

ΣΤΥΛΙΑΝΟΥ ΛΑΜΠΑΚΗ

ΒΙΒΛΙΟΚΡΙΣΙΑΙ

ΑΝΑΤΥΠΩΝ ΕΚ ΤΟΥ ΤΟΜΟΥ ΠΑ' ΤΟΥ ΠΕΡΙΟΔΙΚΟΥ «ΑΘΗΝΑ»

(Έκτος έμπορίου)



ΕΝ ΑΘΗΝΑΙΣ
ΤΥΠΟΓΡΑΦΕΙΟΝ ΕΜΜ. ΠΑΠΑΔΑΚΗ
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Nicolaos Nicoloudis, Laonikos Chalkokondyles. A Translation and Commentary of the "Demonstrations of Histories" (Books I-III), [Historical Monographs, 16], Athens 1996, pp. 390.

There is no need to emphasize here how useful large-scale commentaries of the Byzantine historiographical works would be, on the traces of the well-known companion volumes on ancient historians, and on a broader spectrum than that encountered in the modern scholarly editions of the *Corpus Fontium Historiæ Byzantinæ*, whose commentaries inevitably deal with only major topics. Ilse Rochow's admirable annotations on the Chronicle of Theophanes¹ can be the model for a similar series of commentaries on historical and other Byzantine texts. It is an exhaustive, but very useful task.

This is the reason that Dr Nicoloudis' annotated English translation of the three first books of the "Histories" of Laonikos Chalkokondyles is very well accepted, being an important contribution to the study of the "last Athenian" historiographer, and a very useful starting

1. See "Byzanz im 8. Jahrhundert in der Sicht des Theophanes, Quellenkritisch-Historischer Kommentar zu den Jahren 715-813" [Berliner Byzantinistische Arbeiten 57], Berlin 1991.

point for further researches, as Julian Chrysostomides states in her foreword (pp. 9-10).

The book (initially presented as a London University Ph. D. thesis), is divided in two parts, the first dealing in general with Chalkokondyles' biography and work and the second containing the translation and commentaries.

The introductory first part starts with an extensive bibliographical list (pp. 13-36) and goes on with a sketch of Laonikos' biography¹ (pp. 37-64) based on a careful examination of all familiar sources we dispose and finishing with a very interesting "intellectual portrait" of the scholar. An analysis of the "Demonstrations", a discussion on their sources and time of writing, as well as on the classical influences upon them, and a study on how Byzantine emperors of 14th century are portrayed in this work, complete this chapter (pp. 65-86).

The English translation is given face to face with the Greek text, a photo-reproduction of Darko's edition. The notes are to be found at the end of each book. They contain not only historical and prosopographical material, but a lot of related details, with cross-references to other sources and frequent use of bibliography, so as to elucidate the Byzantine text.

An extensive Greek summary (pp. 353-362), two maps (pp. 363-365) and an index (pp. 367-388) complete the edition. It is hoped that the commentaries on the remaining books will also appear soon, and that, together with Dr Wurm's study on Laonikos' *Textgeschichte* (see JÖB 44, 1994, pp. 455-462 and 45, 1995, 223-232) as well as his expected new critical edition (see JÖB 45, 1995, 442), they will provide a new interest to the Chalcocondylean studies.

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1. Let us note here that we have at our disposal now a new reprint of Kambouroglou's book on "The Chalkokondylae", with a foreword by A. G. C. Savvides (Editions Δημιουργία, Athens 1996).

