

# MODERN GREEK PROGRAM

Winter 2011 Newsletter

## PRESENTING THE LESSER-KNOWN C. P. CAVAFY

by ARTEMISLEONTIS



Peter Jeffreys, Asst. Prof. of English at Suffolk University, is the editor and translator of *C. P. Cavafy: Selected Prose Works* (University of Michigan Press, 2010).

**B**est known for his distinctive voice and unique bangle on the universe, C. P. Cavafy is regarded internationally as one of the great poets of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Certainly he is the most widely translated Modern Greek writer in the world. Yet Cavafy's prose has been out of the reach of English readers. This lesser-known side of Cavafy appears now for the first time in a book published by University of Michigan Press. *C. P. Cavafy: Selected Prose Works*, eloquently translated and annotated by Peter Jeffreys, collects forty pieces of Cavafy's most illuminating and interesting prose works both for a general readership and for 21<sup>st</sup> century Cavafy scholarship.

In an exclusive interview for this newsletter, Professor Jeffreys, a Cavafy scholar who teaches English at Suffolk University in Boston and has already published two books on Cavafy (*Eastern Questions: Hellenism and Orientalism in the Writings of E.M. Forster and C.P. Cavafy* and *The Forster-Cavafy Letters: Friends at a Slight Angle*), explained his decision to translate the prose: "It was high time for an edition of the prose to appear. Scholars, critics and students not possessing the specialized language skills required to read Cavafy's purist Greek (*katharevousa*) have been at a disadvantage in not being able to access and reference this important body of work. Hopefully this volume will address this imbalance and generate some new discussions about Cavafy."

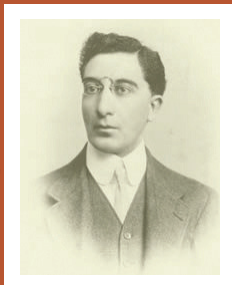
Jeffreys organized the book in four sections. Section I, entitled "Essays," "contains journalistic essays and book reviews dating back to Cavafy's early years. A number of them were written in English and give the reader a sample of Cavafy's flare for the language. They also represent Cavafy's efforts to launch a career in journalism, which required him to express political and cultural opinions that he tended to shy away from during his later years." Section II, "Fiction and Creative Writing," "presents Cavafy's creative endeavors with literary prose and features unpublished prose poems as well as a gothic short story." Section III, "Literary Reflections," "contains Cavafy's reflections on other poets, historic and literary figures from antiquity, and views on language and the creative process." And the "Miscellaneous" Section IV "gathers various comments and notes on both historical and literary topics, including Cavafy's intriguing notes on poetics and ethics."

Cavafy's dense, syntactically complex prose posed unique challenges to the translator. "Deciphering the exact meaning in some instances proved quite challenging," states Jeffreys, "as did rendering the cadence and flow of his sentences. In my translations I tried to replicate Cavafy's own English style and diction—an act of linguistic ventriloquism if you will. The ideal was to present translations that imitate Cavafy's own peculiar English style, which I guess we could call late-Victorian. Also, locating the original texts which Cavafy translated from English into Greek proved to be very time consuming but at the same time a rewarding opportunity to appreciate Cavafy the translator and excerpter—functions that were central to his role as a journalist."

*Selected Prose Works* presents a significant, little-known facet of Cavafy's intellectual and professional life. Cavafy wrote prose from about 1882 to 1930 and published the form between 1886 and 1918. Each prose work reveals his serious engagement with ideas, questions, and policies of his day. His comments touch on a range of topics from the Greek language, world literature, and cultural life of Egypt to the proper location of the "Elgin Marbles" and the Cypriot Question. His reading is as extensive as it is attentive to subtle details. Cavafy was a real diasporic intellectual, who situated himself in a huge network stretching from Leipzig to Athens, Constantinople to Alexandria, and his prose contains the imprint of his broad scholarly reach.

