

# NEWSLETTER

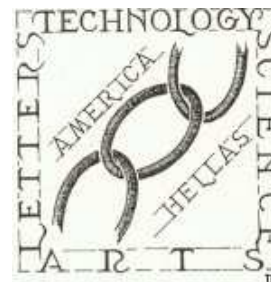
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## HELLENIC LINK Midwest

A CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC  
LINK WITH GREECE



### Hellenic Link–Midwest Officers And Board Members

As a result of the elections of last May the officers and Board Members of Hellenic–Link Midwest are: Stefanos Sakellarides, president, Frank Columbus, vice president, George Alexopoulos, treasurer, Gus Alevizos, recording secretary, Peter Metropoulos, corresponding secretary, Takis Georgopoulos, George Skarpathiotis, Constantine Tzanos, and Nicholas Flevaris.

### Upcoming Events

#### The Greek-American Response to Famine in Axis-Occupied Greece

On Sunday October 29, 2000, Hellenic Link - Midwest presents Professor Alexandros K. Kyrou in a lecture on "*The Greek-American Response to Famine in Axis-Occupied Greece*"; 3:00 PM., at the Embassy Suites Hotel, 600 North State Street in Chicago.

Responses in the United States to the Greek wartime tragedy of 1940-1944 reflected the enduring and strong identification of Greek Americans with the welfare of Greece. The Greek-American community, like other ethnic groups in the United States, demonstrated an ardent interest in the events that affected its homeland. But the extent to which Greek Americans turned their concerns to activism on behalf of their homeland was without rival among European immigrants.

The Greek-American concerns in the first two years following the German invasion of Greece included, first and foremost, the catastrophic famine that gripped Greece as a result of Axis occupation and British blockade policy. The energies directed at providing relief to its famine-stricken homeland by the Greek American community, through the central force of the Greek War Relief Association, or GWRA, necessarily took into account not only the financial and material requirements attendant to such humanitarian intervention, but also the complex political and diplomatic elements involved in such a goal. Accordingly, the GWRA succeeded at what no other organization accomplished during the war -- it

effectively compelled both Allied and Axis belligerents to alter their policies in the interest of humanitarian imperatives. Thanks to the efforts of the GWRA, Greece was the only country in occupied Europe to become a recipient of a large-scale food relief program that was originated, planned, and executed from within an Allied state. This lecture will examine the critical, yet almost entirely overlooked, humanitarian role that the GWRA played in Axis-occupied Greece, as well as the Association's transformative impact on Greek-American society.

*Alexandros K. Kyrou* is an Assistant Professor of History and the Director of East European and Russian Studies at Salem State College in Salem, Massachusetts. Professor Kyrou completed his Ph.D. in East European History at Indiana University in 1993. He completed his post-doctoral studies at Princeton University as a Hanaah Seeger Davis Visiting Research Fellow in Hellenic Studies.

Prior to his appointment at Salem State College, Professor Kyrou taught as a Visiting Lecturer and Visiting Professor in the Departments of History and Political Science, respectively, at Indiana University and Purdue University, Fort Wayne, and as an Assistant Professor of History at Dominican College in New York. His teaching experience includes courses on Byzantine history and civilization, the Ottoman Empire, Balkan history, East European history and politics, Yugoslavia, and the Greek American experience. Professor Kyrou's diverse publications include several articles on the Greek Diaspora, Albanian history, Bulgaria and the Bulgarian American community, and United States foreign policy in Southeastern Europe.

#### A Recital of Greek Love Songs

On Sunday November 19, 2000, Hellenic Link - Midwest presents a recital of *Greek Love Songs*; 3:00 PM., at the Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 North Knox Avenue in Chicago.

*Voula Karahaliou* and *Theodora Satolia* will present love songs of Manos Hatzidakis, Mikis Theodorakis, Loizos, Hatzinasios and other prominent Greek composers. The distinguished pianist Theodora Satolia will also perform the work of Manos Hatzidakis "*Six Popular Paintings*" ("*Exi Laikes Zografies*").

