

## 3rd Levantine Heritage Foundation international conference

### 'The Levantines: Identities and Heritage', Athens, Greece



Group visit 1: Thursday 1 November 2018, 1 pm, Centre for Asia Minor Studies, Athens  
followed by 5 pm Estia Nea Smyrni

Group visit 2: 4 November 2018, 11 am, Old Parliament Building, Athens

We hope you can join us in our 2 day 3 centre tours of museums and research / heritage associations in Athens during the conference season which are outlined below. The venues are selected to compliment the theme of the conference and emphasize the fact that Athens was a Levantine city and we feel still retains strong cultural elements in the richness derived from centuries of mixing of ideas, communities and trade networks. This is part of our acknowledgement of that living legacy.

The Centre for Asia Minor Studies is a scientific institute involved since 1930 in the collection, research and documentation of information of oral and written historical tradition, as well as the publication of scientific studies and monographs related to Asia Minor Greeks.

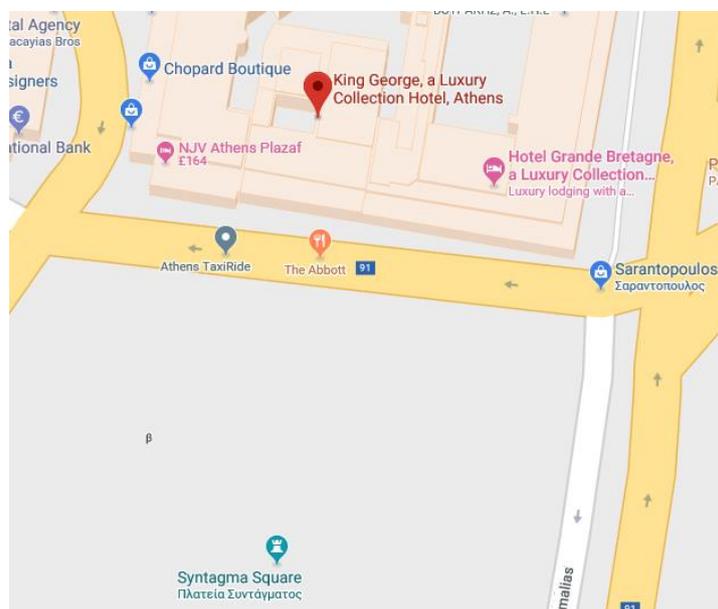
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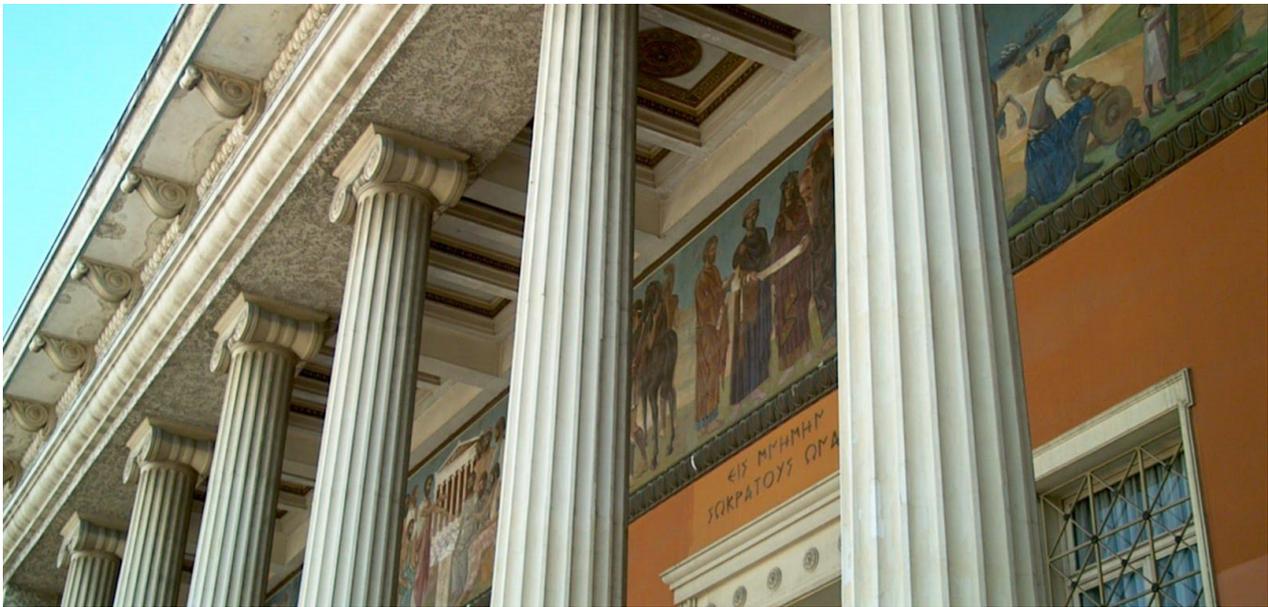
In June 1930, a group of refugees from Smyrna decided to establish a Club in order to revive the cultural and social life of Smyrna. At the time, it would have been hard for anyone to foresee that Estia Neas Smirnis was to trace a brilliant path and to become the greatest cultural center of the Greek Community of the East. The foundation principle was for the "development of friendly relations amongst its members and the creation of resources for beneficial social action and recreation". In a few years, the number of refugees permanently residing in Nea Smirni rose and their needs increased accordingly. Hence, since 1938 and pursuant to the Club's Articles of Association, the goal of Estia Neas Smirnis was the collection, study and salvage of the national, intellectual, historic, folk and linguistic diversity of the Greek Communities of Asia Minor, Pontus, and Thrace. Indeed, in a few years, Estia became a center of great intellectual radiance with multifarious and manifold action.

