

the original Greek is obscure or elevated. Thus, for example, the ambiguous "You who assist... the embrace's struggle" in the 1961 Keeley-Sherrard version has been revised to the totally explicit "You who assist... in the struggle when bodies embrace"; thus the line which Kimon Friar, faithful to the Greek, renders "Is this perhaps chimerical?" becomes the more straightforwardly idiomatic "Can this be an illusion?". In place of Friar's Miltonic

And as from out the inner sanctuary
of heaven upon the night a bright star glides,
or in a mild wind falls an apple blossom,
so from his breast did the calm spirit fly

Keeley and Sherrard, avoiding the inversions and other paraphernalia of "poetic diction", offer

And as a star at night
glides from the sky's inmost sanctuary
or as an apple blossom falls in the gentle breeze,
so his spirit took wing from his breast.

Yet their translation is by no means prosaic. They give metric equivalents (though never rhyme) for Sikelianos's strict stanzaic forms, and they are never so doctrinaire about simple diction that they refuse a chance to echo Sikelianos's vowel music even if fancy language is required, as when their

aerial cataracts
of the flowering oleander
on the escarpments

responds valiantly to the a-sounds in Sikeliano's magnificent

άνάεροι καταρράχτες
τῆς μπουμπουκισμένης ροδοδάφνης
στὰ γκρεμνά.

Friar is truer, in a way, to Sikelianos's own highly "poetic" idiom; but Keeley and Sherrard speak more easily to our modern linguistic sensibility, without cooling the poet's prophetic ardor in the least.

Consequently, the new *Selected Poems* offer an ideal vehicle to enable readers with little or no Greek to discover a figure who is undoubtedly one of the major Greek poets of this century. The book is also ideally suited for use in the classroom for intermediate or advanced students of Greek language and culture, or for students of comparative literature. For specialists in modern Greek, however, it will be mildly frustrating because of the failure to date and place each of the poems—a defect that could be easily remedied in a subsequent edition.

Dartmouth College

PETER BIEN

Ἐργεῖον τῆς Π.Σ. Δέλτα.— Α', Π.Σ. Δέλτα, Ἐλευθέριος Κ. Βενιζέλος. Ἡμερολόγιον-Ἀναμνήσεις - Μαρτυρίαι - Ἀλληλογραφία.—Edited by P. A. Zannas, Athens 1978, pp. 391.

All Greek children born in the XXth century have had the opportunity to read the

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

D. J. DELIVANIS

Basil Laourdas, *Μακεδονικά 'Ανάλεκτα*, 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