*Voula Karahaliou* is a professional singer since 1979. For seven years she was a member of the well known "*Athinaiki Compania*". She has worked successfully in music clubs and recordings with the well known Greek artists Yiannis Parios, Haroula Alexiou, Vicky Moscholiou, D. Mitropanos, A. Kaloyiannis, A. Protopsalti, Yiannis Pouloupoulos, L. Chalkias, George Zambetas, and many others. She has performed in Australia, Europe and Canada. She has a number of records, including two golden and one platinum. Voula has performed at the Cultural Center of Chicago and the Folk School of Music, and her performances have been broadcast by Chicago radio stations.

*Theodora Satolia* is a pianist who has given recitals in many prestigious concert halls in USA, including Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall, Benaroya Hall of Seattle, and the Cultural Center of Chicago. She has also performed in Mexico, Spain, Germany and Greece. Her concerts have been broadcast in WQXR-FM of New York, WFMT of Chicago, Bavarian Radio of Germany, and Leeds National Public Radio of England. She has been a soloist with Elgin Symphony Orchestra of Chicago, Corpus Christi Symphony of Texas, Iasic Philharmonic of Romania, National Symphony of Greece, and many others. She is a first prize winner of the Gina Bachauer, Grace Welsh, Kingsville Young Performers, Pro Piano, Nena Plant Wideman, Hilton Head Island, International Institute of Music, and Ciudad de Carlet international competitions. At the age of seventeen she was awarded the Gold Medal of the Athens Academy, previously only bestowed to Gina Bachauer, Dimitri Mitropoulos, and Dimitri Sgouros.

### **Annual Dinner Dance - Scholarship Awards**

Our Annual Dinner Dance, New Year Celebration, and Scholarship Awards will take place on Saturday, January 19, 2001. The Hellenic Link - Midwest Scholarships are awarded to undergraduate or graduate students who have at least one parent of Greek decent and excel in their studies. The primary selection criteria are scholastic performance and financial need. Applications will be accepted up to November 11, 2000. For an application, please contact George Alexopoulos, 2318 Iroquois Drive, Glenview, IL 60025, 847 498 3686, 847 498 0421(fax), keramidia@yahoo.com.

## ***In Brief***

### **Turkish Newspaper Discusses September 1955 Incidents Against the Greeks in Istanbul**

The Turkish daily *Çumhurriyet*, on September 6, 2000 published an in-depth article by Cnueit Akalin on the "*Incidents of September 6, 1955*". The article said that these "incidents" led to violence that resulted in the killing of a priest, the demolition of "73 churches, one synagogue, eight religious fountains, two monasteries and a factory, while there were extensive damages to 5,538 buildings of which 3,584 belonged to Greeks". "With the September incidents the pages of a history book were concluded. The Turks and Greeks, who lived together in Istanbul for 500 years, ceased to coexist. The desertion of the Greeks was escalated following the 1964 Cyprus crisis." The article, underlining the need for "answer to questions", criticized "Turkish intellectuals, who claimed that they are investigating Turkish history with a critical outlook but do not show the same attitude for the September incidents".

### **Turkey's Efforts To Censor Microsoft**

In its edition of August 18, 2000, The Chronicle for Higher Education revealed a campaign by the Turkish government to pressure Microsoft's on-line encyclopedia, Encarta, to deny the Armenian Genocide. The Turkish government threatened Microsoft with serious reprisals unless any mention of the Armenian Genocide was removed from its entry dealing with Armenia. In response to Turkey's pressure, Microsoft approached professor Ronald Grigor Sunny, University of Chicago, and professor Helen Fein, Director of the Genocide Institute, to rewrite their entries to cast doubt on the historical facts of the Armenian Genocide. Both authors rejected these requests and openly discussed Turkey's pressure tactics with reporters from the Chronicle. The Chronicle's article also notes that Encarta's entry on Turkey makes no mention of the Armenian Genocide. The Chronicle is the nation's leading publication for the academic community.

