

European Museum Academy  
Conference and Award Ceremony 2016  
19 - 21 May Lesbos - Greece

EMA2016@Lesbos team

Candidates

9+1 reasons to come to Lesbos

It's all Greek to me..



EMA2016@Lesbos team

Greetings from Greece!

It is Holy Week in Greece and, as we prepare for Easter Sunday, an opportunity to remember that the **Nobel laureate** from Lesbos, poet **Odysseas Elýtis (1911-1996)** was inspired by the soul-lifting Service of the Epitáphios Thrínos (the "Lamentation upon the Grave") of Good Friday for his own **«Axion Estí»**.

Watch the video below

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BnEgLIk7S80>

This serves as an opportunity to present 9+1 monasteries and churches of Lesbos to you, and more specifically the Monastery of the Taxiárchis Michaíl (Archangel Michael) of Mantamádos dedicated to the island's guardian angel and protector - and to wonder, too, whether you are aware that the word monastery is Greek.

In this issue, you shall get to know candidates **Memorial Centre Faust Vrancic** and **Museum of Everyday Life (Museum der Alltagskultur)** for the Luigi Micheletti Award. In addition, candidates **Church collection online** and **Ename 1290** for the HiM Award.

Before bidding you farewell for now, we would like to remind you to fill in and send us the **table with the excursions** for Saturday 21st May. On the other hand, if you have yet to complete the registration form, you still have a short while to do so.

[Register now](#)

In the meantime, you can also stay connected with our website.

[Visit website](#)

And we'll be with you again in a few days' time!

## EMA 2016 Candidates

### for Luigi Micheletti Award 2016



#### **Memorial Centre Faust Vrancic**

Croatia, Prvic Luka

The Centre has the status of a cultural institution that performs its activities publicly. The Centre's activities include: collection, preservation and presentation of material related to the life and work of Faust Vrančić, the promotion and development of cultural and art amateurism, organising and holding cultural and art workshops, performances, concerts, lectures, exhibitions and similar events, publishing and informational activity based on the work of the Centre.

**See more**



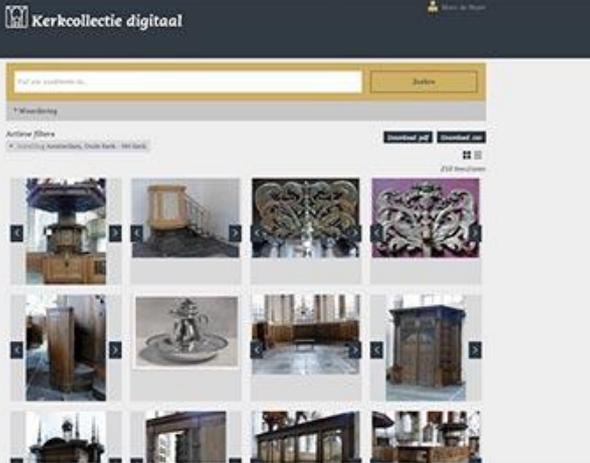
#### **Museum of Everyday Life (Museum der Alltagskultur)**

Germany, Waldenbuch

The museum concentrates on the power and fascination of everyday-life artifacts in their aesthetic, functional and symbolic forms instead of museologically betting on picturesque exhibition design and media. The intelligent, unobtrusive design works congenially and at the same time on an unusually low budget-level.

**See more**

## for Heritage in Motion Award 2016



**Church collection online**, Netherlands  
by Museum Catharijneconvent

In the Netherlands the religious landscape is changing dramatically. Many churches are closing its doors. This not only brings the buildings into jeopardy, but hundreds of thousands of religious objects as well. This calls for action.

**See more**



**Ename 1290**, Belgium  
by Visual Dimension bvba  
**watch the video**

Ename 1290 is a real time 3D application that shows Ename and the Ename abbey in 1290 AD and can be used as a virtual tour by the site guides and as an educational game by school children. The navigation through the virtual world and the manipulation of the virtual objects takes place through hand gestures, detected by a Kinect camera.

