Lost Worlds of Ancient and Modern Greece

Gilbert Bagnani: The Adventures of a Young Italo-Canadian Archaeologist in Greece, 1921-1924

by D. J. Ian Begg

DESCRIPTION:
By day, young Gilbert Bagnani studied archaeology in Greece, but by night he socialised with the elite of Athenian society. Secretly writing for the Morning Post in London, he witnessed both antebellum Athens in 1921 and the catastrophic collapse of Christian civilisation in western Anatolia in 1922. While there have been many accounts by refugees of the disastrous flight from Smyrna, few have been written from the perspective of the west side of the Aegean. The flood of a million refugees to Greece brought in its wake a military coup in Athens, the exile of the Greek royal family and the execution or imprisonment of politicians, whom Gilbert knew.

Gilbert's weekly letters to his mother in Rome reveal his Odyssey-like adventures on a voyage of discovery through the origins of western civilisation. As an archaeologist in Greece, he travelled through time seeing history repeat itself: Minoan Knossos, Byzantine Constantinople and Ottoman Smyrna were all violently destroyed, but the survivors escaped to the new worlds of Mycenaean Greece, Renaissance Venice and modern Greece.

At Smyrna in the twentieth century, history was written not only by the victors but was also recorded by the victims. At the same time, however, the twentieth century itself was so filled with reports of ethnic cleansings on such a scale that the reports brutalized the humanity of the supposedly civilized people reading about them, and the tragedy of Smyrna disappeared from public awareness between the cataclysmic upheavals of the First and Second World Wars.

TABLE OF CONTENTS:
Foreword - Prof. T. H. B. Symons
Preface
Acknowledgements
Introduction
Timeline
Maps
Prologue: Odysseus vs. Achilles
Chapter 1. Vengeance
Chapter 2. Back in Time
Chapter 3. Imposing Ruins
Chapter 4. Marble Sepulchres

ISBN:
9781789694529 (hb)
9781789699616 (oth)

PRICE:
$40.00 (hb)
$21.99 (oth)

PUBLICATION DATE:
29 October 2020 (hb)
30 April 2021 (oth)

BINDING:
Hardback & EPUB eBook

PAGES:
380

PUBLISHER:
Archaeopress Publishing

IMPRINT:
Archaeopress Publishing

SERIES:
Archaeological Lives

READER INTERESTS:
Classics
Mediterranean
Archaeology
Chapter 5. The Arms Merchant and the Secret Agent

Chapter 6. Foreign Correspondent

Chapter 7. The Oracle of Apollo and St Paul

Chapter 8. The Renaissance at a Byzantine Outpost

Chapter 9. Exposed ;

Chapter 10. The Knights of Rhodes

Chapter 11. The King of Kos

Chapter 12. Sailing the Wine-Dark Sea

Chapter 13. Monasteries in the Air

Chapter 14. In the Minotaur's Labyrinth on Crete

Chapter 15. Inferno

Chapter 16. Executions

Chapter 17. The Pharaoh's Curse

Chapter 18. The Castles of the Giant Cyclopes

Chapter 19. A Surviving Byzantine Republic

Chapter 20. Karpathos: The Island of Poseidon

Chapter 21. Paradise Lost ;

Chapter 22. Mission to the Underworld: Spying for Mussolini ;

Chapter 23. Lost Greek Empires

Chapter 24. The Land of the Golden Fleece

Epilogue

Figures

Bibliography

Index

CONTRIBUTORS BIOGRAPHIES:

Ian Begg studied archaeology in Greece at the America School of Classical Studies in Athens. For this book, the author retraced Gilbert Bagnani's footsteps around Greece, the Aegean, Turkey and
Libya. He has not only participated in excavations in Sicily, Greece, Crete and Egypt but also initiated a survey on the island of Karpathos especially for the chapter in this volume.