

Friday, the 4th and Saturday, the 5th of May 2012

Basileis and poleis **on the island of Cyprus**

The Cypriote Polities in their Mediterranean context

The Bank of Cyprus Cultural Foundation, in celebration of the first decade of the George and Nefeli Giabra Pierides Museum (2002 – 2012) and in collaboration with the Archaeological Research Unit of the University of Cyprus, announces an international symposium to be held in its premises in May 2012.

The symposium is organised in honour of Clio and Solon Triantafyllides, donors of the George and Nefeli Giabra Pierides Collection of Cypriote Antiquities to the Cultural Foundation.



The history and the archaeological significance of the collection, which is permanently exhibited in the Cultural Foundation's Museum of Cypriote Antiquities since 2002, will be presented by **Vassos Karageorghis**. **Robin Lane-Fox**, Reader in Ancient History (New College, Oxford) and celebrated author of, among other, *Alexander the Great* (1973), *The Making of Alexander* (2004), *Travelling Heroes* (2008), will give the key-note lecture on 'Cypriote and Macedonian monarchies compared'.

The theme of the Symposium

Having undertaken to define the theme of the Symposium, **Miltiades Hatzopoulos** and **Maria Iacovou** noted that the city-kingsdoms of Cyprus have not been assigned an equal partner's place in the study of the development of the different kinds of Mediterranean *polis*-states, nor have they been set in the wider context of the various monarchies of the time, especially in the periphery of the Greek world (e.g. traditional kingships of Sparta, Cyrene, Macedonia and Epirus, Thessalian *tageia*, Siceliotte tyranny). Instead, since the *History of Cyprus* by George Hill, and almost to this day, the Cypriote polities have been viewed as by-products of a 'Mycenaean' and/or a 'Phoenician' colonization episode. The time is ripe for the local, island-specific conditions and processes to be taken into consideration. Through a systematic comparative approach, the formation of the *polis*-states of Ancient Cyprus, and their particular spatial, socioeconomic and constitutional characteristics, can be seen in the wider historical context of the first millennium BC.

Invited speakers

Panos Christodoulou, Sabine Fourier, Miltiades Hatzopoulos, Antoine Hermay, Maria Iacovou and George Papasavvas have been asked to present an updated view of the Cypriote monarch and the Cypriot polity based on textual and material data, regardless of entrenched boundaries between History and Archaeology. The Symposium will be a small and well focused scholarly meeting but it aspires to lead to the publication of a volume on *The Polities of Cyprus in their Mediterranean context*.

Organizing Committee

Lefki Michaelidou, Director, Bank of Cyprus Cultural Foundation.

Demetrios Michaelides, Professor of Archaeology, Director, Archaeological Research Unit, University of Cyprus.

Scientific Committee

Miltiades Hatzopoulos, Member of the Institut de France, Académie des Inscriptions et Belles Lettres; Director (1992–2010) of the Institute of Greek and Roman Antiquity, the National Hellenic Research Foundation.

Maria Iacovou, Professor of Archaeology, Department of History and Archaeology, University of Cyprus.



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