



THE HELLENIC INSTITUTE

2nd December 2025

Dear Students, Colleagues and Friends,

With Christmas and the New Year celebrations approaching, I am pleased to communicate with you to report on the past year and share news and developments at The Hellenic Institute.

Last academic year we commemorated the 50th Anniversary of the Turkish Invasion of Cyprus (1974-2024) with a public lecture reporting on the present state of religious monuments in the occupied areas of Cyprus by Dr Charalampos Chotzakoglou, Director of the Cultural Foundation “World Forum of Religions and Cultures” of the Kykkos Monastery and Chairman of the Society of Cypriot Studies and of the Cypriot Commission for Byzantine Studies. Following the destruction of the cultural heritage by the looting of ancient sites, religious monuments, museums and private collections in the occupied areas, thousands of antiquities, icons, detached murals and artifacts were illegally sold outside Cyprus. As a result, in the last fifty years civil and ecclesiastical authorities of the Republic of Cyprus and cultural foundations in the Diaspora, notably the A. G. Leventis Foundation, coordinated efforts towards the repatriation, preservation and restoration of a very large number of these treasures. The Republic of Cyprus holds the first place for the repatriation of misappropriated cultural heritage internationally with the assistance of several foreign governments including those of Australia, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, The Netherlands, United Kingdom and USA. In his lecture, Dr Chotzakoglou presented the current state of religious monuments belonging to the Greek Orthodox Church of Cyprus, the Patriarchate of Jerusalem, the Holy Monastery of St Catherine on Mount Sinai, the Roman Catholic, Protestant, Anglican, Maronite and Armenian Churches, the Jewish community and the Alevis in the occupied areas of Cyprus, and discussed the progress of repatriation and restoration of Cypriot historic monuments as well as the study of returned artifacts and the role of the Cypriot Diaspora in identifying and preserving the misappropriated cultural heritage of Cyprus. Organised jointly by The Hellenic Centre and The Hellenic Institute and the Centre for Greek Diaspora Studies of Royal Holloway with the support of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Republic of Cyprus, the event has held at The Hellenic Centre in London on 2 November 2024. It was attended by 60 students, academics and members of the public in the presence of the Consul General of Cyprus Mr Odysseas Odysseos, Mrs Edmée Leventis, former Ambassador of Cyprus to UNESCO and former member of the Hellenic Institute Steering Group, and Mrs Agatha Kalisperas, former Director of The Hellenic Centre.

The Twenty-second Annual Hellenic Lecture “*Harmonia* and *eudaimonia*: Greek philosophical ideas on musical education and the pursuit of happiness in the modern world” by Dr Sebastian F. Moro Tornese, alumnus of our Classics Dept and The Hellenic Institute, delved into the timeless philosophical ideals of harmony, virtue, and a meaningful life, exploring their contemporary relevance in a world often marked by cacophony and dissonance. The notion of cosmic harmony, far from being a mere metaphor or externally attractive image, emerges as an inner transformative symbol with practical value in our modern lives. Framed within the sublime dimension of reality, this symbol expands our imagination, fostering a deep longing for personal and social development in an organic and harmonious form. Greek philosophical notions such as *harmonia* as a virtue and the pursuit of the most human and better kind of life through exposure to *scholê* and *theoria* as shared ideals practiced in youth education are integral to harmonious societies. It is in this context that music creates a space of *scholê*, where *eudaimonia*, real

