

news

Vol. XXI, No. 1 - Spring 2015

2014: A Year In Review

THE HELLENIC PRESERVATION SOCIETY of Northeastern Ohio

March, 2015

DEAR HPS SUPPORTER,

The Hellenic Preservation Society of Northeastern Ohio completed its 23rd year. Thank you for the honor of serving as President these past several years. HPS in 2014 formulated plans to move our organization forward. We recognized the need to expand the HPS Board membership and bring new ideas and workers into our organization. This year we had great success by adding Maribeth Lekas, Ellie Skoutas and Renee Steffas to the Board. Their enthusiasm and willingness to contribute has already shown dividends.

We elected new HPS officers for 2015; President - Thanasi Sarantopoulos, Vice President - Ellie Skoutas, Treasurer - Faith Chakalis with a transition to Maribeth Lekas during the year and Secretary Bea Meros. Congratulations to the new officers and may your effort be as rewarding as mine. Committee chairs will be Programs & Education – George Gary Thomas, Greek Garden - Andy Chakalis, Collections / Archives - Andy Chakalis, Communications, Membership, Newsletter - Laura and Maria Cashy.

HPS continued the ongoing support of several programs and projects that have been our foundation. We again through our Programs Committee chaired by Maria Cashy hosted the reception after the Dr. John and Helen Collis Lecture on Sunday September 28, 2014, at Cleveland Museum of Art (CMA). The presentation was by Dr. Anastasios Antonaras, archaeologist-museologist at the Museum of Byzantine Culture, Thessaloniki, Greece. Dr. Antonaras presented the fascinating history of glass shapes, forms, and uses of glass objects from the Byzantine Empire and their continued influence throughout civilization. This lecture is endowed directly by Dr. John and Helen Collis with CMA. HPS is grateful to be able to be a small part of this wonderful series by hosting the reception. HPS continued its participation at the International Community Day at CMA, Oct. 12, 2014 and the Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) Annual Dionysia Theatrical event, Nov. 15, 2014. HPS added several new items to our collection and continued the cataloging and photographing effort.

HPS once again participated in the One World Festival at the Cleveland Cultural Gardens, Sep. 13 and 14, 2014. Over 20,000 visitors were treated to the 24 gardens that represent the different ethnic and community groups that make up greater Cleveland. These gardens originally configured from the 1916 through the 1940's fell into disrepair by 1990. HPS was a leader in restoring the gardens and was among the first to restore and renovate the Greek Garden. The Greek Garden has never looked better thanks to the tireless effort of Andrew and Faith Chakalis.

HPS efforts continue to be consistent with our mission "to present a unified voice of the Hellenes in Northeastern Ohio that will promote the Greek experience through programs, collections and preservation." In that spirit we are announcing a new program; "The HPS Annual Distinguished Lecture Series on Contemporary Hellenic Issues". The series will annually invite a Nationally and Internationally known diplomat, expert, and/or leader to speak on issues that affect Hellenes world-wide. We **tentatively** scheduled the first speaker, His Excellency George Chacalli - Ambassador of Cyprus for the week of June 1, 2015. We are also making plans for a social event at the Greek garden in early August, 2015. We plan to ambitiously move forward in anticipation of our 25th Anniversary in 2016.

We are always looking for new Board members, committee members or just individuals to help on an individual project, "the harvest is plentiful and the workers are few". Please contact one of our Board members to convey your interest. Thank you for your support of HPS and hope that you will continue to demonstrate your belief in our mission and support of our effort to promote the Greek experience.

Sincerely,

George Gary Thomas, President

Recent Gifts To The Collections And Archives:



Textile

Greek Costume
1920-1930
Greece
Maker-Unknown
Gift of Mrs. Electra Johnson
HPS 2014/02

A two-piece Greek costume with matching apron. The costume consists of a one piece dress (possibly made of silk), red velvet detail at neckline with multi-colored brocade (red, gold, blue, yellow) at the hemline. The long sleeves of the dress end in the multi-colored brocade over red velvet, matching the skirt hem and are adorned with a gold colored scalloped detailing. The hip-length vest is made of the same material as the dress and is outlined in red velvet. Gold-colored scalloped detailing is on the front and back of the vest. The apron has the same multi-colored brocade as the dress at the waist and hem. A gold colored scalloped detailing outlines the apron.

