

Constantine N. Tsirpanlis, *A Short History of the Greek Language*, Thessaloniki 1970, pp. 33. Price \$ 1.50. Order from the author: 2754 Claflin Ave., Bronx, N.Y. 10468.

Scholars interested in the sociology and other aspects of language will find this interesting study more than useful. For Dr. Constantine Tsirpanlis, professor of Greek Studies at The New School for Social Research (N.Y.C.), is a brilliant and prolific author, who has written several books and innumerable articles in the fields of philology, anthropology, education, history, linguistics, onomasiology, theology, and so forth. In other words, this internationally known intellectual is certainly qualified to discuss the history of the Greek language in interdisciplinary fashion, which renders his work both fascinating and helpful to professors, students and intelligent laymen.

Besides, a pleasant surprise is the completeness of the volume, despite its brevity. Professor Tsirpanlis discusses not only every stage in the history of the subject under consideration from prehistoric times to the present, but also all of the major, and some of the minor, Greek dialects. His analysis of each word's evolution, beginning with the original Sanscrit equivalents, is especially masterful.

In addition, the following features increase the value of the book under review:

1. The style is lucid and literary—no unnecessary jargon is included.
2. The section headings enable the reader to follow the author without difficulty.
3. The myriad illustrations, including the tables, are exceedingly effective.
4. The many usefully and judiciously selected quotations make the study more revealing and authoritative.
5. The transliteration problem is virtually absent, since Professor Tsirpanlis usually presents his examples in the original languages.
6. Finally, his ability to combine linguistic data with countless sociocultural elements is admirable, almost inimitable.

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Dr. PANOS D. BARDIS

Sappho Mavroulia. *Tà Néa 'Ελληνικά γιά ξενόγλωσσους (Modern Greek for Foreigners)* Second edition revised. Athens 1967, pp. 282, paper back \$ 4.00. Order from the author: Androu 7, Athens (801), Greece.

The book is a result of many years' teaching experience to foreigners

of Mrs. Mavroulia, and is based on the direct method in teaching modern foreign languages. It begins with a valuable Introduction to modern Greek phonetics and the Greek Alphabet (pp. 9-12), and is divided into 32 lessons (pp. 13-165) arranged in a more or less systematic and progressive way, that is to say, from simple and easy vocabulary and phraseology to more complicated and difficult structure and grammar. Each lesson refers to a chapter or case of modern Greek grammar and syntax illustrated by pictures and sketches which are, however, sometimes confusing and unclear because of bad printing. The same is true for many words and printing elements of the book. At the end of each lesson, a table of grammar summary — mostly incomprehensible to the beginning student due to the use of many grammatical and technical terms only in Greek — exercises, vocabulary and pronunciation practices are included. The more advanced lessons also comprise dialogues and conversational texts of daily use and application which, however, are not accompanied by explanatory notes indispensable for almost every lesson since in very many cases throughout the book difficult expressions and structures are used which have not yet been learned in the preceding lessons nor are they explained or annotated anywhere. It might be possible and more useful to omit certain theoretical exercises and tedious grammatical tables of very little or no appeal to an efficient learning of the language, and to insert explanatory notes in their place. Furthermore, the book cannot be used without an instructor.

A good feature of Mrs. Mavroulia's book is that it includes a few (27) demotic literary texts — selections from leading modern Greek prose writers like Ouranis, Myrivilis, Karkavitsas, Moskovis, Kazantzakis, Xenopoulos, Panayotopoulos, and some fables of Aesop as well as 10 poems of Solomos, Athanas, Papantoniou, Polemis, Palamas, Seferis, and Cavafy (pp. 169-195), which would be useful and instructive if they were accompanied by notes or annotations not in Greek, as they are, but in English. An appendix of basic modern Greek grammar (pp. 196-212), a two-page (215-216) summary of the history of the modern Greek language, and a general vocabulary in alphabetical order and in four languages, French, English, German and Italian (pp. 217-281), end the book.

This second edition of the book, enriched and improved considerably, in such a short time (first edition 1965), testifies to the great need and demand of a good textbook in Modern Greek. According to the author's hint (p. 6), a second volume which will deal with the "katharevousa" (puristic Greek) is in preparation. It must be noted that the present vol-

ume deals only with the demotic spoken Greek. Both of these works are most welcome to the instructors as well as to the students of Modern Greek. For there is, indeed, such a tremendous demand of a better and more efficient and systematic modern Greek grammar and phrase textbook in this country especially.

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CONSTANTINE N. TSIRPANLIS

Steven Runciman, *The Great Church in Captivity: A Study of the Patriarchate of Constantinople from the Eve of the Turkish Conquest to the Greek War of Independence*. Cambridge: At the University Press, 1968. Pp. x+455.

Sir Steven Runciman's contributions to the study of the mediaeval worlds of both the East and the West are well known. The present work, in a real way, is actually made up of two books brought together between two covers to record the story of the Patriarchate of Constantinople immediately before and right after the Fall of Constantinople to the Turks down to the Greek War of Independence. As a matter of fact, one part of the book was originally produced as the Gifford Lectures at the University of Saint Andrews in 1960 and 1961 and concentrated on the Church of Constantinople from 1261 to 1821. Another major part of the book was originally presented as the Birkbeck Lectures in 1966 and concentrated on the Church of Constantinople and its relations with the Protestant Churches in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Sir Steven has naturally had to make certain adjustments and revisions in order to produce a self-contained, coherent volume on a most interesting and most important subject for understanding a key institution in the development of the Eastern Orthodox world, but also for a realistic appreciation of the nature of mediaeval and modern Hellenism. But more than this, *The Great Church in Captivity*, despite some admittedly infelicitous inaccuracies and omissions*, is a valuable, if not indispensable, historical study of the Greek Orthodox mind, particularly the ecclesiastical mind of the Greek hierarchy. The long history of the imperial experience within the

* See the review by N. M. Vaporis in *The Greek Orthodox Theological Review*, XV, 2 (Fall 1970), 249-251.