

## Review Article.

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Encyclopaedic Prosopographical Lexicon of Byzantine History and Civilization ed A.G.C. Savvides (Metron/Iolcos Publications: Athens, 1997), volume 2, (Alphios) – (Antiocheus). 255pp. [In Greek] ISBN 960-426-060-X.

This is the second volume of an ambitious attempt to provide a prosopographical lexicon of the Byzantine Empire covering the period from c. 300 to c. 1500 in a series of ten volumes. It will not provide a comprehensive listing of all individuals mentioned in the Byzantine sources. For the late Byzantine period such a listing is already in the Prosopographisches Lexikon der Palaiologenzeit published in Vienna. This multi-volume undertaking gives comprehensive references to all individuals, from peasant to emperor, who are mentioned in the Byzantine sources from 1261 to the end of the empire. A collaboration between the British Academy and the Berlin-Brandenburg Akademie is currently working towards a comprehensive prosopography of the period 641-1261. This will appear in three volumes and the projected date of completion is 2002. In addition to the published volumes an on-line database is being prepared by the British Academy team based in King's College, London and the work will also be made available to scholars through three CD-ROMs. When this project is completed, it will, together with the Austrian work on the Palaiologan period, provide a comprehensive prosopography of the Byzantine Empire. It will be a fundamental work of reference for all byzantinists. In contrast, the series edited by Savvides is more limited in scope. Volume two contains approximately three hundred entries and a section of additions and corrections to the first volume. The Byzantine entries mainly concern emperors, empresses, aristocrats, churchmen and scholars and they include useful bibliographical references to both primary and secondary sources. A distinctive feature is the international perspective of the editor. A considerable number of entries refer to individuals from the Islamic world and from western Europe who came into contact with Byzantium. Although this feature is less useful for British byzantinists who have access to this information elsewhere, it will be much more helpful for Greek byzantinists, the series's main target, because western European medieval history is usually treated very sketchily in Greek universities. The series is to be welcomed particularly because its format, unlike the more detailed reference works referred to above, makes it feasible for scholars to acquire for their personal libraries a prosopographical series which covers the entire period of Byzantine history