

THE HELLENIC PRESERVATION SOCIETY of Northeastern Ohio

## Collis Lecture Series at CMA Draws 419



*Dr. David Mitten of Harvard University, Helen Collis and Dr. John Collis*

On October 22, the Cleveland Museum of Art hosted the third annual lecture of The John and Helen Collis Endowment Lecture Series devoted to Ancient Greek and Byzantine Art. This year's topic was "Images of Alexander the Great: A Man for All Seasons." But the speaker, Harvard professor, Dr. David G. Mitten said he should have called it "Alexander: Champion of Hellenism.

In his hour long presentation, which included a slide show, Dr. Mitten talked about how images of Alexander appeared on everything from ancient coins to statues to posters in modern-day Greece. He referred to Alexander as "the most important secular historical figure" of the ancient world but one that we know too little about, due to many contemporary sources (such as diaries) being lost. Luckily, he also seemed to be, according to Dr. Mitten, "the greatest self-promoter in history." It was his image appearing with a ram's horn (symbolic of Zeus) in many coins that helped set the precedence of so-called divine kingships, such as the Egyptian Pharaohs claimed. So historians and archaeologists do have coins and statues from which to get an idea of what Alexander looked like.

Most statues of him consistently portray his deep-set eyes and a (lion-like?) mane of curly hair. He himself actually commissioned works of art showing his own exploits. Most of these were wall paintings of which few remain. Fortunately, there were many copies made in mosaic floors in places like Pompeii, which survived.

Images of Alexander appeared on coins of the Roman and Byzantine empires and, most recently, on the now-defunct 100 drachma coin. He was in medieval manuscripts and the subject of paintings from the Renaissance through the 18th century, when his image was used to champion the cause of Hellenism.

Dr. Mitten even showed examples of folk art, such as an early 19th century donkey saddle, which featured the legendary "Panagia Gorgona"-Alexander's sister as a mermaid. According to legend, she would cause squalls in the Aegean, asking ship captains, "Where is Alexander?" The "correct" answer-if you wanted your ship to be saved-was "He lives and rules and governs the world." Even the heroes of the 1821 Greek Revolution modeled their sculptures, which

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### Welcome New Members

Nicholas & Mary Chapler  
Steven & Margaret Kacludis

## Update of the Greek History Book Project

HPS recently sponsored a special project to complete a second printing of the second edition of the publication *Greek Americans of Cleveland*. As part of this effort, HPS received pre-orders for the new printing and received Family History's from sponsors to be included in Part II of the publication titled "Family Album." The final goal of the project was for HPS to receive the copyright of the publication that HPS would maintain and preserve. HPS has completed their obligation to individuals that pre-paid and to all family history sponsors by delivering the publication to them.

After review of the final manuscript, the HPS Board decided to not continue distribution of the publication and returned the copyright to the authors. We want to thank the authors Mike Vasilakes and Dr. Themistocles Rodis and Charlotte LaJoe that headed up sales and distribution and their committee for their efforts on this special project.

*hps*

- The Board of Trustees

## HPS Sails in Cleveland's Majestic Parade of Sail

Ahoy matey!! Those were the most audible words heard by HPS and guests as they boarded the Windy II tall ship on July 12th. Our crowd enthusiastically climbed aboard and quickly found a seat or spot to anchor on to.

Our sail was delayed by more than an hour due to the inclement weather on Lake Erie. It seems that we, the Greek community, cannot win at times!

*continued on page 7*

## TA NEA MAS

Από την περασμένη μας έκδοση, ο σύλλογος έχει διοργανώσει αρκετές ενδιαφέρουσες εκδηλώσεις. Η κρουαζιέρα "Ψηλά Καράβια" σημείωσε μεγάλη επιτυχία, καθώς οι παραβρισκόμενοι πέρασαν πολύ ωραία στα ανοιχτά νερά της μεγάλης μας λίμνης Erie. Επίσης η ποδοσφαιρική μας ομάδα είχε συμμετοχή σε σειρά αγώνων, συνεχίζοντας με ένδοξο τρόπο την σπουδαία αθλητική παράδοση του συλλόγου η οποία ξεκίνησε προ τών με τις "Μικρο-Ολυμπιάδες" εκ του Peter Boukis.

