



## THE HELLENIC INSTITUTE

10<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear Students, Colleagues and Friends,

With the beginning of the New Year I would like to wish you and your families good health and every blessing. Last year we celebrated the Bicentenary of the outbreak of the Greek War of Independence (1821-2021) with a series of events co-organised under the [21 in 21](#) programme of Greek-British encounters. These represented a wide range of activities generously supported by the A. G. Leventis Foundation, reflecting collaboration across London-based institutions and organisations. May I thank those of you who were able to attend and support these activities. This year we commemorate another important event that marked the history of Modern Hellenism, the Centenary of the end of the Greek-Turkish war in 1922, which led to the exchange of Greek and Turkish populations, a milestone in the history of modern Greece and Turkey and a pace-setting event in the global history of refugeehood. These painful events will be explored from a comparative and cross-disciplinary perspective by historians, social anthropologists and other scholars in a series of workshops, lectures and other public events organised by the Hellenic Institute in collaboration with Royal Holloway's Centre for Global South Asia, The Society for Modern Greek Studies and other London-based institutions.

Other events planned this year include two scholarly gatherings, which will explore aspects of identities and connectivities in Cyprus and the Eastern Mediterranean. First, the International Virtual Conference "Borderland: Christian Identities and Cultures in Early Modern Cyprus and Beyond" will bring together scholars studying early modern multi-confessionalism and Cyprus from different disciplines and perspectives, employing different sources, approaches and methodologies to explore the status of Cyprus as a "borderland" or "frontier-zone". Organised jointly by the Bank of Cyprus Cultural Foundation, The Fitzwilliam Museum at Cambridge, and the Hellenic Institute, the Centre for Greek Diaspora Studies and the Centre for GeoHumanities at Royal Holloway, the event will be held on 6-7 May 2022. Secondly, the 2022 Institute of Classical Studies Virtual Byzantine Colloquium "The Late Byzantine Mediterranean: Byzantine Connectivities, Experiences and Identities in a Fragmented World" will cover the period between the two falls of Constantinople (1204-1453), which witnessed the radical transformation of Byzantium from empire into a mosaic of autonomous and semi-autonomous polities. Focusing on religion and culture as the main strands of identity preservation, negotiation and adaptation, our speakers will re-address questions related to Byzantine connectivities, experiences and identities in Latin- and Muslim-ruled Mediterranean areas once belonging to the Byzantine Empire, examining the threads weaving the tapestry of Late Byzantine Mediterranean, a fluidly-defined commonwealth under the enduring influence of Constantinople but in constant communication and exchange with religious and ethnic 'Others'. Organised jointly by the Institute of Classical Studies, University of London, the Hellenic Institute, the Centre for Greek Diaspora Studies of Cypriot Studies and the Cyprus Committee for Byzantine Studies the event will take place on 7-8 June 2022.

This year the Twentieth Annual Hellenic Lecture "Looking East in Winter: Contemporary Thought and the Eastern Christian Tradition" will be given by The Right Reverend and Right Honourable Lord Williams of Oystermouth. Looking in the Western world today in many ways we seem to be living in wintry times. In his lecture the former Archbishop of Canterbury and eminent scholar of Eastern Christian thought will reflect on Orthodox Christian spirituality. Based on his new book and taking as a point of departure the desert Fathers of the fourth century he will look at philosophers, novelists and activists of our modern world in search of inspiration that brings light and warmth in our lives. He will show how this rich tradition opens up new ways of thinking about spirit and body, prayer and action, worship and social transformation. He will offer a vision of a world where Eastern Christian thought and experience offers an enlightened way to face our contemporary impasses, a 'climate and landscape of our humanity that can indeed be warmed and transfigured'. Organised jointly by the Hellenic Institute and the Chaplaincy at Royal Holloway, the Lecture will be held in The Chapel on the College Campus at Egham on 30 May 2022, preceded by Vespers and followed by drinks.

We look forward to seeing you and your families and friends to these events. You will be receiving details and updated information via email and our [website](#).

