

Centre for Hellenic Studies Newsletter 35



Director's Note

The year 2024 was filled with highlights. Hard to tell which one was bigger than the others. We met our Greek and Greek-Cypriot alumni/ae in Greece on 27 and 28 May. Some accompanied us to the University of Patras, which honoured David Ricks, Professor Emeritus of Modern Greek and Comparative Literature, with an honorary doctorate on 29 May. The next day, we participated in a conference in honour of Professor Ricks, at which many of his former PhD students presented. The events firmed up our relations with the alumni/ae as well as with the colleagues at the University of Patras. Kudos to Professor Georgia Gotsi, who took on the lion share of the local organizing. Then official news came that Roderick Beaton, Koraes Professor Emeritus, had been knighted as part of the King's Birthday Honours, on 14 June. On 24-26 October, our new play, *For Three Refrigerators and a Washing Machine*, saw a very successful first run at the Greenwood Theatre and earned critical acclaim. Directed by Kyriaki Mitsou, it offered stage experience to students and adoptees. An evening dedicated to Nikos Kazantzakis closed this calendar year's cycle.

People often ask me if I can describe the Centre for Hellenic Studies in a nutshell. I thought I'd try it again, and my modest effort is always a reminder of how much we do, of how much you support us in what we do. Here goes: King's Department of Classics hosts the Centre for Hellenic Studies and the historic Koraes Chair in Modern Greek and Byzantine History, Language and Literature (founded in 1918). The centre's academic staff members offer courses in topics that delve into the postclassical centuries of the Hellenic world, and their interests range from material culture to current policy reform. The research foci of the centre attract sizeable audiences to its annual signature lectures (e.g., the Runciman Lecture, the Niki Marangou Memorial Lecture) and also to its seminars, conferences, and workshop series geared towards more junior scholars (on 1821, philhellenism, Byron's death, 'the Global 1922', the Lausanne Treaty, the fall of the Greek dictatorship, to name a few recent ones). Through the generosity of the Matti Egon Fieldtrip Fund (established 2024), the centre can take about 20 students to Greece every year, on a five-day fieldtrip that covers Greek history and culture from ancient through modern times. The students prepare for the trip by taking a select module prior to their departure. Lastly, the centre actively liaises with partners such as the British School at Athens, The Anglo-Hellenic League, the Society for Modern Greek Studies – UK, the Hellenic Foundation for Culture – UK, and philanthropic organizations in Greece, the Republic of Cyprus, and the worldwide Hellenic diaspora.

We wish you lots of peace and happiness through the holidays and the New Year, and we thank you for your continued support.

Gonda Van Steen, December 2024

CHS Management Committee

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

International Advisory Board

The Board held its annual meeting on 1 February 2024, the day of the Runciman Lecture. Its external members are Professor Emeritus Paschalis M. Kitromilides (University of Athens), Mr Tassos Leventis FKC (Director of the A.G. Leventis Foundation), Professor Sir Michael Llewellyn-Smith (former HM Ambassador to Greece and CHS Visiting Professor), Professor Richard P. Martin (Stanford University), and Professor Catherine Morgan (University of Oxford).

Grants, Prizes, and Donations

The **Schilizzi Foundation** has bestowed a generous grant on CHS to host the Schilizzi Social History Workshops. The third workshop, held in October 2024, was a performance event. You can read more about the play production of *For Three Refrigerators and a Washing Machine* on p. 6 of this newsletter. CHS has dedicated its series of social history workshops to Helena Schilizzi, recognizing her mission and her impact on Greece's social progress in the early part of the twentieth century.

CHS received a £10,000 gift from the **Fetal Medicine Foundation**. Koraes Professor Gonda Van Steen expresses special thanks to the Fetal Medicine Foundation and Professor Kypros Nicolaides for helping her to bring the documentary *The Greek Connection* to completion. This documentary, the work of the late Ronit Kertsner, was left unfinished in 2020. We now look forward to the premiere of this important work, with the kind assistance of Leonidas Liambeys and Tasos Fintzos-Vavlis of Long Run Productions and of Zvika Kertsner, the filmmaker's husband. The nearly complete film was shown to the King's alumni/ae and an Athens audience on 27 May 2024, at an event hosted by The Demos Center of the American College of Greece, following an invitation by Director Dr Mary Cardaras.

In December 2023, CHS received a 12,000 Euro grant from the **Cyprus government**, through the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sport and Youth. The grant application process was facilitated by the Cyprus High Commission in the UK and Cultural Counsellor Marios Theocharous, to whom CHS is much obliged.

