FORWARD

The biography of hosios Leontios, abbot of the famous monastery of St. John the Theologian of Patmos and later Patriarch of Jerusalem, is an interesting hagiographical work from more than one point of view. Besides being one of the very few works of this genre from the late twelfth—early thirteenth century known to us, it also provides useful historical information about the policy of Byzantium towards the Latin States of the East in the second half of the twelfth century; about Byzantine monasticism during the same period; and about Byzantine provinces, such as Crete and Cyprus, as well as about Constantinople itself.

The Life of Leontios has been used in the past by scholars for this or other piece of information, but it has never been studied and commented upon in its entirety before. This, as well as the fact that until now it was known through one antiquated and practically inaccessible edition, lead me to undertake a new critical edition, which would also make use of the second manuscript which was discovered in Patmos in the 1960s, and which would comment on its more interesting points and pieces of information. Also, the translation of the text into English would make the Life more accessible and useful to a wider readership. During my work for this edition I was greatly helped by the excellent library of the Centre for Medieval and Modern Greek Research of the Academy of Athens; I have also worked, during the summers of 1990 and 1991, at the Bodleian Library, Oxford.

The new edition of the Life of Leontios was made possible through microfilms of the manuscripts which were kindly provided by the monastery of St. John the Theologian of Patmos. I would like to thank the abbot of the monastery, bishop Isidoros, and in particular the Librarian father Chrysostomos Florentis for his help during my work in the library of the monastery. There are many colleagues and friends whose learned advice and help I sought for the preparation of this edition. For the establishing of the Greek text I would like to thank, first, Dr. Dimitris Sofianos, Director of the Centre for Mediaeval and Modern Greek Research of the Academy of Athens, for all his learned advice and for reading the entire text and making valuable suggestions; and second, Dr. Hermioné Iliadou and Dr.
Menelaos Christopoulos, both of the Centre for Publication of Works of Classical Greek Authors of the Academy of Athens, for their patience in discussing with me specific language problems. For reading the entire manuscript and for making important remarks and particularly for his help with the English translation I would like to express my gratitude to Dr. Michael Whitby, of the University of St. Andrews: his contribution made the translation precise and flowing. It goes without saying that I am solely responsible for any mistakes. I would also like to thank Dr. Mary Cunningham-Corran and Dr. J.M. Featherstone for their suggestions on specific problems of the translation; and Dr. Paul Magdalino, of the University of St. Andrews, who also read the manuscript and offered valuable suggestions and corrections. Finally, I would like to express my thanks to E.J. Brill Publishers, for including the Life of Leontios in this series, and to their team of classicists and computer specialists who succeeded, through a difficult process, into translating and preparing the NotaBene files for publication.

Lastly, a word about transliteration, which is a well-known problem for all those working with Greek texts. There is not one transliteration method which satisfies every case; I think, however, that by following the German method (e.g. Komnenos and not Comnenus) in general lines we have the most satisfactory results both in terms of consistency and in terms of keeping the transliterated word closer to its Greek form. Nevertheless, there are always exceptions to this rule, and as I do not claim to be entirely consistent, I ask for the forbearance of my readers.

D.T.
Athens, 1 May 1993