

INTRODUCTION

by Markos Ph. Dragoumis

The borders of present-day Greece are relatively new, with many changes being made after both World Wars I and II. Perhaps the greatest change of all was that brought about by the Treaty of Lausanne in 1923, signed by Elefthérios Venizelos representing Greece, Kemal Ataturk of Turkey and various representatives of both Britain and France. There were many stipulations in the treaty affecting both Greece and Turkey but the one which is of most interest to us at this point is the exchange of ethnic populations of Greek and Turkish nationals based primarily on religious preference –Orthodox Christian or Muslim.

This population exchange had great repercussions for all concerned. Over a million refugees fled Asia Minor and Eastern Thrace with approximately another 150,000 coming from Bulgaria, Romania, Russia and Serbia.

The majority of refugees were primarily settled in Macedonia and Thessaly. Sometimes they were

located in new villages with others from their own region. Village or area names often tell us whence they came: Nea Smyrni, Nea Karvali, Nea Efessos, etc. Other times they were located in existing villages. Both situations produced innumerable problems which were not rapidly overcome.

In spite of seemingly insurmountable difficulties many of the refugees managed to stay together, sometimes even entire villages, and thus maintained continuity in many of the traditional events of their life cycle. Perhaps their displacement produced even a greater need for the continuation of songs, dances and other traditional elements which tied the community together in their new homeland while keeping alive their memories of the former. Though much has been saved, probably a great deal more has, unfortunately, been lost.

The “Music Folklore Archive” of the “Centre of Asia Minor Studies” since its foundation

in 1930 has been actively concerned with the tracing down and recording of refugee singers and instrumentalists performing the music of their forefathers. The present CD includes some

of these invaluable melodic treasures brought to life by the Christos Tsiamoulis ensemble, at a concert given in Athens on February the 19th 1996.



Νέα Σινασός. Άνδρες και γυναίκες χορεύουν στη γιορτή μετά την τελετή των εγκαίνιων, 1925
Nea Sinassós. Men and women dancing at the inauguration ceremony, 1925

- Produced by the Melpo Merlier Music Folklore Archive (M.F.A.)
- Sponsored by the Panghion Foundation, Ministry of Culture and I. Ph. Costópoulos Foundation
- The recording was realized in Athens during a concert at Anna Kokkinou's Sfendoni Theatre on February 19, 1996
- Texts: Markos Ph. Dragoumis
- Commentary on songs: Markos Ph. Dragoumis, Christos Tsiamoulis
- Recorded by Nikos Dionissópoulos
- English prologue: Yvonne Hunt
- Translation of lyrics: Philippos Dragoumis
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Songs sung by Christos Tsiamoulis, Katerina Papadopoulou and Children's Choir of the Yannis Tsiamoulis Preparatory Schools

Musical execution by the "Threttanelo" Greek music orchestra consisting of:

- Sokratis Sinópoulos, Constantinople lyra (Fiddle), Constantinople lute
- Periklís Papapetrópoulos, saz, tambura
- Antonis Aperghis, psalterium (qanun)
- Vassilis Yannissis, violin
- Christos Tsiamoulis, oud
- Michalis Klapakis, percussion
- Haris Lambrakis, nay

Settings, conducting: Christos Tsiamoulis



Ο Ποντοκαυκάσιος Δαυίδ Νικολαΐδης που η λύρα του «μιλάει και κλαίει», Πτολεμαΐδα 1955
David Nikoláidis, a Pontic Greek from Caucasus, whose lyra "speaks and weeps", Ptolemaída 1955