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*Hellenic Review* **REVIEWS.**  
Oct.-Nov 1909

[OLD AIRS, by Argyri Ephtalioti, Athens. — *Hestia*  
Press; Price 2 Dr.]

Argyri Ephtalioti (Mr. C. C. Michaelides), one of the best known of Modern Greek writers, an author of many διηγήματα, short stories, and historical and other essays, and above all one of the foremost champions of the colloquialists, wrote some delightful lyrics in his younger days, before the Pegasus settled down to the more sober paths of prose. He has now collected some of these early poems, which form the present volume. He modestly states in a foreword that he puts forth the collection with much diffidence because "Greek poetry has now made such advances in technique" that modern tastes may find his artless strains unsatisfying. Some of the poems, he says, might now have been written in a somewhat different style. We feel disposed to congratulate ourselves that Mr. Michaelides wrote these poems before "the somewhat different style" captured him; for what fascinates us about some of the songs is precisely their fresh and naïve simplicity, which has much in common with the melodious artlessness of the true folkpoesy. The poet owns that the dearest wish of his heart is to see some of his songs adopted by the people and set to ~~music~~ <sup>lyrics</sup> which may be handed down: and his simple but pleasing ditties are more likely to earn such a reward than many of the more ornate and studied compositions of a later day.

Besides the original poems, the author gives many beautiful translations, of which we may mention Byron's "Isles of Greece," Shelley's "Nightingale" and some smaller pieces, and also some of the poems of Leconte de Lisle.