



The meeting of Secretary General of Greek MFA, Themistocles Demiris, with the political leadership of FCDO, in London, on the 21st of June 2022



Taste of Greece at British Parliament



Greek British Symposium London Networking Event

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Secretary General of Greek MFA, Themistocles Demiris, meets with the political leadership of FCDO

Secretary General of Greek MFA, Themistocles Demiris held broad political dialogue consultations in London with FCDO leadership, including Permanent Undersecretary, Sir Philip Barton, and Second Permanent Undersecretary, Sir Tim Barrow. They discussed the political issues and their intensive dialogue showed a significant convergence of opinions. In particular, they discussed defining more areas of cooperation and shared deliverable aims, as regards to the Strategic Bilateral Framework between Greece and the United Kingdom, signed on the 25th of October 2021.

The British side emphasized issues that have to do with the fields of defence, migration, tourism and civil rights after Brexit, expressing its thanks to Greek Authorities for helping British citizens in Greece. Enhancing bilateral relations in the post-Brexit era is of utmost importance for both sides, with the prioritized fields being political dialogue, trade, investments, digitization, innovation, research, maritime issues, defence and education.

Last but not least, it was also agreed that they will meet again in Athens before the first ministerial meeting for an overview of the Strategic Bilateral Framework that will take place by the end of the year.

Greek gastronomy served... at British Parliament

In collaboration with the Greek Parliament's Greek - British Friendship Committee and Greek National Tourism Office in London, Embassy of Greece in London organized, on Wednesday 22 June, an event in a hall at the British Parliament for the promotion of Greek gastronomy and Greek tourism. The event was attended by Government Ministers, including the Minister of Digital, Culture, Media & Sports, Nadine Dorries, Minister of State at the Department of Health and Social Care, Edward Argar, DCMS Minister for Tourism, Nigel Huddleston, and more than 45 MPs, members of British Parliament staff and journalists.

During his speech, the Conservative Party MP and Chairman of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Greece (APPG), Alberto Costa, pointed out that

the goal of this committee is to promote bilateral relations, stressing that Greece and Britain already cooperate constructively in many international institutions such as NATO, the UN, the Council of Europe. Minister for Tourism, Nigel Huddleston, talked about the powerful links between the two countries, underlining that tourism strengthens their bilateral ties at many levels, in addition to economic and cultural, interpersonal and ultimately political relations.

Ambassador of Greece in the UK, Mr Ioannis Raptakis pointed out that the relations between Greece and UK are at the highest possible level, as demonstrated by a series of bilateral visits and contacts during the year at a very high level, while expressing the belief that there is a strong willingness from both sides to intensify cooperation through the new Strategic Framework in many fields. He also emphasized on the importance of inter-parliamentary contacts in building the new post-Brexit Greek-British bilateral relationship.

Attendees had the opportunity to taste traditional Greek recipes, but also to be informed about Greece as a tourist hotspot, through rich informative material provided by the Greek National Tourism Office in London.



Greek-British Symposium London Networking Event

On Thursday 23 June the Greek-British Symposium London Networking Event was held at the Hellenic residence. The event was attended by the members of the Executive Committee of the Symposium, David Landsman (British Ambassador to Greece from 2009 to 2013), Lord Francis Maude (Former UK Minister), and Vicky Pryce (Chief Economic Adviser and board member at the Centre for Economics and Business Research), as well as by MPs Graham Brady (Member of the APPG Greece), Denis MacShane (former Minister of State for Europe), as well as distinguished members of the Academia.

During his speech, Lord Francis Maude stressed the importance of cooperation with the Greek Embassy, saying that one of the most crucial consequences of Brexit is the importance of strengthening bilateral relations, which is at the heart of the Symposium.

On his part, the Ambassador of Greece, Mr Ioannis Raptakis, mentioned a new chapter in the relations of our two countries, with successive visits of the Greek Prime Minister and other Greek officials in the UK and the signing of the UK-Greece Strategic Bilateral Framework.

A similar networking event was held last March in Athens by the British Embassy. The Greek British Symposium this year will take place on October 13-15 in Nafplio and will tackle the issues of Tourism, Culture and Education.

