

## THE FRANKISH INSCRIPTION AT KARDITZA.

To students of Frankish Greece the church at Karditza in Boeotia is one of the most interesting in the country, because it contains an inscription referring to an important Frankish personage, Antoine le Flamenc, and dating from the fatal year 1311, which witnessed the overthrow of the Frankish Duchy of Athens in the swamps of the Boeotian Kephissós. Buchon had twice<sup>1</sup> published this inscription; but, as I was anxious to

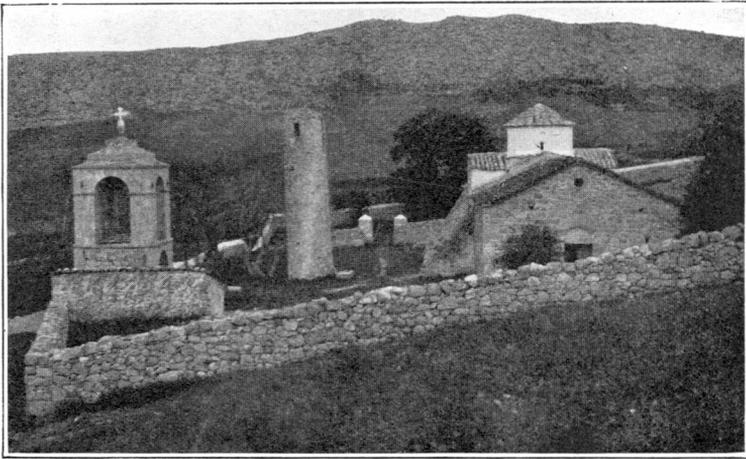


FIG. 1.—THE CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE AT KARDITZA, LOOKING TOWARDS THE END,  
WHICH IS MODERN.

(*Photograph by Mr. D. Steel.*)

know in what condition it was and to have an exact facsimile of it, I asked Mr. D. Steel, the manager of the Lake Copais Company, to have a fresh copy taken. Mr. Steel kindly sent his Greek draughtsman to copy the inscription, and at the same time visited the church and took the photographs now published (Figs. 1 and 2).

On comparing the present copy (Fig. 3) with Buchon's versions, it will be noticed that not only are there several differences of spelling, but that the

<sup>1</sup> *La Grèce continentale*, 217; *Recherches historiques*, i. 409.

French scholar omitted one important addition to the year at the end of the inscription—the indiction, which is rightly given as the 9th. This is a further proof that the date of the inscription is 1311, which corresponds with

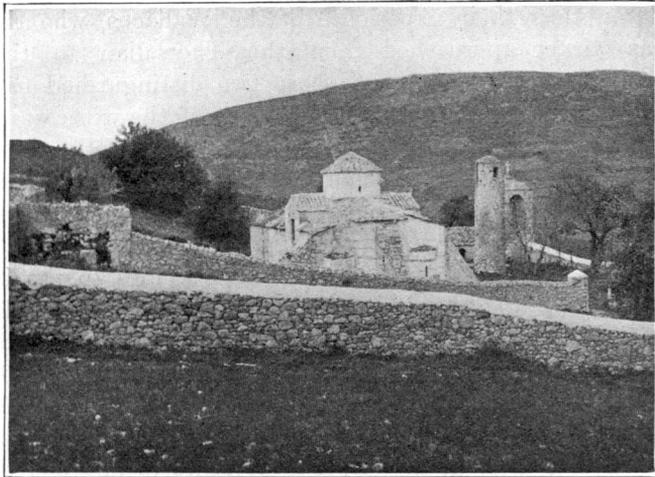


FIG. 2.—THE CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE AT KARDITZA, SHOWING OLD BELFREY AND BUTTRESSES SUPPORTING OLD PART OF THE BUILDING.

(Photograph by Mr. D. Steel.)

both the year 6819 and the 9th indiction. As the battle of the Kephissós was fought on March 15th of that year, and as Antoine le Flamenc is known to have survived the terrible carnage of that day, we may surmise, as I have

ΑΝΗΓΕΡΘΗ ΘΘΥΟC ΚΕ ΠΥCΕΠΤΟC ΝΥΟC ΤΥ ΓΥΜΕΓΛΟΜ  
 ΓΕΩΡΓΙΟΥ ΔΗΤΙΝΕ ΡΡΑΥCΥΠΟΘΥΠΟΛΥ ΤΟΝΘΩC ΕΒ ΕΥΤΕ  
 ΚΥΒΥΠΥ ΡΙΜΗC ΕΡ ΝΥΤΟΝΥ ΤΕΦΛΥ ΜΥ ~~~~~  
 ΟΔΕΤΕ ΠΟC ΗΠΙΦΕΝ ΠΟΛΩΝ ΜΥ ΤΙΡΩΝ ΟΔΕ ΤΕΛΟC ΕΥΡΕΝ  
 ΗCΩΡΗΤΥ ΤΥ ΠΥ ΡΥ ΓΕΡ ΜΥ ΝΟΝΙΕ ΡΩΜΟΝΥ ΤΥ ΧΟΝΚΕ ΚΥΘΗ  
 ΓΥΜΕΝΟΥ ΚΕ ΝΙΚΟΦΥ ΜΟΥΙΕ ΡΩΜΟΝΥ ΤΥ ΧΥ ΤΟΝ ΠΥ ΤΩΔΕ  
 ΦΟΝ ΤΟΥC ΑΝΥ Κ ΕΝ ΗCΑΝ ΤΥ ΤΩΝ ΗΚΟΝ ΤΥ ΤΟΝ  
 † ΕΤΥ ΩΙΘ ΝΘ†

FIG. 3.—INSCRIPTION ON THE CHURCH AT KARDITZA.

elsewhere suggested, that the work commemorated in the inscription was ‘in pursuance of a vow made before he went into action.’

