A. Thompson for the New *Intermediate Greek-English Lexicon*, the publication of the *Dictionary of the Common Modern Greek Language* by the M. Triandafyllidis Institute (1998), and more fascicles of Trapp’s *Lexikon*. As regards the Centre for the Greek Language, in 2001 the first volume (A-K) of E. Kriaras’ *Concise Dictionary of Medieval Vulgar Greek Literature 1100-1669* was released, and the second (Λ-Π) is anticipated to appear in Summer 2003. The Centre (which now hosts four lexica, all of which have been transformed into databases) also created an electronic *Komvos* for the Greek Language (1999-2001), which is experimenting with research and educational applications in Greek secondary education. As these lines are being written, an expansion of the *Komvos* into a more general, internationally-g geared electronic *Greek Language Portal* is being carried out; within this new project, both the lexica and their related applications will play a significant role.

Warm thanks go to the Dean of the Philosophical School of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki who made possible the use of its premises. Special thanks are also due to the staff of the CGL who organized the event and prepared the publication of its proceedings, to the translators, and above all to the participants who through their expertise and authority honored this international meeting.

Translation DEBORAH BROWN-KAZAZIS

ADDRESSES

D.N. MARONITIS

President of the Centre for the Greek Language

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As President of the Centre for the Greek Language, I welcome you to the Conference on the Lexicography of Ancient, Medieval and Modern Greek Literature. The Conference has been organized, with diligence and enthusiasm, by the Director of the Lexicography Division of the Centre, our colleague John Kazazis and his associates Roula Tsokalidou, Katerina Plastara and Aspa Hatzidaki. Heartfelt thanks are due to all the speakers and delegates for their willingness to participate in this lexicographical symposium and especially to those who have travelled here from abroad, we hope without too much inconvenience in connection with their flights.

The Conference, as you will see from the programme, is divided into three sessions, each including three presentations and the ensuing discussion – a symmetrical disposition reflecting an economy of imagination as well. Moreover, the opening ceremony includes the introductory, welcoming address by Professor Adrados, whose tireless work in the field of lexicography is already widely known and respected. I assume there is no need for me to defend the necessity, on scholarly grounds, of our Conference. Unless I am mistaken, it is the first to be held on this subject in our city, and is taking place within the year for which Thessaloniki has been proclaimed Cultural Capital of Europe. We in Greece may have been a little slow to advance in this vital scholarly and epistemological field, but we have taken care not to embark on the lexicographical adventure altogether unprepared – as you can see from the research programmes and publication plans of the Division of Lexicography of the Centre for the Greek Language – which have been inserted for your information in the Conference programme.

The discipline of lexicography was already established in late Greek antiquity and in Byzantine times. Subsequently, from the Renaissance onwards, it was cultivated assiduously and evolved into one of the buttresses of philological knowledge. Nevertheless, I must stress that it is now, in the last days of the twentieth century, that the discipline is entering upon its most important period – supported by the new media and methods of information science and electronic technology, which are opening boundless horizons, to complement and renew the endeavours of all those engaged in lexicography.

I don't intend to try your patience by speaking at greater length. I should just like to conclude my address with one more observation, a useful one I hope. To some people a dictionary, be it printed or electronic, is a work of tedious pedantry, but to others, fortunately, to true lovers of language, the entries and explanations in a dictionary are like a succession of poems, some succinct, others more discursive. It is to these lovers of language that our Conference addresses itself, and I am confident that they will not be disappointed in their expectations. I thank you once again, and wish you every success in your deliberations.

GERASIMOS ARSENIS

Minister of Education

As Minister of Education, I wish to extend a welcome to the International Conference on Lexicography organized by the Centre for the Greek Language (CGL) to be held in Thessaloniki on November 9th. I also wish to congratulate the President and Board of the Centre. For this is another successful initiative on the part of the Centre, which has, in its relatively short life, both successfully organized a number of other important conferences and conventions and published important works of scholarship of great use to our students and educators.

Although they are among the most basic tools in the education of our people and for the general use of all levels of the population, dictionaries of our language have not prospered here in Greece. And most serious of all: either for want of realistic planning and collective endeavour, or because the necessary infrastructure and adequate funds were not available at the opportune moment, we have still not been able to acquire that fundamental work of national self-knowledge – a national dictionary of modern Greek.

