



SMYRNA

THE DESTRUCTION OF A COSMOPOLITAN CITY 1900-1922

Director & Curator: Maria Iliou
Historical Consultant: Alexander Kitroeff

29 JANUARY - 10 FEBRUARY 2013

Exhibition opening times

Weekdays 10am-6pm, Weekends 11am-4pm

Film screening

Saturday 2 February at 10.30am, 1.30pm, 4.30pm, 7pm

On Saturday 2 February
the exhibition can be visited between screenings

FREE ENTRY



THE HELLENIC CENTRE
16-18 Paddington Street, London W1U 5AS
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SMYRNA: THE DESTRUCTION OF A COSMOPOLITAN CITY 1900-1922

To mark the ninetieth anniversary of the end of the Greco-Turkish War of 1919-1922 and of the destruction of Smyrna the Hellenic Centre is hosting an exhibition and the projection of a documentary film, both of which were shown to much acclaim at the Benaki Museum in Athens earlier this year. There will also be an accompanying lecture series, giving the opportunity for an extensive discussion of these historical events. Both the film and the exhibition bring us previously unpublished images, which are the fruit of extensive research in Europe and the U.S. carried out by the director and curator Maria Iliou and the historian Alexander Kitroeff. They vividly illustrate the life of Smyrna in the last decades before the city's destruction and enhance our understanding of the dramatic events of 1922.

Maria Iliou is an award-winning film director from Greece, currently living in New York. Her directorial credits include *The Journey: The Greek American Dream* (2007 AFI SELECTION in Washington DC, The European Showcase), *Alexandria* (2001, Houston Film Festival Platinum Award, USA), *Tris Epoches* (Three Seasons, 1997, Würzburg Festival Prize for Best Film, Germany), *Stop the Bombs, Aegean, Seaward Window*, (1992, Istituto Luce Award, Italy), and *Encounter* (1989, Greek Ministry of Culture Award of Best Films). She is the founder of the Proteus Foundation in Athens.

Alexander Kitroeff is a historian and is currently Associate Professor of History at Haverford College. His publications include *The Greeks in Egypt, 1919-1937 - Ethnicity and Class* (London, 1989), *Griegos en America* (Madrid, 1992), *Wartime Jews: The Case of Athens* (Athens, 1995), and *Wrestling with the Ancients: Modern Greek Identity and the Olympics* (New York, 2004) and numerous articles on the history of the Greek Diaspora.

EXHIBITION CONTRIBUTORS

Researcher-Curator: Maria Iliou

Historical Consultant: Alexander Kitroeff

Texts-Captions: Maria Iliou, Alexander Kitroeff

FOR PROTEUS

Researchers in the US and Europe: Polly Pettit, Margaret Johnson, Rebecca Honig Friedman, James Barker, Jane Fish, Valerie Combard, Victor Belyakov, Venetia Kaisari, Maria Tsiga, Anna Maria Aslanoglou, Maria Peponi

Scanning: Lourdes Gallegos, Vasilis Lambropoulos

Image Processing: Rouselos Aravantinos, Olga Hardalia

Translation-Editing: John C Davis, John O'Shea

FILM CONTRIBUTORS

Speakers: Giles Milton (author of the book *Paradise Lost*), Alexander Kitroeff (Haverford College), Thanos Veremis (University of Athens), Victoria Solomonidis (Fellow, King's College), Eleni Bastea (New Mexico University), Leyla Neyzi (Sabanci University), Jack Nalbatian

Director: Maria Iliou

Historical Consultant: Alexander Kitroeff

Music: Nikos Platyrachos

Image and Sound Editing: Aliko Panagi

Photography: Allen Moore

Sound: John Zecca

Audio Mixing: Giorgos Mikrogianakis

Animation Photography: Aspa Papazacharia, Ben Pollard

Special Effects: George Manolopoulos, Rouselos Aravantinos

Director of Production: Melissa Hibbard

Production Assistant: Nefeli Piree-Iliou

Subtitles: Zoi Siapanta

Labs: Du Art (New York), Colorlab (Washington, D.C.), Graal, Correct, Videopress (Athens)