Collis Lecture. Στις 22 Οκτωβρίου, στο μουσείο καλών τεχνών του Cleveland Museum of Art, παρουσίασε ομιλία ο καθηγητής του πανεπιστημίου Harvard Dr. David Gordon Mitten, ο οποίος εξήγησε με απλό και ενδιαφέρον τρόπο την σημασία του Μεγάλου Αλεξάνδρου. Για την εν λόγω διάλεξη, πουλήθηκαν 500 εισιτήρια! Οφείλουμε όλοι να υπενθυμίζουμε τους φίλους και γνωστούς μας, την ελληνικότητα του Μεγάλου Αλεξάνδρου και των Αρχαίων Μακεδόνων, καθώς άλλοι παράγοντες (κυρίως της FYROM) την αμφισβητούν. Η στάση του σοβαρού καθηγητή Mitten επικυρώνει την ελληνική θέση και την δυναμώνει στην διεθνή σκηνή.

Απίστευτο και όμως αληθινό είναι το γεγονός ότι το κινηματογραφικό έργο IMAX ακόμη προβάλλεται στο επιστημονικό κέντρο μεγάλων λιμνών. Όπως γνωρίζουμε, ο σύλλογός μας είναι τοπικός χορηγός. Όσοι δεν το έχετε απολαύσει μέχρι τώρα έχουν την ευκαιρία να το δούν.

Καλες Εορτες!

Μετά τιμής,

Θανάσης Σαραντόπουλος

## HPS Welcomes Two New Board Members

### Dr. S. Victor Papacosma

If, Alexander the Great is "A Man for All Seasons," then, our new Trustee, Dr. S. Victor Papacosma, is "A Hellene for All Seasons." He is a professor specializing in Greek and Balkan Studies who teaches at Kent State University, Akron University and abroad in Switzerland and Greece.

He is the author of *The Military in Greek Politics, Politics and Culture in Greece* and co-authored *Europe's Neutral and Nonaligned States*.

In 1997, Papacosma served as Chairman of the Modern Greek Studies Association Conference held at Kent State University.

After establishing the Greek Ethnic Collection at Akron University, Papacosma contributed some of his personal artifacts to the collection.

Through the sponsorship of Papacosma, students from Thessalonica received their internship at KSU.

Twice, the Hellenic Preservation Society was fortunate to have Papacosma as their Distinguished Speaker.

Papacosma's Hellenism is a valuable addition to the Hellenic Preservation Society.

### Irene Vianos

HPS is also fortunate to have Irene Vianos as the newest member of the Board of Trustees.

Vianos brings with her all the "people skills" she honed while working in the Human Resources Department of *The Plain Dealer* for 30 years.

For three decades, she administered the personal needs of employees such as health and retirement benefits, insurance and tuitions.

At *The Plain Dealer's* retirement party for her, she was honored for her work by the United Way and the Red Cross. Her organizational skills reflected in executing United Way Campaigns and Red Cross Blood Drives will be an asset to the Hellenic Preservation Society.

Her "get down to work" ethic is evident in her philanthropic efforts at St. Demetrios Church. She is secretary of the Library Committee, a member of the Bible Study and the Book Discussion Group. Also, Vianos is a proud and active member of the Cretan Society.

Whenever anything is asked of her, she responds with a smile straight from the heart.

hps

- James LaJoe

## Three HPS Trustees End Their Terms

Cleo Anton, Vickie Douzos and Irene Steffas are leaving the Board after serving two terms as Trustees.

HPS is most appreciative of the time and effort given by these three retiring Board members.

Vickie Douzos was secretary and on the Membership Committee.

Cleo Anton and Irene Steffas both served on the Special Events Committee.

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- Pauline C. Latkovic

## HPS Will Co-Sponsor Greek Letters Day

The Hellenic Preservation Society and The Balourdas Greek School of St. Demetrios Church will co-sponsor the annual Three Heirachs and Greek Letters Day Luncheon with guest speaker Dr. Speros Vryonis, author of *The Mechanism of Catastrophe*, on Sunday, January 28, 2007.

