



## THE HELLENIC INSTITUTE

26<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Dear Students, Colleagues and Friends,

With the beginning of the New Year, we wish you and your families good health and every blessing.

Last year we mourned the death of HM The Queen Elizabeth II, whose personality, life and reign marked the last seven decades of the history of the nation, the Commonwealth and the world. We vividly remember her Royal visit with HRH the late Prince Philip Duke of Edinburgh in College on 14 March 2014, when we presented her with our electronic edition of a hitherto unpublished autograph [Greek Encomium](#) on King Henry VIII, composed on the occasion of the Royal visit of his daughter Queen Elizabeth I to Oxford in 1566. We were subsequently delighted, and moved, to receive a [letter from Buckingham Palace](#) graciously acknowledging the receipt of our gift. Queen Elizabeth II will be remembered with deep affection, respect, and admiration. Her legacy is continued by her son and heir to the throne HM King Charles III, an admirer of Orthodox spirituality and frequent visitor of the monastic community on Mount Athos, together with his late father Prince Philip.

Last year we had the pleasure of receiving many old and new Friends at our events, including the premiere by the National Symphonic Orchestra of the Greek Radio and Television Service (EPT) of the Symphony “Arcadia”, No. 6, Opus 102, composed and directed by Philippos Tsalahouris in memory of Angelos Dendrinis (1959-2021), commissioned by The Hellenic Institute and the International Society for Arcadia with the support of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports and Youth of the Republic of Cyprus and anonymous donors, held at the Benaki Museum in Athens (19 September 2022); the Twentieth Annual Hellenic Lecture “Looking East in Winter: Contemporary Thought and the Eastern Christian Tradition” by The Right Reverend and Right Honourable Lord Williams of Oystermouth held in the College Chapel, followed by Dinner in his honour in the Picture Gallery (30 May 2022); the International Conference “Borderland: Christian Identities and Cultures in Early Modern Cyprus and Beyond”, organised jointly with the Bank of Cyprus Cultural Foundation, the Centre for Greek Diaspora Studies (CGDS) at Royal Holloway and The Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge (6-7 May 2002); the Institute of Classical Studies (ICS) Byzantine Colloquium “The Late Byzantine Mediterranean: Byzantine Connectivities, Experiences and Identities in a Fragmented World”, co-organised with CGDS, the Society of Cypriot Studies and the Cyprus Committee for Byzantine Studies (7-8 June 2022); and the special exhibition “Creative Commissions: Creating Diasporic Worlds”, held in the Cyprus High Commission (CHC) in London (5-20 July 2022), which presented three research projects conducted jointly by young scholars and artists, exploring the relationship between diasporas and cultures by experimenting with the potential of diverse creative practices in the study, imagination and expression of diasporic worlds. The project was organised and funded jointly by CGDS and the Centre for the GeoHumanities at Royal Holloway, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports and Youth of the Republic of Cyprus in collaboration with the CHC, the Fitzwilliam Museum at Cambridge, and the Humanities and Arts Research Institute (HARI) and School of Humanities at Royal Holloway. Our warm thanks to all those funding bodies for their generosity, the co-organisers for their efforts and precious time, and all those of you who were able to attend and support these activities, audio-video recordings of which are available on our website: <http://hellenic-institute.rhul.ac.uk/>

Last Autumn, at the invitation of The Hellenic Institute, the Deputy Foreign Minister for Diaspora Greeks of the Hellenic Republic, Mr Andreas Katsaniotis, accompanied by the Director of his Cabinet Office, Ambassador Mr Christodoulos Margaritis, the Deputy Head of the Diplomatic Mission of Greece in the UK Mrs Iphigenia Kanara, and Mrs Eleni Soupiana, Press Counsellor at the Embassy of Greece, visited the College to discuss the present state and the future of Hellenic Studies at Royal Holloway (21 October 2022). The visit included a guided tour in the Picture Gallery and The Emily Wilding Davison Building with the new Library and the Archive. It concluded with Lunch in honour of our distinguished guests in the Large Boardroom in Founder's Building hosted by the Vice-Principal (International) and Executive Dean of the School of Humanities Professor Giuliana Pieri, in the presence of the Heads of Classics and History Departments, Dr Christos Kremmydas and Dr Daniel Beer respectively, Dr Polymnia Tsagouria, Professor Konstantinos Markantonakis, Department of Information Security, and Mrs Deborah Meyer and Mrs Rodriguez-Mendes representing the College Marketing and Communications Office, which funded the event. Mr Katsaniotis expressed his warm thanks for the Greek hospitality and his appreciation and support for the work of The Hellenic Institute and the CGDS.

This academic year, we celebrate the 30th Anniversary of The Hellenic Institute (1993-2023). The celebrations opened with a piano recital by the celebrated Greek pianist Panayiotis Gogos under the title "Mneme / Lethe" (Memory and Oblivion), hosted by our co-founder Professor Francis Robinson and held in the Picture Gallery of Royal Holloway (15 October 2022). The event also commemorated the centenary of the Asia Minor Catastrophe (1922) and expressed through the beauty and power of Bach, Beethoven and Schubert's music our need to remember but also to forget bitter experiences, in the hope that this would bring greater understanding and reconciliation. The concert was dedicated to the loving memory of our former teacher and Director Julian Chrysostomides (†18 October 2008) and Michael Heslop, the close and loyal Friend, Honorary Fellow of the College, Research Associate and major supporter of The Hellenic Institute, who passed away last year (†5 April 2022). Julian Chrysostomides' life and achievements will also be celebrated through the premiere in Athens of the [Julian Suite \(Ιουλιανή Σουΐτα\)](#), Opus 85 by Philippos Tsalahouris commissioned by The Hellenic Institute to honour her memory, to be performed by the Athens State Orchestra under the direction of the composer at the Megaron Concert Hall in Athens on 7 April 2023 at 20:30 (local time). To book tickets please contact: <https://www.megaron.gr/en/>.

