Orientalism and Anglo-Irish scholarship 1740-1810 in the Gennadius Library, Athens

A Symposium

The Irish Institute of Hellenic Studies at Athens

Friday 4th June, 2010

Odos Notara 51a, Athens 106 83, Greece.

Sponsored by UCD College of Arts and Celtic Studies: Research Strand in Material and Visual Culture.
Orientalism and Anglo-Irish scholarship 1740-1810 in the Gennadius Library, Athens

Date: Symposium and Exhibition 4th June, 2010 Athens
Venue: Irish Institute of Hellenic Studies and Gennadius Library, Athens

Details of Speakers and Programme:
The symposium is to be held in the Irish Institute of Hellenic Studies at Athens on 4th June in collaboration with the School of Art History and Cultural Policy at University College Dublin, the Gennadius Library, Athens, supported by the UCD College of Arts and Celtic Studies Research Strand in Material and Visual Culture. The symposium will be concluded with an exhibition of these precious holdings in the Gennadius library, Athens.

Speakers include Rachel Finnegan (Waterford Institute of Technology) who will concentrate on two books in the Gennadius. These are Pococke's *Description of the East* and Lord Sandwich’s *Voyage round the Mediterranean in 1738 & 1739, by himself*, which both have an Irish interest. Pococke’s Irish connections are obvious: he was already an established member of the Church of Ireland clergy before undertaking his grand tours with cousin and co-clergyman Jeremiah Milles, and on his return progressed quickly to Archdeacon of Dublin, Bishop of Ossory and Bishop of Meath. The Irish connections with Sandwich are less obvious, but one of the members of his travelling party was William Ponsonby (future 2nd Earl of Bessborough) from Kilkenny, famous for his extensive collection of antiquities and art, especially works by Jean-Etienne Liotard (he owned 72 of them on his death). This paper will provide the background to each of the books/authors and then examine their relationship on return from the east. Joe McDonnell (Independent scholar) will describe the bindings Lord Charlemont provided for the *Antichita Romane* volumes of Piranesi. Olga Zoller (Bruhl) will examine the drawings Giovanni Battista Borra made for Robert Wood’s intended book and the contribution made by architect and engineer Giovanni Battista Borra’s work as a draughtsman during the Irish/British connoisseurs’ and travellers’ expedition to the Levant in 1750-51, guided by Robert Wood. The late Professor Michael McCarthy’s (University College Dublin) paper, presented by Lynda Mulvin, will examine the James Murphy’s drawings and the provenance and composition of the volume for his posthumous book, *The Arabian Antiquities of Spain*. This is a precious volume for greater understanding of the Irish draughtsman and his legacy, which has been misrepresented by the content of the book published under that title two years after his death in 1814. Lynda Mulvin (University College Dublin) will reunite the Cockerell drawings in Gennadius with those in the Yale Centre for British art and the British Museum. The discovery of a copy of Stuart and Revett’s *Ionian Antiquities* in the Gennadius library which belonged to Charles Robert Cockerell and was redrawn and reworked by him sheds considerable light on the working method of this important neoclassical architect. Upon his return from Greece Cockerell worked on several significant projects in Ireland. Matt Maher (University of British Columbia) will examine the theme of the Grand Tour of Ancient Stymphalos: the itinerary of Edward Dodwell and other early European travel writers. Edward Dodwell was an Irish painter, traveller and a writer. The Gennadius has a number of original books (including sketches) which will be incorporated into this paper including: *A Classical and Topographical Tour through Greece* (1819), *Views in Greece, with thirty colored plates* (1821); and *Views and Descriptions of Cyclopian or Pelasgic Remains in Italy and Greece* (London and Paris, 1834). Damian Mac Con Ulladh (Irish Institute of Hellenic Studies at Athens) will look at the life and times of Waterford native Sir Thomas Wyse (1791–1862), an Irish politician and diplomat from Waterford City. Prominent in Daniel O’Connell’s Catholic Emancipation movement, he was instrumental in establishing the national school system in Ireland and the provincial university colleges in Galway, Cork and Belfast. He later broke with O’Connell and in 1849 was appointed British ambassador to Greece, the first UK Catholic ambassador since the times of James II. During his period of service, he was involved in many controversial incidents, such as the Don Pacifico affair, the blockage of Pireaus and in representing the British case for the Crimean War to an unsympathetic, pro-Russian Greek audience. During his posting, he travelled extensively and two accounts of these journeys – *An Excursion in the Peleponnesus and Impressions of Greece* – were published after his death in 1862. He was given a state funeral by King Otto and is buried in Athens.
SYMPHONUM PROGRAMME
The Irish Institute of Hellenic Studies at Athens

MORNING SESSION

09.45 am
The Preparation and Research for a book
Pococke’s Description of the East and Lord Sandwich’s Voyage round the Mediterranean in 1738 & 1739, by himself
Rachael Finnegan

10.15 am
The Dressing of a Book
Lord Charlemont’s dedication copy of Piranesi’s L’antichita Romane (1756) and its presentation binding
Joe McDonnell

10.45 am
The Unmaking of a Book
G.B Borra and Robert Wood: the book that never was
Olga Zoller

COFFEE

12.00 pm
The Constitution of a Book
James Cavanagh Murphy’s The Arabian Antiquities
Michael McCarthy (presented by Lynda Mulvin)

12.30 pm
The Editing and Reconstruction of a Book
C. R. Cockerell: a tale of two notebooks
Lynda Mulvin

LUNCH

AFTERNOON SESSION

2.00 pm
From Pausanias to Dodwell: A Grand Tour of Ancient Stymphalos
Matt Maher

2.30 pm
Thomas Wyse and identity in 19th-century Greece
Damian Mac Con Ulladh

EXHIBITION OF BOOKS
Gennadius Library, 61 Soudias Street, 106 76 Athens

Each of these volumes will be placed on display in the reading room of the Gennadius Library. This focus should increase the awareness of the contribution of Anglo-Irish scholarship in the dissemination of information and for the shaping of ideas and their promotion during the Neo-Classical Period.