

## Director's Report

Who would have thought that a post-pandemic year could still bring along many challenges? The year 2023 was certainly such a challenging year. All through the spring semester, we negotiated industrial action at the university level and dealt with rail and tube strikes—but with resilience, as did our students. Highlights of the spring semester were the Rumble student trip to Athens and the 28 March ceremony in which the Greek government bestowed honorary citizenship on Roderick Beaton FBA, Emeritus Koraes Professor of Modern Greek and Byzantine History, Language and Literature. This award came in advance of the 18 May conference we held at the British School at Athens in Professor Beaton's



The Rumble Trip 2023.

honour. The conference, titled 'Philhellenism and Greek Identity Formation in Literature, the Arts, and Scholarship', brought nearly all his former doctoral students together around topics such as Philhellenism, Byron, Kalvos, the literary reception of 1821 in Cyprus, Greek identity between Greece and Britain, translation, literary biography, and cultural diplomacy. By late May 2023, an important conference followed in Ravenna, this time organized by Professor Emerita Judith Herrin: 'Ravenna in Comparative Perspective: Towns and Regions in the Early Medieval Mediterranean and Beyond'. Late June saw the first Rumble Trip to Athens since the pandemic. Fourteen students discovered and rediscovered Athens and surroundings. With the onset of autumn, activities picked up again and the Centre engaged in further close collaborations with the Anglo-Hellenic League, the Society for Modern Greek Studies, and the newly re-established Hellenic Foundation for Culture in the UK. We look back on a very productive year, with ample student involvement, productive collaborations, and research and impact results. We are always grateful that you have chosen to be a part of our Centre, its vision, and its activities.

**Gonda Van Steen,**  
**December 2023**

### INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD

The Board held its annual meeting on 3 February 2022, the day of the Runciman Lecture. Its external members are Emeritus Professor Paschalis M. Kitromilides (University of Athens), Dr Tassos Leventis FKC (Director of the A.G. Leventis Foundation), Professor Sir Michael Llewellyn-Smith (former HM Ambassador to Greece and CHS Visiting Professor), Professor Richard P. Martin (Stanford University), and Professor Catherine Morgan (University of Oxford).

### CHS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Management Committee of CHS consists of the following members: Dr Pavlos Avlamiis, Dr John Kittmer, Dr Tassos Papacostas, Dr Ioannis Papadogiannakis, Dr Emily Pillinger, Professor Gonda Van Steen, and Dr Will Wootton.



# GRANTS, PRIZES, STUDENTSHIPS AND DONATIONS

The **Schilizzi Foundation** has bestowed a generous grant on CHS to host the first Schilizzi Social History Workshops. The second workshop, held in October 2022, was a performance event centred on the socially-minded plays of Iakovos Kambanellis. CHS is building on this theatre experience and plans to present the third workshop in the autumn of 2024. It has dedicated the series to Helena Schilizzi, recognizing her mission and her impact on Greece's social progress in the twentieth century.

CHS received a grant from the **Cyprus government**, through the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sport and Youth. The grant application process was facilitated by the Cyprus High Commission in the UK, to whom CHS is much obliged.

The **Niki Marangou Translation Prize** is sponsored by Mr. Constantis Candounas and was bestowed this year on Trisevgeni Bilia, a doctoral student who is finishing her dissertation on the Greek reception of James Joyce's *Ulysses*. The prize of £500 commemorates Niki Marangou, with a focus on her written work. It is awarded annually for a literary translation from Modern Greek into English of extracts from Marangou's publications, accompanied by short interpretive essay. The competition is now open to all BA, MA and PhD students currently enrolled in any faculty of any England-based university. The 2023 award was announced on 19 October 2023, on the occasion of the **Fifth Annual Niki Marangou Memorial Lecture**, co-organized with King's CHS. This Fifth Niki Marangou Lecture was given by the renowned Professor **Kypros Nicolaides**, Doctor of Medicine and Professor at King's College London. It was held at the Spiti tis Kyprou in central Athens. The title of his presentation was 'Life before Birth' (in Greek). Professor Nicolaides' talk was followed by a lively discussion and a wine reception, which the 170 attendees present greatly enjoyed.

The **Sixth Niki Marangou Memorial Lecture** will be held in Nicosia, Cyprus, on **9 February 2024**, as part of a symposium dedicated to Niki Marangou and hosted by the Leventis

Gallery. The featured speaker will be Panagiotis Agapitos, who was Professor of Byzantine Literature at the University of Cyprus (1992-2020) and is currently Distinguished Fellow of the Gutenberg Research College of the University of Mainz. The title of his presentation will be 'As if he was using reason': Pets and Other Animals in Byzantine Literature' (in Greek).

