

IOANNIS A. PAPADRIANOS

SERBIAN EPITAPHS OF GREEKS FROM BELGRADE  
(XIXth-XXth century)

In November 1978, I visited Belgrade in order to collect information about Greeks who lived and worked in Yugoslavia. As well as in archives and libraries I also looked for information in the New Cemetery (Novo Groblje) in the Yugoslavian capital. There I was fortunate enough to discover epitaphs on tomb-stones which refer to the following distinguished Greek families of Belgrade: the family of Koumanoudis (nos. 1, 4), the family of Panayotis Papakostopoulos (no. 2), the family of Nikolaos Kikis (no. 3), of Steryos Pikoulis (no. 5) and of Aristotelis Harisiadis (no. 6).

Three of the above monuments belonging to the Koumanoudis family, the Kiki family and Papakostopoulos family, are very elaborate—the last one to a lesser degree. They are built in the neoclassic style prevailing in the XIXth century—which continued in later times to be in use—and imitate in some way the ancient Greek funerary stelae in the form of small shrines crowned by pediments. It was the mode for rich families in the Balkans—especially for the Greeks—to have such kind of funerary tomb-stones, bearing sometimes the bust of the defunct in low reliefs under which were engraved the epitaphs<sup>1</sup>.

The epitaphs of the above monuments, which have not been published before and are written in Serbian, in Cyrillic capitals, offer significant genealogical and chronological information about the above-mentioned Greek families, information which other sources do not provide. It is therefore deemed useful to publish them here, transliterated however, for purely technical reasons, from the Cyrillic to the Latin script. The order in which they are published is chronological and not alphabetical.

1. *The Ioannis Koumanoudis' family tomb-stone.*

Grey marble stele, standing on a pedestal and rising to a curved pediment with acroteria.

Inscription.

On the front:           FAMILIJARNA GROBNICA  
                                  IOVANA KUMANUDE

1. See Kosmas Myrtilos Apostolidis, *Η τῆς Φιλιππουπόλεως ἱστορία ἀπὸ τῶν ἀρχαιοτάτων μέχρι τῶν καθ' ἡμᾶς χρόνων*. Ἐπιμελεία Γ. Α. Μέγα [The history of Philippopolis from the ancient period up to our times. Edited by G. A. Megas], Athens 1959, p. 528, 530-531, *passim*.

DIMITRIJE J. KUMANUDI  
 1855 † 1923  
 HELENA D. KUMANUDI  
 1869 † 1942  
 MILKA J. KUMANUDI  
 1861 † 1941  
 STENA OVA POKRIVA TELO  
 PREMINUŠEG GRADJANINA OVDAŠNJEG  
 IOVANA KUMANUDE  
 U EDRENU E RODJEN 24 JUNIJA 1812. GODINE  
 A UMRO E 21. OKTOMVRA 1866. GODINE  
 U BEOGRADU  
 RADI VELIKE USPOMENE  
 PODIŽE MU OVAJ SPOMENIK  
 SUPRUGA NJEGOVA SA DECOM  
 HRISANTA J. KUMANUDI  
 RODJ. ZINZIFA U BITOLJU 31. DEK. 1820.  
 UMRLA U BEOGRADU 27. JULA 1890 GOD.

On the back:        IVAN A. KUMANUDI  
                               1867 † 1924  
 VLADIMIR D. KUMANUDI  
 DRŽ. ČINOVIK, STUDENT EKONOMSKOG FAKULTETA  
 RODJEN 1921. GOD.  
 POGINUO NESRETNIM SLUČAJEM 1948. G.  
 DIMITRIJE A. KUMANUDI  
 DRAGINJA KUMANUDI  
 ATANASLJE A. KUMANUDI

Translation.

On the front: Family grave/of Ioannis Koumanoudis.

Dimitrios I. Koumanoudis,/1855-1923./Eleni D. Koumanoudi,/1869-1942./Milka I. Koumanoudi,/1861-1941.

