

**HELLENICA GRAMMATA: Essays in Tribute to Hellenic Letters.** Edited by Fotios K. Litsas. Modern Greek Studies Series: Chicago: University of Illinois at Chicago and the Greek Orthodox Diocese of Chicago, 1985. Pp. 304. Paperback. No price indicated.

*Hellenika Grammata* is a cooperative effort of the Greek Orthodox Diocese of Chicago and the Modern Greek Studies Program of the University of Illinois at Chicago. It is also a bilingual effort that insists that «Modern Greek is a cultural and intellectual continuity of ancient Greece; that ancient Greek society, institutions, religion, rituals, arts, literature, and many other aspects of ancient civilization have survived in many ways in the folk festivals, rituals, beliefs, and practices of today's Greek people» (F.K. Litsas on p. 11). The book «is an attempt not only to present Neo-hellenic Letters in their spectrum as the art of expression but also to illustrate their relation with Byzantine and Ancient Hellenic Letters and Culture» (*ibid.*).

The book is organized in five parts to provide the reader with a step-by-step way of understanding modern Greek letters as a cultural reality and an historical continuity. The five main parts include (1) the history of Hellenic Letters as a continuous whole from Homer to Elytis; (2) the cultivation of Hellenic Letters outside of Greece; (3) the impact of Hellenic Letters on other cultures; (4) Hellenic Letters as developed in the United States; and (5) a bilingual prosopographical account of the most important representatives of Neo-hellenic Letters. For each essay written in English there is a Greek summary and for each essay in Greek an English summary. There are also appendices, notes on contributors and sponsors, and an index. There are twenty-seven contributors who more than adequately represent the Greek-American intellectual ferment of metropolitan Chicago. Archbishop Iakovos provides a Foreword, Bishop Iakovos of Chicago a Preface, and Professor Litsas Prolegomena. The length of the articles varies as does the quality.

The authors include James Dee, Lambros Missitzis, Aristeides Papadakis, Eva Topping, Constantine Santas, K. Mitsakis, Costas Proussis, George Kanarakis, Petros Haris, Theodore Thalassinis, Constantine Trypanis, Michael Meraklis, Diane Touliatos-Banker, Andrew Sopko, Alexander MacGregor, Constantine Constantinidis, Peter Bien, Aristotle Michopoulos, Nestor Matsas, Charles Moskos, Alexander Karanikas, Andrew Kopan, Nikos Rozakos, Aris Angelopoulos, Marianthe Karanikas, George Christakes, and, of course, Fotios Litsas. There are some very interesting articles on Greek letters in Cyprus, Greek literature since the mid-nineteenth century, the development of the modern Greek novel, and historians and Greek immigration to the United States, to mention just a few of the more notable subjects.

*Essays in Tribute to Hellenic Letters* is an anthology of articles of interest to the Greek American community, to students of Hellenic culture from its origins to the present day, and to anyone interested in the continuing role played by Hellenism in Western civilization and American culture in particular. It is, indeed, a compendium of information that cannot easily be found elsewhere within the covers of a single volume.

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