The Greek-British Symposium is a bilateral forum - a privately led and sponsorship-funded initiative, delivered by the organisers of the Delphi Economic Forum with the support of the British Embassy Athens and the British Council. It was launched in October 2017, in Nafplion, Greece, it continued the next year in Ditchley Park in the UK, and returned to Nafplion in 2019. In 2020 the Symposium took place in hybrid format – part physical in central Athens, but mostly via digital platform. In September 2021 at Pembroke College, Oxford, the fifth Greek-British Symposium entitled "Trade and Exchanges: A new landscape" continued to strengthen of bilateral relationship as discussions confirm plentiful opportunities for cooperation post EU-exit, in trade and beyond. Impressive turn-out of Cabinet Ministers and MPs past and present and of leading business, policy and

research experts from both countries coupled with extensive networking opportunities. Discussions focused on the role of international trade in the formation of the Greek State; the changing context and driving forces of global trade; trading places, exchanging ideas; Greece and the UK's trading relationship.

The Greek-British Symposium is an opportunity to bring together an exclusive but diverse selection of leaders in policy, business, academia, media and culture from the UK and Greece to discuss issues at the forefront of global and regional development under the Chatham House Rule, whilst fostering personal relations and forging a better understanding of the dynamics developing within and between our two countries in a convivial and inspiring set up.

The Symposium is run by an 11-member-strong Steering Committee headed by two Co-Chairs (British and Greek) and includes i.a. the British Ambassador, the British Council Greece Director and the contracted events company's CEO. Committee members meet on a monthly basis to provide directions on event location, theme, format, content.

<https://www.greekbritishsymposium.com/>



WATCH THE 2021 HIGHLIGHTS VIDEO

Runciman Award 2022...and the winner is Ian Collins for "John Craxton: A Life of Gifts"



On Monday 13th of June 2022, the Runciman Award 2022 ceremony was held at King's College University in London. This year the award was given to Ian Collins, author of "John Craxton: A Life of Gifts", a book - biography of the British artist John Craxton (1922–2009), who lived in Greece and mainly in Crete, from 1946 to 1966, while from 1970 he moved permanently to Crete.

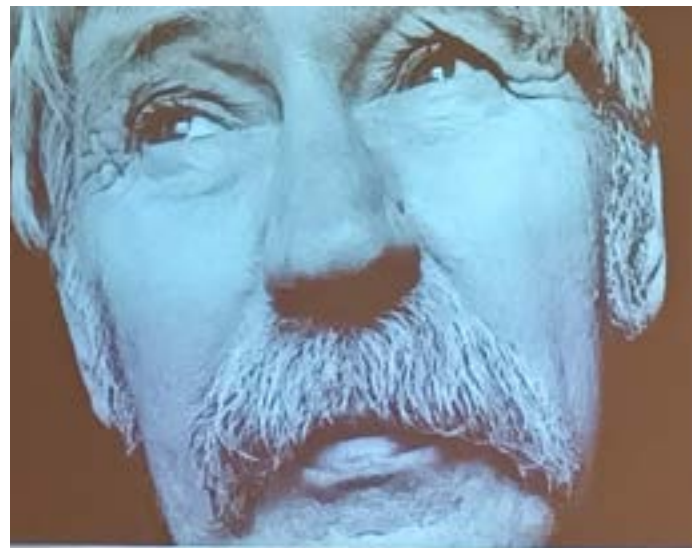
The 2022 Runciman Prize was awarded to author Ian Collins by Prince Michael of Kent. The introductory remarks at the Ceremony were made by former British diplomat and Anglo-Hellenic League chairman, Mr John Kittmer, who emphasized on the value of the institution, followed by Professor Richard Hunter, University of Cambridge, who was the keynote speaker of the evening, with his speech entitled: "Those who do not know the sea: Homer and the margins of the Greek world".

