



PRESS RELEASE

THIRD INTERNATIONAL COLLOQUY ON REUNIFICATION OF THE PARTHENON SCULPTURES CONVENES JULY 27-28, 2015 IN ATHENS AT THE ACROPOLIS MUSEUM

“Unifying the Cause to Unify the Parthenon”

(Miami, Florida, Tuesday, March 24, 2015) – Today, the American, British and Australian organizations for the Reunification of the Parthenon Sculptures announced the launch of the Third International Colloquy entitled **“Unifying the Cause to Unify the Parthenon.”** The two-day event will be held in Athens, Greece on July 27-28, 2015. Invitations for the event and a request for papers will be extended to every existing national committee in the world supporting the call for reunification.

The Keynote Speaker, **George Bizos**, is a world-renowned human rights advocate, Member of the British Committee, and former lawyer to Nelson Mandela. The first day of the event will consist of lectures by host committees, presentations of the Participants’ published papers, and will culminate with a guided tour of the Acropolis Museum with Prof. Dimitri Pandermanlis, President of the Museum. The second day will consist of a guided tour of the Acropolis and the Parthenon itself, by Dr. Elena Korika, Director, Hellenic Ministry of Culture, Education and Religious Affairs.

The goal of the event is to bring together the global supporters of the campaign to jointly prepare for the Fourth International Colloquy in London, England in 2016. The Fourth Colloquy will commemorate the 200th anniversary of the British Parliament’s controversial purchase of the Parthenon Sculptures from Lord Elgin. The Athens 2015 event will call on all campaigners around the world to submit papers setting forth their ideas



on how every organization in the world can work together to promote the London 2016 event. In real terms, the goal is to Unify the Cause to Unify the Parthenon.

The event will be jointly presented by the **American Committee for the Reunification of the Parthenon Sculptures (ACRPS)**, the **British Committee for the Reunification of the Parthenon Marbles (BCRPM)**, and the **International Organizing Committee – Australia – for the Restitution of the Parthenon Marbles (IOC-A-RPM)**.

The Third International Colloquy's logo was created by noted communications and media strategist Konstantine Vaxevanaris of **KONSTANTINE + PARTNERS** . In creating this design, Mr. Vaxevanaris presents a creation rooted in logic, representing the convergence of architecture, art and engineering – the three disciplines of the Parthenon's creators. The design applies the "golden ratio" principle revered by ancient Greeks who, in creating the Parthenon, created a timeless and *singular* work of art that was mathematically perfect and aesthetically flawless. The logo is a reminder that the Parthenon was COMPLETE and PERFECT, and should be restored to such perfection – philosophically arguing the significance of "UNITY." The logo is expressed in spiraling shells, exploring the numeric values of the golden ratio. The intersecting geometric circles represent the union of the three hosting committees. The triangles constitute the multi-dimensional pieces on the pediment as a complete value. The execution advocates the golden ratio's application to yield pleasing, harmonious proportions. Thus the entity downplays the controversy and tensions in favor of focusing on synergy and progress. *Unifying the Cause to Unify the Parthenon.*

"This momentous event largely echoes the tireless efforts around the globe to educate and connect people and resources. By forging an open dialogue and coalition among supporters, we hope to dramatically increase the level of awareness and support around the world," said **Michael J. Reppas, Esq., President and Legal Advisor for ACRPS**. "We need to be unified in this cause and show the world that we speak with one voice."

"2014 was an Annus Mirabilis for the campaign to reunify the Parthenon marbles. For various reasons there was unprecedented media attention and a consequent gratifying increase in support across a wide spectrum of public opinion. The third of our international colloquies in 2015 is an opportunity to take stock of this, to unify the campaign and prepare to make a concerted international impact in the fourth colloquy which will be held in London in 2016 and is timed to coincide with the 200th anniversary of the purchase of the marbles from Lord Elgin by the British Government." **Eddie O'Hara, Chairman of the British Committee for the Reunification of the Parthenon Marbles.**

"We need to work together to bring pressure on governments and influence public opinion in order to ensure the rightful return to Greece of the Parthenon Marbles which were and remain an integral part of the Parthenon as a monument to the glory of Classical Greece and the civilization it gave to the world. I urge all to come to Athens and keep up the momentum from the success of the first International Colloquy in London 2012 and then Sydney 2013." **Emanuel J. Comino AM, Chairman of the International Organising Committee - Australia - for the Restitution of the Parthenon Marbles.**



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About George Bizos (Keynote Speaker).

Born in Greece in 1928, George Bizos fled his native country after the German invasion of 1941. Arriving with his father in Johannesburg, the 13 year-old understood no English. Yet, he graduated from Wits Law School and in 1954 was admitted to the Johannesburg Bar. He built an illustrious career on defending victims of apartheid human rights abuses, often acting in the 1950s for the practice of Mandela and Tambo. He represented the ANC at South Africa's post-1994 constitutional hearings. At present, he sits on the bench of the Johannesburg High Court. George Bizos and his wife Arethe have three sons. He spends much of his spare time gardening. *Odyssey to Freedom* is his second book, after *No One to Blame? - In Pursuit of Legal Justice in South Africa*. He has been a supporter of the BCRPM for decades and is a great friend of Mrs Eleni Cubitt, founder of the BCRPM.

About The American Committee for the Reunification of the Parthenon Sculptures, Inc. (ACRPS).

Formed by international litigation attorney, Michael J. Reppas II, ACRPS is the leader of the American charge for the repatriation of the Parthenon Sculptures to Greece. Mr. Reppas, is a widely cited author and legal scholar. His most notable books include: "Why Don't We Just Sue the British Museum?," and "Ateni Samjak," which he co-created with Emanuel Comino of the Australian Committee. Mr. Reppas has engaged in a near 20 year grassroots campaign involving domestic and international lectures to advocate the cause. Through collaboration with his fellow volunteer Board, ACRPS continues to grow and to spread the word. ACRPS is a duly recognized IRS § 501(C)(3) NOT-FOR-PROFIT organization, whose purpose is to educate the public on a local, state, national and international level on the compelling need to protect, preserve and repatriate looted cultural property to its country of origin – most particularly to effect the return from London to Athens of the Parthenon Sculptures.

About The British Committee for the Reunification of the Parthenon Marbles (BCRPM). A group of British people who having considered the case for the reunification of the Parthenon Marbles strongly support it and wish to campaign to achieve it. James Cubitt, a distinguished British architect, met with Melina Mercouri and Jules Dassain, before he formed the BCRPM to campaign for the return of the Parthenon Marbles to their rightful home in Athens. The Committee was set up in 1983 under the chairmanship of internationally renowned and universally respected Robert Browning, Emeritus Professor of Greek at the University of London. Graham Binns took over as Chairman from 1997-2002, followed 2002-2010 by erudite Prof Anthony Snodgrass, Fellow of the British Academy, Professor Emeritus of Classical Archaeology, University of Cambridge. Former Minister of Parliament, Eddie O'Hara, is the current Chairman of the Committee.

About The International Organizing Committee – Australia – for the Restitution of the Parthenon Marbles, Inc. Formerly known as the AHEPA (Australia) Committee for the Restitution of the Parthenon Marbles, the committee was formed in 1981 under the chairmanship of Emanuel John Comino AM. It was the first committee in the world set up for the restitution. The Committee aims to bring pressure to bear on governments and influence public opinion to ensure the return of the Parthenon Marbles to Greece. For more information, visit: <http://www.parthenonmarblesaustralia.org.au>.



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