

This argument allows the author to take a far-reaching position. Scholars in the past frequently gauged the value of Cretan literature by the extent to which it remained close, intentionally, to Byzantine literature—the closer, the better. Kaklamanis, correctly, disagrees: Cretan literature is not merely a link with Byzantium; it has its own intrinsic value and expresses cogently and powerfully a different experience of the world generated under different circumstances. Very true, and yet one should recall that, albeit not always Byzantine, this new experience quintessentially medieval.¹

The book is replete with a treasure chest of wonderful tales. Like that of the little-known Λεόντιος Πιλάτος, Petrarch's Greek teacher from Crete. Or that of Janus Lascaris buying forty-four manuscripts from Cretan scribes for Lorenzo il Magnifico de' Medici. Or, perhaps uncanniest of all, that of the Swiss theologian Felix Faber, who complained that the sound of the sea made it impossible for him to read when he stayed at the Dominican priory in Herakleion.

Vol. 1 can be read independently, but by so doing readers will squander the opportunity to enjoy the poems. In vols 2 and 3, K. marshals Crete's poetic output to excellent effect. He includes generous excerpts from all fifty-seven poets known today, along with perceptive short commentaries and biographical notes. A glossary guarantees that even readers unfamiliar with the language of the period will not be left flailing. Illustrations, some in colour, are rich.

Over the last two hundred years, Early Modern Greek scholarship has taken some tremendous steps. We have learnt how to edit the vernacular texts, how to glean complicated information from manuscripts, how to write the history of the literature and of the language of the period. K. pushes all these achievements a little further. His book will be an indispensable source for experts and the lay reader alike. It would be hard to imagine a better overall guide to Cretan literature.

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David Holton, Geoffrey Horrocks, Marjolijne Janssen, Tina Lendari, Io Manolessou and Notis Tufexis, *The Cambridge Grammar of Medieval and Early Modern Greek*. Cambridge University Press: Cambridge, 2019, 4 vols. Pp. clxx + 2093 (numbered in a single series). DOI:10.1017/byz.2021.10

Until recently, the grammatical study of the Greek language has mostly been confined to the ancient and the present-day stages of its history; with a few exceptions, the medieval period has been left out. As the authors point out, 'the gap in our systematic grammatical knowledge of Greek extends roughly from Late Antiquity until the creation of the

1 See also Panagiotis Agapitos, 'Dangerous Literary Liasons: Byzantium and Neohellenism', *Βυζαντινά* 35 (2017), pp. 33–126.

Modern Greek state, i.e. has a span of around 1,500 years, a gap unparalleled in the historical study of any language' (p. xvi). This gap has at last been triumphantly filled by the *CGMEMG*.

The *Grammar* is characterized by ample generosity: the generosity of the authors in providing a wealth of detailed analysis and a treasure-house of examples (presented in approximately chronological order within each section), even from texts that date from before the beginning of the appointed period 1100–1700 and from shortly after its end; and the generosity of the publisher in providing so much space for all this information. The authors' names appear conveniently in alphabetic order, with Holton as director of the project and Horrocks as co-director at the top of the list.

The aims of the *Grammar* are set out as follows at the end of the General Introduction:

Throughout the *Grammar* our aim is to present a comprehensive, detailed and nuanced picture of the Greek language in its late medieval and early modern phases, to relate developments to earlier and later periods, to plot linguistic change within our period, and to provide a reliable source of information, for the benefit of scholars and students who read, consult or edit medieval and early modern texts written in some form of vernacular Greek (p. xxiv).

Volume 1 consists of the General Introduction, a sixty-page bibliography, and Part I of the main text (Phonology, 237 pages), while Volume 2 consists of Part II (Nominal morphology), which runs to more than 1000 pages. Each numbered Part of the *Grammar* is given its own separate introduction.

Volume 3 comprises Part III (Verb morphology), its 600 pages suggesting that, in Medieval Greek, nominal morphology is even more complex and diverse than verb morphology. The volume is divided into morphology proper and morphosyntax; the former covers synthetic (single-word) forms, while the latter analyses periphrastic forms, i.e. chiefly the future and perfect tenses. Fifty pages are devoted to an account of the multifarious ways of expressing future time and conditionality. The *Grammar* records that, in the absence of synthetic future-tense forms in Medieval Greek, there were as many as twenty-two different ways of expressing the future.

Lastly, Volume 4 consists of Part IV (almost 200 pages of Syntax) plus more than fifty pages of indices. At first sight it may seem disappointing that less than 10% of the whole *Grammar* is devoted to syntax – syntax has usually been an unjustly neglected sibling of morphology in traditional grammars of Greek – but plenty of syntax is covered in the copious sections (almost 200 pages) devoted to morphosyntax in Part III.

Begun in 2004, the *CGMEMG* has taken fifteen years to come to fruition. This is hardly surprising, considering that very little had already been published on the grammar of texts covering a period of six hundred years. Older studies were based on often unreliable editions and lacked the benefit of texts that have been published more recently; these include especially non-literary documents. The *Grammar* is based on an electronic corpus of three million words (xxv). In an effort to obviate editorial

intervention the authors have consulted, where possible, manuscripts and diplomatic editions.

