Lincoln Center Gala Concert To Aid Needy Greek School Children in Constantinople

Eight hundred indigent youngsters attending Greek schools in Constantinople will have the Order of Saint Andrew to thank this year for making life easier, after the proceeds from the Gala Benefit Concert at Lincoln Center, November 14, 1992, are presented to them to satisfy their pressing needs. Their needs, according to Professor Basil Kyriakides, who described their plight during a recent visit to New York, vary from such staples as hot lunches and snacks, to shoes, clothing, as well as fees related with attending the schools.

The concert will be performed by the New York Philharmonic at the Center’s Avery Fisher Hall as a tribute to the newly enthroned Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I and in memory of his predecessor, the late Patriarch Dimitrios I. It will also commemorate the Centennial of the Holy Trinity Archdiocesan Cathedral in Manhattan. Under the auspices of His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos, Greek Orthodox Primate of North and South America, the Archons are sponsoring this highly visible event in order to focus the attention of the American public on the Patriarchate and its institutions such as schools, and hospitals, which comprise the Center of World Orthodoxy.

This Concert, considered the pre-eminent performance by the New York Philharmonic during the current, 150th Anniversary season, will feature Andre Previn as guest conductor. The works of Beethoven, Ravel and Haydn will enchant and inspire an already sold-out crowd.

In response to the appeal for the needy children of Constantinople, the Archons are hopeful of raising enough funds to aid children attending schools such as Zographion, Kendrikon, Zapeion, Ioakimion and Meghali Scholi. Among the problems that hamper education of the Greek youngsters in Constantinople is the stand of the Turkish Government. Though teachers from Greece abound, half of them are collecting salary without assignments due to restrictions

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The Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate had a successful breakfast meeting at the Biennial Clergy-Laity Congress in New Orleans, La. Among the highlights of the morning session were: honoring Ernest A. Villas for his many services as Executive Director of the Order from 1966 to 1982; a report of the Executive Director of the IOCC (International Orthodox Christian Charities), a fund raising group under the aegis of SCOBA (Standing Conference of Orthodox Bishops in the Americas) which thus far has raised several million dollars in food and medical aid to Russia and is now working for the victims and ravel of war in the former Yugoslavia; a report of the newly established National Commander of the Archons of Europe, Nassos Arvanitis, who brought greetings from the members of the Order in Europe and Greece, in particular, as well as from the Ecumenical Patriarchate, which recently established the Order as a counterpart to the Archons of America. Mr. Arvanitis will coordinate next year's meetings in Athens, Greece, of the USA Archons, in conjunction with the pilgrimage to Jerusalem. Mr. Arvanitis presented to His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos a beautiful icon on behalf of the European Archons.

Remarks were made by the following: Rev. Dr. Milton B. Efthimiou, Executive Director; Dr. Chris Philip, National Commander; Andrew Athens, Regional Commander; and His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos.

TOP: Ernest Villas displays the citation he was just presented by National Commander Dr. Chris Philip and Executive Director Rev. Dr. Milton Efthimiou.
MIDDLE: Archbishop Iakovos displays icon of Panayia Pantrakristos which was presented to His Eminence by the Executive Secretary of the European Archons, Athanasios Arvanitis.

Archon Andrew Athens has the forum during the Archon Breakfast at the Clergy-Laity Congress.
In Southwest Asia Minor, between the Bay of Antalya and Patara and extending out into the Mediterranean, is the peninsula known in ancient times as Lycia. Pilgrims from America and Canada arrive here from early December in order to take in the ancient sites where early Christianity flourished, especially in the geographic boundaries of Lycia, which is found in these areas surrounded by the regions of Pamphylia to the northwest, Pisidia and Phrygia to the north, and Caria to the west, and to visit the recent excavations such as the rock-cut tombs and sarcophagi in Lycia, the necropolis of Hierapolis (Pamukkale), the recently discovered monastery church at Atavroupolis (Atta), the Basiliakos and great amphitheater at Aspendos and the great ruins of the Church of St. Mary's and the House of Mary at Ephesus.

This year His Holiness, Bartholomew I will lead this unforgettable pilgrimage. His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos, Primate of the Greek Orthodox Church of North and South America wants all the faithful to come and see. The pilgrimage which is sponsored by the Archons of the Order of St. Andrew the Apostle and the Ladies Philoptochos Society.