Vryonis is a grand master of Hellenic studies who has inspired many students, colleagues and associates throughout the world to pursue studies in Hellenism.

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- Pauline C. Latkovic

## Greek Garden 2006 Review



*West slope of the Greek Garden at the Cleveland Cultural Gardens. Detail of Poet's Bench with recently installed sandstone urns.*

During 2006, we continued with garden maintenance: re-planting trees, ground cover, flowers and overall general maintenance. All of these improvements as well as the on-going maintenance continue to be to be underwritten by the Hellenic Preservation Society.

As part of the on-going restoration commitment to the garden, HPS approved underwriting the cost of the poets' bench, which faces Martin Luther King Boulevard. HPS committed 60 percent of the overall cost while The Holden Trust assumed responsibility for the remaining 40 percent.

The new sandstone urns are consistent with those that had been originally placed on the right and left of the poets' bench. The urns were fabricated by Amherst Stone at Cleveland Quarries in Amherst, Ohio. Their quarries provided all of the sandstone used in the original construction of the Garden.

The installation took on a rather festive tone. Gail Karagiozis supplied one

of her wonderful lunches to all present: Brian Ezzo of Ezzo Independence Landscaping who moved the urns to the garden site; All Erection Crane employees who raised the urns up the hill, some 60 feet placing them on their pedestals; and Perrin Carpenter of the Rockefeller Greenhouse, who oversaw the installation on behalf of the City of Cleveland. Andrew Chakalis and Duke Karagiozis were on site and mechanically fastened the urns to the pedestals.

Thanks to James Watson and Mike Papouras for volunteering with us to ensure that the landscape and infrastructure of the garden is maintained.

Currently, the activities at the garden are focused on fall clean-up in preparation for the winter.

*hps*

- Andrew Chakalis

## The Hellenistic Age (323 - 30 B.C.)

*Philip II -359-336 B.C. and  
Alexander III - 336-323 B.C.*

*continued from Summer Issue 2006*

During the first two centuries of the Hellenistic period after Alexander and before the appearance of the Romans, there was general economic prosperity. This prosperity, however, was concentrated in the cities, and primarily among the upper classes, namely the rulers, the large landowners, the merchants and the publicans. Because of the unequal distribution of wealth, this prosperity was not shared by the lower classes, neither among the skilled nor the unskilled workers. Trade boomed, and agriculture was also affected. But wages were so low and unemployment so widespread that there was an actual decline in slavery because it was cheaper to hire a free man at low wages than to buy and support a slave.

