

books written by the late Penelope S. Delta. These books refer to the struggles of the Greek nation against enemies since the times of the Byzantine Empire and describe the people's living conditions. The writing of these books constitutes however only one side of the activities and of the interests of the author. She has left substantial archives with instructions for the dates after which she permitted their publication. P. A. Zannas, one of the authors' grandsons, has published now part of the Archives, especially that concerning the great Greek statesman Eleftherios K. Venizelos.

The latter had been a great friend of the author's family; therefore she had the opportunity to know him very well. In the course of the division of the Greeks in two political parties, the author was an important member of the group supporting Venizelos whom she considered as the best Greek statesman of the XXth century. There is no doubt that Greece owes to the latter the liberation of Macedonia, Southern Epirus, the Aegean islands and Crete following the Balkan wars and the liberation of Western Thrace following World War I. If the outcome of the November 1920 Greek elections had been in favour of Venizelos probably Greece would have been able to avoid the Asia Minor disaster, also the compulsory departure of approximately 1.500.000 Greeks established for about three thousand years in the Western part of Asia Minor, in Constantinople and on the Asiatic Black Sea coast. It is quite natural that the author was very much in favour of Venizelos. She tried in her published notes to prove that Greece would have been able to secure many advantages if Venizelos had won the majority at the 1920 Greek elections. Of course this was not absolutely sure. She further tries to show that Venizelos was not responsible for the death of the five politicians and of the commander in chief who were shot as responsible for the Greek Asia Minor disaster of 1922. On the other hand the author is certain that the political adversaries of Venizelos participated in the unsuccessful attempt to kill him in 1933. When judging this book we have to understand that it is not the work of an historian but the notes and the diary of a very intelligent and very cultivated person who has been able to follow closely the political developments with passion. The author was certain that her judgement and the judgement of those sharing her political beliefs were, without doubt, accurate and could not be contradicted in good faith. We have to consider that King Constantine's policy 1915-7 and 1920-2 has been catastrophic for Greece and for Hellenism as it was leading to a disaster. On the other hand we know that Venizelos also committed mistakes of which the most important were 1) he asked the crown prince Constantine to assume the leadership of the Greek army in 1912, 2) he did not try well enough to persuade King Constantine and the latter's partisans that their policy was wrong, 3) he held elections in 1920 before the achievement of his policy's aims.

Penelope S. Delta committed suicide on the day the Germans entered Athens in 1941. This shows how patriotic she was and how little she was willing to live under enemy occupation, independently of the certitude that the German occupation would be only a short episode in the Greek history of about 3.000 years.

*Institute for Balkan Studies*

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Basil Laourdas, *Μακεδονικά Ἀνάλεκτα*, Institute for Balkan Studies, Thessaloniki 1980, pp. 118, no 171.

This volume contains seven long and short papers written by the late Basil Laourdas, former director of the Institute, concerning personalities and events in Macedonia at the

beginning of this century, a period of political and internal upheavals in the Ottoman Empire. Some of them published years ago in various journals are now inaccessible.

The first deals with the activity in 1903-1908, of the Greek consulate in Thessaloniki (pp. 13-30). It is well known how much this consulate, particularly under the leadership of Lambros Coromilas, contributed to the organisation, the success, the achievements of the Greeks fighting in Macedonia against the Bulgarians under the Turkish rule. Laourdas presents facts and analyzes them with objectivity. The second article (pp. 33-45) concerns the Macedonian struggle from the Greek side. The author relates the causes of the fighting in Macedonia, the substantial contribution first of young and energetic churchmen who assumed the leadership of the Church in the most exposed areas; second, of the young Greek officers who organized and led the local people to fight for their survival, to defend their villages, their churches and their schools.

In the third (pp. 49-52) the author stresses the activity and the achievements of one of the most prominent of these young churchmen, Germanos Karavangelis, bishop of Castoria.

In the fourth (pp. 55-66), the author relates the destiny of the Nevrokopi bishopric in 1900-1907. He analyzes the difficulties the bishops had to face and their efforts to protect the villagers and the churches from disruption during the struggle.

The three last essays, respectively pp. 69-94, 97-110, 113-8 deal with three personalities whose influence and contribution were very important in Macedonia. They all have died a long time ago, namely Penelopi Delta in 1941, Ion Dragoumis in 1920, and Petros Papageorgiou in 1914.

Ion Dragoumis went into politics after a brilliant diplomatic career. Had he not been killed in August 1920, probably the political developments in Greece and between the latter and the foreign powers would have been different and maybe less catastrophic for Greece.

Penelopi Delta was not a historian but she wrote a number of historical novels, accurately based on historical facts, for the use of children. These books have survived up to now as a favorite reading for many generations. Her last book, based on *mémoires* of fighters, concerns the struggle in Macedonia especially in the lake Valtos, close to Pella.

Petros Papageorgiou was a great personality in the Greek classical letters. Laourdas stresses the point that the importance of his books and his scholarly contributions has not faded up to now.

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C. P. Panayiotakos, *Στην πρώτη γραμμή άμόνης...*, Athens 1979, pp. 435.

Ambassador C. P. Panayiotakos has served in the Greek diplomatic service from 1947 until 1978. The present book refers only to his activities as ambassador during 1966-1978. The book deals mainly with the author's missions: to India and certain other South East Asiatic countries; to the Council of Europe; to Cyprus; to the United Nations and to Washington. There is no doubt that the three last posts were the most important as they concerned the development of the problem of Cyprus and the relations of Greece with both Turkey and the United States. The author gives the reader the opportunity to be informed on events and news which are normally not available for publication in newspapers or when published are not retained by the non expert reader. The book gives substantial proof of the intention