

The present volume has grown out of the *Renaissance Encounters* conference held at Princeton University on November 12–14, 2009. Its essays explore a coherent, interrelated nexus of topics that illuminate our understanding of the cultural transactions (social, political, economic, religious and artistic) of the Greek East and Latin West: unexpected cultural appropriations and forms of resistance, continuity and change, the construction and hybridization of traditions in a wide expanse of the eastern Mediterranean. Areas that the volume addresses include the benefits and liabilities of periodization, philosophical and political exchanges, monastic syncretism between the Orthodox and Catholic faiths, issues of romance composition, and economic currency and the currency of fashion as East and West interact.

Contributors are Roderick Beaton, Peter Brown, Marina S. Brownlee, Giles Constable, Maria Evangelatou, Dimitri H. Gondicas, Judith Herrin, Elizabeth Jeffreys, Marc D. Lauxtermann, Stuart M. McManus, John Monfasani, Maria G. Parani, Linda Safran, Teresa Shawcross and Alan M. Stahl.

Marina S. Brownlee, Ph.D. (1978) in Romance Languages, is the Robert Schirmer Professor of Spanish and of Comparative Literature at Princeton University. She has published extensively on late medieval and early modern Spanish and Comparative Literature.

Dimitri H. Gondicas is Stanley J. Seeger Director, Center for Hellenic Studies, Princeton University; Lecturer in Classics and Hellenic Studies. His publications include *Ottoman Greeks in the Age of Nationalism* (1999) and *Greek Today: A Course in the Modern Language and Culture* (2004).