



# The Hellenic Society

## Prometheas

Τη γλώσσα μου έδωσαν Ελληνική

Το σπίτι φτωχικό στις αμμουδιές του Ομήρου.

Μονάχη έγνοια η γλώσσα μου στις αμμουδιές του Ομήρου.

www.Prometheas.org

Οδυσσέας Ελύτης

## Newsletter

### June 2016

#### *Prometheas' Events*

- *No events this month:*

#### *Other Events and Announcements*

- **June 7, 6:30-8:30 pm: "Exploring the city of Thessaloniki: Turning challenges into opportunities" by Mayor Yiannis Boutaris** at the Greek Embassy, Washington DC (see invite: [https://www.eventbrite.com/e/exploring-the-city-of-thessaloniki-turning-challenges-into-opportunities-by-mayor-yiannis-boutaris-tickets-25599601096?ref=enivtefor001&invite=MTAyMjI3MzgvZXRhdm91bGFyZWZzQGlmYy5vcmcvMA%3D%3D&utm\\_source=eb\\_email&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=invitefor\\_malv2&utm\\_term=eventpage](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/exploring-the-city-of-thessaloniki-turning-challenges-into-opportunities-by-mayor-yiannis-boutaris-tickets-25599601096?ref=enivtefor001&invite=MTAyMjI3MzgvZXRhdm91bGFyZWZzQGlmYy5vcmcvMA%3D%3D&utm_source=eb_email&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=invitefor_malv2&utm_term=eventpage))
- **Through July 17: "Pergamon and the Hellenistic Kingdoms of the Ancient World"** at the Met Museum in New York City
- **June 1 - October 10: "The Greeks/Agamemnon to Alexander the Great"** at National Geographic Museum, Washington DC (tickets: [natgeo.org/thegreeks](http://natgeo.org/thegreeks))

## Websites of the month

- **Το νέο ντοκιμαντέρ του National Geographic για τα 5.000 χρόνια Ελληνικού πολιτισμού:** <http://www.tilestwra.com/to-anatrichiastiko-neo-ntokimanter-tou-national-geographic-gia-ta-5-000-chronia-ellinikou-politismou/>
- **Πάσχα στα νοσοκομεία παιδών σε όλη την Ελλάδα:** <http://www.hamogelo.gr/24-1/3044/Pasxa-sta-nosokomeia-paidon-se-olh-thn-Ellada>
- **Πάσχα στη Μονεμβασιά:** <http://m.athensvoice.gr/index.php?r=site/page&view=article&id=126961&cat=thepaper>
- **The Minoans were Caucasian: DNA debunks longstanding theory that Europe's first advanced culture was from Africa:** <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-2325768/The-Minoans-Caucasian-DNA-debunks-longstanding-theory-Europes-advanced-culture-Africa.html>
- **The Athens Tram:** [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/thanos-catsambas/the-athens-tram\\_b\\_9877998.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/thanos-catsambas/the-athens-tram_b_9877998.html)
- **Η Ελλάδα στον καθρέφτη:** <http://www.skai.gr/player/TV/?mmid=273157>
- **Κοτζιά Αναστάς, ο τελευταίος ακρίτας του Πόντου:** [http://infognomonpolitics.blogspot.fi/2016/05/blog-post\\_591.html?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Feed:+InfognomonPolitics+\(InfognomonPolitics\)&m=1](http://infognomonpolitics.blogspot.fi/2016/05/blog-post_591.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed:+InfognomonPolitics+(InfognomonPolitics)&m=1)
- **Alexi Pappas Veers Far From Her Lane:** <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/05/23/sports/alexi-pappas-track-star-veers-far-from-her-lane.html>
- **Κατεβάστε δωρεάν: Ιστορία του Ελληνικού Έθνους - Εκδοτική Αθηνών, Αθήνα 1975**
- <http://eranistis.net/wordpress/2016/03/26/%CE%BA%CE%B1%CF%84%CE%B5%CE%B2%CE%AC%CF%83%CF%84%CE%B5-%CE%B4%CF%89%CF%81%CE%B5%CE%AC%CE%BD-%CE%B9%CF%83%CF%84%CE%BF%CF%81%CE%AF%CE%B1-%CF%84%CE%BF%CF%85-%CE%B5%CE%BB%CE%BB%CE%B7%CE%BD%CE%B9%CE%BA/>

## Books and Music

- Paperback Released: **“Smyrna, September 1922 — The American Mission to Rescue Victims of the 20th Century’s Genocide”** <http://www.pappaspost.com/paperback-released-smyrna-september-1922-the-american-mission-to-rescue-victims-of-the-20th-centurys-genocide/>

## *News – Articles*

### ***Greece and Egypt***

Deep rising

**Treasures excavated from the Mediterranean show that when it came to subduing Egypt, the ancient Greeks knew how to win hearts and minds**

May 21st 2016



SOME time, probably in the eighth century AD, earthquakes, floods and subsidence caused the Egyptian coast at Alexandria and towards the Nile delta to sink beneath the waves. Tantalising references in ancient Greek and Egyptian texts to cities and temples along that coast were all that was left of them. Then in 1933 a Royal Air Force pilot, flying over Aboukir Bay east of Alexandria, thought he saw something. He told Prince Omar Toussoun, an Egyptian scholar, who found marble and red granite columns two kilometres offshore. At last, here was concrete evidence. Wars prevented further investigation, but from the 1960s onwards teams of underwater archaeologists have been mapping and excavating a whole submerged Graeco-Egyptian world near Alexandria, the city founded by Alexander the Great after he took Egypt from the Persians in 332BC.

