

Posted on the 14th November 2009

Greek. A Language in Evolution Essays in Honour of Antonios N. Jannaris

The above is the title of the book containing the lectures delivered at the Jannaris symposium in St Andrews, 14th-17th June 2009.

The book opens with a twelve page introduction by the Editor, Chrys C. Caragounis. This is followed by a presentation and evaluation of Jannaris work by his compatriots, Kretan scholars Prof Nikolaos Papadogiannakis and Ass. Prof Elpiniki Nikoloudaki.

Then follows a 44 page biographical sketch of Antonios Jannaris' life and work by Chrys C. Caragounis—the only one of its kind so far, since there is no biography of A. Jannaris—which also includes his bibliography. An attempt has been made to paint with great brushes the troublous times during which Jannaris lived and how they affected his personal life. It is a cause for wonder that under the extremely strained circumstances in which he lived, ever the victim of unscrupulous political and military intrigue as well as the victim of bodily malady, he was able to achieve so much and of such excellence. The modern scholar who already appreciates and loves Jannaris, cannot but love him more.

The lectures were superbly prepared. There are general lectures covering the diachronics of the language and holding its various periods together, and there are lectures which concentrate more minutely on literary problems with a freshness that holds the interest of the reader alive. Here the reader will be richly rewarded both for his/her pecuniary investment as well as for the investment of his/her time. For although the lectures were given in honour of Jannaris, whose outstanding work from the international point of view, is his *Historical Greek Grammar*, the lectures go beyond Jannaris, taking advantage of the 100 years of advancement in research, presenting a nuanced and rich picture of Greek studies today. Here Classicist, Hellenist, Byzantinist, and Neohellenist have much to take home, not to speak of the New Testament scholar, in particular, who has everything to gain from having his linguistic vista widened and seeing New Testament Greek as being only one small, tiny part of a much larger entity: the Greek language!

I have already finished the task of editing and have sent the computer-

script to the publishers. Our publishers will be Georg Olms, Hildesheim, Germany. He is the Publisher who had the vision to make many of the classics of the past available for the modern reader. He has kept Jannaris' *Historical Greek Grammar* in print for the past forty years, and it was fitting that he should also publish a book in memory of Jannaris.

Our book, *Greek. A Language in Evolution*, is expected to appear sometime in January 2010. It will be a beautifully produced book: altogether 358 rather large size pages, and hard bound.

This book, comprising some of the latest scholarship on the Greek language, is recommended to all students of Greek of whatever period. At the same time Antonios N. Jannaris' *Historical Greek Grammar* is also recommended. Both can be purchased from:

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