Professor Peter Frankopan, University of Oxford, presented the short list of the eight most popular books and announced the winner of the award. The final remarks of the ceremony were made by Professor Gonda Van Steen, Korais chair at the Center for Greek Studies at King's College. It is worth noting that all the speakers underlined the contribution of both the AG Leventis Foundation and the A.K. Laskaridis Foundation, which are both the official sponsors of Runciman Award since 2021. The Runciman Award is an annual literary award, established since 1986, offered by the Anglo-Hellenic League in a book published the previous year in English that deals in whole or in part with Greece or Hellenism. The award was named in honor of the distinguished historian and admirer of the Byzantine Empire, Sir Steven Runciman, who for many years was head of the Anglo-Hellenic League. Previous winners include journalist and historian Mark Mazower, Professor Richard Clogg, and journalist and writer Bruce Clark, while the unique four-time winner is Professor Roderick Beaton.

John Craxton: His works and his life in Greece

On Thursday, June 16, 2022, The Runciman Award Winner 2022, Ian Collins, writer of the book "John Craxton: A Life of Gifts" presented at the premises of the Hellenic Centre the remarkable life of a Greek Soul, the British artist John Craxton, while showing some of his most important paintings. Ian Collins introduced the audience to some of the unknown aspects of Craxton's life, while he revealed some of his artworks, many of which feature Greek faces and places from the middle of the 20th century, highlighting his passionate love of the Greek world. His works are currently displayed at Benaki Museum up until the 11th of September, while from October 2022 until January 2023, the exhibition will travel to Crete to the Municipal Art Gallery of Chania and later it will be presented to London.

<https://helleniccentre.org/event/john-craxton-a-greek-soul/>



London Greek Film Festival: A success story in London



speeches, the awards were presented to the winners of the Festival, who were twenty-nine overall.

Finally, during the event, the video of National Centre of Audiovisual Media and Communication (EKOME) "Greece, a natural studio" was displayed, which supports and promotes film productions in Greece and was of great interest to the attendees

<https://www.londongreekfilmfestival.com/>

The 15th London Greek Film Festival awards ceremony took place on Thursday, June 9, 2022, at the premises of the Greek Embassy in London. London Greek Film Festival, an internationally recognized cultural institution, celebrated this year celebrated its 15 years uninterrupted presence in the artistic field of London, offering continuous support and promotion of Greek film production, but also being the meeting and interaction point of Greek filmmakers with an international audience.



The Greek Ambassador in UK, Mr. I. Raptakis stressed the importance and contribution of the Festival in the promotion of Greek culture, emphasizing that the Greek Embassy in London will continue to support the Festival in the future. The founder and director of the Festival, Mr. Christos Prosyliis, initially reviewed the history of the Festival, while a special mention was afforded to the collaboration of the Greek Film Festival London with the debut International Epidaurus Film Festival, which begins in September 2022.



Equally important were the videotaped messages of support to the Greek Film Festival in London by the Deputy Minister for Diaspora Greeks, Mr. A. Katsaniotis, as well as the Secretary General of Greeks Abroad & Public Diplomacy, Mr. I. Chrysoulakis. Mr. A. Katsaniotis emphasized the contribution of Greek filmmakers as ambassadors of Greek culture, while stressing the importance of the Festival which has managed to be a reference point of contemporary Greek film production. From his part, Mr. I. Chrysoulakis emphasized the mobilization of the Greek community through the Film Festival, underlining that it is a privileged field of public diplomacy in our country. After the end of the



20th Katie Lentakis Award Ceremony



The 20th Katie Lentakis Memorial Fund Award Ceremony took place at King's College in London on Monday 27th June 2022. The Award is given annually by the Anglo-Hellenic League in memory of Katie Lentakis, a stalwart of the London Greek community and a longstanding Vice-Chair of the League. The competition is open to final-year undergraduates at King's College London for an essay on a Greek subject.

Dr John Kittmer, the Chairman of Anglo-Hellenic League introduced the event, underlining the importance of the award for the strengthening of the Greek-British relations. Professor Gonda van Steen, Koraes Chair of Modern Greek and Byzantine History, announced that this year's winner was Juliette Quatre for her essay on Greek Magical Papyri. Following the award ceremony, Dr John Kittmer and Professor Roderick Beaton discussed about Beaton's latest book, «The Greeks: A Global History», analysing the story of the development of Greek nation and the long history of Hellenism.