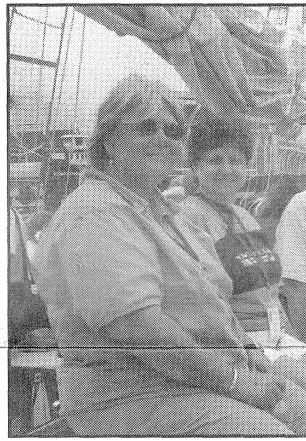
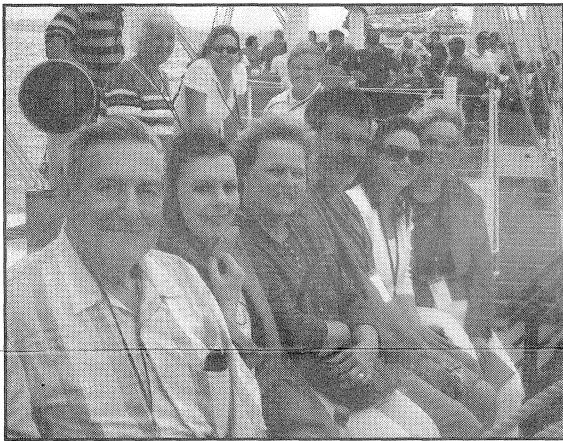
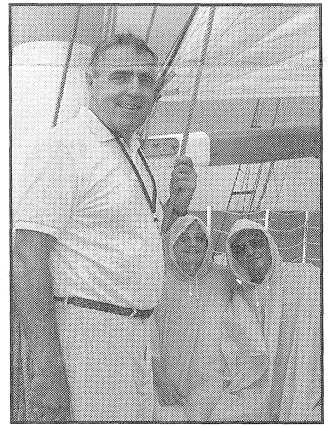
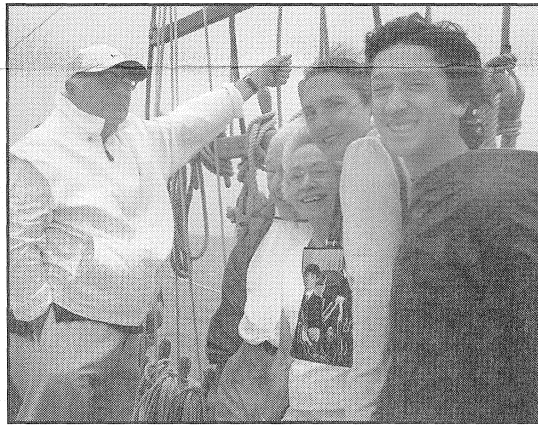
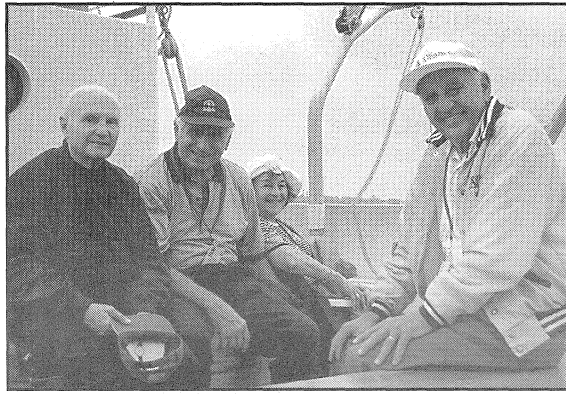
Another consequence of the changed economic and social conditions was the appearance of large, sprawling urban centers. Despite the continued dependence on agriculture and the fact that most people still lived in the country, there occurred a great growth of metropolitan centers. This expansion and concentration of manufacturing and commerce plus the confiscation of small farms and shops by the governments, large landowners and merchants undoubtedly contributed to the growth of these cities. The cities of Antioch and Seleucia, for example doubled and quadrupled the number of their inhabitants. (similar to what we are experiencing today)

For example, Alexandria reached a population of one million within a single century, becoming the show-place of the Hellenistic Age where so many beautiful buildings, wide streets and a great museum could be found. Alexandria furthermore, had the largest library in antiquity, containing as many as 750,000 volumes. Unfortunately, the library and all its contents were destroyed in a fire. This was a devastating blow to the learning of

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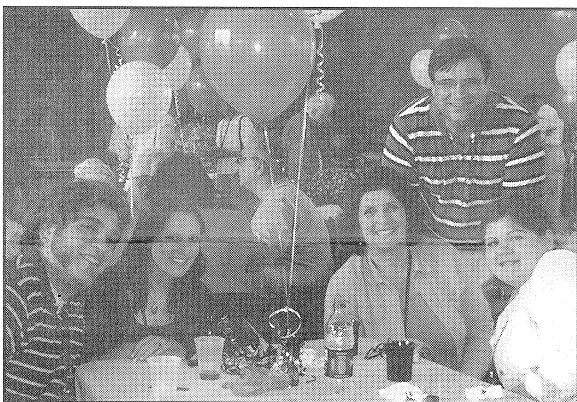
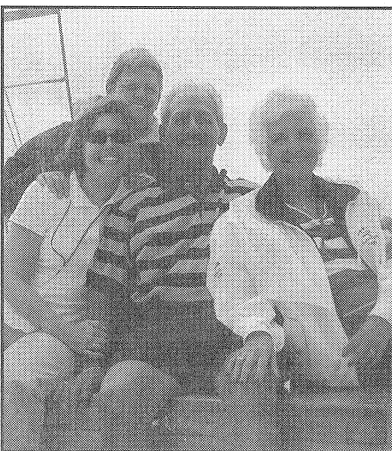