Now, for the first time, an exhibition arranged in collaboration with the Egyptian Ministry of Antiquities highlights the excavations begun in the 1990s by an underwater team headed by Franck Goddio, founder of the Institut Européen d'Archéologie Sous-Marine (IEASM). Using new nuclear magnetic-resonance technology, Mr Goddio has located two more sunken cities, Canopus and Thonis-Heracleion, near the western branch of the Nile delta. The cities date back to the seventh century BC, long before the foundation of Alexandria, and their excavation adds to what was already known—that there was extensive commercial and religious interchange between Egypt and the rest of the eastern Mediterranean in the first millennium BC.

Some of this had been learned from work at Naukratis—a harbour city upriver from Canopus and Thonis-Heracleion, which was a trading post to the rest of Egypt. Writing in the fifth century BC, Herodotus reported that during the previous century the Egyptian king Amasis granted Greek traders and sailors special privileges at Naukratis, allowing them to set up sanctuaries to their gods there. Never submerged, Naukratis has been extensively researched ever since two British archaeologists, Flinders Petrie and David Hogarth, began excavations from the 1880s onwards.

The show draws as much on Naukratis as on the “sunken cities” of its title, revealing Greeks and Egyptians living side by side, their temples within waving distance, their styles and practices distinct but occasionally overlapping. Archaically smiling alabaster and limestone youths in Egyptian poses, made in Cyprus and found in a Greek sanctuary at Naukratis, give a sense of the sheer cosmopolitanism of the place. And it is there in the smaller things too—a small limestone figure of Horus the child, Greek coins, scarabs and amulets designed for both Greek and Egyptian markets.

Differences, of course, remained. The Greeks always thought the Egyptians strange and exotic. Herodotus said they did everything in reverse and Strabo, a Greek geographer from the first century BC, could never get used to animal worship. For their part, the Egyptians kept foreign trade under tight control. One of the most impressive exhibits, pulled good as new from the sea at Thonis-Heracleion, is an inscribed stone slab, the twin of one found at Naukratis in 1899. Its delicately carved hieroglyphs, here beautifully lit, describe hefty taxes on imports and exports payable to an Egyptian goddess.

This, then, was the background to Alexander the Great and the Ptolemaic dynasty that followed him, who managed as foreigners to rule Egypt for 300 years until 31BC. The existing traffic and mutual accommodation between Greeks and Egyptians smoothed the way, and led to a remarkably canny piece of political diplomacy by the conquerors to go further still—to honour the Egyptian gods outright and to Egyptianise themselves for their subjects. It was a propaganda project, executed with a stylish sense of theatre that is mirrored in the whole design and atmosphere of the exhibition itself.

For a moment at the entrance, visitors find themselves in a region of dim, green, subaqueous light before coming up for air, as it were, to a grand welcome from a huge, faintly smiling pink granite statue. A quick swivel to the left brings another *coup de théâtre*: a long perspective leads the eye through an opening to a graceful woman in clinging draperies and, beyond, to two more towering pink-granite figures: a Pharaoh and his consort. Scattered through the rooms are videos of them and others lying among the flickering fish, gazing at strange, slow, goggle-faced divers.

But, as it becomes clear, that towering pair in the distance turn out to be Ptolemies in pharaonic regalia. The consort even wears the horns of Hathor, the Egyptian goddess associated with Isis, who

together with her brother Osiris and their son Horus made up a divine trinity that was sacred to the Egyptians. Each of these Egyptian gods also corresponded to a Greek deity (there is a helpful chart in the exhibition). And it was precisely by exploiting this fluid system of divine correlations that Alexander and the Ptolemies managed to gain sanction from both sides and legitimise their political power.

Much of this show is about the Osiris cult. There is a magnificent statue of a bull, the Apis, revered in Egypt as an aspect of Osiris and known in its mummified form as Osiris-Apis. The Ptolemies honoured this animal deity, but they also had their own Greek version, Serapis, with a human form. A massive sycamore carving of him sits across from the bull, with flowing drapery and loosely curling hair and beard. Such pragmatic and aesthetic shifts between the two cultures are at the heart of the show. Alexandrian workshops could do you Greek-style, Egyptian-style or Graeco-Egyptian-style to order. The Rosetta Stone (not included in the show) stipulated that temple statues of Ptolemy V should be “made in the native way”. As for that graceful woman with clinging drapery seen earlier—she stands on a borderline. She was Arsinoe II, a Ptolemy. Her marriage to her brother Ptolemy II reflected the sacred union of Isis and her brother Osiris. The sculptor, using black Egyptian stone, has posed her “in the native way”, and her garment is tied in the Isis fashion. But her lifelike flesh and the fine lines of her dress proclaim her exquisitely Greek.

“Sunken Cities: Egypt’s Lost Worlds” is at the British Museum from May 19th until November 27th

<http://www.economist.com/news/books-and-arts/21699106-treasures-excavated-mediterranean-show-when-it-came-subduing-egypt>