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978-1-107-02622-3 - Michael Psellos: Rhetoric and Authorship in Byzantium

Stratis Papaioannou

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MICHAEL PSELLOS

This book explores Michael Psellos' place in the history of Greek rhetoric and self-representation and his impact on the development of Byzantine literature. Avoiding the modern dilemma that vacillates between Psellos the pompous rhetorician and Psellos the ingenious thinker, Professor Papaioannou unravels the often misunderstood Byzantine rhetoric, its rich discursive tradition, and the social fabric of elite Constantinopolitan culture which rhetoric addressed. The book offers close readings of Psellos' personal letters, speeches, lectures, and historiographical narratives, and analysis of other early Byzantine and classical models of authorship in Byzantine book culture, such as Gregory of Nazianzos, Synesios of Kyrene, Hermogenes, and Plato. It also details Psellos' innovative attention to authorial creativity, performative mimesis, and the aesthetics of the self. Simultaneously, it traces within Byzantium complex expressions of emotion and gender, notions of authorship and subjectivity, and theories of fictionality and literature, challenging the common fallacy that these are modern inventions.

STRATIS PAPAIOANNOU is Associate Professor of Classics at Brown University. He has published extensively on Byzantine literature, especially on the history of rhetoric and literary subjectivity, and is currently preparing an edition of Michael Psellos' letters for the Teubner Series, as well as a volume of translations with Psellos' texts. He has co-edited *Byzantine Religious Culture: Studies in Honor of Alice-Mary Talbot* (with Denis Sullivan and Elizabeth Fisher, 2011). Recent articles include: "Fragile Literature: Byzantine Letter-Collections and the Case of Michael Psellos" (2012), "Michael Psellos on Friendship and Love: Erotic Discourse in Eleventh-Century Constantinople" (2011), "Byzantine *Enargeia* and Theories of Representation" (2011), and "Byzantine Mirrors: Self-Reflection in Medieval Greek Writing" (2010).

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A note on style

Following other studies of Byzantine texts, I adopted a mixed system of transliteration, even if it resulted in some unavoidable discrepancies. Well-known or well-established ancient and some later Greek names appear in their common latinized or anglicized form; e.g., Aristotle, Plato, Constantine the Great, Gregory, Dionysius, John of Damascus. Most Byzantine names, however, are transliterated; thus Nazianzos, Photios, Theodoros Prodromos, Psellos, and Ioannes Sikeliotēs.

Abbreviations

PSellos' TEXTS

- Charikleia and Leukippe* *What Is The Difference Between The Texts Whose Plots Concern Charikleia and Leukippe?*: ed. A. Dyck, *Michael Psellus, The Essays on Euripides and George of Pisidia and on Heliodorus and Achilles Tatius* (Vienna: Verlag der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften, 1986) 90–8.
- Chron.* ed. S. Impellizzeri, *Michele Psello, Imperatori di Bisanzio: (cronografia); introduzione di D. Del Corno; testo critico a cura di S. Impellizzeri; commento di U. Criscuolo; traduzione di S. Ronchey* (Milan: Fondazione L. Valla, 1984).
- Concise Answers to Various Questions* ed. L. G. Westerink, *Michael Psellus, De omnifaria doctrina* (Utrecht: J. L. Beijers, 1948).
- Concise History* ed. W. J. Aerts, *Michaelis Pselli historia syntomos* (Corpus fontium historiae Byzantinae. Series Berolinensis 30; Berlin and New York: De Gruyter, 1990).
- Discourse* *Discourse Improvised by the Hypertimos Psellos to the Bestarchês Pothos Who asked Him to Write about the Style of the Theologian*: ed. (a) P. Levy, *Michael Psellus. De Gregorii Theologi caractere iudicium, accedit eiusdem de Ioannis Chrisostomi caractere iudicium ineditum* (Diss. Strasbourg; Leipzig: R. Noske, 1912) 46–63; and (b) A. Mayer, “Psellos’ Rede über den rhetorischen Charakter des Gregorios von Nazianz,” *Byzantinische Zeitschrift* 20 (1911) 27–100, at 48–60. Both editions are cited: the paragraph number refers to the paragraph divisions in Levy’s edition, while the numbers refer to the lines in Mayer’s edition.
- Encomium for a Certain Monk Nikolaos, Who Became Abbot of the Monastery of the Beautiful Spring on Olympos* ed. P. Gautier, “Éloge funèbre de Nicolas de la Belle Source par Michel Psellos moine à l’Olympe,” *Βυζαντινὰ* 6: 9–69.

