

NEWSLETTER

22W415 McCarron Road

Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

www.helleniclinkmidwest.org

EDITOR: Constantine Tzanos

EDITORIAL BOARD: G. Alexopoulos

S. Sakellarides, T. Georgopoulos

No. 27, February - March 1999

HELLENIC LINK Midwest

A CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC
LINK WITH GREECE



Our Web Site

Since last month the Hellenic Link family (Midwest, New Jersey, New York, Canada, and Athens, Greece) has its own Web site: <http://www.helleniclink.org>.

Upcoming Events

The Cyprus Crisis of 1974 - American Policy Perspectives Then and Now

On Sunday February 28, 1999, Hellenic Link Midwest will present Ambassador Thomas Boyatt in a lecture on *"The Cyprus Crisis of 1974 - American Policy Perspectives Then and Now."* Mr. Boyatt entered the Foreign Service in 1959 and has served in many diplomatic posts around the world, including Ambassador to Upper Volta and Ambassador to Colombia. He was First Secretary at the U.S. Embassy in Nicosia, Cyprus in 1967-1970. He returned to Washington in 1970 as Special Assistant to Joseph Sisco, Assistant Secretary of State for the Near East. In 1974, when Turkey invaded Cyprus, Ambassador Boyatt was Director of the Cyprus Desk at the U.S. State Department (1971-1974). In 1983 Ambassador Boyatt was promoted to the personal rank of Career Minister of the Foreign Service. He has received many awards and speaks Spanish, French and Greek. The lecture will be held at Embassy Suites Hotel, 600 North State Street in Chicago, at 3:00 pm.

Celebration of Greek Independence Day

Hellenic Link Midwest in cooperation with the Hellenic Professional Society of Illinois, the Greek Women's University Club, and the Greek American Community Services, on Sunday, March 21, 1999, at 3:00 PM will present a celebration of the Greek Independence Day at the Greek Orthodox Church of Saint John in Desplaines, Illinois. The program includes the theatrical play *"Η Ρωμοσύνη θα χαθεί όταν ο Κόσμος Σβύσει"* (*Hellenism will Set Only when the World Ends*) by the Theater "Nefeli" of The Greek Community of Metropolitan Toronto - stage adaptation by Nancy Athanassopoulou-Mylonas; and Greek dances by the

Orpheus Dance Troupe of the Macedonian Society. The play has been inspired by the work of the Australian-Cypriot musician *Stelios Tsiolas*, who migrated to Australia after the Turkish invasion in 1974 and wrote the Oratorio *"Freedom Tonight"*.

The Community Theater Nefeli is a group of young, dedicated, enthusiastic, and talented Greek-Canadians, who, through the Community's Education and Cultural program, have gained invaluable insight into the language, history and culture of their Hellenic background. Theater Nefeli has been the recipient of the coveted Karolos Koun Award in the 1993 Pan Hellenic Theater Competition in Athens, Greece for the production of *"Canada, My Ithaca"*; the first prize in the Chin International Folklore Competition for 1996; and last summer the first prize of the University of Crete in a theatrical competition involving the Hellenic theaters of the U.S.A, Australia, Ukraine, Germany, and Canada. Nefeli won the last prize with their play *"The Poet of Freedom, Dionysios Solomos"*, that was presented to our Community in March 1997. Now in its seventh year, Nefeli has put on a series of productions ranging in variety from ancient comedy and drama to modern dance and theater adaptations. Besides performing at home in Toronto, they have performed in Montreal, Athens, Thessaloniki, Kalamata, Boston, Chicago, and Washington DC. The group's objectives are to promote Greek Performing Arts to mainstream audiences by producing bi-lingual productions, to share their experiences with people interested in Greek Theater, and to develop new scripts pertinent to the Greek Canadian experience.

Nancy Athanassopoulou-Mylonas was born in Cairo, Egypt, and migrated with her family to Sydney, Australia.

A trained classical dancer, opened her own School of Movement in 1966 where she taught classical dance, modern dance and mime. In 1975 she founded the School of Greek Folklore Ltd. where she taught Greek traditional and modern dances, dance theater and modern dance. Nancy has traveled throughout Australia teaching, directing and producing many cultural presentations for the various Greek Communities. As an actress, she has played major roles on stage and mainstream Australian Television.

