



HELLENIC LINK–MIDWEST Newsletter

A CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC LINK WITH GREECE

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Upcoming Events

Cypriot Fighters (Αγωνιστές) in the Greek Wars of the Early 20th Century

On Sunday, October 20, 2013, Hellenic Link–Midwest presents *Andreas Melas* in a lecture titled “*Cypriot Fighters (Αγωνιστές) in the Greek Wars of the Early 20th Century*”. The event will take place at 3 pm at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel, 10249 West Irving Park Road at Schiller Park (southeast corner of Irving Park Road and Mannheim Road). Admission is free for HLM members and \$5 for non-members.

Cypriots volunteered and fought in all nineteenth and twentieth century wars for the independence and creation of modern Greece. This lecture will focus on three, and largely unknown, Cypriot leaders who fought as volunteers in the struggles of modern Greece during the first half of the twentieth century. They represent the people of Cyprus, its attitudes and its Hellenic ideals.

First, Limassol mayor Christodoulos Sozos who at age of forty, married and with a child, followed his family’s tradition and secretly volunteered to fight in the first Balcan War. He died fighting at Bizani, Epiros.

Second, Cyprus Archbishop Makarios B, who while a priest also volunteered to fight in the first Balcan War. For his activities in the October 1931 uprising against the British rule in Cyprus he was exiled to Greece where he remained for fifteen years. As Archbishop Makarios B he spearheaded the January 1950 referendum for self determination. He was followed by the well known Archbishop Makarios Γ.

Finally, marathon runner Stylianos Kyriakides who, though emaciated by the Nazi occupation of Greece, risked his life to run and won the 50th Boston Marathon in 1946. Kyriakides’ win and his direct pleas for help to Greece, galvanized millions of Americans to send aid to fellow starving Greeks, and he even influenced President Truman to support Greece during the Greek civil war. His achievements were made known again, during the 2004 Athens Olympics, by an NBC documentary. A sculpture named “*The spirit of the Marathon*” stands both at Marathon, Greece and at Hopkington, Massachusetts. It shows both Kyriakides and Spyro Lewis, the 1896 Athens Olympics marathon winner. The speaker, while a teenager, had the privilege to meet this great but humble hero.

Andreas Melas is a native of Limassol, Cyprus, where he attended primary and secondary education. He became aware of both, Limassol mayor Sozos by his statue in the Limassol public gardens that he established, and Boston Marathon winner Stylianos Kyriakides at the local track and field stadium. His own maternal grandfather also volunteered in the first Balcan war of 1912 and fought as a tsolia alongside mayor Sozos.

Andreas Melas is a graduate of Ripon College, Northeastern University, and Harvard University. His career focused on chemicals and equipment for the compound semiconductor industry. He made contributions in the technology that brought us optical fiber communication, solar power for spacecraft applications, electronics that allowed hand-held cellular telephony, and LEDs for display (cellular and TV), backlighting as well as street signage and ultra efficient space lighting. His love for Greek history is homegrown and dates to his early life.

An Update on the Greek Economy

On Sunday, November 17, 2013, Hellenic Link–Midwest presents Professor Anastasios G. Malliaris in a lecture titled “*An Update on the Greek Economy*”. The event will take place at 3 pm at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel, 10249 West Irving Park Road at Schiller Park (southeast corner of Irving Park Road and Mannheim Road). Admission is free for HLM members and \$5 for non-members.

As the IMF itself now acknowledges in a commendably frank report, over the past four years Greece’s economy has contracted by 25 percent and its unemployment rate has risen to a staggering 27.5 percent of the labor force. Yet despite this economic collapse, no meaningful economic recovery is in prospect anytime soon as Greece’s teetering coalition government is still obliged to pursue budget austerity and as Greek banks continue to restrict credit to both households and enterprises. Greece’s economic tragedy, which is by now on the same relative scale as was the Great Depression for the United States, is bound to exact the heaviest of long-run social and political costs on the country. Considering that a number of other European countries like Cyprus, Ireland, and Portugal are all now also under IMF - EU tutelage, the Greek tragedy would be all the more tragic if these countries do not pay close attention to the

lessons from Greece's experience in the hope that they can avoid anything similar to Greece's tragic fate. This lecture will focus on the lessons learned from the financial difficulties of Greece.