With a generous donation of £10,000, Anna Muir established the **John Muir PhD Travel Bursary Fund**. This new fund benefits advanced PhD students who plan to travel to a conference venue abroad where they will be presenting a paper. They also commit to sharing this paper or a summary with John Muir, who is eager to keep abreast of new trends in the field.

Sponsored by Mr Constantis Candounas, the **Niki Marangou Translation Prize** of £500 commemorates Niki Marangou, with a focus on her written work. It is awarded annually for a literary translation from Modern Greek into English of extracts from Marangou's publications, accompanied by a short interpretive essay. The competition is now open to all BA, MA and PhD students currently enrolled in any faculty of any England-based university.

The **Sixth Niki Marangou Memorial Lecture** was held in Nicosia, Cyprus, on 9 February 2024, as part of a two-day symposium dedicated to Niki Marangou and co-hosted by the A.G. Leventis Gallery, with generous support from the A.G. Leventis Foundation. This symposium was appropriately called 'The Journey of Niki Marangou through Arts and Letters'. The featured speaker was Panagiotis Agapitos, who was Professor of Byzantine Literature at the University of Cyprus (1992-2020) and is currently Distinguished Fellow of the Gutenberg Research College of the University of Mainz. The title of his presentation was "'As if he was using reason": Pets and Other Animals in Byzantine Literature'. The symposium also featured talks, reminiscences, and audiovisual reflections on Niki Marangou's life and work. Artist and film director Vouvoula Skoura presented a remarkable video called *Water Surfaces*. Stephanos Stephanides, writer, poet, and film producer, commented on a screening of the documentary *Speaking of Niki*. Panellists in two roundtable discussions shed additional light on Niki Marangou's life and legacy.

The next fully funded visit to Greece for students of the Department of Classics, made possible by the generosity of the **Matti Egon Fieldtrip Fund**, will take place on 30 March – 3 April 2025. The five-day fieldtrip will be part of the undergraduate module 'Engaging Greece', taught by Koraes Professor Van Steen. The Classics Department is grateful to Mr Nick Comminos, the generous sponsor, for making the 2025 trip and future trips possible.

The **Jamie Rumble Memorial Fund** was established in 2013 to support teaching in Graeco-Roman art and its legacy at King's. Up through 2024, the fund enabled students to visit the sites and objects explored in our lectures. Dr Will Wootton took students [to Rome in February 2024](#).

Since 2014, the Rumble Fund has also sponsored the annual Rumble Fund Lecture in Classical Art. The **10th Annual Rumble Lecture** was given on 19 March 2024 by Professor **Michael Squire** (Cambridge), on the topic of 'The Eye of the Mirror: Sight and Subjectivity in Classical Greek Art'. This 10th Annual Rumble Lecture was presented by CHS in collaboration with the Courtauld Institute of Art and the Institute of Classical Studies. More than 120 people attended, and it was a joy to welcome Michael back to his old campus. This most recent lecture also received a nice write-up from reporter Marilina Ntaountaki in the London-based Greek newspaper Eleftheria ([p. 10](#)). We look forward to hosting the 11th Annual Rumble Lecture, date TBC.

Lectures, Workshops, Panel Discussions, and Other Highlights of 2024

All our public events are announced online. If you click on <https://www.kcl.ac.uk/research/centre-for-hellenic-studies>, you can find our public events calendar as well as an archive of CHS events. About one month in advance of the event date, the Simpletix link that will allow you to register online for free, will open on the dedicated page of each of our forthcoming events. Reminders are regularly sent out via Facebook and Twitter and also by email to all who have registered their email address at chs@kcl.ac.uk.

Professor Eleni Karantzola, Professor of Linguistics in the Department of Mediterranean Studies at the University of the Aegean, visited the Department of Classics and CHS from 23 to 28 October 2023. She gave several presentations, met with staff and students, and made new contacts across London. Professor Karantzola's work visit was supported by a short-term IKY grant that fosters cooperation between Greek and foreign institutions. This particular collaboration titled 'History of (Early) Modern Greek Language and Literature: Digitality and Interdisciplinary Approaches' lent itself well to a programme of working meetings that directly related to her expertise in the social and linguistic history of (Early) Modern Greek (16th-18th centuries), such as those with King's Digital Lab which were focused on digitizing key primary sources.