The painful events of 1922 and its aftermath will be explored in the International Workshop "Refugees and the City: Displacement and urbanisation in post-imperial Eastern Mediterranean and South Asia", to mark the centenary of the Asia Minor Catastrophe and the 75 years since the Partition of India, two events that shaped the recent history of the nations. In a series of panels and a concluding roundtable, all open to the public, the conference will bring together junior and senior scholars in the humanities, architecture and social sciences to examine patterns of uprooting and resettlement in interwar Greece and Turkey and post-1947 India and Pakistan from a comparative and cross-regional perspective. The conference is organised by The Hellenic Institute in collaboration with Royal Holloway's Centre for Global South Asia, and the Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy/ERC HomeAcross Project based in Athens. The event will take place in central London on 17-18 March 2023. To reserve places please contact: [Paris.Chronakis@rhul.ac.uk](mailto:Paris.Chronakis@rhul.ac.uk).

This term, the Twenty-first Annual Hellenic Lecture entitled "Philanthropia, Paideia and Gaia: philanthropy, education and the environment in the modern world" will be delivered by Mrs Edmée Leventis, OBE. In her Lecture, the former Ambassador of Cyprus at UNESCO and Honorary Fellow of Royal Holloway, will show how the Greek tradition opens up new ways of thinking about the role of philanthropists and philanthropic institutions in contemporary societies. Drawing from her rich experience as member of UNESCO and the work of the A. G. Leventis Foundation, she will offer an enlightened way to face our contemporary impasses in an ever-changing and yet unchanging world, where hope for humanity is based on following moral principles, developing human potential, defending human dignity and offering opportunities for improving society through education, culture and care for the natural environment. Organised jointly by The Hellenic Institute

and the Chaplaincy at Royal Holloway, the Lecture is dedicated to the loving memory of the philanthropist Constantine Leventis (1938-2002), benefactor and Honorary Fellow of Royal Holloway. The Lecture will be hosted by the Principal, Professor Julie Sanders, and will be held at the College Chapel on Egham Campus on 30 March 2023 at 6pm, preceded by Evensong to be sung by the Choir of Royal Holloway under the direction of Rupert Gough, Director of Choral Music and College Organist, at 5.30pm.

The celebrations of the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The Hellenic Institute will close with the premiere of the choral piece "Thirty Steps" composed by Lydia Kakabadse, alumna and Friend of The Hellenic Institute, to be performed by the Choir of Royal Holloway under the direction of Rupert Gough at the College Chapel on Saturday 28 October 2023 at 7pm followed by drinks. Inspired by Saint John of Sinai's *Ladder of Divine Ascent*, one of the most popular and remarkable works of Byzantine spirituality, the event will be hosted by Professor Julie Sanders and is dedicated to the loving memory of our teachers and distinguished Byzantinists Julian Chrysostomides and Joseph Antony Munitiz, S.J., who passed away peacefully at Corpus Christi Jesuit Community in Boscombe last summer (†16 July 2022), and will be deeply missed by his many devoted students, colleagues and friends.

We very much hope that you would be able to join us with your family and friends on these special events. For further information and to reserve places please contact: [Ch.Dendrinis@rhul.ac.uk](mailto:Ch.Dendrinis@rhul.ac.uk)

This year, it is a great pleasure and honour to welcome Dr John Kittmer, former British Ambassador to Greece (2013-2016), who is joining The Hellenic Institute Steering Group. An experienced diplomat and Chairman of the Anglo-Hellenic League, Dr Kittmer is a lover of Greece with a passion for its modern history, literature and culture. With his scholarship and his experience as a senior diplomat, he will be an invaluable source of advice and support.

Finally, I am delighted to report that the A. G. Leventis Foundation has awarded a generous grant (£47,500) towards the Centre for Greek Diaspora Studies (CGDS), while the Cypriot Ministry of Education, Culture Youth and Sports has renewed their annual grant (£18,849) in support of our activities. Whatever has been achieved at The Hellenic Institute over the last thirty years is owed to the efforts, dedication and help of our students and staff, the College, our benefactors, donors and Friends. On behalf of The Hellenic Institute, I would like to offer our deepest thanks to all of you for your continued moral and financial support.

We should be grateful if you would renew your annual subscription to the Friends of the Hellenic Institute for 2023 by contributing the modest sum of £15. Any additional donation, for which gift aid is available, would be most welcome and deeply appreciated. Through your kind and generous donations, we shall be able to continue offering help to our students who need support.

With our warmest wishes for a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year,



Charalambos Dendrinis  
Director, The Hellenic Institute

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Name:

Email:

Please donate online at <https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/giving/donatetohellenicinstitute.aspx> or send a cheque payable to "RHBNC Hellenic Institute" and posted to Dr Achilleas Hadjikyriacou, Friends of the Hellenic Institute, History Department, School of Humanities, Royal Holloway, University of London, Egham, Surrey TW20 0EX, UK.

Donation:

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