Researchers in the U.S. and Europe: Polly Pettit, Margaret Johnson, Rebecca Honig Friedman, James Barker, Jane Fish, Valerie Combard, Victor Belyakov, James Walker, Venetia Kaisari, Maria Tsiga, Anna Maria Aslanoglou, Maria Peponi

Producer: PROTEUS Not for Profit

Duration: 87min

LECTURES

Wednesday 30 January, 7.15pm

Smyrna: A Cosmopolitan City - A Story in Pictures Giles Milton and Victoria Solomonidis will be discussing the rare and fascinating photographs in the exhibition *Smyrna: the Destruction of a Cosmopolitan City 1900-1922* and will give an historical background to the pictures. Giles Milton is a best-selling writer and historian whose books have been translated into 18 languages. He is the author of *Paradise Lost: Smyrna 1922, a History of the Asia Minor Catastrophe*. Dr Victoria Solomonidis, FKC is an historian and translator. A third-generation Smyrniot, she is a Fellow of King's College London and an Associate Researcher at Imperial College London, where she lectures on the history of translation. She is currently working on a study of the genesis of the Greek expedition to Asia Minor (1919-1922), the administration of Aristidis Stergiadis and the tragic aftermath of the venture.

Friday 1 February, 7.15pm

The 1923 Greco-Turkish Exchange of Populations in Historical Perspective Renée Hirschon will give an illustrated talk on the short and long term consequences of the compulsory expulsion of the religious minorities of Greece and Turkey which took place ninety years ago. The asymmetry of the experience for each country will be discussed and a critical appraisal of the various positive and negative aspects of the Exchange will be made. Professor Hirschon is a Senior Research Fellow at St Peter's College, University of Oxford. Her major works include the monograph *Heirs of the Greek Catastrophe* (1989; 1998) and *Crossing the Aegean: An Appraisal of the Consequences of the 1923 Population Exchange between Greece and Turkey* (2004). She is the author of numerous articles on Greek culture, religion and national identity, gender, oral history, linguistic behaviour and on forced migration and diasporas.

Tuesday 5 February, 7.15pm

'The Pearl of the Levant': Portrait of Smyrna as a World City Philip Mansel shows how Smyrna shared characteristics of geography, diplomacy, hybridity, trade, modernity and vulnerability with other Levantine ports such as Alexandria, Beirut and Constantinople. Even more than other Levantine cities, it was transformed by twentieth-century nationalism, but is now trying to reconnect to its Levantine past. Dr Philip Mansel is author of *Constantinople, City of the World's Desire* (1995) and a history of modern Smyrna, Alexandria and Beirut, *Levant: Splendour and Catastrophe on the Mediterranean* (2010). Both have been published in Greek. He is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society and Royal Society of Literature, and editor of *The Court Historian*, journal of the Society for Court Studies.

Friday 8 February, 7.15pm

Smyrna's Living Heritage George Vassiadis talks about the Station Square, a surviving district of Old Smyrna. George Vassiadis is an independent historian and genealogist. The main focus of his research is the political and cultural history of Greece and the Greek diaspora as well as the historical urban environment and cosmopolitan atmosphere of cities like Constantinople, Smyrna and Alexandria.

A Lexicon of Smyrneika George Galdies and George Poulimenos present the only dictionary of Smyrna's historic Greco-Levantine dialect, written in Frangohiotika and translated into English, Turkish and Greek. George Galdies was born and grew up in Izmir (Smyrna). He was British Vice-Consul in Izmir in the 1970s and maintains some business activities in Turkey. Since retirement he has been actively promoting Smyrna's Hellenic-Levantine inheritance worldwide. George Poulimenos was born in Athens but his maternal grandparents were from Panagia (Ciftlik) near Cesme in Asia Minor. He studied chemical engineering, he is a professional software analyst/programmer and his passions are computers and history; especially the history of Smyrna and its periphery. George Galdies and George Poulimenos are the authors of *A Lexicon of Smyrneika* together with Alex Baltazzi.



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