

Greek Refugees from Asia Minor: Presentations and Exhibition

Welcome

1:30-1:35 pm

Rebecka Lindau, Head of the John Miller Burnam Classics Library, University of Cincinnati.

Presentations

1:35-1:45 pm

Jack Davis, Professor of Classics, UC, will give a presentation about "The American Response to the Smyrna Catastrophe."

1:45-1:55 pm

Yiorgo Topalidis, Visiting Lecturer. Behavioral Sciences, Flagler College, will give a presentation entitled "An Introduction to the Ottoman Greeks of the U.S. Digital History Project" (via Zoom).

1:55-2:05 pm

Alexander Christoforidis, Architect and Professor, DAAP, and Director of the Greek School at the Holy Trinity-St. Nicholas Greek-Orthodox Church in Cincinnati will share experiences from his mother's and father's families who at one time lived in Eastern Thrace and Cappadocia respectively.

2:05-2:10 pm

Lauren Peters will relate the story of her grandmother who came from the island of Koutalis (now Ekinlik Island). She will also share documentation of the trauma endured, and a 1,000-year-old coin her grandmother most likely hid in her clothes with an intriguing backstory, as well as garments she made, possibly for a Pasha, when she lived for a time in Istanbul.

2:10-2:15 pm

George Nyktas will share the story of his mother's family who emigrated from Tenedos in the early 1900s. His grandfather was George Kalfamitros. His father was a refugee from Ayvali in Cappadocia. Mr. Nyktas will also share the story of his friend Sophie Arvanitou whose background parallels his.

2:15-2:20 pm

Eleni Caddell will share the story of her grandparents, who came from Saphrampolis (now Safranbolu), a town in the Black Sea region of Northern Turkey. They escaped from Constantinople to Greece during the Asia Minor Catastrophe. Eleni's maiden name was Inempolidou, and she grew up in Athens, Greece.

2:20-2:30 pm

Bill Tsacalis, Trustee of the American Farm School in Thessaloniki, will speak about the role and history of the Farm School, established in 1904, during the time of the Greco-Turkish War, the population exchange, and today.

Reception and Exhibition

2:30-3:00 pm

Reception in the lobby of the Blegen Library serving rebetika, Greek coffee, and baklava.

Attendees are invited to share more of their stories while browsing the exhibition of books, posters, photos, documents, dolls, and purses made by orphans and other refugees, folk costumes, and garments the refugees wore, and more.

Thank you also to Vasso Apostolides and Charles Nicholas for contributing their oral histories to the exhibition.

To sign up for future events, please contact Rebecka Lindau, lindaura@ucmail.uc.edu, 513-556-1316.