The last fully funded visit to Greece for students of the Classics Department, made possible by the generosity of the **Jamie Rumble Memorial Fund**, took place in late October 2019, after which the pandemic intervened. Koraes Professor Gonda Van Steen, who led the last visit, took students to Greece again in late June 2023. The five-day fieldtrip was part of the undergraduate module 'Adventures in Ancient Greek Drama', taught by Professor Van Steen. The fourteen participants explored ancient and modern highlights of Athens. They visited a range of museums and sites focusing on drama, art and architecture. In addition to the must-see sites of Athens, such as the Theatre of Dionysus, the Acropolis and the Acropolis Museum, the students also explored the Basil and Elise Goulondris Foundation Museum, where they enjoyed a guided tour of major works of art in the collection. Professor Van Steen also took the students on walking tours that included visits to the Panathenaic Stadium, the National Gardens, the Arch of Hadrian, the Temple of Olympian Zeus, the Roman Forum

and Agora, the Plaka area and Tower of the Winds, and the riverbed of the Ilisos River. The students also spent time at the colourful Friday farmers' market in the Pangrati neighbourhood, shopping for fresh fruits and vegetables and interacting with the local traders. Several students managed to fit in late afternoon beach visits as well, since the weather was perfect for swimming and sunbathing. Amber Benham shared: 'Studying Classics at King's has lots of pros, but possibly one of the biggest pros was being invited on a funded trip to Athens, which was one of the greatest experiences I've had at university so far. My favourite part of the trip was the rewarding walk up the Acropolis, as well as bonding with the other people on the trip.' Everyone returned safely and satisfied.

The Department of Classics is grateful to the generous sponsor for making the 2023 Rumble Trip possible. 'I so appreciate the efforts made by others to open up the Greek world to our students, in the most democratic and diverse ways possible', said Professor Van Steen. 'Also, I myself see Athens with new eyes each time I take a group of newcomers to the city. We are very grateful for the steady sponsorship that the Rumble Fund has provided.'

The Jamie Rumble Memorial Fund was established in 2013 to support teaching in Graeco-Roman art and its legacy at King's. The fund enables undergraduate and postgraduate students to visit the sites and objects explored in our lectures. More



A student takes a selfie on this year's Rumble Trip.



details about the Rumble Trip can be found online at [www.kcl.ac.uk/news/classics-students-visit-athens-as-part-of-the-2023-rumble-fund-trip](http://www.kcl.ac.uk/news/classics-students-visit-athens-as-part-of-the-2023-rumble-fund-trip).

Since 2014, the Rumble Fund has also sponsored the annual Rumble Fund Lecture in Classical Art. The 9th Rumble Fund Lecture was delivered on 14 March 2023 by Professor Rubina Raja (Professor of Classical Art and Archaeology at Aarhus University, Denmark, and Director of the Danish National Research Foundation's Centre of Excellence for Urban

Network Evolutions). Professor Raja spoke on the topic of 'Palmyra Undone: Reconstructing Knowledge through Archaeology and Legacy Data' in the Great Hall on the Strand campus. Dr Will Wootton introduced the lecture and the speaker before approximately 80 attendees. Dr John Pearce delivered the vote of thanks. This 9th Annual Rumble Lecture was presented by CHS in collaboration with the Courtauld Institute of Art and the Institute of Classical Studies.

The 10th Annual Rumble Lecture

will be given by **Professor Michael Squire** (University of Cambridge), on the topic of 'The Eye of the Mirror: Sight and Subjectivity in Classical Greek Art'. Save the date of **19 March 2024** (Bush House 8th floor at 18:00).

For further information about the Jamie Rumble Travel Fund in King's Department of Classics and the activities it supports in the fields of Art and Archaeology, please contact Professor Gonda Van Steen and Dr Will Wootton. See also [www.kcl.ac.uk/classics/about/rumble-fund](http://www.kcl.ac.uk/classics/about/rumble-fund).

## LECTURES, WORKSHOPS, PANEL DISCUSSIONS, AND OTHER HIGHLIGHTS OF 2023

All our public events are announced online. If you click on [www.kcl.ac.uk/research/centre-for-hellenic-studies](http://www.kcl.ac.uk/research/centre-for-hellenic-studies), you can find our public events calendar as well as the archive of CHS events going back to 2013, at [www.kcl.ac.uk/events/series/centre-for-hellenic-studies-event-archive](http://www.kcl.ac.uk/events/series/centre-for-hellenic-studies-event-archive). You will also find dedicated pages for each of our forthcoming events, and, about one month in advance of the event date, the Simpletix link that will allow you to register online for free. Reminders are regularly sent out via Facebook and Twitter and also by email to all who have registered their email address at [chs@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:chs@kcl.ac.uk).

On 18 and 25 January 2023, CHS held two panels devoted to translation and co-hosted with the British School at Athens and Aiora Press. These two panel discussions focused on literature in the aftermath of the 1922 Asia Minor Catastrophe. The first session concentrated on translation issues: How can we convey pain in another language? What remains untranslatable? The second session focused on reception: Have Doukas and Venezis and similar works withstood the test of time? How have they been received in other cultures (in Turkey), as well as in the Greek context? Have different versions of the texts affected reception? Which works were selected to last through time and what fell by the wayside?

Emeritus Professor **David Ricks** chaired the first session with panellists **Petro Alexiou** (translator), **Joshua Barley** (translator), and **Victoria Solomonidis-Hunter**

(UCL, FKC). **Petro Alexiou** spoke on 'The Challenges of Conveying the Underlying Historical Emotions of Trauma'. He presented three challenges involved in translating the Greek text of *Stratis Doukas' A Prisoner of War's Story* (1929) into English for a contemporary readership: (1) Can the translation convey the narrator's horrendous and complex ordeal? When it comes to the narrator's words for repeated killings and arbitrary executions, can the translation find the appropriate lexical equivalents? Can the translation convey the underlying historical emotions of the novella? (2) Can the novella's intrinsic dual cultural and linguistic element be conveyed? How can we signal the change or mix of languages to readers? (3) Given that the Greek-Turkish War (1919-22) and centuries of co-existence among religious and linguistic communities in the Ottoman Empire are still not familiar to many readers, how can this information be conveyed within or parallel to the text?

