



# HELLENIC LINK–MIDWEST Newsletter

A CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC LINK WITH GREECE

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## Upcoming Events

### Toward a social history of language in Cyprus

On Sunday, April 14, 2013, Hellenic Link–Midwest presents Professor *Marina Terkourafi* in a lecture titled “*Toward a Social History of Language in Cyprus*”. The event will take place at 3 pm at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel, 10249 West Irving Park Road at Schiller Park (southeast corner of Irving Park Road and Mannheim Road). Admission is free for HLM members and \$5 for non-members.

Studies of Greek as spoken in Cyprus today draw attention to a generalized variety of Cypriot Greek, free from local variation within the island, yet diverging in several ways from the standard spoken on the mainland. In this lecture, after describing the main structural features of this variety, Professor Terkourafi will appeal to the sociolinguistic notion of a *koiné* to establish this generalized variety as a *koiné* and trace its evolution, arguing that an early *koiné* already came into existence in the late 14th century, playing an important role in the formation of both the modern Cypriot dialect and today’s *koiné*.

*Dr. Marina Terkourafi* is Associate Professor of Linguistics at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where in 2008 she co-founded and subsequently co-directed the University's program in Modern Greek Studies. She is a sociolinguist and pragmatician with a keen interest in issues of implicit meaning (meaning which is not explicitly stated but is nonetheless understood) and in expanding the traditional data pool of theoretical linguistics beyond English, to include less commonly studied languages, such as Greek, and their varieties. In this vein, she has published extensively on the communicative functions of various devices in Cypriot Greek (diminutives, "plural of politeness", borrowed terms such as 'thank you', 'sorry' and 'please'), as well as on the history of the Cypriot dialect. She holds a B.A. in Greek Philology from the University of Athens (Greece), and an M. Phil. and Ph.D. in Linguistics from the University of Cambridge (UK).

### Why we should be excited by the Higgs discovery

On Sunday, May 19, 2013, Hellenic Link–Midwest presents Professor *Nikos Varelas* in a lecture titled “*Why*

*we Should be Excited by the Higgs Discovery*”. The event will take place at 3 pm at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel, 10249 West Irving Park Road at Schiller Park (southeast corner of Irving Park Road and Mannheim Road). Admission is free for HLM members and \$5 for non-members.

In recent decades, particle physicists have formulated an elegant theory, called the “Standard Model”, which binds together the building blocks of matter and the forces that act between them. Predictions based on the Standard Model have so far withstood the challenge of every experiment in particle physics with extreme accuracy. Nevertheless, a key ingredient of the Standard Model, the Higgs boson that explains how fundamental particles acquire mass and enables the universe to evolve into an interesting place, has been missing. In July 2012, scientists at the world’s most powerful accelerator, the Large Hadron Collider in Geneva, announced that they have observed a particle that closely resembles the long-sought Higgs boson. In this talk, Professor Varelas will highlight recent achievements in particle physics, explain why the Higgs boson is so important, and discuss the pathway that led to the discovery and what may lie ahead.

*Dr. Nikos Varelas* is a Professor of Physics at the University of Illinois at Chicago. He received his Ph.D. in 1994 from the University of Rochester. He has been a member of the CMS experiment at the Large Hadron Collider at the European Particle Physics Laboratory (CERN) in Geneva, Switzerland, and the D-Zero experiment at the Tevatron Collider at Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory (Fermilab) in Batavia, Illinois. His research in CMS and D-Zero has focused on studies of Quantum Chromodynamics (QCD), the theory that describes the strong interaction responsible for the nuclear force, on searches for more fundamental building blocks beyond the quarks and leptons in the Standard Model, and on searches for the Higgs boson. He is a member of the team of scientists who announced the discovery of the Higgs boson. He is the co-spokesperson of the Coordinated Theoretical-Experimental Project on QCD (CTEQ) Collaboration. He is a member of the Executive Committee of the American Physical Society Division of Particles and Fields, and the Chair of the Fermilab Users Executive Committee. He has co-authored about 700 publications that have produced more than 34,000 citations.

## ***In Brief***

### **Eurostat: poverty in Greece**

Nearly one in three children living in Greece are threatened by poverty and social exclusion, while this ratio reaches one in two for children having parents of a low educational level, and over two in five for children having at least one parent of foreign nationality.