# GREEKS CELEBRATE CLEVELAND





# S HARBORFEST PARADE OF SAIL



## Hellenistic Age-continued

that time and a great loss to posterity. Because of all its attributes, it is easy to see why Alexandria became and continued to be the center of culture, science, education, art and architecture well into the subsequent Roman period as well. (see A.J. Grant)

Although the Romans conquered the Greeks militarily and imposed political control over them, the Greeks, through their culture, art, architecture and literature unexpectedly had a profound effect on the Romans. The Roman poet Horace (Q. Horatus Flaccus, 65-68 B.C.) in his satires, literally acknowledged this anomaly when he wrote, "Captive Greece took her barbarian conqueror captive." (*Graecia cepta ferum victorem cepit.*) This ironic observation was confirmed thousands of years later, according to Henry C. Boren, by historian "Arnold J. Toynbee in his monumental work, *A Study of History*, where he listed Rome under 'Hellenic Society' to underline the undoubted fact that Rome owed more to the Greeks than to any other people and that Roman culture was in many important respects a continuation of Greek culture." In fact, even Cato spoke out and wrote against what he called the 'gradual Hellenization of Roman culture', despite the fact that he himself was well-read in Greek literature and he even used the Greek language in diplomacy." (See Thomas W. Africa)

### The Tragedy of Ancient Greece

In concluding this section on the ancient Greeks, both Hellenic and Hellenistic, it has been said with some accuracy by A.R. Burn in his *Pelican History of Greece*:

The supreme tragedy of the Greeks was...their failure to solve the problem of a political conflict. To a large degree, this was a product of social and cultural dissimilarities,...[and] of different geographic and economic conditions. Though some of the more advanced thinkers made efforts to propagate the notion that the Hellenes were one people...the concep-

*continued on page 7*

## Judge John Manos: A Personal Memoir

John Manos, not only one of a very few Greek Americans who became a U.S. District Judge, but was renowned and praised for his Solomonic decisions. He was also a personal friend and acquaintance that I have known since the late 1930's and early 1940's when he graduated from Lincoln High School, one of a few that went to college at that time.

Manos always exhibited a precise mind, even in casual conversations; which not surprisingly led him to attend Case Institute of Technology (now known as Case Western Reserve University) to become an engineer. It was his all consuming interest in current events, philosophy and pride in his Greek ancestry that led him to law school and politics.

He may have become increasingly stern - looking outwardly - especially as a judge, but he never lost his sense of humor and

love of a good story or a joke. Underneath his stern exterior he was warm and cared about the plight of the less fortunate, but he also simultaneously demanded decorum. He and his late wife Viola were very hospitable and kept an open home until her illness and death.

Others have listed and deservedly praised John's many accomplishments and numerous awards that he earned both as a judge and as a Greek American. For me, however, John Manos will be not only missed as a friend but as a great conversationalist, one with whom we together deceived ourselves - that we could unravel, if not resolve, many national and international conundrums.

Truly John, we will never forget you.  
AIONIA H MHMH ΣΟΥ. *hps*

-Dr. Themistocles Rodis

## Holiday Ball Set For December 29

Time is approaching for the Annual Greek Orthodox Holiday Ball sponsored by Sts. Constantine and Helen Cathedral on Friday, December 29 at Windows on the River.

Cocktails and appetizers at 7 p.m., dinner from 8 to 10 p.m. Open bar. Dancing from 10 p.m. Music by Karizma. Contact Nikki Christides at 216-741-2546 for more information.

Profits will be donated to a charity that will be announced.

## HPS' Youth Soccer Team Starts Practice

The soccer team has begun winter practices at the Saint Demetrios Activities Center each Friday from 6 to 8 p.m. The team plans to participate in indoor winter league games. The team is led by Coach George Mallias.

Mallias has over 20 years of high school coaching experience. He is a five-time Southwest Conference Coach of the Year and also has won State Coach of the Year honors.

The HPS Youth Soccer Team was formed in May of 2006 and proudly competed in the Continental Cup in July 2006.

