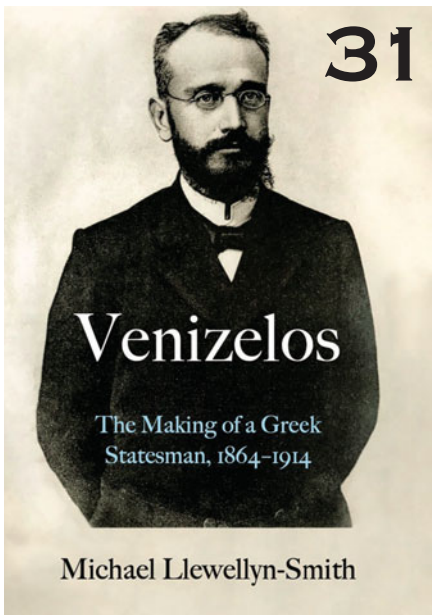


# LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



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It's finally here: our Greek War of Independence special. This year is the bicentenary of the beginning of this crucial conflict. I gave Roderick Beaton the near impossible task of setting out in just a handful of pages what happened, why and to what significance. He certainly rose to the challenge. His essay (pages 4–7) serves as the perfect opener to this issue.

Naturally, this isn't the first significant anniversary of the Revolution to have been marked since 1821. On pages 8–12, Gonda Van Steen explores the ways in which the 50th, 100th and 150th anniversaries were celebrated, and how this year's events may well strike a different note. Central to the events of 1921 was Eleftherios Venizelos, whose colourful life is the focus of a new biography – and short profile on pages 13–14 – by Michael Llewellyn-Smith.

The Greek War of Independence had a long legacy and an often difficult aftermath. On pages 15–17, Ethem Eldem offers some reflections on his ancestor, Ethem Pasha, who survived the Chios massacre during the conflict in 1822.

Meanwhile, on pages 18–22, Philip Mansel looks at how life was affected in Constantinople, Smyrna and Alexandria.

Elsewhere in the issue, don't miss a pair of superb articles on the Byzantine world by Leslie Brubaker and Dionysios Stathakopoulos, Paul Cartledge on Olympic tattoos and Caroline Mackenzie's interview with the great John Taylor who, incidentally, interviewed me for my very first post-university job, at the Joint Association of Classical Teachers. Thank goodness I made the cut.

Our books section is headed by a pair of reports on two of the esteemed international literary prizes for books in English devoted to Hellenic studies. At ARGO, we pride ourselves on having rather a good track record in selecting for review many of the books that go on to make the long- and shortlists. Will any of those reviewed in this issue, we wonder, be destined for similar success with the prize committees next year? Watch this space.

**DAISY DUNN**  
EDITOR, ARGO  
 @DAISYFDUNN