



HELLENIC LINK–MIDWEST Newsletter

A CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC LINK WITH GREECE

No. 59, February–March 2007

EDITORS: Constantine Tzanos, S. Sakellarides

<http://www.helleniclinkmidwest.org>

22W415 McCarron Road - Glen Ellyn, IL 60137



Upcoming Events

Greek American Accents

On Sunday February 4, at 3:00 PM, Hellenic Link – Midwest presents professor Vassilis Lambropoulos in a lecture titled “*Greek American Accents*”. The event will be held at the Four Points Sheraton hotel, 10249 West Irving Park Road, at Schiller Park (southeast corner of Irving Park Road and Mannheim Road).

Greeks are always sensitive to accents: they listen inquisitively and they read many things into them -- native region, class, education, politics, religion and more. How much can we understand by listening to Greek accents in the United States -- to Greeks speaking different languages and to non-Greeks speaking Greek? The audience of this lecture will have the opportunity to sample a variety of Greek American accents, from song to poetry and from classical music to stand-up comedy. There is a great polyphony of Greek idioms and dialects among diaspora Greeks that is worth enjoying and studying.

Vassilis Lambropoulos is C. P. Cavafy Professor of Modern Greek at the University of Michigan, teaching in the Department of Classical Studies and the Program in Comparative Literature. Before that, he was Professor of Modern Greek at The Ohio State University for eighteen years. Professor Lambropoulos received his B.A. from the University of Athens and his Ph.D. from the University of Thessaloniki. He has been teaching courses in Modern Greek language, literature, criticism, and culture, as well as literary theory and comparative literature. His books are *Literature as National Institution* (1988), *The Rise of Eurocentrism* (1993), and *The Tragic Idea* (2006). He has edited and co-edited two more books and two special issues of academic journals. He has also published papers, articles, reviews, and translations in American, English, Australian, and Greek journals, periodicals, and newspapers.

Professor Lambropoulos will also deliver two lectures at the University of Illinois at Chicago. The first lecture, titled *Humanism between Hubris and Heroism*, will be held on Tuesday, February 6, at 3:00 pm at the Institute for the Humanities at UIC. This talk scrutinizes the function of “the classics” in our time by treating the case of Brecht, who tries to stage Shakespeare during an uprising, as an example of humanism facing the challenge of participatory citizenship.

The second lecture, titled *Governance and Justice in Modern*

Tragedy, will be held on Wednesday February 7, at 3:00 pm at the University Hall, Room 1250.

While studies of ancient drama have regularly focused on hubris, the notion is missing from any analysis of modern tragedy from Shakespeare to the present. And yet we find in both ancient and modern plays a strong interest in the violation of limits and the nemesis of excess.

This lecture takes the play of Nikos Kazantzakis *Capodistria* as an example of a work that combines historical, tragic, ritualistic, and ethical elements to examine the dilemmas of governance in the contemporary world. Justice and power, virtue and rule, freedom and necessity clash as the New Greek state attempts to define the limits of its autonomy.

For more information on these lectures, please contact Professor Nanno Marinatos, via e-mail at: nannom@uic.edu.

Celebration of Greek Independence Day

In celebration of the Greek Independence Day, Hellenic Link–Midwest will present on Sunday, March 18, 2006, Jim Stoyanoff and the Orpheus Hellenic Folklore Society in a program titled “*Music and Dance Inspired by the Struggle for Freedom*” at 3:00 PM at the Greek Orthodox Church of Saint John in Des Plaines, Illinois.

Jim Stoyanoff is a native Chicagoan who began studying the clarinet in 1962. Since that time he has specialized in the research, preservation and performance of Greek Folk Music, with particular emphasis on the regional folk clarinet styles of Epiros, Macedonia, Central Greece and Turkey.

Since 1965 Jim has performed regularly at major functions within these ethnic communities and has appeared with various groups throughout the U.S. He also gives lecture/performances and authors articles on the Balkan clarinet for various publications. Since 1986 he has appeared annually at various events sponsored by the Chicago Cultural Center, and performs with the Chicago Immigrant Orchestra. He is performing as part of the Silk Road residency, 9/06 thru 9/07 in Chicago, and recently made two appearances with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, for the opening of the Chicago World Music Festival. He has designed and is co-curating the Hellenic Museum & Cultural Center’s exhibit Road to Rembetika, and is building HMCC’s archive and permanent exhibit of instruments and discography for its new facilities.