**Joshua Barley** spoke on 'Translating the Unspeakable – the Language of Lament' and showed how the language of Greek folk laments can be translated into English. He referred both to laments proper and to a demotic song about the destruction of Smyrna, which draws on motifs from the laments. **Dr Victoria Solomonidis-Hunter** discussed 'Smyrna 1922: Solace through Translation' and focused on **Kosmas Politis**, a witness of the 1922 events, who wrote the novel *At Chatzifrangou* in 1962, on the 40th anniversary of the Asia

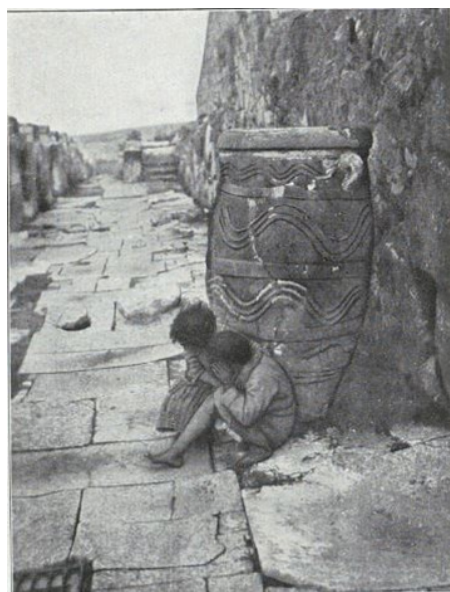
Minor Catastrophe, as a memorial to his much-loved Smyrna. She dedicated her talk to the memory of **Peter Mackridge** (12 March 1946 - 16 June 2022), who contributed so much to the critical study and evaluation of this novel.

**Koraes Professor Gonda Van Steen** chaired the panel discussion of 25 January 2023. **Anastasia Lemos** (Visiting Research Fellow, CHS) discussed 'The Early Literature of the Asia Minor Disaster: Three Themes for Consideration'. The first theme was how some works survived and became canonical, while others were largely forgotten. Secondly, how did the canonical works themselves transform over time. She focused on **Elias Venezis' Number 31328**, which underwent major changes between 1924 and 1952. Thirdly, she touched on the work's foreign reception, including its Turkish reception.

Professor Emeritus **Dimitris Tziogas** (Birmingham) spoke on the topic of 'Nostalgia and Trauma: From Testimonial to Archival Narratives on the Asia Minor Disaster'. He distinguished two kinds of narratives on 1922 and its aftermath: the nostalgic novels about lost homelands and testimonial accounts on captivity and refugee experiences. He showed how recent novels have moved away from testimonial accounts to archival research and focus on the earlier, peaceful coexistence of Greeks and Turks or acknowledge atrocities on both sides.

**Maria Nikolopoulou** (University of Athens) addressed the topic of 'Questioning the National

Narrative: The Role of Prose Fiction in the Memory of the Asia Minor Campaign'. She argued that the events of 1922-23 constituted a watershed in both the Greek and the Turkish national consciousness. Since then, the resulting national narratives are often diverging and competing. They are also closely connected to the state of the relations between Greece and Turkey. In recent decades, a number of bestsellers with Asia Minor thematics feature the nostalgia of the 'lost homelands'. Other authors question the national narrative, by foregrounding the silenced aspects of the Asia Minor campaign.



Refugees at Knossos, 1922.  
Image reproduced with permission of the UN Archives.

On 20 January, CHS and the Hellenic Female Leaders UK co-hosted a lecture by Kyriakos Pierrakakis, then Greek Minister of State and Digital Governance. Titled 'Institutions, Reforms and Leadership throughout the Greek 20th and 21st Century', the lecture attracted some 150 people, who enjoyed a glass of wine afterwards. Koraes Professor Gonda Van Steen and Mahi Georgakopoulou, President of the Hellenic Female Leaders, extended a welcome and thanks.

The 32nd Runciman Lecture was given by Professor Ioannis D. Stefanidis on 2 February 2023. His title was 'Prelude to the Ionian Venture: The Greek Campaign in Southern Ukraine, 1919'. The speaker first outlined the diplomatic and military background to this unlikely operation, which arguably paved the way for the dispatch of Greek troops to Smyrna, in May 1919. He then concentrated on

the Greek army's experience in the rather inhospitable and alien terrain of southern Ukraine in the late winter and early spring of 1919. As is by now a tradition, the lecture was preceded by Orthodox Vespers at the King's Chapel. Professor Sir Michael Llewellyn-Smith introduced the speaker. Professor Georgios Varouxakis (Queen Mary University of London) gave the vote of thanks. Ioannis Stefanidis is Professor in Diplomatic History in the Department of International Studies at the School of Law of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. His most recent monograph deals with the non-communist resistance organization EKKA and its doomed attempt to wage non-partisan armed resistance in Axis-occupied Greece. The Runciman Lectures have been generously sponsored by the late Matti and Nicholas Egon and the Egon family.

