



The Newsletter of the Kytherian Association of Australia

The KYTHERIAN

SUMMER EDITION

JANUARY 2008

PO Box A203, Sydney South NSW 1235
www.kytherianassociation.com.au

Καλη Χρονια

Happy New Year
and a healthy and prosperous 2008 for all our members. Welcome once again to the special summer edition of *The Kytherian* (including the Summer Crossword) for your holiday reading and entertainment.

Also in this issue

20 Reasons you know you're Kytherian

A Kytherian crosses The Ditch

Sex, Lies and DVD's...

More Postcards from Kythera

A Letter to Cerigo

Christmas Kytherian Baby boom!

and much more...



Halkos Beach

Nicholas Anthony Aroney Encouragement Awards Night

We are inviting Students of Kytherian descent to submit their Year 2007 HSC Results and UAI scores for the Nicholas Anthony Aroney Encouragement Awards

**When: Saturday
5th April, 2008**

This lovely Awards Dinner function will be held at the

**Twin Reception Centre
560 Botany Street
Alexandria**

Please send Results (copy of UAI result and Higher School Certificate marks) to:

Nicholas Anthony Aroney Encouragement Awards
c/- The Kytherian Association of Australia
PO Box A203
SYDNEY SOUTH NSW 1235

Any enquiries should be addressed to Victor Kepreotis on 0408 216 108 and for bookings please call Kathy Samios on 9349 1849. Closing date for applications is 19th March 2008. More details in next month's newsletter.



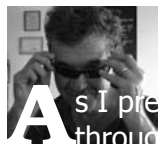
Kytherian Association of Australia
www.kytherianassociation.com.au

CHECK OUT OUR BRAND NEW WEBSITE!

Keep up-to-date with all the latest KAA news & information as well as details of our upcoming events.

Logon now & tell us what you think:
feedback@kytherianassociation.com.au

Editorial



As I prepared this newsletter, news came through of a strong earthquake registering 6.5 on the Richter scale that was felt throughout large parts of Greece, including Kythera. What a coincidence, I thought. In January 2006 as I was putting together the summer edition of the Kytherian newsletter a massive earthquake struck Kythera, as we all remember. Was this latest earthquake an omen? I realise that the summer edition is an earth shattering event in Kytherian publishing history, but the idea of an earthquake announcing its arrival is perhaps taking things a little too far.

On a different note, it was great to catch up with James Prineas, the inspiration for the Kythera family website, on his recent trip to Australia. Both James and I have a love of photography and as we talked about things Kytherian James came up with a brilliant idea. Why not organise a photographic project with the title "24 hours in Kythera" or "A day in the life of Kythera"? The idea is to co-ordinate a collaborative photographic effort and nominate a day when photographers, both professional and amateur, who are on the island capture images of life, family, community, geography, architecture, religion and any thing else on the island within a designated 24 hour period with a view to having those photos

uploaded to a central website. Just picture it. Hundreds of photographers descend on Kythera and create a photographic record of the island over a 24 hour period. Eventually, a book could be published of the best photographs as a kind of enduring photographic time capsule of Kythera.

I think the idea has considerable merit. How Kythera is imagined and realised through the medium of a digital photographic lens is already one of the great features of the Kythera family website. Capturing a day in the life of Kythera may prove to be an outstanding publishing and cultural event and something that will stimulate both our imagination and recollection of Kythera in the years to come. Watch this space.

Finally, just a reminder that the Third International Symposium of Kytheraismos will be held on Kythera on 21-24 August 2008. It is hoped to build on the tremendous success of the 2006 symposium in Canberra and to broaden the Kytherian horizons.

George Vardas



James Prineas

Kytho Calender 2008

Friday 8 FebruaryGreek Dancing starts. Free.

Sunday 10th February.....Karavitiko Symposium

**Saturday 5th April.....Nicholas Anthony Aroney
Encouragement Awards Dance.**

Sunday 27th April.....Easter Sunday (Pascha)

Sunday 13 May.....Agios Theodoros ton Kytherion Liturgy.

mums & BUBS



"Mums and Bubs"

outings are held on the last Friday of each month, for babies and children up to 5 years, for more information please call Erenie on 0410 318 053.

GREEK DANCING CLASSES 2007

STARTS FRIDAY 8TH FEBRUARY

Matraville High School cnr Anzac Pde & Franklin Sts, Matraville.



**Infants
Primary**

7.00pm-7.45pm
7.45pm-8.30pm



On 5 January 2008 an impromptu dinner organised by James Prineas (who was in town for a few days) was held at Eleni's restaurant at the Civic Hotel in Sydney for a get together of friends of the Kythera family net website. It was an opportunity to catch up with people and at the same time sample some of the tantalising nouvelle Hellenic cuisine by leading Greek-Australian chef, Peter Conistas (ex-Eleni's and Omega restaurants). The food and wine complemented the conversation in what turned out to be an entertaining evening.



KYTHERA FAMILY-NET GET TOGETHER

The website has been operational for almost 5 years and has attracted a lot of interest as it really has brought Kytherians together from all over the world. I have visited the website on occasions when over 100 registered members are on line at the same time. It is truly a magnificent development and the dinner held on such short notice at the Civic Hotel is yet again evidence of the website's popularity and the interest and enthusiasm that it has aroused in people all over the world to identify with their Kytherian roots. The food was great, too!

George Vardas



MORE POSTCARDS FROM KYTHERA

by George Cassim

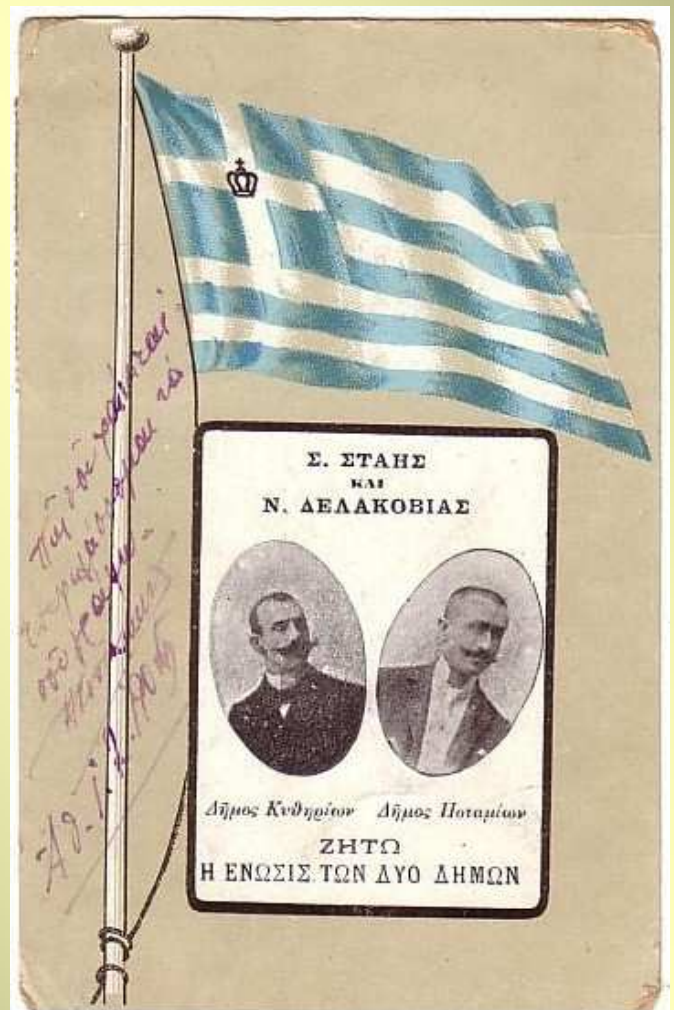
Greetings to everyone. Here I am again under pressure from my *koumbaro* George Vardas to contribute an article for the 2007/8 Summer edition of the Kytherian newsletter. Any true collector spends a lot of time researching the particular item he's collecting. In this edition I am going to give you some examples of items that have not been fully researched (due to lack of time!), but I have found interesting nonetheless. Hopefully some of you may have more clues as to what or who they represent and I look forward to any further information anyone of you may have.

