



THE HELLENIC INSTITUTE

31st January 2024

Dear Students, Colleagues and Friends,

Last year we celebrated the 30th Anniversary of The Hellenic Institute (1993-2023) with a number of events that gathered together many old and new Friends. The celebrations included the premiere in Athens of the Julian Suite (Ιουλιανή Σουΐτα), Opus 85 by Philippos Tsalahouris commissioned by The Hellenic Institute to honour Julian Chrysostomides' memory. It was performed by the Athens State Orchestra under the direction of Vasilis Christopoulos at the Megaron Concert Hall in Athens on 7 April 2023, attended by an audience of over 1,500 people in the presence of the composer and members of Julian's family, former colleagues and Friends.

A piano recital by the celebrated Greek pianist Panayiotis Gogos under the title "Mneme / Lethe" (Memory and Oblivion), hosted by the co-founder of The Hellenic Institute Professor Emeritus Francis Robinson CBE DL, was held in the Picture Gallery of Royal Holloway on 15 October 2022. It was dedicated to the loving memory of Julian Chrysostomides (†18 October 2008) and Michael Heslop (†5 April 2022). Sponsored by Dr Helen Heslop and the Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth and Sports of the Republic of Cyprus, 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 painful events of 1922 and its aftermath were also explored in the International Workshop "Refugees and the City: Displacement and urbanisation in post-imperial Eastern Mediterranean and South Asia", that marked 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 regions. In a series of panels and a concluding roundtable, all open to the public, the conference brought 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 was held in Senate House, University of London on 18 March 2023. Organised by The Hellenic Institute and the Centre for Greek Diaspora Studies in collaboration with the Centre for Global South Asia at Royal Holloway, the Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy/ERC HomeAcross Project based in Athens, and the Centre for Hellenic Studies, King's College London, the conference was sponsored by the Society for Modern Greek Studies UK with additional financial support from the Modern Greek Studies Association Innovation Grant and the Humanities and Arts Research Institute (HARI) at Royal Holloway.

Another remarkable and moving story of displacement, this time of Greek Jews in Rhodes was discussed by Michael Frank, author of "One Hundred Saturdays: Stella Levi and the Search for a Lost World", with Bart van Es, Paris Chronakis and Christine Schmidt on 15 March 2023. The book relates the life of 99-year-old Stella Levi and the vibrant world of Jewish Rhodes, followed by the deportation to Auschwitz that extinguished 90% of her community, and the resilience and wisdom of the woman who lived to tell the tale. The book talk was co-hosted by the Wiener Holocaust Library and the Holocaust Research Institute at Royal Holloway through its Holocaust and Genocide Research Partnership, in partnership with Jewish Renaissance and The Hellenic Institute and the Centre for Greek Diaspora Studies.

On a similar subject related with ethnic, religious and cultural identity, Dr Emmanouil G. Chalkiadakis (University of Crete) gave a lecture on “The Greek rebels’ reception of Greek Antiquity during the War of Independence (1821-1830)”, exploring a range of sources with an interdisciplinary approach. Held at the International Building of Royal Holloway on 22 November 2023, the lecture was attended by 25 graduate and postgraduate students and members of staff from various Departments and Schools, followed by a reception. Co-organised by The Hellenic Institute and the Centre for the Reception of Greece and Rome, the event was sponsored by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth and Sports of the Republic of Cyprus and the Dept of Classics.

