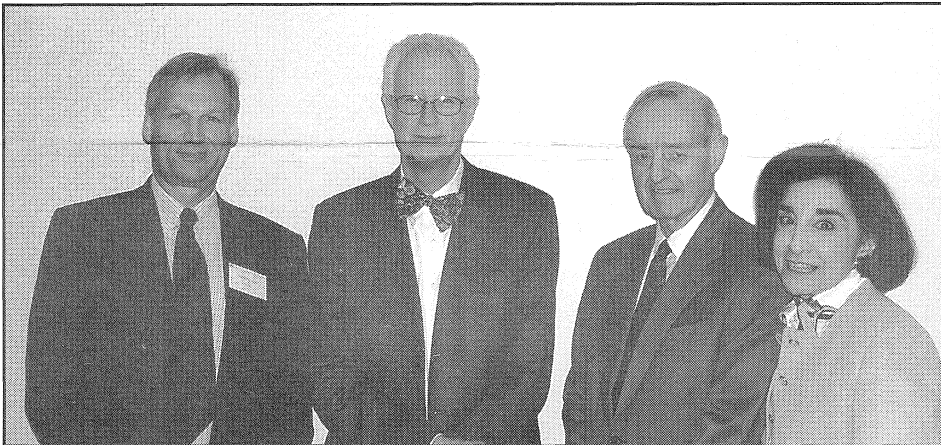


THE HELLENIC PRESERVATION SOCIETY of Northeastern Ohio

Light of Icons Shines in Cleveland for Over 500 Attendees at Annual Lecture



Timothy Rub, Director of CMA; Dr. Robert S. Nelson, Professor at Yale University; Dr. John and Helen Collis, sponsors of Ancient Greek and Byzantine Art Lecture Series

On Sunday, September 30, the city of Cleveland was treated to the lecture *The Light of Icons at St. Catherine's Monastery, Mt. Sinai, Egypt* at the Cleveland Museum of Art. The speaker, Dr. Robert S. Nelson, brought the audience back in time to the sixth century A.D. in the vicinity of where the Old Testament Prophet Moses witnessed the Burning Bush and received the Ten Commandments from God.

Nelson is a leading authority on Byzantine art and architecture and is the Robert Lehman Professor of the History of Art, Yale University. He is the author of numerous books and articles including the book *Hagia Sophia, 1850-1950*, and was the curator of an important exhibition of Byzantine icons from the monastery of Saint Catherine on Mt. Sinai titled *Holy Image, Hallowed Ground* for the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles. It is this exhibit that was the inspiration for his lecture.

The lecture was divided into two distinct parts. The first was based on his visit to St. Catherine's Monastery where he discussed how the architecture and the icons were created in such a way to create the idea of Divine Light. The second part was how he tried to recreate the feeling of monasticism at the J. Paul Getty Museum.

St. Catherine's Monastery was built during a time when monasteries were flourishing, after St. Anthony began the idea of monastic life some two centuries earlier. This was during the reign of Byzantine emperor Justinian and before the iconoclastic movement began.

Nelson wanted to show that light would illuminate the room from the positioning and shape of the windows during the morning Matins service. This occurrence of natural light would be in harmony with the icons, especially of Jesus Christ in the main basilica (dome), which had rays emanating from Jesus. He supposed that the icon of Moses also had him looking at these rays, as opposed to the burning bush depicted in the icon.

During the Vespers services in the evening, the candles in the monastery also were meant to be in harmony with the icons. All the icons were painted with gold in the background, which, when illumined with candlelight, gave the icons and the entire church interior a look as Nelson said, "Wood, image, and light converge on the icons at night."

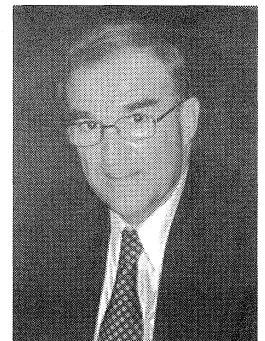
These are but a few examples of how monks might be totally immersed in the Divine Light that is God.

Welcome New Members

George & Helen Papadorotheou

Save the date. . . March 8, 2008 Meet Author Nicholas Kokonis at HPS Event

Award winning author Nicholas D. Kokonis, Ph.D. will be the guest lecturer at the Distinguished Speakers program on Saturday, March 8 at 1 p.m. at Sts. Constantine and Helen Cathedral. The title of his presentation will be "Arcadian Ideal vs. Immigration Marvel."



Kokonis' novel *Arcadia, My Arcadia*, that speaks in a strong cultural voice imbued with a strong cultural tone, will be taken to the big screen by Greek American producer John P. Kousakis. Because his roots are also in Arcadia, he wants to tell the proud story for those of Greek heritage.

The novel is a coming of age story of a bright boy who survives through faith in God and faith in himself to fulfill his thirst for knowledge and a sense of purpose. This poignant tale is of a lad from a poor village in Arcadia who struggles to make a better life for himself and his family.