Drs Pavlos Avlamis and Emily Pillinger organized the annual online panels devoted to translation broadly defined that CHS and the British School at Athens have been co-organizing for the past years. These panels of 17 and 24 January 2024 explored the connection between sound and translation in Greek literature. Dr Avlamis chaired the first panel, 'Translation and the Sound of Greek Poetry', which featured Professors Tim Whitmarsh (Cambridge), A.E. Stallings (Oxford), and Karen Emmerich (Princeton). Dr Emily Pillinger presided over the second panel, which was devoted to 'Translation and the Sound of Ancient Greek Music'. Speakers were Drs Tosca Lynch, Samuel Dorf, and Toby Young.

The 17 January panel discussion explored how the sounds of Greek poetry influence their modern translation into both words and music. It focused on how translation grapples with sound in Greek literature, including the varieties and forms of poetic rhythm and the phonology and morphology of language in its various registers and idioms. It also examined how sound is thematized within the texts themselves. The panellists further contextualized these questions in various periods of Greek literature: Tim Whitmarsh, Regius Professor of Greek at Cambridge, focused on Greek poetry of the Roman Empire; Alicia Stallings, Oxford Professor of Poetry, centred on her own practice as a translator of Greek poetry; and Professor

Karen Emmerich (Princeton) on the challenges of translating Modern Greek poetry.

The 24 January panellists concentrated on the translation of ancient Greek music into modern music. They highlighted the scant traces of the ancient music that once accompanied ancient Greek poetry, and reflected on how these small remnants have inspired modern composers and thinkers. The speakers also considered how modern music has responded to purely imagined Greek sonic worlds. Dr Tosca Lynch is a musician and classicist with unique expertise in ancient Greek music, who recently co-edited, with Eleonora Rocconi, the essential handbook to ancient music: *A Companion to Ancient Greek and Roman Music* (2020). She regularly updates an invaluable website:

<https://www.emousike.com/>. Dr Samuel Dorf is a musicologist whose recent monograph, *Performing Antiquity* (2018), analyses the music and dance used in performing hypothetical reconstructions of Greek lyric poetry in the 1930s. He is now working on what he calls 'Extreme Early Music' – the contemporary practice of reconstructing the sounds of ancient music and the meaning of related claims to 'authenticity'. Dr Toby Young is a versatile music composer who is particularly interested in the voice and the questions/limitations associated with rigid delineations of musical genre. He has experience reconstructing sound worlds of the past in his role as the music supervisor for Punchdrunk, a British immersive theatre company.

On 26 January 2024, CHS co-hosted a major event titled '**From London to Mesolonghi and Back: Echoes of Eternal Journeys**'. This commemorative evening was organized by the Hellenic Foundation for Culture in the UK and enjoyed the auspices of the Greek Embassy. It marked the bicentenary of the death of Lord Byron in Mesolonghi. King's Great Hall filled with some 190 people, who were treated to an insightful short lecture by Roderick Beaton, Koraes Professor Emeritus, titled 'From London to Missolonghi – and Back in a Barrel of Rum: Byron's Life in Greece'. The event further featured a variety of performative approaches, spearheaded by Kyriaki Mitsou, the Representative of the Hellenic Foundation for Culture - UK. After the opening greetings, including one by Lord Byron the 13th, the audience listened to 'The Isles of Greece', Byron's famous poem set to music by composer Stamatis Chatziefstathiou and sung by Andriana Mpampali (in the album *Έλληνες Φιλέλληνες*). Kyriaki Mitsou then gave us a taste of the documentary that she has been directing, called *From Mesolonghi to London: 200 Years Later* (in Greek with English subtitles). Then followed a performative work directed by Kyriaki Mitsou and inspired by Byron's *Manfred*. Titled *Manfred Echoes*, this project

explored the agony of the searching individual. It was presented by the actors Konstantinos Delidimoudis and Vasileia Kenanoglou and the cellist Thodoris Papadimitriou. It was enhanced also by the drawings of the graphic artist and producer-performer Antonis Koutroumbis, which were shown on a screen behind the actors. A wine reception followed and was enjoyed by all. Greece's Ambassador to the UK, Mr Ioannis Tsousis, honoured us with his presence.

The 33rd Runciman Lecture was given, before an audience of 120 people, by Professor Emeritus **Malcolm Schofield** on 1 February 2024. His title was 'Aristotle's Practicable Idealism'. As is by now a tradition, the lecture was preceded by **Orthodox Vespers** at the King's Chapel. Professor Simon Tanner introduced the speaker. Professor Michael Trapp gave the vote of thanks. The Runciman Lectures have been generously sponsored by the late Matti and Nicholas Egon and the Egon family.