Today, 94 years after the disaster suffered by the populations of the western shores of Asia Minor, and 86 years after its establishment, Estia Neas Smirnis still acts as a beacon of the Anatolian Hellenic culture. Its future is still driven by its initial mission, which is consistently served. Nevertheless, Estia now focuses more on younger generations. Its vision and challenge at the same time is to attract young people who obviously have no personal memories, apart from some relatives' narrations, which may sound too remote almost fictitious. The vision thus of Estia is to attract young people and bequeath them with the intellectual and historic splendour of Asia Minor Greek culture so that it is never consigned to oblivion.

The CAMS leg of the visit is likely to 2 and half hours and will be followed by an optional coffee break and from there by our hired bus to the Estia Nea Smyrni for 5 pm. The Estia guided tour will last around 2 hours and at the end of the visit you will be invited to a snacks (sandwiches, dips and pies) and wine (courtesy of the Barkshire family) reception in that venue, included in the tour package.

There will be bus transport to both venues and back to the city centre (in front of King George Hotel, please refer to the map below) as part of the tour package, however you must register in advance as places are limited. If you join us for a meal afterwards, you are responsible for those costs.





### Sunday tour details:

The Old Parliament Building at Stadiou Street in Athens, housed the Greek Parliament between 1875 and 1935 and now houses the country's National Historical Museum. The Hellenic Parliament would remain in the building from 1875 until its move to its current location in the Old Palace in 1935. As such, it witnessed some of the most turbulent and important events in modern Greek history, including the assassination of Prime Minister Theodoros Deligiannis on the Parliament steps on 13 June 1905, and the declaration of the Republic on 25 March 1924. The chamber was also the debating place that led to the tumultuous events post WWI, including the defeat of the Greek Armies and the subsequent Great Fire of Smyrna in 1922. In addition there is a temporary exhibition dedicated to the WWI and Greece.

Our guide for the museum will be Dr Philip Mazarakis-Ainian, the Senior Curator of the Museum, and vice chair of the ICOM (International Council for Museums) Greece and we are grateful for this gesture.

The tour is likely to last an hour and half and will be followed by an optional late lunch nearby.

This museum is a 5 minute walk from Syntagma Square. If you need directions or assistance in getting there, let us know in advance.

These tours have been bundled as a single package and you must register in advance even if you will only join us for some of the venues and places are limited. If you join us for a meal or coffee afterwards, you are responsible for those costs. If you later decide you cannot make the tour, please let us know so we can try to reimburse you and provide your place to another guest.

The cost of joining the tours is quoted in £ as our bank is UK based (£15 ~ 16.5 euros).

Booking: <https://3rd-lhf-conference-tours.eventbrite.co.uk/>



Old and recent views of the old Parliament chamber

We look forward to welcome friends new and old and we express our gratitude to the local organizing committee, volunteers and helpers.

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<http://www.levantineheritage.com/>