This is not the first time that Turkey has so blatantly tried to silence the voice of history. In 1915, U.S. Consul Leslie Davis was posted in Mamouret ul Aziz (present-day Elazig) and was witness to the deliberate extermination of some tens of thousands of Armenians living in that province by agents of the Ottoman Turkish

government. He filed his reports to the U.S. embassy in Constantinople at regular intervals, and upon his return to Washington he produced a comprehensive report titled *"The Slaughterhouse Province"*. In 1989, the academic publishing firm A. D. Caratzas published Davis' report in a book titled *"The Slaughterhouse Province: An American Diplomat's Eyewitness Account of the Armenian Genocide"*. This publication was followed by a break in the office of the publisher, threatening telephone calls, and gun shots fired into the house of the book editor, Suzan K. Blair. These attempts to intimidate the publisher and the editor were extensively reported in the US press and especially in the *New York Times* (April 1990).

Turkey has undertaken a worldwide effort to silence any voice of the genocides and other crimes committed by the Young Turk regime and its Kemalist successors. In this effort have been enlisted Turkey's diplomatic and security services, and a slew of mercenaries. The latter include many otherwise "distinguished" American political and academic figures. One of them, Bernard Lewis, was found guilty in France of "genocide denial," a crime in that country, while another, Stanford Shaw, has written a "history" of Turkey in which genocide is denied by an extensive reliance on texts plagiarized from Turkish historians. Professor Speros Vryonis, in his book *The Turkish State and History: Clio Meets the Gray Wolf*, documents the efforts of the Turkish regime and its services to co-opt American academics into the genocide denial position.

Evidence of such worldwide activities also surfaced in hearings held in Turkey in the aftermath of the Susurluk affair. During these hearings, former Prime Minister Tansu Ciller and other political leaders admitted that the Turkish security services undertook many activities of dubious legality and committed outright crimes, to promote policies of genocide, denial, and dissident suppression.

## Commentary

### An Experience With The Greek Bureaucracy - Summer 2000

*(The Editor; if you also have a similar experience with the Greek Bureaucracy, please send your story to the editor. A submittal in electronic form would greatly help.)*

*Bureaucratic inefficiency is a permanent feature of modern Greece, and as Greek-Americans we are not immune from it. Interactions with the bureaucracy are a part of our life and their character is a part of our culture. Therefore, it seems to be appropriate for a cultural and professional society to address our*

*experiences from such interactions, and even attempt to affect their shaping in a positive direction.*

I needed a plat of survey for a small piece of land that belongs to my mother in-law and is located in the area of Tripoli. It should be issued by the Survey Service of the Prefecture of Arcadia. I walked into the first floor of the Headquarters of the Prefecture of Arcadia in Tripoli.

- Where is the Survey Service here, please?
- . It is not here anymore. It moved recently to Nafpliou Street.
- Could you please tell me where on Nafpliou Street?
- . I do not know. You can go to Nafpliou Street and ask around. People there will know.

Because Nafpliou Street is a narrow, very busy street, I parked somewhere close-by and I started asking around. After a number of unsuccessful attempts, someone gave me some approximate coordinates. By trial and error, I finally found the place.

- Good morning (Kalimera sas). I need a plat for a small piece of land that belongs to my mother in-law and is located ...
- You have to submit an application with two stamps (hartosima) of 300 drachmas, and two stamps (michanosima) of 30 drachmas. But we do not carry the hartosima and michanosima. You have to get them from the Revenue Service.
- Where is the Revenue Service, please?
- It is at the square by the bus station.

I took the road to the Revenue Service under the summer baking sun of the plain of Arcadia.

- Could you please give me two hartosima of 300 drachmas and two michanosima of 30 drachmas?
- We have the hartosima, but for the michanosima you have to go to a bank.
- Where is the closest bank, please?
- . The National Bank of Greece is at the next square.

