Brief Notices

In this section, we acknowledge the receipt of recent works on Greek that have come to our editorial offices, and offer a brief characterization of their contents.


Charitonidis, Chariton. 2011. Making Verbs Happen. Interviews on Greek Verb Endings (= Languages of the World 43). Munich: LINCOM EUROPA, 52 pp. [Working with material based on interviews with 28 speakers of Athenian Greek, and adopting the framework for morphological analysis of Lieber 2004, C offers here a study of the semantics of several verbalizing suffixes in Modern Greek, specifically -iz-, -en-, -ev-, -on-, -(i)az-, and -in-. Semantic features such as [dynamic], [intensive], [evaluation], or [diminutive] are shown to figure in differentiating these formatives. Attention is also given to the variation in the ending -ao as opposed to -o for the first person singular present, with the variation turning out to depend on speech style or geography (dialect).]

Giannakis, Georgios K., ed. 2012. Ancient Macedonia: Language, History, Culture. Thessaloniki: Centre for the Greek Language, Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Culture and Sports, 293 pp. [This volume is a collection of five items, an introduction by the editor, ‘The history of Macedonia in the pre-Hellenistic period’ by Michael Zahrt, ‘The other Greece: The archaeology of Macedonia’ by Arthur Muller, ‘Languages and dialects in Ancient Macedon’ by Emilio Crespo, and ‘Ancient Macedonian as a Greek dialect: A critical survey on recent work’ by Julián Mendez Dosuna, each presented in four languages, Greek, English, French, and German. By covering the history, the archaeology, the linguistic demography, and the matter of the affiliation of the ancient...]

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Macedonian language, this volume brings together multiple perspectives on these historically somewhat obscure people.

Janse, Mark, Brian Joseph, †Pavlos Pavlou, Angela Ralli, and Spyros Armosti, eds. 2011. Studies in Modern Greek Dialects and Linguistic Theory. Lefkosia: Research Center of Kykkos Monastery, xii, 355 pp. [This volume contains papers from the Third International Conference on Modern Greek Dialects and Linguistic Theory (MGDLT3), held in June 2007 at the University of Cyprus. In all, there are 26 papers, including one by invited speaker George Drettas. Topics covered range over phonetics, phonology, morphology, and syntax, with a cluster of five papers in the area of language contact and language shift. Some of the papers treat topics, such as mediopassive morphology or the privative alpha, across several dialects, while others focus on particular dialects. The dialect most focused on in the papers is Cypriot Greek, not surprising given the venue of the conference, but there are also multiple papers on Tsakonian, on Asia Minor varieties, and on Greek of southern Italy.]

Συμεωνίδης, Χαραλάμπος Π. 2006. Ιστορία της Κυπριακής Διαλέκτου. Lefkosia: Research Center of Kykkos Monastery, 482 pp. [This monumental work covers the history of the Cypriot dialect, from ancient times up to the present. For the archaic period, from the 7th century BC until 300 AD, S discusses the syllabic writing system and what it reveals about ancient Cypriot phonology, multilingualism in ancient times on the island, the relationship between Arcadian and Cypriot, and the Hellenistic period in Cyprus. Continuing into the medieval and modern eras, S covers the sounds, the morphology, and the syntax in considerable detail. The extensive Part 3 offers a wide range of materials in the Cypriot dialect, with ancient syllabic inscriptions, medieval poetry and chronicles, and various texts (stories and such) representing the modern language.]

Vierros, Marja. 2012. Bilingual Notaries in Hellenistic Egypt. A Study of Greek as a Second Language (= Collectanea Hellenistica V). Brussels: Publikatie van het Comité Klassieke Studies, Subcomité Hellenisme. Koninklijke Vlaamse Academie van België voor Wetenschappen en Kunsten, 291 pp. [Based on V's 2011 Ph.D. dissertation from the University of Helsinki, this work treats a variety of Greek of Ptolemaic Egypt seen in the language of the approximately 150 surviving contracts written by public notaries. V first treats the language used from a sociolinguistic standpoint, interrogating the nature of the notary speech community and the function of the texts themselves. She then turns to an analysis of the Greek itself. The language of the contracts is nonstandard from the Greek point of view, and V examines the extent to which this is simply a different variety of native Greek or is the result of Greek being a second language for the notaries.]
Indeed, some of the characteristics of notary Greek seem to be explainable as transfer from the likely L1 for these notaries, Egyptian.

Χριστοφίδου, Αναστασία, επιμ. 2012. Δελτίο Επιστημονικής Ορολογίας και Νεολογισμών, Τεύχος 11. Athens: Academy of Athens, Research Center for Scientific Terms and Neologisms, 285 pp. [This volume continues the lexicographic work of the Academy of Athens, providing in Part 1 a catalogue of new words that have entered Modern Greek usage and in Part 2 a listing of Greek equivalents for 678 English words associated with energy technology, each with an explanatory gloss. There is as well an introduction by the editor explaining the basis for judging neologisms.]