Dr Olga Karagiorgou, who is Senior Researcher at the Research Centre for Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Art of the Academy of Athens, treated our audience of Byzantium enthusiasts to two evenings of insights on Byzantine Cyprus, ecclesiastical histories, and material culture (such as lead seals). On 23 March, she spoke on 'The Archbishops of Cyprus "betwixt Greeks and Saracens."' She reassessed the textual evidence concerning the fate of the archbishops of Cyprus in the later 7th century, shortly after the beginning of Arab expansion into the eastern Mediterranean. She presented her own evidence on the vexed issue of the itinerant Cypriots and their spiritual leader, Archbishop Ioannes, based on a meticulous analysis of the style, inscriptions, iconography and findspots of the related lead seals. Thus, she brought nuance to our assessment of the relations between Empire and Caliphate during a key period in the history of Cyprus and the eastern Mediterranean.

On 24 March, Dr Karagiorgou presented her research on the prosopography and administrative structure of the Byzantine themes (the administrative divisions of the early medieval Byzantine state), in a presentation titled '*TAKTIKON: A Digital Introduction to the Byzantine State Officials of the Thematic Administration*'. CHS colleague Dr Tassos Papacostas engaged Dr Karagiorgou in a conversation about the production of the massive, recent volume *TAKTIKON* (Athens 2021), which publishes a wealth of data culled from the sigillographic record as well as the varied textual tradition.

CHS was honoured to host this book launch of a model study of Byzantine sigillography, prosopography, and iconography. Thus, the volume, accompanied by an online database, reveals important facets of the history of Byzantine institutions, of the political and social history of the empire, and of its artistic traditions.

On 18 May 2023, CHS held a conference titled 'Philhellenism and Greek Identity Formation in Literature, the Arts, and Scholarship' in honour of Roderick Beaton, Emeritus Koraes Professor of Modern Greek and Byzantine History, Language and Literature. This one-day event took place at the British School at Athens, where former students and colleagues of Roderick gathered to deliver talks and enjoy their mentor's and one another's presence. The day offered various themes and topics. Panel 1 was dedicated to 'Echoes of the Greek Revolution' and chaired by novelist Eleni Yannakaki. David Ricks' lecture, 'Haunted by Missolonghi: Two Poets Rewrite Their Homeland' opened the event. Maria Karaiskou spoke on 'Lord Byron's Fictional Reflections in Modern Greek Prose Fiction'. Nicoletta Hadjipavlou spoke to her specialty, 'Representations of the 9th of July 1821 Events in Cyprus in the Work of Four Seminal Cypriot Poets'.

The second panel was devoted to 'Versions of Philhellenism' and chaired by journalist and critic Maria Margaronis. Michalis Sotiropoulos opened with 'The Greek Revolution of 1821 and the Many Faces of British Philhellenism'. Maria Nikolopoulou closed the session before lunch with a talk on 'Translating Modern Greek Fiction and the Koraes Chair: The English Translation of Life in the Tomb by Stratis Myrivilis in the Interwar Period'.

Panel 3, 'Days of Modern Greek Literature', was chaired by Loizos Kapsalis. Sarah Ekdawi had flown in from the UK to present on 'The Sixtieth Year of his Life: Cavafy Confronts Mortality and Posterity'. Nikos Falagkas delivered a presentation called 'George Seferis, the Rower and the Angel: Biographies of a Poet'.

David Ricks then chaired the fourth panel, 'Re-inventing Greekness'. Sophia Voulgari opened with 'Miracles and Tragedies: Re-inventing Greekness in Times of Crisis'. Eva Kokkinidi presented on 'Rediscovering Kazantzakis: Perceptions of Greece and England in His Recently Published Novel 'Ο Ανήφορος''. Joshua Barley contributed a talk on 'Translating Greek Folk Songs'. Nektaria Klapaki



appeared online to deliver her talk, titled 'The Cult of the Insurgent Greek Nation in Kalvos' *Odes*'. Roderick Beaton himself offered concluding remarks before all participants enjoyed a wine reception in the beautiful garden of the British School.

Professor Emerita **Judith Herrin** organized an international conference on 'Ravenna in Comparative Perspective', which was held in Ravenna on 29-31 May 2023, in a very successful collaboration between King's College London and the University of Bologna. She presented a full programme of lectures, with visits to a mosaic exhibition at the Palazzo Rasponi, to the Biblioteca Classense and manuscripts preserved at the archbishop's archive (Archivio Arcivescovile). On the first day, Professor Herrin chaired a session devoted to urban resilience, which compared Ravenna with the cities of Spain and Southern Gaul, Byzantine Sardinia, Sicily and Salamis-Constantia on Cyprus. Presentations on Italian cities and regions during the fifth to ninth centuries, including Gaeta, Naples, Rome and the Adriatic, also devoted analysis to archaeology and material culture (pottery, silverware, marble carving, glass ware, and glass mosaics).

All through June 2023, CHS collaborated with the Anglo-Hellenic League to bring a series of events that featured books, poets, and prizes. The first event was held on 2 June, when CHS and the AHL co-hosted the book launch of *Η πληγή του κόσμου* (*The Wound of the World*), written by the young and talented **Konstantinos Alsinos** (published in Athens by Mikri Arktos, 2022). The event featured readings in Greek and discussions in English, introduced by Dr John Kittmer, Chair of the AHL, and Gonda Van Steen. It was co-sponsored by the Hellenic Foundation for Culture and Culture in Action, both represented by Kyriaki Mitsou.