I learn with great pleasure that thanks to the efforts of the CGL the necessary conditions for such a project have now been established. The magnificent Archive assembled by D. Georgacas is exactly the infrastructure that the dictionary requires. The first volume, compiled by the distinguished Professor Georgacas himself, meets the very highest standards of quality. The CGL has undertaken to direct collaborative efforts to compile the rest of the work, and the project is enjoying regular financial support from the Ministry of Education. I look forward eagerly to leafing through the first volume of the dictionary, as well as the *Concise Dictionary of Medieval Greek Literature*, which the Centre is also preparing.

We confidently expect that the gathering of scholars taking place today in Thessaloniki will lead to scientific and technical developments and the cementing of the necessary cooperative links to provide Greek education and society, at long last, with a modern series of dictionaries of the Ancient, Medieval and Modern Greek language.

I extend a warm welcome to the delegates to the Conference on Lexicography and wish them every success in their deliberations.

IOANNIS ANTHOPOULOS

Deputy Minister of Education

Dear Mr. President,

As Deputy Minister of Education, I have had the opportunity to observe at first hand over the last few years the work of the Centre for the Greek Language, which has for three years now been playing an active part in the educational life of the country.

It is with enormous satisfaction that we see the Centre thriving and collaborating fruitfully with the whole range of institutions under the aegis of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, as well as other Ministries with an interest in its field of activity. Arranged into four internal divisions and supplied with the latest electronic infrastructure, libraries and unique linguistic and other archives, the Centre is superbly equipped for its work. Within its modern premises, so generously provided by the Municipality of Kalamaria, in Thessaloniki, this year's Cultural Capital of Europe, remarkably important work is being done. Combining a proper academic respect for the scientific standards with the necessarily sparing use of public resources, operating with complete openness and taking timely initiatives to bring together Greek and foreign specialists, philologists and linguists, the Centre is methodically and effectively promoting interest in and awareness of the Greek language both here and abroad.

The Centre has represented the Ministry of Education on numerous occasions at international language exhibitions, through its authoritative and tastefully produced publications on the Greek language, and through the round table discussions it regularly organizes in European cities. It has also participated in both national and international conferences with both academic and practical objectives. It has designed and implemented research programmes of fundamental importance, some on the instructions of the Ministry –such as the Certification of Attainment in Greek, shortly to be made available by ministerial decision– and others on the initiative of the Board of the Centre, consisting of teachers from universities in Greece and Cyprus as well as representatives from the three ministries which share an interest in the Centre's work. At present, the Centre is engaged in twenty research projects, most of which are due to be completed by the time the present Board reaches the end of its term of office.

I hope you will permit me to single out for special praise those programmes of the Lexicography Division closely connected with the theme of today's Conference, and publicly to commend the President, Professor D. Maronitis, the members of the Board who decided upon two projects of fundamental importance, and the staff of Professor John Kazazis, who are implementing them. I refer of course to the *Concise Dictionary of Medieval Vulgar Greek Literature* and the preparation of the Greek-English Dictionary of Professor Georgacas. These two works are expected to make an inestimable contribution to education in Greece and to the work of the academic community for many decades to come and not only at the present juncture, where their value and usefulness in the programme of Educational Reform on which we have embarked is self-evident. In these circumstances we regard the organization of today's Conference as a particularly timely inspiration. It should not only cast light on contemporary problems in this area of applied linguistics, but also lead to collaboration in the production of the necessary dictionaries of Ancient, Medieval and Modern Greek. The Ministry will encourage such initiatives with all the means at its disposal.

For a variety of reasons it was to be expected that the critical period we are living through would see an increase in the significance of language; hence the importance of the role played by the Centre for the Greek Language. For its object of study, our country's language, finally united in one form after the vicissitudes and divisions of many centuries, is undergoing rapid transformation. In the wake of its extension, in the demotic form, to cover the whole spectrum of contemporary needs, it has since 1976 been in exclusive use in the form of standard modern Greek. And having met this challenge successfully, it is now on the way to attaining full standardization. At the same time it is necessary that our language secure a firm place in the European context. This double objective will not be easy to fulfill, but we have every confidence, in view of the amount it has achieved already in its short history, that the Centre for the Greek Language will make a decisive contribution in the battles to be fought on behalf of our language. With this conviction, and confident that the labours of the Conference will be crowned with unqualified success, I extend a warm welcome to the delegates, both foreigners and Greeks, who honour us with their presence here, wish them all a pleasant stay, and hope that their deliberations may prove fruitful.

