

## **Doctoral Thesis Draft**

of PhD Candidate **Zacharoula Kousouli (National and Kapodistrian University of Athens)**, under the supervision of Professor

**A. D. Panagiotou**

Title: **‘Eight canons in different sound of John Mauropous towards Theotokos – Philological Study and Critical Edition’.**

John Mauropous constitutes one of the greatest spiritual figures of the 11<sup>th</sup> century. His education, his versatility and his talent gave him the chance to have a leading role in the literary production of his era and to be considered as one of the most important poets of the mid-byzantine period. His poetic work – probably the largest in extent - which deals with the canons, holds a special place. Mauropous composed canons in honor of almost all the great Saints, but mainly in Christ and Theotokos. Particularly noteworthy is the poet's love for Theotokos, for whom he composed over sixty canons (the number sixty-five is not exact, even if it is mentioned by many scholars), of which there are many edited and many are still unedited. Another characteristic of the canons John Mauropous composed for Theotokos is that he composed them in all eight sounds and thus the whole spectrum of *octaechia* (*ὀκτανῆς*) is covered, which is considered particularly important for a poet of canons.

The dissertation I am considering to elaborate will have as subject an *octaechia* of canons in honor of Theotokos (work by John Mauropous). In this thesis I will publish for the first time some unknown texts of the hymnographer. After a critical edition having been held, there will be a translation of the canons in modern Greek. Furthermore, in the thesis I will deal with the manuscript tradition of the texts that I will publish. Another part of the thesis will be the tracing of the influences on the poetry of Mauropous by Church Fathers, ecclesiastical writers, as well as secular literature by which the poet is influenced. What is more, according to the results of the edition I will make, there will be a special chapter that will be referred to the characteristics of Mauropous' poetry, such as language, measure, etc. We will also make a comparison of the canons in honor of Theotokos of other poets, in order to identify common elements

and divergences. Finally, in the thesis there will be a chapter which will refer to an overall aesthetic evaluation of the edited work.

With this thesis, if approved and completed, I believe that new, previously unknown, texts of Mauropous will come to light and will be studied in greater detail to further contribute to the development of the science of Hymnography.

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