On 12 June followed an evening dedicated to 'Yannis Ritsos: New English Translations and Visualisations', which included a short tribute to the late Edmund Keeley, translator of Ritsos' poems, among many other achievements in a long and prolific career. The evening brought the launch of David Harsent's *A Broken Man in Flower: Versions of Yannis Ritsos*, with an introduction by John Kittmer (Hexham: Bloodaxe Books, 2023). Also spotlighted was the publication titled *Yannis Ritsos, Monochords*, with poems translated by Paul Merchant, accompanied by linocut illustrations

by Chiara Ambrosio (London: Prototype 2023). Readings and a brief panel discussion followed.

In partnership with CHS, the AHL gave out the annual **Katie Lentakis Memorial Fund Award** on 13 June 2023. The evening featured a conversation with **Kevin Featherstone**, former Eleftherios Venizelos Professor in Contemporary Greek Studies and Professor in European Politics in the European Institute at LSE, where he serves as Director of the Hellenic Observatory and remains active as Professorial Research Fellow. In addition, the **Foundation for Platonic Studies** presented the inaugural **MM McCabe Dissertation Prize in Ancient Philosophy** on behalf of King's Department of Classics. **Oliver Graham** won the Lentakis Award, with his dissertation titled 'Guilt and Sickness: Reading an Addiction Narrative in Euripides' *Orestes*'. **Quanzhi Liang** won the MM McCabe Dissertation Prize in Ancient Philosophy, with his essay 'Aristotle's Realism about Perceptual Qualities'.

Another festive event was the **19 June Runciman Award Ceremony**, again co-organized with the AHL and generously sponsored by the A.C. Laskaridis Charitable Foundation and the A.G. Leventis Foundation. Professor Marion Thain, Executive Dean of King's Faculty of Arts and Humanities, and Dr John Kittmer, Chair of the AHL, welcomed an audience of about 170 people to King's Great Hall. Many tuned in online to learn of this year's award winner and to hear the keynote address given by Professor Dame **Mary Beard** (University of Cambridge). She tackled the question 'How do we best argue for Classics?' HRH Prince Michael of Kent, Chief Patron & President of the League, honoured the meeting with his presence. On behalf of the panel of judges, Professor Peter Frankopan (University of Oxford) reviewed this year's prize competition, which included many noteworthy volumes. He also announced the winner and stated: 'This was a formidable year with a stunning set of entries – from ideas of the body to those about maths, from aesthetics to myths. We were thrilled to shortlist two books of poetry, and genuinely excited to announce **A.E. Stallings** and *This Afterlife: Selected Poems* (Manchester: Carcanet 2022) as the winner of the Runciman Award 2023. This is a sparkling, joyful and glorious collection. We are so pleased, too, that this is the first time the award has been won by a poet – Homer and his many

peers will be smiling at our choice.'

**A.E. Stallings** gave a gracious acceptance speech as 2023 Runciman Award winner. She presented her book with a short talk and readings and said: 'I am stunned at this news. I was thrilled making the short list with a book of poems, and among such excellent contenders; I didn't really think poetry would have a strong chance. A volume of selected poems is a lifetime's work—and in this case, it turns out, a lifetime of creative engaging with Greek mythology, Greek history, modern Greece, and the continuum that is Greek. I couldn't be more heartened by this honour and thrilled with this affirmation, for myself, but also for poetry, and those very Greek goddesses, the Muses.' Koraes Professor **Gonda Van Steen** rounded off the evening and invited the audience to a much-appreciated wine reception. The Chair of the Council of the League, Dr **John Kittmer**, said: 'Congratulations to **Alicia Stallings** for winning the Anglo-Hellenic League Runciman Award 2023: the first time in the history of the prize that the award has gone to a book of poems. It is richly deserved.'

On 8 June 2023, Dr **Athena Syriatou** gave a presentation titled 'Looking back on 2021: The 1821 Observatory and Greek Public History'. Dr Syriatou is Scientific Director of the 1821 Observatory and Assistant Professor in Modern and Contemporary European History in the Department of History and Ethnology in the School of Classics and Humanities at the Democritus University of Thrace. The 1821 Observatory ([www.observatory1821.he.duth.gr/en/home-english](http://www.observatory1821.he.duth.gr/en/home-english)) has been one of the major endeavours in public history focusing on the bicentennial celebrations of the Greek Revolution of 1821 in Greece and worldwide. Dr Syriatou introduced the digital archive that was created to record and analyse the ways in which 21st-century societies around the world have perceived the Greek Revolution in digital as well as in conventional domains. The archive includes the works of academic historians, artists, theatre actors, teachers, civil servants, members of the clergy, and others who were motivated by the 1821 bicentenary to produce new historical works and commemorative undertakings on 1821. Dr Syriatou further highlighted contemporary concerns of the public aspects of history that have arisen because of the bicentenary. Dr **Kyriakos Sgouropoulos**, also from the Democritus University of Thrace, served as commentator and explained

the technical details of the electronic platform that supports the project.