Firstly an Australian postcard with the acropolis sent by T. LAHANAS in Kempsey to S.ANDRONICO at Tenterfield dated 19-12-1907, exactly 100 years ago wishing him a Merry Xmas and Happy New Year.



The second item is a postcard dated 1905 and shows the apparent merger of the two dimos (councils) of Kythera (Hora) and Potamos with a photo of S. Stais and N. Delakobias. This is a lovely early postcard of Kythera. Spyros Stais was a very famous Kytherian who was appointed Minister for Religious Affairs in 1904 and who used his position, according to Peter Vanges in his book "Kythera: a history", to try and remove the Metropolitan of Kythera at the time, Bishop Kavathas. 1905 was also significant in Kytherian local history as that was the year that the National Bank of Greece opened its branch in Hora. Spyros Stais was the mayor of Hora.

Nicholas Delakovias was a lawyer who became mayor of Potamos. He also wrote articles for various local newspapers. Any ideas as to the historical significance of this event would be appreciated. Was it a takeover by the mesa dimo of the exo dimo, for example?





The next postcard is of the lighthouse at Moudari (northern most point on Kythera) and is dated 2/1/1906 (another 100 year old card). Interestingly the postcard was sent to a Doctor George Photinos (he was from Milopotamo) in Berlin. After finishing his studies in Germany he went on to become the doctor in charge of Sygrou Hospital in Athens.



Another more recent 1950's? postcard of the same lighthouse and a young lady sitting on the nearby rocks but what is interesting is the inscription on the back TAVERNA FILIO KALAMOS KYTHIRION. The Moudari lighthouse seems to have been used for advertising the taverna as Moudari and Kalamos are on opposite sides of the island. There is only one other lighthouse on Kythera a smaller one at Kapsali. After some preliminary detective work by me at the Kytherian New Years Day Dance, one version given to me is that the lady depicted in the postcard may be Peter Faros' sister-in-law, Matina Faros from Karavas. However, it could be a modern copy of an old card because I have been told that Filio's restaurant has only been around for about 10 years. I need help to solve this apparent mystery.



MORE POSTCARDS FROM KYTHERA

Next we have a postcard from Fratsia dated 29/11/1964 from Kaiti to her brother Cosma for his name day. If you have a close look you will see zigzag arrangements of flowers in boxes obviously for some important event (*panigiri*) but why are the flowers arranged in this way? At the recent Kytherian New Years dance Georgina Kalokerinos (now Bisterbosch) remembers going to Fratsia in 1968 and helping to make these flowers from coloured paper to celebrate an Agrotiki Eorti.



ΚΥΘΗΡΑ *Εικόνα vintage Kythera-GREECE*

Who are the six very beautiful Kytherian ladies in the next postcard, which was dated 19/12/1950 sent to *agapiti adelphia kai eksadelfia* George (Mavromatis), Martha, Dionisi Martha (now Martha Stais) and Jimmy Aroney from Harry and Betina Mavromatis?

For the last item – a palm tree at Kapsali? An unusual photo dated 1960 although in Peter Vanges' book (at page 164) the same photo is reproduced and dated 1945. I am told it is a *Vagionia* tree whose leaves are used at Easter time for the *vagion*. By the way, the card was sent at Christmas time in 1960 from Eleni E Kontoleon to Dimitri Aroney of Athens.

HAPPY NEW YEAR XPONIA POLLA
TO YOU ALL



Χώρα Kapsali Kythera Greece



A KYTHERIAN CROSSES THE DITCH

“The bold adventurer succeeds the best.”

Ovid

The scenes on TV from New Zealand were chaotic and spine-tingling. Amidst the clamour of horns from a flotilla of kayaks and cheering from thousands of onlookers two young sun-drenched kayakers - supporting each other - slowly emerged from their kayak and strode, at times inelegantly but confidently, to the beach at New Plymouth where they were mobbed by well-wishers and hugged by friends and relatives. On 13 January 2008, after 62 long and arduous days at sea, James Castrission, aged 25, and Justine Jones, 24, had just completed the first trans-Tasman crossing by kayak.

The boys had set out on 13 November 2007 in a custom-designed 9m kayak and sleeping pod to kayak 2,200 kilometres across the Tasman. As James, son of Sydney lawyer John Castrission and Vivienne Castrission of Sydney, said prior to their departure:

“It is one thing to stand on a peak that has been trampled all over... but to paddle a humble kayak across an ocean is a completely unique objective.”

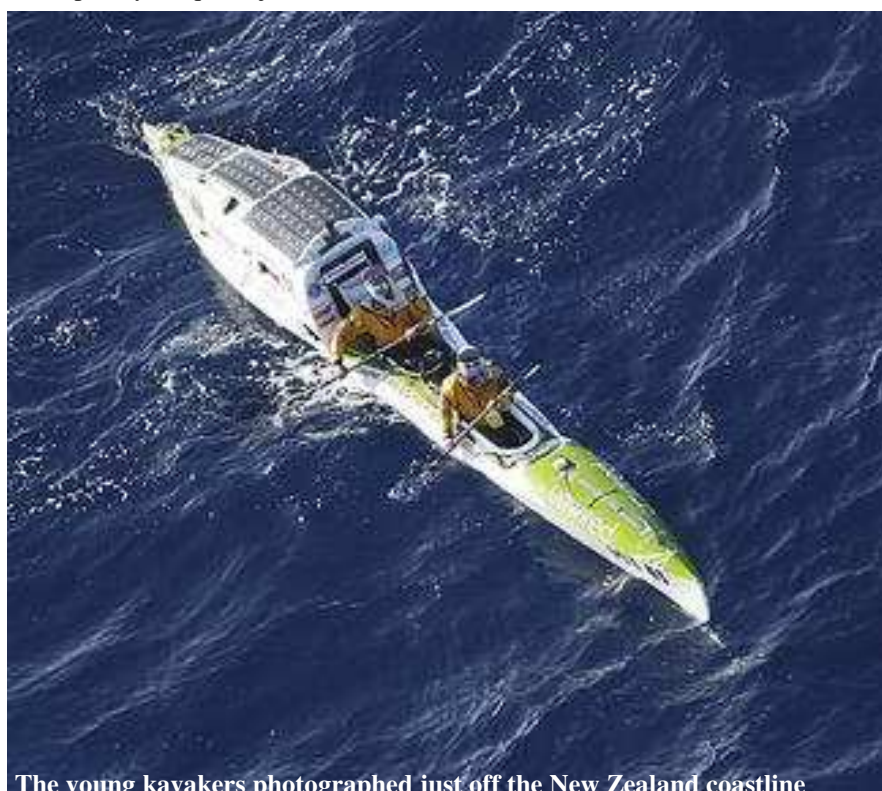
James and Justin actually paddled 1,000 kilometres more than the distance required to make the crossing, completing a large circle to avoid ocean currents at around the midway point in their epic journey. Along the way they were bumped by sharks and faced strong headwinds and ten metre swells and other atrocious weather conditions. As James stated on their website:

“This whole trip has been about heart and the mental willpower to keep on going, and keep on pushing.”