While attending school, he lives in a small room in a barn strewn with hay and eats meager servings of potatoes and *bobota* (cornbread).

He suffers beatings at the hands of his classmates because he wants to fulfill his thirst for knowledge and a sense of purpose. This remarkable tale was worth telling because it stresses the limitless influence of education, power of family and the potential of the individual.

Reflections on a Pilgrimage to Constantinople Program Set for General Members Meeting

Η ΠΡΟΟΔΟΣ ΕΝ ΤΗ ΠΑΡΑΔΟΣΕΙ

Φίλοι αναγνώστες, αποφάσισα να σας συντάξω το καθιερωμένο μου άρθρο στην πολυτονική μορφή της δημοτικής μας γλώσσας. Ίσως να μην γνωρίζετε ότι το Έλληνικό Σχολείο του Ευαγγελισμού στο Κλήβελαντ εξακολουθεί να διδάσκει χρησιμοποιώντας σχεδόν αποκλειστικά το πολυτονικό σύστημα – δηλαδή με τόνους και πνεύματα (πλήν βαρείας και υπογεγραμμένης) όπως υπήρχε μέχρι το 1982 στην Ελλάδα. Παρ' όλο που δεν έχω ερευνήσει το θέμα συστηματικά, δεν θα μου προκαλούσε ιδιαίτερη έκπληξη το πιθανότατο ενδεχόμενο να αποτελεί το μοναδικό Έλληνικό Σχολείο της ηπείρου - εάν όχι της ύφης που διατηρεί το πολυτονικό στις ημέρες μας. Παρουσιάζεται λοιπόν πρόβλημα στην απόκτηση σύγχρονου υλικού διδασκαλίας - ιδίως στον τομέα πολυμέσων, π.χ. προγράμματα και εκπαιδευτικά παιχνίδια για υπολογιστές κλπ.. Επίσης, όλα τα σχολικά βιβλία του Υπουργείου Παιδείας καθώς και της Αρχιεπισκοπής είναι γραμμένα με το μονοτονικό σύστημα. Η πλειοψηφία των γονέων δεν γνωρίζει ή τουλάχιστον δεν θυμάται το πολυτονικό. Συνεπώς οι ίδιοι οι γονείς δεν είναι πάντα σε θέση να προσφέρουν την καλάνθη βοήθεια στα παιδιά τους. Από την άλλη όψη του νομίσματος, εκτίθεται ο μαθητής στο πολυτονικό και παιδεύεται - με την καλή έννοια του όρου - δημιουργώντας πλεονεκτήματα στην κατανόηση ελληνικής ετυμολογίας και γραμματικής.

Ας τονίσω ότι υπάρχει οργανωμένη "Κίνηση Πολιτών για την Έπαναφορά του Πολυτονικού Συστήματος". Σύμφωνα με το περιεχόμενο της ιστοσελίδας στο διαδίκτυο www.polytoniko.org, τα ωφέλη του πολυτονικού είναι πολλά και οι υποστηρικτές πολλοί - κυρίως του πνευματικού και καλλιτεχνικού χώρου. Θα φροντίσω να ενημερώσω την "κίνηση" για το σχολείο του Κλήβελαντ. Περιμένω λοιπόν προτάσεις και απόψεις.

Μετά τιμής,
Θανάσης Σαραντόπουλος



Group photo of Philoptochos sponsored Pilgrimage to the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Back row, third from right, Crystal Thomas and second row, fourth from right, Gary Thomas

The program for the HPS General Members Meeting on Thursday, February 7 at 7 p.m. at St. Demetrios Metallinos Cultural Hall will be given by Gary and Crystal Thomas following a very brief business meeting.

The Thomas' recently returned from a Pilgrimage to the Ecumenical Patriarchate led by His Grace Bishop Antonios and sponsored by the National Ladies Philoptochos Society of the Archdiocese of America.

They will present their reflections and observations of this life-changing trip that include the splendor of the center

of early Christianity, the survival of the Hellenic culture in modern day Istanbul and the perseverance of the Patriarchate, Orthodox Missions, schools and churches through the efforts of approximately 2000 Orthodox Christians living alongside 13,000,000 Muslim turks.

This presentation is jointly sponsored by the Hellenic Preservation Society of Northeast Ohio and St. Demetrios Church.

Refreshments will be served. This program is open to everyone. *hps*

- Gary Thomas

In Memory of Mary LaJoe

We have lost a devoted member of HPS. Mary was a Charter Member who remained faithful to our Mission and never missed a function or a meeting. She worked tirelessly on the Membership Committee, from its inception, spending endless hours on mailings and at General Meetings officially greeted members to register their attendance, hosted HPS exhibits at church festivals always with a smile.

For 47 years, she served as a personal secretary to the CEOs of Penton Publishing and after retiring continued to lead a long and active life until she passed at 90.