This stone covers the body/ of the late citizen of this town/ Ioannis Koumanoudis./Born in Adrianople on June 24th 1812,/ and died on October 21st 1866/ in Belgrade./ To his eternal memory,/ this memorial was erected/ by his wife and children.

Hrysanthi I. Koumanoudi,/ née Zinzifa. Born in Bitolj on December 31st 1820./ and died in Belgrade on July 27th 1890.

On the back: Ivan A. Koumanoudis,/1867+1924.

Vladimir D. Koumanoudis,/civil servant, student of the School of Economics./ Born 1921,/ killed in an accident in 1948.

Dimitrios A. Koumanoudis./ Draginja Koumanoudi./ Athanasios A. Koumanoudis.

The above mentioned Ioannis was the son of Athanasios Dimitrios Koumanoudis, who left his Turkish-occupied home-town, Adrianople, in 1829 and came and settled in Belgrade<sup>2</sup>. This Thracian family produced excellent men who distinguished themselves in the economic, political and cultural life not only of Belgrade but also of other Balkan provinces.

The Serbian historian, Dušan Popović, bases his opinion that Ioannis Koumanoudis was born in Adrianople on oral information<sup>3</sup>. The information drawn from the epitaph supports this view. However, Popović's assertion that Ioannis' father, Athanasios Dimitrios Koumanoudis, was born in 1812 is completely inaccurate<sup>4</sup>. On the contrary, as we are reliably informed by the epitaph, that year is the date of birth of his son, Ioannis Koumanoudis. Father and son could not have been born in the same year! At the same time, we also learn from the epitaph the hitherto unknown date of Ioannis Koumanoudis' death—*October 21st 1866*.

As far as Ioannis Koumanoudis' wife, Hrisanthi, is concerned, it is known that her maiden name was Zinzifa and that she was born in Monastir (Bitolj)<sup>5</sup>. However, the epitaph gives us further chronological information about her, ie. that she was born on December 31st 1820 and died on July 27th 1890 in Belgrade.

According to Dušan Popović, the marriage of Ioannis Koumanoudis and Hrisanthi produced many children, of whom only Andreas, Dimitrios, Mileva and Aikaterini survived; one of Andreas Ioannis Koumanoudis' descendants was also named Mileva and Popović knew her personally<sup>6</sup>. This is all that was hitherto known about this family's genealogical tree. But the epitaph fills in many gaps in our knowledge concerning Ioannis Koumanoudis' offsprings, including the length of the lives of many of them. Referring to

2. Sp. Vasis, «Στέφανος Κουμανούδης» [Stephanos Koumanoudis], *Ἀθηνᾶ* 11 (1899), 409. Konstantinos Rados, «Στέφανος Κουμανούδης» [Stephanos Koumanoudis], *Δελτίον τῆς Ἱστορικῆς καὶ Ἐθνολογικῆς Ἐταιρείας τῆς Ἑλλάδος* 1 (1929), 80. Dušan J. Popović, *O cincarima. Prilozi pitanju postanka našeg građanskog društva* [About the Koutsovlachs. Contribution to the problem of the birth of our urban class], 2nd edit., Beograd 1937, p. 399.

3. Popović, *O cincarima*, p. 399. The oral information mentioned here, as D. Popović, himself reports, *ibid.*, was given to him by Mileva, the daughter of Andreas Ioannis Koumanoudis.

4. Popović, *O cincarima*, p. 399.

5. *Ibid.*

6. *Ibid.*

two instances as an example: not only four of Ioannis Koumanoudis' children survived, but a fifth also, named Milka, who lived from 1861-1941. Concerning Ioannis' son Dimitrios, we are accurately informed that he was born in 1855 and died in 1923. In other words, the epitaph can serve as a basic source for anyone wishing to determine the genealogical tree of the family of Ioannis Koumanoudis.

## 2. *The Papakostopoulos funerary monument*

Thick grey marble tombstone on a pedestal, rising to a plain pyramid-shaped ending.

The grave is surrounded by a railing.

Inscription.