Within that international network, Cavafy was thinking strategically about his own place as a writer. *Selected Prose Works* makes it clear that Cavafy eventually saw his future in poetry, even though he was also an astute critic. "On the Poet C. P. Cavafy," the last, unpublished piece of 1930 in this prose collection, shows the power of Cavafy's critical judgment. It presciently reflects on the future Cavafy the critic thought Cavafy the poet would have: "Cavafy, in my opinion, is an ultra-modern poet, a poet of future generations.... Rare poets like Cavafy will thus secure a primary position in a world that thinks far more than the world of today.... I maintain that his work will not remain simply buried inside libraries as an historic document of the development of Greek literature" (143). This new publication makes widely available in English one of the few significant pieces of Cavafy's corpus that still "remained buried" inside Greek libraries.

**"C.P. CAVAFY'S SELECTED PROSE WORKS" PETER JEFFREYS, PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH, SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY**  
**March 21, 2011 at 5:00PM | Kelsey Museum, 434 S. State St.**



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ENDOWED BY THE FOUNDATION FOR MODERN GREEK STUDIES

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World Wide Web Address

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# Note from the DIRECTOR...

by VASSILIS LAMPROPOULOS

If you take a close look at the publicity for our events each semester, you will notice that campus rubrics such as the Hellenic Student Association, Contexts for Classics, Kelsey Museum of Archaeology, Department of Comparative Literature, Center for European Studies, Papyrus Collection, Music School, and Museum of Art almost always appear next to the rubric "Modern Greek Program – Department of Classical Studies." You may also notice non-campus institutions, such as the Alexander Onassis Foundation, Kerrytown Concert House, Jewish Community Center (or in the past the much lamented Shaman Drum Bookstore, which closed its doors last year), Fulbright-Greece Office, Foundation for Modern Greek Studies, and Centre for the Greek Language appearing as cosponsors of our activities. These are among the many groups with which we collaborate to put together a campus event.

Why these collaborations? Collaborations work in two directions: when the Modern Greek Program approaches another unit or when another unit approaches us for a contribution. Contributions may involve funds, space, publicity, personnel, materials or anything else that an event may require. Since the events we organize are free and open to the public, they do not make any money, and it is therefore our responsibility to make sure that they are adequately and properly funded by university resources. In the posters for major campus events you will notice long lists of sponsors, because such events require significant resources.

Above all, by collaborating with departments, museums, centers, libraries, concert halls, foundations and the like, the Modern Greek Program stands to learn a lot and to gain visibility. We do not operate in isolation and we do not draw a limited, homogeneous audience. Instead, we work together regularly with some of the best institutional entities on campus, in Ann Arbor, and beyond, and we are well known and respected for the numerous collaborative academic and cultural events we organize.

This Winter semester we have put together, by way of multiple collaborations, a great series of events covering a broad artistic, intellectual, and geographical range. They include not one but two concerts, one of chamber music at the Kerrytown Concert House with Greek composers and performers, the other of rebetika with the exceptional group "Rebetiki Istoría" returning from Athens for an encore performance at Stamps

Auditorium. There will be three academic lectures. Professor Gregory Jusdanis will give the ninth Annual Dimitris & Irmgard Pallas Modern Greek Lecture "On Greek Friendship." Professor Peter Jeffreys, author of several books on C.P. Cavafy, will present his translation of Cavafy's *Prose Works*, published by U-M Press. Gazmend Kapllani, a prominent journalist in Greece from Albania and author of the bestseller *Μικρό ημερολόγιο Συνόρων* (translated as *A Short Border Handbook*), will give his first talk in the U.S. as part of the "Conversations on Europe" in the Center for European Studies series, "The Connecting Sea: Charting the Mediterranean Across the Disciplines." Also part of that series are two Greek films, the "Mediterranean Topographies" Interdisciplinary Workshop, and an exhibition on the Mediterranean in the Maps division of Hatcher Graduate Library, of which the Modern Greek Program is a co-sponsor.

Besides these U-M initiated Programs, Modern Greek Program will also operate as an examination Center for the "Ellinomatheia" Certificate of Attainment in Modern Greek test offered by the Centre for the Greek Language of the Greek Ministry of Education. Test dates this year are May 10-12, and applications are made through the Centre for the Greek Language.

