By the end of 1081, the Varangians were extremely prominent among the Imperial guards on duty in Byzantium. Some 30 years earlier, a Varangian force had captured Stira and Lecce. After Constantine IX died in 1053, Theodora, the only survivor of the legitimate Imperial family, reigned alone, at least in name, for about 18 months. "She appears to have esteemed her Varangians greatly, and when she died the guards, including the Varangians, took oaths of fealty to her successors" (p. 107).

Chapter Six traces the Varangians during the period between 1081 and 1204. Alexius I received the Varangian troops that had served his predecessors so well into his service, and they now showed him the same unwavering loyalty which they had previously accorded to others. The Crusades increased the number of Varangians in the Imperial service: "It is very likely that various Norsemen who took the cross decided to settle in the Empire, especially as it offered a high rate of pay for its forces, and, moreover, we have some evidence of Norse chiefs who took part in the Crusades and allowed some of the contingents they brought to enter the Emperor's service; there is also evidence that some Icelanders will have formed part of the original Scandinavian contingent" (p. 130).

Chapter Seven covers the period from 1204 to 1453, with the Varangian presence gradually reduced to "the ghost of the regiment".

The concluding chapters deal with the problem of accurate historical documentation. The author discusses in detail his various sources and his method of making inferences from them. Of special interest is the fact that, until the time of the Commenian Emperors, the greater number of the Varangians were Swedes. A number of runic stones have been found in Sweden, bearing the names of various men who died in Byzantium and in whose memory these stones were erected. Old Swedish legal codes providing for the inheritance of men residing in Greece constitute evidence of the frequent journeys of Swedes to the Byzantine Empire.

The Varangians of Byzantium is an extremely well-documented work which also provides the sense of drama seldom associated with historical documentation. The author frequently shows the reader the methods he uses to reach his conclusions, citing first one line of evidence and then another, followed by the final decision. Nevertheless, the aura of romance that has clung to the Varangians for many centuries remains for the reader.

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James Kleon Demetrios

Semavi Eyice, Bizans devrinde Boğazici, Turkiyede Ortaçağ Sanate Araştırmaları, III [The Bosphorus during the Byzantine Period. Institute of Medieval Art in Turkey, III], Istanbul 1976, pp. XI + 184 with 69 plates.

This is a book, the third in the series "Research in Medieval Art in Turkey" (Turkiyede Ortaçağ Sanatı Araştırmaları, III), published by the School of Letters at the University of Istanbul.

As the author mentions in his Prologue (pp. VII-XI), the incentive for writing this book was given to him by the Symposium "The Present, Past and Future of Bosphores", at which he participated. The author qualifies his book as a "simple effort" aiming to give to the reader an idea of the Bosphorus during the Byzantine period. He describes the material compiled up to the present that is: photographs, plans and drawings of architectural ruins,
various finds either still in situ or at the Archaeological Museum of Istanbul, as well as his own research carried in this region.

In the Introduction (pp. 1-4), it is stated that in comparing the research work on the Bosphorus, concerning the ancient period with the Byzantine one, it becomes evident that there is much to be desired for the latter. Accordingly the author proceeds to the analysis of sources, reference books (pp. 5-12), and gives an historical background (pp. 14-15), on the Straits of Bosphorus.

Examining the European shore from Galata to the Black Sea (pp. 15-48), the author enumerates monasteries, churches, summer palaces etc., as well as architectural remains and tries to identify the sites mentioned in the Byzantine texts with modern place-names. He discusses also the opinions of various authors and brings forth his own conclusions.

In the same way he examines the Asiatic shore starting from Skoutari up to the Black Sea. In (pp. 72-93) he discusses at length the Byzantine fort "Ιερόν" (Yoros Kalesi) situated in the military zone of Bosphorus, correcting mistakes of previous authors and pointing out certain obscure parts in the history of this fort. Consequently, in his epilogue (pp. 103-112), the author evaluates the research work up to the present and emphasizes the lack of information for a thorough study on the subject. Also he brings to the attention of the reader the points which should be investigated better for a future broader study.

This is in short the content of Professor Eyice's book. Inspite of a modest "simple effort", as he mentions in his prologue, this book is an important contribution. The rich bibliography, the publication of photographic and drawing material, his evaluations and discussions on opinions of previous authors, make this book an indispensable study for those interested on the subject. There is no doubt that a broader voluminous work, as the author visualizes it, is most desirable and necessary, but the book just as it is now, is the most up to date study we have for the crucial region of the Straits.

Aristidis Pasdabos


This large volume by Professor K. Th. Dimaras, is part of the series, Modern Greek Studies, published by the Hermes House, under the direction of Mr Ph. Iliou. It is the second publication in this series, having been preceded in 1976 by a selection of characteristic studies by Manouil Gedeon under the title of, "The dawning of our intellectual movement, 1700-1730. Our Nation's intellectual movement during the XVIIIth and XIXth centuries". The modern Greek Enlightenment is one of Professor Dimaras' favourite subjects, and he has contributed greatly to the solving of problems arising from his study of modern Greek intellectual history and the history of ideas in Europe.

This particular volume is a collection of published and hitherto unpublished studies of his; but we have here a unique collection of studies on this subject which provides the researcher (and the ordinary reader too) with a continuous image of its development, uninterrupted by the necessity of searching through periodicals or back-numbers of newspapers for Professor Dimaras' studies. Let us begin by casting an eye over the author's brief introduction, in which he seeks to approach the characters of the people and the events he examines. First, Professor Dimaras warns us of the danger inherent in examining a biographical