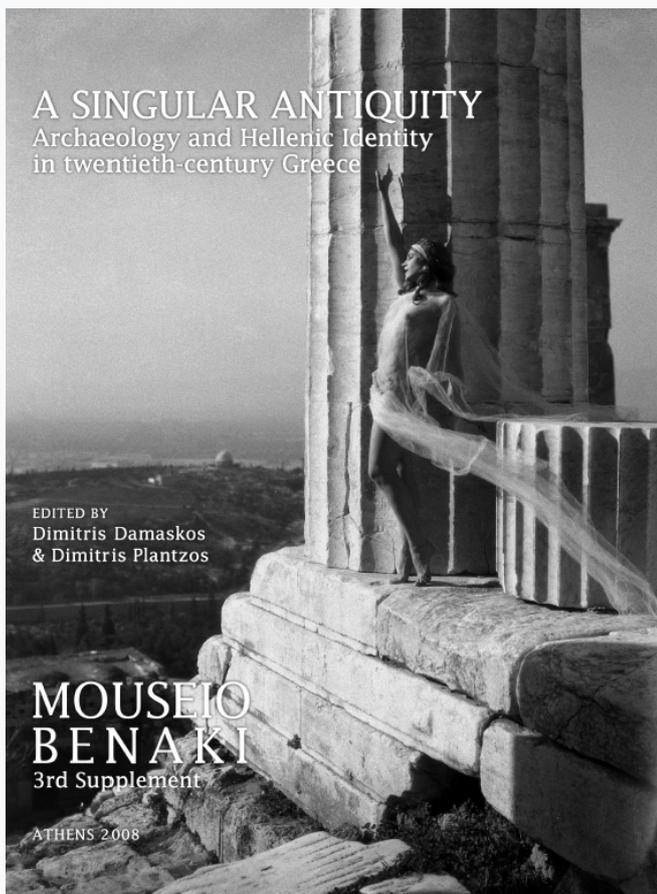


## Μουσείο Μπενάκη

A Singular Antiquity: Archaeology and Hellenic Identity in Twentieth-Century Greece



### Preface

*The Editors*

doi: [10.12681/benaki.17968](https://doi.org/10.12681/benaki.17968)

Copyright © 2018, The Editors



Άδεια χρήσης [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/).

### Βιβλιογραφική αναφορά:

Editors, T. (2008). Preface. *Μουσείο Μπενάκη*. <https://doi.org/10.12681/benaki.17968>



This publication was made possible through funding by the Propondis Foundation



A SINGULAR ANTIQUITY  
Archaeology and Hellenic identity  
in twentieth-century Greece

MOUSEIO  
BENAKI  
3rd Supplement

EDITED BY  
Dimitris Damaskos & Dimitris Plantzos

ATHENS 2008

MOUSEIO BENAKI - 3rd SUPPLEMENT  
ATHENS 2008

Publisher: Benaki Museum  
Editorial Board: Aimilia Yeroulanou  
Dimitris Damaskos  
Angelos Delivorrias  
Charalambos Bouras

Academic editors: Dimitris Damaskos & Dimitris Plantzos  
Copy editors: Valerie Nunn, Anna Karapanou  
Graphic design: Vangelis Karatzas  
Production management: ADcare  
Printed on velvet matt sappi 135 gr. paper

Front cover: The dancer Nikolska on the Acropolis photographed by Nelly, 1927 (Athens, Benaki Museum, Photographic Archives)

Benaki Museum  
Koumbari 1  
Athens 106 74  
www.benaki.gr  
e-mail: benaki@benaki.gr; sales-shop@benaki.gr  
Tel.: (+30-210) 3671000  
Fax: (+30-210) 3622547, 3671063

© copyright: Benaki Museum

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be used or reproduced in any manner, including electronic publication and storage, without the explicit permission in writing of the Publisher.

ISSN 1109-4109

ISBN 978-960-8347-96-0

## CONTENTS

---

|   |    |   |     |
|---|----|---|-----|
| PREFACE   | 9  | NIKI SAKKA  |     |
|   |    | The excavation of the Ancient Agora of Athens: the politics of commissioning and managing the project                           | 111 |
| INTRODUCTION  |    |   |     |
| DIMITRIS PLANTZOS   |    |   |     |
| Archaeology and Hellenic identity, 1896-2004: the frustrated vision   | 11 | DAPHNE VOUDOURI   |     |
|   |    | Greek legislation concerning the international movement of antiquities and its ideological and political dimensions             | 125 |
| PART I.   |    |   |     |
| ANTIQUITY AND THE GREEK ANTIQUITIES   |    |   |     |
| MARK MAZOWER  |    | DELIA TZORTZAKI   |     |
| Archaeology, nationalism and the land in modern Greece  | 33 | The chronotopes of the Hellenic past: virtuality, edutainment, ideology   | 141 |
| MICHAEL HERZFELD  |    | VASSILIS LAMBROPOULOS   |     |
| Archaeological etymologies: monumentality and domesticity in twentieth-century Greece                                   | 43 | The rehearsal of antiquity in post-modern Greek fiction   | 163 |
| GEORGE TOLIAS   |    | PART II.  |     |
| National heritage and Greek revival: Ioannis Gennadios on the expatriated antiquities                                   | 55 | GREEK ARCHAEOLOGY: PARADIGMS AND IDEOLOGIES   |     |
| ANDROMACHE GAZI   |    | KOSTAS KOTSAKIS   |     |
| ‘Artfully classified’ and ‘appropriately placed’: notes on the display of antiquities in early twentieth-century Greece | 67 | Paths to modernity: Dimitrios R. Theocharis and the post-war Greek prehistory   | 175 |
| MARLEN MOULIOU  |    | VANGELIS KARAMANOLAKIS  |     |
| Museum representations of the classical past in post-war Greece: a critical analysis                                    | 83 | University of Athens and archaeological studies: the contribution of archaeology to the creation of a national past (1911-1932) | 185 |

