

Κ. Βιθυνος-Μάνου, *Γεώργιος Δροσίνης - ο ποιητής και η μνήμη*, σελ. 297, Σύλλογος Διαδόσεως Ὠφελίμων Βιβλίων, Ἀθήναι 1989 [K. Vithynos-Manos, *George Drosinis—unpublished manuscripts, poetry and letters*, pp. 297, Athens 1989].

George Drosinis has been one of the leading modern Greek poets. A great number of his books and poems have been published but some remained unpublished. Mrs Katy Vithynos-Manos whose family were great friends with the Drosinis family decided to publish whatever impressed her from her childhood about the great poet, unpublished poetry and letters of his and poetry already published. The result has been this book. It contains the foreword of C. Th. Dimaras, pp. 7-15, various details concerning the life and the activity of the poet, pp. 21-56, unpublished poetry, pp. 59-102, unpublished letters, pp. 109-198, poetry already published, pp. 201-84 and the table of contents, p. 282.

The book has been published by the Association for the circulation of useful books. The latter issued (1900-1989) some 270 books which have had a great success and have exercised a great influence on their readers. The author was influenced from her childhood by the personality of George Drosinis and was able to draw the readers' attention on his qualities and on his achievements. Thanks to her performance George Drosinis' books secured a more general recognition, are considered as very successful and as exercising a great influence.

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Elisabeth Malamut, *Les Iles de l'Empire Byzantin; VIIIe-XIIe siècles*; volumes I-II, (Paris) 1988, pp. 1-374, 375-712; Préface d'Hélène Ahrweiler (Publications de la Sorbonne, Université de Paris I - Panthéon - Sorbonne, Série Byzantina Sorbonensia - 8, Centre de recherches d'histoire et de civilisation byzantines); ISBN: 2-85944 - 164 - 6.

Il s'agit d'un doctorat ès lettres, soutenu en 1984, par Madame Elisabeth Malamut, actuellement professeur agrégé, directeur de recherches au CNRS et ancienne élève de Madame Hélène Ahrweiler.

L'ouvrage est consacré à l'histoire des îles de la Méditerranée orientale à l'époque médiévale, pendant la période la plus riche en événements dont l'issue a marqué l'histoire non seulement de Byzance mais de la Méditerranée en général: c'est la période des VIIIe - XIIe siècles qui a vu l'apparition des flottes arabes et les conquêtes islamiques de pays chrétiens, qui a marqué la rivalité entre les deux parties de la chrétienté (Orient Orthodoxe et Occident Catholique - Romain) pour aboutir à la guerre fratricide illustrée par la Quatrième Croisade.

Madame Malamut étudie de façon approfondie le cadre géographique et politique (pp. 25-124); la population insulaire (pp. 125-179); les monuments, l'habitat et les peuplements des îles de l'Empire au VIIIe s. XIIe. (pp. 181-294); l'administration insulaire (civile et ecclésiastique) (pp. 295-371); l'économie insulaire du VIIe - VIIIe s. à la fin du XIIe s. (pp. 383-469), la société insulaire (pp. 471-533) et les relations des îles avec le reste de la Méditerranée Orientale (pp. 535-612).

L'auteur, après avoir présenté la multiplicité, l'éparpillement et l'originalité des îles

byzantines, a dégagé surtout trois thèmes a) celui de la géographie spécifique de la région; b) celui de l'isolement et, à la fois, de l'ouverture des îles sur le monde extérieur et c) celui d'une histoire proprement byzantine.

Une étude consciencieuse qui témoigne d'une minutie exemplaire.

CONSTANTIN PAPOULIDIS

Nikolaj Todorov and Asparuh Velkov, *Situation démographique de la Péninsule balkanique (fin du XVe s. - début du XVIe s.)*, Editions de l'Académie Bulgare des Sciences, Sofia 1988, 312 pp. + 1 map.

As it is stated in the introduction, the authors have attempted to solve certain demographic problems of the Balkan Peninsula according to a *cizye* register recorded at the end of the 15th century. This *cizye* register, which is preserved at the Cyril and Methodius National Library of Sofia, no doubt forms the basis of the authors' work. Secondly, they depend on the published material by the Turkish and non-Turkish scholars who have used the documents from the Ottoman archives in their works.

The full text of the Ottoman register of the Christian population who paid the poll tax at the end of the 15th century (1490-1491) is transcribed into standard Arabic letters and translated into French. It is stated in the introduction that the philological elaboration is the work of A. Velkov.

The authors have tried their best in order to avoid mistakes on the territorial location. They have worked out the density of the population in the Balkan provinces of the Ottomans in accordance with the *sancaks* and based their data on the households (*hane*) recorded in the register.

The authors argue that, in this study, they have arrived at very "interesting and extremely indicative conclusions in connection with the ratio between Moslems and non-Moslems in different regions, as well as on the ensuing changes in this respect". They further argue that "Observations of the data collected show that these changes were due not only to spontaneous colonization or one that carried out, but were mainly the result of mass or individual Islamization of the local Balkan population".

The authors further argue that the mass or individual Islamization was done forcibly and that even the highest possible figures (perhaps recorded in the Ottoman registers) on the numbers of the Turkish settlers in the 15th-16th century can hardly explain the Muslim multitude in the Balkan provinces in the 19th century.

The authors have directed their attention on the individual Islamization which according to them resulted in the disappearance of the national consciousness. They have also argued that what is called 'voluntary' Islamization was the result of oppression and discrimination.

It is very mysterious how the authors have arrived at the conclusions cited above, particularly when we have to bear in mind that the authors have only one source, namely a 15th century *cizye* register which can hardly be a source on the Muslim population and bear witness to the Islamization of the Balkan provinces which started at a later date and came about gradually, going through a process lasting for centuries.