On the front:

†  
 PERIKLE  
 1857. † 1878.  
 Dr PANAJOT  
 1820. † 1879.  
 EFTALIJA  
 1838. † 1906.  
 MILOŠ  
 1899. † 1907.  
 Dr PLATON  
 REZ. SANITETSKI MAJOR  
 1864. † 1915.  
 LJUBICA  
 1903. † 1917.  
 EMILJA  
 1872. † 1963.  
 EFROSINA  
 1861. † 1867.  
 PAPAKOSTOPULOS

On the back:      PORODIČNA GROBNICA  
                             Dr PANAJOTA PAPAKOSTOPULOSA

Translation.

On the front:

Periklis,/ 1857-1878./ Dr Panayotis./ 1820-1879./ Efthalia,/ 1838-1906./  
 Miloš,/ 1899-1907./ Dr Platon,/ reserve major of the sanitary corps,/ 1864-  
 1915./ Ljubica,/ 1903-1917./ Aimilia,/ 1872-1963./ Efrosyni,/ 1861-1867./  
 Papakostopoulos.

On the back: Family tomb/ of Dr Panayotis Papakostopoulos./

The inscription indicates that this epitaph belongs to the family of Dr Panayotis Papakostopoulos. This Greek doctor was born in the small town of Velvendon in Western Macedonia (now in the prefecture of Kozani) in 1820. On finishing his primary education in his home-town and his secondary education in the neighbouring town of Kozani, he emigrated in about 1835 to the Yugoslavian town of Novi Sad, where he was appointed teacher at the town's Greek school. Five years later we find Panayotis Papakostopoulos studying medicine in Vienna and, after eight years of studies, receiving his diploma in medicine. In 1853 he left the Austrian capital and settled in Belgrade, where he began to practise medicine. However, he was more attracted to teaching and successfully obtained an appointment as Greek language teacher at the Commercial School of Belgrade, and later as a head master at the same town's secondary school. Panayotis Papakostopoulos proved himself not only a good teacher, but also a notable writer. Amongst other things, he translated Ancient Greek writers, such as Homer and Isocrates, into the Serbian language. His teaching and translatory work were valuable services to the cultural life of the Serbs and above all to Serbian literature. This Greek doctor-philosopher died in Belgrade in 1879.

The above information has been drawn from the works that have hitherto been written about Panayotis Papakostopoulos<sup>7</sup>. However, these works, which are regrettably very few, make no reference to the members of his family nor to his descendants. The epitaph published here may therefore be considered a new and noteworthy source concerning Panayotis Papakostopoulos' family's genealogical tree. It does indeed provide information about several members of the family, most of whom bear archaic Greek names. Our attention is particularly caught by the reference to *Dr Platon Papakostopoulos*, evidently a son of Panayotis, who, following the profession of his father, became reserve major of the sanitary corps.

### 3. *The Kiki family funerary monument*

Dark grey marble tombstone on a plinth. The sides of the stone are bor-

7. Cf. *Odisija, Omirov spev u XXIV pesme. Preveo s jelinskog* †Dr Panajot Papakostopoulos [Odyssey, epic poem by Homer in 24 rhapsodies. Translated from the Greek by †Dr Panayotis Papakostopoulos], Beograd 1881, p. I-VII, prologue by Svetomir Nikolajević giving an account of the life and work of Panayotis Papakostopoulos. M. Dj. Miličević, *Pomenik znamenitih ljudi u srpskog naroda novijega doba* [Listbook of the important men of the Serbian people during modern period], Beograd 1888, p. 511-512. Popović, *O cincarina*, p. 425.

dered front and back by piers. On the front of the tombstone, a slight distance away from the piers, there are fluted columns which rise to capitals and support a pediment. The upper part of the tombstone bears two oval shaped medallions with busts in low relief of Nikolaos D. Kikis, and his wife Evyenia. The grave is surrounded by a railing.

Inscription.