Their “Crossing the Ditch” expedition has marked a new record in human endeavour and endurance. We salute these brave adventurers and commend them on their spirit of adventure and their skill and heroism in completing their epic kayak crossing against unbelievable odds. James Castrission and Justin Jones have conquered an ocean and their names are now forever part of the adventurer’s lexicon.
George Vardas



James Castrission

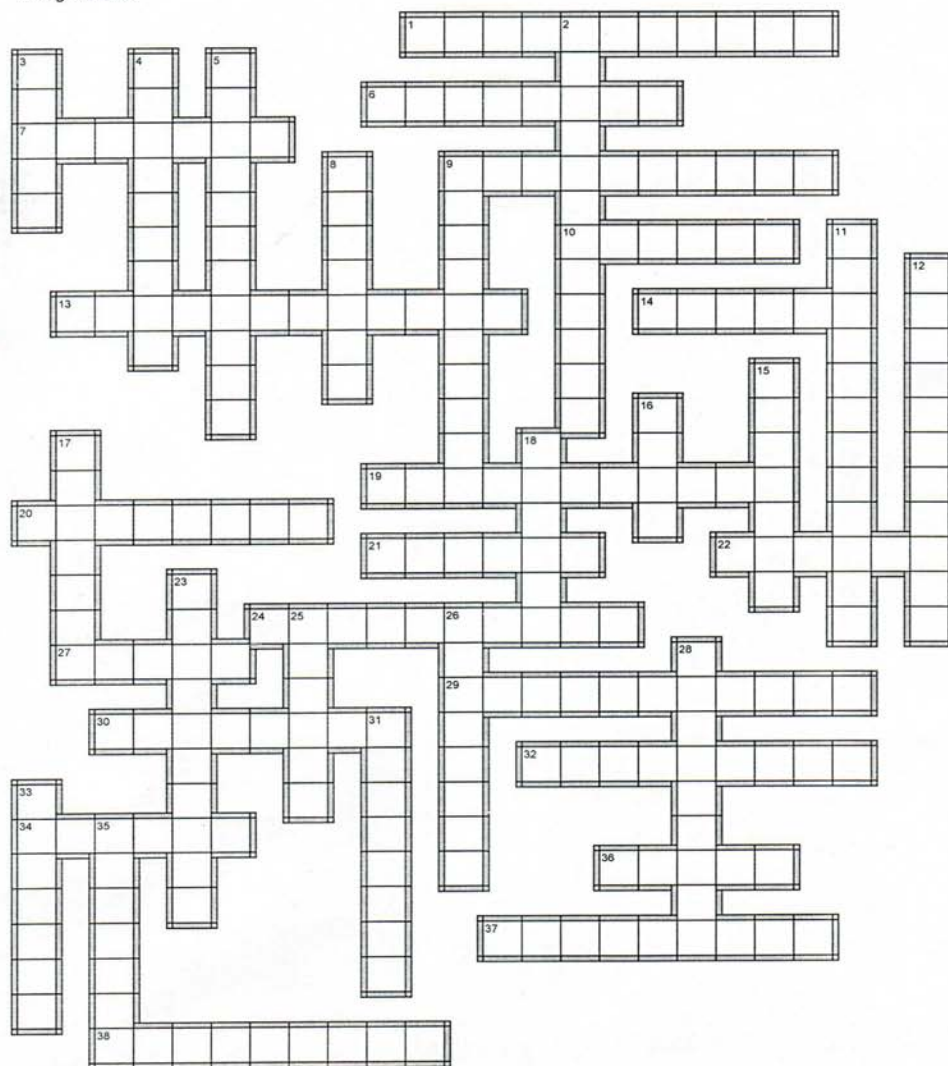


The young kayakers photographed just off the New Zealand coastline



KYTHERIAN 2008 SUMMER EDITION BUMPER CROSSWORD

George Vardas



EclipseCrossword.com

Across

1. The name given by the French explorer de Bougainville to Tahiti which he believed to be a living real version of the isle of Venus (two words)
6. Prominent Greek cafe in Nowra once run by Mavromattes family (two words)
7. Famous brothers active behind the scenes in Kytherian affairs and the development of the Kythera family website
9. Swimming championships at Kapsali are held below this British-built structure or deposito (two words)
10. Newly-elected president of Kytherian Ladies Auxiliary
13. What Encounters are held in Kythera each October?
14. Distinctive twin domed Byzantine church is located in this town at the base of Agia Eleessa

Answers will be in the next issue of The Kytherian



KYTHERIAN 2008 SUMMER EDITION BUMPER CROSSWORD

George Vardas

Across

19. President of the Organisation for the New Acropolis Museum who recently visited Australia
20. This city played host to 2006 Kytheraismos symposium
21. Author of "Aphrodite and the Mixed Grill"
22. Famous and picturesque beach reached by unfinished stairs
24. This young Greek-Australian soccer player (or part Kytherian heritage) recently played against David Beckham
27. Greek Australian association with Masonic tendencies
29. Famous Kytherian chef from the 70s who wrote "The Greek Cookbook" with a photo of the terraces of Karavas on the cover (two words)
30. Kythera was once part of this great seafaring empire
32. The name of this pizza restaurant reflects its vista of the kastro at Hora
34. This type of parlour or saloon established by early Kytherian immigrants in Australia was very popular for selling fish and chips and other seafood
36. Kythera is known for this natural product with the producers' co-operative based at Aroniadika
37. Subject taught by Professor Manuel Aroney at Sydney University
38. Famous Kytherian benefactor

Down

2. The current assistant secretary of the Kytherian Association of Australia
3. The Ionian island closest to Cerigo (Venetian name)
4. Head of the Kytherian Cultural Association and renown photographer
5. Photos of these deathly objects are regularly posted on the Kythera family website
8. Which famous Kytherian-run cafe at Gundagai was visited late one night in the 1940s by Prime Minister Curtin looking for a late night meal
9. American photographer who recently spent a year on Kythera photographing the island and its inhabitants
11. During the 19th century the Septinsular Republic came to be known as a British what?
12. This mythical animal graces the entrance to the Venetian castle at Milopotamos (two words)
15. Famous Kytherian photographer to be exhibited at Benaki Museum in Athens
16. Famous English satirist and artist who visited Kythera in 1863

17. A memorial to the island's emigrants is found in this central town
18. This beach lies west of Kapsali and past Cape Trachilos
23. Leader of PASOK in Greece and descendant of famous political family
25. The name of the cafe in York Street Sydney which plays close homage to Kythera's Venetian name
26. The predominant artistic or architectural style of the early Kytherian cafes (two words)
28. Theo and Peter Poulos of the Karavitiko Symposium have this family pseudonym (paratsoukli)
31. Name of the ship famously shipwrecked off Diakofti
33. Location and/or name of the lighthouse at the northern tip of the island
35. Distinctive architectural feature of Venetian building owned by Cavalini family in Avlemonas



Please forward any items you wish to be included in our Newsletter to
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or
kaanewsletter@optusnet.com.au
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Please Note:
Those submitting articles to this

In the film "Bend it like Beckham" a young English girl of Indian background achieves her dream of playing soccer and emulating her hero, the British megastar, David Beckham. On 27 November 2007 in front of 80,000 fans at the Telstra Stadium the real David Beckham, playing for LA Galaxy against Sydney FC in an exhibition game, did not disappoint the crowd by curling in a free kick from outside the penalty box to score a memorable goal.

One person who had a very close up view of the proceedings was the Sydney FC left-back, 17 year old Nikolas Tsattalios, a young Australian whose parents have Greek island heritage. Nik's father, Con Tsattalios, hails from the beautiful island of Symi whilst his mum, Mina (formerly Aroney) is of Kytherian parentage. Nik is the A-League's youngest player and a player of great potential, particularly as he is a natural left-footer. The current Sydney FC coach, John Kosmina, has praised Nik:

"Nik's an unrecognised talent. He's got a good left foot, he's good on the ball, he's got game sense, and if he needs to get stuck in, he will ... (in a recent game) he went on and showed real composure. So far, I like what I see."