happiness, can flourish. Professor Emerita Anne Sheppard offered a response and Professor Henry Hobart gave the Vote of Thanks. Hosted by Professor Mark Fellowes, Pro-Vice Chancellor (Academic Strategy, Planning and Resources), the Lecture was followed by Reception in the Windsor Building Foyer and Dinner in honour of Dr Tornese and Professor Sheppard in the Picture Gallery, hosted by Professor Ruth Livesay, Associate Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research & Innovation) and Chair of the Hellenic Institute Steering Group, on 18 March 2024. Dedicated to the memory of the distinguished Hellenist Kostas Kalimtzis (1947-2021), the event was attended by 90 students, staff, benefactors, sponsors, supporters and Friends of the Hellenic Institute including the family of our honorand who travelled from Greece and elsewhere to join us on this special occasion. The Embassy of Greece was represented by the Consul General of Greece Mr Christos Goulas and the Educational Counsellor Mrs Eirene Veroni; the A.G. Leventis Foundation was represented by Mrs Edmée Leventis and her daughter Mrs Louisa Leventis, Executive Director of the Foundation and current member of the Hellenic Institute Steering Group. Co-organised by The Hellenic Institute and The Friends of the Hellenic Institute, the event was sponsored by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Republic of Cyprus.

Two events, both hosted by the Reverend Daniel Walker at the Chapel of Royal Holloway and organised jointly by The Hellenic Institute and the Chaplaincy with the support of the Friends of the Hellenic Institute, were dedicated to the loving memory of Julian Chrysostomides, our teacher and former Director of The Hellenic Institute. Her Sixteenth Annual Memorial Lecture (19 October 2024) explored Julian's contribution and legacy to the study of Byzantium along with those of her distinguished predecessors. Dr Andreas Meitanis, British School at Athens (BSA) Centenary Fellow, presented the results of sifting through, cataloguing and preserving the private papers of Norman Hepburn Baynes (1877-1961), Joan Mervyn Hussey (1907-2006) and Julian Chrysostomides (1928-2008), who represent three successive generations of Byzantinists closely linked with the History Department of Royal Holloway and the University of London. The mostly unpublished archival material, consisting of more than 3,200 objects ranging from private letters, postcards and photos to draft lectures and student reports, covers over a century. Funded by RHUL School of Humanities and BSA, the cataloguing and study of these papers is part of a research project conducted by Jack Dooley and Dr Meitanis under the direction of the undersigned at The Hellenic Institute with the support of Anne-Marie Purcell, Archivist & Special Collections Curator at Royal Holloway. We express our grateful thanks to the legal executors of the three Byzantinists – Dr Sarah Aitchison, Director of Special Collections at University College London for the Baynes papers, Dr Marion Tymms, former Head of the German Dept at Royal Holloway for the Hussey papers, and Mr John Chrysostomides for Julian's papers – who gave their kind permission to catalogue and deposit these important collections to the Archive & Special Collections of Royal Holloway to be studied by students, scholars and the public in perpetuity. The Lecture was introduced by Professor Francis Robinson CBE, co-founder of The Hellenic Institute, and was followed by Reception in the Picture Gallery.

In the Seventeenth Annual Memorial Lecture for Julian Chrysostomides (17 October 2025), the Reverend Dr Richard Price, Professor Emeritus of the History of Christianity at Heythrop College, University of London, explored the Council of Nicaea and its Legacy (325-2025) on the occasion of its seventeenth centenary we celebrate this year. The famous Creed it produced is recited week after week in innumerable Christian churches. Yet both its history and its theology are only dimly appreciated by most Christians, for whom the Council inaugurated what became a union of Church and State unimaginable today. The conciliar definition of the full divinity of Jesus Christ receives today from most Christians only a formal recognition, while devotion is centred on Christ's humanity. Professor Price reawakened our historical memory of the event, analysing the documentation and bringing a fuller appreciation of its significance for the whole of Christendom. The Lecture was followed by Reception in the Chapel. The two memorial events were attended respectively by 38 and 48 students, staff, alumni, friends, donors and members of the public. Volumes related to the honorand were generously donated to our guests, courtesy of Mr John Chrysostomides, Director of Porphyrogenitus Publishers.