On the front:

PORODIČNA GROBNICA  
 NIKOLA D. KIKI  
 TRGOVAC  
 RODJEN U KLISURI - MAKEDONIJA  
 1. AVGUSTA 1841 GOD. NASTANIO SE U  
 BEOGRADU 1847 GOD., A PRESELIO SE U  
 VEČNOSTI MIRA 8. FEBRUARA 1918 GODINE.  
 EVGENIJA N. KIKI  
 RODJENA NAUMOVIĆ  
 8 OKTOBRA 1853 GOD.  
 † 30 JULA 1933 GOD.

On the back:

OTAC DUMA KIKI TRGOVAC  
 MATI SOFIJA KIKI  
 BRAĆA I SESTRE: : DECA:  
 PETAR : PETAR  
 KOSTANDIN : SOFIJA  
 MARIJA :  
 JELENA :  
 OVAJ SPOMENIK PODIŽE OŽALOŠĆENA  
 SUPRUGA, SNAJA I MATI  
 EVGENIJA N. D. KIKI

Translation.

On the front:

Family grave,/ Nikolaos D. Kikis,/ merchant./ Born in Kleisoura in Macedonia/ on August 1st 1841, settled/ in Belgrade in 1847, departed/ into eternal peace February 8th 1918.

Evyenia N. Kiki,/ née Naumović./ Born October 8th 1853/ and died July 30th 1933.

On the back: His father, Doumas Kikis, merchant./ His mother, Sophia Kiki./

His brothers and sisters:

Petros  
Konstantinos  
Maria  
Eleni

His children:

Petros  
Sophia

This memorial was erected by the grieving/ wife, daughter-in-law and mother/ Evyenia N. D. Kiki.

This epitaph, belongs to the family of the Greek merchant, Nikolaos Doumas Kikis of Belgrade, who was a native of the small town of Kleisoura in Western Macedonia (now in the prefecture of Kastoria). This Greek immigrant became a very successful merchant and is considered one of the foremost benefactors of the society known as the "Young Merchants of Belgrade" (Beogradska Trgovačka Omladina). Unfortunately, researchers have devoted minimal attention to the life and work of this wholesale merchant and eminent benefactor. A short article, published in 1931 in the festive publication of the "Young Merchants of Belgrade"<sup>8</sup>, and a few lines by the Serbian historian, Dušan Popović<sup>9</sup>, are all that has been written about Kikis. Consequently, any new source concerning this particular personality, such as this epitaph is welcomed with pleasure by historical scholarship.

The new evidence brought by this epitaphs is: First, it completes the inadequate catalogue we hitherto possessed of Nikolaos Doumas Kikis' family and his close relatives<sup>10</sup>. It also gives us the correct name of his father, which was *Doumas* (Duma) and not Dimitrios (Dimitrije), as was mistakenly maintained<sup>11</sup>. But of particular importance is the chronological information the epitaph provides. According to this, Nikolaos Doumas Kikis was born on August 1st 1841 in Kleisoura in Macedonia; in the year 1847 he moved to Belgrade where he died on February 8th 1918. With the exception of one slight difference as regards the exact date of Kikis' death<sup>12</sup>, the above chronological evidence accords completely with the dates already given by those

8. Cf. *Spomenica pedesetogodišnjice Beogradske Trgovačke Omladine, 1880-1930* [Festive publication fifty years after the establishment of the Young Merchants of Belgrade, 1880-1930], Beograd 1931, p. 157-158, unsigned article entitled "*Nikola D. Kiki, trgovac beograds-ki*", ie. "Nikolaos D. Kikis, merchant of Belgrade". (Hereafter: *Spomenica*).

9. Popović, *O cincarima*, p. 273, 385.

10. For this inadequate catalogue cf. *Spomenica*, p. 157-158. Popović, *O cincarima*, p. 385.

11. Cf. *Spomenica*, p. 157, in which this erroneous opinion is printed.

12. Nikolaos D. Kikis, as the epitaph informs us, died on February 8th 1918 and not on February 1st 1918, as was hitherto reported (cf. *Spomenica*, p. 158. Popović, *O cincarima*, p. 385).

who have written about this Greek inhabitant of Belgrade<sup>13</sup>. However, quite the reverse is the case with regard to the dates of birth and death of Evyenia, Nikolaos D. Kikis' wife. It was hitherto believed that this woman was born on October 8th 1855<sup>14</sup>. But the information in the epitaph, the authenticity of which no-one can doubt, places this event two years earlier, ie. on October 8th 1853. The epitaph also states that Evyenia died on July 30th 1933, the significance of which may be better appreciated if we consider the fact that researchers were in complete ignorance of the date of her death until now.