The period covered by the *Grammar* corresponds exactly to Kriaras' (not yet completed) dictionary of medieval vernacular Greek. The authors point out that theirs is not a grammar of 'Byzantine Greek', nor does it cover the Early Medieval period (p. xix). Their periodization is based on linguistic rather than historical criteria.

As regards the place of Medieval Greek in the historical development of the language, the authors view Medieval Greek as an entity in itself, not as 'a stage in the evolution of Greek in general' (xvi). They rightly avoid 'a teleological evolutionary view in the direction of Modern Greek' (xxvii). Instead, although the *CGMEMG* is 'a text-based descriptive grammar' (xx), the authors set out to describe '[t]he linguistic form which (we believe) represents the innate grammatical system of a native speaker of Greek living in this period' (xviii). Some scholars, myself included, have shown that this is at least partially possible in the study of the grammatical rules and communicative purposes behind the placement of the weak object pronoun before or after the verb, contrary to a formerly widespread belief that in Medieval Greek 'anything goes'. However, the authors stress that, while theirs is 'not a historical grammar of Greek', 'the perspective of the Grammar is [...] not synchronic but diachronic' (xxviii).

The authors divide their source texts into 'literary' and 'non-literary', and the former into prose and (the great majority) verse (xx-xxi). Almost all the published literary texts of the period, amounting to 360 texts of vastly varying lengths, have been taken into account. Of the total body of 1200 non-literary publications, half are notarial documents from Venetian-occupied areas: Crete, the Heptanese and the Cyclades (xxvi). The illustrative examples of usage illustrate the geographical and chronological distribution of each phenomenon, as well as registers and types of text. Non-literary texts are accompanied by their date and geographical provenance where these are known.

The authors avoid using the term 'dialect', since there was at the time no standard from of which a given form might have been a variation; instead they talk about 'geographical areas' (xxx). Due to the unfeasibility of quantitative analysis, the authors characterize the relative frequency of each grammatical phenomenon by using terms such as 'regular, free, restricted, rare' (xxviii). They also use the label 'general', but they avoid committing themselves as to whether or not there can be said to have been a spoken or written Greek Koine at any stage or in any geographical area during the period.

Whereas the printed version of Kriaras' dictionary, from a certain volume onwards, (and its electronic version from the outset) has imposed the present-day monotonic system on the headwords and the quoted examples of usage (a policy about which I once took issue with the author himself), the authors of the *Grammar* are content, with some systematic exceptions, to quote their examples from edited texts using the orthography adopted by the editor. Still, I would have preferred it if they had distinguished between τσ [ts] and τζ [dz], since the use of the digraph τζ for both sounds, though justified on historical grounds, does not indicate how it was pronounced.

Constantinople is not among the regions specified on p. xix as being a major geographical source of examples, nor does it figure in the list of locations under ‘regional variation’ in the Index, though it does appear in the title of one subsection on p. 1949. One might have welcomed an explanation for the almost complete absence of the Βασιλεύουσα from the *Grammar*: does it imply that there is little regionally specific linguistic evidence to be found in texts from Constantinople, or that texts from Constantinople were composed in a non-regional variety – or neither? Although some eighteenth-century examples are included in the *Grammar*, from a linguistic point of view that century largely remains a *terra incognita* in the history of Greek. Should we think of it as being the final stage of ‘Early Modern Greek’, as Tasos Kaplanis has suggested,¹ or (as the authors seem to imply) as the first stage of ‘Modern Greek’? On this score, it is interesting that the authors of the *Grammar* appear to have discovered no instance of the epistemic use of θέλει + personal verb. By contrast, eighteenth-century writers from Constantinople, who frequently use personal θέλω + infinitive for the future (θέλουν έρθει ‘they will come’), besides θενα and θα + personal verb, reserve impersonal θέλει + personal verb for epistemic use (θέλει ήρθαν ‘they must have come’). The term ‘epistemic’ is absent from the index of the *Grammar*, as are ‘probability’ and ‘possibility’. It would be good to know what constructions were available for the expression of probability during the period covered by the *Grammar*.

In a brief review it is impossible to do justice to such a monumental intellectual undertaking as the *CGMEMG*. Suffice it to say that technical language is always elucidated, and the volumes are impeccably edited; the number of typographical errors is infinitesimal given the length and complexity of the text.

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Lambros Kamperidis and Denise Harvey (eds.), *Alexandros Papadiamandis, The Boundless Garden. Selected Short Stories, Volume II*. Limni, Evia: Denise Harvey (Publisher), 2019. Pp. xx, 363.
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This is the second of Denise Harvey’s projected three-volume selection of Papadiamandis’ short stories in English translation. (The first volume was reviewed in *BMGS*, 33.2, 2009.) It includes 31 stories, written between 1894 and 1902 and including some of

1 T. Kaplanis, “‘Modern Greek’ in ‘Byzantium’? The notion of ‘early modern’ in Greek studies”, in E. Close et al. (eds), *Greek Research in Australia: Proceedings of the Biennial International Conference of Greek Studies, Flinders University June 2007*, Flinders University Department of Languages - Modern Greek (Adelaide 2009) 343–56. <https://dspace.flinders.edu.au/xmlui/bitstream/handle/2328/8086/343-356_Kaplanis.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>.