The first Symposium was held in 1983 with a handful of people present, and in unknown territory; in 1984, the Symposium of St. Nicholas was highlighted by the first religious celebration at Myra (Demre) in over a hundred years. For the successor of St. Nicholas whose title is also Myra, and who is now Metropolitan of Ephesus, will assist Patriarch Bartholomew of America in leading the Pilgrimage and will assist in officiating at the hierarchical divine Liturgy in the very Basilica where the remains of St. Nicholas lay. With the assistance of Archbishop Iakovos and representing the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of North and South America and the插区域, in the 1992 St. Nicholas Pilgrimage/Symposium would also represent the Greek Orthodox Church of the western hemisphere as the USA will join with Canada and a choir representing the Diocese of Toronto will chant at the services at the Pharos and other religious sites of Asia Minor. Coordinating the Canadian group is the Regional Commander of the Archons of Canada, Costas Misthios of Toronto.

Some highlights of the pilgrimage and places to see are as follows: MYRA, of course is the city of St. Nicholas where he served as bishop and where the legends around his person emanated. In the 2nd century, Myra received the title of Metropolis, and in 60 A.D. St. Paul stopped here and chanced upon his way to Rome. In the reign of Theodosius II (402-450 A.D.) it was the capital of Lycia, but lost its power as a result of Arab raids which began in the 7th century A.D. The most famous of Myra's treasures is the sanctuary of the sarcophagi or rock tombs in the mountains, is the Church of St. Nicholas built over the tomb of this celebrated saint. The church was built in the 6th century A.D. over the remains of an existing church, as noted by Nicholas of Sinai in this century. In 1877, merchants from Iari discovered the saint's tomb and carried off his bones to Italy, even though some relics now are on exhibit at the Antalya Museum.

ANTALYA. St. Paul visited Antalya (Attaleia) by way of Perga in 46 A.D. It was an important trade center in the 2nd century A.D. and because of its importance, Emperor Hadrian who visited the city many times, erected monuments in 130 A.D. Because it was situated at the starting point of Rhodes leading to the high plateau of Central Asia, it continued to be a busy commercial port well in the Byzantine times. From the 6th century until the Arab invasion, it predominated as a religious center of Byzantium. There is a well preserved Greek section in the old cistadel of Antalya and there is a second century A.D. church in the Greek section which was destroyed by Arab raids in the 7th century and converted into a mosque during the Seljuk period. Today, visitors view it as an early Christian Basilica thanks to recent excavations from various archaeological groups.

PERGE, according to Strabo, an ancient city was founded after the Trojan War, and excavations in 1953 at the Hellenistic city gate confirmed that Achaean entered this region of Pamphylia towards the end of the 2nd century B.C. In 334 B.C. Perge surrendered to Alexander the Great who built up the city, and whose remains can still be found today. In 1984, the Symposium of St. Paul journeyed from Cyprus to Perge and from there continued on to Antioch in Pisidia, and then returned to Perge where he stayed for a period of time. In the 2nd and 3rd centuries A.D. Perge was considered one of the most beautiful cities in all of Asia Minor. During the reign of Constantine the Great in the 4th century, Perge became one of the most important centers of Christianity. A columned road still exists surrounded by shops which are still paved with colored mosaics.

ASPENDOS, a great battle was fought here in the 5th century B.C. between the Athenian commander Cimon, son of Miltiades, and the Persian navy which was annihilated by Cimon, as well as when Alexander the Great captured Aspendos and made it a center of commerce. It houses the best preserved ancient ruins of Pamphylia with seating capacity of 20,000 people.

HEROPOLOS (Pamukkale), situated near the historic city of Laodicea, which also became a center of settlements for the Aegean world, including Colossae (famous for St. Paul's epistle to them), and all flourishing in this area because of the famous and legendary thermal baths emanating from the mineral springs. People today come from all over the world for these springs. Large baths dating from the 2nd century still exist, and the Christian Basilica is situated on the main street beside the baths. On the steps behind the famous theater well preserved, is a monument built to the Martyrdom of St. Philip the Apostle, who lived here along with his family. Excavations show that St. Philip and his sons constituted the first Christian population of Hierapolis, and after Christianity became the official religion, the Martyrium became a center for pilgrimages from all over the world. One of the most famous necropolis areas is situated here and this necropolis is one of the most important in Asia Minor because many Roman, Byzantine and Hellenistic sarcophagi, graves and mausoleums are seen together in one place. There are more than 1000 such graves here and have given much information to archaeologists and historians about the ancient world of Greece, Rome and Byzantium.

Search for 1993 Award Recipient is now under way

Who will be next year's Athenagoras Human Rights Award recipient? The question has been duly discussed during several sessions of the National Council, and decision on who will be nominated for the award appears imminent. The nominee's credentials will be presented by the Order's National Commander, Dr. Chris Philip to His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos for approval.

Several names with outstanding credentials in the area of Human Rights are now being considered. Final decision will be reached by the next National Council meeting in November.

