

# THE PARTHENON SCULPTURES



NEWSLETTER NO. 12 THE AMERICAN COMMITTEE FOR THE REUNIFICATION OF THE PARTHENON SCULPTURES

JANUARY 2011

## “ALL SIDES OF THE PARTHENON” NATIONAL PHOTO EXHIBIT OPENS IN ST. AUGUSTINE, FL; WILL OFFICIALLY OPEN IN BOSTON IN JANUARY 2011

We are pleased to announce that the official opening of the “ALL SIDES OF THE PARTHENON” National Photo Exhibit of the American Committee was held on November 5th at the St. Photios, Greek Orthodox Shrine in St. Augustine, FL. An enthusiastic overflow crowd attended the event. The exhibit will remain at the Shrine for nearly a year.

“ALL SIDES OF THE PARTHENON” is the result of a week-long photo shoot by photographer Peter C. Yalanis that captured never before seen perspectives and images of the Parthenon and the city of Athens, taken from *within and on top* the famed temple. The exhibit had earlier a very successful run at the Coral Springs Museum of Art; on January 29, 2011 it will open at the Maliotis Cultural Center on the campus of Hellenic College in Brookline, MA. Members and friends of our Committee are encouraged to visit the exhibit either in St. Augustine or Boston.

(Note: Selected photos of the Parthenon taken by Mr. Yalanis may be viewed by visiting [www.ParthenonPhotos.smugmug.com](http://www.ParthenonPhotos.smugmug.com) Photos are available for purchase, with a portion of the purchase price benefitting the American Committee for the Reunification of the Parthenon Sculptures.)



## UPCOMING EVENTS

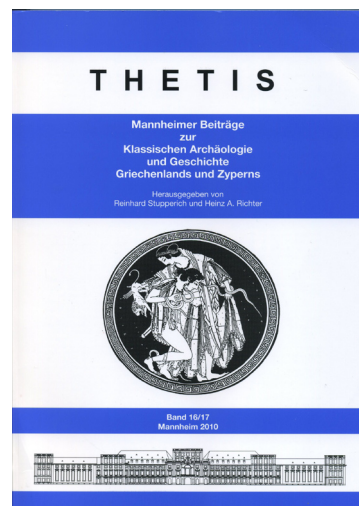
February 6, 2011 -- Keynote address by Michael Reppas at the 29th Annual Pilgrimage Luncheon, St. Photios Foundation, St. Augustine, Fl. Subject: “Defending our Culture and History, Through the Teaching of St. Photios. (Announcement on next page).

February 13, 2011 -- Presentation by Michael Reppas at the St. George Greek Orthodox Church, Hollywood, FL. Subject: “The Looting of the Parthenon and the Fight to Preserve Our Cultural Property.”

February 23, 2011 -- Presentation by Dennis Menos at the St. George Greek Orthodox Church, Bethesda, MD. Subject: “The Parthenon Sculptures: An Update on Efforts to Return Them Home.”

## CONGRATULATIONS MICHAEL!

Congratulations to our Committee President, Michael J. Reppas II, Esq. for the publication in THETIS, the prestigious Journal of Mannheim University’s (Germany) Classical Archaeological Institute, of his academic study entitled: Is Litigation The Only Way to Empty “International” Museums’ Trophy Cases of Their Looted Treasures?



## RESTORATION OF THE TEMPLE OF ATHENA NIKE COMPLETED

The removal of scaffolding late in October from the temple of Athena Nike, marked another yet stage in the ongoing restoration program of the Acropolis. Earlier restorations of the Propylaea and of a major part of the Parthenon were completed in December and May 2010 respectively.

The small Ionic temple of Athena Nike, built between 426-421 B.C., had suffered extensive damage over the years. In 1687 it was badly damaged by a mortar shell lobbed by besieging Venetian forces against an Ottoman garrison barricaded on the Acropolis hill. Restoration of Athena Nike was the last site to be completed under a project begun in 2001.

On November 11, 2010, scaffolding once again appeared on the Acropolis, as restoration work was resumed, this time on the Propylaea, the gateway to the Acropolis. This phase of the restoration program is being funded by the European Union and is expected to be completed by the year 2013.

## A PRESTIGIOUS AWARD FOR THE NEW ACROPOLIS MUSEUM

On November 7th, 2010, the British Guild of Travel Writers awarded to the New Acropolis Museum in Athens its prestigious global award for the **Best Worldwide Tourism Project**. Accepting the award on behalf of the Greek government was Deputy Culture and Tourism Minister George Nikiadiadis, who noted, that the distinction conferred by this award opened yet another door for the return of the Parthenon Sculptures housed in the British Museum.

