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G. P. Savídhis. *Mikrá Kavafiká*. Vol. A. Athens. Ermís. 1985. 390 pages.

Few scholars are as familiar with the writings of Cavafy as George Savídhis (see *WLT* 53:4, p. 639); thus his "Short Cavafiana" constitutes a valuable contribution to the ever-increasing relevant bibliography. The volume consists of seventeen items (designated A1 to A17), ranging in nature and form from addresses and lessons to philological studies and critical essays. Three appear here for the first time in print, while the rest have been gathered from magazines, newspapers, yearbooks, and other collective publications. The earliest piece, "About Two New Editions of Cavafy" (1963), prefaced a "popular" edition of the Alexandrian poet's verse by Ikaros; the latest is one of the 1984 Gray Lectures given at Cambridge. Arranged in chronological order of composition, the articles actually witness the growth of their author from the time of his first ambitious appearance as a scholar through the years of his international recognition as a leading Cavafist. A list of abbreviations and a first-publication account complete the book. The second volume, already in preparation, will feature sixteen more items (B1 to B16) with an addendum of five general topics and a collective index.

All the items, despite their brevity and conversational style, are professionally organized and documented. Notes have been added to some, thus updating their scholarship; all, however, go deeply into the issues they examine, sparing no details, cross-references, or comparisons. Savídhis neither rehashes the works of others nor repeats himself as he proceeds from essay to essay, maintaining the readers' interest and "illuminating" them in the process. On the purely philological side, mention must be made of his close examination of subsequent versions of "The Funeral of Sarpedon" in "Seven Stages of a Cavafy Poem"; general and crucial problems are dealt with in pieces like "Was Cavafy a Christian?"—in this case the answer being positive.

Of particular interest to Anglophone scholars and comparatists are his English essays "Cavafy, Gibbon and Byzantium," "Cavafy versus Aeschylus," and "Cavafy and Forster." The third, originally published in the *Times Literary Supplement* (1975), added significant data to the previously fragmentary information about the mutually beneficial friendship between these important authors and initiated a new phase in Greek literary history, that of modern Greek influence on major international writers (Forster, Durrell, Auden). Of a similar nature is the short "Bertolt Brecht—C. P. Cavafy: An Approach," wherein Savídhis persuasively argues about the German's debt to Cavafy's poem "Trojans" and even cites Helmut von den Steinen's translation (published in the 1950s) as the certain source of the famous dramatist and poet.

Savídhis's Cavafiana have been seminal. Serious Greek and foreign scholars have followed his academic explorations and sound judgments, expanding the world's awareness of Cavafy's importance in particular and of modern Greek literature in general.

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