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From the Archive to the Field: A Report on Summer 2014 Asia Minor Travel Seminar: The Greek Orthodox Christians of Ottoman Cappadocia (July 20-August 11, 2014)

Tom Papademetriou

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Tom Papademetriou

FROM THE ARCHIVE TO THE FIELD:
A REPORT ON SUMMER 2014 ASIA MINOR TRAVEL SEMINAR:
THE GREEK ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS OF OTTOMAN CAPPADOCIA
(JULY 20-AUGUST 11, 2014)

In late July and early August 2014, a unique seminar on the Greek communities of Cappadocia was conducted in Athens, Cappadocia and Istanbul. The seminar was called Summer 2014 Asia Minor Travel Seminar: *The Greek Orthodox Christians of Ottoman Cappadocia*, and was taught by Professor Paschalis Kitromilides (University of Athens), and Professor Tom Papademetriou (Stockton University) on the history of the Greek Orthodox communities of Asia Minor in the late Ottoman period.

This seminar introduced American graduate and advanced undergraduate students to the history of the primarily Turkish speaking Greek Orthodox Christian communities (Karamanlides) that existed in late Ottoman Cappadocia. The seminar took place in the Centre for Asia Minor Studies and focused on the Oral Tradition archives, the accounts of refugees recounting life in their Asia Minor villages prior to their uprooting by the Treaty of Lausanne in 1923. The first part of the course covered the general history of the Greek communities of Asia Minor, including historiographic questions raised when studying Christians in Muslim society, the general history of the Centre for Asia Minor Studies, and the use of oral history archives as historical sources. Topics covered included the creation and categorization of the archives, and included geography and topography, economy and agriculture, political organization, daily life and customs, religion and festivals, and architecture. The second part of the seminar was an extensive site visit to the various villages of Cappadocia near the city of Kayseri, Turkey (determined during the archival research). These site visits included examination of geography and topography, the physical organization of the villages, and remnants

of pre-1923 buildings, including the remaining religious structures, as well as Ottoman era homes, farms, and commercial life.

The idea for this very specialized seminar originated from conversations held between Hellenic College Dean, Dr. Demetri Katos, Professor Paschalis Kitromilides, and Professor Tom Papademetriou in October 2011. On October 4, 2011, Professor Kitromilides delivered the inaugural lecture of the New York Life Center for the Study of Hellenism in Pontos and Asia Minor. The title of his lecture was, "The Greek Presence in Post-Byzantine Asia Minor and Its Academic Study," which prepared the foundation and set a framework for the forthcoming work of the newly established Center.

The New York Life Center for the Study of Hellenism in Pontos and Asia Minor was founded in 2009 by a generous gift from the New York Life Insurance Company. The donation was in recognition of the fact that in the late Ottoman period, New York Life Insurance Company sold insurance policies to individuals in the Ottoman Empire, many to Greek and Armenian subjects. After the traumatic and disruptive events that ended with the population exchange of 1923, few of the life insurance policies had ever been redeemed. After conducting a good faith attempt to locate and compensate the descendants of the policy holders, it was decided to establish a center at Hellenic College for the academic study of Hellenism in Pontos and Asia Minor. The focus of the New York Life Center is to educate not only those studying at Hellenic College and Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in Brookline, Massachusetts, but also to educate the greater community as to the rich history, culture and legacy of Hellenism in Pontus and Asia Minor. Researching and teaching about Hellenism in Asia Minor is important to the Greek community in the United States, and to the Greek Orthodox Church. Descendants of Greek communities of Asia Minor form a significant part of the Greek communities in the United States.

Thus, in 2011, it was suggested that a seminar that deals with the history of the Greek Orthodox legacy and population of Asia Minor be taught through Hellenic College-Holy Cross, and that it be open to students from throughout the United States. This idea finally came to fruition in 2014 under the direction of Professor Kitromilides, and Professor Papademetriou. The program was funded primarily through the New

York Life Center, with assistance from Stockton University's Interdisciplinary Center for Hellenic Studies. Selected students received fellowships that covered most of their expenses.

The purpose of the seminar was to bring graduate and advanced undergraduate students from Hellenic College and Holy Cross and from Stockton University and around the country to the Centre for Asia Minor Studies in Athens, Greece to gain first hand experience working in archives that deal directly with the topic of Hellenism in Asia Minor.

