

THE 2013 MOUNT MENOIKEION SUMMER SEMINAR

at the Monastery of Hagios Ioannis Prodromos: Serres, Greece

“FRONTIERS”

June 26 – July 4, 2013



Sponsored by the Stanley J. Seeger '52 Center for Hellenic Studies

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

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* In absentia for Summer Seminar 2013.

+ Point person for all logistical or thematic questions in preparation for the seminar.

SCHEDULE

06/26: We ask that people arrive in Thessaloniki in the early afternoon of Wednesday, June 26, 2013. Those who are able to arrive by 3:00PM will join us on a trip to the White Tower, an excellent museum that presents the history of the Thessaloniki and its hinterland. We will reconvene at *ca.* 7:00PM at the lobby of the Orestias Kastorias [Agnostou Stratiotou 14 Thessaloniki 546 31, Greece] where we will set out on an orientation walk toward a local restaurant for a group ‘welcome’ dinner (location TBD).

06/27: Thursday, June 27 will be a full day spent discovering Thessaloniki. We will begin by visiting the city’s Late Roman monuments (Agora, Hippodrome Ruins, Arch and Tomb of Galerius) followed by a visit to the wonderful Byzantine Museum, where we will hear a brief presentation. In the afternoon, we will continue our tour of the city’s major Byzantine monuments and plan to spend the early evening exploring the Old City walls, with a panoramic view of the city from on high.

06/28: In the morning of Friday, June 28, we will visit Hagios Demetrios, located just a couple blocks from the Orestias Kastorias, followed by some brief free time in the city. At 3:00PM, we will reconvene in the lobby of the Orestias Kastorias, whence we will travel to the monastery, arriving at around 5:00PM.

06/28 – 07/04: Our activities include touring the monastic complex, attending lectures, workshop presentations, exploring the surrounding landscape through hikes to rural chapels, attending liturgies, and getting to know the nuns. There will likely be an excursion to nearby Serres as well. A few hours of unstructured time are built into each day so that participants can explore the monastic complex individually, interact with the nuns, work on journal entries, and to relax and enjoy the experience!

07/04: Morning departure from the monastery to Thessaloniki. To be super safe, I recommend not planning to leave Thessaloniki by train until 12:00PM or by plane before 2:00PM on 07/04. Those departing on 07/05 are encouraged to coordinate with one another and to book accommodation at the Orestias Kastorias.

- 06/26: Group Dinner in Thessaloniki (PM)
- 06/27: Walking Tour of Thessaloniki (AM), Museum Presentation (PM)
- 06/28: Departure for the Monastery (3:00PM); Monastery Introduction (PM)
- 06/29: Full Monastery Tour and Orientation (AM); Workshop (PM)
- 06/30: Liturgy (AM); Hike to Rural Chapels (PM); Workshop (PM)
- 07/01: Workshop (AM); Visit to Cemetery; Workshop (PM)
- 07/02: Workshop (AM); Trip to Serres (PM); Discussion Group (PM)
- 07/03: Presentation (PM); Farewell Party with the Nuns (PM)
- 07/04: Departure for Thessaloniki (9:00 AM)

RESPONSIBILITIES: All undergraduate students will be responsible for writing a 1,500-word formal, post-seminar paper on a topic related to the monastery. You are encouraged to use the lectures, tours, and their individual curiosities to isolate a topic that they will explore in these papers. The papers will be due during the first week of fall classes and will be uploaded to the seminar website.

Undergraduate students will also be asked to keep a day-to-day journal of the seminar events. These posts will help to focus our time at the monastery and—providing a space for reflection through expression—to bridge the experiential and academic aspects of the seminar. This is an opportunity for exploration! You are not limited to writing, but are encouraged to use poetry, sketches, photographs, short video clips, etc. to curate your experience at Menoikeion. These entries will be posted on the seminar website.

All graduate students will be responsible for presenting one workshop that introduces participants to a particular aspect of the monastery and to post-classical Greek culture in general. The abstracts for these presentations will be posted on the seminar website. This year, all topics will have something to do with the frontiers ever confronted in Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies—geographical, temporal, cross-cultural, inter-religious, and many more. All our presentations transcend traditional borders and boundaries, reminding us all of the shared cultural experience present in the pre-modern and contemporary Mediterranean world and beyond. This summer, we will hear presentations on the continuation of Greek musical and lyric traditions at Trebizond in northern Turkey; shifting geo-political frontiers from *ca.* 330 to 1453 and what they reveal about the Byzantine state in the Middle Ages; sacred song and angelic praise in the Eastern Mediterranean and their intersection in Jewish and Greek Orthodox liturgies; and on the reception and emulation of Byzantine Art in the Rome, Palestine, Egypt, and Ethiopia, Renaissance Europe. Abstracts for the workshops may be found on the seminar website.

The workshops are at their best when they are designed to be interactive. Question and discussion sessions will follow each presentation. All seminar participants are asked to read brief introductory readings before each workshop (readings may be downloaded on the seminar website). These readings will help to orient everyone toward specific themes discussed in the workshops as well as in the seminar in general.

Finally, on one of the final evenings, graduate students and faculty will gather for an informal discussion to share and hear about one another's specific research projects/trajectories. Some of the best insights are developed in interdisciplinary discussion, and hopefully this will be an opportunity to reflect on how the seminar has benefited one's research. Undergraduates are most welcome to join.

ACCOMMODATION: Seminar participants are responsible for making their own arrangements for our two-night stay in Thessaloniki. The Hotel Orestias Kastorias is a reliable, affordable hotel in the city center that members of the Menoikeion team have used time and again. I have been in contact with the hotel management and informed them of our arrival. He has offered us double rooms at a rate of €40. Please plan to make your own arrangements by visiting their website (<http://www.okhotel.gr/>).