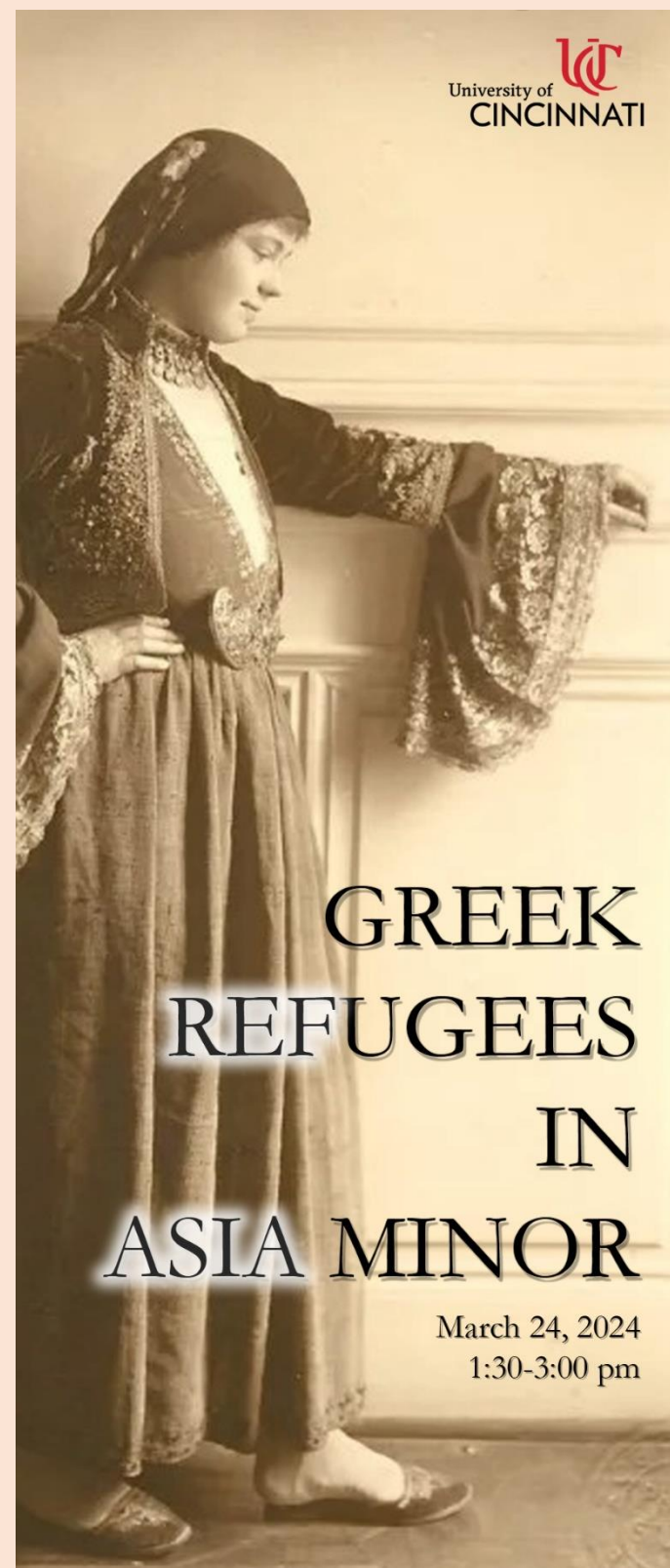
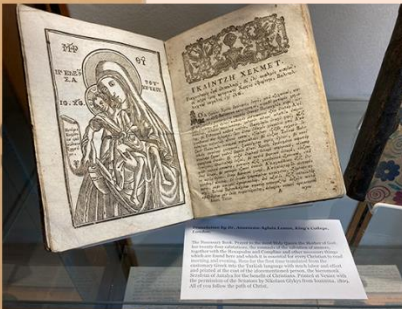
The Population Exchange following the Greco-Turkish War (1919-1922), as

stipulated in the Treaty of Lausanne in 1923, upended the lives of ca. 1.2 million Greek-Orthodox Christian Turks living in Turkey and ca. 400,000 Muslim Greeks living in Greece. Reverberations of these forced migrations are felt still today, also in the Greek American community of Cincinnati. Those who had survived a war of mass killings, rapes, and burned towns and villages were forced to leave their homes, friends, livelihoods, languages, pets, and farmed animals for an uncertain future. Many refugees died from drowning, starvation, hypothermia, and illnesses such as cholera, malaria, and tuberculosis.

American aid organizations were active in Greece, Asia Minor, and the Balkans during and after the war handing out food and clothes, but also establishing schools and hospitals, and industries and various manufacturing enterprises employing refugees; for example, to handmade fancy dolls and stylish handbags, and raising funds through campaigns such as the thirty-million-dollar advertising drive with Art Deco style posters, "Lest We Perish."

Several surviving refugees eventually ended up in the United States, many in Ohio, especially in Cleveland, but also in Cincinnati.





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CAMPAIGN *for* \$30,000,000

GREEK REFUGEES IN ASIA MINOR

March 24, 2024
1:30-3:00 pm