When you look at the publicity for these events and notice that most of them are co-sponsored, you will now know how this works and why it is important. You will also notice how many units we collaborate with, how visible Modern Greek is on the U-M campus, and how broad an interest Modern Greek continues to attract from faculty, students, and the general public.

Our basic support still comes from our endowed sources and annual support, and our basic mission is to educate our students and ourselves. These are the backbone of our activities, which are on average twenty each year, more than in most Modern Greek Programs in the world. However, in this column I wanted to highlight an extra dimension of these activities, the fact that they are also integrated into a broader exploration of things ancient and recent, local and regional, ethnic and ecumenical, cultural, and economic. And they are made possible and much better known through the wonderful collaborations that we develop for each event with one or more other institutional units. Working with co-sponsors always reminds us what a splendid place Michigan is for people to join forces and pursue common goals.



**F**rom a young age my interests have focused in international affairs and international relations. Every year my family would travel to Greece to see my grandparents and extended family. These excursions introduced me to the world outside my “bubble” on Grand Island, New York, where I was born and raised. I became fascinated with that world. I wanted to know what was going on and the reasons behind it. I also witnessed Greek people talking politics in a lively and animated way. I think it’s in their DNA to discuss and argue about political and social affairs.

I first heard about the unsolved Cypriot problem in a Modern Greek class at U-M. It was “Introduction to Modern Greek Culture” (Modern Greek 214). Through required readings I learned about the failed coup to overthrow President Archbishop Makarios of Cyprus and the Turkish invasion and occupation of the northern third of the independent island country in the summer of 1974, which then took down the dictatorship in Greece and left Cyprus divided to the present day.

This past summer I had the opportunity to participate in a student foreign policy trip to Cyprus and Greece through the American Hellenic Institute Foundation (AHIF), the non-profit educational and research think tank focusing on issues affecting the Greek American community as they pertain to U.S. relations with Greece, Cyprus, and Turkey. The American Hellenic Institute was established in response to the Cyprus crisis of 1974, and it champions the rule of law in U.S. foreign policy. I was united with my fellow travelers, seven undergraduate and graduate students from universities all over the U.S., through our mutual interest in international relations, albeit from different perspectives. Our shared passion was most evident during question and answer sessions when our specific perspectives came into focus, creating lively discussions. This give and take tremendously enhanced the educational value of my experience.

The student trip took place over two weeks and included stops in Cyprus and Athens. Our first stop was Nicosia, Cyprus, where we stayed for five days. With Nicosia as our home base, we traveled throughout the island, including a one-day excursion to the occupied territory. These excursions, combined with meetings at the House of Representatives, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the

military, U.S. Embassy, and U.N. peacekeeping facilities, helped us develop a well-rounded picture of the situation on the island. By talking to individuals in these organizations we better understood how the division of the island affects the Cypriot people.

A highlight of the trip was visiting the occupied territory and seeing firsthand the destruction and desecration that took place 36 years ago. You can read information in textbooks and see images on TV but nothing compares to witnessing it in person. We had the opportunity to visit a church that had long been forgotten; now a home to pigeons and piles of trash collected over the years. We then visited the city of Famagusta where the invasion of 1974 is ever present in the deserted buildings and homes. Surrounded by barbedwire, the abandoned city remains set in time with dated flyers still washing up on the shore. These images will forever linger in my consciousness as a firm reminder of the atrocities that took place there.

The second leg of the journey centered on Athens, Greece. While there we attended two to five meetings daily with members of Parliament, government officials, and individuals at the U.S. Embassy and in various think tanks. These meetings and subsequent discussions helped us grasp Greece’s foreign policy in relation to neighboring countries and the U.S. Diverse speakers presented their views on current issues and possible solutions. A high point of our trip in Athens was our meeting with President Karolos Papoulias. We had the distinct honor to visit with the President in the Presidential Mansion for about half an hour, during which time he presented his views as president of a European country.