## VIP SUPPORT FOR THE SCULPTURES' REUNIFICATION

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao, while in Athens on a State visit on November 5, 2010, pledged to support efforts to secure the repatriation to Greece of the Parthenon Sculptures in the British Museum. The move was not entirely unexpected, considering China's recent efforts to track down artifacts looted from the Beijing Summer Palace in 1860 by British forces acting on orders of Lord Elgin, the British High Commissioner in China. The High Commissioner, incidentally, was the son of the Lord Elgin of Parthenon 'fame'.

## GREECE FIRM IN DEMAND FOR THE SCULPTURES' PERMANENT RETURN

The Greek Government rebuffed on December 7th, reports in the *London Times* suggesting that Greece was prepared to forgo its ownership claim to the Parthenon Sculptures in return for a long-term loan of the sculptures to Athens. "The permanent return of the Parthenon Sculptures to the New Acropolis Museum," stated the official statement, remains the steadfast demand of the Greek state and the people of Greece. Added Pavlos Geroulanos, Minister of Culture and Tourism of Greece: "The British Museum is running out of time. The British public is in favor of returning them. The logic of its argument to keep them is weakening."

Parallel comments were heard during the International Conference on the **Protection and Return of Cultural Property**, held a few days later in Athens, and attended by scholars and members of the legal profession from around the world. "Sculptures have the right to remain intact," commented the New Acropolis Museum's President, Dimitris Panderimalis. Added Dimitri Dollis, Greece's Deputy Foreign Minister, "the reunification of the Memorial to Democracy is not a national but a global request."



*His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios*

*His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios*

With the

St. Photios Foundation

Cordially Invite You to

**The 29th Annual Pilgrimage Luncheon  
Honoring our Patron Saint  
St Photios the Great, Patriarch of Constantinople**

**Sunday, February 6, 2011**

1:00 p.m.

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

**Michael J. Reppas, Esq.**

President of the American Committee

For the Reunification of the Parthenon Sculptures, Inc

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

***"Defending Our Culture & History Through the Teachings of St. Photios"***

Luncheon Served at 1:00 pm at the

Casa Monica Hotel

95 Cordova Street

St Augustine, Florida 32084

RSVP (904) 829 8205

By

February 4, 2011

Sunday Orthodox – 8:30 a.m.

followed by Hierarchical Divine Liturgy in the St Photios Chapel

41 St. George Street, St. Augustine, Florida 32084

## THE CRY OF ART DIVIDED

It is time for Neil MacGregor to take note of past experiences and reunite the Marbles

by Geoff White, Committee Member of 'Marbles Reunited' (UK)

The Parthenon Frieze is displayed in the British Museum without gaps, so that visitors could be forgiven for thinking that they were looking at the complete work. But they would be deceiving themselves. The British Museum houses a little over half of the surviving Parthenon Sculptures. The rest, with a few minor exceptions, are now on display in the New Acropolis Museum in Athens.

Art that is divided cries out to be reunited. It is a cry which we know that Mr. MacGregor, Director of the British Museum, has heeded at least twice in the past. When he was Director of the National Gallery in London, a painting by Manet called 'The Execution of Maximilian' was put on public display for the first time in over a century. In Manet's lifetime it had been too dangerous to exhibit the painting considered critical of the French Emperor, and on the artist's death his family had cut it up and disposed of the fragments separately. Outraged by this vandalism, Degas tracked down the surviving pieces and when he died they had been acquired by the National Gallery. But it was not until Mr. MacGregor's incumbency that they were assembled on a new canvas and placed on public view in Room 43 of the Gallery.

At the British Museum something similar has happened. A masterpiece of early Greek vase painting, known as 'The Elgin Amphora' has recently gone on display in Room 12. It has been reassembled from fragments excavated by Lord Elgin's workmen in Athens 210 years ago and subsequently dispersed between several private collections. By what the museum calls 'detective work', the fragments have all been brought together again.

In both of these cases the results, though incomplete, prove that the whole is much greater than the sum of the parts. As an art historian, Mr. MacGregor has twice proved willing to do what is right when great art is sundered. If art that is divided cries out to be reunited, surely the longest and greatest cry comes from the Sculptures of the Parthenon.

We hope that Neil MacGregor and the Trustees of the British Museum will soon heed that cry.

## NEW CHAIRMAN OF THE BRITISH COMMITTEE

Professor Anthony Snodgrass, a notable figure in the cause of the reunification of the Parthenon Sculptures, and a close and trusted friend of the American Committee, retired early in December 2010 as Chairman of the 'British Committee for the Reunification of the Parthenon Sculptures'.

Professor Snodgrass has been at the forefront of the international movement to return to Greece the Parthenon Sculptures for nearly thirty years. During this period, he initiated and organized numerous public lectures and debates on the issue, met with UK and Greek officials to promote reunification, and was instrumental for the British Museum finally abandoning the use of the term *Elgin Marbles* when referring to the Parthenon Sculptures. We sincerely regret seeing him go.