On 27 and 28 May 2024, CHS gathered its **alumni/ae** based in Greece and Cyprus for two evenings of networking and celebrating, around the centrepieces of the documentary screening of *The Greek Connection* and the opening of an exhibition of materials related to Greece's Cold War adoption history. King's Philanthropy Managers Margot Black and Irene Mitropoulou had been very instrumental in the long preparation required. Dr Mary Cardaras extended a warm welcome on behalf of The Demos Center, our venue. Despina Oikonomou spoke on behalf of the Hellenic Branch of the International Social Service, as the ISS had been invited to the venue to open its anniversary exhibition of archival materials, with the invaluable assistance of Gregory Kontos of Greek Ancestry.

The documentary *The Greek Connection* (directed by Ronit Kertsner) was shown for the first time in Greece. It tells the story of the Greek postwar and Cold War adoption movement, following a group of Greek adoptees as they travel across the country in search of their roots. The stories of the adoptees became visible and merged with the unique materials on display that had been retrieved from the archives of the ISS Hellenic Branch.

Thus, CHS generated interest among King's alumni/ae, adoptees, supporters, policy- and opinion-makers, seeking support for the cause of Nostos for Greek Adoptees, a campaign requesting the adoptees' access to their personal records and the restoration of their Greek citizenship. Olympia Anastasopoulou, Nostos's legal advisor, spoke to that effect. All attendees enjoyed a wine reception, which was offered by King's Philanthropy Management team and alumni network. Professor Van Steen extends special greetings to King's Greek and Greek-Cypriot alumni/ae, asking them to keep in touch.

On 29 May 2024, the **University of Patras bestowed an honorary doctorate on David Ricks**, Professor Emeritus of Modern Greek and Comparative Literature, in a beautiful ceremony on campus. After laudatory introductions by Professors Efimia Karakantza and Georgia Gotsi, Professor Ricks himself spoke on the subject of 'The Allure of Modern Greek Poetry and the Role of the Translator'. Rector Christos Bouras also spoke and thanked the Philology Department of the University of Patras for identifying the best possible honorand.



On **30 May**, CHS held a conference titled '**Encounters with Modern Greek Poetry: Comparisons, Translations, Interpretations**' (Ζητήματα Νεοελληνικής ποίησης: Συγκριτολογικά, μεταφραστικά, ερμηνευτικά) in honour of Professor Ricks. This one-day event took place in the conference centre of the University of Patras, where former students and colleagues of Professor Ricks gathered to deliver talks and enjoy their mentor's and one another's company. The day offered various themes and topics. After an opening speech given by Dr Dionysis Kapsalis, the first panel was dedicated to the interpretation and criticism of poetry and was chaired by Roderick Beaton, Koraes Professor Emeritus. Among the speakers were Drs Vasiliki Dimoula, Fiona Antonelaki, Nikolas P. Kakkoufa, and Liana Giannakopoulou. The second panel was devoted to linguistic and literary intersections and chaired by Koraes Professor Van Steen. The speakers were Drs Irene Loulakaki-Moore, Vasilis Letsios, John Kittmer, and Anthony Hirst, while Professors Georgia Gotsi and Georgia Farinou-Malamatari presented a joint research project on Papadiamantis and Tennyson. Dr Stesi Athini, who also served as one of the co-organizers, closed the session by delivering a panoramic overview of the key themes. The honorand himself offered concluding remarks before all participants enjoyed a wonderful Greek dinner outdoors. See <http://ricks2024.upatras.gr/>.

CHS collaborated with the Anglo-Hellenic League to bring two events in June 2024. The **17 June Runciman Award Ceremony** was once again generously sponsored by the Athanasios C. Laskaridis Charitable Foundation and the A.G. Leventis Foundation. Professor Simon Tanner, Head of King's Humanities, and Dr John Kittmer, Chair of the AHL, welcomed an audience of about 170 people to King's Great Hall. Many tuned in online, too, to learn of this year's award winner and to hear the keynote address given by Professor **Alexander Lingas** (music director and founder of Cappella Romana and Professor Emeritus of Music at City, University of London), on the topic of Byzantine music. His lecture 'Recovering the Lost Voices of Hagia Sophia', as well as his masterful chanting to illustrate his points, left the audience spellbound.

On behalf of the panel of judges, Professor Judith Mossman reviewed this year's prize competition, which included many noteworthy volumes. She also announced the winner, **Dr Islam Issa**, whose book *Alexandria: The City that Changed the World* (London: Sceptre, 2023) had left the jury members most impressed. Dr Kittmer stated: 'Congratulations from all of us at the League to Islam Issa, the worthy winner of the Runciman Award 2024. Hellenism has always existed alongside other cultures – nowhere more so than in Alexandria, the great entrepot founded by Alexander the Great. Islam Issa's winning book tells the story of this great city in all its richness and complexity. It's a magnificent achievement.'

