

Byzantina Symmeikta

Vol 31 (2021)

BYZANTINA SYMMEIKTA 31



Book Review: M. HESLOP, Medieval Greece: encounters between Latins, Greeks and others in the Dodecanese and the Mani [ser. Variorum Collected Studies]; foreword by Jonathan HARRIS [xvi-xviii] (London & New York: Routledge-Francis & Taylor Group, 2021)

ΦΩΤΕΙΝΗ Β. ΠΕΡΡΑ

doi: [10.12681/byzsym.27943](https://doi.org/10.12681/byzsym.27943)

Copyright © 2021, ΦΩΤΕΙΝΗ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΟΥ ΠΕΡΡΑ



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/).

To cite this article:

ΠΕΡΡΑ Φ. Β. (2021). Book Review: M. HESLOP, Medieval Greece: encounters between Latins, Greeks and others in the Dodecanese and the Mani [ser. Variorum Collected Studies]; foreword by Jonathan HARRIS [xvi-xviii] (London & New York: Routledge-Francis & Taylor Group, 2021). *Byzantina Symmeikta*, 31, 508–510.
<https://doi.org/10.12681/byzsym.27943>

M. HESLOP, *Medieval Greece: encounters between Latins, Greeks and others in the Dodecanese and the Mani* [ser. Variorum Collected Studies]; foreword by J. HARRIS [xvi-xviii] (London & New York: Routledge-Francis & Taylor Group, 2021), pp. 347 inclusive of selected bibliography and index of persons, places and terms. ISBN: 978-0-367-85907-7

In the course of their 215 years of presence and rule over Rhodes and several of the Twelve Islands (A.D. 1306/1309-1522/1523), the Hospitallers were, particularly between the last two massive Ottoman offensives of 1480 and 1522¹, seriously preoccupied with fortifications in the extensive network of their various fortresses as well as with the organization of the defense of their possessions. Towards the close of the 15th century, the Florentine cleric Consignor (1468-1529/1530) visited Rhodes and, *inter alios*, left a detailed description of the island's defenses in A.D. 1498 -this is studied in detail in study No. 8 with references, a map depicting the route of his journey (p. 160) and a very useful table on the dates of Rhodian visits on the part of various Western travelers between 1480 and 1519 (p. 167), while of particular interest is his account regarding the Colossus of Rhodes and the fate of its fallen parts following the Arab raid of A.D. 653/654 (p. 164)².

1. A period recently treated in detail regarding its final 20-years section in Simon PHILLIPS' PhD thesis at Athens University, entitled *Rhodes in the final years, 1502-1521: Latin and Greek interaction in the Aegean and Eastern Mediterranean* (defended in June 2021) (largely based on unpublished documents of the Order in the Malta Archives), supervised by professor emerita Maria Dourou-Eliopoulou. This thesis is particularly welcome in the absence of Zacharias N. TSIRPANLES' announced but still pending 2nd volume of his *Ανέκδοτα έγγραφα για τη Ρόδο και τις νότιες Σποράδες από το Αρχείο των Ιωαννιτών Ιπποτών. Εισαγωγή, διπλωματική έκδοση, σχόλια*, which will be treating the long period 1453-1522; vol. I for the period 1421-1453 appeared 26 years ago (Rhodes Town, 1995): cf. review (in Greek) by A. SAVVIDES, *Βυζαντινός Δόμος* 8-9 (Athens, 1995-1997; publ. 1998), 260-261.

2. On the abduction of the fallen Colossus by the Muslim raiders, apart from the recent

The author of the present useful collection of 12 articles/essays is ranked among the chief researchers in the field³ and has herewith handily assembled most of his pertinent contributions, their original publications dating between 2008 and 2019; in addition, a thorough examination of Heslop's other field of interest, the still intractable 'Megale Mane' (Grand Mange) castle constructed about the middle of the 13th century by the Prince of Achaia Guillaume II de Villehardouin (1245-1278)⁴, is also included as article No. 11 (recently published in 2020), while a most useful item (No. 9, included in a collective volume also forthcoming by Routledge), deals more widely on medieval Greek fortifications. Nine of the included articles are reprinted, one is forthcoming (No. 9) and two more (Nos. 10 & 12), providing a useful gazetteer of the Rhodian countryside, appear here for the first time. The volume is duly dedicated to the memory of two distinguished scholars, the London University byzantinist Julian Chrysostomides (1928-2008) and the economic historian David Jacoby (1928-2018), emeritus at Jerusalem's Hebrew University, who both offered crucial assistance and bibliographical input to the author in the course of his researches.

