

E. THE PRESENCE OF MORTON SMITH IN THE PATRIARCHATE OF JERUSALEM AND GREECE.

According to existing information Morton Smith visited Palestine twice. The first in 1941 in which remained there during the Second war, so he visited the monastery of St. Sabba. The second, in 1958, when he remained in the monastery, and made a catalogue of what he found manuscripts and discovered the edition of Ignatius with the Clement's letter. In the year 1960 just announced the discovery and in 1973 publishes the text and his analysis. As Morton Smith says, in 1951 returned to Greece and visited libraries which are located in remote areas of Athens. In Cephalonia island the Monastery of Themata and St Gerasimos, in Dimitsana the Public Library, in Skiathos island the Monastery of the Annunciation and the private library of G. Rigas and, finally, the Zosimaia Library in Ioannina (Epirus). The purpose of his visit apparently was the study of manuscripts in Greek libraries bearing the hope of discovery of some unknown text. He visited the libraries for a few days, and speaks about the people who helped him with recommendation letters. It is not known whether and how long remained in Athens, or if he studied manuscripts in the National Library. But curiosity causes the choice of these particular libraries at a time when the political situation in Greece was still not calm, and the public transport was not so easy. In 1982 when I visited the monastery of the Annunciation in Skiathos, normal road not existed, nor electricity, only an electric generator. In the same way difficult was the access to the Monastery of Themata at the same time. One may wonder, perhaps he was involved in some other type of civil service? It is unknown, however disputable.

His relations with the Patriarchate of Jerusalem were maintained during the period between the first and second visit and few years after the second. From the correspondence that exists in the Patriarchate seems that the year 1950 participated in the committee of American scientists (Byzantinologists and Theologians) to conduct fund-raising in favor of the Patriarchate. The result of fund-raising is unknown. The only thing we know is the letter sent to the Patriarch of that time Timothy announcing the fund-raising initiative and the response of the patriarch to him. Also in the library of the Monastery of Saint Sabba there is a greeting letter to the librarian for the hospitality offered to him. The letter was accompanied with a newspaper clipping from where was announced the discovery of the Clement's letter. Apart from this nothing else.

It is interesting here to quote the echo that exists in the monastery about his personality. The librarian told me that «the whole affair of the "so called" discovery of the letter raised by Smith himself in the purpose to create noise around his name and thus become known. Besides, he was a very strange

personality. We believe that this text is “manufactured” and we have not any interest of this».