

Pavlos Hidirolou, *Συμβολή στην ελληνική τουρκολογία (Contribution to the Greek Turcology)*, vol. IV, Vanya Publications, Thessaloniki 2000.

Volume IV in this series by Pavlos Hidirolou, Professor of Turkish Studies, is a reprint of *Οθωμανικά έγγραφα της εν Κύπρω Μονής Κύκκου* (Ottoman documents in Kykkos Monastery, Cyprus: Nicosia 1973), which was compiled as part of the efforts by the Cypriot Centre for Scholarly Research to establish Oriental Studies in Greece and Cyprus.

The present volume comprises a collection of thirty-four firmans (sultanic decrees), which were given to Kykkos Monastery from 1773 onwards. They concern financial and administrative matters, including the monastery's rights and privileges, donations of property, settlements regarding property abandoned after the death of monks, excessive tax demands, land disputes, lawsuits, and the fluctuating number of monks in the monastery. Most of the firmans were issued following efforts by the Patriarchate of Constantinople to avoid increased tax demands, abuses, and exploitation of the monastery's landed property.

In the introduction, the writer first gives a physical description of the firmans (paper, ink, script), and then goes on to a diplomatic analysis of the distinctive features of these special documents (the Sultan's signature (*tugra*), the language, address, salutation, main text, ratification, date, place of issue), thus adding to their historical importance. He then gives a transliteration and a translation of the documents, followed by an index and a table of the original texts.

In this new edition, Professor Hidirolou adds five appendices. The first two contain details of the scholarly recognition accorded to the volume and its scientific value (such as the fact that it has been used as a textbook in universities abroad), as also critiques of it by foreign Turkologists. In the other appendices, he correlates the contents of the documents with current Turkish policy on the Cyprus question and the place and role of Islam in modern Turkey, and discusses the implications and repercussions of Turkish policy with regard both to Cyprus and to Greece and Europe in general.

This volume contributes to the development of Turkish studies in Greece and Cyprus, being a valuable reference book for young researchers and students. By presenting the transliterated Ottoman text with the original manuscripts, it provides answers to questions relating to Arabic palaeography. Furthermore, the appendices correlating Cyprus's Ottoman past with the current situation enable readers to draw their own conclusions about modern Turkish policy with regard to Cyprus.