GREEK ART BOOKS
From Early Antiquity to the Post-Byzantine Era

Dillons The Bookstores
London
8-20 November 1994

FOUNDATION FOR HELLENIC CULTURE
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82 Gower Street WC1E 6EQ London

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FOUNDATION FOR HELLENIC CULTURE
THE FOUNDATION for Hellenic Culture is inaugurating its collaboration with Dillons Bookshops by exhibiting a representative selection of recent Greek publications on Greek art from prehistory to the Late Byzantine period. This joint venture with Dillons Bookshops is to continue with a series of annual exhibitions on the activities of the Greek publishing industry, each covering a different field. In the next few years there will be exhibitions of Greek books dealing with painting and sculpture, poetry and prose literature, history, essay-writing, architecture, photography and the cinema, travellers’ writings and the history of foreign travel in Greece.

For this year’s exhibition we have chosen about eighty illustrated books about the history of Greek art from prehistoric times to the eighteenth century, some of them in Greek but most in English. They have been selected partly for the quality of their printing and overall artistic finish and partly for the high standard of scholarship in the presentation of the works. In the last few decades several Greek publishing houses and cultural foundations have specialized in art books of distinction, published in *éditions de luxe*, whose fine typography and authoritative texts make them worthy additions to the international bibliography on the subject.

Thematically, the books being exhibited at Dillons in London from 8th to 20th November 1994 fall into three main groups. The first is concerned with the natural environment of the lands in which Greek civilization was born and developed. The books in the group take an original look at various parts of the Greek homelands: the theme that runs through them is the continuity of culture through the centuries in certain particular regional environments. Among the most interesting of them are the collective works on Macedonia, the Aegean, Thrace and Cyprus and the systematic studies of historic centres of Greek population and culture.

The second group deals with the art treasures of ancient Greece now on display in museums and collections or still to be seen *in situ*. It includes important monographs on the excavations at Dion and Vergina, the Thera frescoes, the restoration work now in progress on the Acropolis in Athens.
and the contents of the Athens National Archaeological Museum, as well as works on the influence of the Greek spirit on the evolution of Western civilization, such as *The Parthenon and its Impact in Modern Times* and *The Olympic Spirit*.

The third group is concerned with Byzantium. In recent years there has been a significant upsurge of interest, among scholars and the general public alike, in Byzantine civilization in all its manifestations. One of the consequences of this trend has been the prolific output of monumental works highlighting and reconstructing various aspects of the Byzantine civilization, which flowered in the Greek world and, among its other achievements, effected a reconciliation between the social teachings of Christianity and the heritage of the ancient world.

Many of the books in this section deal with historic monasteries of the Greek East and the great monastic centres of the Greek Orthodox Church. Most of these are collective works about the role of the monasteries in education and scholarship, for it was mostly thanks to the monks that the tradition of Greek learning was preserved and cultivated over many hundreds of years. The subjects covered include the art and architecture of Greek monasteries, monastic collections of manuscripts and printed books, the history of monastic scriptoria and icon-painting workshops and the rhythm of Orthodox monastic life.

Some representative examples of recent Greek books on Byzantine art are also included: works on Byzantine archaeology, religious art, the miniature arts and architecture, as well as monographs on monastic art and the monastic life. Notable among them are the studies of places where the tradition of Byzantine monasticism lives on strongly, such as Mount Athos, Meteor, Patmos, Mount Sinai and the Holy Land.

The final subdivision of this third section comprises books about the Byzantine heritage and the manifold facets of Greek culture after the collapse of the Byzantine Empire: treatises on Greek icons of the Creto-Venetian School, Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Corfu, the military architecture of the castles in the Peloponnese and Euboea and traditional costumes of the Aegean islands as depicted in travellers' paintings and prints. These books investigate the historical links between Byzantium and the West and trace the evolution of the character of Modern Hellenism through the ages.
CATALOGUE
THE HELLENIC SPACE AND ITS MEMORY


HELENIC PREHISTORY AND ANTIQUITY


CONTRIBUTORS

Sir David Hunt

AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY

IN CYPRUS

FOOTPRINTS

EDITED BY

Sir David Hunt


THE BYZANTINE AND POST-BYZANTINE CIVILISATION


AND ITS IMPACT IN MODERN TIMES

THE PARTHENON


MACEDONIA
FROM PHILIP II TO THE ROMAN CONQUEST


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VENETIAE quasi alterum BYZANTIUM

FROM CANDIA TO VENICE
GREEK ICONS IN ITALY
15th – 16th CENTURIES

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ICOM–HELLENIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE
15, Agion Asomaton St., 105 53 Athens
Tel.: (01) 3239414
FOUNDER FOR HELLENIC CULTURE
50, Stratigou Kallari St., 154 52 Palaio Psychico
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Tel.: (01) 6659632, 6659544 Fax: (01) 6658067

N. P. GOULANDRI FOUNDATION
Museum of Cycladic and Ancient Greek Art
4, Neof. Douka St., 106 74 Athens
Tel.: (01) 7228321-3 Fax: (01) 7239382

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ILLUSTRATIONS