Nik has not allowed his sudden fame to go to his head. He remains level-headed. As he told Micahel Cockerill of the *Sydney Morning Herald*:

"It has definitely been hectic, but now it's falling into place. It's been difficult at times, but my parents wanted me to finish my studies, and I wanted to do it for myself. Now the HSC is out of the way, I've got my 'Ps', and I can start concentrating on football. No more distractions."

The future appears rosy for this young and rising soccer star. As for David Beckham, Nik did not escape his attention either. After Nik had sent in an inviting cross from the left during the game Beckham ran past and quipped, "That was a great cross, son".

George Vardas



Bend it like Tsattalios

Pleasant surprise for Midnight ramblers

In December 2007 *Midnight Rambler* co-owners, Kytherian Australian, **Ed Psaltis** (son of another famous Kytherian yachtie, Bill Psaltis) and Bob Thomas were named ocean racers of the year 2006-07 for achieving the rare double of dominating the *Cruising Yacht Club of Australia's* blue water pointscore and its short ocean pointscore.

Ed Psaltis and Thomas began their friendship in 1990, when Ed was looking for a navigator for the *Sydney-Hobart* race that year and pulled a telephone number off the CYCA noticeboard. The duo went on to win the *Sydney to Hobart* in 1998.



In the Spotlight

ONE YEAR ON KYTHERA



Kristina Williamson (right) at the New York opening of her exhibition with the Greek Consul-General, Catherine Boura.



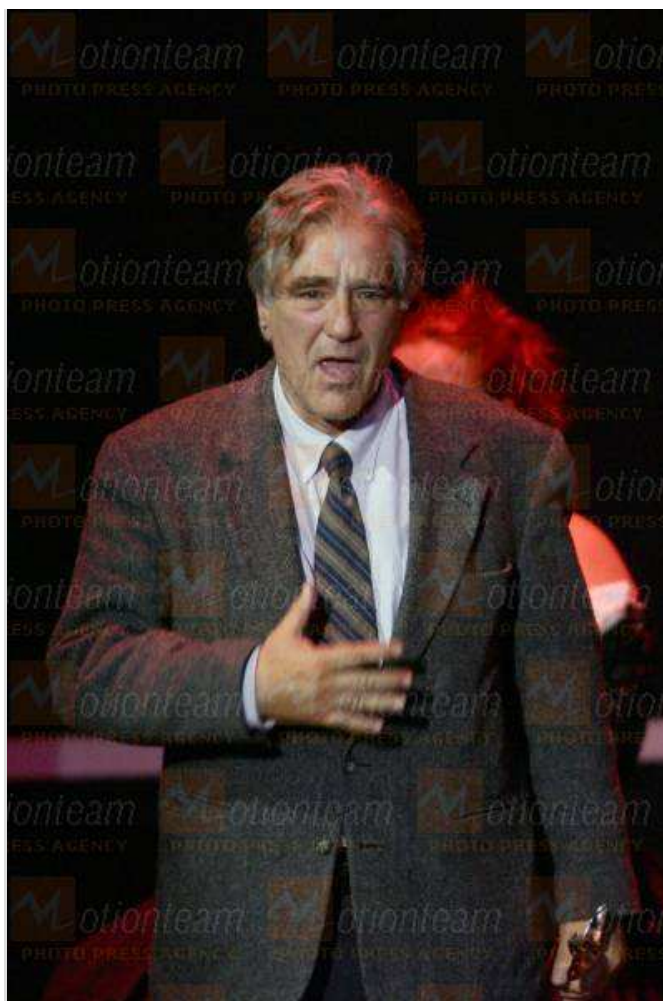
Kristina at the Potamos markets (photo: S. Trifyllis)

"ONE YEAR ON KYTHERA" a photographic exhibition by KRISTINA WILLIAMSON was held at the Consulate General of Greece in New York in November 2007

Under the auspices of a J. William Fulbright grant, Kristina Williamson spent over one calendar year living and photographing on Kythera. This body of work was first exhibited in Kythera as a part of the Photographic Encounters of Kythera 2005, and is now making its New York debut.

The official launch was very successful and her photos capture vignettes of life on Kythera that are both original and beautiful. A selection of images from "One Year on Kythera" can be viewed at www.kristinawilliamson.com.

CINEMATOGRAPHY AWARD



Ari Stavrou shares award for best Cinematography at the 48th Thessaloniki International Film Festival

The 48th *Thessaloniki International Film Festival* was held on the 27th November, 2007. Best Cinematography award was awarded to **ARIS STAVROU** and NIKOS SMARAGDIS for the film *EL GRECO* which also won best film. Aris Stavrou is a long-time resident of the island of Kythera. (20 years in Friligianika, with American wife, Dorothy, who tragically died in May 2007.) Very few Kytherians around the world would realise that one of the greatest cinematographers in Europe, and the World, is a resident of Kythera.

**Report by
George Poulos**

EASTERN SUBURBS TO OATLEY POWER BOAT REGATTA

Boxing Day 2007 saw the annual Eastern Suburbs to Oatley power boating regatta return to Oatley Bay. A number of boats operated by Captains John Faros, John Tzannes, Emanuel Calligeros and Angelo Andrew took turns in taking many of the youth on skiing and biscuit rides with some spectacular thrills and spills to entertain the crowds.



This is too easy



Emmanuel Calligeros has them hanging on for grim life..

It was warm sunny day and Oatley Bay was a perfect venue for what is becoming an annual event. Afterwards 40 or so turned up at the Vardas household up the road for light snacks and coffee. It was a great day enjoyed by all.



Lucky Emmanuel Varipatis with his "admirers"



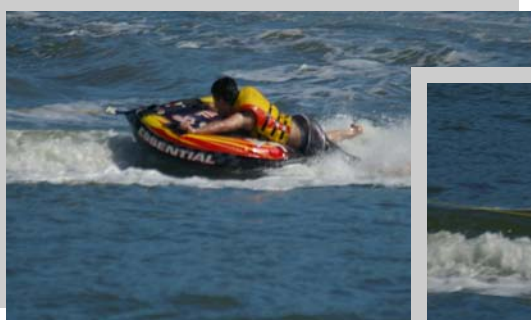
Captain Angelo Andrew at the helm



Those Kytherian girls are fast!..



Another Andrew boy slices through Oatley Bay. It's all part of the family tradition.



Charles is going...

going...



gone!



Captain John Faros smoothly rounds up the kids



Meanwhile those hard working Kytherian ladies at the dock of the bay, take time off to smile at the camera..

A LETTER TO CERIGO

The British occupation of the Ionian Islands in the first half of the 19th century is a source of rich historical materials and records maintained by the British Colonial Office at the National Archives at Kew in London. Inspired by George Cassim, I have started to follow online auctions and in a recent auction held in Greece of Ionian Islands ephemera and collectables my attention was drawn to an envelope addressed to Major H. Harvest, the British Resident in Cerigo, in December 1853. The letter, which did not sell at auction (it had a reserve of 500 Euro), is reproduced below. Note the reference to Cerigo as an "extremely unusual destination".

Although the contents of the envelope have long since been lost, this envelope has kindled my imagination. Kythera at this time was still considered a colonial outpost and very much a solitary station for the British Resident and soldiers stationed there. What did the British representative on the island do? What were in his communications to his superiors? An interesting insight into the work of the British Resident is provided by Nikos Blassopoulos in a paper (delivered in Greek) entitled "*Kythera in the c correspondence of the British resident Edward D*

Harvest (1860-61)" delivered at the First International Symposium of Kytherian Studies – Kythera: Myth and reality – held in Kythera in September 2000.