The New York Life Asia Minor Fellows who were selected to participate in this program are as follows:

1. Ciara C. Barrick: Stockton University (Literature & Classics).
2. Matthew J. Hadodo: New York University (Linguistics & History).
3. Haralambos Zaharis: Holy Cross School of Theology (Theology & Byzantine Music).
4. Nondas Memetzi: Stockton University (Philosophy & Religion).
5. Alexander M. Mirkovic: University of Michigan (Visiting Assistant Professor of History).
6. Menios Papadimitriou: Holy Cross School of Theology (Seminarian).
7. Rosy Triantafyllia Aggelaki: Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Post-Doc, Ottoman History).

The Fellows arrived individually in Athens, and stayed at the very convenient Parthenon Hotel in Plaka. On Monday, July 20, the group gathered in the morning, and after introductions, together walked over to the Centre for Asia Minor Studies. Each day began and ended with this beautiful walk through Plaka, the ideal setting of the Centre itself.

Professor Paschalis Kitromilides was present at 9:00 am of the first day to welcome the group, as was the Assistant Director, Dr. Stavros Anestides, and staff of the Centre, who were exceptional, gracious and most helpful. The students had been assigned preliminary readings, and the seminar discussions began right away. Throughout the seminar, the Centre generously put its excellent staff at the Fellows' disposal. During the first couple of days, the seminar discussed the preliminary readings, received tutorials in how to use the archives themselves, and in how

to read the documents. This was challenging to the Fellows because everything was handwritten, and it took some time to get used to the various hands.

For the region of Cappadocia alone, there are 85 villages and hundreds of files. The group, however, focused on the villages around Kayseri itself. Each student was assigned a village to research at length, and for which they would present during the travel portion. Professor Papademetriou was always on hand to assist and answer questions throughout the entire seminar. There were many questions, of course, because students were learning for the first time the history of the Cappadocians, as well as the history of Hellenism under Ottoman rule after Greek independence.

The Centre for Asia Minor Studies also organized lectures from the various researchers and staff members of the Centre, who were quite interesting as each shed new light on the issue of Hellenism in Asia Minor.

CAMS Lecturers and Lectures:

Professor P. M. Kitromilides, “A General History of the Asia Minor peninsula since the Turks began their move from the East towards Constantinople”.



During seminar with Prof. Kitromilides.

Dr. Stavros Anestides, “The economic and social context of the Greeks of Asia Minor”.

Dr. Ioannis Kyriakantonakis, “The intellectual life of Constantinople during the Ottoman era in the 16th and 17th centuries”.

Dr. Dimitris Kamouzis, “The failure of the population exchange of 1923 and life of the refugees in the aftermath”.

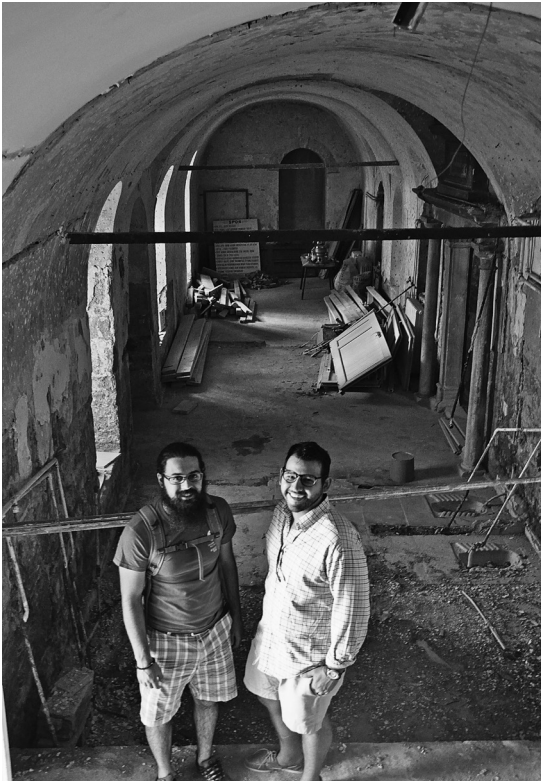
Mr. Thanassis Moraitis played recordings from the Musical Folklore Archives of songs and dialectics from Asia Minor and different regions of Greece.

Mr. Leonidas Embiricos who presented on the project on local Greek idioms.

