

PRESS RELEASE

On 24/10/2012 the first official presentation of the Folklore research **“The Doxiotic Arcadians – Proverbs and Everyday Expressions”** took place at the cultural center “Melina Mercouri” in Ilion / Athens. It was a resounding success and was attended by representatives of the Arcadian community.

The book “The Doxiotic Arcadians” records 2,850 proverbs and everyday expressions of the Doxiotic people. It is the essence of their ancestral language. It’s a recording of their local dialect and an oral history of their past.

The researchers behind this folkloric project were Nikos Tsitsos (Marine and Mechanical Engineer NTUA and Professor of the Merchant Marine Academy of Aspropyrgos) and his daughter Labrini Tsitsou, (Archaeologist) who shared her father’s inspiration and interests.

The book’s cover artwork was designed by the artist, Athena Kesaritis, who also selected and edited the images throughout the book. These images of the Gortynia of Arcadia landscape and region were also projected during the presentation.

During the presentation, the author Nikos Tsitsos outlined his research methodology and collection of photographic materials accompanying the texts. He also commented on the cover art; a pencil sketch that represents the wandering Arcadian Doxioti in the mountains, on his journey of survival. As well as referring to the passing on of the region’s cultural resources (cultural bag) to the next generation, as in his own words “This will be their cultural dowry”.

The Author Labrini Tsitsou highlighted the value of this ancestral heritage and her passion for its preservation.

The professor of NTUA, Paraskevas Paraskevopoulos, as the keynote speaker analyzed many of the proverbs. Demonstrating his teaching ability he shed light on their meanings. Moreover, he proposed solutions to contemporary issues of today by utilizing the essence of these proverbs.

The presentation was introduced by the Mayor of Ilion - Nikolaos Zenetos and the Mayor of Gortynia Arcadia’s - Yanis Yanopoulos. Mr Zenetos emphasized the value of proverbs as an element of continuity of the cultural tradition of a society.

Angelos Dendrinis, director of the international Arcadian Society and Vassilis Tsoukalas, Professor of Merchant Marine Academy of Aspropyrgos, also highlighted the value of folklore and commended the effort of the authors. George Stavropoulos, Commander of the coast guard and Head of the Merchant Marine Academy of Aspropyrgos, spoke in support of the Authors efforts.

Also in attendance were the Deputy Mayor of Ilion, Nicoletta Vompiraki, Christina Milioni, Ioannis Gionis and the president of the Cultural Center of Ilion, Theodore Deftos.

The Arcadian and Doxian region was represented by:

The priest, Nicholas Mitrakos.

The former President of the Doxian Association, Charalambos Kanellopoulos.

The President of the Doxian Association, Nicholas Theodorakopoulos and the General Secretary of the Doxian Association, Thanassis Mentrekas.

The President of Doxian Youth, Harris Matzavinis.

The President of the Panhellenic Union of Arcadians, George Zarafetas and the Vice President, Angelos Gakis.

The candidate for representing Arkadia in the Greek Parliament, John Papaeliou and the General Secretary of the Municipal Council of Gortynia, George Kanellopoulos.

The Vice President of the Arcadian Association of Neo Heraklion, Panagiotis Kompisioulis.

The President of Trikolones, Thanassis Roilos

and the President of the Association "Ancient Thelpousa", Anthony Dremetsikas.

The presentation was accompanied by music by Panagiota Tsitsou that moved all in attendance with the touching song "Fota to feggaraki mou" (Light me my moon), combining Arcadian music with the Arcadian folk tradition. Also Dimitris Kyriakopoulos gave all a beautiful rendition of traditional local folk songs.

Art Historian, Annita Patsouraki was responsible for the management of the event. With her help a truly excellent presentation took place.

What can be said of this cultural event?

The atmosphere was very emotional; the mix of traditional sounds of the flute, the local wine and memories brought tears to the eyes and moments of reverent silence.

The people came together and their voice was one with words and expressions of the Arcadian motherland.

The book, "The Doxiotic Arcadians" had come to life!

May its life's journey be successful!

The Book "The Doxiotic Arcadians - Proverbs and Everyday Expressions" by Nikos Tsitsos and Labrini Tsitsou as well as the DVD of its presentation are available from the Authors.

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