|  |     |  |     |
|--|-----|--|-----|
| DIONYSIS MOURELATOS  |     | ANGELIKI KOUFOU  |     |
| The debate over Cretan icons in twentieth-century Greek historiography and their incorporation into the national narrative | 197 | The discourse on Hellenicity, historical continuity and the Greek Left   | 299 |
| OLGA GRATZIOU  |     | DORA F. MARKATOU   |     |
| Venetian Monuments in Crete: a controversial heritage  | 209 | Archaeology and Greekness on the centenary celebrations of the Greek state   | 309 |
| ALEXANDRA BOUNIA   |     | DIMITRIS DAMASKOS  |     |
| Ancient texts, classical archaeology and representation of the past: the development of a dialogue                         | 223 | The uses of Antiquity in photographs by Nelly: imported modernism and home-grown ancestor worship in inter-war Greece  | 321 |
| VANGELIS CALOTYCHOS  |     | ELENA HAMALIDI   |     |
| The dead hand of Philology and the archaeologies of reading in Greece  | 237 | Greek Antiquity and inter-war classicism in Greek Art: Modernism and tradition in the works and writings of Michalis Tombros and Nikos Hadjikyriakos-Ghika in the thirties | 337 |
| DIMITRIS PLANTZOS  |     | ARTEMIS LEONTIS  |     |
| Time and the Antique: linear causality and the Greek art narrative   | 253 | An American in Paris, a Parsi in Athens  | 359 |
| YANNIS HAMILAKIS   |     | DIMITRIS PHILIPPIDES   |     |
| Decolonizing Greek archaeology: indigenous archaeologies, modernist archaeology and the post-colonial critique             | 273 | The phantom of classicism in Greek architecture  | 375 |
| PART III.  |     | MARIA DIAMANDI   |     |
| THE IMAGINED REALITIES OF GREEKNESS  |     | The archaeologist in contemporary Greek novel  | 383 |
| DIMITRIS TZIOVAS   |     | AFTERWORD  |     |
| Reconfiguring the past: Antiquity and Greekness  | 287 | DIMITRIS DAMASKOS  |     |
|  |     | In place of a conclusion   | 403 |
|  |     | INDEX  | 409 |

## PREFACE

---

**MODERN GREEKS ENVISAGE** their collective past as a cultural commodity; authentic, usable and eternally present. Archaeology has been instrumental in constructing the nation's identity, built on the tangible evidence it produces. This is by no means just a Greek phenomenon, a peculiarity of the state that inherited 'the glory that was Greece'. The rapport, however, between archaeological research and national(ist) strategy presents some interesting facets in a country which has been struggling, for most of the twentieth century, to counter the predicaments of modernity with the promise of modernization. And it is these peculiarities, concerning the Greek archaeologist as much as the historian and the social anthropologist, which prompted this publication.

Most of the papers collected in this volume were delivered at the 'Antiquity, Archaeology and Greekness' conference held in January 2007 at the Benaki Museum. Many of the papers were later revised by their authors, and some new papers have been added. The purpose of the conference was to investigate and assess the role of antiquity and archaeology in the forging of a national identity

in twentieth-century Greece. Our stated aim at the time was to trace the steps, intentional or otherwise, which have determined the present state of Greek archaeology – as an academic discipline, as an educational practice, as the producer and at the same time the consumer of a multi-layered cultural reality. In the process, there emerged a wider picture of Classical antiquity as a cultural presence in Modern Greece – and a daunting one at that. What resulted from the conference, and what we hope this volume is offering in a more structured fashion, is the intricate network of Greek archaeologies, or rather the archaeologies of Greek modernity (and within it): academic and institutional, or alternative, habitual and indigenous.

We thank all those who helped us with the conference then and with this publication now, and especially Professor Angelos Delivorrias for his encouragement and hearty endorsement of our project since its early days.

We are also deeply grateful to the Propondis Foundation and its President, Mr Diamantis Diamantides, for the generous financial support which made both the conference and this publication possible.

The Editors