This trip was a once-in-a-lifetime experience I will never forget. I have traveled to Greece many times. It is a place where I visit my family. It is also a place where I have pursued concentrated studies, where one summer I took part in two study abroad sessions. This time, however, my view of Greece expanded to include a new dynamic that involved not only the entertaining or educational aspects of Greece but also the political and social dimensions where the daily struggles of the oldest democracy are on display. This Greece no longer solely basks in its ancient history but now encompasses a nation and its people striving to compete and be of relevance in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.



**About the author...**

Roula Adonakis graduated from U-M in 2009 with a B.A. in Modern Greek and Political Science. She is currently pursuing a Master of Public Administration degree at Wayne State University with a concentration in Public Policy Analysis.

**Lower left photo:**

Roula Adonakis appears to the right of Karolos Papoulias, President of the Hellenic Republic, in the Presidential Mansion



# MODERN GREEK PROGRAM NEWS



## NATALIE BAKOPOULOS'S Prize-Winning Story and Forthcoming Novel

Natalie Bakopoulos, U-M M.F.A in Fiction, faculty in English, and student of Modern Greek and recipient of The Arthur and Mary Platsis Prize in the Greek Legacy, was awarded the prestigious "O. Henry Prize" for her story, "Fresco, Byzantine," published in *Tin House* and reprinted in the 2010 *PEN/O. Henry Prize Stories Anthology*.

According to one reviewer of the anthology, "The story that stayed with me the longest was Natalie Bakopoulos's 'Fresco, Byzantine.' Set among political prisoners interned in an island camp during the military dictatorship of Greece in the early 1970s, 'Fresco, Byzantine' explores the concept of fidelity—to art, to ideals, to loved ones, and to oneself. Bakopoulos's delicate descriptions are as lovely as the choices confronting her protagonists are heartbreaking. Two prisoners first collaborate, then, as the men's and women's camps are separated, communicate through the restoration of the painted frescos in a ruined church. Art, ideology, and love collide as some of the prisoners face release.... This is a selection of the best that contemporary literature offers us" (Cristy Corp-Minamiji, blogcritics.org).

"Fresco, Byzantine" is an offshoot of Natalie's forthcoming novel, *The Green Shore* (Simon & Schuster 2012) and appears in a slightly different form therein. The book will appear a few months earlier in Greek translation as *Η πράσινη ακρογιαλιά της πατρίδας* (Pataki 2011).

## GREEK CERTIFICATE OF ATTAINMENT "ELLINOMATHEIAS" TEST

The U-M Modern Greek Program will operate as an examination Center for the Ellinomatheia Certificate of Attainment in Modern Greek test offered by the Centre for the Greek Language of the Hellenic Ministry of Education. Test dates this year are May 10-12. The test levels are offered as follows:

Tuesday, May 10 morning: A1 (Beginning 1)  
Tuesday, May 10 noon: A2 (Beginning 2)  
Tuesday, May 10 afternoon: B1 (Intermediate 1)  
Wednesday, May 11 morning: B2 (Intermediate 2)  
Wednesday, May 11 afternoon: Γ1 (Advanced Intermediate)  
Thursday, May 12 morning: Γ2 (Advanced)

Applications are made through the Centre for the Greek Language  
<http://www.greeklanguage.gr/certification/>

### Contact information:

Centre for the Greek Language 1, Karamaouna str. Skra Square,  
Kalamaria, GR-551 32 Thessaloniki, GREECE Tel.: +30 2310 459101,  
+30 2310 459574 Fax: +30 2310 459107  
e-mail: [ellinomatheia@komvos.edu.gr](mailto:ellinomatheia@komvos.edu.gr), or [antonopoulou@komvos.edu.gr](mailto:antonopoulou@komvos.edu.gr)  
Website: [www.greeklanguage.gr](http://www.greeklanguage.gr)