While having fun and competing with the other Greek youth, the team takes a serious approach to working hard in practice to better develop soccer skills.

Interested youth are welcome to attend practices at the Activities Center, 22209 Center Ridge Road, Rocky River. The majority of the youth are boys 9 to 12 years old. Bring a soccer ball and indoor soccer shoes to wear. Contact Pete Boukis at 216-382-0992 or pete120@aol.com. for more information. *hps*

- Pete Boukis

# Byzantine Expert Speaks at Annual Potluck

HPS's Annual Potluck Dinner event on May 18, held at Rocky River Community Center, featured an especially relevant topic: "The Preservation of Byzantine Monuments in Turkey." The speaker of the lecture, complete with excellent visual aids, was Dr. Holger Klein, curator of Medieval Art at the Cleveland Museum of Art since 2004.

Dr. Klein studied at Columbia University and with funding from that institution he and his team most recently worked on the restoration of the church of Agia Sophia of Vize. Vize, a small town in Turkish Thrace, was once the source of the water to Constantinople, but today is a sleepy little village.

The church dates from the 9th century and was also used as a mosque after the Ottomans conquered the region in the 1400's. Throughout the centuries, many early church interiors were white-washed to ostensibly "clean" up smoke stains, but this actually helped save the frescoes underneath. Ironically, the usage of the structure as a mosque also helped preserve it, in the sense that someone was at least patching the roof, closing the doors, etc. But in 1960, the village built a new mosque and the building was deserted. Within a few years, the elements crept in and the roof over the narthex collapsed. Adding to the problems facing Dr. Klein's team was an earlier Turkish restoration attempt. That team had poured cement in the courtyard around the church in an attempt to stop vegetation from encroaching. However, that resulted in rain water being unable to soak into the ground and ran instead into the chinks of the church building causing further damage.

Dr. Klein presented "before and after" photos of his team's work which included clearing vegetation and removing plaster to expose magnificent mosaics in stunning colors. Using different visual aids, ranging from low-tech measurements and archival photos to high-tech computerized geophysical data, they were able to rebuild the roof and even discovered the foundations of an earlier church structure, which he speculated could have been 3rd or 4th

century. Because Thrace is in an area with high seismic activity, the data helped them to see how the earth has shifted around the building and how they could make it earthquake resistant.

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*... there are four or five other restoration projects of churches in Turkey ...*

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Today, frescoes that were restored in the 1940's are again threatened due to lack of funding for maintenance in other areas outside Istanbul. Currently, there are four or five other restoration projects of Christian churches in Turkey, including two in Istanbul, as well as larger projects, such as the ancient site of Ephesus. Dr. Klein's team will be returning to Vize in September.

Dr. Klein found that the Turkish community is interested in upkeep but has little money to finance major projects. "I would like to see museums become involved in preservation of these sites," he said, "because it also leads to loans of artifacts."

"Blockers of restoration are the religious authorities, not the secular government," he noted. "We found a lot of bureaucracy in Turkey [especially when it came to Byzantine history.] But at the local level, there is a lot of support and interest . . . for the thought and education process we bring to the country."

*hps*

- Eleni Papouras-Jenks

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## HPS Newsletter

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tion never became part of the national ethos. Athenians hated Spartans and vice versa... For a time it appeared as if a new world, largely devoid of ethnic distinctions, might merge from the ruins of the Greek city-states as a result of the conquest of Alexander the Great. Alexander dreamed of such a world-and although the Hellenistic political outlook was essentially cosmopolitan ...unfortunately neither he nor his generals knew any means of achieving it except to impose it by force...The parallels between the last phases of the Hellenic history and the developments in our own time are at least if not conclusive.

*The next issue will contain the first of a series on the "Ancient Greek Intellectual and Cultural Contributions."* *hps*

- Dr. Themistocles Rodis

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## Parade of Sail- continued

In March, it snows or rains for our parade and now, in the middle of summer, we have thunderstorms and poor visibility due to the marine layer. The marine layer is what we call fog on the west coast.