Archive

Not Pictured
Bound Greek Encyclopedias
Printed in Athens, Greece
20th Century
20 Volumes; 14.5" in length,
10.5" wide and 2.0" deep
Copyright 1931 by "PYROS" Co., LTD.
Athens
Gift of Mrs. Electra Johnson
HPS A-2014/01

Archive

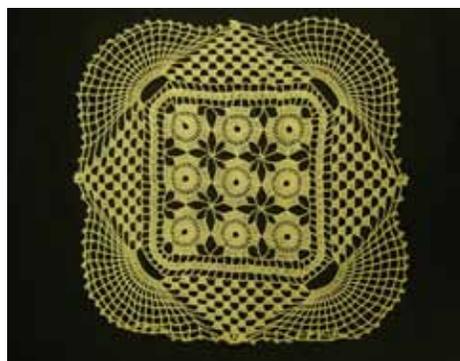
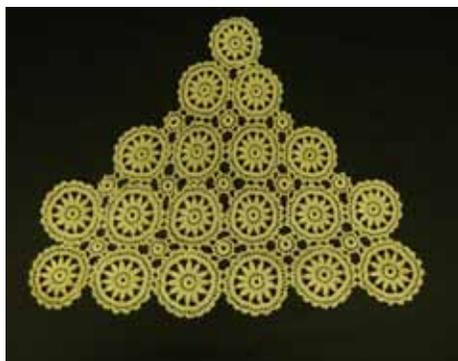
Not Pictured
Photograph, black and white
1938
"Sixth National Convention
Pancretan Union of America,
July 10th to 16th 1938, Akron Ohio".
Akron, Ohio
20" in length and 12" high
Photograph taken by Stivas Studios,
July 13, 1938, Akron, Ohio
Gift of Dr. John and Helen Collis
HPS A-2014/02

Textile

Three of the six designs are pictured.
Crochet
1900-1915
The Island of Kastellorizo
(part of the Dodecanese Islands)
Maker- Chrysi Karazepuni Passaris
Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Dean Peters
HPS 2014/03 a-j

All of the embroideries were made from 1900-1915 by Chrysi Karazepuni Passaris who brought them to the New York in 1925 as part of her dowry. When her daughter, Marsha Peters came to Cleveland, she brought many pieces with her. These were found by Heidi Peters in a cedar hope chest.

(10) crocheted tan/beige thread (κεντηματα) embroideries of varying shapes and designs: 5 @ 8 1/2" wide x 14" long, triangular in shape; 1 @ 13" in diameter; 1 @ 10" in diameter; 1 @ 11" x 11" sq.; 1 @ 12'x 12" sq.; 1 @ 19"wide x 15" long, triangular in shape.



Textiles

Three Women's Blouses

One of three blouses is pictured.

Gift of Mrs. Catherine Cashy

HPS 2013/25-27

2013/25 Black synthetic material with a silver and gold toned stitched design detail is on the square collar, the hem of the capped sleeves and on the face of the blouse. Six rows of gold toned thread stitching is on each shoulder and on the hem of the blouse.

2013/26 Cream colored which appears to be handmade and stitched. A Greek key design in copper and bronze toned thread is on the square collar, the hem of the capped sleeves and on the face of the blouse. The face stitching is surrounded by additional stitched embel-

ishments in copper and bronze colored thread and include a "fleur de" design. Each shoulder has four rows of hand stitching creating a pleated design.

2013/27 Long-sleeved pull over, cream colored, appears to be handmade and stitched Greek key design in pink toned thread is on the square collar surrounded by a rose colored stitching is also found on the hem of the collar. The same thread is used to fashion a bow to tie the top of the blouse. Pink thread stitching is used along the shoulder, arm, and side, down the sleeve and around the bottom hem. The sleeves and cuffs are embellished with the Greek key and other design elements. The front of the blouse duplicates the design motif found on the sleeves.



