

Acts of
the Dano-Hellenic Symposium on Greek and Latin Philosophy,
Danish Institute at Athens, November 11-14, 1993

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In November 1993 the Danish Institute at Athens hosted two Danish-Greek symposia, one on Byzantine music and another on medieval Greek and Latin philosophy. The musical symposium was organized by Dr Christian Troelsgaard, Institute for Greek and Latin in Copenhagen. The acts are due to appear in *Proceedings of the Danish Institute at Athens*. The history-of-philosophy symposium was organized by the editor of CIMAGL, and most of the resulting papers are published in this issue of the journal. Those by S. Kotzambassi, P. Kotzia-Panteli and D.Z. Nikitas have been or will be published elsewhere.

It is a pleasure to be able at this place to thank The Danish Institute at Athens, its director Dr Søren Dietz, and its secretary Ms Hanna Lassen for a friendly reception at the Institute and efficient help with practical matters. With equal pleasure I thank the Carlsberg Foundation for providing the means for such essential things as transport of symposiasts to Athens and back home.

The symposia had the double purpose of strengthening contact between Greek and Danish scholars and of highlighting problems in need of research. In the field of medieval philosophy we tried to cast some light on the interaction between the culture whose language was Greek and the one whose language was Latin. Western historians of philosophy have had a tendency to see the Greek tradition only as a quarry from which the Latin world got some building blocks for its own philosophy. Greek historians have tended to neglect Latin influence on the intellectual life of the late Eastern Roman Empire. More or less consciously scholars from the Latin and from the Greek world have tended to work on the presupposition that the Western and the Eastern societies, including their philosophical cultures, were easily comparable species of the same genus. In fact, this is far from obvious.

To get beyond our traditional attitudes we need both basic philological work and philosophical analysis. The symposiasts tried to give a contribution to such a widening of our understanding of Greek, Latin and Greco-Latin philosophy in the Middle Ages.