Page 2

But her love lies in stage work. She is the recipient of numerous awards

while a resident of Australia, including the *Order Of The Medal Of Australia* in recognition of 25 years of service in the arts through Greek Folklore . Nancy came to Toronto in 1990 and has been there since, as the director and choreographer of the Greek Community Theater Nefeli.

In Brief

Unesco Recommends Return Of Parthenon Marbles

On January 28,1999, an UNESCO committee for "the promotion of the return of cultural artifacts to their country of origin" adopted a special recommendation that instructs the UNESCO's director general to undertake an initiative for bilateral negotiations between Greece and Britain for the return of the Parthenon Marbles, known as the "Elginian Marbles". The friezes and other parts from Parthenon, and a caryatid, dating back to the 5th century BC, were removed in 1801 - 1803 by the British diplomat Lord Elgin, then ambassador to Turkey, with the permission of the local Ottoman occupation authorities. Elgin sold the artworks to the British Museum in 1816. Successive British governments have turned down repeated Greek requests for the return of the Marbles.

In a recently published book, British historian William St. Clair said that the Marbles had suffered significant and irrevocable damage some 60 years ago, when British Museum staff tried to restore the friezes to what was mistakenly thought to be their original color. Mr. St. Clair discovered the damage while he was doing research in the museum's archives. In his book *"Lord Elgin and the Marbles"*, he says that for years this was "a strictly internal matter". In June last year, Greece demanded an immediate inspection of the Marbles by an authoritative UNESCO committee of experts. The British government turned down the Greek demand.

CoE Report On Muslim Minority In Thrace

On January, 27, 1999, the Council of Europe released a report on the Greek Muslim Minority of Thrace. The Italian and Moldovan authors of the report *"The Conditions of Human Rights in Greece and Especially in Thrace"* say that the condition of the minority does not warrant the concern of the Council of Europe. However, they noted

that there are certain issues which the Legal Committee of the CoE must discuss with Greece, such as education, land ownership, hunting and driving licences and employment in the public and municipal sectors.

The Greek representative at CoE, New Democracy deputy Vyron Polydoros, said that the conditions of the minority are reflections of the general social and economic problems confronted in other agricultural regions of the country as well. Greece has undertaken a special effort for the educational improvement of the Muslims. He also said that there is reason to look into the fate of tens of thousands of ethnic Greeks of Istanbul, Imvros and Tenedos, who were driven out of Turkey through official and semi-official intimidation and threats.

Euro-MPS Press For Olympics In Ancient Olympia

In the wake of the bribery scandal within the ranks of the International Olympics Committee (IOC), ten Greek Eurodeputies have undertaken an initiative to promote ancient Olympia as the permanent place for the summer Olympic Games. In their declaration submitted for approval to the Europarliament, they state that "the staging of the Olympic Games in their birthplace, ancient Olympia, on a permanent basis, is the best way out of the impasse and the only viable solution". Nine members of the IOC have been suspended for accepting gifts from officials of the Salt Lake City bid committee before the Utah capital won a 1995 vote to stage the 2002 Winter Games.

Greek National TV Channel In The U.S.

After several months of research and negotiations, a goal of the Council of Hellenes Abroad (SAE) has been fulfilled. The Greek National TV Channel (ERT) has begun broadcasting in the United States. ERT's programming is offered through the American broadcast distribution company EABC. The 24-hour broadcast is available with a monthly subscription of \$14.99, while the installation cost is \$99 and the equipment (satellite dish and decoder) cost is \$149. The service is offered free to Hellenic-American Organizations. For more information, organizations can call the SAE office at 312 357-6424, and individuals can contact the ERT N.Y. office at 877 473-3500.

From Our History

Sir John Stavridi and the British Offer of 1915. *(Continued from the last issue)*

Wednesday 16th June

Venizelos has been reelected and his party has a large majority. Greece has been true to her greatest son.

Wednesday 23rd June

Lloyd George telephoned to me that he wished to see me tomorrow.