## NEW ON OUR WEBSITE

### Conversations on Europe: The Financial Crisis in Greece: Causes and Social Consequence (lecture)

Harris Mylonas, Assistant Professor  
of Political Science, George  
Washington University (audio)  
(video)  
Sept. 16, 2010  
[lsa.umich.edu/modgreek/wtgc/  
academic](http://lsa.umich.edu/modgreek/wtgc/academic)

### Archaeology and National Identity in the Greek Museum (lecture)

Dimitris Damaskos, Assistant  
Professor of Archaeology at the  
University of Ioannina/Western  
Greece  
Oct. 4, 2010 (pdf)  
[lsa.umich.edu/modgreek/wtgc/  
academic](http://lsa.umich.edu/modgreek/wtgc/academic)

### Alas we went bankrupt...again: The Greek Economy in Turmoil (lecture)

Stefanos Delikouras is a Ph.D.  
candidate at the Ross School  
of Business at the University of  
Michigan  
Oct. 7, 2010 (link)  
[lsa.umich.edu/modgreek/wtgc/  
academic](http://lsa.umich.edu/modgreek/wtgc/academic)

### Performances and Epitaphs in C. P. Cavafy's "Young Men of Sidon, A.D. 400" (paper)

Pantelis Michelakis is Senior  
Lecturer in Classics Department  
of Classics and Ancient History,  
University of Bristol, UK  
Oct. 21, 2010 (pdf)  
[lsa.umich.edu/modgreek/wtgc/  
cavafyforum](http://lsa.umich.edu/modgreek/wtgc/cavafyforum)

### Out of Office ... And in Ann Arbor (blog)

Giota Tachtara has studied Political  
Science in Athens and Journalism in  
Los Angeles  
Oct. 21, 2010 (link)  
[lsa.umich.edu/modgreek/wtgc/  
misc](http://lsa.umich.edu/modgreek/wtgc/misc)

### Hellenism and Modernist Performance (lecture)

Dr. Olga Taxidou is Reader in  
Drama, University of Edinburgh  
(video)  
Nov. 17, 2010  
[lsa.umich.edu/modgreek/wtgc/  
academic](http://lsa.umich.edu/modgreek/wtgc/academic)

### 2nd Annual Demetrios and Demetra Partalis Kales Lecture in Modern Greek History: Memory and Religious Culture: Greek Orthodox Life in Ottoman Empire (lecture)

Tom Papademetriou, Associate  
Professor of Historical Studies  
and Executive Director of the  
Interdisciplinary Center for Hellenic  
Studies at Richard Stockton  
College, New Jersey  
Dec. 2, 2010 (audio)  
[lsa.umich.edu/modgreek/wtgc/  
academic](http://lsa.umich.edu/modgreek/wtgc/academic)

### Modern Greek Program Photo Gallery (new page)

Best of Photos of our lectures and  
events (link)  
[lsa.umich.edu/modgreek/about/  
photos](http://lsa.umich.edu/modgreek/about/photos)

## ACKNOWLEDGING OUR DONORS

**Aggeliki Evangelinos** continues to support the annual Modern Greek Senior Prize, given in memory of her mother, Calliopi Evangelinos.

**Christina and Jeff Crockett** have given multiple gifts through the years since Christina started studying Greek. Christina explains: "Learning Modern Greek has added a richness to our lives that we could never have imagined when I started the two of us on this journey twenty years ago."

**Eva Catafygiotou Topping**, noted scholar and author of works on Philhellenism, Byzantine hymnography, saints lives, and women in the Orthodox Christian Church, whose feminist critique of restrictive gender roles, including the male priesthood, challenged established ideas, has donated her papers to the U-M Graduate Library. The papers include her correspondence, writings, and research on unpublished work, as well as documents on her family history. She also gave a valuable collection of maps of Greece from the 1940s to the Map Library. This great gift is a substantial addition to the Modern Greek library collections.

# MODERN GREEK PROGRAM

## Winter 2011 Events



### GREEK CLASSICAL MUSIC AND THE POPULAR TRADITION

A Concert of Greek Chamber Music

January 23, 2011 at 4:00PM  
Kerrytown Concert House  
415 N. Fourth Ave.