In his Eulogy, Fr. James Doukas chose the perfect word when characterized her as "Gracious." She will be greatly missed.

hps
- Jim LaJoe

HPS Soccer Team Kicks Off New Season

The Hellenic Stars have begun indoor practice at the St. Demetrios Activities Center in Rocky River on Friday evenings from 6 to 8 p.m. The team kicked-off the year with a pizza party at the end of practice on November 16.

The team of boys and girls, ages 9 to 13, is looking forward to participating in indoor soccer games starting in January. Coach George Mallias is actively looking for new team members to help increase the team so it can continue in the future. Any youth interested can contact Coach

Mallias at 440-801-1877 for additional information.

The team roster includes: Xhuljo Harunaj, Dino Papagianis, Manoli Papagianis, Sophia Politis, Irene Poulos, Ted Poulos, Arbi Rizaj, Reni Rizaj, Spiros Romell, George Stellakis, Stavroula Soulas, Antonios Telidis, Nicholas Telidis, Nikolas Theofylaktos and Roula Theofylaktos.

hps

- Pete Boukis



Light of Icons - continued

At the Getty Museum, Nelson attempted to create the same sense of Holy Light in his exhibit. He used three main principles to accomplish this Holy Image, Holy Space and Holy Place. For the Holy Image, he used whatever icons he was allowed to bring along with reproduction to give a sense of quiet holiness. He used dark lighting and the presence of candelabras to create Holy Space. For the Holy Place, he asked Orthodox Christian monks from a nearby monastery to assist. He also included pictures of El Greco to show how his early career as an iconographer, prior to going to Spain, would help begin the Renaissance period in art.

The lecture was a fascinating look at monastic life way back in history. These lectures sponsored by the Collis Family Endowment with the support of HPS are a wonderful opportunity to examine Ancient Greek and Byzantine Art. *hps*

- Dean Theodosian

Kokonis - continued

Kokonis who was raised in Arcadia is a practicing psychologist and college professor and divides his time between his native Arcadia and the U.S.

He received a "First Homer Award" and "Gold Medal" from the International Society of Greek Writers in January 2007 and recognition from the same organization "for special labor and contribution to literature."

Kokonis completed his Ph.D in Clinical Psychology at Illinois Institute of Technology after earning his B.A and M.A. at Roosevelt University. His practice is based in Illinois where he also consults for the Department of Human Services.

In addition to his clinical practice, he currently teaches at the College of Lake County in Grayslake, IL. Kokonis is not only an author but a published poet and columnist for *Greek Press*. *hps*

- Pauline C. Latkovic

Recent Programs

The Collis Lecture at the CMA on September 30 was the most successful thus far, with attendance over 500, primarily due to the efforts of Pauline Latkovic and Bea Meros.

In the same spirit and efficiency they tackled the highly successful Science Center movie event, previous HPS events and past Collis Lectures. They are a dream team that any organization would envy.

John and I want to thank them and all of the HPS individuals who assisted in promoting the event and assisting with the reception. *hps*

- Helen Collis, Program Chair

Greek Collection at the Public Library

The Foreign Literature Department of the Cleveland Public Library branches and suburban libraries offer materials in circulating collections of Greek reference and research tools, dictionaries, encyclopedias, bibliographic and biographical sources, audiocassettes, videocassettes and large print books.

Materials for adults and children, including folk tales and fables, animal stories, song books, science materials and translations of English language classics are available in most languages.

You can request subject categories and titles through your local library.

Check the libraries at St. Demetrios and Sts. Constantine and Helen for other great reads or reference materials. *hps*

- Pauline C. Latkovic

HPS Newsletter

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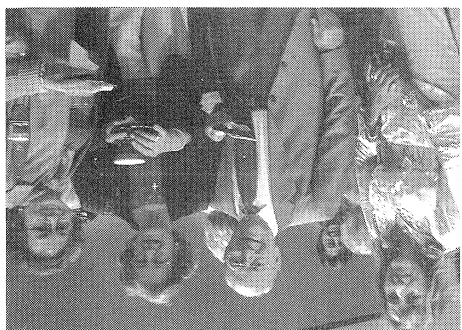
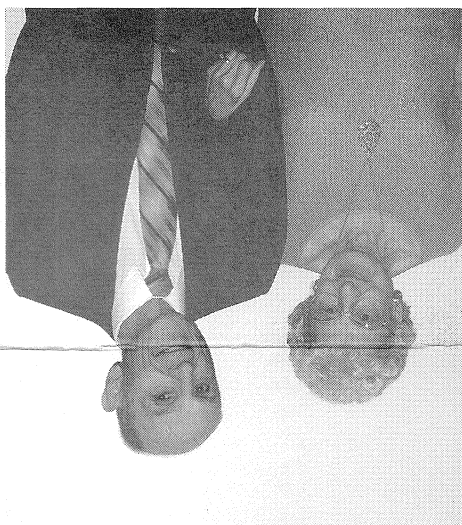
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Complimentary Issue

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.

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Attendees at HPS Reception for Collis Lecture