



Michael Heslop (17.1.1941 – 5.4.2022)

I regret to report the death of Michael Heslop, a member of the CSG who died at home after several months of a terminal illness.

Michael was, of course, well known for his fascination with the fortifications of Greek speaking lands particularly those of the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem – the Hospitallers, in Rhodes and the rest of the Dodecanese. This led him into numerous adventures, both archival but also physically to remote sites, which he reported on in lectures and publications. His lectures were always brilliantly illustrated with images that made you want to go where he had; I recall those talks well where he was ably assisted by his devoted wife Helen, who operated the projector. His articles were of such a quality as to appear in the occasional papers of the St. John Historical Society but too of very eminent journals, notably *Crusades*, *Crusades Subsidia* and *Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies*. His *chef d’oeuvre* was *Medieval Greece. Encounters between Latins, Greeks and Others in the Dodecanese and the Mani*, a collection of his works, which was recently published and reviewed in the last CSG journal.

Michael read history at Christ’s, Cambridge but from there moved into business completing his

career with the prominent global energy search specialists, Preng & Associates of Mayfair. His acquired knowledge of finance and management provided him with the organisational skills which he employed in arranging international conferences, notably the quadrennial Military Orders conferences of 2013 and 2017 and funding their societies. He held various positions as a result of all this, notably Honorary Research Associate of the Department of History attached to the Hellenic Institute at Royal Holloway, London, and on the Executive Committee of the Society for the Promotion of Byzantine Studies. He was ultimately recognised for his services and contributions to research by being made an Honorary Fellow of Royal Holloway in 2019.

Castellologists will think of Michael for his pioneering work - discussing obscure sites, some previously barely known, some with no historical record at all. However, for me at any rate, Michael will always be remembered for his sheer determination to find his quarry, traversing inhospitable ground, sometimes clambering up steep and barren slopes to castles merely glimpsed from afar by lesser mortals. Such was his Ithaca and he its Odysseus.

James Petre