Replacing Professor Snodgrass is Eddie O'Hara, recently retired after twenty years as member of the British Parliament. Throughout his parliamentary career, Eddie O'Hara has tirelessly promoted the case for the return of the Parthenon Sculptures, using for this purpose Early Day Motions, parliamentary questions, debates and meetings with Ministers. We wish him well in his new position and look forward to working with him until our common goal is met.



Cypriot students demonstrating in front of the British Museum, Oct., 25, 2010.

## **'BRING THEM BACK' ECHOES AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM**

**B**anners conveying the message BRING THEM BACK greeted visitors to the British Museum on October 25, 2010. The demonstration, organized by **METOPO, the Cypriot Student Movement in the UK**, repeated the demand of Hellenes everywhere that the Parthenon Sculptures currently housed in the British Museum be returned to their homeland. At the end of the demonstration (limited by British Museum rules to 40 minutes only), Marios Nicolaou, president of METOPO noted: "We will be back! Our campaign will not end until the Parthenon Sculptures now in London have permanently been transferred to the New Acropolis Museum."

## **E-PETITION FOR THE RETURN OF THE PARTHENON SCULPTURES**

**W**e encourage all our members and supporters to sign the E-petition sponsored by the ActClick.gr social network. About 150,000 citizens from around the world have already done so. You can cast your vote by visiting the petition voting page at <http://www.bringthemback.org>.

The goal of the campaign is to create a citizens' movement that unites the voices of all who believe that Greece's request for the return of the Parthenon Sculptures is a fair one. Once one million votes have been collected, the issue will be referred to the European Parliament for its action.

## **WHOSE ARTIFACTS ARE THEY ANYWAY?**

**O**ur readers do not need to be reminded, of course. Past efforts notwithstanding, the Parthenon Sculptures are still in the British Museum in London. So are the Rosetta Stone and the Cyrus Cylinder, both removed from Egypt and Iran, respectively, under dubious circumstances. The Bust of Queen Nefertiti is still in Berlin in the Neues Museum, despite incessant Egyptian demands that it be returned, as is the Zodiac of Dendera at the Louvre. Also the 105-carat Kohinoor diamond (a property of the people of India) is on display in the Tower of London, rather than in New Delhi where it belongs.

The news is not all bad, of course. A start has been made and artifacts illicitly acquired by some of the world's largest museums, are being returned to the lands hence they had been removed. Recent examples include, the return to Egypt, by the Metropolitan Museum in New York, of 19 small objects stolen from

the tomb of legendary pharaoh King Tut, and Japan's announcement that it plans to return to South Korea more than 1,200 Korean royal documents and books seized from that country during Tokyo's colonial rule 1910-45. Closer to home, under pressure from Peru, Yale University has agreed to return certain Incan artifacts taken from that country a century ago. More than 4,000 objects are involved, including pottery, textiles, and human remains.

## **FRIENDLY REMINDERS:**

The American Committee for the Reunification of the Parthenon Sculptures, Inc.' (ACRPS, Inc.) is the only IRS recognized not-for-profit organization in the United States, formed expressly for the purpose of educating the American public about Greece's most acclaimed Parthenon Sculptures in London and to demand their return to Athens. **Membership fees and donations to ACRPS, Inc. are considered by the IRS as charitable contributions and are fully deductible.**

**Please consider becoming a member of our Committee;** forms for joining are available at our Web site [www.ParthenonSculpturesUSA.org](http://www.ParthenonSculpturesUSA.org). Mail your tax-deductible gift to: ACRPS, Inc, 7850 N.W. 146th Street, Suite 501, MIAMI LAKES, FL 33016, Attn: Andreas Leontsinis, Treasurer.

**Did you remember to renew your membership for 2010 and 2011?** Your financial help is urgently needed to produce and mail publicity materials, administrative expenses, provide for essential travel, and to bring our photo exhibit ALL SIDES OF THE PARTHENON to major cities across our country.

**Volunteers are needed to take the lead in establishing Parthenon Committees in major U.S. metropolitan centers. Please contact Lefteris Karmiris, ACRPS, Inc. Secretary at Lefteris.Karmiris@verizon.net**

**Please direct your public relations queries to Eleni Daniels, DanielsMediaCo. Her E-Mail address is danielsmediaco@gmail.com**

**THE PARTHENON SCULPTURES is the official Newsletter of 'the American Committee for the Reunification of the Parthenon Sculptures,' Inc. Dennis Menos at [DMenos@msn.com](mailto:DMenos@msn.com) is editor; design and layout are by Cimon Psira at [ameragreek@verizon.net](mailto:ameragreek@verizon.net)**