Last year we continued our close collaboration with the Institute of Classical Studies (ICS), School of Advanced Study, University of London, co-organising the 2025 ICS Virtual Byzantine Colloquium "Interfaith encounters in late Byzantium: Conflict and dialogue in the Eastern Mediterranean" (4-5 June 2025). Nine speakers from Austria, Britain, Cyprus, Serbia and the United States, representing a variety of scholarly fields and methodological approaches in literature, art and architecture, explored aspects of inter-faith tension, conflict, tolerance and co-existence, re-addressing earlier debates and providing fresh perspectives on the mechanics of identity formation, boundary building, inter-religious and inter-cultural exchange, and community inclusion and exclusion. The papers shed light on the complexities of a colourful, yet harsh and violent world, inhabited by Christians, Jews and Muslims of different denominations, and marked by tension and intolerance together with gradual assimilation and adaptation as well as by flexibility and fusion of cultures. The Colloquium was dedicated to the memory of Anastasios Yannoulatos, Archbishop of Tirana, Durrës and All Albania (1929-2025), who devoted his life and ministry to interfaith dialogue understanding and reconciliation. Co-organised by The Hellenic Institute and the Centre for Greek Diaspora Studies of Royal Holloway, under the aegis of the ICS, the Colloquium was attended by 42 students, academics and members of the public.

Moreover, the annotated papers of the 2021 ICS Byzantine Colloquium, co-organised by The Hellenic Institute and the Centre for the GeoHumanities of Royal Holloway, were published in the new volume *Sacred Mobilities in Byzantium and Beyond: People, Objects and Relics*, edited by Veronica della Dora, Charalambos Dendrinos, Marc Guscini and David John Williams (Brill: Leiden and Boston, October 2024). Questions about space and the sacred are now central to Byzantine studies, while recent scholarship has addressed issues of embodiment and performance, power and identity, environmental perceptions and territorial imaginations. At the same time, the mobility turn in Humanities prompts new approaches and understandings of processes of circulation of people, objects and ideas. Drawing together original contributions from scholars in history, literature, theology, art history, architecture, and geography, the volume sets the stage for further cross-disciplinary dialogue concerning Orthodox Christian spiritual culture and society in the Byzantine Empire and in the centuries after its fall.

The University of London Postgraduate Working Seminar on Editing Byzantine Texts continued its weekly meetings at Senate House on Fridays in the Spring term, preparing a new annotated edition and English translation of the lengthy correspondence of George of Cyprus (later Ecumenical Patriarch Gregory II, 1283-1289). Running without interruption since its founding by Julian Chrysostomides, Dr Joseph A. Munitz, S.J., and Professor Athanasios Angelou in 1984, it is the only Seminar of its kind in London and, to our knowledge, in other British Universities. Last spring, our hybrid Friday meetings were attended by 20 scholars and graduate students from Royal Holloway, King's College, Birkbeck College and the Warburg Institute of the University of London, and the Universities of Oxford, Athens, Patras, Ioannina and the Ionian University, under the direction of our doctoral student Jack Dooley and the undersigned.

In the same area of editions of Byzantine texts, we continued our close collaboration with the University of Patras over our joint project on the reception of Thomas Aquinas' works in late Byzantium as part of the study of the dialogue between the Greek East and the Latin West among theologians, philosophers, historians, philologists, and palaeographers internationally. A hybrid Colloquium held at the University of Patras on 12 November 2025 presented new findings and recent critical editions by members of the research team of Greek translations of and commentaries on Thomistic texts, published by Brepols in the *Thomas de Aquino Byzantinus / Corpus Christianorum Series Graeca*.