**See more**

## 9+1 reasons to come to Lesbos



1. 9+1 famous people
2. 9+1 local dishes
3. 9+1 museums
4. 9+1 scenic routes & sights
5. 9+1 beaches
6. **9+1 churches and monasteries**
  - The Church of Aghios (Ioánnis) Therápontas (St. John the Healer - Mytilene)
  - The Church of Panaghía Gorgóna (the Mermaid Madonna - Skála Sykamiás)
  - The Church of Panaghía Glykofiloússa (Our Lady of the Sweet Kiss - Pétra)
  - The Church of the Dormition of the Virgin of Ayiásson
  - The Monastery of neo-martyrs Rafaíl and Nikólaos
  - The Leimonos Monastery or Monastery of Aghios Ignátios
  - The Monastery of Panaghía Myrsiniótissa (Our Lady of Myrsíni)
  - The Monastery of Ypsilouí or Monastery of Aghios Ioánnis Theológos (St. John the Theologian)
  - The Church of the Panmégistoi Taxiárches (All-great Archangels) of Aghía Paraskeví
  - **The Monastery of the Taxiárchis Micháil (Archangel Michael) of Mantamádos**
7. 9+1 villages
8. 9+1 mansions
9. 9+1 birds, animals and plants
10. EMA2016@Lesbos !

## The Monastery of the Taxiárchis Michaíl (Archangel Michael) of Mantamádos



The «Taxiárchis» (Archangel) is the protector and patron saint of Mantamádos, but is also considered to be the protector of the whole island. It is situated north of Mantamádos, on the road leading to Sykamiá.

According to tradition, this was a Byzantine monastery that was deserted at an undetermined point in time before functioning once again, including at present, as a parish church. It is an important place of pilgrimage, its fame residing in the miraculous raised icon of the archangel Michael, one of the rare icons in relief in the whole of the Orthodox world.

Even today, the icon is awe-inspiring with the austere countenance of the Archangel, the large eyes and dark colour -resulting from the icon's great age and its liturgical use-, the large face, terrific sword and gilt wings.

The faithful still continue to place before it *ex-votos* (votive offerings) in the form of iron shoes, a corollary of the tradition whereby the angels' supreme commander wears such shoes while on guard at night.

The church's annual celebration on the Sunday of the Myrrhbearers, two weeks after the Resurrection, comprising a religious feast and a trade fair that draws people from afar, who come



«*Axion estí*»: from the Epitáphios Thrínos (the "Lamentation upon the Grave") of Good Friday to the Lesbian poet *Odysséas Elýtis*.

Ἄξιον ἐστὶ (áxion estí) is a deeply significant phrase in Greek, but also one that is almost untranslatable. Word for word, it means "worthy it is (that)" and is often rendered into English as "truly it is meet" or "truly it is right", especially when referring to the expression's liturgical use in a *kontákion*, a form of hymn of the Byzantine rite. *Axion estí* is also used to portray a unique, priceless quality and denotes the value of something in relation to humankind on Earth and its approximation within the vastness of the universe.

The expression, but also the cadence of the *kontákia*, inspired *Odysséas Elýtis* to write a long poem titled "To *Axion Estí*" (1959), possibly the most widely read volume of verse in Greece. Structured along biblical lines in three parts (Genesis, The Passions, Doxastikon or The Gloria), the poem explores the essence of his being at the same time as the identity of Greece and the Greek people. As *Elýtis* himself said in his address to the Swedish Academy on receiving the Nobel Prize, "apart from the physical side of objects and the ability to perceive them in their every detail, there is also the metaphorical ability to grasp their essence and bring them to such clarity that their metaphysical significance will also be revealed", something he materialised poetically in "To *Axion Estí*". The latter was, in turn, a source of inspiration for composer *Míkis Theodorákis* who, in 1960, wrote an oratorio of the same name for two voices, a narrator and a chorus, whose lyrics are taken from *Elýtis'* poem.