Blassopoulos reviewed 32 letters exchanged between the second Major Harvest and the then Lord High Commissioner for the Ionian Islands, Sir Henry Storks, based in Corfu. As the author Peter Prineas has confirmed, there were two Residents by the name of Harvest who served in Kythera at different times – presumably they were brothers. The letters reviewed by Blassopoulos covered a wide range of subjects including the administration of justice on the island. For example, in September 1860 charges were levelled against a teacher by the name of Mavrokefalos that he had falsely issued a pass result to a student. Major Harvest took a personal interest in the case and became convinced that the teacher was innocent and eventually allowed him to leave Kythera to return to Ithaca.

In December 1860 Major Harvest was advised by letter from Sir Henry Storks to arrange for a local dissident and reputed anarchist by the name of Maheriotis, who was in prison in Kythera, to be transported to Corfu for trial. It turned out that



1853-12-16; Richmond to CERIGO. Envelope addressed to Major H. Harvest; the Resident in Cerigo; an extremely unusual destination; and signed on arrival. Franked with a 1/ 1847; bearing blue RICHMOND DE.19.1853; "via Southampton"; London AN 20.DE.1853 with oval "P." red strikes; AUS ENGLAND PER AACHEN FRANCO; TRIESTE 26/12 and CORFU 30.DIC.53 (small button type) the envelope was also rated "3 1/4" (blue script) silver groschen which was due to Austria for carriage to Corfu via Trieste. Other rates are also written; RRR & VF

Maheriotis had a relative in the Ionian Senate and was trying to oppose the transfer on the grounds that he was medically unfit to travel. The prisoner produced a medical certificate by a Dr Speratzas. The Lord High Commissioner wrote to Major Harvest casting doubt on the medical certificate and commented that "you know how easy it is for anyone to get a medical certificate" and urged the Resident to visit the prisoner and form his own view as to the state of Maheriotis' health. As it turned out Maheriotis was sent back to Corfu where he was convicted and sentenced to six months' exile on Kythera.

Major Harvest in other correspondence expressed his concern at the state of education on Kythera and in particular the shortage of teachers on the island. In one letter he wrote about the school principal, Madam Hui, who for 30 years had been teaching needlework. The Resident was anxious that she not be allowed to leave and that her wages should be increased and that she be given an assistant to remain on the island.

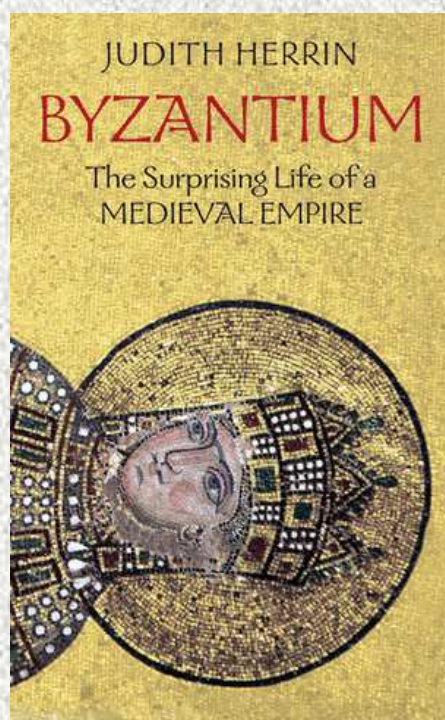
Finally, in May 1861, Major Harvest wrote to the Lord High Commissioner commenting on the growing push for unification within the Ionian Islands – including Kythera – with Greece. He notes that on his third tour of the island he found considerable unrest amongst the local population. The Resident wrote:

"The locals are ignorant of politics and all they seek to do is to protect themselves from evil and to be left to earn their daily bread in peace. On this island, as I believe in the other islands, the few activists causing the most trouble are not concerned about the real interests and well-being of their islands. The worst troublemakers are Mr Panaretos, Mr Theodoros Kasimatis, Ploigos and Mr Aggelinos Kotzabasis."

The British occupation of Kythera remains an interesting and intriguing part of the Ionian Islands' history.

George Vardas

BYZANTIUM REVISITED: a book review



In her chapter on Byzantine Kythera published in the 1972 work by Coldstream and Huxley (eds.) *Kythera: Excavations and Studies* Judith Herrin gave an overview of historical developments on Kythera from the introduction of Christianity in the fourth century AD to the attack on the island by the Ottoman admiral Barbarossa in 1537 during the

Venetian occupation of the island. Ms Herrin concluded that Kythera remained a stronghold of Byzantine Orthodoxy long after the fall of Constantinople in 1453.

When I met Professor Herrin in London in 2000 she mentioned that she recalled with much fondness her time on Kythera in the early 1960s during the excavations and field work undertaken by the University of Pennsylvania Museum and the British School at Athens which were later recorded in the Coldstream and Huxley book.

Professor Herrin, who is now Professor of Byzantine History at the King's College, London, has just

published a most interesting book titled *Byzantium: The Surprising Life of a Medieval Empire* (Allen Lane, London, 2007, \$49.95) which chronicles the history of an empire which still resonates in our own Greek Orthodox faith. As one commentator has written, Professor Herrin presents Byzantium as a vibrant, dynamic and cosmopolitan reality that oversaw a perpetually evolving relationship between the competing influences of classical Greek learning, Greek Christianity and popular Byzantine culture. The Byzantines regarded theirs as the great civilisation, and Professor Herrin basically agrees with them.

At the same time, the author emphasises the Byzantine Empire's continuing importance as it acted as a bulwark against the expansion of Islam from the 7th century, concluding that "without Byzantium, Europe as we know it is inconceivable".

And yes, there is a Kytherian connection. In the introduction to this absorbing study, Judith Herrin explains that digging up Byzantium was one way of discovering the Byzantines and understanding their history and culture and religion. She specifically cites the exploration of churches in Crete and Kythera which "brings you very close to their medieval inhabitants".

For any readers who are interested in the Byzantine background to our existence, this work is highly recommended.

George Vardas

Social News

Kytherian BABY BOOM!

Late December 2007 was an especially frenetic time for babies (and, come to think of it, around about March 2007 would have also been rather engaging for the couples involved) as six babies were delivered to the joy of their parents, family and friends. Incredibly, for three sets of grandparents, the Vlandis, Psaltis and Mavromattis families, it was a case of double celebrations!

Congratulations to Spiro & Maria Coolentianos of Randwick on the birth of their 3rd child, a boy, THEO. Born on 20th December 2007 at RHW Randwick Baby Theo (Theofani) is a brother to doting older sisters Christiana and Elly. Proud grandparents are Christofia and the late Theo Coolentianos of Belrose, and Andrew and Elly Mavromattis of Wollongong.

Congratulations also go to Peter & Joanne Magoulas of Bossley Park on the birth of ANDREW, a brother for Angelo. Born on 29th December 2007 at St George Private Hospital. Baby Andrew is the 4th grandchild for Angelo & Rita Magoulas of Bossley Park and great grandson for Eleni Cassimatis of Baulkam Hills. He is also the 11th grandchild for Andrew & Elly Mavromattis of Wollongong.

Congratulations and best wishes to Roslyn and Mike Krouskos who are still celebrating the birth of their third child who they have named PETE. Pete is the young brother of Dean and Angelique and is the eighth grandchild of Kytherian Association stalwarts Chrissa and Peter Vlandis of Yowie Bay and grandson of Angelique and Costas Krouskos of Rockdale.

Kerrie and Victor Stellios are the very proud parents of their first child, a baby girl who they have named KATE. Kate is the first grandchild for Katina and Tony Stellios from Canberra and the ninth grandchild for Chrissa and Peter Vlandis of Yowie Bay. Congratulations to Kerrie and Victor.

