



Olive Press

Newsletter of the Kefi Club



The Nazis and Ancient Greece

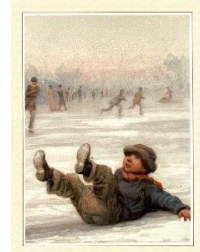


For the meeting on the 19th March to be held at Rushwick Village Hall at the usual time of 7.30 pm, we again welcome Martin Harris who has twice before spoken to us. This time he is taking a look at how German archaeology first helped to uncover Ancient Greece and Troy. This will be followed by how this affected the ideas behind the SS; especially the SS-Ahnenerbe - the Nazi Archaeology Division as seen in the Indiana Jones films. Martin will also explain the way that the Nazis used the Ancient

World as propaganda. Concluding with modern day controversies about the way the Trojan War is seen.

Snow cancels meeting

It was with great reluctance that the February meeting was cancelled as a precaution due to the atrocious weather conditions and take heed of the warning "Don't venture out unless it is absolutely necessary". What we didn't want was to have the risk of any injuries to members getting to the meeting. I believe this is the first time a meeting has not gone ahead in our seven year history. So the talk on the Struggle for Independence will now take place in March 2011.



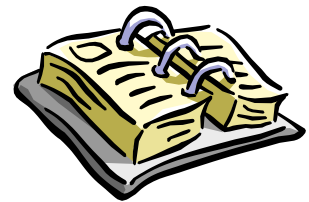
Traditional Greek Cooking- Eleni Carroll

At the January 2010 meeting of the Kefi Club, Eleni Carroll brought to life the smells and tastes of the food she enjoyed as a child growing up in Corinth. In a highly entertaining and lively talk, undaunted by our failure to provide her with an overhead projector, Eleni proved that the pictures a speaker can inspire in your head are brighter and more vibrant than any that can be projected on to a screen. She recalled the dishes her mother used to prepare and how she was made to sit by her side until her mother was satisfied she had grasped the family recipes. She told of journeys with her father to Athens and of the street food she enjoyed then but now, sadly, becoming more and more rare as Greeks succumb to the western European vices of fast food, fast lives and early onset ulcers. She spoke of the pervasive influence of the church on the type of food consumed on special, usually religious, festivals and how the innate conservatism of the clergy was preserving some of the Hellenic culinary traditions. She also pointed to the wide variety of influences to which Greek cuisine had been subjected and to the great regional variations in diet.

Eleni was a child of the occupation and experienced the privations suffered by many Greeks at that troubled time, her family caught up, as were many, in the increasingly bitter, and deadly clashes between left and right in the Peloponnese as Greece slid inexorably towards civil war. Eleni read some extracts from her memoir of those days. It was not just the political and social turmoil, which made life hard and which Eleni was too young to really comprehend, but the lack of some of the necessities of life. Again it was a story of food which illuminated her tale. When she came across hummus in later life and challenged her mother to explain why the family had never had this Greek dish, she learned that because, during the war, food shortages forced her mother and father to make pulses an everyday staple of their diet, when the end of the war came they never wanted to see another chick pea or lentil again!

We learned a lot about traditional Greek cooking and the classic dishes of Greece. In return, Eleni urged club members to publish the recipes of food they had cooked in the Greek cooking competitions organised by the Kefi Club over the years. Everybody looks forward to seeing Eleni again.

JERUSALEM – Israeli archaeologists said Monday that they've discovered an unusually shaped 1,400-year-old wine press that was exceptionally large and advanced for its time. The octagonal press measures 21 feet by 54 feet (6.5 meters by 16.5 meters) and was discovered in southern Israel, about 25 miles (40 kilometers) south of both Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. "What we have here seems to be an industrial and crafts area of a settlement from the sixth to seventh century, which was situated in the middle of an agricultural region," said excavation director Uzi Ad of the Israel Antiquities Authority. During this period, the whole area was part of the Byzantine Empire — the eastern half of the old Roman Empire. "The size of the wine press attests to the fact that the quantity of wine that was produced in it was exceptionally large and was not meant for local consumption," Ad said in a release. The wine was probably intended for export to Egypt, then a major export market, or to Europe, he said. An identical wine press was previously uncovered 12 miles (20 kilometers) away, north of Ashkelon, he added. The shape of the press' collecting vats was impractical because sediment would collect in the corners, Ad noted. They must have been built in this manner, and not in the customary circular or square shape, for aesthetic reasons, he concluded. "This is a complex wine press that reflects a very high level of technology for this period, which was acquired and improved on from generation to generation," he said. The entire apparatus originally measured 49 feet by 54 feet (15 meters by 16.5 meters) and included a central treading floor with a mosaic pavement where the grapes would be trod on. The juice produced from the grapes would flow from the treading floor to a distributing vat and from there through holes into two collecting vats located on either side, he said. Rectangular surfaces originally paved with a mosaic floor were also discovered around the treading floor. The grapes were probably placed there before being trod on, and the initial fermentation of the grapes would sometimes begin there, he said. Eli Eskozido, head of the Nahal Soreq Regional Council, where the press was discovered, said the site would be conserved and opened to the public. The excavation was carried out in an area that will be farmland for a new community that is to be built for settlers evacuated from the Gaza Strip in 2005.



Forthcoming Events of Clubs in the Local Area

The Birmingham Greek club

At our next meeting, on Thursday 4th March, Maria Daniel will give a talk entitled: Telemachos Kanthos: A lyrical vision of Cyprus.

To be held in the Staff Common Room First Floor, Faculty of Arts, University of Birmingham at 8pm.

The Anglo Hellenic Club

"Greeks, Trojans and Hittites" is the title of the talk to be given by Ray Aspen for the meeting on Thursday 25th March 2010. As usual meet 7.30 for 8pm at Worcester Golf and Country Club, Bransford Road, Worcester

Three Counties Ancient History Society

'We have got the people - now find the city! The search for Armenoi in Late Minoan Crete. By Professor Bob Arnott at The Village Hall, Upton Snodsbury, on Thursday 17th March 2010



Useful Contacts

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