The support of our Friends, sponsors and supporters has been an essential factor for the development of Hellenic Studies in our College. We would like to thank in particular The Hellenic Foundation (London), The Bodossaki Foundation (Athens), Mrs Angeliki Frangos, Mrs Edmée Leventis, Mr George Lemos and Dr Natasha Lemos, Mr Michael Heslop and Dr Helen Heslop, Mr and Mrs Caroussis, and Mr and Mrs Gregory Kambouroglou for renewing their grants, and all our Friends for their donations towards our efforts to promote the study of Hellenism and Greek Diaspora.

This year we are pleased to acknowledge the generous support from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports and Youth of the Republic of Cyprus (£13,284) towards the academic activities of the Hellenic Institute and the Centre for Greek Diaspora Studies (CGDS). We are also grateful for two further grants by The Presidential Commissioner for Humanitarian Issues and Overseas Cypriots of the Republic of Cyprus (£4,300) and the Cypriot Ministry of Agriculture (£1,700 through the Society of Cypriot Studies) towards our research project on *Modern practices of Byzantine popular pharmacy among the Cypriot Diaspora in Britain*. Headed by our staff member Dr Barbara Zipser and administered and fundraised by Dr Achilleas Hadjikyriacou, Director of CGDS, a team of experienced scientists from Royal Holloway, Kew Gardens, the Zurich University of Applied Sciences and the University of Haifa are currently investigating a new methodology for the identification of medicinal herbs and minerals mentioned in pre-modern sources. Using thirteenth-century Cyprus as a case study, the research will be informed by a series of interviews of first-generation Cypriot immigrants in London, mostly of elderly women and their daughters, who will help us to record, establish, analyse, evaluate and thus preserve the traditional medical practices of these communities. This is part of the three-year international award-winning scientific project *Plants and minerals in Byzantine popular pharmacy: a multidisciplinary approach*, headed by Dr Zipser and inaugurated in November 2020 thanks to generous funding by the Wellcome Trust.

Finally, I am delighted to report that the A. G. Leventis Foundation has recently awarded a generous grant (£111,096) towards the extension of the Lectureship in Modern Greek History, sharing with the College the funding for this post for a final and fixed term of three years thus enabling the College to confirm the appointment of Dr Paris Chronakis as a Lecturer on a permanent basis in the History Department, School of Humanities after the end of this period (August 2025). We would like to express our profound gratitude to the A. G. Leventis Foundation, especially Mr Anastasios P. Leventis, Chairman of the Foundation, and Mrs Edmée Leventis, and the College, in particular Professor Giuliana Pieri, Head of the School of Humanities, and Dr Daniel Beer, Head of the History Department, for their decisive support in our efforts to put a firm basis in the study of Modern Hellenism at Royal Holloway and beyond, thus fulfilling the vision of our teacher and former Director Julian Chrysostomides. To Dr Chronakis we offer our warm congratulations and best wishes for every success with his work now and in the future.

Sadly, last year we suffered the loss of two close and loyal Friends and supporters of the Hellenic Institute, Angelos Dendrinios (18.VII.1959-23.V.2021) and Kostas Kalimtzis (10.III.1947-17.XI.2021). To honour their memory the Hellenic Institute has now established *The Kostas Kalimtzis Memorial Bursaries in Hellenic and Byzantine Studies* in support of our students, while the Symphonic musical piece "Arcadia", No. 6, Opus 102, composed by Philippos Tsalahouris in memory of Angelos Dendrinios, commissioned by the Hellenic Institute and the International Society for Arcadia with the support of the Ministry of Education and Culture, Sport and Youth of the Republic of Cyprus, will be performed and recorded by the National Symphonic Orchestra of the Greek Radio Service under the direction of the composer later this month. Angelos and Kostas will be greatly missed and always be remembered with deep love, respect, gratitude and admiration for their kindness, warmth and generosity, their devotion to Hellenism and their love for beauty and humanity.

On behalf of the Hellenic Institute I would like to offer our heartfelt thanks to all students, colleagues, members, Friends, sponsors and supporters of the Hellenic Institute 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 2022 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 grants to our students who need support.

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



Charalambos Dendrinios  
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.

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