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Venetian-Ottoman Wars

EDITED BY STATHIS BIRTACHAS



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On the cover: lantern of an Ottoman galley captured at Lepanto.
Venice, Armory rooms of the Council of Ten at the Doge's Palace.
Topwar.ru website of Vjačeslav Špakovsky.



Venice and the Ottoman Empire as warriors. Source: [Roger PALMER, Earl of Castlemaine], *Das von den Türcken außs äusserst bedrangte, aber: Durch die christliche Waffen der heroischen Republic Venedig außs tapfferst beschützte Candia* [...], Frankfurt, Wilhelm Serlin, 1669.



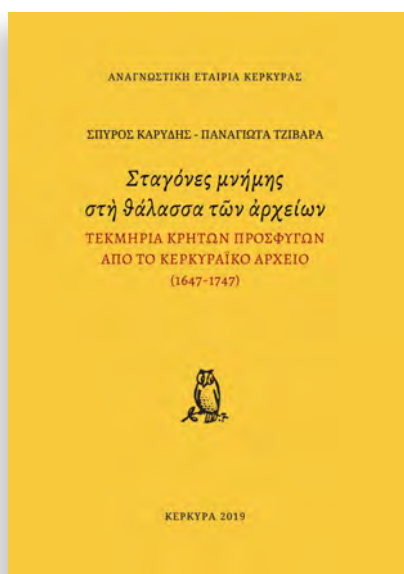
“Oltremarini” (Overseas) Regiments in Venetian service, nicknamed ‘Schiavoni’
(Vinkhujzen Collection, NYPL)

SPYROS KARYDIS AND PANAJOTA TZIVARA,

*Σταγόνες μνήμης στη θάλασσα των αρχείων.
Τεκμήρια Κρητών προσφύγων από το κερκυραϊκό
Αρχείο (1647–1747)*

*[= Drops of memory in the ocean of the archives.
Evidence of Cretan refugees from the Archives of Corfu
(1647–1747)]*

Corfu, The Corfu Reading Society, 2019, pp. 552.



The authors of the book, Spyros Karydis and Panayota Tzivara, are mature researchers of the archives of Corfu and Venice, first-rate scholars of the social and cultural history of Venetian Corfu in early modern times, and they have published many other books and essays on this field.

The publication of the present book coincides with the completion of 350 years since the end of the Cretan War (1645–1669), the final surrender of Crete

to the Ottomans and the relocation of thousands of its inhabitants, mainly from the urban centers of the island, to the Venetian capital, the Venetian *Terraferma* or other possessions of the *Serenissima* in the Levant. The authors follow the archival traces of the Cretan refugees in Corfu in the development of a century, from 1647 to 1747, through the documents kept in the General State Archives of Greece / Archive of the Prefecture of Corfu, which record the following: the social groups in which the refugees were distinguished, various issues concerning their daily life, their organization, their social relations, their gradual assimilation, their integration into the workforce and the professional associations, their activity in the economy and trade, their presence in the service sector, their cultural, educational and religious activities, and, ultimately, their impact on the formation of cultural identity of their place of establishment. The same documents also capture the feelings, the pain, the difficulties of adapting to the new homeland, but also the hopes for a return to the motherland.

The volume is divided into two parts. In the first part, a percentage of all the above issues are studied, in an attempt to systematize the available archival material, without seeking to infer specific answers, since the relative research, before drawing definitive conclusions about the Cretan refugee wave, is still long. In particular, seven sections address issues related to the arrival of refugees and their settlement, the procedures for identification or proof of their personal data by the registry office (origin, age and religious identity), their distinction from the second or third generation Cretans permanently settled in Corfu, their social and economic stratification, their organization and the process of their integration or assimilation, their activity in the economic and commercial sector, their religious, educational and other activities. In separate sections, are presented in detail five people who stood out, each one for different reasons, in the Cretan community of Corfu, as well as the material and intangible assets that refugees brought to their new homeland: memories and souvenirs, useful objects, jewelry, religious icons and secular paintings.

In the second part of the book, selected documents are published, indicative of the abundance of sources kept in the Corfu Archive, divided into the following sections: registry (birth, baptism, age), deeds of last will (wills and codicils), inventories, miscellanea. In the first section, 33 documents are published, covering the period from 1670 to 1692, which include certificates, attestations and testimonies concerning the time of birth or baptism, age and life in general of 33

people, men and women, born in Crete or Corfu from 1652 to 1683. The second section includes wills and codicils covering the period from 1664 to 1747. These are 81 documents concerning 64 people, arranged alphabetically according to their surname, and represent, as far as possible, each refugee group. In the third section, five inventories are published, namely records of movable assets, of four people who stood out, each one for different reasons, in the Cretan community of Corfu. Finally, in the fourth section, documents were collected that deal with a wide variety of topics, such as e.g. testimonies for the participation in the struggle of Venice against the Ottomans, applications for professional rehabilitation and financial support, authorizations, as well as permits for the construction of temples and monasteries, etc. The volume also includes a glossary of terms, a general index and a summary in Italian.

The book is an important contribution to the study of the social consequences of the Venetian–Ottoman wars and the Cretan War in particular. Although there are several fragmentary essays regarding the refugee flows that followed the military conflicts between the two parties, monographs based on extensive corpora of primary sources, which could give us an overall image of the issue, are still lacking. For the refugees of the War of Cyprus (1570–1571), for example, the post-doctoral researcher of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Department of Italian Language and Literature) Chrysovalantis Papadamou supported in 2019 a doctoral dissertation at the University of Cyprus on “Cypriot Refugees in Venice after the War of Cyprus (1570–1571). Reorganization of life, social and cultural integration (1570–1650)”, based on primary sources mainly from archives and libraries of Venice (Archivio di Stato, Archivio storico del Patriarcato, Archive of the Hellenic Institute of Byzantine and Post-byzantine Studies, Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana and the Library of Museo Civico Correr). We look forward to the publication of this work. The book by Karydis and Tzivara now adds a new chapter to the study of the above historical phenomenon closely linked to the war, presenting the refugee wave that followed the Cretan War and headed to the most important Venetian possession in the Ionian Sea. The authors raise a number of issues, including the need for a re-evaluation by modern historiography of the profound influence of Cretan refugees’ settlement on the formation of cultural identity of Corfu and the Ionian islands during 17th and 18th centuries. Lastly, the book provides the history of emotions.



Grenadiers of the Müller Regiment in the service of the Venetian Republic attack an Ottoman fort, 1717. A. von Escher, Vinkhujzen Collection, New York Public Library.



Icon of the naval Battle of Curzolari (Echinades in Greek) islands, by the Cretan painter Georgios Klontzas, last decades of the 16th century; one of the most famous depictions of the naval Battle of Lepanto in post-Byzantine art. Courtesy of the National Historical Museum, Athens (cat. n. 3578).

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