According to the latest Eurostat data for 2011, Greece is in the ninth place among the 27 countries of the European Union (EU) regarding the fraction of the population facing the threat of poverty. The specific percentages are 30.4% for those under the age of 18, 31.6% for adults, and 29.3% for the elderly over the age of 65. The corresponding rates across the EU are 27% for children, 24.3% for adults and 20.5% for the elderly.

Especially vulnerable are the children having parents with a low education. From these children, one in two (50.2%) is threatened by poverty, while the same is true for 28.7% of children from parents with secondary education and only for 7.9% of children from parents with higher education. In the EU, the corresponding percentages are 49.2%, 22.4% and 7.5%.

### **Greek researchers create new food product**

*(ekathimerini.com, March 6, 2013).*

Dimitris Kouretas, a professor of biochemistry and biotechnology at the University of Thessaly, is one of twelve researchers from ten EU countries, who presented their findings at an event organized by the European Commission (EC) in Brussels on February 26, 2013, on innovation in the field of medicine and medical technology. The twelve scientists were selected from a list of 600 who submitted their proposals to the EC program. Professor Kouretas was the only representative from southeastern Europe.

Kouretas and his research team have made a breakthrough in processing the byproducts of dairy manufacturing, particularly whey. Up to now these byproducts are discarded into rivers or streams, polluting the natural environment and generating a chain of negative effects on public health, crops and the quality of drinking water. In Greece, the problem is particularly pronounced in Thessaly, one of Greece's main cheese making regions.

The work of Professor Kouretas and his team, protected by an international patent, has been published in the British journal *Food and Chemical Toxicology*. A whey protein cake developed by Professor Kouretas' team is currently available in processed form as the Feedback Cake, the Cocoa Protein Cookie, and the Feta Bar.

Professor Kouretas and his team have removed a dangerous source of pollution in dairy-producing areas while simultaneously creating a highly nutritious food product. The scientists say that the whey protein cakes

can also be used as food aid to countries with high rates of malnutrition.

The Franco-German television network Arte, is currently producing a documentary on the work of the Greek researchers, featuring the innovative food products and the benefits of this research to the University of Thessaly.

## ***From Our History***

### **German atrocities in Crete**

*(From: "The First Victory, Greece in the Second World War", by George C. Blytas)*

In 1945, under the auspices of the United Nations, several committees were formed to assess the atrocities perpetrated in various areas of Greece. A four-member committee chaired by Nikos Kazantzakis investigated the atrocities in Crete.

The committee began its task on 17 June 1945 and had forty days to complete it and report its findings to the United Nations. In this limited time frame the Kazantzakis committee investigated atrocities committed in only 106 destroyed Cretan villages. The list of affected villages given in the U. N. report does not include villages in which only massacres occurred, or only a few houses were destroyed. To tour the island, the committee was given an old German army car. However, the car soon broke down and the committee had to resort to mules and donkeys for transportation. Moreover, whenever estimates of damages and massacres were different, the committee took the lower numbers. Kazantzakis states that due to time limitations, the lack of transport, and because of reporting the lower numbers of losses, the estimates of damages were low.

The Kazantzakis committee describes three phases in the Cretan holocaust. The first phase refers to the period of the battle of Crete and its direct aftermath. General Kurt Student ordered and directed the atrocities during that period. In a directive called Operation Revenge, Student ordered his troops to shoot civilians irrespective of age or sex, to loot and burn villages to the ground, and to exterminate the male population of entire regions. The second phase covers the occupation, and the third refers to the period of German retreat.

On 26 May 1941, during the battle of Crete, the Germans entered the village Galatas near Hania after a strenuous battle with Allied troops and Cretan civilians. The Germans murdered invalid old men and women who had stayed in their homes, looted the village, and ordered the surrounding villages not to bury the fighters who had been killed defending Galatas. The prohibition of burials after a reprisal was imposed frequently throughout Greece.

At the village of Kandanos, under the leadership of Lieut. Col. Seiradakis men and women of the village had fought against the German paratroopers, allowing

hundreds of ANZACS (Australian and New Zealand Army Corps) to reach Palaiohora safely and to escape by sea. When the Germans entered the village on 25 May, they burned all public buildings and sent word to the men of the village, who had left their homes, to return. The women of Kandanos were threatened that unless their men returned, their homes would be burned to the ground. The Germans then left Kandanos for Hania. On the way, the Nazis looted and destroyed the villages Plemeniana, Kalithea, and Kalamos and killed every man, woman, or child they found.