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- Encomium for His Mother* ed. U. Criscuolo, *Michele Psello. Autobiografia: encomio per la madre* (Naples: D'Auria, 1989).
- Euripides or Pisides? Who versified better, Euripides or Pisides?:* ed. A. Dyck, *Michael Psellus, The Essays on Euripides and George of Pisidia and on Heliodorus and Achilles Tatius* (Vienna: Verlag der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften, 1986) 40–50.
- G Letters: ed. P. Gautier, “Quelques lettres de Psellos inédites ou déjà éditées,” *Revue des Études Byzantines* 44 (1986) 111–97, at 126–97.
- Gautier, “Monodies” Several funerary orations: ed. P. Gautier, “Monodies inédites de Michel Psellos,” *Revue des études Byzantines* 36 (1978) 83–151.
- K-D Letters: ed. E. Kurtz and F. Drexl, *Michael Psellus. Scripta minora magnam partem adhuc inedita II: Epistulae* (Orbis romanus, biblioteca del testi medievali a cura dell' Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore 5.2; Milan: Società editrice “Vita e pensiero,” 1941).
- K-D I Various texts: ed. E. Kurtz and F. Drexl, *Michael Psellus. Scripta minora magnam partem adhuc inedita I: Orationes et dissertationes* (Orbis romanus, biblioteca del testi medievali a cura dell' Università cattolica del sacro cuore 5.1; Milan: Società editrice “Vita e pensiero,” 1936).
- Maltese* Letters: ed. E. V. Maltese, “Epistole inedite di Michele Psello,” *Studi Italiani di filologia classica* III 5 (1987) 82–98 and 214–23; 6 (1988) 110–34.
- Letter to Ioannes Xiphilinos* ed. U. Criscuolo, *Michele Psello, epistola a Giovanni Xifilino* (Byzantina et neo-hellenica Neapolitana 1; Naples: Bibliopolis, 1973; new edn. 1990).
- Letter to Michael Keroularios* ed. U. Criscuolo, *Michele Psello, epistola a Michele Cerulario* (Byzantina et neo-hellenica Neapolitana 3; Naples: Bibliopolis, 1973; new edn. 1990).
- On John Chrysostom* ed. P. Levy, *Michael Psellus. De Gregorii Theologi caractere iudicium, accedit eiusdem de Ioannis Chrisostomi caractere iudicium ineditum* (Diss. Strasbourg; Leipzig: R. Noske, 1912) 92–8.
- On Rhetoric* ed. P. Gautier, “Michel Psellos et la rhétorique de Longin,” *Prometheus* 3 (1977) 193–9; and M. Patillon and L. Brisson (eds.), *Longin. Fragments. Art Rhétorique. Rufus. Art rhétorique* (Paris: Les Belles Lettres, 2001): *Fr.* 49, pp. 208–12.
- On the Arrangement of the Parts of Speech* ed. G. Aujac, “Michel Psellos et Denys d'Halicarnasse: Le traité sur la composition des éléments du langage,” *Revue des études byzantines* 33 (1975) 257–75.