Congratulations to Peter and Helen Psaltis of Lugarno on the safe arrival of their beautiful daughter, NATASHA (Αναστασία /Anastasia). A darling little playmate for big sister, Anna Maria. Proud Grandparents are Steve & Anna Psaltis of Sylvania and George & Mary Vouros of Bexley

Finally, Joe & Melissa Socrates of Forestville welcomed their daughter, KRISTEN, into the world on Christmas morning. Proud big brother, Jake, thought it was the best Christmas present yet! Another beautiful granddaughter for Steve & Anna Psaltis of Sylvania (who were certainly kept busy this Christmas!) and Joseph & Christina Socrates of Allambie

Christening

Congratulations to Garry and Nikoletta Hatzis on the Christening of their son Michael at St Michael's Church Crows Nest followed by a lovely luncheon at their house. Godparents are Michael and Maria Pascalis. Michael is the second grandchild for Chris and Pat Feros and fourth grandchild for Michael and Effie Haggis. Michael is the second great grandchild for Cecil and the late Katina Paschalis and twelfth great grandchild for Electra Sofianos.



BIRTHDAYS

A surprise birthday party was recently given for Helen Dracakis of Seaforth, by her husband Paul, children Peter and Kerry Dracakis, Nicholas and Leslie Dracakis, Terry and Fotina Georgas, and Theodore Dracakis, and her grandchildren, George and Olivia Georgas, and Paul, Christos, Alexander and Helena Dracakis. The occasion was celebrated at the Athenian Greek Restaurant in Sydney, and Helen was surrounded by all her family and close friends, some who travelled from overseas to celebrate with her. Great food and good company ensured everyone had a wonderful time.

"Na ta ekatostisis!"



Hearty congratulations are also extended to Mrs Maria Castrission of Maroubra who celebrated her 80th Birthday with a surprise party given by her daughters Vicki Conomos and Irene Georgeson and their families. Maria, who has recently returned from London, visiting her two granddaughters Alexandra and Marissa Conomos, was thoroughly surprised and enjoyed celebrating with family and many old friends.

WEDDING

Congratulations to Anna Comino and Bill Manthopoulos on their recent marriage. Anna and Bill were married at Crows Nest Greek Orthodox Church on 3 November 2007. A lovely reception followed at Le Montage in Leichhardt. Their Koubaro was Nick Theodoridis. Anna is the daughter of Leo and Doula Comino of Eastwood and Bill is the son of Dino and Vivi Manthopoulos of Rosebery. We wish the lovely couple all the best for the future.

**GRADUATION**

Congratulations to Melissa Mallos on attaining the degree of "Bachelor of Arts / Law with Honours" from Macquarie University. Melissa is the daughter of George and Maria Mallos and the sister of Theodore Mallos.

Congratulations also go to Alexandra Venardos from Brisbane on having passed her final year Law exams. Alexandra is the daughter of Angelo & Poppy, grand-daughter of Mike & Kate Venardos (now retired on the Gold Coast) & god-daughter of Theodore & Phylia Simos.

**Books & CD's for sale -
can be purchased from the
*Kytherian Association of Australia:***

- *History of Kythera* by Peter Vanges **\$30**
- *The Greeks in Queensland-A History from 1859 to 1945* by Denis A Conomos (RRP \$49.95)
- *Ta Tessera Spitia* by Jim Saltis **\$20**
[Jim Saltis 47 Market Street Randwick 2031]
email saltisjim@optusnet.com.au
phone (02) 9399 9767
- *Katsehamos and the Great Idea* by Peter Prineas **\$35** available Plateia Press
32 Calder Road, Darlington NSW 2008
email plateia@ozemail.com.au
phone: (02) 9319 1513 mobile: 0429 322 857
- *Aphrodite and The Mixed Grill . Greek Cafes in Twentieth-Century Australia* by Toni Risson 130 Woodend Road, Woodend QLD 4305.
email: s131107@uq.edu.au -\$49.95 plus postage & handling. Phone 3281 1525.
- *By George* , Harris George. Life stories by Harris Tzortzopoulos, parents born Karavas, Kythera. Naval Officer later prominent solicitor in Maryland, USA.
Available George Poulos \$35
- *A Touch of Greece. The Greek Café Owners of Junction St., Nowra* by Robyn Florance.
phone : 44293564 (BH)
Email : rflorance@shoalnet.au
\$17.50 including handling & postage.
- *Journey to Kythera* CD-ROM for Apple Mac
ActionPoints@hotmail.com or 0417 590 194].

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TO KARAVITIKO

The annual Karavitiko Symposium is on again on 10 February 2008. See the flyer enclosed with this newsletter.



CULTURAL ARCHIVE WEBSITE FOR KYTHERA

Kythera-Family.net

<http://www.kythera-family.net>

Donations can be sent directly to:

The Treasurer

Kytherian Association of Australia
PO Box A203
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Cheques should be made out to:
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More information about sponsorship can also be obtained by contacting:

George C Poulos

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The new property tax laws in Greece

NG PIROUNAKIS*

The Greek Government has introduced a bill into Parliament which will make it much easier for Greeks to inherit property or buy primary residences. In particular, it will exempt a primary residence from transfer tax for up to 200 square metres. That limit is extended by 25 square metres for every minor dependent the purchaser has beyond the second. The bill also introduces a reformed, broader-based, property possession tax.

Easier to inherit

First-degree relatives (parents, spouses, children and grandchildren) will be taxed to the tune of just one percent on the value of inherited properties, beyond a tax-free threshold of 95,000 euros. (The threshold is 20,000 euros for second-degree relatives like siblings or step-parents.)

The significance of this provision is twofold. First, the high rates of inheritance tax up to now presented a very unpalatable burden in a country where most non-corporate real estate is viewed as a family asset, rather than an individual one. Combine this with the fact that in 2001 there corresponded 1.5 dwellings to 1 Greek household (the highest rate in Western Europe) and consider Greece's ageing society, and you get a picture of an expanding inheritance burden. The situation might also distort the housing market as in many cases the inheritors would have no choice but to put some of their inherited properties up for sale, thus affecting house prices through increased supply.

Secondly, the heavy inheritance taxes have contributed to the rise of the multi-apartment building in Greek cities, as they made it difficult for people to keep inherited, single houses in high-price areas. The taxes were an incentive to have the property demolished and built as a high-rise.

Property possession tax

The bill provides that the reformed property possession tax (ETAK) will apply to all properties beyond one's primary residence, provided the latter is not larger than 200m² (in which case the excess is taxed, according to the system of imputed, or "objective", property prices in force in Greece), or not of a value larger than 300,000 euros (if it is, the excess is taxed).

Primary residences are tax-exempt up to a value of 300,000 euros (although for the first year that the law is in force the exemption will be made on the highest-value residence). The tax rate is 0.1 percent, or one euro per square metre, whichever is greater, with some exceptions.

Up to now the Greek property possession tax was levied on those who possessed properties of relatively high value at rates ranging from 0.354 percent to 0.944 percent (on property values over 487,200 euros for married couples) and at 0.826 percent (flat) for corporate property. This narrowed the tax base for the given tax, throwing up a problem of fairness (a high property value does not necessarily imply a correspondingly high income out of which to pay the tax). In 2006, for instance, 38,181 individuals paid 2,341 euros each, on average, towards the possession tax (and 42,498 corporate bodies paid 2,901 euros each) - an average of 2,636 euros. Now the government estimates that, excluding the 2.5 million households which, it says, will be exempt from the tax, it stands to collect an additional 650 million euros from about 3.5 million households which will be subject to the tax.

