



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

For almost a century and a half the Hellenic Society has been the leading organization for the study of Greece with an international membership across all ages and walks of life. It maintains a world class library and publishes internationally acclaimed journals in the field. See <http://www.hellenicsociety.org.uk/membership/>

This *Argo* has both oars and paws. Oars, like the *Argo* that carried Jason and his men across the seas to fetch the Golden Fleece. Paws, like Argos, Odysseus' faithful dog, in the good old days before his master left for Troy. *Argo* is seafaring and home-loving, a celebration of Greece as holiday destination and cultural home.

One doesn't need to be a Classicist to enjoy the stories of ancient Greece which fill the pages ahead, or to have travelled there to admire the literary and photographic portraits of modern Greece presented alongside them. I encounter just as many philhellenes in my life as a writer today as I did as a doctoral student of Classics. Indeed, the Society for the Promotion of Hellenic Studies is launching *Argo* as a publication for all who share an interest in Greek culture.

In our first issue, Diana Farr Louis takes us on a tour of Athens today, a city less in turmoil, she argues in our cover story, than in flux. Her optimistic Greek portrait, written shortly after the astonishing election results, is a refreshing read after the panicked reports and speculation of recent years.

From Alex Martin's olive farm on the island of Kythera, to Cyprus, the setting for both Anja Ulbrich's study of Aphrodite, and Victoria Hislop's novel, which Fiona Noble reviews here, and to Rhodes, once home to the Colossus, we travel as if on winged heels. In our feature *Writers on Greece*, John Julius Norwich and Harry Mount introduce us to the places in Greece they feel most connected to, before we touch down once again on British

soil with Edith Hall, who explores how the London theatres are bringing Greek tragedy back to life.

Developments concerning Greece today reflect not only changing mores but new discoveries, and it is a pleasure to have both Robert Fowler discuss how technology is helping experts to read papyri today, and Kathryn Gutzwiller discuss Palladas, an ancient Alexandrian poet to whom around 60 poems have recently been attributed.

The ancient poets also find themselves in focus in our reviews section, in which we prance from antiquity, through the early modern period, to the nineteenth century, and beyond to contemporary fiction and poetry.

Greece never was one for standing still.

Enjoy the first issue,

DAISY DUNN
EDITOR, *ARGO*

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