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Abstracts, Notes of Contributors, Notes on Editorial Advisors

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Abstract

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ABSTRACTS

DIANA WOOD CONROY

‘Stone Writing in Ancient Paphos: Theatre, Basilica and House’

Inscriptions in stone embed understanding intellectually through the interpretation of texts and also through eye and touch in the subtlety of their petrified materiality. Watching inscriptions emerge from the earth and documenting them has a poetic resonance for both scholars and artists in the Greco-Roman theatre in Paphos. Cyprus has a complex history of writing in stone, in various scripts, since the Bronze Age. Through the individual experience of an artist/archaeologist, this essay traces the impact of the past on the present through graphic and woven representations that refer to the resonance of the classical past in postcolonial Australia. By teasing out that poetic resonance, this study looks closely at inscriptions associated with the names Marcus Aurelius and Eustorgis from the Paphos theatre, and comments on the inferences of gender. The inscriptions, like the mosaic texts from nearby sites, refer not only to great imperial forces but also to an emotional and private individuality.

ANTONIS DANOS

‘*The Little Land Fish*: Experiencing Place, Homeland, and Identity in an Exhibition of Contemporary Cypriot Art’

The protagonist of Iranian author Samad Behrangi’s *The Little Black Fish* (1968) had to resist the long-entrenched ideas of its family, neighbours and wider community as to the ‘proper’ way of life, the very space of existence, and the fixed identity of the individual as a member of a specific group in its effort to transcend physical, mental and ideological borders, so as to establish an identity for itself. The story was the starting point for the exhibition, *The Little Land Fish* (Istanbul, 2010). The little fish served as an allegory for the island of Cyprus, a ‘floating’ land in the eastern end of the Mediterranean that has had a turbulent history, and whose fortunes have largely been determined by geography, and decided upon by agents other than itself. Cyprus’ recent past and its present are marked by conflict and division, and by ideologies of collective (‘ethnic’) difference and of separation. The works in *The Little Land Fish* offer counter-narratives and alternative visions to such ideologies. They negotiate space — both in actual and symbolic terms — as a ‘homeland’ that is fluid; and identity as a shifting, rather than a fixed, concept. They visually deconstruct the vocabulary of dominant political rhetoric, and they subvert discourses of ‘us’ and ‘others’. At the same time, they counter-propose narratives of commonality, either by constructing a space of shared experience, or by focusing on the individual experience of the greater historical forces, as a process that resists the constructs of hegemonic ideology.

STAVROS STAVROU KARAYANNI

‘Towards an Epistemology of Longing: Gender Disruptions and Resistance in Cyprus Narratives of Displacement’

The story of the Cyprus Republic is one of strife, violence, and division. While the memory of home still erodes the psyche of older generations of displaced Cypriots, the master narratives that have incited ethnic and religious hatred continue to have currency in the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities. These hatreds are often performed in a posture that is rigid and invariably patriarchal. Because Cypriot literature has been plagued by these narratives and this posturing, my goal in this article is to read literary moments when gender disrupts various ideological strictures and reaches beyond the exploitative pain of a stagnating nostalgia. Through a deployment of idiosyncratic narrative subjectivity and a reconfiguration of the body’s relation to orthodox gender embodiment, the poets I explore creatively re-negotiate the dominant and oppressive paradigms of ethnic hostility and relentless patriarchal imperatives. Ultimately, in their work the body resists and re-invents itself in ways that extend its existence beyond the oppressive regimes of master narratives.

GABRIEL KOUREAS

‘Nicosia/Istanbul: Ruins, Memory and Photography’

This essay will investigate the use of photography in recent mixed media artistic production in Cyprus. In order to do so the essay will attempt to bring together two cities, Istanbul and Nicosia, and argue that Orhan Pamuk’s juxtaposition of photography and text in his *Istanbul, Memories of a City* (2005) reveals the aesthetics of ruins in the spatiality of the city in order to uncover the transcultural memories that are buried deep under the ruins of the city of Istanbul. The essay will then move to the city of Nicosia in order to argue that another writer, Niki Marangou, in collaboration with the photographer Arunas Baltenas in their book *Nicosciences* (2006), adopt a similar relationship to the ruins of the dividing line through the juxtaposition of text and photography, in order to reveal the layers and possibilities of histories that ruins, memory and photography can expose in a space that is marked by the abject and death.

