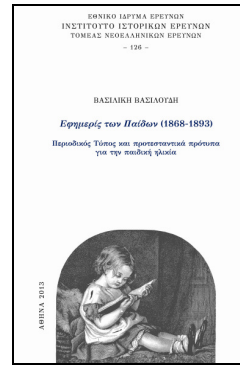




INSTITUTE OF HISTORICAL RESEARCH
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Vasiliki Vasiloudi,
***The Child's Paper (1868-1893): children's magazines and Protestant idea(l)s for
childhood [in Greek]***

IHR/NHRF, Athens 2013, 365 p.

Placed within the context of studies on the Greek children's press, this book takes as its subject the *Child's Paper (Efimeris ton Paidon)*, a nineteenth century Greek children's magazine with protestant allegiances, running monthly from 1868 until 1893. The magazine is approached from a historical, social and ideological perspective, with the emphasis laid upon the views it put forward with respect to children and childhood. It draws on a range of archival sources and employs an interdisciplinary approach which makes use of the history of ideas, childhood studies, the history of childhood and children's literature, and literary theory. Primary research on the subject was financed by the Greek State Scholarships Foundation (1999-2003).

The study opens with a critical approach of key-issues of C.L. theory and a review of the available secondary literature on children's magazines; the first chapter links the *Child's Paper* with the protestant English and American literary tradition of children's magazines and delineates the conditions that prompted its publication in a strongly orthodox environment, most importantly the bonds of its editor and founder of the Greek Protestant Church, Dr. Michael D. Kalopothakes with American and English Protestant missionary societies; the second chapter further links the *Child's Paper* with the tradition of Greek family magazines and makes assumptions about the emergence of a Greek protestant literary tradition for children and youth. The third chapter presents the magazine's identity along with the action its editor undertook in various fields. The following chapters, employing

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the text-centered approach, tackle issues such as the “communication” of the editor with the magazine’s readers, the range of literary genres hosted in its pages, the issue of “suitability,” including the editor’s initial demonization of fiction and the gradual appropriation of realistic/historical fiction, the magazine’s relationship with other contemporary children’s magazines and the *Child’s Paper* underlying ideology, strongly linked with evangelicalism.

The study concludes that the magazine was a rather peculiar blend of Protestant austerity and the Romantic vision of the child; published in a hostile Orthodox environment, which interpreted such publications as attempts to undermine national (Greek Orthodox) consciousness, the *Child’s Paper* went to great lengths to strike a balance between the foreign Protestant tradition and the contemporary Greek reality. Yet, one of its major contributions had undoubtedly been the diffusion of ideas and practices related to children and childhood.