EVANGELOS VENIZELOS

Minister of Culture

The Greek language bears within itself the whole course of Greek civilization and thus constitutes the most incontrovertible record of the continuity of that civilization. We find manifested in the language the multiplicity of form and the vigour of the Greek spirit, its wealth and its pervasive force. For Greek civilization could never have enjoyed the degree of influence it has had in the world without the power and precision of its language.

The evaluation of our language –and consequently our evaluation of ourselves as a people– presupposes methodical and penetrating scientific investigation and recording of the linguistic data of each period of our history.

Only by means of the language can we ourselves enter upon the great enterprise of Greek history and abolish the historical distance which separates us from this inexhaustible treasure house of knowledge and memory.

Every programme of scientific research and recording is an event which contributes to our own self-knowledge as a nation and, at the same time, creates more propitious circumstances for the preservation of our linguistic heritage.

Unstinting praise is due to the Centre for the Greek Language and all those who are working to establish a reliable and comprehensive Data Base that will facilitate scientific enquiry and attempt to document this priceless linguistic material.

Their labours will make it possible to fill the gaps in our current dictionaries and to bequeath to our descendants the full linguistic universe we ourselves inherited.

PHILIPPOS PETSALNIKOS

Minister of Macedonia and Thrace

Dear Mr. President,

Firstly I should like to offer you my warm congratulations on the commendable work being done by the Centre for the Greek Language in all its fields of interest. The Conference on the Lexicography of Ancient, Medieval and Modern Greek Literature: Present state and prospects of current major projects is one more indication that the Centre for the Greek Language is quietly and efficiently fulfilling the objectives and the hopes of the legislators who established it.

Seeing that modern Greek has remained the only language of an EU state without its own national dictionary, I am particularly gladdened by the news that the Centre for the Greek Language is making use of the Georgacas Archive as the basis of such a dictionary, and that it is already proceeding towards the publication of the first volume of the Georgacas' Greek-English dictionary. It is also heartening to learn that the Centre for the Greek Language is contributing to modern Greek studies by its compilation of the concise edition of Kriaras' *Dictionary of Medieval Vulgar Greek Literature*. It is encouraging to see the Centre for the Greek Language, with its unique archival infrastructure, paving the way by means of this conference to cooperation with organizations both here and abroad which are engaged in promoting the dissemination of the Greek Language and thus assisting the Ministry for Macedonia and Thrace in its work.

I regret that prior engagements prevent me from attending the inauguration of your proceedings. I am nevertheless delighted to extend my most cordial greetings to the delegates, the members of the Board of the Centre for the Greek Language, and to all present, and would like to wish the Conference every success.

STAVROS LAMBRINIDIS

General Secretary of the Association of Greeks Abroad

Dear Mr. Maronitis,

On the occasion of this conference, I should like to take the opportunity to congratulate the Centre for the Greek Language on its initiative in developing for publication the Georgacas' Archive and making the necessary scholarly preparations for the printing of the first volume of the Georgacas' Greek-English Dictionary. At the same time, the *Concise Dictionary of Medieval Vulgar Greek Literature* will fill an important gap in the lexicography of our language.

Both these important initiatives and the organization of this Conference demonstrate that the Centre for the Greek Language is capable of undertaking projects of major significance.

I extend my greetings both to the delegates and to you and wish every success to the Conference, which is laying the foundations for international collaboration in the field of lexicography.

Translation CHRIS MARKHAM

ΕΚΔΟΣΗ

ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΕΘΝΙΚΗΣ ΠΑΙΔΕΙΑΣ ΚΑΙ ΘΡΗΣΚΕΥΜΑΤΩΝ
ΚΕΝΤΡΟ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗΣ ΓΛΩΣΣΑΣ

ΕΠΙΜΕΛΕΙΑ ΕΚΔΟΣΗΣ

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