Thursday 24th June

I attended at 6 o'clock punctually at 6 Whitehall Gardens where I was received by Lloyd George. He greeted me most cordially. His first words were: "Now that I see that Greece is sound at heart I have the greatest pleasure in meeting you again." He went on to explain that he had not wished to see me before as he had no confidence in the Gounaris Government and he did not want to help it to adopt the policy of Venizelos and take the benefit of it to themselves. Now however, that Venizelos had been reelected, he and Churchill wanted to see me to decide what steps should be taken to reopen negotiations with Venizelos, so that Greece could join the Alliance at the earliest possible moment. I pointed out that Venizelos had been out of office for three months and that so many important events had taken place in the meantime that I thought it would not be possible for Venizelos to come to an immediate decision. He must get into the saddle first, make himself acquainted with the doings of the present Government, and then, if the King's health was restored, it might be possible for him to come to a decision as to what Greece should do.

At this moment, Churchill came in and greeted me as an old friend. Lloyd George repeated what had passed between us and he replied: "I shall be most disappointed if Greece has not declared war by the 1st of August." Lloyd George said: "Venizelos is the man we know, he is our friend, we trust him implicitly; for us Venizelos is Greece. We don't know and we don't want to know the other lot - Gounaris and Company." He went on to say that the Powers were still prepared to re-open negotiations with Venizelos and to grant to Greece all they had previously offered, but it was necessary for them to know, as soon as possible, what were Venizelos' views as to the future, even before he took up the reins of Government.

At this point, Lloyd George left the room for a few minutes. I asked Churchill what was the present position with Bulgaria and he replied that they were still negotiating, but that Bulgaria insisted on receiving immediately parts of Macedonia from Serbia and Kavalla,

and Drama from Greece, without awaiting the end of the war. He said: "Greece will have, in the long run, to sacrifice Kavalla and district as it will be absolutely necessary to revive the Balkan alliance, and this can only be achieved by such a sacrifice." He went on to say that it was, after all, a very small matter in comparison with the reward promised to Greece in Asia Minor, the situation of which he described. I told him it would be impossible for Greece to submit to this, and that I felt convinced that Venizelos would not again make such a proposal. Moreover, he had only done so as a very last resort and in view of the declaration made by the General Staff that it was impossible for Greece to join the Allies unless Bulgaria joined also. Churchill then said: "Wait a minute; we must have the Minister's view on this. He must know what you have said," and he went to the door and called Lloyd George back; he then repeated our conversation to the latter and Lloyd George agreed entirely with me. He pointed out that the circumstances had materially altered since Venizelos resigned and that he did not know what promises had been made during the electoral campaign. I pointed out that Kavalla had been voted unanimously for the Venizelos party, and Lloyd George turned to Churchill and said: "How could we possibly hand them over after that?"

After we had fully discussed the question, I stated that I would not trust to my memory alone but wished to put down in black and white a resume of our conversation which I wished them to see, and it was arranged that we were to meet at lunch tomorrow when I would submit my document. The following is the document I have just drawn up and will submit to the Ministers tomorrow:

The guarantees and compensation that will be given to Greece shall be:

- 1) A guarantee for the integrity of her present possessions, including the islands and Northern Epirus.
- 2) Smyrna and those parts of Asia Minor described in Mr. Venizelos' memorandum.
- 3) Cession of Cyprus by England.
- 4) Financial assistance on the same basis and terms as granted to the other Allies.
- 5) Assistance for arms, ammunition, and provisions.
- 6) The Alliance, so far at all events as England is concerned, to be continued after the war, or a fresh alliance to be concluded.

The Powers would welcome an understanding between Bulgaria and Greece, such as would enable both Powers to join the Alliance, but will not bring pressure to bear upon Greece to make any sacrifice to attain that end, though they would appreciate any effort made by Greece for that purpose.

