

Greek-Turkish Encounters Series 2010-11

Dr Evangelia Balta

National Research Foundation, Athens

&

Professor Richard Clogg

Emeritus Fellow, St Anthony's, Oxford

Speaking Turkish, Writing with Greek.

“Hurufumuz Yunanîce Türkçe meram eyleriz”

Between religion and language:

Recent work on the Turkish-speaking Orthodox

Christians of Anatolia and their printed

literature(karamanlidhika)

Thursday, 24 March 2011

SOAS Room 116, 6pm

Gerçi Rum isek Rumca bilmez, Türkce söyleriz
Ne Türkce yazar okuruz, ne Rumca söyleriz
Öyle bir mahlûti hatt-ı tarikatımız vardır
Hurufumuz Yunanîce Türkçe meram eyleriz.
Ioannis Ioannidis, *Kaisareia mitropolitleri ve ma'lûmât-i mütennevi'a*, Der-i Sa'adet
(1896)

Dr Evangelia Balta

*Tracing the presence of the Orthodox Christian (Rum)
Population in Cappadocia:
The evidence of Tapu Tahrirs of the 15th-16th centuries.*

Professor Richard Clogg

The 'Greco-Turkish' translations of the British and Foreign Bible Society.

Chair: Yorgos Dedes (SOAS)

Both Evangelia Balta and Richard Clogg have made important contributions to *Karamanlidhika* Studies and the history and culture of the *Karamanlidhes*, the Turkish-speaking Orthodox Christians of Anatolia, whose printing activities (books, newspapers and periodicals) came to a fatal halt with the compulsory Exchange of Populations between Greece and Turkey.

Evangelia Balta has been involved in the field since 1978, first and foremost concerned with the compilation of the bibliography of *karamanlidhika* publications. She has added three volumes to the work of Salaville and Dallegio, and has been preparing a new, revised edition of the *Karamanlidhika Bibliography*. She has located and published extensively on the historical and cultural aspects of the various newspapers and periodical publications and her most recent work on Ottoman archival materials uncovered the chequered history of several publications, especially those censored or prohibited. Her work has already brought into the limelight the intriguing relations between Greek, *Karamanlidhika*, Ottoman Turkish and Armeno-Turkish publications, highlighting the cross-fertilization and compartmentalization of this rich spectrum of Ottoman cultural and literary life.

Professor Richard Clogg is one of the most important specialists on Modern Greece and its history, including the Greeks of the East (η καθ' ημας Ανατολη), and the *Karamanlidhes* -whom he has famously described as the 'millet within the millet'. His well-known publications include plenty of studies on the Greek East in the 18th and 19th centuries and the Ottoman world of which it was a part. He has had a particular interest in the Protestant missionary activity and the role of the Bible Society in the cultural and religious life of the *Karamanlidhes* since his early publications in 1967, and he has returned to the topic in recent work.

As historians, both Evangelia Balta and Richard Clogg have been keen to study the identity-consciousness of the *Karamanlidhes* in actual historical time and space, following their activities in Cappadocia as well as the major urban centers of Anatolia and the empire, especially Izmir and Istanbul, where they sought a way out through migration.