Dr Islam Issa gave an eloquent acceptance speech as 2024 Runciman Award winner. He presented his book in a brief talk and shared: 'It is a huge honour to receive the most prestigious award in the field and I am especially proud that this was decided unanimously by such esteemed judges. While writing *Alexandria*, I realised how special the book would become – to me as I went on a journey of self-discovery, to generations of people linked to the city and its culture, and to individuals for whom Alexandria remains a part of the imagination. This has been confirmed through the correspondences I am receiving on a daily basis, some moved by its story and others who have recognised aspects of themselves in it.' Koraes Professor Van Steen rounded off the evening and invited the audience to a much-appreciated wine reception. A [recording](#) of the event is now available. See also [the AHL news section](#).

In partnership with King's CHS and Classics Department, the AHL gave out the annual **Katie Lentakis Memorial Fund Award** on **18 June**. The Lentakis Award ceremony was co-hosted by the Foundation for Platonic Studies, which handed out the second Mary Margaret McCabe Dissertation Prize in Ancient Philosophy. **Ella Morgan** won the Lentakis Award with her dissertation titled 'Girls in the Gaps: The Cult of Iphigenia at Brauron and the Importance of Taurian Artemis.'

Eric van Kesteren won the second Mary Margaret McCabe Dissertation Prize, with his essay 'Of Nature and Education: Women in Plato's *Republic*'. The evening featured a lecture by Professor Emerita **Mary Margaret McCabe** herself, who spoke on the topic of 'Socrates in Prison'. Some 60 people enjoyed this [festive occasion](#).

The evening of **2 October** saw a lecture by **Richard Calvocoressi**, on the topic of 'The Tears of Chios: A Greek Family's Story of Diaspora'. This first event jointly organized by CHS and the Levantine Heritage Foundation delved into the repercussions of the massacre of Chios in 1822, by way of testimonies transmitted from one family generation to the next. Philip Mansel introduced the speaker before an audience of some 70 people. Quentin Compton-Bishop, Levantine Heritage Foundation Chairman, followed up with a recording of the event which can be accessed via the foundation's [website](#).

On **24 October**, CHS contributed to a panel titled '**Travel Writers in Greece: From the 1940s to the Present**', which was organized by the Hellenic Centre in association with the Society for Modern Greek Studies – UK. The three panellists, among them award-winning author Peter Barber and historian of travel writing Dr David Wills, asked the following questions: How have British and American writers portrayed their travels in Greece, and why? Which trends and examples have emerged from the 1940s to 2024? **Dr David Wills** set out key themes and developments, and briefly presented significant authors from across the time period. He explained how travel writing about Greece has evolved over recent decades and pondered its future. Dr Wills has published extensively on travel literature and is the author of *The Mirror of Antiquity: 20th Century British Travellers in Greece* (2007). **Professor Van Steen**, most recently editor of *The Battle for Bodies, Hearts and Minds in Postwar Greece* (Routledge, 2024), introduced the memoir of American social worker Charles Schermerhorn about his life and work in Thessaloniki between 1946 and 1951. **Peter Barber**, author of *A Parthenon on our Roof* (2022), presented his own travel memoirs. Barber's life and marriage in Greece inspired the acclaimed *Parthenon* and its sequels, *A Parthenon*

in Pefki and *Musings from a Greek Village* (both published in 2023). The event was declared a 'sell out' by the Hellenic Centre, and the many questions from the audience were most enthusiastic.

Left: Ella Morgan and Dr John Kittmer.



Our performance event of the year was the stage premiere of the play titled ***For Three Refrigerators and a Washing Machine***, on 24-26 October 2024 at King's Greenwood Theatre. This new theatre play with the enigmatic title tells the poignant and forgotten stories of international child adoptions from Greece in the 1950s-60s. The play offers an in-depth exploration of the first postwar mass international adoption movement, unveiling the emotional and existential challenges faced by those involved. Based on an authentic playscript, the stage production creates awareness about what has not been said, should be said, but still cannot be said about the losses involved in the permanent uprooting of children and teenagers and in perpetuating taboos. It tackles the primal questions of 'Where do I come from?' and 'What happened to the child I relinquished for adoption abroad?' And why did nobody foresee that adopted children become adopted adults who ask critical questions about origins, procedures, and aftercare? The play fearlessly addresses the question of 'At what cost?' What did international adoption have to offer? What did it take away from the children and the first families involved? Thus, the play reveals multiple connections to similar adoption movements worldwide, which include countries of origin such as Ireland, South Korea, Vietnam, and several states in Central and South America. Together these histories raise critical questions about identity and belonging that far exceed their geographical boundaries and continue to be relevant today.