Established in 1989, the mission of the Orpheus Hellenic

Folklore Society is to perpetuate the rich history and traditions of Greek folk dances, songs, and music. Orpheus fulfills its mission by educating its members and audiences through dance and music performances, workshops, lectures, publications, and its website. The Orpheus Hellenic Folklore Society has participated in hundreds of events throughout the Midwest, the United States, Canada and Greece. It has hosted, three times, the Festival of Greek Music and Dance with the participation of noted folk artists from Greece. In addition to its adult and youth groups, the Society maintains a music group, while it has established a choral program, as part of its curriculum.

In Brief

Accused in MEVGAL blackmail scandal released on bail

Two of the three men, including Panayiotis Adamopoulos, the former general director of the Commission overseeing business competition, accused of attempting to blackmail the northern Greek dairy industry MEVGAL, were released on December 5, 2006, on a bail of 50,000 euros. The second man released, was Adamopoulos' alleged accomplice in the scandal, customs broker Panagiotis Anagnostopoulos. The third man allegedly involved in the case, the grain merchant Costas Constantinidis, is to remain in jail pending a trial.

The three men are accused of using the threat of the imposition of a stiff fine by the Commission on Competition to persuade MEVGAL to hand over to them 2.5 million euros. They were caught after MEVGAL CEO Petros Papadakis reported the attempted blackmail to police and, in collaboration with the financial crimes squad, arranged a meeting with the blackmailers to give them an advance of 200,000 euros in cash in marked notes. Constantinidis was arrested carrying the marked notes he received from a MEVGAL executive.

EU: Limited progress in Greek growth, jobs reform

The European Union's executive Commission in a report released recently, said that limited progress has been made in the implementation of the Greek National Reform Program for growth and jobs. The Commission concludes that though Greece is moving ahead relatively strongly in the macro-economic area, progress with micro-economic and employment reforms are still insufficient. Good progress has been made on the consolidation of public finances, and there are promising signs of progress on improving public resource allocation; the business environment; R&D and innovation; information and communication technologies; and education and training.

The Commission recommends to Greece:

- To ensure continuation of fiscal consolidation and debt reduction and fix a timetable for the implementation of pension reform.
- To modernize its public administration by building up effective regulatory, control and enforcement capacities.
- To modernize employment protection, reduce the tax wedge on labor, and strengthen active labor policies to foster flexibility and security in the labor market.
- To increase investment in compulsory and higher education, implement the reform of lifelong learning, and improve quality and responsiveness to labor market needs, reduce early school leaving, and increase adult participation.

In addition, the Commission said that it will be important for Greece to focus on accelerating efforts to set up a research and innovation strategy, and increase investment in R&D; improve the incorporation of internal market directives; ensure that structural funds are used effectively to help underpin Greece's reform policies, including environmental protection; implement policies to encourage women's participation in employment; and put in place a consistent active ageing strategy.

Greece may have 25 billion barrels in oil deposits

According to estimates released recently by the Southeastern Europe Energy Institute on research and exploitation of hydrocarbons, Greece has an estimated equivalent of 25 billion barrels in the form of oil deposits. The estimate covers underground and undersea deposits.

ECHR ruling on Great School of the Nation property in Istanbul

A recent ruling of the European Court of Human Rights orders the Turkish state to return to the Great School of the Nation in Istanbul a piece of property that had been seized in 1974, or pay a compensation of 900,000 euros. A Greek foreign ministry spokesman said: "It is clear that this ruling creates a new legal reality."

From Our History

The Destruction of Smyrna (September 1922)

The Hellenic forces left, civil and military, and the interregnum of a city without a government began. But nothing happened. Mohammedans and Christians were quiet, waiting with a great anxiety. The supreme question was: How

would the Turks behave? Two small destroyers were accordingly sent. Naval units of Great Britain, Italy, France and the United States were present at Smyrna, and anchored but a few hundred yards or nearer from the houses on the quay during the appalling, shameful and heartrending scenes which followed.