The author of these contributions, actively engaged academically in distinguished British institutions like the Society for the Promotion of Byzantine Studies (SPBS) and the Society for the Study of the Crusades and the Latin East (SSCLE), is an honorary research associate (and more recently a honorary fellow) in Byzantine Studies at London's Royal Holloway College and has also co-edited (with Dr. Charalambos Dendrinis of Royal Holloway College) the late Julian Chrysostomides' *Byzantium and Venice, 1204-1453: collected studies* [ser. Variorum Collected

(2010) contribution by T. POLL cited by Heslop, cf. also the article by Lawrence I. CONRAD, *The Arabs and the Colossus*, *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society* 6/2 (Cambridge UP., 1996), 165-187; cf. A. SAVVIDES, *Η βυζαντινή Ρόδος και οι Μουσουλμάνοι. Προβλήματα σχετικά με τις αραβικές και τις τουρκικές επιδρομές κατά του νησιού από τα μέσα του 7ου έως τις αρχές του 14ου αιώνα*, 2nd ed. (Athens: Trochalia, 1995), 13 ff. with refs.

3. See also his "In search for the defensive system in Southern Rhodes", *Βυζαντινός Δόμος* 16 (Thessalonica, 2007-8: *In memoriam Alexandra St. Stephanidou*), 69-81 (not included in the present collection); on the relevant contributions by the prematurely deceased Alexandra St. Stephanidou (1968-2006), see obituary (in Gk) by A. SAVVIDES, *Βυζαντινός Δόμος* 15 (2006), 337-339; cf. P. V. PERRA, *Από την βυζαντινή στην ιπποτοκρατούμενη Ρόδο (αρχές 7ου-αρχές 16ου αι.)*, *Βυζαντινός Δόμος* 27 (2019), 52-69, at 63.

4. The building of the fortress of Grand Mange was dated to 1260 by Demetrios CHATZEDEMETRIOU, entry «Μάνη», *Λεξικόν της βυζαντινής Πελοποννήσου*, 2nd ed. (Athens: Herodotos, 2010), 248-53, at 249 and 252-253.

Studies] (London & Farnham: Routledge, 2013); on the other hand, the reader of this collection, whether the accomplished scholar of Latinocracy or the student embarking upon further studies of this historical period which has been gaining grounds by leaps and bounds in recent decades (also in Greece), will greatly benefit by the author's erudition, particularly regarding topography; all included articles are accompanied by 10 carefully compiled tables on archival material, by 10 professionally drawn maps, as well as by 105 illustrations and photographs mostly taken by the author during his repeated sojourns in the areas which he has so thoroughly investigated.

In his first article the author is focusing on Rhodes and more specifically on the southern part of the island, with an analytical contribution on its defensive system during the Hospitaller period. The next two articles are dedicated to the rest of the Dodecanese islands and their respective defensive system, consisting of two parts of the same unity. With his fourth article Heslop attempts to examine the Hospitaller statecraft in the Aegean, while in the fifth, he returns to the defensive system of the countryside of Rhodes, utilizing here time the testimony of Christoforo Buondelmonti. In the sixth article the author is involved once again with the defenses but in Northern Rhodes this time. The seventh article is dedicated to the cohabitation of Greeks and Latins and the landscape evidence between the years A.D. 1306-1423. The eighth article presents the testimony of the Florentine cleric Consignor concerning Rhodes, which he visited in 1498. The ninth article -a product in collaboration with the Greek archaeologist Nikolaos Kontogiannes- concerns mainland Greece and explores the defenses in Greece during the middle Byzantine era, while the eleventh article researches in detail the issue of the location of Villehardouin's castle in Grand Magne. Finally, the tenth and twelfth articles are connected to each other as both are involved with the placenames in Rhodes countryside between the years A.D. 1306-1423.

As already stated, this book consists of a most useful contribution to the bibliography concerning Latin fortifications in the Aegean and mainland Greece during the late Middle Ages⁵ and it is hoped that the author will continue with his investigations into late medieval 'phrouriology' in the years to come.

PHOTEINE V. PERRA

University of the Peloponnese (Kalamata-Greece)

5. See also the collective volume: *Ενετοί και Ιωαννίτες Ιππότες. Δίκτυα οχυρωματικής αρχιτεκτονικής*, ed. A. TRYPSOKOUPHE – A. TSITOURE (Athens, 2001) with the excellent entries by the late Alexandra Stephanidou.