CHRISTINE PAGNOULLE

‘Past into Future: Cyprus’ Undivided Literature — Aydın Mehmet Ali and Stephanos Stephanides’

Cyprus has long been associated with strife and division. British colonial occupation aggravated ethnic tensions that led to the actual partition of the island in 1974. Atrocities were perpetrated on both sides and history books perpetuate mutual but one-sided grievances. Yet whether they use Turkish, Greek or English,

most Cypriot writers (as indeed most Cypriot artists) offer comprehensive insights into the island's past, a duty of remembrance which is the only way forward. Using studies on literature and trauma (Caruth, Kaplan, La Capra, Cohen) and historical-anthropological approaches (Bryant, Papadakis) as theoretical background, the article develops a close reading of two stories by Aydin Mehmet Ali and four poems by Stephanos Stephanides, two Cypriot authors writing in English. The article also explores the crucial role played by *Cadences: A Journal of Literature and the Arts in Cyprus*.

IRINI SAVVIDES

'Cypriot Women Poets Cross the Line'

Stephanos Stephanides suggests that 'it is the border anxiety of the city that gives originality and value to its literary expression'. This essay will look at the representations of this *topos* in relation to the last divided capital in Europe: Nicosia, Cyprus. I will examine the representation of the city in the poetry of Andriana Ierodiaconou, Niki Marangou, Nora Nadjarian and Neshe Yashin. Considering the confinements and longings associated with living in this divided city and the shifting views on the symbolic presence of the line, I will give an account of the shift in responses of Cypriot women to the division over time, examining how poetry may re-conceive 'No Man's Land'.

STEPHANOS STEPHANIDES

'An Island in Translation'

This essay discusses how translation in Cyprus has been impacted by the geographical position and complex multicultural history of the island. Language and trans-cultural relations have been marked by inequalities due to conquests, colonialism, and changing demographics, and translation has been an indeterminate encounter among heterogeneous cultures. Depending on the historical moment, differences result in creative engagement not only in conflict. During the first decades of British rule, colonial rule with Cypriot diasporic consciousness yielded a form of colonial cosmopolitanism. The 1880s brought the first printing press and the first newspaper (published in Greek and English) to the island, serving as catalysts for the advent of Cypriot literary modernity, the production of local literature, translation and criticism. The re-territorialisation of ethnic origins in the '50s and the separate national teleologies in the post-colonial period have been strong in defining cultural and literary practices including the translation mode. Nonetheless, the first decade of the millennium witnessed the renewal of forms of cultural cosmopolitanism stimulated by radical demographic changes due to immigrants, repatriates, and settlers, and the relaxation of north/south crossings since 2003. This has opened the affect and habitus of writers and translators to new potentials, confrontations, and literary experiments.

MARIOS VASILIOU

‘Cypriot English Literature: A Stranger at the Feast Locally and Globally’

Although English generally opens gateways to literary acknowledgement, Cypriot-English literature remains unknown for the most part both locally and internationally. Yet, its location at the crossroads of various linguistic and cultural systems, and the tensions that are begotten by this shifting position, which can be understood within the frame of ‘minor literature’ (Deleuze and Guattari 1986) have engendered syncretic aesthetics that this essay explores. By looking at Ierodiconou’s *Margharita’s Husband* and Hoplaros’ *Mrs. Bones*, as well as at Stephanides’ short memoir *The Wind Under My Lips*, the essay demonstrates that the syncretic aesthetics that emerge from such shifting literary locations warrant examination in their own light, instead of being theorised under literary terms of global resonance.

NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

ALEV ADIL has been widely published in academic journals, poetry anthologies and literary journals internationally. Her first collection of poetry, *Venus Inferis*, was published in 2004. Alev's poetry has been translated into Albanian, Azeri, Greek, Lithuanian, Romanian and Turkish. She has performed at a number of venues in London and has appeared at international poetry festivals. Alev's photographic work, multimedia performances and film-poems have been exhibited in galleries in London, Baltimore and Nicosia. She also curates <http://www.MemoryMap.org.uk>, an online digital memory project and exhibition space for film, photography, writing and music. Alev has reviewed for *The Times Literary Supplement*, *The Independent*, *The Guardian* and *The Financial Times* and lectures at the University of Greenwich where she teaches visual culture and creative writing and is Head of the Department of Communication and Creative Arts.

AYDIN MEHMET ALI was born in Cyprus and educated in Cyprus, USA and Britain. She set up and managed Arts-based empowerment projects in Cyprus and the UK amongst different ethnic and language communities, focusing on young people and women. Aydin is an award-winning author whose short stories and poetry have been included in numerous anthologies, journals, festivals and as art installations. She has performed at venues throughout London and Cyprus and on state radio and TV in north and south Cyprus. A documentary about part of her life by Arte TV was shown in France and Germany (2004). Her publications include: *Pink Butterflies/Bize Dair* (short story/poetry collection, 2005); *Turkish Speaking Communities & education — no delight* (2001); *Turkish Cypriot Identity in Literature* (ed./trans. 1990); and a new collection of short stories is due toward the end of 2011. Aydin is also Assistant Editor of *Cadences*, a trilingual literary journal in Cyprus.