On the road again to the National Bank of Greece.

- Good morning. I would like to get two michanosima of 30 drachmas, please.
- . We do not carry them, you should go to the central branch of the National Bank.
- Where is the central branch of the National Bank, please?
- . On this street to the left so many blocks from here.

Trying to fix a smile on my face, I enter the central branch of the National Bank of Greece.

- Two michanosima of 30 drachmas, please.
- . Sorry, we carry only michanosima of 400 drachmas, we do not carry the small ones.

- Do you know where I can find them?  
. Go back to the square you came from. One of the kiosks there should have them.

And one of the kiosks had them. Swimming in my sweat I returned to the Survey Service on Nafpliou Street with

the valuable load of my adventure, two hartosima and two michanosima. I was ready to jettison some comments about the efficiency of the Greek bureaucracy, when the light struck me. Gee! It seems that they know what they are doing! And they do it so efficiently, and in such a subtle way! They try to keep us fit. The Public Service working for the good of the people in so many mysterious ways!

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## *From The Riches Of Our Cultural Heritage*

### *THE KING OF ASINE*

by George Seferis

ΑΣΙΝΗΝ ΤΕ...

ILIAD

We looked all morning round the citadel  
starting from the shaded side, there where the sea  
green and without luster—breast of a slain peacock—  
received us like time without an opening in it.  
Veins of rock dropped down from high above,  
twisted vines, naked, many-branched, coming alive at the  
water's touch, while the eye following them  
struggled to escape the tiresome rocking,  
losing strength continually.

On the sunny side a long open beach  
and the light striking diamonds on the huge walls.  
No living thing, the wild doves gone  
and the king of Asine, whom we've been trying to find for  
two years now,

unknown, forgotten by all, even by Homer,  
only one word in the *Iliad* and that uncertain,  
thrown here like the gold burial mask.

You touched it, remember its sound?

Hollow in the light

like a dry jar in dug earth:

the same sound that our oars make in the sea.

The king of Asine a void under the mask

everywhere with us everywhere with us, under a name:

"ΑΣΙΝΗΝ ΤΕ... ΑΣΙΝΗΝ ΤΕ..."

and his children statues

and his desires the fluttering of birds, and the wind

in the gaps between his thoughts, and his ships

anchored in a vanished port:

under the mask a void.

Behind the large eyes the curved lips the curls  
carved in relief on the gold cover of our existence  
a dark spot that you see traveling like a fish  
in the dawn calm of the sea:

a void everywhere with us.

And the bird that flew away last winter

with a broken wing:

abode of life, and the young woman who left to play  
with the dogteeth of summer  
and the soul that sought the lower world squeaking  
and the country like a large plane-leaf swept along by the  
torrent of the sun  
with the ancient monuments and the contemporary sorrow.

And the poet lingers, looking at the stones, and asks himself  
does there really exist  
among these ruined lines, edges, points, hollows, and curves  
does there really exist

here where one meets the path of rain, wind, and ruin  
does there exist the movement of the face, shape of the  
tenderness

of those who've shrunk so strangely in our lives,  
those who remained the shadow of waves and thoughts with  
the sea's boundlessness

or perhaps no, nothing is left but the weight  
the nostalgia for the weight of a living existence  
there where we now remain unsubstantial, bending  
like the branches of a terrible willow-tree heaped in  
permanent despair

while the yellow current slowly carries down rushes  
uprooted in the mud

image of a form that the sentence to everlasting bitterness  
has turned to marble:

the poet a void.

Shieldbearer, the sun climbed warring,  
and from the depths of the cave a startled bat  
hit the light as an arrow hits a shield:

"ΑΣΙΝΗΝ ΤΕ..... ΑΣΙΝΗΝ ΤΕ....." Could that be the king  
of Asine

we've been searching for so carefully on this acropolis  
sometimes touching with our fingers his touch upon  
the stones.

*Asine, summer '38-Athens, Jan. '40*