

Elizabeth A. Zachariadou (1931-2018)

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Professor Elizabeth A. Zachariadou passed away, after a short illness, on December 26, 2018, aged 87. Elizabeth Zachariadou, from a family of Greek refugees from Cappadocia, studied at the University of Athens before moving in 1956 to London to pursue her doctoral studies at the School of Oriental and African Studies, under the supervision of the prominent Ottomanist Paul Wittek; her thesis concerned a Greek chronicle of the Ottoman Sultans, which as she proved was in fact a translation of an Italian model. After a six-month sojourn in Istanbul, Zachariadou returned to Greece in 1960 and began working in the newly founded Center of Byzantine Studies of the Royal (now National) Foundation for Research, where she also met her future husband, the eminent Byzantinist Nikos Oikonomides. During this period, she discovered and studied the rich Ottoman archive of St. John monastery in Patmos, with which she was to work almost until the end of her life.

Both Zachariadou and Oikonomides strongly opposed the 1967 military coup; they took active part in underground organizations and, in 1969, fled to Montreal, Canada, where Oikonomides taught Byzantine history. Zachariadou continued writing articles (most of them collected in the volume *Romania and the Turks*, London: Variorum Reprints, 1985; in 1983 also her influential book *Trade and Crusade. Venetian Crete and the Emirates of Menteshe and Aydin (1300-1415)* was published in Venice) and sporadically teaching at Montreal, Sherbrooke and McGill universities.

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Zachariadou returned to Greece in 1985 to teach Ottoman history in the newly-founded University of Crete. Soon after she founded (together with Prof. Vassilis Demetriades) the Programme of Turkish Studies at the Institute for Mediterranean Studies/FORTH (1987), as well as the postgraduate programme in Turcology (the first and so far the only of its kind in Greece), run jointly by the University of Crete and the Institute for Mediterranean Studies (1988). In this context, she initiated the highly successful series of regular international symposia *Halcyon Days in Crete* (1991), now in their third decade; she also edited the proceedings of the first four conferences, *The Ottoman Emirate (1300-1389)* (1993; translated into Turkish as *Osmanlı Beyliği (1300-1389)*, Istanbul, 1997), *The Via Egnatia under Ottoman Rule (1380-1699)* (1996; translated into Turkish as *Sol Kol. Osmanlı Egemenliğinde Via Egnatia*, Istanbul, 1999), *Natural Disasters in the Ottoman Empire* (1999; translated into Turkish as *Osmanlı İmparatorluğunda Doğal Afetler*, Istanbul, 2001) and *The Kapudan Pasha: His Office and his Domain* (2002). Apart from her institutional and educational work, to which Ottoman studies in Greece are very much indebted, she initiated projects of translating Ottoman sources for the early history of the Ottoman conquests in Anatolia and the Balkans: her translation of Yahşi Fakih's chronicle (as incorporated in Aşıkpaşazade's history) was published in 1991, whereas she also supervised a translation of an anonymous *Gazavatname* of Murad II, published in 2005 (both with detailed introductions).

After her retirement, in 1998, Zachariadou continued her active engagement with Ottoman studies with the same vitality; a second batch of her articles appeared in the *Variorum* series in 2007 (*Studies in pre-Ottoman Turkey and the Ottomans*). Along with a team of scholars (the late Gilles Veinstein, Nicolas Vatin, and Michael Ursinus) she explored and published detailed summaries of the Ottoman archive of St. John monastery in Patmos (*Catalogue du fonds ottoman des archives du Monastère de Saint-Jean à Patmos. Les vingt-deux premières dossiers*, Athens 2011); with Anthony Luttrell, she studied the archive of the Hospitallers in Rhodes from the point of view of an Ottomanist (*Sources for Turkish History in the Hospitallers' Rhodian Archive, 1389-1422*, Athens 2008); in collaboration with the late György Hazai and assembling a team of students and young scholars at Rethymno she initiated the monumental edition of extensive summaries of the Turkish Archive of Herakleio (Kandiye), with four judicial registers published so far under her direction (2003, 2008, 2010, 2018; in Greek).

Elizabeth Zachariadou's contribution to Ottoman studies is extraordinarily rich and widely recognized. She has been honoured with an honorary doctorate from the University of Ankara (1990) and a membership in Academia Europaea (1993); Volume 23 of *Archivum Ottomanicum* (2005/6) and the proceedings of the *Halcyon Days in Crete VI* symposium (2008) were dedicated to her as an acknowledgment of her contribution to the field. Her exceedingly rich and diversified work covers the late Byzantine, the early and the 'classical' Ottoman periods; she is primarily known as an outstanding authority in early Ottoman studies, although she has also made significant contributions to the history of the seventeenth-century Aegean islands and especially Crete. Zachariadou's numerous studies still astonish us with their deep sense of reality in a poorly documented period, their attention to detail, their meticulous care for establishing the exact facts without jumping to hasty conclusions. She was one of the very few Ottomanist scholars, in the past as much (or even more) today, who could and would use a variety of languages: one of the last representatives of a world where a scholar would not only write both in English and French (let alone Greek, her native language) but also, and what is more, read sources in Ottoman Turkish, medieval Greek, Latin or Italian. Her outstanding contribution to our knowledge of the early Ottoman times owes a lot to her insightful combination of Ottoman annals and Byzantine chronicles, epistles or treatises, as well as Venetian or Genoese reports. She applied the same vigorous method and care for detail in studying later periods as well, establishing herself as one of the leading experts in matters such as the history of the Greek Orthodox church, the Aegean islands or the post-Seljuk Anatolian emirates before and under Ottoman rule.

For us Greek Ottomanists, Elizabeth Zachariadou was also a pioneer in very difficult times, and her efforts were indispensable in creating the institutional background in which we work. Her remarkable generosity in encouraging young scholars is to be particularly noted. But what is perhaps more, she has always been a mentor, a close friend and an advisor, at all times willing to share her knowledge and experience (as well as her views on politics, literature or travel, always with the same passion) over a glass of wine or two. She will always be remembered with affection and gratitude.