DIANA WOOD CONROY is Professor of Visual Arts at the University of Wollongong, Australia with contributions across art and archaeology. Her tapestries and drawings explore relationships between classical and personal worlds and are held in national and international collections. Her book, *The Fabric of the Ancient Theatre: Excavation Journals from Cyprus and the Eastern Mediterranean* (Moufflon Publications, Cyprus, 2007) is an imaginative journey through ancient and modern sites.

ANTONIS DANOS received his PhD from the University of Essex, UK, and is currently a Lecturer in Art History and Theory at Cyprus University of Technology. His research interests include nationalism and post-colonialism, Modern Greek and contemporary Cypriot art, art criticism and historiography, and issues of gender and sexuality in art. Antonis has published on Modern Greek and contemporary Cypriot art and culture, in journals, a two-volume book (*Cypriot Artists: The Second Generation*, 2010), articles in edited volumes, and texts in

Cypriot artists' monographs. He has curated exhibitions of Cypriot art in Cyprus, Greece, Turkey and the UK, and his most recent project is a documentary on the life and work of *Christoforos Savva 1924–1968* (2011).

GÜR GENÇ was born in 1969 in the village of Stavrogonno, Cyprus. After the division of the island in 1974, he was evacuated with his family and resettled in northern Cyprus in the region of Mesaoria where he grew up. Gür lived for many years in Turkey and England, but now lives once again in Cyprus. He has recited his poetry in various countries of Europe and his poems have been translated into all major languages. Gür's many publications include volumes of poetry — *Yarımlık* (1992), *...şee!* (1994), *Yölyutma* (2000), *Augur* (2005) and *Kelebek Tekmelemek* (2011) — and a short story collection entitled *Yağmur Yüzünden* (2008). He has translated a volume of collected poetry by Taner Baybars (2007) and an anthology of Cypriot Greek poetry (2010), and has edited *Short Stories from Modern Turkish Cypriot Literature* (2009) and the *Complete Works* of Kaya Çanca (2010).

MIRANDA HOPLAROS was born to Greek Cypriot shop owners and grew up in a small, secluded town in Zimbabwe, then known as Rhodesia, in the 1970s amidst political turmoil, sanctions, shortages and civil war. *Mrs Bones*, her first novel, is a collection of short stories set against an African landscape, which recounts her experiences at boarding school, life as an immigrant, her attempt to understand an invisible bush war and her struggle for an identity. Miranda has a Masters degree from the University of Cyprus in English Literature and Contemporary Cultural Studies.

ANDRIANA IERODIACONOU was born in 1952 in Nicosia, Cyprus. She is bilingual in Greek and English and writes in both languages. Her poems and short stories have appeared in a wide range of literary magazines in Cyprus and abroad and are included in several anthologies; her work has been translated into English, Swedish, Turkish and Lithuanian. Andriana's first novel, *Margarita's Husband*, written in English, was published in Cyprus in 2007 by Armida Publications. She currently lives in France with her husband and son.

STAVROS STAVROU KARAYANNI has published on culture, gender, and sexuality in the Middle East. He is the author of *Dancing Fear and Desire: Race, Sexuality and Imperial Politics in Middle Eastern Dance* (Wilfrid Laurier UP 2004) and co-author of *Sexual Interactions; The Social Construction of Atypical Sexual Behaviors* (Boca Raton, 2006). Since 2007 Stavros has been Managing Editor of *Cadences: A Journal of Literature and the Arts in Cyprus*. He is Associate Professor of English Literature and Cultural Theory, and Chair of the Department of Humanities at European University Cyprus.

RUTH KESHISHIAN was born in 1944 in Nicosia. She is a bookseller and publisher.

GABRIEL KOUREAS completed his PhD at Birkbeck, University of London (funded by a three year AHRC grant) where he has been teaching since 2000. Gabriel's research interests are in the relationship of memory, conflict and commemoration in the construction of National and gender identities. His past research and published monograph *Memory, Masculinity and National Identity in British Visual Culture, 1914–1930*, (Aldershot: Ashgate, 2007) concentrate on the commemoration of the First World War in relation to the visual culture of the 1920s. Current research interests focus on issues of representation of conflict and its commemoration in the museum space, the city and memorial sites with special emphasis on postcolonial memory and gender as well as the possibilities of reconciliation offered through visual culture and the senses.