The Twenty-first Annual Hellenic Lecture “*Philanthropia, Paideia* and *Gaia*: philanthropy, education and the environment in the modern world” was delivered by Mrs Edmée Leventis OBE, Honorary Fellow of Royal Holloway and member of the Steering Group of the Hellenic Institute. Drawing from her rich experience as member of UNESCO and the work of the A. G. Leventis Foundation, Mrs Leventis reflected on how the Greek tradition opens up new ways of thinking about the role of philanthropists and philanthropic institutions in contemporary societies. She offered 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 giving 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 was dedicated to the memory of the philanthropist Constantine Leventis (1938-2002), benefactor and Honorary Fellow of Royal Holloway. Hosted by the Principal and Vice-Chancellor Professor Julie Sanders, the event was held at the College Chapel on Egham Campus on 30 March 2023, preceded by Evensong sung by the Choir of Royal Holloway and followed by Dinner in honour of Mrs Leventis in the Picture Gallery. This event marked the end of Mrs Leventis’ long and close involvement in the life of The Hellenic Institute as member of our Steering group since 2006. Following her decision to retire from public life, her daughter Mrs Louisa Leventis has succeeded her in the Steering Group, offering her advice and support in her capacity as Executive Director of the A. G. Leventis Foundation. The Lecture was attended by over 100 students, colleagues and Friends. Among our distinguished guests were The Very Revd Achimandrite Grigorios Laurenzano and The Revd Dr Andreas Andreopoulos representing His Eminence The Archbishop Nikitas of Thyateira and Great Britain, His Excellency The High Commissioner of the Republic of Cyprus Mr Andreas S. Kakouris and Mrs Kareen Farrell Kakouris, Mrs Ifigeneia Kanara, Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy of Greece representing His Excellency The Ambassador of Greece Mr Yannis Tsaousis, together with Press Counsellor Mrs Elena Soupiana and Dr Eirini Veroni, Deputy Counsellor (Education) and Head of the Education Office at the Embassy of Greece, Mr Anastasios P. Leventis, Mrs Louisa Leventis with Mr Thomas O’Shea and their family, Mr George Lemos representing the Hellenic Foundation and Dr Natasha Lemos, Mrs Agatha Kalispera and Mrs Sofie Kydoniefs representing the Hellenic Centre in London, Mrs Georgina Dimopoulou, International Programmes Manager of the A. G. Leventis Foundation, Dr Elena Ellioti, President of the A. G. Leventis Scholars Association, Dr Anja Ulbrich, A. G. Leventis Curator for the Cypriot Collection at the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, Mr John Chrysostomides with Dr Magdalena Wisniak, Mr Alexandros Kedros, and many other members, Friends and supporters of The Hellenic Institute. The event was sponsored by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth and Sports of the Republic of Cyprus.

At a moving ceremony held at the Chapel on 7 June 2023, in the presence of the Mayor of Runnymede and the College authorities, Mr Anastasios Paul Leventis CBE OFR was conferred an Honorary Fellowship by the Council of Royal Holloway in recognition of the A.G. Leventis Foundation’s and Mr Leventis’ profound and longstanding commitment and continued generous support of The Hellenic Institute and Hellenic Studies at Royal Holloway in particular, and education and culture worldwide in general. This award to Mr Anastasios Leventis highlights our profound gratitude for the continued generous support we have been receiving from the A. G. Leventis Foundation and our common vision for the role of Greek *paideia* at Royal Holloway and the world. The ceremony and reception that followed in the Picture Gallery was attended by many officials,

the new and previous Honorary Fellows, past and current members of academic staff, representatives of students and alumni, donors, benefactors, and Friends. Mr Leventis was accompanied by members of his family including his daughters Mrs Avey Leventis with Mr Adam Pleeth and Mrs Salome Leventis with Mr Ben Holden, and Mrs Louisa Leventis, daughter of Constantine and Edmée Leventis.

The 30th Anniversary celebrations closed with the premiere of the choral piece “Thirty Steps” by our leading choral composer and Royal Holloway alumna Lydia Kakabadse. This new commissioned choral piece was inspired by the “Ladder of Divine Ascent”, an ascetic guide written by St John Climacus of Sinai (ca. 579 - ca. 649 CE). In this remarkable work of Byzantine spirituality, St John guides his monks through spiritual struggles to reach perfection, an inner process of self-discovery comparable to climbing thirty steps on a ladder, leading to union with God and salvation of the soul. “Thirty Steps” were premiered by the Choir of Royal Holloway, conducted by Rupert Gough, Director of Choral Music and College Organist, accompanied by the harpist Cecily Beer, flautist Mary Bull and percussionist Tom Wagner in the College Chapel on 28 October 2023. You will be pleased to know that “Thirty Steps” is included in Lydia’s latest album *Kefi* scheduled to be released this year by Divine Art.