The playscript will soon be available in print for future productions. It is grounded in the adoption-related research that Koraes Professor Van Steen has been conducting for the past dozen years. It is a creative reworking of original texts and testimonies from the postwar and Cold War eras that delve deep into family and social history. The touching 2024 stage adaptation, with additional filmic components, was created by a team of young Greek playwrights and theatre practitioners under the direction of the multi-talented Kyriaki Mitsou, founder of Culture in Action, including Renata Sofrona and Romina Spyraiki. Among the cast and crew members were King's students who have gained experience collaborating on the annual King's Greek Play. Several actors brought lived experience of adoption or migration to this Greek play of a twentieth-century stamp. CHS, Kyriaki Mitsou, and the cast and crew aspire to take the production to Greece, and fundraising has begun to support this initiative. We seek financial support to make this vision a reality, with the enthusiastic input of many of the Greek-born adoptees themselves.



Among the current sponsors are The Schilizzi Foundation Social History Workshops and Arts Council England, for whose support we are very grateful. A [video](#) now shares post-production impressions.

CHS colleagues participated in the two-day conference and workshop series titled '**Partitioning for Peace? Cyprus and the Violence of Bordering 50 Years On**', which was held on 7-8 November and co-sponsored by CHS. **Dr George Giannakopoulos**, who teaches at City St George's, University of London, and is a Visiting Research Fellow at King's CHS, undertook the lion share of organizing this event, which was also co-sponsored by LSE's Hellenic Observatory.

On 25 November, CHS hosted an evening dedicated to **Nikos Kazantzakis**, co-sponsored by the International Society of Friends of Nikos Kazantzakis for the UK. Koraes Professor Van Steen and Katerina Monastirli, the society's representative, welcomed an audience of about 100 people to King's Great Hall. The evening featured a screening of the documentary film ***The Last Voyage***, produced by the New York-based journalist and filmmaker **Aris Chatzistefanou**, followed by a Q&A session with the filmmaker. Professor Van Steen offered a brief introduction to Kazantzakis for students and newcomers to Greek literature. **Dr Lewis Owens** (PhD, University of Cambridge) then spoke about the prominent theme of the journey in Kazantzakis' life and work. He has published extensively on Kazantzakis' philosophical and religious thought in peer-reviewed journals and is the author of *Creative Destruction: Nikos Kazantzakis and the Literature of Responsibility* (Mercer University Press, 2002). Also, Dr Owens is currently editing the proceedings of the international conference held last year at Queens College Cambridge, marking the 100-year anniversary of the completion of Kazantzakis' *Askitiki*. A former lecturer at Canterbury Christ Church University, he is now an independent researcher and writer. Emeritus Professor **David Holton** chaired the session and moderated the final Q&A. The International Society of Friends of Nikos Kazantzakis (ISFNK) was founded in 1988 in Geneva and aims to promote Kazantzakis' work globally. With sections in numerous countries and thousands of members, the society is led by Dr George Stassinakis.

The afternoon of 27 November saw a lecture by **Efimia Karakantza**, Professor of Ancient Greek Literature at the University of Patras. Her talk, titled 'Antigones in Dispossessed or Occupied Lands: Elias Venezis' *Antigone* and the Nazi Occupation of Greece', was embedded in the Classics seminars series and tackled various issues arising from Antigone's special position/status as she lives in a country where she experiences the dissolution of her civil status, which inaugurates the all-too-relevant 'state of exception' (as per Agamben) that places an individual outside the protection of the law.

Events in Spring 2025: Save the Dates

***20 January 2025**, BSA, starting 19:00: **‘Poetry between Languages: Writing and Translating Poetry in English and Greek’**. Book launch of David Ricks’s newly published poetry collection *With Signs Following* (Reading: Two Rivers Press 2024, with an epilogue by A.E. Stallings). The speakers at this in-person panel session, hosted by the British School at Athens, will be Dionysis Kapsalis, Nasos Vayenas, Athina Voyiatzoglou, and A.E. Stallings. Professor Sir Roderick Beaton will chair the session.

***27 January 2025**, Great Hall, 13:00-16:00: A discussion on **gender divides**, coordinated by King’s colleague **Georgios Samaras** and ETERON.

