

## Δελτίο Κέντρου Μικρασιατικών Σπουδών

Τόμ. 14 (2004)



**E. Kountoura-Galake, St. Lampakes, T. Lounghis, A. Savvides, V. Vlyssidou, Η Μικρά Ασία των θεμάτων. Έρευνες πάνω στη γεωγραφική φυσιογνωμία των Βυζαντινών θεμάτων της Μικράς Ασίας (7ος-11ος αι.)**

*Andreas Kuelzer*

doi: [10.12681/deltiokms.300](https://doi.org/10.12681/deltiokms.300)

Copyright © 2015, Andreas Kuelzer



Άδεια χρήσης [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/).

### Βιβλιογραφική αναφορά:

Kuelzer, A. (2004). E. Kountoura-Galake, St. Lampakes, T. Lounghis, A. Savvides, V. Vlyssidou, Η Μικρά Ασία των θεμάτων. Έρευνες πάνω στη γεωγραφική φυσιογνωμία των Βυζαντινών θεμάτων της Μικράς Ασίας (7ος-11ος αι.). *Δελτίο Κέντρου Μικρασιατικών Σπουδών*, 14, 375–378. <https://doi.org/10.12681/deltiokms.300>

κράς Ἀσίας, κενά τὰ ὁποῖα καμιά φορά τείνουμε νὰ καλύψουμε μὲ (ἀβάσιμες) εἰκασίες. Μέσα ἀπὸ τὸ συνέδριο αὐτὸ ἡ ἔλλιπής εἰκόνα συμπληρώνεται: δίνονται νέες ἐρμηνεῖες σὲ γνωστὰ ζητήματα (π.χ. γιὰ τὴν ἱστορία τοῦ Θεόφοβου ἢ γιὰ τὰ διαφορετικὰ μεγέθη τῶν δασμῶν στὴν Ἀττάλεια καὶ τὴν Τραπεζοῦντα), παρουσιάζονται καινούρια στοιχεῖα (π.χ. γιὰ τὴν ἐγκατάσταση τῶν Σελτζούκων στὴ Λυκία) καὶ συγχρόνως ἐπιχειρεῖται ἕνας καινούριος τρόπος προσέγγισης ἱστορικῶν φαινομένων (ὅπως π.χ. ἡ ψυχολογία τοῦ πολέμου). Δύσκολα θὰ κάλυπτε ἕνας ἐρευνητὴς μόνος του τὸ εὖρος τῶν γνώσεων ποῦ ἐκτίθενται. Ἱστορικοὶ τῆς τέχνης, τῆς οἰκονομίας καὶ τῆς διοίκησης, ἀνθρωπολόγοι, ἀρχαιολόγοι, φιλόλογοι, ἱστορικοὶ τοῦ Βυζαντίου καὶ τοῦ Νεώτερου Ἑλληνισμοῦ ἔδειξαν ὅτι οἱ συμβατικὲς διαχωριστικὲς γραμμὲς ἀνάμεσα στοὺς κλάδους μποροῦν καὶ πρέπει νὰ ξεπεραστοῦν καὶ συνέβαλαν σὲ μιὰ πετυχημένη σφαιρική παρουσίαση τῶν ἐξελίξεων τῆς ἀνθρώπινης ζωῆς σὲ ἕναν συγκεκριμένο χῶρο, τὴ Μικρὰ Ἀσία. Εἶναι προπάντων αὐτὴ ἡ ἐπιστημονικὴ «πολυφωνία» ποῦ δίνει στὸν παρόντα τόμο μιὰ ἰδιαίτερη βαρύτητα.

Λευκωσία

MARTIN HINTERBERGER

E. Kountoura-Galake, St. Lampakes, T. Loungis, A. Savvides, V. Vlyssidou, *Ἡ Μικρὰ Ἀσία τῶν Θεμάτων. Ἐρευνες πάνω στὴ γεωγραφικὴ φυσιογνωμία τῶν Βυζαντινῶν Θεμάτων τῆς Μικρᾶς Ἀσίας (7ος-11ος αἰ.)* Ἐθνικὸ Ἰδρυμα Ἐρευνητῶν. Ἰνστιτοῦτο Βυζαντινῶν Ἐρευνητῶν - Ἐρευνητικὴ Βιβλιοθήκη, 1 - *Asia Minor and its Themes. Studies on the Geography and Prosopography of the Byzantine Themes of Asia Minor (7<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> century)*, The National Hellenic Research Foundation. Institute for Byzantine Research - Research Series 1. Athens 1998, 538 pp.

The origins of the themes, their way of development from the ancient *provinciae* and the possible influence of the early-Byzantine *exarchats* of Ravenna and Cartage, but also the etymology of the term *thema* itself and the date of its first appearance were for decades amongst the most important problems for those scholars who were dealing with the history of Byzantine administration. Already in the year 1899 H. GELZER had studied the subject (*Die Genesis der byzantinischen Themenverfassung*, Leipzig); afterwards only very few phenomena of the Byzantine government were

