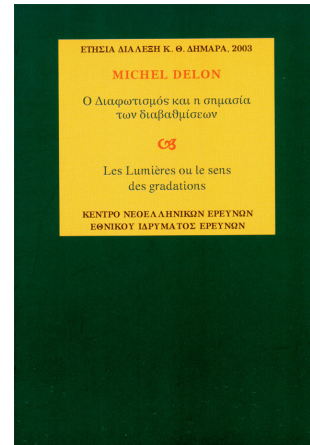




INSTITUTE FOR NEOHELLENIC RESEARCH
NATIONAL HELLENIC RESEARCH FOUNDATION



Michel Delon,

Ο Διαφωτισμός και η σημασία των διαβαθμίσεων / Les Lumières ou le sens des gradations.

Translation: Anna Tabaki

Επίμετρο: Συζήτηση του Michel Delon και του Πασχάλη Μ. Κιτρομηλίδη με τον Βασίλη Μουρδουκούτα / Annexe: Entretien de Michel Delon et de Paschalis M. Kitromilidès avec Vassilis Mourdoukoutas.

Annual C. Th. Dimaras Lecture -2003, INR/NHRF, Athens 2004, 184 p.

This was the eighth annual lecture dedicated to the memory of the founder of the Institute of Neo-Hellenic Research C. Th. Dimaras, a scholar pioneering in the history of ideas of the 18th and 19th centuries, whose oeuvre – as underlined by Michel Delon in his lecture – contributed to the “geographic and chronological enlargement of the notion of European Enlightenment”. The speaker at the eighth lecture was Professor Michel Delon, French and comparative literature professor at the Sorbonne and present Director of the French Society of 18th Century Studies. An eminent representative of French education and scholarship, thanks to his voluminous and multifaceted works, Michel Delon is today one of the most nonconformist and forward-looking voices in the field of history of ideas of the 18th century. Profoundly erudite in philosophical trends, literary movements and the texts themselves, the speaker focused his attention on one of the most interesting aspects of the Enlightenment, constituted by its empirical character and its tendency to grade and measure all kinds of phenomena. Taking as his starting point the famous memorandum of Adamantios Korais *On the Present Condition of Culture in Greece*, in apt commemoration of the bicentenary of the delivery of this seminal text before the *Société des Observateurs de l'Homme*, and substantiated by the abundant fund of textual references drawn from all literary genres, the speaker analysed the significance of gradations in the age of Enlightenment. It was a fascinating and at the same time investigative peregrination from the linguistic and semantic usage of the term to its successive usage: in radical philosophical language, in the unfettering climate as a component element of literary genres (fiction, theatre, poetry) and its echoes in critique and the theory of art.

In an Addendum, the complete interview is published of Michel Delon by Professor Paschalis M. Kitromilides in the form of a discussion, that appeared in the *Kathimerini* newspaper. The interview, monitored by Vassilis Mourdoukoutas, focused on interpretative facets of European Enlightenment as a review of semantic, aesthetic and ideological issues, while key

questions regarding the topicality of the spirit of the Enlightenment in today's world were formulated and answered.