Case Western Reserve University 2014 City Dionysia

HPS was proud to again be one of the sponsors of the Case Western Reserve University City Dionysia. Presented by the Classics Department the City Dionysia is a competition where high school students present an original adaptation of a classic Greek play into a 15 minute performance. Euripides' Medea was the 2014 offering. Congratulations to the Shaker Heights team the 2014 winners!

In conjunction with the City Dionysia, Dr Mary Kay Gamel, Professor of Classics, Comparative Literature and Theater at the University of California, Santa Cruz, presented a lecture titled "Metamorphoses of Medea."

– Laura Cashy

2014 International Cleveland Community Day

On October 12 the Cleveland Museum of Art celebrated Cleveland's rich ethnic heritage with the International Cleveland Community Day. The atrium was filled with music, song, dance and the colorful displays of over 40 different ethnic and cultural groups.

HPS presented a display from its Archives of black and white photographic reproductions documenting but a few of the various Hellenic Community Annual Picnics which took place during the 1920's thru the 1950's."

HPS also sponsored a Hellenic Dance group from St. Demetrios Church. The girls wowed the crowd with their Zorba dance.

– Laura Cashy



2014 National St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival

On June 14, 2014, the Hellenic Preservation Society collaborated with the host committee of the 2014 National St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival to receive His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America at the Greek Cultural Garden. Under the auspices of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh, the historic parish of Annunciation Cleveland played host to 18 talented Greek Orthodox students from all nine Greek Orthodox Metropolises across the nation, accompanied by their families, friends, and clergy. Being so impressed by the Garden, His Eminence used the visit as an opportunity to address the youth on the importance of perpetuating Hellenic Studies.

Also in attendance was Metropolitan Bishop Savas of Pittsburgh. The Archbishop's visit acted as a re-commemoration at the Greek Cultural Garden, which was originally opened and blessed by the late Archbishop of the Americas, His Eminence Athenagoras (attended by the then-mayor of Cleveland) in 1940. Archbishop Demetrios was presented with a plaque from HPS, as well as a tree to be planted in his honor. The Oratorical Host Committee also used the photo opportunity to re-create the scene of the original commemoration.

– Ellie Skoutas

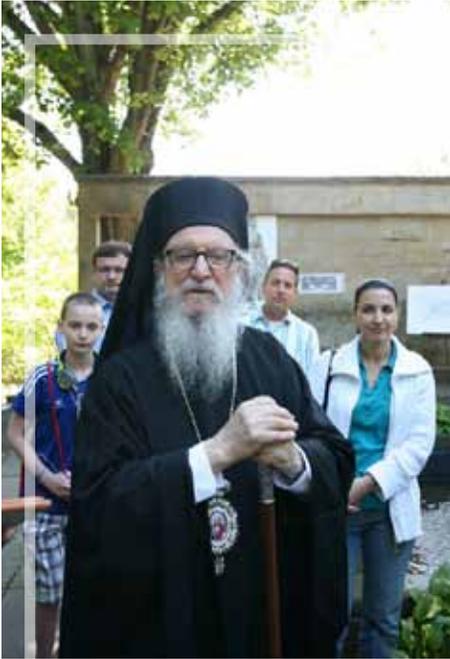
(see additional photos on page 5)



His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios and Gary Thomas



Attendees of the National St John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival visit the Greek Garden



Row 1 (left to right): His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios; Andy Chakalis discusses the garden plan with His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, Metropolitan Savas of Pittsburgh, and Arch Deacon Ryan Gzikowski

Row 2 (left to right): Rev. Fr. Dean Dimon with His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios; Gary Thomas with Metropolitan Savas of Pittsburgh

Row 3: Participants from the St John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival and His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios visit the Greek Cultural Garden



Glass and Arts in the Byzantine Empire

The 11th Annual Dr. John and Helen Collis Lecture at the Cleveland Museum of Art

Sunday, September 28, 2014 was a glorious Indian Summer day. Despite traffic problems associated with bike races in University Circle, an overflow crowd gathered at the Cleveland Museum of Art in the museum's grand Gartner Auditorium for the 11th Annual Dr. John and Helen Collis Lecture.