discussed to such an extent, both intensively and controversially. Distinguished scholars like G. OSTROGORSKY («Sur la date de la composition du Livre des thèmes et sur l'époque de la constitution des premiers thèmes d'Asie Mineure», *Byzantion* 23 (1953), 31-66), F. DOLGER («Zur Ableitung der byzantinischen Verwaltungsterminus θέμα», *Historia* 4 (1955), 189-98), J. KARAYANNOPOULOS (*Die Entstehung der byzantinischen Themen-ordnung*, München 1959), W. KAEGI («Some Reconsiderations on the Themes, Seventh-Ninth centuries», *Jahrbuch der ...sterreichischen Byzantinistik* 16 (1967), 39-53 i.a.), N. OIKONOMIDES («Les premières mentions des thèmes dans la chronique de Théophane», *Zbornik Radova Vizantoloskog Instituta* 16 (1975), 1-8), R.-J. LILIE («Die zweihundert-jährige Reform. Zu den Anfängen der Themenorganisation im 7. und 8. Jahrhundert», *ByzantinoSlavica* 45 (1984), 27-39, 190-201), J. KODER («Zur Bedeutungsentwicklung der byzantinischen Terminus θέμα», *Jahrbuch der Osterreichischen Byzantinistik* 40 (1990), 155-65) and others have dealt with the question, but unfortunately the results of their research were in some cases completely different. Therefore the publication of an encyclopaedic volume is very welcome, a book, whose authors intended to make a stock-taking of the academic knowledge about the *themata* in Asia Minor and to assemble the well-known officials there verified by seals or by written sources. -Starting with a short preface of the now deceased former director of the Institute for Byzantine Research, N. OIKONOMIDES, (7-8) and some acknowledgements by T. LOUNGHIS (9-10), the volume then presents an extensive bibliography, which is complete in such a way that one can consider it as an important aid for further research by itself (11-34). This compilation is followed by the book's first main part entitled Τὰ Μικρασιατικά θέματα- The Themes of Asia Minor (37-348). In a triple subdivided introduction (Εἰσαγωγή) T. LOUNGHIS first of all summarises the evolution and the results of former scientific research, afterwards he looks at the terminology one can find in Byzantine sources concerning the subject, and finally he gives a short report about the origins of the themes in early-Byzantine times (37-67). As he explains, the history of these administrative districts can be divided into four stages of development (50): the first stage started at the beginning of the second half of the seventh century, it continued until the end of the reign of the emperor Constantine V (741-75) and was dominated by the themes Armeniakon (founded in 650 or 668/

69), Opsikion (680), Anatolikon (680/81) and Thrakesion (documented in 686/87). The second stage started in the year 767 with the foundation of the theme Boukellarion; this continued until the end of the reign of Michael II (820-29), when the themes of Kappadokias and Paphlagonias were established. The third stage, a time of dissipation, continued up to the reign of the emperor John I Tzimiskes (969-76) when *status quo* was fixed by the *Taktikon Escorial*. The last stage ended in the third quarter of the eleventh century and was characterised by further decline and splintering. - Admittedly concerning this theory we have two fundamental remarks: in the first place the disregarding of the important theme of Kibyrraioton, named after a town called Kibyrra and founded approximately in 740, therefore a part of the first stage, is problematic. The explanation given for this neglect, also used in the case of the later disregarded founded theme of Seleukeia east of Kibyrraioton, seems to be quite questionable: surely both themes were characterised by their seaside and more connected with Byzantine naval politics than with political strategies on the countryside (10). But otherwise, as a result of that a big part of Asia Minor, the whole coastal area of Lycia and Pamphylia with its impressive *hinterland* up to 150 kilometres is not considered in the volume. Not to mention the theme of Kibyrraioton in the development theory above means, in our opinion, to run the risk of irritating, if not of misleading the reader. Secondly the history of the themes after the third quarter of the eleventh century ought to be taken into account, simply to complete the picture: the themes existed up to the twelfth century, their names were known even in late-Byzantine times. Subsequent to the historical introduction E. KOUNTOURA-GALAKE, ST. LAMPAKES, T. LOUNGHIS, A. SAVVIDES and V. VLYSSIDOU present the well-known historical and geographical facts of the single themes of Asia Minor. In view of the older themes of Anatolikon (69-111), Armeniakon (113-61), Opsikion (163-200) and Thrakesion (201-34), the documentation of the sources is comparatively well, therefore the volume's text can be very extensive here. On the opposite the level of historical information concerning the later created themes, Optimaton (235-44), Boukellarion (245-57), Kappadokias (259-74), Paphlagonias (275-85), Chaldias (287-97), Charsianou (299-305), Lykandou (307-13), Mesopotamias (315-19), Kolo-neias (321-29), Sebasteias (331-35), Leontokomes (337-41), Charpezikiou (343-45) and Chozanou (347-48), is more poor, the scientific description

being quite short because of that. - This compilation, which is extremely useful in its entirety, is followed by the second main part of the book, called *Προσοπογραφικοί Κατάλογοι* - Prosopographical Catalogues (351-492). The themes of Anatolikon (351- 72), Armeniakon (373-89), Opsikion (391-405) and Thrakesion (407-24) are taken into account in great detail, afterwards one can find some lists of well-known persons coming from the themes of Optimaton (425-30), Boukellarion (431-40), Kappadokias (441-46), Paphlagonias (447-57), Chaldias (459-68), Charsianou (469-74), Lykandou (475-78), Mesopotamias (479-83), Koloneias (485-89) and Sebasteias (491-92). In this context we appreciate very much the consideration of sigillography, a major source for prosopography and ethnography in the Byzantine empire. The volume is completed by a triple subdivided index (495-538). - On the whole *Ἡ Μικρὰ Ἀσία τῶν Θεμάτων* is an interesting publication, a well-done presentation of scientific material, which will be important for further research on the history of Byzantine administration. However, the lacking of the themata of Kibyrraioton and Seleukeias is regrettable, but most amazing is the total absence of any cartography in a book dealing with geographical questions. The usability of the volume would be much better, if at least a single map would be presented here; ideally four maps could be shown, one for every stage of development, which is postulated above. For a wider attention to the book a summary in English, French etc. would have been usefull, too. Therefore the reader may have the impression that *Ἡ Μικρὰ Ἀσία τῶν Θεμάτων* is certainly a good publication, but that its authors unfortunately have not put the finishing touches on it.

Βιέννη

ANDREAS KUELZER