On the morning of the ninth of September, 1922, about eleven o'clock, frightened screams were heard. Stepping to the door of my office, I found that a crowd of refugees, mostly women, were rushing in terror upon the Consulate and trying to seek refuge within, and that they were very properly being kept out by the two or three bluejackets assigned for the defense of the consular property.

One glance from the terrace which overlooked the quay made evident the cause of their terror. The Turkish cavalry were filing along the quay, on their way to their barracks at the Konak at the other end of the city. They were sturdy-looking fellows passing by in perfect order. They appeared to be well-fed and fresh. From the fact that not all the troops of Mustapha Khemal were provided with the smart uniforms of his picked troops, much has been made by Turkish apologists of the difference between "regulars" and "irregulars". Any one who saw those mounted troops passing along the quay of Smyrna would testify, if he knew anything at all of military matters, that they were not only soldiers, but very good soldiers indeed, thoroughly trained and under perfect control of admirable officers. The Turk massacres when he has orders from headquarters and desists on the second when commanded by the same authority to stop. Mustapha Khemal was worshipped by that army of "regulars" and "irregulars" and his word was law.

As the Turkish cavalry was entering Smyrna on the morning of the ninth, some fool threw a bomb. The Turkish officer commanding the cavalry division received bloody cuts about the head. All the testimony is to the effect that he rode unconcernedly on. It has been stated that this bomb was thrown by an Armenian, but I have seen no proof of the assertion, nor can the statement that the throwing of this bomb precipitated the massacre of the Armenians, be reconciled with the Turkish claim that their troops were so exasperated with the atrocities of the Greek army that they could not be restrained when reaching Smyrna. Armenians are not Greeks, and the fury of the Turks burst first upon their usual victims.

On the evening of the ninth, the looting and killing began. Shooting was heard in various parts of the town all night, and the following morning native-born Americans began to report seeing corpses lying about in the streets in the interior of the town. Nureddin Pasha, the Turkish commander-in-chief, issued a command that everybody was to go peacefully about his business and that order should be preserved. This caused a

momentary feeling of security among a certain element of the non-Mussulman population, so that a number of shops that had been closed were reopened.

But this confidence was not of long duration, for the looting spread and the savagery increased. At first, civilian Turks, natives of the town, were the chief offenders. I myself saw such civilians armed with shotguns watching the windows of Christian houses ready to shoot at any head that might appear. These had the air of hunters crouching and stalking their prey. But the thing that made an unforgettable impression was the expression on their faces. It was that of an ecstasy of hate and savagery. There was in it, too, a religious exaltation, but it was not beautiful, it was the religion of the Powers of Darkness. One saw, too, all the futility of missionary work and efforts of conversion. Here was complete conviction, the absolute triumph of error and the doctrine of murder and pitilessness. There was something infinitely sad in those pale writhing faces on which seemed to shine the wan light of hell. One could not help pitying those men even while they were killing. One thought of lost souls and the torments of the damned. Those killers were unhappy.

The last Greek soldiers disappeared from Smyrna on the evening of the eighth and the Turks rapidly took over the town. The panic among the native Christians was now increasing to an alarming extent.

As the looting spread and the killing increased the American institutions were filled with frightened people. The Turks were now making a thorough and systematic job of killing Armenian men. The squads of soldiers which had given the inhabitants a certain amount of comfort, inspiring the belief that the regular army was beginning to function and would protect the citizens, were chiefly engaged in hunting down and killing Armenians. Some were dispatched on the spot while others were led out into the country in squads and shot, the bodies being left in piles where they fell.

Official Order stating that every Turkish soldier must kill 4 or 5 Hellenes:

"According to a written order of the General Command, it is possible that the Hellenic nation in present circumstances will manifest exceptional fanaticism. At the least resistance, every soldier must perform his duty and kill such persons in the greatest of numbers. Every soldier is obliged to kill 4-5 Hellenes for the greater good of the fatherland. I notify you of this order and am at your disposal for verbal instructions. All the men are ordered to comply with this order.
The Commander of the Camp.