***6 February 2025**, Great Hall, starting at 18:00: **Annual Runciman Lecture**: The 34th lecture in the series will be given by Professor **Josephine C. Quinn** (Cambridge), on ‘Anarchy, Democracy, and the City-State’. To be preceded by **Orthodox Vespers** at the King’s Chapel (17:15).

***12 February 2025**, Great Hall, at 18:00: Philip Mansel, lecture on ‘The second Phanar: Constantinople Greeks and Ottoman Sultans, from 1821 to 1919’ (with the Anglo-Hellenic League and the Levantine Heritage Foundation).

***13 March 2025**, Council Room, 18:00: **Dr Catia Galatariotou** will give the **7th Niki Marangou Memorial Lecture**, on ‘Reality and Truth in the Writings of Niki Marangou’.

***June 2025**: CHS and the Anglo-Hellenic League will co-host two events. The annual **Katie Lentakis Memorial Fund Award Ceremony and Lecture** will be held on Thursday, **12 June**, in the Council Room. The **Runciman Award** ceremony will take place on Friday, **13 June**, in the Great Hall. The first ceremony will be co-hosted also by the Foundation for Platonic Studies, which will award the third **Mary Margaret McCabe Dissertation Prize in Ancient Philosophy**.

People

Roderick Beaton FBA, Koraes Professor Emeritus, was awarded a knighthood in the King’s Birthday Honours List announced in June, ‘for services to History and UK/Greek relations’. Sir Roderick writes: ‘This is a fantastic honour for me, and wholly unexpected! Right from the beginning the CHS has always been about fostering understanding of Greece and the Greek world in the UK, and I like to think that this is a recognition for the work of all our colleagues and students at King’s over the past 35 years.’

The 200th anniversary of the death of Lord Byron at Missolonghi on 19 April 1824 has been widely commemorated in Greece and the UK; Roderick was in demand at conferences and as a speaker at events and on Greek radio throughout the year, including the 48th International Byron Conference held in Athens and Missolonghi in July. In the summer Edinburgh University Press published *The Greek Revolution of 1821: European Contexts, Scottish Connections*, edited by Roderick Beaton and Niels Gaul, a collection of essays based on the conference co-organised by the two editors at The University of Edinburgh in November 2021.

Professor Emerita Judith Herrin was appointed Senior Research Fellow, Harris-Manchester College, Oxford, and elected as Corresponding Fellow of the Medieval Academy of America. She was invited to join the Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Science and the Arts as Foreign Member of the Class of Humanities, and she lectured in Brussels on ‘The Mask of Byzantium’. Judith also published the foreword to *The Routledge Handbook to Byzantine Gender and Sexuality*, edited by Mati Meyer and Charis Messis, and she gave a zoom lecture to the Chinese University of Hong Kong on ‘The Centrality of Constantinople, Capital of a Medieval Empire’.

Dr Anastasia Aglaia Lemos, who is a CHS Visiting Scholar, reports: ‘After participating in the International Conference organized by the Democritus University of Thrace on the Greek Turkish Population Exchange in Art (1923-2023), I wrote a paper discussing a hitherto unknown Ottoman novel about the refugee experience in Bulgaria. Its author was Basri Bey, himself a curious footnote in the history of Albania. I contributed another paper to a Festschrift for the ancient historian Polymnia Athanasiadi, which will appear in *Nea Estia* and discusses the Turkish and Ottoman dimensions of her work. Also, I prepared a catalogue of a large collection of Karamanlidika books recently uncovered in the collections of the John Miller Bunham Classics Library at the University of Cincinnati, and I also transcribed and translated the material in the title pages. Work in progress includes a seminar on the so-called millet system in the Ottoman Empire and an article on the forgotten refugee literature in Greece and Turkey for the *Bulletin of the Centre for Asia Minor Studies*. I further co-curated an exhibition of contemporary paintings held in the restored Hamidiye mosque on Chios. The title of the exhibition was “The Boundless Sea, the Hidden, the Revealed”, thematically covering the sea as a symbol in spiritual traditions on both sides of the Aegean. Additionally, I have, in the company of other like-minded citizens, worked hard to try to avert the construction of a quite illegal hydroelectric plant in a protected area of the Pindus National Park.’

Dr Rebecca Levitan kept busy teaching in London, both on campus and at the British Museum. She also pursued her archaeological research in Greece, which included a 10-day proof-of-concept fieldwork project on Naxos in February. She presented the preliminary results at a conference in Aarhus, Denmark, in June, and she hopes to return to Naxos in spring 2025, to continue her research in the marble quarries (with the support of a King’s Arts and Humanities Research Development Award). Over the summer Rebecca started planning a co-organized international conference on the theme of ‘Rethinking Archaic Sculpture’ (with Seth Estrin, Harvard University) to be held in Nafplio in 2026. Rebecca will spend the 2025 spring semester at the American School as a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow.

