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Χαράλαμπος Π. Συμεωνίδης: *Ετυμολογικό λεξικό των νεοελληνικών οικωνυμίων* [*Etymological Lexicon of Modern Greek oeconyms*]. Vols. I–II. Nicosia-Thessaloniki: Κέντρο Μελετών Ιεράς Μονής Κύρκου 2010. Pp. (vols. I–II) 1952. ISBN 978-960-92762-0-7.

In Greece research on the country's toponyms has been very limited and has dealt almost exclusively with those of Greek origin. The only Greek scholar to have paid serious attention to this material was Konstantinos Amantos, Professor of Byzantine History at the University of Athens: his Munich doctoral thesis (1903)¹ and his many specialised publications have placed Greek toponomastics on a solid footing. Antonios Miliarakis and Dikaios Vagiakakos, working in the period before and after Amantos respectively, interested themselves keenly in the field, but contributed to it mainly by gathering relevant material. Miliarakis offers etymological analysis very rarely, whereas Vagiakakos follows for the most part the usually incorrect etymologies found in the *Archive of the Historical Lexicon of Modern Greek Dialects* of the Academy of Athens. Finally, the establishment of a special journal by Ioannis Thomopoulos in 1952 has yielded publications of varying quality owing to a poor process of reviewing². Work done outside Greece has helped to paint a considerably richer and fuller picture, since it shifted emphasis to the country's non-Greek toponyms. Heinrich and Renée Kahane examined Italian toponyms³, whereas Max Vasmer turned his attention to Slavic ones⁴.

Charalambos Symeonides, Emeritus Professor of Historical Linguistics at the Aristotelian University of Thessaloniki, represents without doubt the culmination of the study of contemporary Greece's toponyms. With a vast specialised scholarship since 1970, Symeonides is rightly regarded as Greece's foremost authority on Balkan Linguistics. His acquaintance with all the phases of the Greek Language is also astonishingly profound and has also yielded a series of distinguished publications. All these in combination with a deep knowledge of the Latin and Neo-Latin Languages make him the ideal author of a subject of this kind. The Lexicon under review is his

1 *Die Suffixe der neugriechischen Ortsnamen.*

2 *Onomata. Revue d'onomastique grecque.*

3 *Italienische Ortsnamen in Griechenland*, Athens 1940.

4 *Die Slaven in Griechenland*, Berlin 1941.

greatest achievement and is built on a lifetime's research in the field, since it has taken him around fifty years: a massive two-volume work, the Lexicon offers the etymological analysis of more than eighteen thousand toponyms of Greece! The author's above-mentioned masterly knowledge of all the relevant tongues has secured that his Lexicon is internationally the first to treat its subject exhaustively, since apart from place-names of Greek, Slavic and Italian origin, it also analyses those of Albanian and Turkish provenance, which constitute an important but neglected category.

After some prefatory material, the first volume contains an introduction to Greek onomastics, «Εισαγωγή στην ελληνική ονοματολογία» (pp. 76–160). This study, which had been published as a self-standing book in 1992, offers a general but detailed picture both of place-names and personal names of contemporary Greece. It thus sets the content of the Lexicon in its wider perspective, and also clarifies terms and notions which are crucial for a full understanding of its entries. The study fills a gap in international bibliography and is highly original, but its composition in Modern Greek has prevented it from attracting the deserved amount of attention; so the decision to reproduce it here again is completely right. I cannot enter into details here, but I may perhaps be allowed two points from the part on toponyms: the treatment of Pre-hellenic toponyms (pp. 87–91) well illustrates Symeonides' independence of thought. Previous scholars such as V. Georgiev, W. Merlingen and others, attempted to clarify those of Greece's toponyms that cannot be analysed by Greek tools by tracing them back to a hypothetical Indoeuropean substrate of Greek, the so-called Pelasgian. However the results of this connection were complicated and for the most part unconvincing. Now Symeonides simplifies things by suggesting that these toponyms should be brought into relation with Luwian, Hittite and the other Anatolian languages of Asia Minor, which are also Indoeuropean, as is now known. It is also rewarding to read Symeonides' comments on the renaming of places, a practice that has emerged since the formation of the Greek State (pp. 122–5). The topic deserves closer attention, and we should all be grateful, if the author could give us more about it in the future.

The main bulk of the work occupies around one thousand five hundred pages in which a comprehensive etymological analysis of each of contemporary Greece's toponyms is offered. More accurately, a toponym features among the Lexicon's entries, if it satisfies the following three criteria: (i) it belongs to the sub-group of *oeconyms*, that is, it is a name of an *inhabited* area (village, town etc.); (ii) it is in *contemporary* use; (iii) it denotes a place which geographically belongs to the area covered by the Hellenic Republic⁵.

