The symposium is the last in a series of academic and cultural events that have been supported by the Sophia Scopetéa Bequest for the promotion of Modern Greek Studies at the University of Copenhagen. For more than thirty years Sophia Scopetéa (1947-2007) was a dedicated teacher of Modern Greek Studies in Copenhagen. Without a fulltime position at the university, she dedicated herself to sharing her great knowledge of the Greek language and literature, while becoming an authority on the work of Søren Kierkegaard. Sophia Scopetéa was of Maniote descent and her first publication was a treatise on Maniote mourning songs (moirologia). It seems therefore most appropriate to conclude this circle of events in Copenhagen with a symposium on Patrick Leigh Fermor, who was so closely affiliated with Mani. It is the hope of the organizers that Sophia Scopetéa’s devotion to Modern Greek Studies will long be honoured and remembered in Denmark and beyond, and that new initiatives for promoting the history, culture and language of Greece will continue this legacy.

Further financial support has been generously provided by the Department of Cross-Cultural Studies (ToRS) and by the Department of English, Germanic and Romance Studies (EnGeRom) within the Faculty of Humanities, University of Copenhagen.

The symposium has also been made possible through the selfless enthusiasm of the participants who in honour of Patrick Leigh Fermor and in the promotion of Modern Greek studies have committed themselves to participate “for the good of the cause”. The organizers, Trine Stauning Willert and Charles Lock, thank them all.
FRIDAY 26 JANUARY

2.00-2.15pm  Welcome

2.15-3.10pm  Artemis Cooper (Biographer of Patrick Leigh Fermor)
  *Road Block: Why Patrick Leigh Fermor’s ‘Time of Gifts’ Trilogy took so long to write*

At the age of nineteen in 1934 Patrick Leigh Fermor completed his walk from the Hook of Holland to Constantinople. This adventure, described in the trilogy *Time of Gifts* (1977, 1986, 2013), set the course of his life, and was certainly the most significant journey he ever undertook. But why did it take so many decades to write it up, and why was it still unfinished at the time of his death? This illustrated talk will provide some of the answers.

3.10-3.20pm  Break

3.20-4.15pm  Chris White (Contributor, *Abducting a General: the Kreipe Operation and SOE in Crete*)
  *In Paddy’s Footsteps: PLF’s secret war in Crete 1942 - 1944*

With extensive use of photos taken at the time by Fermor and other Special Operations Executive (SOE) agents, and modern day photos of the same locations, Chris White invites participants to become historians in walking boots. The talk refers extensively to Fermor’s own texts and will describe SOE and its tasks on Crete, some of the key events in Fermor’s first tour on the island.
from June 1942 until September 1943; the Kreipe abduction from February until May 1944; and some of the consequences of the kidnap.

4.15-4.30pm  Thomas Harder (Author of *Anders Lassens Krig* [Anders Lassen’s War])

*Anders Lassen: A Danish Raider on Crete, 1943-1945*

4.30- 5.00pm  Coffee break
5.00-5.45pm  **Panayiotis (Paddy) League**  (Ethnomusicologist, Harvard University)

*Songs of the Cretan Resistance from the James A. Notopoulos Collection*

In 1953 Professor James A. Notopoulos travelled throughout western Crete recording songs and instrumental music with musicians and oral poets whose personal and artistic lives were dramatically impacted by the Nazi occupation of the island. In this presentation Paddy League examines the historical, philological, musicological, and memorial import of these recordings, that include first-person accounts of guerrilla warfare against Nazi forces, the abduction of General Kreipe, the devastating physical and psychological toll of war, and the resilience of the Cretan and the human spirit through an extraordinary complex of musical and poetic devices with roots in Byzantine, Ottoman, and Venetian traditions. The presentation and the musical performance to follow bring alive the soundscape of Patrick Leigh Fermor’s life and times in Crete.
6.00-7.00pm  Musical performance dedicated to Patrick Leigh Fermor and the members of the Cretan resistance

Paddy League (violin and Cretan boulgari)

Dimitris Rapakousios (Cretan boulgari)

Venizelos Leventogiannis (Cretan laouto)

7.00pm  A celebratory toast
10.15-11.00am  Myrto Kaouki (Benaki Museum)