An additional feature of the Athens seminar was a series of tours guided by Mr. Nicos Nicolaides. The Fellows took a walking tour of Ottoman Athens, examining the various monuments and buildings that remained from Ottoman times. Mr. Nicolaides led the group through the Benaki Islamic Museum, and the Byzantine Museum. Special attention was paid to artifacts and items that were brought from Cappadocia as part of population exchange. A final tour was of Neos Kosmos, the site of refugee housing just after the exchange.

The Centre for Asia Minor Studies ended the Athens portion of the seminar with a specially arranged concert for the Fellows in the Garden with traditional instruments and with songs from Asia Minor. Dean emerita of Hellenic College, Dr. Lily Makrakis, was present as well and the Fellows enjoyed a lovely conversation with her, too.

The travel portion of the seminar began on Saturday, August 3, when the group flew via Istanbul into Kayseri. Staying in the center of Kayseri in a high rise hotel allowed the participants to have an unobstructed view of Mt. Argaios (Erciyes Dağı) below which Kayseri and its surrounding villages could be seen.



Haralambos Zaharis
(M.T.S. '15) and
Menios Papadimitriou
(M.Div. '17) during
their search of the
St. Nicholas church
in Kayseri (*Caesarea*).

En route to each village, Professor Kitromilides offered general remarks about each of the locations through which the seminar passed, as well as explanation about the basic scholarly work produced by the Centre or other organizations concerning the places visited. The experience of the students as they visited the villages was simply beautiful. Having studied the accounts of the refugees from the villages, the students disembarked from the minibus and entered the villages with an eye to understanding what the oral histories in the archives had described. After walking around for a bit, examining the spectacular churches, some which had fallen into disrepair, and others that were turned into mosques, and others that were underground, and acquainting themselves with the environment, the group would find a shady place to sit, and then commence to have an individual make a presentation and begin a discussion. These usually lasted at least half an hour. And then

the group was on to the next location. The group was generally amazed at the size of the churches, and they spent a good deal of time in them.

The students presented on the following villages:

Kayseri (Menios Papademetriou)
Talas/Moutalaski (Alexander Mirkovic)
Androniki (Nondas Memetzi)
Zincidere (Haralambos Zaharis)
Incesu (Ciara Barrick)
Bor & Fertek (Rosy Aggelaki)
Farasa (Matthew Hadodo)

An additional and important part of the travel portion of the seminar was the presence of Professor Maria Konstantoudaki (Byzantine Art History, University of Athens) who accompanied the group to Cappadocia. Professor Konstantoudaki offered a guided tour of the major Byzantine churches in the Göreme Open Air Museum, as well explanations and commentary throughout the trip. Perhaps, her greatest contribution to the seminar, however, was the attention she paid to the artistic details. As she pointed these out with clear explanations, the Fellows learned how to look at art, architecture, and artifacts as part of the cultural production of the Cappadocian people.



On the way to Farasa, August 7, 2015.

The seminar had the opportunity to go as far as Farasa, which is at the edge of the Cilician gates. This very remote village was studied in the early 20th century by Richard Dawkins, the famous British classicist who was interested in remnants of ancient Greek language among the Greeks of Asia Minor. It is also the place from where St. Arsenios the Cappadocian, and Father (now Saint) Paisios originate. It was very exciting for the Fellows to go there and back as they passed dramatic dirt roads with steep ravines, Turkmen nomads in tents, and the great peak of Mt. Erciyes. At one point, the group had disembarked from the bus to clear rocks from the road, because rock slides had actually covered the road. Needless to say, at times it felt like a pilgrimage rather than an academic seminar. Additionally, the seminarians led by Professor Kitromilides sang the hymns (*apolytikia*) of many of the churches visited. It was a very moving experience.



Group in Farasa.

After Cappadocia, the group was set to travel to Constantinople by airplane, but the flights had been canceled due to flooding in the Istanbul airport. Because rescheduling meant a next day departure, the group decided to drive by minibus the entire 12 hour trip to Istanbul. It was a long trip, but the seminar Fellows felt they did get to see ALL of Anatolia.