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- On the Styles of Certain Writings* ed. J. F. Boissonade, *Michael Psellus de operatione daemonum cum notis Gaulmini. Accedunt inedita opuscula Pselli* (Nuremberg, 1838 = Reprint; Amsterdam: A. M. Hakkert, 1964) 48–52.
- On Tragedy* ed. F. Perusino, *Anonimo (Michele Psello?): La tragedia greca. Edizione critica, traduzione e commento* (Urbino: QuattroVenti, 1993).
- Or. for.* ed. G. T. Dennis, *Michael Psellus. Orationes forenses et acta* (Stuttgart and Leipzig: B. G. Teubner, 1994).
- Or. hag.* ed. E. A. Fisher, *Michael Psellus. Orationes hagiographicae* (Stuttgart and Leipzig: B. G. Teubner, 1994).
- Or. min.* ed. A. R. Littlewood, *Michael Psellus. Oratoria minora* (Leipzig: B. G. Teubner, 1985).
- Or. pan.* ed. G. T. Dennis, *Michael Psellus. Orationes panegyricae* (Stuttgart and Leipzig: B. G. Teubner, 1993).
- Phil. min. I* ed. J. M. Duffy, *Michael Psellus. Philosophica minora I* (Stuttgart and Leipzig: B. G. Teubner, 1992).
- Phil. min. II* ed. D. J. O'Meara, *Michael Psellus. Philosophica minora II* (Leipzig: B. G. Teubner, 1989).
- Poem* ed. L. G. Westerink, *Michael Psellus. Poemata* (Stuttgart and Leipzig: B. G. Teubner, 1992).
- S Letters: ed. K. N. Sathas, *Μεσαιωνική Βιβλιοθήκη. Συλλογή ανέκδοτων μνημείων τῆς Ἑλληνικῆς ἱστορίας, v: Μιχαήλ Ψελλοῦ ἱστορικοὶ λόγοι, ἐπιστολαὶ καὶ ἄλλα ἀνέκδοτα* (Venice: Phoinix, 1876 = Paris: Libraires-éditeurs, 1876 = reprint; Athens: Γρηγοριάδης, 1972) 219–523.
- Sathas IV, v Various texts: ed. K. N. Sathas, *Μεσαιωνική Βιβλιοθήκη. Συλλογή ανέκδοτων μνημείων τῆς Ἑλληνικῆς ἱστορίας, v: Μιχαήλ Ψελλοῦ ἱστορικοὶ λόγοι, ἐπιστολαὶ καὶ ἄλλα ἀνέκδοτα* (Venice: Phoinix, 1876 = Paris: Libraires-éditeurs, 1876 = reprint; Athens: Γρηγοριάδης, 1972) and K. N. Sathas, *Μεσαιωνική Βιβλιοθήκη. Συλλογή ανέκδοτων μνημείων τῆς Ἑλληνικῆς ἱστορίας IV: Μιχαήλ Ψελλοῦ ἑκατονταετηρίδς Βυζαντινῆς ἱστορίας (976–1077)* (Venice: Phoinix, 1874).
- Styles of Gregory the Theologian, Basil the Great, Chrysostom, and Gregory of Nyssa* ed. Boissonade, *Michael Psellus de operatione daemonum*, 124–31.
- Synopsis of the Rhetorical Forms* ed. C. Walz, *Rhetores graeci*, vol. v (Stuttgart: J. G. Cotta, 1833) 601–5 and also Bake, J. *Apsinis et Longini rhetorica* (Oxford: E typographeo Academico, 1849) 154–8.

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Theol. I ed. P. Gautier, *Michael Psellus. Theologica* I (Leipzig: B. G. Teubner, 1989).

Theol. II ed. L. G. Westerink and J. M. Duffy, *Michael Psellus. Theologica* II (Munich and Leipzig: K. G. Saur, 2002).

OTHER COMMONLY CITED TEXTS

Sikeliotes, *Comm.* Ioannes Sikeliotes, *Commentary on the Forms of Hermogenes*, ed. Walz.

Sikeliotes, *Prolegomena* Ioannes Sikeliotes, *Prolegomena*, ed. Rabe.

For all other abbreviations, I have followed the usage of A. P. Kazhdan (ed.), *The Oxford Dictionary of Byzantium* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1991) (itself abbreviated as *ODB*).