Turning to activities promoting Modern Greek history, Dr Paris Chronakis published his monograph *The Business of Transition: Jewish and Greek Merchants from Ottoman to Greek Rule* (Stanford University Press, 2024), which examines how the cosmopolitan bourgeoisie of the Eastern Mediterranean navigated the transition from empire to nation-state in the early twentieth century. In this social and cultural history, the author shows how the Jewish and Greek merchants of Salonica (present-day

Thessalonike) skilfully managed the tumultuous shift from Ottoman to Greek rule amidst revolution and war, rising ethnic tensions and heightened class conflict. Reintroducing the once powerful voices of the mercantile class, he traces their entangled trajectories as businessmen, community members and civic leaders to illustrate how the self-reinvention of a Jewish-led bourgeoisie made a city Greek. The book won the prestigious 2024 National Jewish Book Awards – JDC-Herbert Katzki Award (Writing Based on Archival Material), sponsored by the Jewish Book Council.

Events promoting the modern history of Greek Jewry included the Annual Lecture of The Society for Modern Greek Studies (UK) “Reading and Conversation on Jews in early twentieth-century Greece” held at The Hellenic Centre in London on 21 May 2025, where Dr Chronakis and Dr Ruth Padel, Professor of Poetry Emerita at King’s College London and author of *Daughters of the Labyrinth* (Corsair, 2021), read from and talked about their books, discussing the multifaceted presence of Jews in early-twentieth century Thessalonike and Crete at a time of transition. In another talk on the Jewish experience in twentieth-century Greece, Dr Chronakis and David Abulafia, Emeritus Professor of Mediterranean History at the University of Cambridge, discussed with Antony Molho, David Herlihy University Professor Emeritus at Brown University and Professor Emeritus of History and Civilization at the European University Institute in Florence, author of *Courage and Compassion: A Jewish Boyhood in German-Occupied Greece* (Berghahn, 2024). In his extraordinary personal account of childhood and survival during the Holocaust, Professor Molho recounted his adventures in 1940s Greece from ages four to six, as his parents risked everything to hide him from the German occupiers, paying homage to the many ordinary people who selflessly protected his family, demonstrating that even in the darkest times, the self-sacrifice and kindness of modest people can still prevail. Co-organised by the Holocaust and Genocide Research Partnership (The Wiener Holocaust Library and the Holocaust Research Institute of Royal Holloway), in partnership with The Centre for Hellenic Studies, King’s College London, and the Centre for Greek Diaspora Studies of Royal Holloway, the hybrid event was held at The Wiener Holocaust Library in London on 17 March 2025.

Classical Archaeology is another field promoted at The Hellenic Institute. In July 2025, Dr Joshua Thomas conducted his fieldwork project “Studying Sacred Spaces in Ancient Thessaly”, funded through a grant from the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Republic of Cyprus. Once overlooked in studies of ancient Greece, Thessaly has recently gained attention. Known for horse-rearing and agriculture, the region also boasts remarkable cities that have revealed extraordinary archaeological finds. Dr Thomas at the Classics Department of Royal Holloway has joined a new fieldwork project in Volos in collaboration with Professor Maria Stamatopoulou (University of Oxford) and the Athanasakeio Archaeological Museum of Volos. The project aims to study and publish material from early twentieth-century excavations in Thessaly, much of which remains unpublished. The students Eleanor Griffin and Mia Gascoyne from the Classics Department at Royal Holloway participated in this project, under the supervision of Dr Thomas. Based in the Volos Museum, they assisted in studying material from sites like Demetrias. Six of the nine working days were spent in the Athanasakeio Archaeological Museum of Volos, where the students were taught how to measure, draw, catalogue and photograph a range of archaeological finds recovered during the excavation of Thessalian sites by A. S. Arvanitopoulos in the early twentieth century. Particular emphasis was placed on identifying and joining the surviving fragments of Hellenistic votive terracotta figurines associated with the Pasikrata Sanctuary at the nearby site of Demetrias. Other categories of material studied by the two students included Attic black- and red-figure pottery, painted Hellenistic tombstones, and a range of marble sculpture. While at the museum, Dr Thomas also had the opportunity to undertake a detailed and systematic study of four marble statuettes and a superb marble head of a goddess from the Pasikrata Sanctuary in preparation for publication. The remaining three days were spent on excursions to important sites and museums in the region. One day was spent at Demetrias itself, where they visited the main public and religious buildings of the Hellenistic city centre, including the famous palace (Anaktoron) and a newly discovered temple of