As the lobby filled, the always-pleasant museum staff directed guests and sent those without seats downstairs where arrangements had been made to stream the lecture live into the museum's lecture and recital halls.

For those of you who have never attended the Collis Lecture, it's an annual event dedicated to a topic in either Ancient Greek or Byzantine Art. Each year an outstanding scholar is invited and, on the appointed day, the lobby of the museum is filled to capacity. The atmosphere is one of kindred souls, gathered – once again – to celebrate the Museum, its collections, and the heritage of Greece.

2014's noted scholar was Dr. Anastasios Antonaras, archaeologist-museologist at the Museum of Byzantine Culture, Thessaloniki, Greece and his topic: "Glass and Arts in the Byzantine Empire."

Dr. William Griswold, the new Director of the Cleveland Museum of Art, opened the event welcoming visitors to the 11th Annual Collis lecture, praising the generosity of Dr. John and Helen Collis and the Hellenic Preservation Society of Northeast Ohio saying,

Like many others I've admired the Hellenic Preservation Society's collections, and profound commitment to scholarship. The Collis lecture is an outstanding example of this commitment. The series begins its second decade with illuminating museum exhibitions, and discussions of significant archaeological discoveries.

Griswold further commented on the important work accomplished by HPS since its founding in 1991 *beginning*

with the impressive contributions to the exhibition Holy Image, Holy Space, the society has supported programs, collections, preservation, been involved in important public works including the restoration of the Greek Cultural Garden and the conservation of 30 icons at the Church of the Annunciation.

After these remarks, Griswold introduced Stephen N. Fliegel the Museum's Curator of Medieval Art who pointed out how the Collis Lecture Series has grown in vitality to become one of the Cleveland Museum of Art's great institutional success stories. The important legacy of Greek speaking, classically based civilizations, is now attracting greater consideration because of the Collis lectures. Fliegel went on to introduce Dr. Anastasios Antonaras, archaeologist-museologist at the Museum of Byzantine Culture, Thessaloniki, Greece, telling the audience *we are fortunate to avail ourselves of his erudition, as he speaks of the importance and preeminence of glass in the Byzantine empire.*

Dr. Antonaras, a specialist in early glass, has been the recipient of a number of fellowships and awards, including a visiting fellowship at Princeton. He has presented at over 30 conferences, has served on several archaeological digs, and is widely published. He is currently Secretary General of the The Association for the History of Glass (<http://www.historyofglass.org.uk/>).

Professor Antonaras, dapper and distinguished, took the stage welcoming the audience, first in Greek and then in English. He began by thanking Dr. and Mrs. Collis, Stephen Fliegel and other members of the CMA staff and then announced *I hope that the beauty of the objects will compensate for my poor English.* And with that statement Antonaras began a breathtaking, whirlwind tour of "Glass and Arts in the Byzantine Empire." Perhaps never before has a CMA audience been taken



Chalice (Chalice) (detail) 900s-1000s Byzantium, Middle Byzantine. Blood jasper (heliotrope) with gilt copper mounts. h: 7.7 cm. John L. Severance Fund 2013.49.

through so many centuries of beautiful objects in such a short amount of time.

Glass was one of the first materials created by humans. Originally it was expensive, used and owned only by those of the highest social station. The invention of glass blowing in first Century B.C. resulted in more reasonably priced products and glass vessels became commonplace.

After a brief history of glass, Dr. Antonaras' remarks moved to the Early Christian Period (4th-7th centuries A.D.). He showed images of glassware widely used on the tables of upper and middle class families, informing the audience that a plain glass vessel was worth 10 times the cost of a simple clay vessel. From tableware he moved to a discussion of glassware for drinking, lamps, cosmetics, medicines, jewelry, and bookbinding.

The audience learned about glass production and the existence of large workshops, situated along the coasts of course, because of the proximity to the sand needed for its creation. He displayed images of small vials – ampullae – used for the transportation of holy water and noted that window glass was widely used from the 1st

century. The vast majority of glass production was for mosaics. He cited the 17 tons of mosaics in the Rotunda of Galerius, Thessaloniki as an example.

