

Editors' note

Each year since 1981 the University of Cambridge has hosted a series of "Special lectures on Modern Greek themes", given by distinguished academics and public figures, as well as younger scholars. Well over one hundred lectures have been given, embracing a wide range of disciplines associated with Modern Greek studies: literature, history, politics, linguistics, social anthropology, sociology, music, art. These lectures have been much appreciated by successive and varied Cambridge audiences of students, academics and enthusiasts for things Greek. Over the past twelve years the spoken word, together with its associated social context, has thus helped us to create a community of people with a shared interest in the history and culture of Greece and Cyprus since the fifteenth century. These winged words have, of course, often become (with a slight shift of metaphor) fully-fledged articles in learned journals at a later stage of their development. But not all lectures are destined to be published and, even when they are, publication can be delayed by years. Many excellent oral presentations thus reach only a limited audience of immediate listeners. These considerations have encouraged us to investigate the idea of making some lectures available to a larger public in a permanent form but without undue delay. Hence *Κάμπος*.

This first issue contains the texts of five of the lectures given in Cambridge during the academic year 1992-93. Their authors have been invited to add, if they wish, a limited amount of annotation and bibliography, but we have not sought to impose the strict requirements of academic journals. Nor should these contributions be seen as necessarily representing the final or definitive views of the speakers on the matters they treat. Some of the lecturers certainly regard their papers as "work in progress" and will welcome dialogue. At all events, we firmly believe that there is much benefit to be gained from making these texts accessible to a larger audience in a form which

permits study, debate and mature reflection. We hope that readers will welcome this initiative, which could, resources permitting, perhaps become an annual publication.

A few words about our title: the word κάμπος has many associations and connotations in the Greek language and in Greek culture. Its basic physical sense of a flat place, in opposition to the mountains, is certainly apposite to the Cambridge setting in which the lectures were given. The κάμπος is also the place to which warriors descend to do battle – but this is not an association we wish to press! Rather we have in mind the notion of an open natural space, which permits freedom of thought and self-expression. As the Cypriot poet puts it:

Γοιον τα πουλλιὰ τα λεύτερα στον κάμπο κλαδούσιν
κι αφόν τα βάλουν στο κλουβίν ξηχάνουν τι να πούσιν.
(Κυπρ. ερωτ. 115.9-10)

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