the later Hellenistic period. They were also treated to an archaeological tour of the Late Bronze Age harbour of Pefkakia by Anthi Batziou and Bartłomiej Lis, who are coordinating the current excavation programme. Another day was spent visiting sites and museums further west in Thessaly: the archaic tholos tomb at Pharsalos; the Archaeological Museum of Karditsa; the archaic temple of Apollo at Metropolis; and the astonishing Late Bronze Age tomb at Georgiko. The final daytrip was split between the Diachronic Museum of Larissa and the Museum of the Royal Tombs of Aigai (Vergina) in Macedonia. These trips were full of opportunities for teaching and learning, and the students benefited enormously from this unique opportunity to seeing so many important sites and museums with their own eyes, working on marble statuettes and Hellenistic pottery from sacred contexts, gaining hands-on experience with archaeological materials and learning new methodologies, enhancing their understanding beyond textbooks. This project offered invaluable training for future archaeologists, fostering teamwork and collaboration between Royal Holloway and Greek colleagues. It is hoped this partnership will continue to benefit students and enrich their studies for years to come.

Meanwhile, a reunion of Royal Holloway alumni, donors and friends from Greece was held at ALBA Graduate Business School, The American College of Greece in Athens on 3 April 2025. The event was hosted by Professor Christos Tsinopoulos, Executive Dean, School of Business and Management, and Janice Rodrigues-Mendes, Philanthropy and Alumni Relations of Royal Holloway. Professor Tsinopoulos shared insights into Royal Holloway's recently launched strategy and future ambitions and presented his paper "Geopolitics, AI, and common sense: Selecting strategic business partners in a new order world". Followed by drinks and light refreshments, the gathering was well attended and offered the opportunity to meet with fellow alumni based in Greece as well as with Royal Holloway staff members, partners, friends and ALBA Graduate Business School alumni.

Together with these events and activities, there have been some important administrative developments. Since 2021, Dr Achilleas Hadkijkyriacou had been working tirelessly as Director of the Centre for Greek Diaspora Studies (CGDS) and Deputy Director of The Hellenic Institute. His tenure was marked by a focus on internal and external collaborations, community outreach and public engagement areas in which he achieved much with great dedication. In accordance with new institutional regulations requiring that directorial roles be held exclusively by academic staff, Dr Hadkijkyriacou was succeeded by Dr Chronakis on 1 June 2024. Under his leadership, the CGDS aims to build on his predecessor's contributions while expanding its research, teaching profile and institutional collaborations. We express our deep gratitude to Dr Hadkijkyriacou and wish Dr Chronakis every success with his appointment as Director of CGDS.

In this direction, thanks to generous funding from the A.G. Leventis Foundation, the first Postdoctoral Fellowship in Modern Greek Studies was established at Royal Holloway, History Department. The applicants represented a remarkably diverse range of disciplinary fields and areas of study, from Greek-American diaspora museums to reconciliatory practices in community archaeology in contemporary Cyprus, and from nostalgia for 1980s Greece to the role of music in multi-ethnic Thessalonike. Taken together, the applications clearly demonstrate the vitality of the fields of Modern Greek and Greek Diaspora Studies, the impressive work being carried out by early-career researchers worldwide, and, equally, the urgent need to support them. The selection panel elected unanimously as the inaugural Postdoctoral Fellow in Modern Greek Studies Dr Christopher Jotischky, a historian of the intellectual culture and literature of long nineteenth-century Greece, with a particular interest in the construction of Greek national identity through and around the legacy of classical antiquity, and the development of prose literature in the modern Greek language. He began his academic life as an undergraduate in Classics at the University of Oxford before completing a PhD combining Classics and Modern Greek Studies at Brown University, USA, in 2024. He has since held positions at the University of Amsterdam (Laskaridis Visiting Fellow in Modern Greek Studies, 2025) and the Institute of Classical Studies,