(To be Continued)

Από Τον Πλούτο Της Πολιτιστικής Μας Κληρονομιάς

Κλέφτικα Τραγούδια από τήν Συλλογή Ν. Πολίτη

Των Κολοκοτρωναίων και του Παναγιώταρου Βενετσανάκη

Ο Κωνσταντίνος Κολοκοτρώνης, ο πατηρ του Θεοδώρου Κολοκοτρώνη, συμπράξας μετά των υπό τον Καπετάνπασαν Τούρκων τω 1779 πρς εξόντωνσιν των επί μακρόν χρόνον μετά την καταστολήν της επαναστάσεως του 1769 δηούντων την Πελοπόννησον αλβανικών στιφών, εκλήθη υπό του αρχηγού τού τουρκικού στρατού και στόλου να προσέλθη και δηλώση υποταγήν. Αλλ' ούτος δεν υπήκουσε, διαφόρους φέρων προφάσεις, μετώκισε δ' εκ Γορτυνίας εις την Καστάνιτσαν της Μάνης, όπου διέμενεν εις οχυρούς πύργους ο ισχυρός φίλος του καπετάνιος Παναγιώταρος Βενετσανάκης.

Τό επόμενον έτος 1780 ο Καπετάν Πασάς, καταπλεύσας μετά τού Τουρκικού στόλου εις Γύθειον, προσεκάλεσεν επανειλημμένως τον Παναγιώταρον και τον Κολοκοτρώνην να προσκυνήσουν. Αλλ' ούτοι ηρηθήσαν, αν και μόλις 150 άνδρας είχαν επ' αυτούς και εγίνωσκον ότι ο Τούρκος ναύαρχος διέθετεν ισχυράν αποβατικήν στρατιάν, περί τους δεκαεχιλίους, και πυροβολικόν. Είχον πεποιθήσιν εις την οχυρότητα των πύργων τής Καστάνιτσας και εις την ενίσχυσιν τήν οποίαν θα ελάμβανον παρά των καπεταναίων της Μάνης. Αλλά τήν μεν αποστολήν επικουριών εματαιώσεν ο μπέης Μιχαήλ Τρουπάκης, πεισθείς υπό του διερμηνέως του στόλου Μαυρογένη, στενωτάτα δ' επολιόρησε τους κλεισθέντας εις τους πύργους ο αρχηγός του τουρκικού στρατού Αλή μπέης. Οι πολιορκούμενοι αντέστησαν γενναίως επί δώδεκα ημερονύκτια, αλλά μη βλέποντες να έρχεται η προσδοκωμένη βοήθεια αποφάσισαν να διασχίσουν ξιφίρεις τούς πολιορκητάς. Καταλιπόντες δε εις τόν ένα πύργον τούς υπεργήρους γονείς τού Παναγιώταρου μεθ' ενός οπαδού του, όπως θέση πυρ εις τήν εν τω πύργω πυρίτιδα, εξήλθον πάντες με τάς γυναίκας και τά παιδιά. Και διέσπασαν μεν τήν ζώνην των πολιορκητών, απολέσαντες τρεις μόνον πολεμιστάς, αλλά και πολλαί γυναίκες και παιδιά συνελήφθησαν αιχμάλωτοι. Οι εξελθόντες δεν ηδυνήθησαν να καταφύγωσιν εις χωρίον τής Μάνης, όπου θα εύρισκον ίσως ασφάλειαν, αλλ' άμα τή ημέρα συνελήφθησαν και εφονεύθησαν οι πλείστοι. Εφονεύθη και ο Παναγιώταρος και οι υιοί του, ο Κολοκοτρώνης, πληγωθείς κατά τήν έξοδον, και οι δύο αδελφοί του, ηχηλωτίσθησαν δε και τά τέκνα του πλην τού Θεοδώρου Κολοκοτρώνη, τον οποίον μετά τής μητρός του και μιάς αδελφής του διέσωσαν τά παλληκάρια τού πατρός του.

Εις τήν καταστροφήν ταύτην αναφέρονται και τά επόμενα τρία άσματα.

Α'