Before the audience had a chance to catch its collective breath, Dr. Antonaras was bringing the Middle Byzantine period (843-1024) to life. During this period, Greek became the official language of the state and Christianity spread from Constantinople to Slavic lands to the north. Military governors provided administration for expanding territories. During this period, he noted, the number of glass vessels diminished, possibly because of events in Palestine where many of the primary glass workshops were located. The glass from this period is less sumptuous.

Some stemmed goblets and spindle shaped vessels are extant. Glass lamps are the only type of utilitarian objects available from this period. There are

some gilded and painted vessels from this period, but the exact use of the luxurious glassware is unknown. Most of what we know about glass from this period comes from items recovered from shipwrecks.

The audience learned that glass bracelets were plentiful in the Late Byzantine Period (13th -15th centuries) – sometimes twisted and sometimes decorated, though painted examples are very few. Glass gems and jewels are ample among the finds from the late period including two rings, found in neighboring graves, with insets – possibly zodiac signs. Glass beads were used in strands as necklaces and also in earrings and rings, and there was an audible sigh from the audience as an exquisite pair of gold armbands flashed upon the screen.

Perhaps the most moving images from Dr. Antonaras' presentation were the views of Mt. Athos. Audience

members, including those without the Y chromosome required for actual entrance into the 20 monasteries on Mt. Athos, were able to get a feeling for how glass lamps were used in the interiors of these sacred spaces. Equally as compelling were the small spindle shaped bottles meant to hold tears of the faithful called "unguentaria."

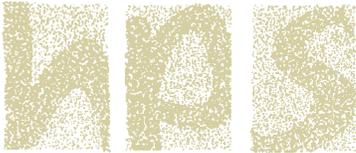
By the time Dr. Antonaras brought his presentation to a close, with a Byzantine poem about glass, the audience had traveled many centuries with him. The shock of coming back to the 21st century was made slightly easier with the announcement of the date and topic for the 2015 Collis Lecture.

– Holly Witchey, Ph.D.

Save the date: September 27, 2015 when Dr. Seth D. Pevnick, The Richard E. Perry Curator of Classical Art at the Tampa will discuss "Poseidon and the Sea: Myth Cult and Daily Life."

*Front row: Steve Lekas, Dr. Anastasios Antonaras, Andrea Lekas, Maria Efstatiou, Maribeth Lekas & Helen Collis
Back row: Stephen Fleigel, Dr. John Collis, Nikos Mizas, Dr. Michael Bennett, and CMA Director William Griswold*





THE HELLENIC PRESERVATION SOCIETY
of Northeastern Ohio

P.O. Box 5028
Cleveland, Ohio 44101-0028

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Cleveland, Ohio
Permit No. 3046

The mission of the Hellenic Preservation Society is to present a unified voice of the Hellenes in Northeastern Ohio that will promote the Greek experience through education, collection and preservation.

ONE WORLD FESTIVAL (September 13 & 14, 2014)

The Greek Cultural Garden participated in the One World Festival held at the Cleveland Cultural Gardens, which encompassed the 67th Annual One World Day (OWD) Celebration. The OWD Ceremonies started with a procession of some of the entertainers participating in the One World Festival, followed by the colorful Parade of Flags with Jimmy Watson as our flag bearer. After the National Anthem and speeches by various dignitaries, 25 individuals participated in the Naturalization Ceremony, becoming citizens of the United States.

The weekend was full of entertainment, food and fun. The Greek Cultural Garden hosted variety of different and diverse activities including: The Tasno Choir, Hasu Patel - Sitar, M. Jafar Amir Mahallati, Presidential Scholar of Islam

at Oberlin College (The Global Voices Speaker Series) Greater Cleveland Russian Chorus, Bodwin Theatre presenting Euripides' and Alcestis and Alejandra Martinez, Soprano & piano.

One of the more popular activities during the weekend was the children's "Passport Program". The participating garden was to teach each Passport holder something about their garden or heritage (i.e. a folk dance step or learning a word in the ethnic language etc.). When the task was successfully completed their "Passport" was stamped as proof of visiting the country of the garden- Greece. We took advantage of the Garden's water feature and taught the participants the Greek word for water- νερό.

— Andrew Chakalis