#### 4. *The Kosta Koumanoudis family funerary cross*

White marble cross.

Inscription.

Dr KOSTA KUMANUDI  
1874 † 1962  
SUPRUGA MILICA  
1878 † 1950

Translation.

Dr Kostas Koumanoudis,/ 1874-1962./ His wife Milica,/ 1878-1950.

This tomb is situated in a separate part of the cemetery and a long way from Ioannis Koumanoudis' family grave; according to the epitaph, it belongs to a member of the same eminent Koumanoudis family. This is Konstantinos (Kostas) Koumanoudis, who was a professor of the Law School of the University of Belgrade, twice mayor of the town and Minister of Finance of the United Kingdom of Serbia, Croatia and Slovenia. This information is drawn from two articles written about Konstantinos Koumanoudis while he was still alive<sup>15</sup>. These articles also inform us of the year of his birth, 1874<sup>16</sup>, which accords with that given in the epitaph. The new information offered by the epitaph is as follows: Konstantinos Koumanoudis died in 1962, in other words, when he was 88 years old; his wife, who was obviously a Serb, was named Milica and lived from 1878-1950.

13. *Spomenica*, p. 158. Popović, *O cincarima*, p. 385.

14. *Spomenica*, p. 158.

15. Dušan Popović, "Kumanudi Kosta Dr [Dr Kostas Koumanoudis], *Narodna Enciklopedija Srpsko-Hrvatsko-Slovenačka* 2 (Zagreb, no date of publication), 498 (Hereafter: Popović, *Kumanudi*). Manos D. Vatalas, «Κουμανούντι ή Κομανούντι, και Κουμανούδης, Κωνσταντίνος» [Konstantinos Koumanoudi or Komanoudi and Koumanoudis], *Μεγάλη Ἑλληνική Ἐγκυκλοπαίδεια Πυρσοῦ* 15 (1931), 49 (Hereafter: Vatalas, *Κουμανούντι*).

16. Popović, *Kumanudi*, p. 498. Vatalas, *Κουμανούντι*, p. 49.



5. *The Sterios Pikoulis funerary cross*

Wooden cross.

Inscription.

STERIJA PIKULIS  
1877 † 1962  
SPOMENIK PODIŽE SUPRUGA

Translation.

Sterios Pikoulis, / 1877-1962./ This memorial was erected by his wife.

As far as we know, at least, absolutely no other source makes any reference to this Greek. Thanks, then, to the information in this epitaph, we have learnt of the existence of one more Greek inhabitant of Belgrade, a man named Sterios Pikoulis who lived from 1877-1962; he died, at the very advanced age of 85 years.

6. *The Spiros Harisiadis funerary cross*

Wooden cross.

Inscription.

SPIRA A. HARISIADIS

Translation.

Spyros A. Harisiadis.

The letter *A.*, which represents the name of Spyros Harisiadis' father, stands, we believe, for *Aristotelis*. This belief is based on the information we already possess concerning the Harisiadis family: Aristotelis Harisiadis left his Turkish-occupied home-town, Ioannina, in about 1860 and came and settled in the Serbian town of Niš, where he became a merchant of dried pulses. He had five sons, Konstantinos, Spyridon, Periklis, Leonidas and Sokratis, and also a daughter, Alexandra. With the exception of Leonidas, father and children later settled in Belgrade, where he continued to work in commerce<sup>17</sup>.

This epitaph, then, belongs to Spyros (Spyridon) Harisiadis, son of Aristotelis.

