# The myth of Botsaris between Tyrtaeus and Leonidas: Ancient and modern militaristic poetry and philhellenism

# In 1825, in Greece, S. Trikoupis translated into Modern Greek the well-known elegy of Tyrtaeus on death for the fatherland (fr. 10 W.2). The translation reinforced the then-widespread trend of reinterpreting ancient poetry in a way that supported the cause of the Greek War of Independence. Between the end of the 18th century and the beginning of the 19th century, the experience of the French Revolution, first, and of the Napoleonic campaigns later, indeed encouraged a rich production of militaristic poetry inspired by antiquity—thanks as well to the contribution of Casimir Delavigne's Messéniennes.

The present work aims to include in this tradition the precocious mythologisation of the persona of Markos Botsaris—a Greek general who was compared to the Spartan Leonidas. Italian philhellenism provides an interesting example with the work of Giuseppe Arcangeli, the most famous translator of Tyrtaeus into Italian during the Risorgimento period (1838), who translated from Modern Greek a poem inspired Botsaris’ death.