Antoine le Flamenc, whose ancestors had settled in the Holy Land, is

several times mentioned during the first decade of the fourteenth century. The *Livre de la Conquête*<sup>2</sup> states that Guy II., Duke of Athens, appointed him his 'bailie and lieutenant' in Thessaly in 1303, and describes him as *un des plus sages hommes de Romanie* and *le plus sage dou duchame*. The same passage also alludes to Jean le Flamenc, his son, as receiving a post in Thessaly. Doubtless their experience of the Wallachs, who then, as now, wandered as winter approached from the Thessalian to the Boeotian Karditza, would specially commend these two distinguished men for such duties. Two years later we find Antoine as one of the witnesses of a deed<sup>3</sup> regarding the property of the Duchess of Athens, just come of age at Thebes, in her father's land of Hainault. On April 2nd, 1309, both Antoine and Jean were present at the engagement of the then widowed Duchess with Charles of Taranto at Thebes.<sup>4</sup> On the 23rd of a certain month (? September) of 1308, a Venetian document<sup>5</sup> alludes to the intention of *Fiammengo Antonio*, together with Guy II., Rocaforte, and Bonifacio da Verona, to *tentar l'impresa di Negroponte*—in other words, to make an attempt upon that Venetian colony. On August 11th, 1309, another Venetian letter, this time addressed to *Egregio militi Antonio Fiammengo*, informs us that he had rented the property of Pietro Correr, an absent canon of Thebes, and bids him not to consign the rents to any but the rightful person. A second letter of the same day, addressed to the bailie and councillors of Negroponte, mentions him again in connexion with this affair.<sup>6</sup> Finally, the list of Greek dignitaries, with whom the Republic was in correspondence, originally drawn up before the battle of the Kephissós and then corrected in 1313, mentions *Ser Antonius Flamengo miles*.<sup>7</sup> As his name is not followed by the word *decessit* or *mortuus*, added to those who had fallen in the battle, he was one of the very few survivors.

To these certain facts Hopf<sup>8</sup> added the assumption, based on no evidence, that he was the 'Frank settled in the East,' whom Isabella, Marchioness of Boudonitza, married, and who, in 1286, disputed the succession to that castle with her cousin.

The inscription is painted on the plaster of the wall, and when Mr. Steel visited the church in 1907 and this summer, pieces of the plaster were cracked and threatening to fall and destroy a portion of it. He has kindly instructed his engineer to consult with the priest and the Mayor of Karditza as to the best method of restoring the cracked plaster, so that such a catastrophe may be prevented. Mr. Steel also informed me that, when he first saw the church about 1880, 'the extension of the west end,' clearly visible in the photographs, 'had not yet been made, while at that end there existed a sort of verandah set on pieces of ancient columns.'

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.* i. 409-10.

<sup>3</sup> St. Genois, *Droits primitifs . . . de Haynaut*, i. 337.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.* i. 215.

<sup>5</sup> Lettere di Collegio, f. 6.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.* f. 91.

<sup>7</sup> Hopf, *Chroniques gréco-romanes*, 178.

<sup>8</sup> *Idem*, *apud* Ersch und Gruber, *Allgemeine Encyclopädie*, lxxxv. 321, 360. Cf. *J.H.S.* xxviii. 238.

As Buchon's books are rare, I append his transcript of the inscription:—

ΑΝΗΓΕΡΘΗ Ο ΘΥΙΩΣ ΚΕ ΠΝΣΕΠ-  
 ΤΟΣ ΝΑΟΣ ΤΟΥ ΙΠΟΥ ΜΕΓΑΛΟΜ<sup>Τ</sup>  
 ΓΕΩΡΓΙΟΥ ΔΗΑ ΣΙΝΕΡΓΙΑΣ ΚΕ  
 ΠΟΘΟΥ ΠΟΛΛΟΥ ΤΟΥ ΘΕΩΣΕΒΕΣΤΑΤΟΥ  
 ΚΑΒΑΛΑΡΙ ΜΙΣΕΡ ΑΝΤΟΝΙ  
 ΛΕ ΦΛΑΜΑ  
 ΟΔΕ ΤΕΛΟΣ ΗΛΙΦΕΝ ΠΟΛΩΝ ΜΑΡΤΥΡΩΝ  
 ΟΔΕ ΤΕΛΟΣ ΕΥΡΕΝ ΗΣΤΟΡΗΑ ΑΥΤΑ  
 ΠΑΡΑ ΓΕΡΜΑΝΟΥ ΙΕ-  
 ΡΟΜΟΝΑΧΟΥ ΚΕ ΚΑΘΕΓΟΥΜΕΝΟΥ  
 ΚΑΙ ΝΙΚΟΔΕΜΟΥ ΙΕΡΟΜΟΝΑΧΟΥ  
 ΤΟΝ ΑΥΤΑΔΕΛΦΩΝ ΤΟΥ-  
 Σ ΑΝΑΚΕΝΕΣΑΝΤΑΣ ΤΟΝ  
 ΗΚΟΝ ΤΟΥΤΟΝ.  
 + ΕΤΙ. ΞΩΙΘ. +

WILLIAM MILLER.