University of London (Early Career Research Associate, 2024–2025). Dr Jotischky has published in journals such as *Classical Receptions Journal* (2023) and *Skenè* (2024), and is currently preparing his first monograph, *The Silent Canon: Latin in Greece, 1821–1945*, for publication with Oxford University Press. This will be the first monograph-length history of the Roman legacy in post-independence Greece to combine literary reception with the history of Latin pedagogy and the cultural impact of the Roman Empire in the country. Dr Christopher Jotischky is joining The Hellenic Institute and the Centre for Greek Diaspora Studies (CGDS), the Department of History and the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences for the next two academic years (2025-2027). We wish him wholeheartedly every success with his work.

A number of events currently planned by CGDS include a “Workshop on Publishing in Modern Greek Studies” with the participation of journal editors, senior scholars and press editors co-organised with The Society for Modern Greek Studies (UK) and City University, to be held in Central London, provisionally scheduled for May 2026; one-day workshop “Belonging Across Borders: Refugee Rights, Experience and Protection in the Twentieth Century” addressed to doctoral students and early career researchers organised jointly with the Centre for Global South Asia at Royal Holloway, to be held in Central London in spring-summer 2026; one-day Colloquium “Enlightenment, Revolution, Enslavement: Greece in Diaspora, 1750-1850”, to be held at Royal Holloway in spring 2026; a Lecture by Dr Amanda Kubic (University of Michigan and Laskaridis Visiting Fellow, University of Amsterdam) co-organised with the Centre for Hellenic Studies at King's College London to be held in London on 5 March 2026; and a week-long Summer School for doctoral students on Mediterranean Jewish History and Culture in collaboration with the Holocaust Research Institute at Royal Holloway as part of a research project funded by the Rothschild Foundation Europe, to be held in Thessalonike in June 2026.

We very much hope you would be able to join us with your family and friends at some of our events next year. For updated information please visit our website: <http://hellenic-institute.rhul.ac.uk/>

Our students remain at the centre of the life of The Hellenic Institute. I am pleased to report the awarding of the PhD degree from Royal Holloway to Georgios Argiantopoulos, holder of the 25th Anniversary Studentship in Modern Greek and Diaspora Studies, for his thesis “The Politics of Community Building and Identity Formation: The Greek Diaspora of Egypt amongst Local, Regional, National and Colonial Settings (1882-1922)” (December 2024), co-supervised by Professor Dan Stone and Dr Chronakis; and to Nikolaos Tzoumerkas for his thesis “Punishment in Late Antique Egyptian Monasticism: The cases of the Koinonia and the White Monastery” (February 2025), supervised by Dr David Gwynn. More recently, another three students successfully defended their doctoral theses: Petros Nicolaou, “Combat Motivation and Psychological Warfare in Byzantium 900-1204: Tactics and Strategy”, supervised by Professor Jonathan Harris; Yannis Papadimitriou, “Politics in the Greek Army – 1916-1922”, co-supervised by Dr Chronakis and Dr Markus Daechsel; and Reverend David John Williams, “Shared Sacred Spaces: Shrines, Relics and Sacred Objects in the Byzantine Mediterranean (7th–15th c.)”, co-supervised by Professor Veronica della Dora and the undersigned. Warm congratulations to our new Doctors of Philosophy and our best wishes in the future.