Πολύ σκοτίδιασε ο ουρανός, πάλι να βρέξι θέλει,
σκοτίδιασε η Μαυρομηλιά και τής Μηλιάς ο κάμπος.
Εσύρανε τά ρέματα, εσύραν τά λαγκάδια,
κ' εκόπηκε τό πέρασμα, κ' εκόπη τό γιοφύρι,
πού κει περνάει η κλεφτουριά, οι Κολοκοτρωναίοι,
μέ τά μπαϊράκια τά χρυσά, τοίς ασημομιστόλαις.
Κινάν και παν 'ς τήν εκκλησιά γιά να λειτουργηθούνε,
φορούν τά πόσια τά χρυσά, τοίς ασημοπαλάσκαις.
Σίντας ξελειουργήσανε και βγήκαν 'ς τήν κουβέντα,
πετάχτηκε ο Κωνσταντής και λέει τού Δημητράκη.
"Τούτ' η χαρά πού χομ' εμείς σέ λύπη θα μάς φέρη,
πολλή Τουρκιά μάς έζωσε, ο θιός να μάς γλυτώση."
Τ' ακούει ο Παναγιώταρος κ' εσβήστη από τά γέλοια.
"Τι λες, κουμπάρε Κωνσταντή, τι λες, τι κουβεντιάζεις;
Τίγαρις είναι τού Μυστρά να τό πατούν οι Τούρκοι;
Ποτέ δεν επατήθηκε της Καστανιάς ο πύργος,
ουδέ ο Τούρκος τόν πάτησε, μαϊδέ και ο Αλαμάνος."
Κι' ακόμα ο λόγος έστεκε κ' η συντυχιά κρατειώταν
Μπουλούκπασας τούς έκλεισε μέ χίλιους πεντακόσιους.

Β'

Τί έχουν τής Μάνης τά βουνά, οπού ειναι βουρκωμένα,
καν ο βοριάς τα βάρεσε, καν η νοτιά τά πήρε.
Μηδέ ο βοριάς τα βάρεσε, μηδ' η νοτιά τά πήρε,
παλεύει ο Καπετάν πασιάς μέ τόν Κολοκοτρώνη.
Στεριά παλεύει ο Αλή μπεις μ' άρματα τού πελάγου.
'Σ τήν Αρια πού έρρηξε τ' ορδί διαβάζει τό φερμάνι.
"Ποιός είναι ο Παναγιώταρος, ποιό λεν Κολοκοτρώνη,

να ρθούν να προσκυνήσουνε, ραγιάδες να γενούνε."
Τ' ακούει ο Παναγιώταρος, παράξενο τού φάνη.
"Δεν προσκυνούμε Αλή μετη, ο νούς σου μην τό βάνη,
τ' άρματα δεν τά δίνομε, ραγιάδες να γενούμε,
παρά θα γίνη πόλεμος με τόπια, με ντουφέκια."
Κι' ο Αλή μπεις σαν τ' άκουσε πολύ τού κακοφάνη.
Δώδεκα ημέραις πολεμάει μέ τόπια μέ ντουφέκια,
τήν Κυριακή τό δειλινό μεγάλα τόπια βγάλαν,
καρσί σ' τόν πύργο τά βαλαν, τόν πύργο νά χαλάσουν.
Βλέπουν τόν πύργο κ' έτρεμε, κ' ήθελε γιά να πέση..

Γ'

Εσείς βουνά, ψηλά βουνά, μέ τά δασιά κλαριά σας,
μέ τά δασιά τά έλατα, τό ένα απάνω 'ς τ' άλλο,
και πύργε τής Καστάνιτσας, οπού βαστάτε κλέφταις,
τούς κλέφταις τί τούς κάματε, τούς Κολοκοτρωναίους;
οπού φορούν χρυσά σπαθιά, μπαλάσκαις ασημένιαις,
χρυσά 'ν' και τά τουφέκια τους, χρυσά μαλαματένια,
και τά τσαπράζια πού φορούν, ούλο μαργαριτάρια.
Κείνο το Μάρτη εδώ ήσανε και τό μισόν Απρίλη,
και τήν ημέρα τ' άη Γιωργιού, πού είναι τό πανηγύρι,
φίλοι τούς επροσκάλεσαν, τούς είχανε τραπέζι.
Πάνω πόβαλαν τα φαγιά, κ' έκαμαν τό σταυρό τους,
ψηλή φωνίτσαν άκουσαν, ψηλή φωνή ν' ακούνε.
"Γι' αφήστε τά καλά φαγιά και πάρτε τά ντουφέκια,
τί οι Τούρκοι σάς επλάκωσαν, τί οι Τούρκοι σάς επήραν."
Και τα ντουφέκια πήρανε, και τά σπαθιά τρανήξαν,
τούς Τούρκους εκυνήγησαν, τούς κάμαν ένα ένα.