Adamantios Korais and the European Enlightenment

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An iconic figure in the movement for Greek independence, Adamantios Korais (1748-1833) also played a major role in the development and transmission of Enlightenment ideals. From his early education in Amsterdam and medical studies in Montpellier, he moved to Paris where he developed distinctive ideas of political liberalism and cultural change against the backdrop of the French Revolution.

In Adamantios Korais and the European Enlightenment a team of specialists explore the multiple facets of Korais' life and thought. Following a detailed examination of his formative years and pan-European education, contributors analyse his:

• translations and editions of the classics, through which his own early political ideas took shape

• views on linguistic reform and its importance for a sense of national identity

• liberal critique of the French Revolution and his evolving conception of political liberty

In Adamantios Korais and the European Enlightenment contributors present a timely reevaluation of a major figure in the foundation of modern Greece, and provide a fresh perspective on the interaction of cultures in the European Enlightenment.

Paschalis M. Kitromilides, Itineraries in the world of the Enlightenment: Adamantios Korais from Smyrna via Montpellier to Paris

I. A presence in classical scholarship

Vivi Perraky, L’histoire britannique de Coray: une histoire de manuscrits (1789-1803)
Ioannis D. Evrigenis, Enlightenment, emancipation, and national identity: Korais and the Ancients

Michael Paschalis, The history and ideological background of Korais’ Iliad project

II. Reflections on language and literature

Peter Mackridge, Korais and the Greek language question

Anna Tabaki, Adamance Coray comme critique littéraire et philologue

III. The dialogue with contemporary ideas

Roxane D. Argyropoulos, Adamance Coray et sa réflexion philosophique: vers une anthropologie médicale et culturelle

Paschalis M. Kitromilides, Adamantios Korais and the dilemmas of liberal nationalism

Vassilis Mourdoukoutas, Korais and the idea of progress: from theory to action

Summaries

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Nations and Nationalism

For readers without modern Greek, this collection will serve as a necessary starting point for future studies of the life and thought of Adamantios Korais. The essays offer new insights into the different aspects of a many-sided scholarly and political career, and therefore to broader questions concerning the French Revolution and its Relationship to the Greek national movement.