Congratulations also to the recipients of the 2024 and 2025 Bursaries and Prizes in Hellenic and Byzantine Studies: George of Cyprus Bursaries (Caitlin Addison, Georgia Burleton, Jack Dooley, Francesca Kaminsky, Michael McTiernan, Yannis Papadimitriou, Tom Scholey), funded by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Republic of Cyprus; and the Julian Chrysostomides Memorial Bursary (Alexander Sandiford), Kostas Kalimtzis Memorial Bursary (Jack Dooley), Joseph A. Munitiz Memorial Bursary (Georgia Burleton), and Joan M. Hussey Memorial Prizes (Kyriakos Costa, Andrew Cunningham, Christopher Dean, Alexander Sandiford, Tom Scholey), funded by the Friends of the Hellenic Institute. To our sponsors and donors we offer our gratitude and to the award holders we wish every success with the continuation of their studies.

We extend our profound thanks to the High Commission for Cyprus in UK and the Embassy of Greece in London for their long-standing support in promoting Hellenic Studies at Royal Holloway. We would like to thank in particular Mr Spyros Miltiades, Deputy High Commissioner and Mr Marios Theocharous, Cultural Counsellor at the High Commission, and Mrs Ifigeneia Kanara and Mrs Ioanna Kriebardi, former and current Deputy Head of Mission, Mrs Elena Soupiana former Press Counsellor, and Dr Eirini Veroni former Deputy Education Counsellor at the Embassy of Greece for their encouragement, advice and support. On 18 March 2024, Dr Veroni visited the College and Library at the invitation of our Greek tutor Dr Polymnia Tsagouria and discussed current work and future projects with our students and academic staff. Following her visit, Dr Veroni expressed her appreciation for “the tireless efforts of the Hellenic Institute at Royal Holloway in promoting Hellenic Studies. It was truly heartening to witness first-hand the dedication and passion of everyone involved in advancing scholarship in the study of Modern and Ancient Greek culture. I was pleasantly surprised by the [facsimile editions of] Byzantine manuscripts you showed me during my visit, which students use to study Greek. The richness of these resources speaks volumes about the commitment of the Institute to providing students with an immersive learning experience. Such initiatives are invaluable in nurturing a deeper understanding and appreciation of the Hellenic culture and heritage. I sincerely hope that the Institute's efforts will continue to flourish in the upcoming years. The work being done is not only important for Academia but also for preserving and advancing Hellenic Studies. Please convey my heartfelt appreciation to the entire team at the Hellenic Institute for their dedication and hospitality. I am eager to see the Institute’s continued success and am committed to supporting its endeavours in any way I can”.

Indeed, whatever has been achieved at The Hellenic Institute over the last three decades is owed to the efforts, dedication and help of our entire team of students and staff, the College, our Steering Group, benefactors, sponsors, donors and Friends. With the end of my third and final term of office as Director of The Hellenic Institute this year, I would like to offer my heartfelt gratitude to you all for your continued support. To the Greek and Cypriot States, the A. G. Leventis Foundation, the Hellenic Foundation and the Hellenic Centre in London I owe particular thanks for their trust, cooperation and generous support towards the Institute, our students and staff over the years. It has been an honour and a privilege to navigate The Hellenic Institute during a stormy period in British Higher Education, guided by the compass of Julian Chrysostomides’ principles, ideals and vision. Echoing once more the great poet — on its journey to Ithaka, The Hellenic Institute faced Laistrygonians, Cyclops, and wild Poseidon. But it survived, for it was not afraid of them, for it kept its soul pure and its spirit high. Let us keep Ithaka always in our mind, and when we are old by the time we reach the island, not expecting to make us rich and famous, Ithaka will have given us what really counts – the marvellous journey. To my successor, to be appointed by the College in the new year, I wish good luck in keeping the torch of Hellenic, Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies alight at Royal Holloway and the University of London in the years to come.

Finally, we should be grateful if you would renew your annual subscription to the Friends of the Hellenic Institute for 2026 by contributing the modest sum of £15. Any additional contribution, for which gift aid is available, can be made online at <https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/giving/donatotohellenicinstitute.aspx>. Through your kind and generous donations, we shall be able to continue offering help to our students who need support.

With renewed grateful thanks and every good wish for Christmas and a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year,



Charalambos Dendrinos
Director