In conclusion it can be stated that the epitaphs published here provide

17. Popović, *O cincarima*, p. 465. This information about the family of Aristotelis Harisiadis, as D. Popović himself reports, *ibid.*, was given to him by Miss Maria Harisiadi, last in the family line. Miss Maria Harisiadi, with whom we too are personally acquainted, is alive today and occupies herself with palaeography.

more accurate genealogical and chronological evidence concerning five Greek families from Belgrade; their sphere of activity within the framework of the Serbian society of the time is also indicated. These Greeks adapted themselves to the social body as a whole, but were not assimilated into it, even though their environment obliged them to consent to marriages with Serbian women and to adopt Serbian script for the inscriptions on their family tombs.

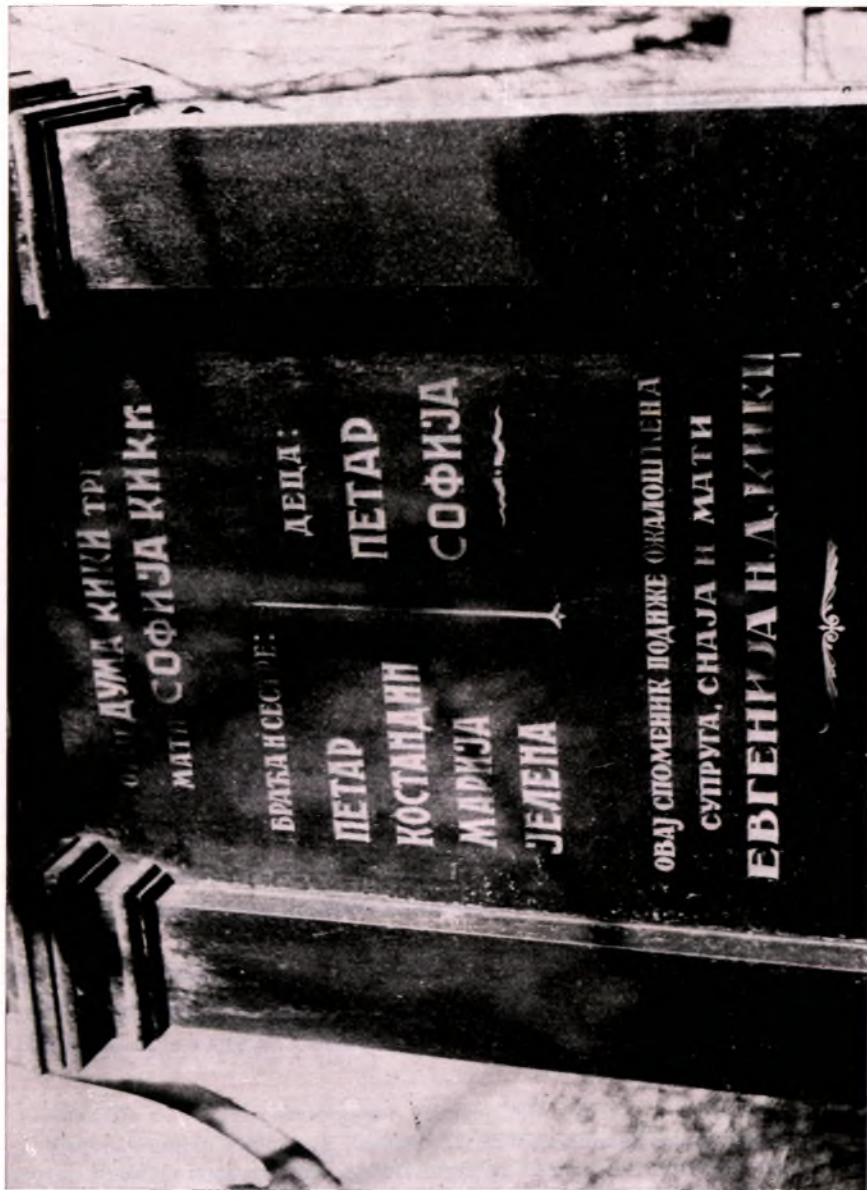
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1. Funerary stele of the Ioannis Kumanudis family.



4. The Kiki family funerary monument. On the front.



5. The Kiki family funerary monument. On the back.