On 3 June, a German company under Captain Nieber returned to Kandanos. After murdering 23 men and women, Nieber posted an order by General Student, which stated that Kandanos would be destroyed and its population would be exterminated if any attempt to resettle it was made. Among those executed in Kandanos were Kostas Archakis, aged 103, two 80-year-old women and several septuagenarians. In an act of extreme brutality, the Germans threw the two old women into their burning homes where they endured horrible deaths. Shortly thereafter, Captain Nieber was promoted to major.

The obsession the Germans had with Kandanos lasted a longtime. Seventeen months later, on 9 November 1942, the Military Command of Crete issued another order prohibiting its reconstruction and ordered the removal of all traces of the village. Today, Kandanos stands fully rebuilt and sadly proud of its place in History.

Several other villages were destroyed in Crete in the aftermath of the battle of Crete, and hundreds of men, women, and children were murdered. In the meantime, the resistance took hold and the second phase of destruction began. During this phase, especially during 1943, the villages were destroyed in reprisals for acts of sabotage. One of the worst catastrophes of that period befell the villages near Ano Viano and Kato Viano, on the southern shore of Crete after the capitulation of Italy in September 1943. Over a thousand Cretans were sacrificed for the abduction of the Italian General Carta in September 1943 and the German General Kreipe in April 1944 by the daring Major Patrick Leigh Fermor.

It is characteristic that the executioners not only performed their grim tasks as ordered, but they often seemed to revel in them. They would get drunk on the wine of their victims and would remain in the places of execution long after their ungodly work was completed. They would eat in the kitchens of dead women and they would enjoy music played on their victrolas. They would often raucously imitate the grieving women's cries of agony and despair. They would derisively imitate the grieving women's cries "*Panayia mou, Panayia mou!*" (Mother of Jesus), which women would exclaim upon discovering murdered relatives.

The area affected the least in Crete was the Lasithi region, the eastern end of the Island, which was

administered by the Italians. The gendarmerie of Lasithi lists 182 executions in 46 villages, while Rethymno had 905 executions in 130 communities. Hania and Iraklio were affected severely. More than 3,000 were executed in the Hania area alone. The fields in the vicinity of the Ayias prison in western Crete became a giant cemetery with hundreds of graves, and several mass graves. Kazantzakis reports numerous instances of torture of men and women in the Ayias prison and across the island, usually ending with the death of the victim.

Many Cretans were executed for harboring Allied soldiers who were stranded after the battle of Crete. The death penalty did not deter the Cretans. Kazantzakis reports that one elderly Cretan, whose son was executed in the morning for harboring soldiers, took more ANZACS into his home on the same evening.

To the more than 4,000 Cretans whose executions were documented we must add those who were sent to German concentration camps never to return, such as the 448 men from Hania who were sent soon after the battle of Crete ended, and other groups who were sent later.

In the summer of 1944, the Germans asked the mayor of the village Anoyia to provide 500 men for forced labor. The villagers refused to comply and the Germans took 2,000 livestock animals from the community. When even after this punishment no volunteers came forth, the Germans took another 5,000 livestock. Finally they ordered all the villagers out of their homes and proceeded to systematically pillage the households for three weeks. Subsequently the German troops destroyed all 944 homes of Anoyia and murdered 117 of the villagers.

The German authorities did not only condone pillage, they actually encouraged it. The troops that fought in Crete were given the option to ship back to Germany large packages of stolen goods.

### **The Massacre at the Cretan Village of Kontomari**

One of the massacres not recorded by the Kazantzakis committee took place in Kontomari, four kilometers south of the Maleme airport, immediately after the capitulation of Crete.

On June 2nd, 1941, the Germans, two days after they prevailed in the battle of Crete, executed all the men of the Cretan village of Kontomari in the district of Hania as a reprisal for their resistance to the German invasion of Crete. A unit of paratroopers under the command of lieutenant Horst Trebes entered Kontomari, gathered all the inhabitants of the village and executed all the men from 18 years to 50 years of age. On the same day, the same German troops killed 49 men in Alikianos, 12 in Ayia, and 25 in Kyrtomado.

After the end of the war it was said that the order to massacre the men of Kontomari was given by the

German General Kurt Student. At the Nuremberg trial General Student claimed that the order was given by Herman Göring, the chief of the German air force.