The Athenagora Human Rights award is presented annually to a person who has espoused the cause of Human Rights and Religious Freedom. The presentation is made during the Order's Annual Banquet, which has become the highlight of the social season in New York. Next year's banquet will be held Saturday, March 6th.

LAODICEA & COLOSSAE, these two are important Christian settlements but little if any excavations have taken place in these areas not far from Hierapolis.

STAVROPOULOS (Aphrodisias) in ancient times, Aphrodisia was one of the most important cult centers especially during the Hellenistic and Roman periods. During the Christian era, it became the seat of the bishop of the Caria region and was known as Stavropolis. The Temple of Aphrodite, which was the center of cult worship in the region in ancient times, was modified into a Christian church, and during the Byzantine times, was the capital city of the Caria region. The ruins of Stavropolis has attracted the attention of archaeologists for a very long time. Recently, archaeologists from the NYU have uncovered many of the ancient and Christian remains here, especially the Diocesan home of the bishop, one of the most well preserved homes of the Roman period and which tell us a great deal about Christianity in this region. It dates back to the 3rd century A.D.

EPHESUS. There is so much history con-
Dr. Kalemkeris lectures at Crystal Palace on 70th anniversary of Asia Minor Genocide

During a very impressive gathering of the Cultural and Educational Committee of the Pontian Society earlier this year at the Crystal Palace in Astoria, Dr. Kirk Kalemkeris gave a lecture crammed with historical information, bringing his audience to its feet with emotional outburst. The topic of the lecture which culminated the event which highlighted the season of the Pontian Society, dealt with the Asia Minor campaign of the Greek army and the ensuing genocide wrought upon the Greek population of that region by the Turks. The main thrust of Dr. Kalemkeris’ talk was the persecution and the extermination of entire towns inhabited by Greeks, as well as the resulting stream of refugees fleeing the destruction.

Dr. Kalemkeris narrated to the crowd the influence that this chapter of Hellenic history had upon him, though he was in effect born in Thessaloniki by parents who fled the holocaust. It was however impossible within the family circle and environment to avoid hearing repeatedly about the events that led to this horrible Catastrophy.

“It is beyond me”, Dr. Kalemkeris related to his audience, “how our (WWI) allies, the British, the French and the Italians could’ve been part of such heinous crimes. Those who forced us to participate in the war, those who pledged to us Eastern Thrace, Smyrna and its environs, as well as the area of Pontos by virtue of Treaty they themselves signed, turned their backs on us and let us perish.”

October Meeting
Combines Business
With Information

Archon Historian, Professor Dino Geanakoplos, Didaskalos Tou Genous, took the floor prior to the October 7, 1992 National Council meeting, to speak about the Asia Minor Holocaust, and the betrayal perpetrated by the Allies against Greece.

The combination Lecture and Meeting was held in the Cathedral Hall adjacent to the church, and was attended by the rank and file of the Order, including many Archons’ wives. A reception during which hors d’oeuvres, coffee and pastries were served preceded the very informative lecture which dwelled on the premise that the destruction of the Mircasiatic was the direct consequence of the WWI allies turning their backs on the Treaty of Lausanne. The pact, signed at the conclusion of the first World War, gave the Hellenes who fought on the side of the Britain, France and Italy, a good part of the regions that belonged to the Byzantine Empire in Asia Minor, as concessions.

The turning point, however, came when Kemal Attaturk took over the reigns in Turkey, and the Great Powers deemed necessary to throw their support behind him.

Changes in Archons’ journey ’93 set departure date at mid-August

Although the planned 1993 Holiday-Conference trip to Greece, Constantinople and Holy Land remains basically on course, some changes have been made to the itinerary as well as departure date. The new date is tentatively August 16th, and the scheduled two-week duration will most likely be scaled down to ten days.

Furthermore, by consensus, first stop on the itinerary will be the Holy Land, after which the group will fly to Constantinople for a visit with the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I, and sightseeing. Athens will be the final stop, with a scheduled Conference with the Archons’ European counterparts. To that end, meetings have been held with Mr. Athanasios Arvanitis, Commander of the European Archons, during his visit here, and many of the issues concerning the trip discussed.

On the other hand, National Commander Dr. Chris Philip has communicated with His Excellency, the U.S. Ambassador to Greece Michael Sotirhos on the matter of facilitating arrangements for the travelers. In a communication to the Order’s Executive Director Rev. Dr. Milton Efthimiou, the Ambassador expressed delight to see the conference materialize and that he “would host an event at the Embassy” in honor of the Archons.

There would be more data pertaining to journey ‘93 in the next issue of this Newsletter.
Noted Physicians Discuss Medical Mission to Russia

Helsinki Watch Book (Continued from Page 1)

Gala Concert At Lincoln Center (Continued from Page 1)
Archons Attend Welcome Reception For Serbian Orthodox Patriarch Pavle

Led by His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos, Dr. Chris Philip, National Commander of the Archons, joined with other Archons of the Metropolitan New York area in welcoming His Beatitude Serbian Orthodox Patriarch Pavle to New York on Tuesday, October 6, with a vespers service at the Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity followed by a reception/dinner.