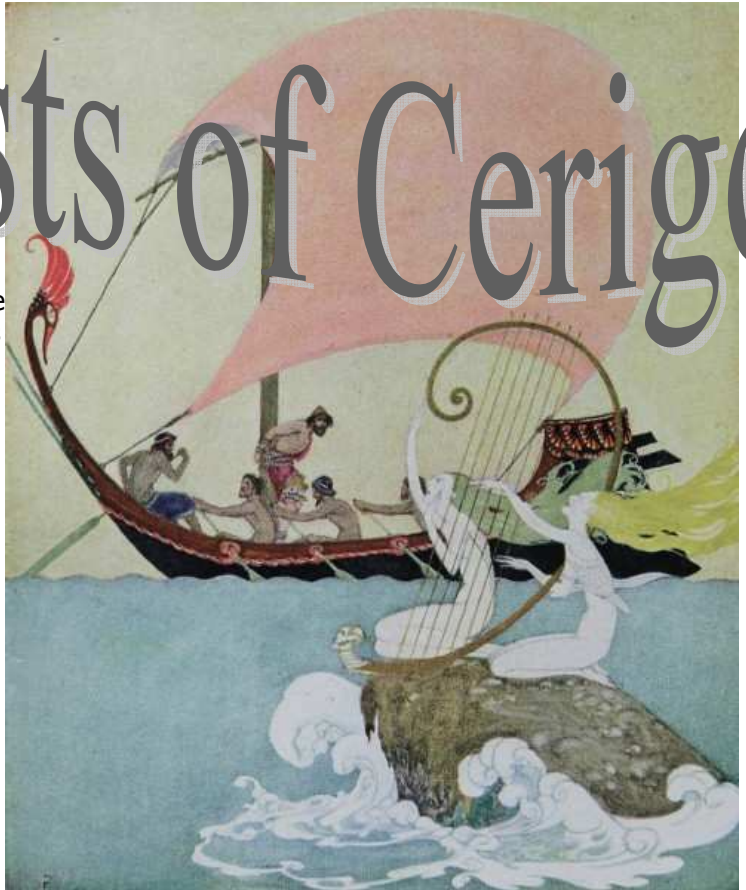
It appears that those 3.5 million households will pay, roughly, 700 million euros towards the tax, or 200 euros each. Even the government doesn't know the real figure as it lacks accurate data on the distribution and value of real-estate wealth in Greece.) As a result, those who up to now were paying, on average, 2,600 euros for the tax will now pay less than that and, at the same time, tax revenue from this source will increase significantly.

*** The author is professor of economics at the American College of Greece**

http://www.athensnews.gr/athweb/nathens.prnt_article?e=C&f=13266&t=01&m=A06&aa=1

The Coasts of Cerigo

The name "Cythera" or "Cerigo" often stimulated the Romantic imagination since the isle of Aphrodite has fascinated artists and writers over the centuries. One example which I happened to come across by accident is a poem called "The Coasts of Cerigo" written by the Australian poet, A D Hope, in which he recounts the myth of the Labra, a fatal mermaid who clutched and crushed bewitched fishermen. This beguiling and haunting poem, set off the mythical coastline of Kythera, is reproduced below.



*Half of the land, conscious of love and grief,
Half of the sea, cold creatures of the foam,
Mermaids still haunt and sing among the coves.*

*Sailors, who catch them basking on the reef,
Say they make love like women, and that some
Will die if once deserted by their loves.*

*Off shore, in deeper water, where the swell
Smokes round their crests, the cliffs of coral plunge
Fathom by fathom to the ocean floor.
There, rooted to the ooze-bed, they tell,
Strange sister to the polyp and the sponge,
To holothurian and madrepore,*

*The Labra wallows in her bath of time
And, drowned in timeless sleep, displays the full
Grace of a goddess risen from the wave.
Small scarlet-crabs with awkward gestures climb
Through the black seaweed drifting from her skull.
Her ladylegs gape darkly as a cave,*

*And through the coral clefts a gleam and gloom
Reveal the froned arch, the pelvic gate;
Spotted and barred, the amorous fish swim in.
But in that hollow, mocking catacomb
Their love-songs echo and reverberate
A senseless clamour and a wordless din.*

*The love-trap closes on its gullible prey
Despite their sobs, despite their ecstasies.
Brilliant with tropic bands and stripes, they dart*

*Through a delicious juice which eats away
Their scales and soon dissolves their goggle eyes
And melts the milt-sac and the pulsing heart.*

*The divers on these coasts have cruel hands;
Their lives are hard; they do not make old bones;
The brutal masters send them down too deep.
But sometimes, as he combs the clefts and sands,
Among the oyster-beds and bearded stones
One comes upon the Labra fast asleep*

*And throws away his knife, his bag of pearl,
To take her in his arms and wrench her free.
Their bodies cling together as they rise
Spinning and drifting in the ocean swirl.
The seamen haul them in and stand to see
The exquisite, fabled creature as she dies.*

*But while in air they watch her choke and drown,
Enchanted by her beauty, they forget
The body of their comrade at her side,
From whose crushed lungs the bright blood oozing down
Jewel by ruby jewel from the wet
Deck drops and merges in the turquoise tide.*

A.D.Hope.

THE RETURN OF THE PARTHENON SCULPTURES: SEX, LIES AND DVDS or why the New Acropolis Museum offers hope for the future

Sex, lies and exaggeration and the campaign for return

Now that I have your attention, you might be thinking what's all this about? Unfortunately, a "sex, lies and DVDs" scandal is painfully unfolding (literally as I write) in Greece involving the former secretary general of the Greek Ministry of Culture, Mr Zahopoulos. The Greek media is obsessed by this story and although there is a judicial investigation under way there are already suggestions of corruption within the culture ministry.

The BBC World Service has run a piece reporting on the ever-growing scandal involving Greece's "top cultural official" and quoting a Greek labour spokesperson (representing workers within the Ministry of Culture) that if the Greeks cannot look after their own antiquities why should they be asking for other cultural property to be returned from overseas (a pointed reference to the Elgin Marbles). The Times newspaper has also published an article from its Athens correspondent questioning the Greeks' "moral authority" to ask for the return of the marbles when the Ministry of Culture is beset by scandal, not that the British are strangers to sex scandals themselves.

At a time when the completion of the New Acropolis Museum should mean the beginning of a new, exciting stage in the campaign with a purpose-built museum ready to display all of the known surviving sculptures, the movement for return has been momentarily distracted by these unsavoury developments in Athens. At the same time, it offers a salutary lesson as to how the campaign for return should be conducted. In Australia there are two committees lobbying for the return of the Parthenon Sculptures. The long-time campaigner and activist, Emanuel Comino, is the chairman of an AHEPA-based group known as the *International Organising Committee - Australia - for the Return of the Parthenon Marbles*. Profession Manuel Aroney is the Vice-Chairman and the association has a number of distinguished people from all walks of life as honorary members.

The other committee, which is recognised by the Greek Government, is *Australians for the Reunification of the Parthenon Sculptures* and is headed by Jenny Bott, the former chief executive officer of the Australia Council for



the Arts. The committee has a number of eminent academics and professionals on its board, including David Hill, the former managing director of the ABC. David is also the chairman of the International Association for the Reunification of the Parthenon Sculptures, a body which represents national associations from a number of countries, including Australia, the United Kingdom, the United States, Sweden, Russia, Germany, Italy and New Zealand. In his capacity as head of the International Association David Hill recently met the new Minister for Culture in Greece, Mihalīs Liapis, to discuss the completion of the New Acropolis Museum and the future directions of the international campaign. The International Association has also recently made formal submissions to the British Government and the British Museum.