You can discover excerpts from both the church service for Orthodox Good Friday and the poem below. For an initiatory approach to this poem by *Stelios Papantoniou*, please click **here**.

Ἄξιόν ἐστι, μεγαλύνειν σε τὸν Ζωοδότην, τὸν ἐν τῷ Σταυρῷ τὰς χεῖρας ἐκτείναντα, καὶ  
συντρίψαντα τὸ κράτος τοῦ ἐχθροῦ.

*Truly it is right that we magnify Thee Who bestows Life, Who upon the Cross with Thine outspread  
Hands all the power of the enemy hast crushed.*

Ἄξιόν ἐστι, μεγαλύνειν σε τὸν πάντων Κτίστην· τοῖς σοῖς γὰρ παθήμασιν ἔχομεν, τὴν ἀπάθειαν  
ῥυσθέντες τῆς φθορᾶς.

*Truly it is right that we magnify Thee, Creator of all and everything; through Thy pain have we  
been released from pain, and from all corruption we have been set free*

(Service of the *Epitáphios Thrēnos*, the "Lamentation upon the Grave": Encomia (Lamentations) –  
Second stasis)

**PRAISED BE** the light and man's

First rock-carved prayer

The vigour in the beast leading the sun

The plant that warbled so the day rose

The land that dives and rears its back

A stone horse the sea rides

The myriad tiny blue voices

The great white head of Poseidon

THE TOLLING WINDS that perform liturgies

That raise the sea like the Holy Virgin

That blow and set the oranges on fire

That whistle for the mountains and they come running

runners who've covered celestial miles  
those Hermae with their pointed hats  
and the black smoke's heralding wand  
Maistros, Levantes, Garbis  
Poumentes, Graigos, Siroccos  
Ostria, Tramountana\*

\* Names of the winds blowing from different directions, respectively: north-westerly, easterly, south-westerly, westerly, north-easterly, south-easterly, northerly, southerly.

Excerpt from *The Axion Esti*, translated by Edmund Keeley and George Savidis, University of Pittsburgh Press, 1974.

## It's all Greek to me..!

A **monastery**, says the dictionary, is the place of residence, work and prayer of a group of persons, usually monks, living in seclusion under religious vows. By extension, the term is also used to designate the entire religious community residing in these premises. In Greek, a monastery can refer to either a male or female religious community, whereas in English there is a distinction between convent or nunnery (for a female religious community) and monastery (a community of monks, a term deriving from the Old English *munuc*, itself from the Latin form of *monachus*, a transliteration of the Ancient Greek *monachós* = single, solitary, as initially monks were hermits - another word of Greek origin).

Monastery is a medieval word, first appearing as *monastere* in Old French and late Middle English c.1350-1400, from the ecclesiastical Latin *monastĕrium*, itself derived from the Hellenistic Greek **μοναστήριον** (monastĕrion), a noun issuing from the Ancient Greek verb **μονάζειν** (monázein) = to live alone, from **μόνος** (mónos) = alone, solitary and the suffix **-τήριον** (-tĕrion) = a place (for doing something), and initially referred to the abode of a hermit, a hermit's cell. According to tradition, Christianity was brought to Lesbos in 58 AD by the Apostle Paul and spread over time so

that mention to the island's first bishop, Grigórios, dates back to 325 AD. Although no church or monastery of that time exists, the remains of two Early Christian churches have been found in the vicinity of Mólivos (Míthimna), while the oldest monastery is that of Ypsilóú, founded in the 9th century.

#### OFFICIAL PARTNERS

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Piraeus Bank Group Cultural Foundation

Plaka, Angelou Geronta 6, P.O.: 105 58

e-mail: [piop@piraeusbank.gr](mailto:piop@piraeusbank.gr)

Tel.: 210 3218015 / 020

Fax : 210 3218145