The massacre of Kontomari was captured by the camera of Lieutenant Franz-Peter Weixler who was serving as a correspondent of propaganda for the Wehrmacht. Later the same year lieutenant Weixler was dismissed from his position, and he was charged with high treason for having leaked material related to the paratroopers' activities in Crete including the pictures of the massacre at Kontomari. In November 1945, during Göring's trial in Nuremberg, Weixler gave a written eyewitness report on the Kontomari massacre.

Horst Trebes, the commander of the executioners of the men of Kontomari was awarded the Cross of the Knights for his service in Crete. He was killed in 1944 in Normandy.

After the end of the war Greece requested from the British the extradition of General Kurt Student, but the request was denied. Student was tried by the British for mistreatment of prisoners and the murder of prisoners of war in Crete. He was found guilty for three out of eight charges. He was sentenced five years in jail, but he was freed in 1948 for "medical reasons". He was never charged for crimes against civilians, like the massacre at Kontomari.

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## *From the Riches of Our Cultural Heritage*

### **Οδυσέας Ελύτης**

#### ΤΑ ΠΑΘΗ

Τη Γλώσσα μου ἔδωσαν ἑλληνική.  
τό σπίτι φτωχικό στίς ἀμμουδιές τοῦ Ὁμήρου.  
Μονάχη ἔγνοια ἡ γλώσσα μου  
στίς ἀμμουδιές τοῦ Ὁμήρου.  
Ἐκεῖ σπάρτοι καί πέρκες  
ἀνεμόδαρτα ρήματα  
ρεύματα πράσινα μέσ στά γαλάζια  
ὅσα εἶδα στά σπλάχνα μου ν' ἀνάβουνε  
σφουγγάρια, μέδουσες  
μέ τά πρῶτα λόγια τῶν Σειρήνων  
ὄστρακα ρόδινα  
μέ τά πρῶτα μαῦρα ρίγη.  
Μονάχη ἔγνοια ἡ γλώσσα μου  
μέ τά πρῶτα μαῦρα ρίγη.  
Ἐκεῖ ρόδια, κυδώνια  
θεοί μελαχρinoί, θεῖοι κι ἐξάδελφοι  
τό λάδι ἀδειάζοντας μέσ στά πελώρια κιούπια.  
καί πνοές ἀπό τη ρεματιά εὐωδιάζοντας  
λυγαριά καί σχίνο  
σπάρτο και πιπερόριζα  
μέ τά πρῶτα πιπίσματα τῶν σπίνων,  
ψαλμωδίες γλυκές μέ τά πρῶτα-πρῶτα Δόξα Σοι.  
Μονάχη ἔγνοια ἡ γλώσσα μου,  
μέ τά πρῶτα-πρῶτα Δόξα Σοι!  
Ἐκεῖ δάφνες και βάγια  
θυμιατό καί λιβάνισμα  
τίς πάλες εὐλογώντας καί τά καριοφίλια.  
Στό χῶμα τό στρωμένο μέ τ' ἀμπελομάντιλα  
κνίσεις, τσουγκρίσματα  
καί Χριστός Ἀνέστη  
μέ τά πρῶτα συμπάρα τῶν Ἑλλήνων.  
Ἀγάπες μυστικές  
μέ τά πρῶτα λόγια τοῦ Ὑμνου.  
Μονάχη ἔγνοια ἡ γλώσσα μου,  
μέ τά πρῶτα λόγια τοῦ Ὑμνου!

#### THE PASSION

Greek the language they gave me;  
poor the house on Homer's shores...  
My only care my language  
on Homer's shores...  
There breams and perches  
wind beaten verbs,  
green streams in azure ones  
what I saw in my inwards  
sponges, jellyfishes,  
with the first words of Sirenes  
rosy oysters,  
with the first black chills...  
My only care my language,  
with the first black chills...  
There pomegranates, quinces  
dark haired Gods, uncles and cousins  
emptying oil into the huge vessels;  
and breaths from the ravine  
scenting wicker and lentisk  
broom and ginger root,  
with the first singing of finches  
sweet psalmodes with the very first Glory to Thee...  
My only care my language,  
with the very first Glory to Thee!..  
There laurels and palm leaves  
censer and incense  
blessing the swords and muskets  
on the soil paved with vine leaves,  
the smell of roasting lamb,  
glass clinks and "Christ is risen"  
with the first fireworks of the Greeks!  
Secret loves,  
with the first lyrics of the Hymn...  
My only care my language,  
with the first lyrics of the Hymn!..