In Istanbul, the fellows began by going to the Hagia Sophia, the Karye Cami (Mone tes Choras), and then out to the Baloukli Monastery. The latter had the Karamanlidika tombstones in the courtyard which they examined for some time. The seminar intended to examine some of the neighborhoods where the Cappadocians settled in earlier centuries when they moved to Istanbul. At the end of the first day, the seminar was received by His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew who brought the entire class into his office, and sat and spoke to them for about a half hour. He was very much enamored by this trip, and loves Cappadocia deeply. On Sunday the group went to the church of Analepsis Ypsomatheion (Samatya), which was also built by the Cappadocians of Istanbul, and the seminarians and Professor Papademetriou chanted with the psalti of the parish. Afterwards, the community offered lovely refreshments. Again, this was a very moving experience.



Concluding an enthusiastic discussion about Cappadocia
with His All Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew.

There were two opportunities for Fellows of the seminar to make public lecture presentations. The first presentation with the title, “From Cappadocia: Field reports from the Summer 2014 Asia Minor Travel Seminar” took place at Hellenic College Holy Cross in Brookline, MA on Thursday October 19, 2014. The second public presentation took place

as part of the Classical Humanities Lecture series at Stockton University on Saturday April 25, 2015 called “From Kayseri to Nova Caesarea: Reports from Student Journeys to Cappadocia.” As both public lectures took place in the US, Professor Papademetriou and a majority of Fellows, though not all, presented their findings, and discussed their individual villages.

Student responses to their experiences were tremendous. Holy Cross Fellow, seminarian Menios Papadimitrou, commented, “Uniting the written past with the material present was a transformative experience...We were *scholars* gathering data and conjecturing why and how. We were *archaeologists* unearthing and discovering the vanished past. We were *pilgrims* venerating ancient hallowed spaces and singing in lonesome churches whose crumbling walls have not reverberated sacred sounds for nearly a century. And we were *Romans* (*Romaioi*) revering the forgotten legacy of our forefathers.”

Stockton Fellow, Ciara Barrick added, “The work I did this summer at the Centre for Asia Minor Studies in Athens was truly life changing; by traveling through Cappadocia and seeing the villages that once belonged to the Greeks of Asia Minor, I saw how easily a culture can be lost unless there is an active force working towards its preservation. This experience has profoundly heightened my appreciation for the Hellenic world. The hardship the refugees of the population exchange faced, their peaceful villages now lost, and the beauty of their faith as seen through their icons and churches has deeply influenced my appreciation of these people.”

In his correspondence to Dean Demetri Katos, Professor Kitromilides summed up the experience very well. He said, “The students worked hard and with truly impressive zeal to learn about Asia Minor Hellenism. We did our best at the Centre to facilitate and guide their study. I think that even if two of them chose to pursue further research on the subject and grow into scholars possessing an authoritative knowledge of the Greek presence in Asia Minor, the program will be vindicated. If on the basis of this year’s experience we decide to repeat the program periodically and manage in this way to produce a new generation of scholars in America able to continue the tradition of serious scholarship from the perspective of the Hellenic presence in

Asia Minor, it will be a great success for the endowment of NY Life at Hellenic College.”

Conclusion

The seminar covered theoretical issues, historical context, as well as research methods for conducting research in archives and in the field. The ability to select a topic, and investigate it thoroughly, to deal with challenging material, and to make sound interpretations was the goal of this seminar. This direct archival research approach offered these lessons in a very dynamic and concentrated way.

For the seminar participants, examining the Greek communities of Asia Minor brought up important topics that have contemporary significance. In global discussions of multiculturalism, multi-ethnicity, minority rights and human rights, ethnic violence and ethnic cleansing, the example of the Greeks of Asia Minor are highly illuminating and instructive. The example of the minorities living within majority societies is a contemporary issue upon which this seminar offered insight.

Likewise, Christian-Muslim relations is of great significance, especially to students intending to lead churches in America. This course offered an opportunity to consider how Christians and Muslims related to each other in a predominately Muslim society. When considering the fate of contemporary Christians in the Middle East, the examples examined allowed for reflection on the historical development of Christian-Muslim relations.

The travel component was intended to move out of the archive to the physical spaces where the residents who created the oral histories once lived. Through collaborative discussion, the Fellows determined which villages to investigate, both in the archive, and on site in Cappadocia. The experience of examining the physical remains, topography, geography, agriculture, flora and fauna, with direct reference to the archives led to greater understanding of how these communities functioned, then and now. Greek Orthodox Christian Cappadocians resided in Istanbul as well, and the migrations and settlements in the Ottoman capital will also be examined.