The views of the Gold Coast and the Cleveland skyline from out in Lake Erie were truly a sight to behold. Once out in the middle of the lake, one of the ship mates solicited the help of five of our guests to raise sails.

Our sail came to a conclusion with our participation in the "Parade of Sail" with the other 11 majestic tall ships at full sail with cannons firing and pleasure boats running alongside.

Following the sail, we enjoyed a sumptuous reception the Great Lakes Science Center catered by Sammy's. While dining we enjoyed the jazz music of Thanassi and the Transportation Boulevard.

*hps*

- Toula Kalatzis Spirtos



## Collis Lecture - continued

can be seen all over Athens, after Alexander mounted on his steed Bucephalus. And of course, there is a statue in Thessaloniki of Alexander himself.

Until the invention of TV, he even made cameo appearances in the popular traveling shadow puppet theaters of Asia Minor, in which he would save Karagiozi. With more modern technology, there have been several films about his life (mostly failing miserably to be half as interesting as the man himself) and photos of his various statues appearing all over the modern Greek world. To this day, he shows up on stamps and signs in various public spaces throughout Thessaloniki.

In light of that, it was surprising to learn that very little was known of his kingdom until

the 1950's, when formerly neglected sites in Macedonia yielded spectacular discoveries. Then in 1977, Greek Archaeologist Professor Andronicus, discovered the tombs in Vergina, the ancient Macedonian capital (southwest of Thessaloniki) and Pella, which was easily excavated since no modern city was ever built on top of it. Vergina boasts the largest cemetery burial ground of the ancient world, where an unrobbed tomb, sealed for 2400 years, had mosaics and wall art and a gold chest with the now-famous star of Vergina. Inside the funeral chest were burned bones that were preserved enough that forensics teams could study and reconstruct them. They determined that they belonged to a 45 year old man who had a scarred eye socket. Dr. Mitten showed a

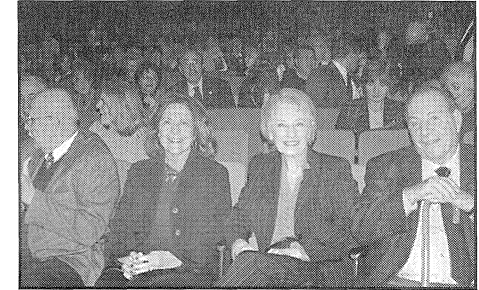
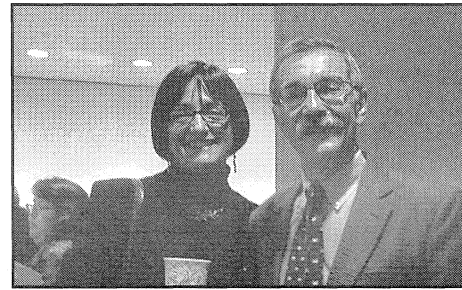
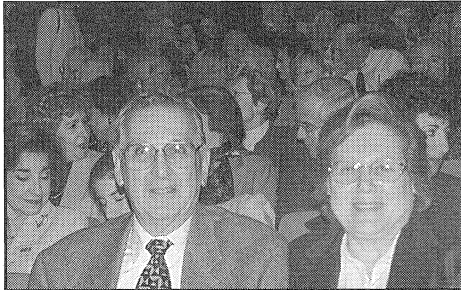
computer-generated photo "built" on this skull and said that historians felt that this was a 90 percent chance of being Phillip, Alexander's father. It was a tantalizing final "image" from Alexander's time.

Dr. Mitten was born in Youngstown and earned his Bachelor of Arts from Oberlin College. He spent a lot of time at the Cleveland Museum of Art as a young man many years before going to Harvard. "It's a great honor," he said about his return to northeast Ohio and the CMA. This is the premier art museum in the Midwest." The lecture was followed by a reception, hosted by HPS, where people could have light refreshments and discuss all the interesting points of the talk. *hps*

- Eleni Papouras-Jenks



*Third annual lecture of The John and Helen Collis Endowment Lecture Series devoted to Ancient Greek and Byzantine Art*



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.

**DATED MATERIAL**



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