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MEETING ABSTRACT OP

Geoponika: An earlier Greco-Roman agriculture manual some historical notes on olive cultivation

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Abstract: Figs, olives, grapes and cereals (especially wheat) are known as a symbols of the most important cultivated plants of Mediterranean agriculture. The olive tree is among the oldest known cultivated trees in the world. In antiquity and the Middle Ages, there is no known book written solely about olive cultivation (growing and processing). However, it is known that some sections on olive cultivation exist in various ancient agricultural texts. This study have been examined the topic of olive cultivation (farming and processing) as described in Geoponika, a remarkable important agricultural text written in Greek from antiquity. Although the authors and preparation of this book have been the subject of detailed debate among various historians of science for many years, there is no doubt that this extraordinary and underappreciated is a unique source for transferring the ancient Greek-Latin legacy to the Eastern Roman Empire (and later, especially, the Islamic world) in the development of agricultural sciences. There are different copies of Georgika or Geoponika, also known a Byzantine agriculture manual/handbook/encyclopedia, for various ages and it was last devoloped/completed by Constantine VII Porphyrogenitus, East Roman Emperor (9th century AD) in Constantinapole based on the works of earlier authors, some dating back to the Roman and Hellenistic periods. The Geoponika has Greco-Roman agricultural knowledge in the Latin West and in the World of Islam. It is no doubt, that this main book (containing 22 smaller treatises under different titles) is of great importance to the circulation of knowledge about olive culture between the East and West in the Mediterrannean basin because there have been a lot of citations by many agricultural writers of this book for hundreds of years. This work was translated from Greek into Pahlavi (Early Persian, *Warz-nama*), Syriac (Ywannys' *Akruta*), Arabic (*Kitab al Filaha/al-Farisiyya/al-Yunaniyya/al-Rumiyya*), and Armenian (*Girk' Vastakots'*) between the 6th and 10th centuries AD. *Geoponika: Agricultural Pursuits* undername into English translated from Greek by Thomas Owen as two volumes in 1805-06 (printed in London). This original work's 9th book (Chapters 33...Pages: 28–61) is about the olive tree (amongst 1–18 chapters: the time of planting olives, the pruning of olives, the grafting of olives, harvest), table olive fruit, and the extraction of olive oil from fruit (amongst 19–33 chapters: Preparation of sweet-scented oil. To make oil like Spanish oil, Concerning pounded olives). The relevant topics in this presentation (particularly those involving olive processing) are taken from the English translation (volume 1, pages 266–297). The relevant topics in this presentation (particularly those involving olive processing) are taken from the English translation (volume 1, pages 266–297). The English translation text of Geoponika has been discussed in light of various sources.

Keywords: Olive cultivation, Geoponika, Ancient Greek/Latin

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