NIKI MARANGOU was born in Cyprus. She has published three novels, poetry, short stories and children's fairy tales and won state prizes for her literary work. In 1998 she won the Cavafy prize for poetry in Alexandria. In 2004 her poem 'Roses' was chosen to be hung in waiting rooms in NHS Hospitals in the UK. In 2006 she received the Athens Academy poetry award for her book *Divan*, and in 2008 a story from her collection *The Demon of Lust* was nominated as one of the ten best short stories of the year for the Diavazo awards in Athens. Niki's poems are included in the 'European constitution in verse' of the Brussels Poetry Collective (2009) and her books have been translated into many languages. Niki also has had seven exhibitions of her paintings. She lives in Nicosia and has a daughter who is a painter. More at www.marangou.com.

NORA NADJARIAN is a poet and short story writer from Cyprus. She has published three poetry collections, two books of short stories (*Ledra Street*, 2006, and *Girl, Wolf, Bones*, 2011) and a micro novel (*The Republic of Love*, 2010). Widely published online and in print in the UK, USA, Australia and elsewhere, Nora has also won prizes and commendations in the Commonwealth Short Story Competition, the Binnacle International Ultra-Short Competition and the Seán Ó Faoláin Short Story Prize. Her story published her, 'Sparrow', was Highly Commended in the the Seán Ó Faoláin Short Story Competition 2010. Her work was included in *Best European Fiction 2011* (Dalkey Archive Press) and the poetry anthology *Being Human* (Bloodaxe Books, 2011).

CHRISTINE PAGNOULLE teaches English literatures, comparative literature, and translation at the University of Liege, Belgium. As a scholar, Christine has published on African and Caribbean writers (particularly Kamau Brathwaite) as well as on British writers (Geoffrey Hill), and on translation issues, both as author of articles and as editor of collections of essays (most recently *Sur le fil — traducteurs et éthique, éthiques du traducteur / Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea — Translators and Ethics, Ethics in Translation*, 2010). She particularly loves translating poetry and has published a long poem by David Jones (*Le livre de l'ânesse de Balaam*, 2003) and a collection by Michael Curtis (2009); her

translation of Brathwaite's long poem *Dream Haiti* is currently used for a stage performance directed by Frédérique Liébaut, *Ce n'est pas comme si nous allions quelque part*.

IRINI SAVVIDES is a second year PhD student at the University of Western Sydney, Australia. Her thesis 'No Man's Land' is comprised of a novel set in Cyprus during the 1974 Turkish invasion and an exegesis that examines representations of 'the Cyprus problem' in poetry. She is interested in how stories might act as a means of symbolic repatriation and how women's stories in particular can be used to speak back against official history. Irini is also a published Young Adult author. Her first novel *Willow Tree and Olive*, received several awards including a White Raven in Bologna 2002 and she was named one of the finalists in the *Sydney Morning Herald* Young Writer of the Year. Her second novel, *Sky Legs*, won the 2004 Peace Award. Other titles include: *A Marathon of Her Own*; *Aliki Says*; *Hide and Seek*; and *Against the Tide*.

STEPHANOS STEPHANIDES was born in Triкомо in northeast Cyprus in October 1949. He went to the UK as a child, where he lived until finishing his education at Cardiff University. He has travelled widely and has lived in several countries; he has worked and lived using English, Spanish, and Portuguese, and as such his native language ceased to be his dominant tongue. Stephanos writes in English but other languages reverberate in his writing. As well as a poet, he is a literary and cultural critic, ethnographer, translator, all with a commitment to, and interest in, cultural translatability and memory. Years in Guyana (South America) in the 1980s had a profound impact on his life and work, especially his close friendship with communities of descendants of Indian indentured labourers in villages and sugar plantations. Selections of his poetry have been translated into more than ten languages. His publications include: *Translating Kali's Feast: The Goddess in Indo-Caribbean Ritual and Fiction* (2000); *Beyond the Floating Islands* (2002); *Blue Moon in Rajasthan and Other Poems* (2005); *Cultures of Memory/Memories of Culture*; and he has produced two documentary films, *Hail Mother Kali* (1988) and *Kali in the Americas* (2003). Stephanos is now Professor of Comparative Literature at the University of Cyprus where he has worked since returning to his native island in 1992.

MARIOS VASILIOU is a PhD student at the University of Cyprus. His thesis topic is the study of the link between home and identity in Cypriot-English literature and he is in the second year of his study. Thus far, he has presented a paper (developed into his present contribution) at the ACLALS 2010 conference on Commonwealth Literature that took place in Nicosia. He has also presented a paper titled, 'Cypriot Anglophone Literature: a Paradigm for Re-inscribing the Literatures of Dislocation' at a post-graduate conference at Bristol University in May 2011.

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