On 29 September 2023, CHS co-hosted the launch event of the **Hellenic Foundation for Culture in the UK**, which took place in King's Great Hall. After a brief welcome, a presentation by Nikos Koukis, HFC President, followed. Kyriaki Mitsou, the new London Representative of the HFC, briefed the audience of about 150 people about upcoming activities through the year 2024. She highlighted language and educational activities and also a broader initiative to bring more Greek theatre to London, building on the work that she has done previously. The evening concluded with a jazz music performance by Vasilis Xenopoulos (saxophone) and Mátyás Gayer (piano), followed by wine reception.

On 11 October 2023, CHS hosted an event called 'Child Adoption in and from Greece'. The centrepiece of the event was the screening of the documentary film *The Greek Connection* (2018), by the late Ronit Kertsner. But the star of the afternoon was Julia Gillard, former Australian Prime Minister, who gave a short speech highlighting how countries can design modes of redress for people affected by adoption. She referred back to the official apology that she delivered to the victims of the Australian forced adoption in 2013. She also explained how countries gain from working through dark chapters of their history and how formal apologies are necessary for future healing. An open forum discussion followed the speech and the documentary screening. The event was attended by students,

colleagues, friends of CHS, but also by activists, representatives of charities, and by people who identified themselves as Greek-born adoptees.

*The Greek Connection*, directed by Ronit Kertsner, tells the story of the Greek postwar international adoption movement. Kertsner follows a group of Greek-born adoptees as they travel across Greece in search of their roots, with all the ups and downs they encounter. Meanwhile, viewers learn what exactly happened in Greek history with these overseas adoptions of the 1950s and 1960s and what impact they left behind. The documentary has not yet been released commercially, since the filmmaker passed away before she could complete the final editing. Our event marked the documentary's first screening outside of Israel, where it was produced. CHS seeks funding and support to bring this valuable historical document to completion and to a wider network of distribution.

The unique event was organized by CHS with the assistance of the AHRC Impact Acceleration Account, the Impact and Knowledge Exchange team, Faculty of Arts and Humanities and the King's Policy Institute.

CHS co-hosted a **Byzantine Studies Day** on 2 November 2023, which served as a memorial to **David Barchard** (1947-2020). The program of talks, titled 'From Byzantium to Modern Turkey', started in the early afternoon and was followed by a group dinner for all speakers and registered attendees. Co-organizers David Shankland and Gonda Van Steen welcomed the audience members and spoke about the life of David Barchard. Among the

speakers were: Professor Ken Dark (King's), who gave a presentation titled 'Monuments and Cities of Byzantium'; Professor John Darwin (Oxford) spoke on 'Ottoman Lives', and Sir Dominick Chilcott, late UK Ambassador to Turkey, presented on 'The Turkish Republic and Europe'. The memorial day was co-organized with the Anglo-Turkish Society and attracted some 80 attendees.

On 4 November 2023, CHS co-organized an afternoon and evening dedicated to 'The Significance of the Lausanne Treaty: International Dimensions', which included a screening of the documentary film *Venizelos, the Struggle for Asia Minor* (2022, National Research Foundation 'Eleftherios K. Venizelos', ERT, EKOME) and a panel discussion. CHS co-hosted this important event in the Great Hall, together with the Anglo-Hellenic League and the Association of Constantinopolitan Greeks in the UK. Leonidas Liambeys, the filmmaker and founder of Long Run Productions, introduced his work, and Helen Katsiadakis (Researcher Emerita, Modern Greek History Research Centre of the Academy of Athens) moderated the post-screening Q&A. Then the AHL presented its new logo and website (John Kittmer and Roula Konzotis).

Bruce Clark, author, journalist, and broadcaster, served as chair and discussant of the panel. The panellists and their topics were: Helen Katsiadakis, 'The Treaty of Lausanne: An overview'; Maria Fafalios (author, founder and longtime Chair of Kaleidoscope Social Enterprise), 'Social and Gender Dimensions of the Refugees' Conditions – Eyewitness Accounts'; and Ceyda Karamursel (Lecturer in History at SOAS, University of London), 'The Treaty of Lausanne as the Dawn of a New Economic Order'. A Q&A session and a reception followed. The organizers gratefully acknowledge the support of the National Research Foundation 'Eleftherios K. Venizelos' and the A.G. Leventis Foundation.

This year's activities ended with a celebratory musical event on 13 November 2023. With Konstantinos Trimmis and the Society for Modern Greek Studies, CHS co-hosted 'Diaspora and Rebetiko Music' in the Great Hall. The event explored the songs and music of the Greek diasporic world with the Rebetiko Carnival ensemble. The Rebetiko Carnival musicians are a group brought together by the Rebetiko Carnival festival, representing some of the UK's most beloved Greek bands.



Julia Gillard, Prof Gonda Van Steen and attendees at the Child Adoption event.

Photo credit: Katerina Kalogeraki.



For this evening's performance, they brought together musicians from Plastikes Karekles, Amalgama, and the Icons of Greek Music project.

Dr Konstantinos Trimmis, CHS Visiting Research Fellow, introduced the evening's programme and the two speakers. Ed Emery, the coordinator of the SOAS Rebetiko Band, spoke

about his decades-long experience of conducting rebetiko research and organizing musical activities in London, Istanbul, and elsewhere. He also introduced the forthcoming book, titled the *SOAS Rebetiko Reader*, and paid homage to Ilias Petropoulos, the father of rebetiko studies, who died in Paris 20 years ago. Dr James Nissen

(British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Music, University of Sheffield) specializes in music, identity, and multiculturalism. He presented his research on the London rebetiko scene and the rebetiko of the Greek diaspora. Approximately 140 people joined us to enjoy this wonderful evening.