The Benaki Museum and the Leigh Fermor House: developments and plans

In 2011 the Benaki Museum acquired full ownership of the Patrick and Joan Leigh Fermor house, following their 1996 donation. According to the bequest, the property must be used to fulfill the Benaki Museum’s mission. Furthermore, it was also the expressed desire of the Leigh Fermors that the house would host writers, researchers, artists and poets looking for a quiet place to work. Honoring this desire, the Museum has envisaged the ‘Patrick and Joan Leigh Fermor Centre’ which will operate in collaboration with Greek and international universities. The necessary repair works have started and their cost is fully covered by a generous donation from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation to the Benaki Museum. The operation of the Centre is scheduled to start in 2019.
In 1964 Patrick Leigh Fermor settled in the Greek village of Kardamili. Located by the Messinian bay and shadowed by the great Taygetos mountains, the village is not only of indescribable beauty, but has also a unique ancient history. In the tales of the Iliad, Kardamili was offered to Achilles by Agamemnon as compensation for the theft of a beloved woman. In diverse ways, Kardamili became in turn a gift to Leigh Fermor, offering him a home after the wanderings of his youth. This talk will explain how Leigh Fermor discovered the village and how over sixty years he and the village grew together and shaped each other.
Patrick Leigh Fermor, Niko Hadjikyriakos-Ghika (1906-1994) and John Craxton (1923-2009) first met at the end of World War II. Their close friendship, which lasted until the end of their lives, as well as their shared loved of the Greek world, deeply influenced their work. Apart from London and Athens, the writer and the two artists would often meet at Leigh Fermor’s home in Kardamyli, at Ghika’s ancestral home on the island of Hydra and, later, in a country house on Corfu, and in Craxton’s studio home on the Venetian harbour of Chania, Crete. Photographs from their lives, together with images of their artworks, letters and dedications, will be combined to narrate the story of this significant Anglo-Greek friendship.
2.15-3.00pm  Adam Sisman (Editor of Patrick Leigh Fermor’s correspondence)  

*Dashing for the Post – Patrick Leigh Fermor as a letter-writer*

Handsome, daring and erudite, Patrick Leigh Fermor was a traveller, a war hero, a Philhellene, a lover, and a writer of genius. His letters exhibit many of his most engaging characteristics—his zest for life, his unending curiosity, his keen sense of place, his lyrical descriptive powers, his love of language, his boyish exuberance, and his tendency to get into scrapes, particularly when driving. It has often been said that Patrick Leigh Fermor was one of the most distinctive prose writers of the twentieth century. Now we can see that his letters were an important part of his output. They may sometimes be penned in haste (or even in tearing haste), but they are delightful to read and perhaps all the better for being written in a flowing, uninhibited style. At their best, Paddy’s letters are as good as any in the English language.

3.00-3.30pm  Coffee break

3.30-4.15pm  Charles Lock (Professor of English Literature, University of Copenhagen)  

* Redeeming the Romaic: Patrick Leigh Fermor and the Idea of Greece*

In his two books about Greece, *Mani* (1958) and *Roumeli* (1966), Patrick Leigh Fermor consistently avoids the Classical and disparages the Hellenic. Greece achieved its independence with the help of western nations for whom Periclean
Athens was the origin and exemplar of all that is best in Western Civilisation. For two centuries this has been convenient for tourism but a falsification of the culture of those who have lived in Greece since the days of the (Eastern) Roman Empire. ‘Romaic’ is for Leigh Fermor the designation for all that is alive and vibrant in Greece – for whatever is not in ruins.
4.30-5.15pm  **Christopher Bakken** (Writer, poet and professor of English, Allegheny College, U.S.A.)

*Confessions of a 21st century Philhellene: Writing under the Influence of Patrick Leigh Fermor*

In the Preface to *Mani*, Patrick Leigh Fermor admits that his “private invasions of Greece” led him to produce what amounts to “the opposite of a guide book.” American poet and travel writer Christopher Bakken will discuss the legacy of Fermor’s invasions, as well as his novel approach to travel writing, especially for those who write about Greece today. Bakken will also offer a personal account of literary influence by reading passages from *Honey, Olives, Octopus: Adventures at the Greek Table* (2013)—a memoir he wrote, in part, as an homage to Patrick Leigh Fermor.

5.30-6.00pm  **Concluding remarks**
Illustrations:


Page 3 left: The only photograph of Patrick Leigh Fermor during his walk from the Hook of Holland to Constantinople. Reproduced with kind permission of the Patrick Leigh Fermor Estate.

Page 3 right: Patrick Leigh Fermor in Cairo at the end of the war. Courtesy of the Patrick Leigh Fermor Archive, National Library of Scotland.


Page 5: Patrick Leigh Fermor with Spiros and Maria Lazaros, owners of the watermill at Lemonodassos, by Joan Leigh Fermor. Reproduced with kind permission of the Joan Leigh Fermor Estate and the National Library of Scotland.


Page 7: Patrick Leigh Fermor with Lela Yanakea in Lela’s Tavern in Kardamyli. Reproduced with kind permission of the photographer, Miles Fenton.

Page 8: Patrick Leigh Fermor in Cretan costume, Cairo c.1943. Painting by Adrian Daintrey. Reproduced with kind permission of the Marqués de Tamarón.


Back: View from the entrance of Patrick and Joan Leigh Fermor’s house in Kardamyli. Reproduced with kind permission of the photographer, Artemis Cooper.

Layout and cover design: Åse Fosdal Ghasemi
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