Dr. Anastasios G. Malliaris is Professor of Economics and Finance and holds the Walter F. Mullady Sr. Chair in Business Administration at Loyola University Chicago. He has authored and co-authored numerous articles in financial economics in several professional journals. He has also co-authored with William A. Brock two books on *Stochastic Methods in Economics and Finance* and also *Differential Equations, Stability and Chaos in Dynamic Economics*. Several of his papers on futures markets are reprinted in his book on Foundations of Futures Markets that was published in 1999. He has had a long interest in asset price bubbles and financial instabilities and several of his papers in this area are reprinted in his most recent book on *Economic Uncertainty, Instabilities and Asset Bubbles*, published in 2005 by World Scientific.

He was selected by the Loyola University Chicago Faculty Council as the Outstanding Faculty Member for 2001 and was also selected by AACSB as a Master Teacher. He served as President of the North American Economics and Finance Association during 2001, and he is currently serving as President of both the Athenian Policy Forum and the Multinational Finance Society. He is on the board of directors and a member of investments committees in several organizations and editor or associate editor in several journals. Dr. Malliaris holds a B.A. in economics from the Athens University of Economics and Business, a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Oklahoma, and a Ph.D. in mathematics from the University of Chicago.

In Brief

120,000 Greek scientists left Greece within two years

It is estimated that from 2010 onwards about 120,000 Greek scientists and engineers emigrated to more than 70 countries worldwide.

According to the Greek newspaper *Ethnos*, all of them hold degrees, including graduate degrees, from the 100 best universities in the world. They have left Greece selecting mostly European capitals to work mainly in the private sector for large companies related to the field of their study.

In a recent workshop organized at the Aristotle University of Thessalonica titled "*Migration then - Immigration now*", Professor of Economic Geography at the University of Macedonia Lois Labrianidis presented a profile of the young scientists who emigrate and why this is happening,

"The number of young scientists and engineers who migrate accounts for 10% of the Greek scientists and engineers and is considered very high," said Mr. Labrianidis to *Ethnos*, adding that the exodus is not exclusively due to the economic crisis, although it has been intensified by it. "The main reason for this migration is the mismatch between the supply and demand for highly educated scientists and engineers. There are no companies in Greece that produce products and services that require specialized scientific personnel" the Professor added.

He argued that this export has also some positive effects. "They will be trained in foreign countries, will acquire expertise, professional experience and acquaintances that would serve as valuable tools when they would decide to return."

Another article in the Greek newspaper *e-Kathimerini* says that like a tornado, the economic crisis has scattered thousands of Greeks to the four corners of the earth. Though this is by no means a new phenomenon for a country where wages have been invariably low and the job market sluggish, especially for scientists, engineers, and other specialized workers.

The flight began with a majority of highly educated and qualified emigres, and then spread to families and non-specialized laborers.

At the beginning of the crisis in 2009 hundreds of young Greek doctors left for Sweden, Germany and the UK, where they sought specialized training. The next group to head west was mechanical engineers, who saw the heyday of 2004 come crashing down in 2010 as the construction market began to collapse and infrastructure works froze.

Many find work in countries like Germany where manpower seeking organizations have been advertising for doctors and mechanical engineers for months. The same is not necessarily true for young people who do not have a university degree. They often find it difficult to be absorbed into the unspecialized labor market, especially in Germany, where, according to that country's statistical service, the number of Greeks looking for work rose 90 percent in 2011 compared to the previous year with 23,800 new emigres.

For the rest of Europe, as of June 5, 2012, 55,332 Greek degree holders had submitted their resumes to the Europass electronic site.