In Memoriam : Peter Mackridge

Professor Peter Mackridge, Emeritus Professor of Modern Greek at St Cross and Dean of Degrees at Oxford University for many years, died on the 16th of June 2022 at the age of 76. Peter Mackridge's research has covered various aspects of Greek language, literature, and cultural history since AD 1100, but he specialized in the period since 1750, including the history of the language, language ideologies, and the history of Greek cultural nationalism. He had published widely on Greek language and literature, including two co-authored grammars, and had recently published translations of stories by Vizyenos and Papadiamandis, and haikus by Haris Vlavianos. He was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Athens in 2008 and an honorary professorship by the University of the Peloponnese in 2017.

During a Citizenship Ceremony that took place at the Hellenic Residence on the 23rd of March 2022, Peter Mackridge was awarded an honorary Greek citizenship for his services to Greek studies. His death is a tragic loss of a passionate & enthusiastic advocate of Greece, which he was proud to call "πατρίδα". He will be greatly missed.



Professor Peter Mackridge

"Learning Greek - Ellinomatheia: The Future of the Greek Language in the UK"

The Education Office of the Greek Embassy in London held on Sunday, June 19th 2022 a much-awaited seminar for the Certification of Proficiency in Greek, entitled "Learning Greek: The Future of the Greek Language in the UK" organised by the Education Office in the Greek Embassy in London with the invaluable contribution of the Greek Language Centre (Thessaloniki, Greece).

The event was honored by the presence Secretary of the Greek Embassy in London, Mr George Drakopoulos, the Deputy Education Counsellor at the Greek Embassy, Mrs Eirini Veroni, and the Head - Inspector of the Cyprus Educational Mission in London, Mrs Vassiliki Kouma. The Coordinator of the Archdiocese Central Educational Institution Mrs Ismini Hatzigianni – Gika, and the President of the Greek-speaking Community of Agios Athanasios, Cambridge Mr George Pippas, were also present, paying tribute to the event.

In the first part of the seminar, the two keynote speakers, Mrs Natassa Birboutzouki and Mrs Victoria Panagiotidou, representatives of the Greek Language Centre, analyzed the structure of the institutional framework, while referring to the usefulness and levels of the Certification of Proficiency in Greek. They extensively demonstrated resources of 'KEF' (the Portal for the Greek Language) for teaching Greek as a foreign/second language and for the preparation of students for the Greek language exams. In what followed, teachers Mrs Barbara Sarimbalidou and Mrs Magdalini Koufomeritis discussed teaching the language in the Greek communities of the UK and shared important experiences of preparing students for examinations in their rich presentations, "Production of Oral Speech" and "Conducting Greek language exams at TEG Birmingham" respectively.

The rich and engaging presentations inspired a fruitful and lively discussion between participants and the speakers in which ideas and experiences were shared and important points were raised around the teaching of the Greek language in the UK. The event was marked with great success highlighting the need for continuous support in teaching and certifying Greek while celebrating and preserving the treasures of our history and culture.



Greek Wine Producers at the Wine Fair in London

Celebrating its 40th anniversary, the London Wine Fair is back live after two years of absence, at the Olympia London Grand Hall, on the 7th-9th of June 2022. The rich, innovative wine sector of Greece was represented by 30+ Greek wineries, participating with the Wines of Greece and also with the Regions of Central Greece, Central Macedonia and Crete.

The wineries that participated were: Akriotou Wines, Argatia Winery, Argyrakis Wines, Avantis Wines, Boutari Scalarea Estate, Boutari Wineries, Charalaboglou Estate, Diamantakis Winery, Domaine Costa Lazaridi, Domaine Florian, Domaine Hatzimichalis, Douloufakis Nikos Winery, Ktima Diamantakos, Ktima Toplou / Toplou Winery, Lykos Winery, Messimvria Winery, Minos Miliarakis Winery, Moschopolis Winery, Muses Estate, Oenops Wines, Petriessa Estate, Samartzis Estate Wines, Samos Coop, Skoumpris Winery, Taralas Estate, Thivaiki Gi, Tsantalis, Tselepos Wines, Tzivani Bio Wines, Vaeni Naoussa, Wines of Crete.