People and Contact Information

Dr Carl Mauzy, King's PhD in Modern Greek Studies, won the Niki Marangou PhD Dissertation Prize 2024, which is awarded through the Society for Modern Greek Studies UK. The committee members shared: 'His exploration of two important corpora of photographs, set within a wider discussion of how national identities are visualized and in turn curated, engages enterprisingly with important questions of individual and collective memory, with special reference to the role played by photography, and opens new avenues for research.'

Dr Tassos Papacostas presented various aspects of his research at conferences in Cyprus and Italy, including an assessment of the value for architectural historians of Camille Enlart's late 19th-century photographs of medieval monuments, an investigation of an unusual 16th-century double-painted panel from the area of Paphos, an overview and interpretation of the incidence of public inscriptions in Venetian Cyprus, and a discussion of Neophytos the Recluse's 12th-century monastic foundation and its buildings after his death. Dr Papacostas further contributed to the series of book presentations organized by the École française d'Athènes, most recently of Anthi Andronikou's *Italy, Cyprus, and Artistic Exchange in the Medieval Mediterranean* (CUP 2022). He is completing articles on Venetian pilgrims to the Holy Land and on the history of two elusive funerary monuments from the area of Kyrenia in Cyprus.

Professor Emeritus David Ricks writes that he was bowled over by his honorary degree from the University of Patras but somehow maintained sufficient self-possession to give a [speech](#) on the occasion. As ever, he was impressed by the talent pool of his old fellow students and doctoral students who spoke at the related colloquium, on 30 May (above, p. 4). Also in May, David's book of poems, *With Signs Following* (Reading: Two Rivers Press) appeared; readings in London and Reading followed in June, and in Oxford in October. The book contains a few translations from modern Greek poets; two additional versions had appeared in *Κονδυλοφόρος* 21 (2023) in honour of his much-missed friend and colleague Peter Mackridge.

In December 2023 David lectured on Cypriot Renaissance sonnets at a colloquium at the University of Nicosia, meant to launch a new volume edited by King's alumna Marina Rodosthenous-Balafa. In March 2024 he joined the 'Voices of Greece' panel at the London Book Fair. In May 2024 David gave a paper at the Masaryk University in Brno (noting that T.G. Masaryk had once taught at King's); the topic was 'Among the Ruins: Four Modern Greek Poets'. In September he spoke at the University of Uppsala Emergent Themes Seminar on 'Is Water Best of Things? Water as Threat and Comfort in Greek Poetry since 1919'.

In July 2024, **Dr Peter Swallow** made the leap from Aristophanes scholar, Nomikos Postdoctoral Fellow, and super-efficient assistant to CHS to Member of Parliament for Labour. People say that when the tyrant Dionysius wanted to familiarize himself with the political system of the Athenians, Plato sent him the work of the poet Aristophanes, ... advising him to study his plays to gain insight into the Athenian state (Aristophanes, *Vita* 42–45). Peter, does that work for the UK as well?

Koraes Professor **Gonda Van Steen** co-convened the International Cavafy Summer School in Athens in July 2024. The topic of the Summer School was 'Cavafy, Theatre, and Performativity'. Co-convenor was Maria Boletsi, Professor of Modern Greek Studies and Marilena Laskaridis Chair at the University of Amsterdam and Associate Professor in Comparative Literature at Leiden University. Gonda published several refereed articles and chapters during her leave semester in spring 2024. She has also been serving on the board of the General State Archives of Greece, and she will take on the role of Research and Impact Lead of the Department of Classics in January 2025. The autumn was busy with teaching, tutoring, mentoring, and, of course, the play production. The year was filled with meetings, too, and on 17 September, she received an informal mandate from Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis to start preparing the citizenship applications of Greek-born adoptees for expedited processing by the Greek Ministry of the Interior. The in-person meeting was featured in *I Kathimerini*, 2 October 2024, by Nikos Konstandaras: '[A Great Step Homewards](#)'.

Below: Searching in New York City: scene from *For Three Refrigerators and a Washing Machine*, Greenwood Theatre, 24–26 October 2024 (above, p. 6).



People and Contact Information for King's Centre for Hellenic Studies in 2025

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- Centre for Hellenic Studies [website](https://www.kcl.ac.uk/cchs) • Collaborative event website 21in21.co.uk • Follow us: [@kingschs](https://twitter.com/kingschs)