

THE POEMS OF CHRISTOPHER OF MYTILENE AND JOHN MAUROPOUS

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A BOOK BY CHRISTOPHER LIVANOS AND FLORIS BERNARD



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The Poems of
Christopher of Mytilene
and John Mauropos



EDITED AND TRANSLATED BY
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PRESENTED BY

Andreas Rhoby

(Austrian Academy of Sciences)

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The witty and self-assertive poetry of Christopher of Mytilene and John Mauropos provides unique snapshots of eleventh-century Constantinople at the height of its splendor and elegance. Their collections, aptly called “various verses,” greatly range in length and style—including epigrams, polemics, encomia, and more—and their poems were written for a broad range of social occasions such as court ceremonies, horse races, contests between schools, and funerals. Some were inscribed on icons and buildings. Many honored patrons and friends, debunked rivals, or offered satirical portraits of moral types in contemporary society. In some remarkable introspective poems, Mauropos carefully shaped a narrative of his life and career, while Christopher’s body of work is peppered with riddles and jocular wordplay. This volume is the first English translation of these Byzantine Greek collections.