Before its economy collapsed, Cyprus was also an attractive destination for Greek job seekers, both because there is no language barrier and because hundreds of Greek companies have moved their headquarters there, as well as to other countries in the Balkans that offer a more favorable investment environment.

Beyond Europe, Australia is at the top of the list, where the Greek community, especially the large Greek community in the state of Victoria, has organized an

effort to assist in the transition.

Engineers are more attracted to construction-boom countries like Qatar in the Gulf, as well as in developing nations in Africa, where expertise in the construction of large public works, such as railways, roads and stadiums, is a passport into the halls of the big multinational corporations that are active there.

From Our History

The speech of Metaxas to the chief editors of the Greek newspapers on October, 30th, 1940

Following an ultimatum that was delivered at 3:30 am on October 28, 1940, by the Italian ambassador Emanuel Grazzi, and was turned down by the Greek Prime Minister Iannis Metaxas, Italy invaded Greece. Two days later, on October 30, 1940, Metaxas gathered the owners and chief editors of the Athens newspapers and gave them in full confidence his assessment of the situation, his inner thoughts, aims, expectations, predictions and decisions. Below are given the minutes of this off-the-cuff extraordinary disclosure.

“Having imposed on you a regime of censorship, I can have you write whatever I wish. However, at this moment, I need not only your pens, but also I need you hearts. I have invited you here to speak to you openly. I will tell you everything, even my innermost political secrets. I want you to know all about our national adventure, so you may write not according to my instructions, but inspired by your personal beliefs and your knowledge of the facts.

Of what I will tell you today, I strictly forbid you to pass anything to anyone else, for whatever reason. Any deviation from this directive will have for the perpetrator – and you should be sure that he will be found – the consequences that fit, in a time of a war for the life or death of the Nation, the treason of leaking a great secret, even if the leak would be an act of naivety without the slightest malice. I understand, of course, that I have your word.

Do not ever think that the decision to say NO to the Italian ultimatum was taken on the spur of the moment. Do not ever imagine we entered the war unexpectedly, or we did not do whatever would be possible to be done to avoid it. Since Easter last year, when Italy invaded and occupied Albania, the Italian intentions became apparent. Since May last year I told the Italian Ambassador to Greece E. Grazzi, that in case our sovereignty would be tempered with, we would fight back with all means making any sacrifice. However, at the same time, I was receiving information coming from Rome, Budapest and Tirana pointing in other directions.

On August 15, 1940, our warship *Elli* was torpedoed by a submarine (while attending the religious celebrations on the island of Tinos). You know that from the first

moment it was ascertained that the crime was committed by Italy. Even though, we did not allow to be made known that we possessed the material evidence about the nationality of the offender. At the same time I ordered our destroyers, accompanying the passenger ships returning full of worshipers from the island of Tinos, to fight back if they would be attacked by planes or in any way.

I shall now reveal to you that at that time I ordered our people to appropriately sound out Berlin. It was conveyed to me on behalf of Hitler to avoid anything that might be conceived by Italy as a provocation.

Although I understood what Berlin’s vague recommendation really meant, I did everything possible to deny the Italians any obvious or even plausible excuse to complain against us. You of all people know best what I have done to avoid giving any excuse to Italy to appear as having any kind of grievances against Greece. Due to your profession, you have followed in all details the history of the endless Italian provocations through the press or other means, as well as of the religious patience with which we pretended not to understand, limiting ourselves to rebuttals of the Italian accusations against us through the press.

I confess to you that faced with this terrible responsibility of getting Greece involved in such a war, I considered to be my duty to see if it would be possible to protect the country by any means that would be in agreement with the broader interests of the Nation. In trying to sound out the intentions of the Axis, I was given to clearly understand that the only way out for Greece would be to willingly join the “New Order”. Hitler, “a lover of the Greek spirit”, would have gladly welcomed such an alliance. At the same time it was given to me to understand that a prerequisite of joining the “New Order” would be the settlement of all old differences with our neighbors. This certainly would entail some sacrifices for Greece, but these sacrifices should be considered as absolutely “insignificant” in relation to the “financial and other benefits” that the “New Order” in Europe and the Balkans would bring to Greece.

