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978-1-108-04371-7 - Ioannis Cantacuzeni Eximperatoris Historiarum Libri IV: Graece et Latine: Volume 2

Edited by Ludwig Schopen

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Ioannis Cantacuzeni Eximperatoris Historiarum Libri IV

This three-volume work of Byzantine history by the ex-Emperor John VI Cantacuzene was edited, together with a Latin translation by the Jesuit scholar, Pontanus (1542–1626), by Ludwig Schopen (1799–1867), and published between 1828 and 1832. It covers part of the same period as the works by George Pachymeres and Nicephorus Gregoras (also reissued in this series) and the three accounts can usefully be compared. John Cantacuzene (c. 1292–1383) was unusual among Byzantine emperors in that he appears to have been reluctant to take the throne, and also in that, having been deposed in 1354, he was allowed to retire to a monastery, where he wrote this account of his times. The historian Edward Gibbon, among others, noted the self-justificatory tone of his memoir. Volume 2 begins with the funeral of Andronikos III in 1341 and ends with the acclamation of John as Emperor in 1347.

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Graece et Latine

VOLUME 2

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O P E R A

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PARATA.

P A R S XX.

C A N T A C U Z E N U S.

VOLUMEN II.

BONNAE
IMPENSIS ED. WEBERI
MDCCCXXLI.

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P R A E M O N I T U M.

Cum iam in eo sim, ut, quid in hoc altero Cantacuzeni volumine praestitum sit, exponam, facere non possum, quin acerbissimam casus illius memoriam renovem, qui necopinato nuper boni cuiusque animum perculit et afflixit. Cuius enim consilio auspiciiue felicitate haec ipsa Byzantinorum scriptorum collectio et condita est et in laetam spem accrevit, eum subita atque immatura morte ereptum nobis esse, quis est, quem nunc demum edoceri oporteat? Quippe Niebuhrius ea erat nominis gloria, immortalibus in rem litterariam meritis parta, ut et vivus, si quis alius, inter humanitatis decora splendidissima celebraretur, et, ubi vita decessit, longe lateque triste sui desiderium diffunderet communisque iacturae sensum excitaret. Et vero nuntius iste eo gravius omnium animos affecit, quod in magna et multiplici calamitate, quam, tot viris praeclaris summaque doctrinae laude conspicuis, nescio qua fati iniquitate, intra hoc breve temporis spatium ex-

VI

PRAEMONITUM.

tinctis, litterae nostrae acceperant, is unus cum paucis superesse videbatur, qui rem afflictam sustineret, in quem ceteri velut in exemplum severioris ac prorsus antiquae eruditionis intuerentur, in quo, quaecunque sive ad amplitudinem litterarum, sive ad arcendam fortiterque repellendam superstitionem et barbariem facerent, summa inesse omnia constaret. O spem inanem fragilemque humanae magnitudinis conditionem! Hunc talem virum, in quo tanta esset ingenii vis ac pulchritudo, tantus in omnibus, quae proderet, generosae et excelsae mentis vigor, tanta amplitudo doctrinae, integritas animi et candor, morum denique suavitas, qua omnium voluntates alliceret et in maiorem sui admirationem raperet, hunc, inquam, eodem mox fato oppressum esse, et, cum ne summa quidem senectute decessurus sine bonorum querimonia fuisset, oppressum esse in ipso integrae aetatis cursu, florentem adhuc viribus deque litteris praeclare merendi studio occupatum felicissimo. Quanquam quid ego mortem queror immaturam? in qua quidquid acerbitatis et iacturae inest, non ad Niebuhrium, sed ad nos pertinet, quibus eo non amplius frui licet. Ille satis, dum viveret, nominis existimationi consuluit et virtute effecit sua, ut non annorum numero, nec spatio aetatis vita eius censeatur, sed fama et meritorum laude ac grata piaque memoria, quae tamdiu infixae haerebit in animis hominum, quamdiu litteris ipsis et honor et nomen constabit. At sentio me impetu quodam doloris, cuius est in

PRAEMONITUM.

VII

ipsa desideratissimi viri recordatione remedium aliquod et levamen positum, longius abripi atque ab eo, quod huic volumini praefari institui, aberrare. Quare, ut ad propositum me referam, indicandum est, eiusdem Niebuhrii beneficio et incredibili, quo totius Byzantini operis et utilitati et decori prospexit, studio effectum id quoque esse, ut, cum antea Cantacuzeni textus unius tantum Parisini codicis auctoritate niteretur, novum iam, idque valde a nobis, cum primum volumen edebamus, expetitur, rei criticae praesidium suppetere, cuius ope emendatio huius scriptoris paullo certius institui posset. Cognoveram nimirum e censura tomi primi, a Spengelio V. D. in Seebodii Bibl. Crit. a. 1829. num. 87. sqq. facta, asservari in Monacensi bibliotheca codicem illum Bavaricum, unde Pontanus Cantacuzenum aliquot annis ante latine edidit, quam graeca e Parisino codice prodirent. Cumque lectionis specimina, inde enotata, satis ostenderent, non inutilem eius conferendi laborem fore, facile Niebuhrius a liberalitate Lichenthaleri, viri humanissimi, qui bibliothecae Monacensi praeest, impetravit, ut liber huc mitteretur. Est autem codex saeculi XVI., chartaceus, forma maxima, foliis 606. constans, scriptura nitidissima. In margine exhibet lectionum varietatem satis amplam, cuius longe maxima pars ex codice vetustiore deprompta est; quaedam correctoris ingenio debentur. Diligentissime igitur hunc librum, quem Monacensem vocavi, cum Parisina editione contuli; qui quantum mihi pro-

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

VIII

PRAEMONITUM.

fuerit emendandique operam meam levaverit, nihil attinet dicere: res ipsa docebit. Quoties enim vitia, quibus Cantacuzenus, qualis e Parisino codice prodiit, passim inquinatus est, ad huius fidem correxi, aut si quid prorsus omissum erat antea, inde supplevi et integritati suae reddidi, sedulo faciendum curavi, ut Parisini libri dissensum indicarem. Ubi utriusque codicis lectionem annotatam reperiesset, ibi scito, quod in textu legitur, coniectura a me restitutum esse; quanquam id et parcissime feci, et ea semper, ut debui, moderatione, ut nihil quidquam ex ingenio mutarem, nisi ubi res certissima videretur. Quin etiam in eo genere quaedam servavi, quae nunc correcta mallet, velut p. 21, 19., ubi pro eo, quod uterque codex habet *προσιστάμενον*, non dubito, quin emendandum sit *παριστάμενον*. Vid. p. 207, 5. 237, 10. Deinde scribendum est p. 80, 4. non *Θεοῦ συναιρουμένου*, sed *Θεοῦ συναιρομένου*, ut in eadem formula apud nostrum saepius. Reliquum est, ut moneam, quidquid variantium lectionum in duobus prioribus libris codex Monacensis habet, insertum iri volumini tertio, quod mox prodibit.

Scr. Bonnae mens. April. a. 1831.