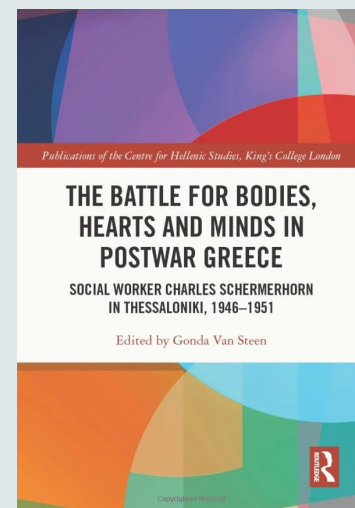
## UPCOMING EVENTS IN 2023: SAVE THE DATES

- **26 January 2024:** Event titled 'Lord Byron and Greece', in King's Great Hall, starting at 19:00, with an introductory presentation by Roderick Beaton, Emeritus Koraes Professor. Co-organized with the Hellenic Foundation for Culture in the UK and the Greek Embassy.
- **1 February 2024:** Annual Runciman Lecture in the Great Hall, starting at 18:00. The 33rd lecture in the series will be given by Professor Emeritus **Malcolm Schofield** on the topic of 'Aristotle's Practicable Idealism'. The lecture will be preceded by **Orthodox Vespers** at the King's Chapel (17:15).
- **19 March 2024:** 10th Annual Rumble Fund Lecture, to be delivered by Professor Michael Squire (University of Cambridge) in Bush House (8th floor) at 18:00. His topic will be 'The Eye of the Mirror: Sight and Subjectivity in Classical Greek Art'.
- **30 May 2024:** One-day conference in honour of Emeritus Professor **David Ricks**, to be held at the University of Patras.
- **June 2024:** Two events in June will be co-hosted by CHS and the Anglo-Hellenic League. The Runciman Award ceremony will take place on 17 June 2024 in King's Great Hall, and the annual **Katie Lentakis Memorial Fund Award Ceremony and Lecture** will be held on 18 June in the Council Room. Professor Alexander Lingas will be the guest lecturer at the Runciman Award ceremony and will speak on aspects of Byzantine music. The Lentakis Award ceremony will be co-hosted by the Foundation for Platonic Studies, which will be handing out the second Philosophy Prize. The featured speaker will be Mary Margaret McCabe, whose topic will be Plato.

## PUBLICATIONS

*The Battle for Bodies, Hearts, and Minds in Postwar Greece: Social Worker Charles Schermerhorn in Thessaloniki, 1946-1951*, a volume edited by Professor Gonda Van Steen, newly appeared as the 23rd volume in the series Routledge Publications of the Centre for Hellenic Studies, King's College London. This book presents, for the first time, a fully annotated edition of the important but hitherto unknown postwar and Civil War memoir that was written by the American social worker

Charles Schermerhorn. For five critical years, Schermerhorn was active in relief services mainly in embattled northern Greece. The volume offers a lengthy introduction to the memoir, explanatory notes, historic photographs, and maps. For more information on this volume, see [www.routledge.com/The-Battle-for-Bodies-Hearts-and-Minds-in-Postwar-Greece-Social-Worker-Van-Steen/p/book/9781032281742](http://www.routledge.com/The-Battle-for-Bodies-Hearts-and-Minds-in-Postwar-Greece-Social-Worker-Van-Steen/p/book/9781032281742).



## PEOPLE

**Roderick Beaton** FBA continues to serve as Chair of the Council (Trustees) of the British School at Athens. In that capacity he visited the BSA several times during the year, and was honoured at the conference held in Athens jointly by the CHS and BSA on 18 May, convened by Professor Gonda Van Steen (see pp. 4-5). In March he was sworn in as an honorary

citizen of Greece in a ceremony held at the Bank of Greece and hosted by its Governor, and benefactor of CHS, Professor Yannis Stournaras. In October he received an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Patras. During the year he has given invited talks at Peterhouse, Cambridge; London (BSA Friends; Society for the Promotion of Hellenic Studies);

Thessaloniki (Megaro Mousikis); Athens (Hellenic Entrepreneurs Association); Missolonghi; Chania; Chios; Edinburgh; New York (Hellenic American Cultural Foundation); and Zakynthos (Solomos Museum). He also gave many interviews to Greek print and online media and several on Greek radio. He was on the academic committee for the

conference 'Philhellenism and the Greek Revolution of 1821: Towards a Global History', organized by the BSA (Dr Michalis Sotiropoulos) and held at the premises of the National Library of Greece, Athens, 15-17 March 2023.

**Paschalis Kitromilides** (Professor Emeritus of the University of Athens and member of the Academy of Athens) was awarded the medal of outstanding service by the President of Cyprus, Nikos Christodoulides, at the August 2023 world congress of the Cypriot diaspora. This award was followed by an honorary doctorate bestowed by the University of Cyprus in Nicosia. On 17 October 2023, the ceremony of his official induction in the Academy of Athens took place, where he delivered his inaugural lecture titled 'The Idea of Freedom in the Intellectual Traditions of the European World'. He was honoured at a conference held on 3-4 November 2023, at the Volos Academy for Theological Studies. The year 2023 saw the publication, under the supervision of Paschalis Kitromilides and Vassilis Panayiotopoulos, of a collective volume entitled *100 years from the Treaty of Lausanne*, which was distributed by *To Vima* in July.