Naturally, with every caution and informally, I attempted in every way to find out what specific sacrifices were expected of Greece as an indecent payment for its voluntary readiness to submit to the “New Order”. With an obvious effort to avoid clarity, I was given to understand that Hitler’s affection for the Greeks was the safeguard that such sacrifices were to be limited as much as possible. When I insisted for clarifications, as to what the “minimum” of these sacrifices could amount to, I was given to understand that they entailed some “satisfaction” of Italy, by ceding territory in western Greece up to the town of Preveza and possibly also ceding to Bulgaria Greek lands in the east up to Alexandropolis (*to be continued*).

From the Riches of Our Cultural Heritage

Κωνσταντίνα Ταγοπούλου

ΑΠΑΛΕΣ ΑΠΟΚΑΛΥΨΕΙΣ

Θέλω να σε θυμάμαι
όταν άκουγες το ποίημά μου
σιωπηλός κι ευαίσθητος
έκπληκτος λιγάκι
λίγο σκεφτικός.

Θέλω να σε θυμάμαι
όταν έφερες τ' αναμμένο κερι
με χέρια διάφανα χωρίζοντας
το φως από το χάος
τρυφερά γαληνεμένους
τόσο ανέμελα ευτυχής!
Μα πάνω απ' όλα
θέλω να σε θυμάμαι
μ' εκείνη την υποψία αγάπης
που χόρευε χαρούμενα
για μια στιγμή και μόνο
στη χαριτωμένη περισπωμένη
του γέλιου σου.

Μην πεις τίποτα...
Μην προσπαθήσεις να εξηγήσεις
ή να δικαιολογήσεις
τις αποκαλύψεις απαλών στιγμών.
Άσε με να σε θυμάμαι έτσι—
ποτάμι που 'σπασε τις όχθες του
ποιητή που μάχεται με τη γλώσσα
ώσπου τη σκλαβιά του σε μια λέξη
με τη λέξη αυτή λυτρώνει.

Μια λέξη
του νου ελεύθερος σκοπευτής
διαψεύδει υποσχέσεις
προδίνει την καρδιά
χωρίς οίκτο
χωρίς προειδοποίηση.

ΑΡΑΧΝΗ

Σαν την αρχαία αράχνη
τον κόσμο των ονείρων μου
τριγύρω μου υφαίνω
με την κλωστή που από τα σπλάχνα μου
τα ίδια βαίνει.
Δημιουργός των πόθων μου
την κάθετη όψη ενός κόσμου άγονου
μεταμορφώνω
σ' όνειρα τολμηρά και σ' ασημένιους
του χειμώνα κήπους
δοξάζοντας τον θάνατο δι' απαγχονισμού
και τη θεά ευλογώντας της σοφίας
που την ύβρη μου τιμώρησε!

REVELATIONS OF GENTLE MOMENTS

I want to remember you
listening to my poem,
silent and sensitive,
a bit surprised,
a bit pensive.

I want to remember you
bringing in the candle,
happily relaxed and free of care
as your transparent hands
divided light from chaos.
I want to remember you
with that hint of love
dancing playfully just a moment
on the slackened circumflex
of your laughter.

Say nothing!
Do not try to justify or explain
the revelations of gentle moments.
Allow me to remember you
as a river overflowing its banks,
a poet wrestling with language
who with the very word itself
redeems his bondage to a word.

One word
sharpshooter of the mind
believes promises
betrays the heart
without warning
without mercy.

ARACHNE

With thread drawn from
my innards
like ancient Arachne,
I weave a dream-world
all around me.
Inventing my desires,
I transform
the upright appearance
of sterility
into audacious reveries
and silvery winter gardens.
I praise death by hanging
and thank wise Athena
for chastising my presumption.