The limited number of students reflected the seriousness of the sem-

inar, as well as made for a manageable group of individuals who are passionate and invested in learning about this topic.

Finally, this seminar was an attempt to connect the new Hellenic College New York Life Center for the Study of Hellenism in the Pontos and Asia Minor with the highly esteemed, well-established Centre for Asia Minor Studies, while offering an exceptional opportunity to students to explore a rich archival resource. Having Professors Kitromilides and Papademetriou, who are specialists in the field, gave students a rich learning experience, as well as enhanced the profile of New York Life Center nationally and internationally.

The Travel Itinerary

Sunday August 4, 2014

Travel via Istanbul to Kayseri

Monday August 5, 2014

Kayseri - Καισάρεια

Talas - Μουταλάσκη/ Τάλας

Endürlük - Ανδρονίκι

Zincidere - Ζιντζιντερέ

Aydınlar - Tavlusun - Ταβλουσούν

Germir - Κερμίρα

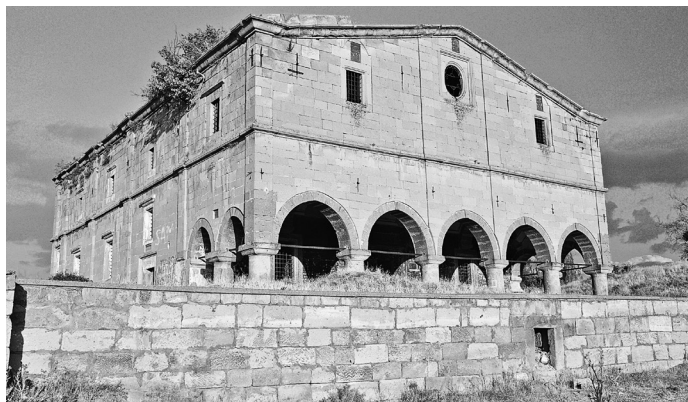
Kayabağ/Darsiyak - Ταρσιάχ /Ταξιάρχες

Ağırnas - Αγιρνάς



Church
of St. Basil
Tavlusun.

Holy Archangels
church from
the village
of Taksiarches
(Darsiyak).



Tuesday August 5, 2014

Incesu - Ιντζεσού

Göreme - Κόραμα

Mustafapaşa - Sinasos - Σινασός

Sts. Constantine and Helen

Recently restored Monastery of St. Nicholas

Derinkuyu - Malakori - Μαλακοπή

Ürgüp - Προκόπι

Wednesday August 6, 2014

Niğde - Νίγη

Archaeological Museum

Bor - Πόρος

Fertek - Φερτέκι

Gümüşler - Eski Manastır (Old Monastery)

Hançerli/Telmissos - Τελμησός

Ovacık - Semendere - Σεμέντερε/Σήμαντρα

Thursday August 7, 2014

Çamlıca - Farasa - Φάρασα - long drive

Friday August 8, 2014

Kayseri Archeological Museum

Canceled Flight

Group drove through Anatolia to Istanbul

Saturday August 9, 2014

Haghia Sophia (Αγία Σοφία)

Kariye Camii (Mone tes Choras/ Μονή της Χώρας)

Baloukli Monastery (Ιερά Μονή Ζωοδόχου Πηγής Μπαλουκλί)

Vespers at Ecumenical Patriarchate- Phanar (Φανάρι)

Meeting with His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew

Sunday August 10, 2014

Divine Liturgy at Analepsis Ypsomatheion (Samatya) (Ι. Ν. Αναλήψεως
Υψωμαδείων)

Church of Sts. Constantine and Helen (next to Stoudion Monastery/
İmrahor Camii) (Μονή Στουδίου)

Istanbul Archaeological Museum

Visit to Halki Island to visit the Halki Theological School (Ιερά Θεο-
λογική Σχολή Χάλκης)

Monday August 11, 2014

Return to Athens - End of Trip



Malakopi - Derinkuyu.



Interior of Taxiarches Church, Malakopi.

Required Reading:

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- Vryonis, Spyros, *The Decline of Medieval Hellenism in Asia Minor and the Process of Islamization from the Eleventh through the Fifteenth Century*, Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1971 (Chapter VII: “The Byzantine Residue in Turkish Anatolia”: 444-497).

Additional Reading:

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Stockton University
Galloway, New Jersey USA