(to be continued)

From The Riches of Our Cultural Heritage

Poetry by Kiki Dimoula

Kiki Dimoula is generally regarded as one of the leading poets in Greece today and is certainly one of the most widely read. Born in Athens in 1931, she worked for twenty-five years as an employee in the Bank of Greece and was married to the poet Athos Dimoulas. She belongs to the so-called second generation of post-war Greek poets and is one of a number of notable women poets of that generation. Her first collection of poetry appeared in 1952. Since then, she has published a further eight collections and has twice been awarded the Greek State Prize for Poetry. Her work has been translated into numerous European languages and has twice represented Greece in international literary competitions.

KAPTOYN

Ακόμα αυτά καπνίζεις; Πάρε Κάμελ.

‘Όχι πως διαφημίζω νέα πίσσα
που αφαιρεί τούς δύσκολους λεκέδες τού θανάτου
μήτε ότι πιστεύω ακόμα στην αλλιώςτική
γεύση του αδοκίμαστου, σε νέα αντοχή του.
Κάθε φιλί που ανταλλάσσει η γηραιά ηδυπαθής
Συνήθεια με τους εκάστοτε ζιγκολό καπνούς
ταχείας καύσεως είναι.
Βραδύτερη ποιότης ερώτων δεν ευρέθη.

Κάμελ επειδή
όσο καλά κι αν τα κατάφερες ως τώρα
μόνος σου πεζή να την προχωρείς την έρημο
ακολουθώντας από τα μύρια μονοπάτια της
το δύσκολο εκείνο πού σε βγάζει στην εξάλειψη
παντός συνοδοιπόρου

τώρα όπως βλέπεις επαναστάτησε το κλίμα
σήκωσε κεφάλι η άμμος έγινε ανεμοθύελλα
το φορτίο χρόνου που κουβαλάς έγινε δριμύτερο
μολύβι καθώς το μούσκεψε η βροχή ραγδαίων αριθμών.

Θέλεις να φταίει το όζον, να παραμεγάλωσε
εκείνη η μαύρη τρύπα της ψυχής
θέλεις ν’ απέτυχε η στείρωση που έκανες
σε όνειρα να μη γεννιούνται άλλα
τώρα παλεύεις, βογκάς, σκούζεις
όπως σκούζει όνειρο που παρά τη στείρωση
όνειρο συντρόφου σου γεννά.

Δέξου λοιπόν τις νουθεσίες της ταπείνωσης
κι ανέβα στην καμπούρα ευκαιρία της καμήλας
που σου προσφέρει ετούτη η διερχόμενη
φελλάχα νικοτίνη.

Ανέβα, παραδέξου το
στην αυτάρκειά σου μπήκαν συνεταιίροι φόβοι
(ήδη τίς προάλλες εθεάθης στους καθρέφτες
της ηλίαςσης με παρέα).

Ας μην γελιόμαστε όμοιέ μου.
Αύταρκες είναι μοναχά το μάταιον.

CARTOON

Are you still smoking those? Try Camel.

Not that I’m advertising some new tar
that removes death’s difficult stains
nor that I still believe in the different
taste of the untried, in its new strength.
Every kiss exchanged between the old sensual
habit and each new gigolo smoke
is quick-burning.
A slower blend of love has not been found.

Camel because
however well you’ve managed till now
alone on foot to advance the wilderness
following of all its myriad paths
the difficult one that brings you to the exclusion
of all travel companions

now as you see the climate has rebelled
the sand rose up became a storm
the cargo of time you bear became harsher
lead drenched as it was by the rain of fast numbers.

You wish the ozone were to blame, that the soul’s
black hole had grown overly big
you wish your sterilizing of dreams had failed
so they wouldn’t bear any others
now you’re wrestling, groaning, shrieking
just as a dream shrieks that despite the sterilization
bears for you the dream of a companion.

Accept then humiliation’s admonitions
and climb on the camel’s hump opportunity
offered you by that passing nicotine fellah.

Climb up, admit it
partner fears have entered your self-sufficiency
(just the other day you were seen with company
in sunstroke’s mirror).

Let’s not fool ourselves my likeness.
Only the futile is self-sufficient.