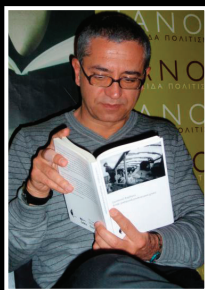
Reserve your seat: [kch@kerrytown.com](mailto:kch@kerrytown.com)



### THE 9TH ANNUAL DIMITRIS & IRMGARD PALLAS MODERN GREEK LECTURE: ON GREEK FRIENDSHIP

Gregory Jusdanis, Arts & Humanities  
Distinguished Professor of Greek and  
Latin, Ohio State University

January 26, 2011 at 4:00PM  
Classical Studies Library  
2175 Angell Hall, 435 S. State St.

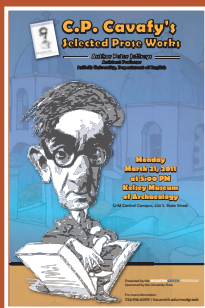


### CONVERSATIONS ON EUROPE. "THE BALKAN SIGHT OF THE MEDITERRANEAN (OR THE UNBEARABLE SIMILARITY OF THE OTHER)"

Author Gazmend Kapllani

February 3, 2011 at 4:00PM  
1636 International Institute,  
School of Social Work Bldg  
1080 S. University St.

Co-sponsors CES-EUC



### "C.P. CAVAFY'S SELECTED PROSE WORKS"

Peter Jeffreys, Assistant Professor of  
English, Suffolk University

March 21, 2011 at 5:00PM  
Kelsey Museum, 434 S. State St.

Co-sponsors University of Michigan Press



### REBETIKI ISTORIA BAND returns from Greece for an encore performance in Ann Arbor!

April 7, 2011 at 7:00PM  
Stamps Auditorium  
Walgreen Drama Center  
1226 Murfin Ave.

## on mediterranean



### FILMS HAVING TO DO WITH GREECE

#### A TOUCH OF SPICE

January 13, 2011 at 4:00 PM

1636 International Institute/SSWB, 1080 S. University

A Touch of Spice is a story about a young Greek boy (Fanis) growing up in Istanbul, whose grandfather, a culinary philosopher and mentor, teaches him that both food and life require a little salt to give them flavor; they both require...A TOUCH OF SPICE.

#### A TALKING PICTURE

January 27, 2011 at 4:00 PM

1636 International Institute/SSWB, 1080 S. University

The first scene in A Talking Picture depicts Rosa Maria, a young history professor, and her seven year-old daughter Maria Joana on a bucolic cruise through the Mediterranean Sea. Rosa's purpose for this trip is twofold: to join her husband in Bombay, India, for a family vacation, and to acquire first-hand knowledge of—and introduce her daughter to—historical sites at the various cities along their journey. The film features Greek actor Irene Pappas playing herself.

#### EDEN IS WEST

March 17, 2011 at 4:00 PM

1636 International Institute/SSWB, 1080 S. University

As in *The Odyssey*, the Aegean Sea is the setting when our hero, Elias, sets out on his adventures. On the same waters, under the same sun and the same sky as the dawn of civilization. After countless incidents and accidents, a stopover in paradise and a sojourn in hell, the magical conclusion of his journey takes place in Paris. Paris, the shining city in the deepest dreams, in the most uncertain sleep of wanderers.

For more information on the film series go to [lsa.umich.edu/ces-euc/events](http://lsa.umich.edu/ces-euc/events)

### CONFERENCE

MEDITERRANEAN TOPOGRAPHIES: INTERDISCIPLINARY AND  
COMPARATIVE APPROACHES TO MEDITERRANEAN STUDIES  
April 8 | 3:00 PM–6:00 PM and April 9 | 10:00 AM–6:00 PM  
Kelsey Museum, 434 S. State Street

A symposium on transnational, cross-cultural, comparative, and interdisciplinary approaches to the study of the Mediterranean as a region of interconnected histories and identities.

For more information go to [lsa.umich.edu/complit/events](http://lsa.umich.edu/complit/events)