The occasion was part of the Patriarch's 26 day visit to the U.S. and Canada. Archbishop Iakovos, Chairman of SCOBA (Standing Conference of Orthodox Bishops in the Americas) addressed the Patriarch assuring him of our deep concern for the unrest that exists in the former republic of Yugoslavia. Fr. Efthimios, Executive Director of the Archons, is also the Ecumenical Officer of SCOBA, which hosted the vespers/dinner reception for His Beatitude.

During his stops at various cities, the Archons will be present when he celebrates hierarchical services and attends various receptions. The Serbian Patriarch will depart for Belgrade on October 25.

Annual Pilgrimage—Patriarch Joins Archbishop

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nected with Ephesus that this space is too small to do history justice. During the Roman period, Ephesus became the largest metropolis and the capital of the eastern provinces of the Roman Empire. The population was about 250,000 for more than two centuries. Roman Emperors visited the city and restored and built new edifices through the centuries. During the first century A.D., it was the center of Christianity, especially because St. Paul, St. John, and allegedly, the Virgin Mary lived in this city. (She of course fell asleep in Jerusalem). One of the highlights of the pilgrimage each year is to stand in the theater, on the very spot where St. Paul addressed the crowd, the details of which are found in the Acts of the Apostles, and which the group reads every year.

Also, every year the pilgrims visit the tomb of St. John and a vesper service is chanted there in the beautiful remains of the ancient church of St. John.

Also, the Church of the Virgin Mary is visited in which the 3rd Ecumenical Council took place, as well as other Councils which established early dogma and canons of the church.

Of course, many other sites will be visited, not to mention the many Christian churches and sites in Constantinople. Why do we keep returning here, is a question that is often asked!

To bring a once great and historic site back to the light of day is a privilege which especially the Greek Orthodox ought to take very seriously. Excavations are usually done for scientific purposes—to increase knowledge of buildings, inscriptions and art. But it is also to share in the past and traditions which are the foundations of the Church.

In a letter carved on the theater wall twenty centuries ago, a pious and proud Christian said: "I have selected the city of Stavroupolis from all of Asia as my own..." From the first trips several years ago where he found remains of early Christianity to the latest discoveries, which has recently come to light in Stavroupolis, our destinies, as pilgrims from the new world, have seemed strangely intertwined. In humble echo of those words by some unknown early pious and proud Christian, starting from St. Nicholas and ending in Constantinople, we too, the pilgrims yet to come, have selected these cities in Asia Minor as our own, because they await us each year, to reclaim them spiritually. For a few days, we breathe the air of our forefathers, who inspire us to come back again and again.

Dr. Chris Philip Speaks At Annual St. Iakovos Dinner

Sitting on the dais along with the Emeritus National Commander, Dr. Anthony G. Borden, Dr. Chris Philip was one of the featured speakers at the annual St. Iakovos Banquet honoring His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos on his Nameday. It was held at the Waldorf-Astoria on Sunday, October 11, 1992 which was a climax weekend which included meetings of the Archdiocesan Council, the National Philo­ptochoс, and a Sunday morning hierarchical divine liturgy officiated by Archbishop Iakovos on the occasion of his feastday, celebrated with Bishop Isaiah of Denver who has bidden farewell to New York and his role as Chancellor of the Archdiocese in order to assume his new duties as bishop of the Diocese of Denver.

Dr. Philip's remarks were warmly received and applauded. Among other things, Dr. Philip alluded to the work of the Order, and traced the history, in brief, of the term "Archon" in reference to the Archbishop being the "Archons' Archon" in leading the Archons since 1966, the year of its inception, to assume their roles as "Defenders of the Faith" and who continuously pledge their loyalty and allegiance to His Eminence, the Archdiocese, and the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

"We of the National Council have a spiritual bond with our Archdiocese, because for us, he is the Archons' Archon, if we can be so bold in referring to this great man by that title. His Eminence once told us: 'The ancient titles of Archons of the Great Church of Christ are committed in conscience and purpose to the welfare of the needs of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.' Is there any other person in this room, in the whole Archdiocese, perhaps in the whole world that exemplified this definition?"

In committing the Archons to the needs of the Church and of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Dr. Philip concluded with these remarks: "Your Eminence, the greatest gift that we can give you tonight is a vow that we will continue our efforts in every possible way to help the holy mission of our church with devotion, dignity and integrity. We will never allow anything or anyone to veer us away from this vow."