Tab Greek Writers
— R. N. Vanezis
— V. I. Kapernaros

AND Too NEW Books

Both the above authors are English 'manqué' — i.e., they are in the stream of English culture but not of it. Thus, they combine the seemingly contradictory (intellectually, harmonious) qualities of passion and detachment. Involved, but not uncritical.

Both have studied in England and have made their homes in England. Both married to British girls — Dr. Vanezis to a Londoner of Greek parentage, Mr. Kapernaros to a Scott ish girl. Both authors are bilingual, equally fluent in Greek and English.

Dr. Vanezis was born in Cyprus. For the last eight years he has been the Cultural Attaché of the Cyprus High Commissioner in London. "Makarios — Faith and Power" published by A. podróż of London, and retailing at £2.00, is his first book. Two others are on the stocks, one ready for launching.

"Makarios — Faith and Power" is a brilliant first. It is warmly introduced by the literary good causes-attached James Cameron. Mr. Cameron is a sincere believer in Anglo-Greek friendship — it would be surprising for a man of his humanity, if, indeed, this were not so — which he feels will endure whatever the temporarily or continuing follies of the politicians. Dr. Vanezis's book by examining issues obliquely by revealing fact and historical reality from underneath the surface of contentious casuistry makes its own contribution to the understanding of Makarios guiding the reader on his perilous path.

Dr. Vanezis does not go beyond the areas of his brief. He does not delve into the inner thought of the man, the political. He gets no insights into the workings of the mind, into the psychological mechanics of his driving daemon, into his loyalties, beliefs and...
With bold brush strokes, Dr. Vanezis gives a clear picture of the historical background of present day Cyprus, and the role the structure and religious content of its ancient Church. The Church of Cyprus is one of the oldest in Christendom. It functionaries distinct on the whole, as the sanitizer of the people. The priests are appointed by the communities (pantris), and in the village they usually are chosen from among the members of the village community. Church funds are administered by the parishioners. The Church structure is not something alien or imposed from above or outside on the people - it is part of the society. The Bishops, including the Archbishop, are elected. They are voted into the Church. The church is a "living church through the centuries". When oppression it had provided a national shield and became the national defender of and spokesman for the people. Hence its present national role which the Archbishop, as head of the Church-Synod, whether a politician or not, represents.

Dr. Vanezis examines these developments. He traces back the history of the role of the Church down to our times, through two EOKA struggles against the leadership of a German faction within the leadership of the Turkish occupation, which has made the Church an official instrument of the Turkish occupation forces. All these are faced squarely and examined coolly examined. Dr. Vanezis does not plead lack of historical perspective, he avoids examining current problems, neither does he shield criticism to avoid official identity to stifle criticism. Where he feels that criticism is necessary. The result is a book - a remarkable tour de force - which represents a significant addition to the bibliography of Cyprus.
Undoubtedly the Cyprus problem is entering once again upon an acute phase. Anxieties are surfacing with insistent clamour. The Turkish position is becoming more insistent, intransigent and dangerous. Party division among the Greeks are causing a lot of trouble. That is about the question of how everybody's lips. Dr. Vanezis does not swallow any answers. Though relatively he suggests one thing. An agency by example of Messengers, as well as all people interested in the Cyprus question. This book stimulates, informative and immensely useful.

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From Vanezis and Cyprus to Kapermanos and Mani!

Mr. Vrasidas Kapermanos is a scientist who has progressed through art (films and the B.P.C.) to the City of London.

He was born in Alexandria during the first half of this century. Alexandria was a polyglot city with many thriving foreign communities, of which the Greek was the most numerous and not the least important. A Greek-English who came from Mani. Essentially, Mr. Kapermanos makes his writing as writer with a book about the people of Mani — title "Di Maniates".

Thirteen years ago, Mr. Patrick Leigh Fermor published a book on Mani. It was an instant success. Author, people, the morphology of the land and its feudal history combined to paint a picture of the mountainous peninsula of southern Peloponnesse — the centre of the historic region of ancient Sparta and the peninsula of the jugged promontory of Cape Matapan where the historic "Entrance to Hades" is situated — which has remained memorable. Since then many people have discovered Mani and the micrology of its women.

Few, however, have dealt with the Maniates as such — the people of Mani, their history, their habits, their fierce code of honour, their unsavory pride (or else) their geiger-like sensitivity or anything smacking of danger, personal affront, diminution of one's self-respect, their courage, their elemental love of freedom.
which permits of no track with alien domination of adventurers from, their volcanic passions. Mr. Kappernanos deals with all these with scholarly impartiality & detail, based on wide reading and personal contact, but observes with scrupulousness & iron also with love. His narrative is shot through with illuminating flashes of understanding, which turn his study into a work of help to lift the book above the level of study and make it a work of art. Detail is never allowed to obscure the general impression.

To a Greek, of course, Mani is one of the places shelled by the history. It was never completely conquered. It remained a bastion of freedom and defiance. Repeated Turkish efforts failed to subdue its indomitable inhabitants — men and women. Its women also fought. The first successful attack against Turkish position during the Greek Revolution was launched from Mani by the Maniates. This is a story, sun-baked area, provided inspiration and example in all the lands. Mr. Kappernanos guides us with expert knowledge through these developments and spreads before us the living reality of the Maniates, still picturesque, still replete with ferocious human (man & woman) pride.

Mr. Kappernanos's book is written in Greek. That would not have been a plume for it there were it not for the fact that the author is preparing a full-sized version in English. It will be published, I am sure, soon. If this Greek text is anything to go by, I am certain that an improved and enlarged English edition will prove a work of fertile fascination.

London, November 71.

P. N. Vanezis

The Books:
1. Dr. P. N. Vanezis: Markarios: Faith & Power. Abbeville- Schuman Ltd.
   8, King St. London, W.C.2. Price £2.00