

CENTRE FOR BYZANTINE, OTTOMAN AND MODERN GREEK STUDIES

School of Historical Studies – University of Birmingham

Postgraduate Programmes

The Centre for Byzantine, Ottoman and Modern Greek Studies is the only University teaching and research department in the UK which brings all these subjects together within a single unit. It is an internationally-recognised centre attracting students from as far afield as Canada and the USA, western and eastern Europe, Russia, Greece, Cyprus, Turkey and the Arab world. Our full-time and associate staff cover a wide range of fields and expertise in respect of both the history and languages of the East Mediterranean regions: all aspects of late Roman and Byzantine history, art history and archaeology; many aspects of Islamic history of the medieval and modern periods; Turkish history from the early medieval to modern period; Balkan, particularly Greek, history up to the present day, as well as Greek literature and language in the medieval and modern periods; and international relations, particularly in respect of relations between the Great Powers and Balkan and Near Eastern states from the mid-nineteenth century to the present day.

We also have well-established co-operative research and exchange schemes with colleagues and institutions in Universities in Europe, the USA and Australia. We publish the annual journal *Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies*, the monograph series *Birmingham Byzantine and Ottoman Monograph*, and a series of English translations of Modern Greek writers. Library holdings in the area of Modern Greek language, literature and history; Byzantine and medieval history, art history and archaeology; and Ottoman and Islamic history, are excellent; while the Centre's seminar room houses an outstanding collection of off-prints donated by scholars of Byzantine, Ottoman and Modern Greek history, language and literature, and related fields. Seminars provide an excellent forum for interdisciplinary discussion, and specialist colloquia are held regularly, organised by both staff and by postgraduate students. The Centre hosts every two years the Spring Symposium of Byzantine Studies, which originated here in the early 1970s.

The Centre also has close links with the Barber Institute of Fine Arts, which houses both the magnificent Whitting Collection of Byzantine coins and seals, the coins forming one of the largest and most important such collections in Europe, and an excellent art history library. In addition, the Centre for Islamic Studies, housed in Selly Oak Colleges and part of the School of Historical Studies, includes both the famous Mingana Collection of Arabic manuscripts as well as a superb library of Arabic texts and related literature covering the history of the Islamic world from the beginnings until modern times. Members of staff in both institutions work closely with staff of the Centre for Byzantine, Ottoman and Modern Greek Studies in the teaching and supervision of students pursuing their specialist subjects.

Graduate students can register for one of several postgraduate training or research programmes in the fields of Byzantine, Ottoman, Modern Greek or recent and contemporary Balkan and East Mediterranean history. Our staff are supported by colleagues from other departments in many related disciplines (e.g. Middle Eastern languages), so that a wide range of specialist fields can also be studied.

For more details and information about the Centre and its work, see our Web Pages:

<http://www.bham.ac.uk/bomgs/> and http://www.bham.ac.uk/Historical_Studies/

Current e-mail addresses for all members of staff can be obtained from the departmental secretary, Mrs G.E. Bye, at:

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ISBN 0 7044 1609 3 £8.00

Through the experiences of the characters in these seven interrelated stories Dimitris Hatzis portrays the life of a provincial town in north-eastern Greece during the inter-war period and partly during the Occupation. As more traditional modes of living give way before the onset of modern innovations the impact such changes have on his characters is the author's central concern. In this respect, this particular community stands for all communities exposed to the inevitability of change and the altered ways of thinking that ensue. Whilst he willingly embraces the new, the teller of these humane tales cannot simultaneously help regretting the passing of the old, and this tension characterises much of the book and contributes to its special feeling.

Haris Vlavianos, *Adieu*, trans. David Connolly, 1998
ISBN 0 7044 1886 X £8.00

Haris Vlavianos (born 1957) is one of the finest and most prolific of contemporary Greek poets. In 1983 he published his first collection of poetry and since then has published five more collections, a book of aphorisms on poetry (the form of Wallace Stevens's *Adagia* which he has translated), and a number of translations of leading poets including: Walt Whitman, Ezra Pound, John Ashbery, William Blake. He also edits the biannual journal *Poetry*, which publishes Greek poetry, articles reviews and essays on poetry as well as translations of foreign poets.

Adieu is his most recent collection, published in 1996. It is a lyric farewell to his family, particularly to his mother, to his student life at Oxford and his past as a whole. By conversing with beloved persons, places and poetic voices of the past, it represents a rethinking and a reassessment of love, of poetry and of the human condition. The four sections of this collection represent the stages of Vlavianos's development from a difficult childhood to poetic maturity. It is as if poetry compensates him for the disintegration of his family and at the same time emerges as the positive outcome of this traumatic alienation.

Stratis Doukas, *A Prisoner of War's Story*, trans. Petro Alexiou, 1999
ISBN 0 7044 8570 2 £8.00

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Sotiris Dimitriou, *May Your Name Be Blessed*, trans. Leo Marshall, 2000
ISBN 0 7044 2189 5 £8.00

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