The Ambassador of Greece in the UK, Mr Ioannis Raptakis, visited the wine fair and talked with the Greek participants on how the Greek wine can be intensify its presence in the British wine market.



Ambassador Mr I. Raptakis at the Wine Fair

The missing marble head of Hercules of Antikythera was found at the Antikythera shipwreck

A huge marble bearded male head belonging to the statue of Hercules of Antikythera, housed in the Greek National Archaeological Museum, is among the impressive new findings that came to light during an underwater archaeological excavation at the Antikythera Shipwreck. This is the second period of research carried out by the Swiss Archaeological School in Greece on the impressive shipwreck dating from the 2nd quarter of the 1st century and in which it was discovered the famous Antikythera Mechanism, the ancient artefact, which functioned as a mechanical computer and astronomical observation instrument.

The ship carrying the marble statue, along with 35 ancient gods, three marble horses, a bronze lyre and pieces of glasswork, was smashed against the rocks off Antikythera while heading for Rome in about 60BC. The Antikythera Shipwreck was discovered in 1900 by a group of spongers who approached it by diving in the area. The first finding that came to light was the bronze hand of a statue and two years later it was revealed that one of the artefacts recovered, a bronze object inscribed with a built-in gear, was the famous Antikythera astrolabe mechanism. It took 75 years from that first research until the fall of 1976, when French officer Jacques-Yves Cousteau arrived and made a number of new discoveries. The wreck is considered one of the world's most important underwater historical sites.



Antikythera Shipwreck

Moon, 66 Questions, a film by Jacqueline Lentzou

Moon 66, Questions a film by Jacqueline Lentzou, is in select cinemas now and coming to digital platforms on August 8. There were private screenings of the film in London on 22, 23 & 24 June with Q+A and introduction by the director

About the director: Jacqueline Lentzou is an award winning Greek film director and screenwriter, known for Moon, 66 Questions (2021), The End of Suffering (A Proposal) (2020) and Hector Malot: The Last Day of the Year (2018).

Born in Athens, Greece and brought up in Thessaloniki from 1995 onwards, Jacqueline has been always on the move. She commenced her BA in Film and TV Studies at the Royal Holloway College, yet completed it at the American College of Greece, receiving highest distinction. At the age of 21 she moved to London to begin her training at the London Film School. Her first film And the Kid is featured on the National Gallery's official website. It was also screened in the experimental section at the 2013 Screentest: UK's National Student Film Festival and the NFFTY 2013 (National Film Festival for Talented Youth).

Her second film Insights won the Best Experimental Film Award at the 2012 London Greek Film Festival. In 2013 she received her MA in Filmmaking with distinction with her thesis film Thirteen Blue.

Moon, 66 Questions marks Lentzou's third collaboration with Kokkali, who also starred in Lentzou's Hector Malot: The Last Day of the Year, a 2018 short that won the Leica Cine Discovery Prize at Cannes. With her other shorts playing festivals such as Berlin and Locarno, Lentzou has been slowly developing her craft for a decade.

She spoke to @GreeceInUK about her London experience.

This month, Moon 66 was screened in London with Q&A. How was this experience?

It was an overall moving experience, because apart from the screenings that took place in very important cinema venues, I had the chance to revisit places I used to hang out as a student.

Greece has implemented recently new incentives in order to attract international productions. What do you think of the filming industry in Greece?

Regardless of the many efforts, ideas and actions that have been made towards making the industry more efficient, unfortunately it is still very hard.

About the film: Jacqueline Lentzou's highly anticipated debut feature is a considerate and touching portrayal of familial dynamics between Paris (Lazaros Georgakopoulos) and his teenage daughter, Artemis (Sofia Kokkali), as she returns home to Athens to care for him. The pair have struggled to communicate with each other for much of Artemis's life and now, as her father deteriorates, she must face this lacking relationship head-on. Her seclusion at her father's home is the backdrop of her discovery of his well-kept secrets. As she delves into this newfound information, she begins to see him in a new light and love him as the father she never knew.

More info: modernfilms.com/moon

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