Both committees have laudable aims but at the end of the day the campaign for return is bigger than any one individual. It is therefore important that a correct perspective is maintained in media releases and other statements put out by the respective committees since the British Museum has a strong and competent public relations arm and in Neil MacGregor it has a very clever director who has gradually transformed the British Museum into a so-called universal museum which transcends claims for return of cultural property. This is the British Museum's way of deflecting the mounting pressure for return of the sculptures by attempting to promote itself as the "collective memory of mankind" and the logical repository for the marbles.





Transparency, especially that of the glass-enclosed Parthenon Gallery, is one of the building's defining qualities. Here, visitors will be able to view the marbles in daylight and also see the Parthenon where they were originally installed.

Resolution of Cultural Property Disputes – 2003 Conference at the Hague

In those circumstances, the campaign for return must be directed to confronting and challenging the British Museum's apologia for retention and its self-assumed mantle as the world's museum. It is not helped by crude attempts at self-promotion which only have the potential to attract ridicule. A case in point concerns claims made about attendances at international conferences on the subject of stolen cultural property. In 2003 the Permanent Court of Arbitration held its seventh International Law Seminar at the Hague with the theme of the one day conference clearly being the resolution of cultural property disputes. The papers delivered at the conference were subsequently published together with a list of speakers at the conference. In other words, the proceedings of the conference are now a matter of public record as is the identity of the persons who actually presented papers or who formally addressed the conference.

It is clear that the theme of the conference was the restitution by legal means of World War II and holocaust-looted art as well as the more recent and much-publicised looting of museums in Iraq following the US invasion. The keynote address was delivered by the eminent Australian academic and former director of the UNESCO Division of Cultural Heritage, Lyndel Prott, on the prospects for recovery of cultural heritage looted from Iraq. Other papers were delivered by eminent lawyers such as Professor Norman Palmer dealing with legal issues of restitution, arbitration and other legal remedies. The tone was set in the opening remarks of the Secretary-General of the Permanent Court of Arbitration, Tjaco T. van den Hout, who lamented the loss of cultural property and emphasised that this issue

"surpasses cultural and national boundaries and touches all of us".

The conference was concerned with post-World War II looting and the speakers addressed their comments to that issue and the legal framework that is required for repatriation. It was neither a forum for the Parthenon sculptures nor a vehicle for grandstanding or hyperbole.

Now that I have vented my spleen on that subject, I must emphasise that the focus for return must start with the New Acropolis Museum. Let us remember that almost two decades ago the British Museum was warned that one day the Greeks would build a new museum. The then Keeper of Greek and Roman Antiquities wrote to the museum's director with this warning:

"The next phase of the campaign for repatriation is likely to begin any time after the actual start of construction of the new Acropolis Museum. The problem has not gone away, it is merely in hibernation; and when it wakes up, our successors will find that it is fiercer than before."

That day has now arrived and we must now seize the moment to take advantage of the British Museum's clear discomfort. The new museum is now open to the public although it will not be officially opened until later in 2008.

Inside the New Acropolis Museum

The New Acropolis Museum, designed by the renown Swiss-American architect Bernard Tschumi, has been declared a "geometrical marvel dedicated to the celebration of antiquity" (in the words of the leading British architecture critic, Jonathan Glancey). However, unlike many famous museums (such as the Guggenheim in Bilbao) which are so-called destination museums (in that their striking architecture is more attractive to visitors than the art works held inside the museum) the New Acropolis Museum has been designed and built as a site-specific museum to facilitate the exhibition of the sculptures and other artefacts within the context of the Sacred Rock that is the Acropolis.

The New York Times' influential architecture critic, Nicolai Ouroussoff, has observed that the museum's architects have succeeded in fusing sculpture, architecture and the ancient landscape into a forceful visual narrative. According to Ouroussoff:

"Mr. Tschumi pulled off an impressive accomplishment: a building that is both an enlightening meditation on the Parthenon and a mesmerizing work in its own right. I can't remember seeing a design that is so eloquent about another work of architecture ... It's impossible to stand in the top-floor galleries, in full view of the Parthenon's ravaged, sun-bleached frame, without craving



The New Acropolis Museum is first and foremost a museum of natural light, concerned with the presentation of sculptural objects within it. In the New Acropolis Museum, the visitor's route takes the form of a clear three-dimensional loop along a multi-levelled architectural promenade extending from the archaeological excavations to the Parthenon sculptures and back through the Roman period. Movement in and through time is therefore a crucial dimension of architecture and of the New Acropolis Museum in particular, through the simple movement of visitors walking or their movement ascending or descending a staircase or escalator.

stand in the top-floor galleries, in full view of the Parthenon's ravaged, sun-bleached frame, without craving the marbles' return."

The New York Times' critic is clearly very impressed by the new museum for he adds:

"It's a magical experience. Rather than replicating or simply echoing the Classical past, Mr Tschumi engages in a dialogue that reaches across centuries. In dismantling the ruins of one of the glories of Western civilization, Lord Elgin robbed them of their meaning. The profound connection of the marbles to the civilization that produced them is lost. Mr Tschumi's great accomplishment is to express this truth in

architectural form. Without pomp or histrionics, his building makes the argument for the marbles' return."

According to Glancey, the new museum - unpretentious, well-built and wearing its ingenuity lightly - is a relaxed walk through layers of ancient Greek art, architecture and city-making. It makes the Parthenon even more important than it has been over the past two centuries, even if some of its marbles, the very reason for the museum's construction, are still missing.

The return of the sculptures – a special case

The Parthenon is almost unique. As the great architect Daniel Liebeskind (himself the runner-up in the international competition to design the New Acropolis Museum) has written, when we consider history what we see before us are the buildings; a great building, like great literature or poetry or music, can tell the story of the human soul.

The New Acropolis Museum serves not to recreate the past – as the stolid and uninspiring display of the Elgin Collection of Parthenon Sculptures attempts to do in the cavernous Duveen Gallery of the British Museum - but to re-interpret the past.

According to the famous French modernist architect Le Corbusier, architecture is the perfectly proportioned harmony of forms in light. And in the Parthenon architecture has found perfection and the New Acropolis Museum provides a whole world of sensations as it stimulates and engages the body and the mind, emotion and intellect, memory and imagination.

The New Acropolis Museum is a stunning development which will eventually serve as the unifying element and indisputable reference point for the Parthenon sculptures and other treasures of antiquity from the Sacred Rock itself. The Parthenon Sculptures will at last be allowed to speak for themselves.

George Vardas

Australians for the Reunification of the Parthenon Sculptures



20 reasons you know you're Kytherian

There are a number of websites featuring jokes along the lines "you know you are Greek if ...". Some of them are actually quite witty. Well, not to be outdone, the Kytherian Summer Edition Newsletter has come with a modified list of tell tale signs that you're a Kytherian. So here goes. **You know you're Kytherian if ...**

You call dips *xerotiganna*

You grew up in a café or milk bar

You consider *fava* to be a delicacy

You regard the expression "You're such a Tsirigoti" as a term of endearment

Your idea of interior decorating revolves around the number of needlework doilies in your house

You regard anyone who is not from Kythera as a *xeno* or *xeni*

You only go to restaurants which have *horta* on the menu

Your family inheritance in Kythera consists almost solely of olive trees and *horafia*

You name your children after your parents

You warn people of *bourinia* when a storm is approaching

You first go to the death notices in the Sydney Morning Herald

All five of your male first cousins are named after your grandfather

You still eat vanilla with a spoon from a jar

Your mother is overly protective of the males in the family no matter how old they are

You consider garlic as a main meal

Your idea of a European vacation is six weeks on Kythera

You go to Kythera and spend all the time with other Kytherian-Australians vacationing on the island

Getting married is the only way you can leave home

Your father still tells you to stay alert with the expression "ta matia sou 14"

There is enough food left over at a family gathering to feed a small third world country.

George Vardas