Each entry begins with an *oeconym*. This is followed by a detailed description of the geographical location of the corresponding place; the description involves reference to the various administrative units (prefecture etc.) to which the place belongs. Then the author records the year in which the *oeconym* makes its first appearance in

5 The Lexicon occasionally features *oeconyms* of earlier dates and lying outside the geographical boundaries specified above: from South Europe, North Africa, Cyprus, Turkey etc. However these are used not for their own sake, but as a means to clarify the etymology of Greece's *oeconyms*, and this is why they appear within entries and never as headwords.

official state catalogues⁶. Any variant forms of the oeconym are also dated. If the present-day oeconym is the result of a renaming process from an older oeconym, then the *terminus ante quem* for the renaming is provided by the date of the first occurrence of the new oeconym in the official catalogues, whereas the *terminus post quem* for the renaming is provided by the date of the last occurrence of the previous oeconym in the official catalogues. The main part of each entry consists of the etymological analysis of the oeconym: Symeonides records previous suggestions, giving full bibliographical details, and assesses their value or plausibility; if he finds all of them unsatisfactory, he proceeds to offer his own analysis, and there are hundreds of cases to show how original and serious a scholar he is. Here is a brief sample of his contributions to the field (I reproduce only the essential information of the corresponding lemmata): 1. Αχαρνάι, αι < Ancient Greek ἄχαρνος, ὄ = a sea-fish, probably bass; the place was known as Μενίδι until 1915: Μενίδι < Albanian man-i < Tosk dialect mën-i = mulberry, cf. the surname Μάνεσις (= place full of mulberries). 2. Ἄνω Σούλι, το < Albanian surname Suli < shul-i = pale, mast, top, hill. 3. Δασκαλειό, το < Italian *da scoglio*. 4. Καπανδρίτι, το < του Καπανδρίτη < του Παπανδρίτη (cf. περι-κοκλάδα < περιπλοκάδα); cf. surname Καπανδρίτης < surname of Albanian-speaking Greeks Kapandrit < παπα-Αντρίκος. 5. Κινέτα, η < Albanian *Kinetëa = pine-forest < Latin pinetum = pine-forest (pinus), cf. Aromunian kinët = pine-forest. 6. Κουνουπίτσα, η < Albanian kunuricëa = a species of willow, probably < Slav *konoprica < konopja = hemp. 7. Λαγονήσι, το < Italic lago = lake, shallow waters (cf. Πόρτο-Λάγο). 8. Πόρτο Γερμενό, το (today's Αιγόςθενα, τα < αιγός στενά, Georgiev) < ethnic Γερμενός = Γερμηνός < toponym Γέρμη = Θέρμη (cf. Γέρμα, η Λακωνίας and Γέρμαν, το Φλωρίνης) < cf. Celtic city in Asia Minor Γέρμα, η = Θέρμα, η, cf. Albanian jerm = θερμός, gjërmëa = fireplace outdoors. 9. Φέριζα, η < Albanian ferrëzëa = place full of bushes < ferrëa = wild bush. 10. The Lexicon takes an indirect interest in Cypriot oeconyms too, since in many cases they are identical to those in mainland Greece: Κούκλια, τα < medieval Κουβούκλια = country houses (Menardos' etymology) < cubiculum; Λυθροδόνας, ο < Λήδρας ελαιώντας = the olive-yard of Ledra (and not *Ερυθροδόνας!*). 11. The Lexicon treats a number of surnames, parenthetically of course: Κουτσόχερας < Albanian kockëgjërë = with wide bones, cf. Πλάτων; Λυκουρέζος < Albanian lëkürë e zëzë = dark-skinned; Κρεκούκιας < Albanian surname Kryekuqi = having red hair < krye-t = head + kuq = red; Σχορτσανίτης < Σχωρέτσανα, τα < Old Slavic *Suchorečane = inhabitants of a dried-up river < *Sucha Reka = dried-up river.

6 Such state catalogues are: (i) *Λεξικὸν τῶν δήμων, κοινοτήτων καὶ συνοικισμῶν τῆς Ἑλλάδος, ἐπὶ τῇ βάσει τῆς ἀπογραφῆς τοῦ πληθυσμοῦ τοῦ ἔτους 1920*, Ἀθῆναι (Υπουργεῖον Ἐθνικῆς Οἰκονομίας, Διευθύνσις Στατιστικῆς) 1923, with a number of re-editions to reflect the results of subsequent counts of Greece's population in 1951, 1961, 1971, 1981, 1991. The edition which relates to the 1991 census forms the basis of Symeonides' list of headwords. (ii) «Στοιχεῖα συστάσεως καὶ ἐξελίξεως τῶν δήμων καὶ κοινοτήτων ἀπὸ τῆς ἐφαρμογῆς τοῦ Νόμου ΔΝΖ' τοῦ ἔτους 1912 καὶ ἐφεξῆς» published in 1961–2 by Κεντρικὴ Ἐνωση Δήμων καὶ Κοινοτήτων τοῦ Υπουργείου Ἐσωτερικῶν. (iii) Α. Δρακάκης, Σ. Κούνδουρος: «Ἀρχεῖα περὶ τῆς συστάσεως καὶ ἐξελίξεως τῶν δήμων καὶ κοινοτήτων 1836–1936 καὶ τῆς διοικητικῆς διατρέσεως τοῦ κράτους, τόμοι 1–2, Ἀθῆναι 1939–40.

The work is equipped with a very detailed and valuable Index of Greek (pp. 1467–1813) and non-Greek (pp. 1815–1952) words, proper names, and toponyms. In addition to the Index, the author provides a useful electronic resource for pinpointing the geographic location of many of the Lexicon's oeconyms, that is, a DVD which contains maps of the fifty-two prefectures of Greece.

All in all the Lexicon is an etymological masterpiece and is bound to become the standard reference work for several decades. All will want to wish Professor Symeonides well for completing so successfully this Herculean task.

Nicosia

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