**Dr Carl Mauzy**, recent PhD in Modern Greek Studies, held a Marilena Laskaridis Visiting Research fellowship at the University of Amsterdam. During his five-month research stay, he pursued the project 'German Occupation Photography in WWII Greece: An Examination', studying the photographic archive of a German Luftwaffe serviceman stationed in Greece during WWII. The project investigates what place such images can have in the historical narratives and cultural memory of Greece, and more broadly in the historiography of WWII, taking into account the visual practices of the perpetrator.

**Dr Tassos Papacostas** organized two CHS sessions on Byzantine sigillography presented in March 2023 by Dr Olga Karagiorgou (Academy of Athens). He also hosted a doctoral candidate from the University of Ioannina working on pilgrimage in the late medieval eastern Mediterranean (August 2023). He joined the 'Frankish Greece' programme at the École française d'Athènes as well as the 'Teaching

Ancient Cyprus' (UK and Ireland) network. He spent the second half of 2023 on sabbatical leave, combining archival research in Venice on issues of prosopography and patronage with fieldwork in Cyprus, where he examined epigraphic and heraldic testimonies from the 16th century.

Professor Emeritus **David Ricks** had the pleasure of speaking at the BSA May colloquium in honour of Roderick Beaton, with a paper 'Haunted by Missolonghi: Revolution and Nostalgia in Two Greek Poets'. He also paid tribute to the pioneering translator Edmund Keeley (1928-2022) at the 12 June event at King's, 'Yannis Ritsos: New English Translations and Visualisations'. He visited the City of London School for Girls to talk on 'Unravelling Penelope: Two Modern Poets'. A version of his 2021 Runciman Lecture appeared in Yanni Cartledge and Andrekos Varnava (eds), *New Perspectives on the Greek War of Independence*.

Professor Emerita **Charlotte Roueché** has worked for many years with Joyce Reynolds, of Newnham College Cambridge, to publish ancient inscriptions (the majority in Greek) online, enabled by the support of King's Digital Lab. In 2020 and 2021 they published inscriptions collected over many years by Reynolds in Libya: *Inscriptions of Roman Cyrenaica* (2020) and *Inscriptions of Roman Tripolitania* (2021). Joyce Reynolds died – aged 103 – in September 2022. Charlotte is now working on a revision of their original online publication of the inscriptions of Aphrodisias, first published in 2007 ([www.insaph.kcl.ac.uk/insaph/iaph2007/](http://www.insaph.kcl.ac.uk/insaph/iaph2007/)). She is adding some 200 texts not included by Reynolds in the first edition as well as others published since 2007. She is able to apply new tools and new understandings which have been developed since that first publication.

She has also been involved in work with the British Institute for Libyan and North African Studies, and other British International Research Institutes ([www.thebritishacademy.ac.uk/international/research-institutes/](http://www.thebritishacademy.ac.uk/international/research-institutes/)), to co-ordinate the digitization of their archives. One aim is to enable tracing the careers of scholars who worked with several different institutes, and to

build an account of British archaeology in the eastern Mediterranean.

**Dr Peter Swallow** has taken up a postdoctoral fellowship at Durham University, where he is working on the afterlife of Aristotle's science in British and Irish popular culture. He continues to work with CHS on an ad-hoc basis as an administrative assistant. His first monograph, *Aristophanes in Britain* (OUP) was kindly supported by CHS and came out in September 2023.

**Dr Konstantinos Trimmis** is a visiting research fellow at the Centre for Hellenic Studies, working on the heritage, materiality, and archaeology of the Greek diasporas in the UK and Mediterranean Europe. During 2023, Konstantinos mapped the Greek cemetery of Trieste and catalogued the artefacts at the museum of the Greek community there. He continued his research in the Greek communities in London and he prepared the text for his first monograph on the Greek churches of the capital city. Additionally, and in cooperation with the Anglo-Hellenic League, the Society for Modern Greek Studies, and Professor Van Steen, he developed and submitted a funding application for the recording of the Greek landscapes of London to the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Koraes Professor **Gonda Van Steen** was awarded the Jean Moréas Award 2022 for the Promotion of Greek Letters Abroad, through the Patras Poetry Festival. On 25 April 2023, she gave the 27th Kimon Friar Lecture at the American College of Greece. After devoting a good part of August to proofreading *The Battle for Bodies, Hearts, and Minds in Postwar Greece* (above, p.7), she attended the 7th International Conference of the European Society of Modern Greek Studies, held at the University of Vienna, in mid-September 2023. Her proposal to co-convene (with Maria Boletsi) the International Cavafy Summer School in Athens in July 2024 was accepted, and preparations are well underway. The topic of the Summer School will be 'Cavafy, Theatre, and Performativity'. She will also be serving on the board of the General State Archives of Greece for the next few years.

## PEOPLE AND CONTACT INFORMATION FOR THE CENTRE FOR HELLENIC STUDIES IN 2024

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**Centre for Hellenic Studies website**

**Collaborative event website [21in21.co.uk](http://21in21.co.uk)**

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