At the monastery, we will stay in two, large separate rooms (one for women, one for men). These rooms do not require payment for seminar participants. These rooms are usually designated workspaces for the nuns, and it is a true treat to have the opportunity to stay there. Bathrooms with rudimentary showers (hand-held extendable faucets) are located outside the living quarters.

TRANSPORTATION: Thessaloniki is a major hub-city served by the Macedonia International Airport (SKG), the New Railway Station (Νέος Σιδηροδρομικός Σταθμός), and the Macedonia InterCity Bus Terminal.

Daily flights are available from Athens to Thessaloniki via Aegean Airlines and Olympic Air (50 min). One may travel from SKG to the city center via the OASTH (Thessaloniki Urban Transport Organization) bus no. 78 (departing every 15 to 30 min) and at night by no 78N (departing every 30 min). To reach the Orestias Kastorias, get off at stop Plateia Aristotelous (Aristotle Square). The no. 78 also travels to/from the bus terminal and train station to the airport. Tickets cost €0.90. A taxi ride from the airport to the city center costs approx. €20.

The New Railway Station is located at Odos Monastiriou 28, City Centre. As of May 2013, there are 6 day-trains and 1 night-train between Thessaloniki and Athens (5.5 hrs)—the ride is said to be quite beautiful! International train travel is currently suspended. To reach the Orestias Kastorias from the train station, take OASTH bus nos. 10, 11, or 14 to Plateia Aristotelous. A taxi costs approx. €7.

The Macedonia InterCity Bus Terminal is located in the western end of the city at Odos Giannitson 194. Daily transportation to virtually any other notable city in Greece may be reached via the national bus network (KTEL). To reach the Orestias Kastorias from the terminal, take OASTH bus no. 131 to Plateia Aristotelous. A taxi costs approx. €10.

FOOD: We will have a large welcome group dinner on our first evening in Thessaloniki. On the second night, Graduate students and Undergraduates will have separate group dinners (locations TBA). Otherwise, seminar participants are free to explore all the culinary delights that the city has to offer! Students can expect to spend around €15 per diem on meals in Thessaloniki (and afterward at Kastoria). Nikos Michaelidis has kindly offered to suggest a number of reliable locations as well as certain local foods. This list may be found on the seminar website.

While at the monastery, we will eat a group breakfast, lunch, and dinner prepared each day by the nuns. Participants will abide by a pescetarian diet, in keeping with that of the nuns. We also will generally be treated to afternoon snacks (cookies, juice, tea, *etc.*) between the midday and evening meals. Believe us—no one goes hungry at Prodomos! Money will not be needed at the monastery. And just for simple clarification, alcohol is totally off-limits between 06/28 and 07/04.

NB Please inform me if you have any specific food allergies or requirements.

DRESS: While summers in the Mediterranean are notoriously hot and humid, the evenings up in the mountains can get rather chilly. Thus, please make sure to pack a sweater and a light jacket. The terrain inside the monastery is a bit rocky, so we recommend sturdy, closed-toe shoes (no flip-flops). Out of respect for the monastic community that so generously hosts us, we abide by the following dress-code while in the monastic complex:

Women: Long skirts (below knee) and covered shoulders (sleeve to elbows)

Men: Long pants and shirts with sleeves and collars. No hats allowed inside.

All: Long-sleeved shirts and closed-toe shoes should be worn inside the church.

It is recommended that participants pack *lightly* (believe us, it is very good advice!). A messenger bag or purse with one large duffel bag / medium-sized roller should be perfectly adequate for your trip—even if you plan to travel beyond the 8-10 days of the seminar + extension. Please remember to bring your own toiletries (toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, sunscreen, *etc.*). Towels will be included, but we recommend that everyone also brings his/her own. Dress code must be maintained on the walk between the accommodation and the bathroom (*ca.* 100 m from the accommodations).

NB It is probably a good idea that the seminar coordinators be made aware of any specific health conditions, allergies, *etc.* that you might have.

ELECTRONICS: Greece uses the two-pronged power outlet system found in all of Continental Europe. It is a good idea to purchase an adaptor in advance (\$5).

Depending on the make, model, and type of service plan, your American cell phone may function in Greece (though generally at a rather expensive price). Check to see if your wireless provider has a “global service plan” or something thereabouts. Otherwise, prepaid phones serviced by Vodafone, WIND, or Cosmote (local) may easily be purchased at the airport or in Thessaloniki. Typical packages (phone, SIM card, and credit) cost approx. €50-60. I would advise you to think about whether or not having a phone is necessary before making any purchases.

NB Cell phones are not permitted at the monastery. It might be a good idea to leave an ‘away’ message on your voicemail and to set your e-mail to send out an automatic response in your absence.

Internet is available free of charge at the Orestias Kastorias in Thessaloniki. Meanwhile, the monastery has a wonderful, wireless-connected library where Internet access will be made available on designated “Internet Hours.” These limited hours are TBD, but probably will take place on the afternoons of 06/30 and 07/03. The library has a computer of its own and I promise to make my Mac laptop available to everyone in the group. Only pack your own computer if it is absolutely necessary—otherwise a laptop just takes up space!

CONTACT: Please direct all further queries to me (John Lansdowne, 216-213-5509). I will have the same phone number once in Europe, though one must first dial either the American (001) or Greek (030) country codes to reach me. Furthermore, some potentially useful numbers are as follows:

Prodromos Monastery: 23210 74544 or 23210 74623 (for emergency use only)

Hotel Orestias Kastorias +30 2310276517

Xenophon Moniaros: +30 693245992

WEBSITE: <http://www.princeton.edu/menoikeion/index.xml>