Hosted by Professor Emeritus Francis Robinson, on behalf of the Principal and Vice-Chancellor Professor Julie Sanders, the event was organised jointly with the Royal Holloway Anglican Chaplain Revd Dr Orion Edgar. Attended by over 130 guests, students, staff, benefactors, sponsors, supporters and Friends of the Hellenic Institute, the concert was blessed by His Eminence The Archbishop Nikitas of Thyateira and Great Britain, escorted by the Archdeacon the Very Revd George Tsourous. Our honorary guest was His Eminence The Archbishop Damianos of Sinai, Pharan and Raitho, and Abbot of St Catherine’s Holy Monastery on Mount Sinai, who travelled from Sinai especially for this occasion. His speech on “Saint John Climacus and Leadership in the Modern World”, read in English by Mrs Aikaterini Spyropoulou, was inspiring. Other distinguished guests include His Grace The Bishop of Coventry Christopher Cocksworth, The Revd Archimandrite Grigorios Laurenzano of the St Andrew the Apostle Church in Egham, Revd Professor Emeritus Richard Price, the Honorary Fellows and philanthropists Mr Anastasios P. Leventis and Mrs Edmée Leventis, and Mr Len Lazaris, Alumnus of Royal Holloway. Officials included the Consul General of Greece Mr Christos Goulas, the Deputy Counsellor (Education) and Head of the Education Office at the Embassy of Greece Dr Eireni Veroni, the Deputy Education Counsellor of the Embassy of Greece, Counsellor (Maritime Affairs) of the High Commission for Cyprus Dr Christos Atalianis, Dr John Kittmer, former British Ambassador to Greece and member of the Hellenic Institute Steering Group, Mrs Diana Moran BEM with Mr Robin Sider, and many members of the local and London Greek and Cypriot Communities. The concert was followed by a reception in the Picture Gallery. The event was dedicated to the memory of Julian Chrysostomides and Joseph Antony Munitiz, S.J. (1931-2022), who are deeply missed by their many devoted students, colleagues and friends. The event was sponsored by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth and Sports of the Republic of Cyprus, as was the next one.

The year ended with a festive lunch co-organised by The Hellenic Institute, the Centre for Greek Diaspora Studies and the Greek Orthodox Community of Egham to mark the celebration of the Feast of St Andrew the Apostle, Patron Saint of the Parish. Hosted by The Very Reverend Archimandrite Grigorios Laurenzano, the event was held in a warm and joyous atmosphere in the Founders' Dining Hall, followed by a visit of our guests in the Picture Gallery on 3 December 2023. Attended by 88 students, staff and visitors with their families and friends, the gathering fostered the close relations between Royal Holloway and the local and wider Greek Orthodox Community enhancing our role as Civic University.

On 21 January some of us had the pleasure of listening to BBC Radio 3’s *Sunday Morning* programme, broadcasting the 6th movement of Lydia Kakabadse’s choral work “Odyssey”, performed by the Choir of Royal Holloway with harp accompaniment by Cecily Beer. The 6th movement, which represents the Post-Byzantine period, is a setting of the romance between Aretousa and Erotokritos from Vitzentzos Kornaros’ *Erotokritos*, and can be accessed by pressing this [link](#) (at 1:27:33). “Odyssey” was commissioned by the Hellenic Institute to celebrate its 25th Anniversary in 2018 and is available on Lydia’s album *Ithaka*, released by Divine Art.

This year we commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Turkish Invasion in Cyprus (1974-2024) with an illustrated Lecture by Dr Charalampos Chotzakoglou on the present state of religious monuments in the occupied areas of Cyprus, the progress of repatriation and restoration of Cypriot antiquities, and the role of the Cypriot Diaspora in preserving the cultural heritage of Cyprus. The event is organised jointly by The Hellenic Institute and the Centre for Greek Diaspora Studies at Royal Holloway, the Hellenic Centre and the Society for Cypriot Studies. The date and venue of this public event will be announced in due course.

Meanwhile, it gives us great pleasure to invite you to the Twenty-second Annual Hellenic Lecture “*Harmonia and eudaimonia*” by Dr Sebastian F. Moro Tornese, Royal Holloway alumnus and Research Associate of The Hellenic Institute. The lecture delves 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. Dr Moro Tornese will discuss various Pythagorean, Platonic, Aristotelian and Neoplatonic views on virtuous life with relation to music and its contribution to the pursuit of *harmonia* and *eudaimonia*, real happiness, in contemporary societies dominated by inharmonious pursuit of material gain and instrumental activities, and then Professor Sheppard will offer a response. Organised jointly by The Hellenic Institute and the Friends of The Hellenic Institute, this Lecture is a tribute to the late Kostas Kalimtzis (1947-2021), whose vision of Greek philosophy and its role in modern society inspires and guides us. To be hosted by Professor Mark Fellowes, Pro-Vice Chancellor (Academic Strategy, Planning and Resources), the Lecture will take place in the Windsor Auditorium at Royal Holloway at 6.15pm and will be followed by drinks in the Windsor Building Foyer. In many respects, the theme of this Lecture reflects the ethos of The Hellenic Institute and its vision for the future.

We very much hope you would be able to join us to our forthcoming events with your family and friends. To reserve places please contact: Ch.Dendrinis@rhul.ac.uk. Further information together with audio-video recordings of conferences, lectures and concerts are available on our website: <http://hellenic-institute.rhul.ac.uk/>

I would like to repeat that 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.

Finally, we should be grateful if you would renew your annual subscription to the Friends of the Hellenic Institute for 2024 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

Name:

Email:

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