

ΓΙΩΡΓΟΣ ΠΟΥΠΗΣ

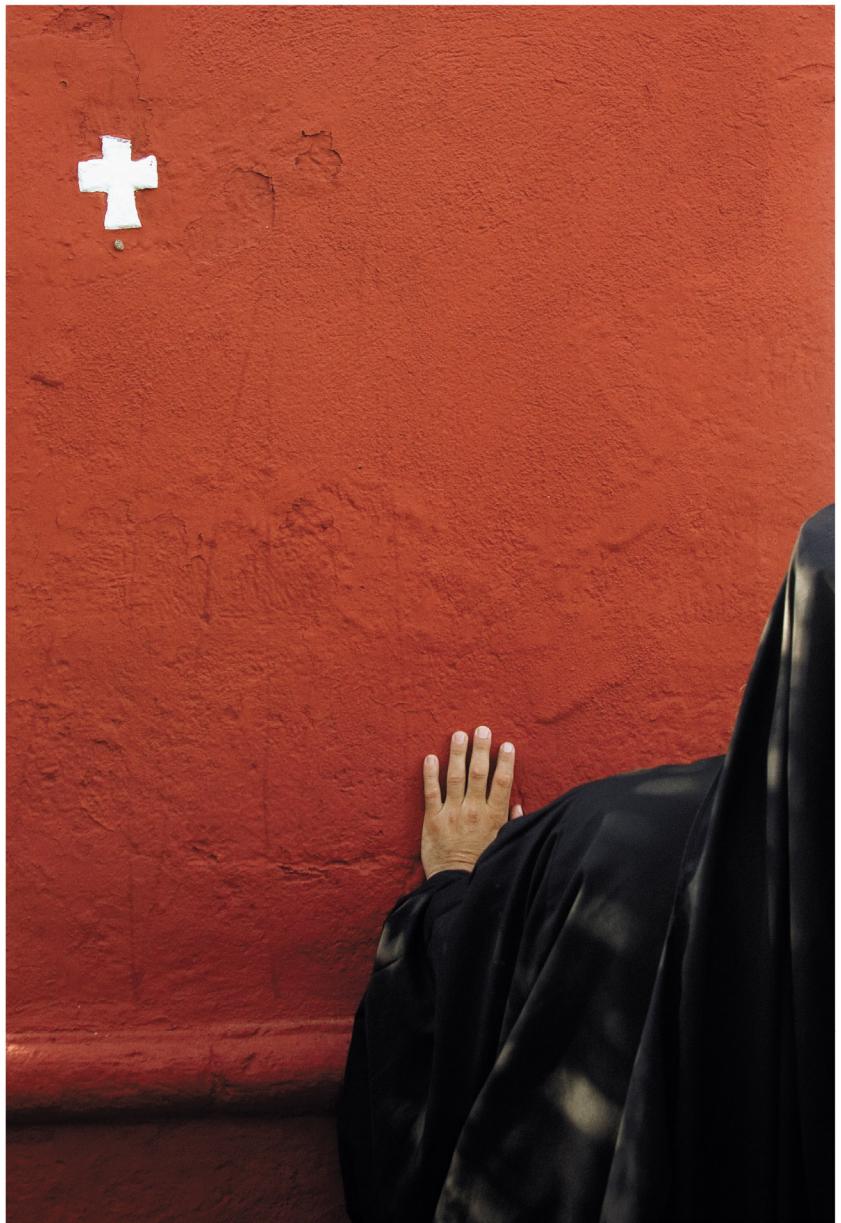
"**Υψωσις**
'Ο Σταυρὸς στὴν γῆ
τοῦ Ἅγίου"Ορους

GIORGOS POUPIS

Exaltation
The Cross in the land
of Mount Athos

"Υψωσις

ΑΓΙΟΡΕΙΤΙΚΗ ΕΣΤΙΑ
MOUNT ATHOS CENTER



Γιώργος Πούπης Giorgos Poupis

"Υψωσις

'Ο Σταυρός στὴν γῆ τοῦ Ἅγιου"Ορους

Exaltation

The Cross in the land of Mount Athos



Γιώργος Πούπης Giorgos Poupis

“Υψωσις

‘Ο Σταυρὸς στὴν γῆ τοῦ Ἅγίου Ὄρους

Exaltation

The Cross in the land of Mount Athos



2000-2020 20 χρόνια Αγιορειτική Εστία



ΑΓΙΟΡΕΙΤΙΚΗ ΕΣΤΙΑ
MOUNT ATHOS CENTER

ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΙ 2020

**ΣΥΝΤΕΛΕΣΤΕΣ
ΕΚΔΟΣΗΣ**

PUBLICATION
COLLABORATORS

Όργανωση – Έπιμελεία έκδοσης
Άναστασιος Ντούρος

Συντονισμός
Μαρία Γιαννέλου

Έπιμελεία κειμένων-διορθώσεις
Βαγγέλης Μαλαδάκης

Μετάφραση κειμένων
Andrew Hendry
Κείμενο Άρχιμανδρίτη Βασιλείου Ιβηρίτη
Elizabeth Theokritoff

Σχεδιασμός
Θανάσης Γεωργίου

Έκτύπωση - Βιβλιοδεσία
Thessprint

ISBN
978-618-82272-3-1



ΑΓΙΟΡΕΙΤΙΚΗ ΕΣΤΙΑ
MOUNT ATHOS CENTER

www.agioritikiestia.gr
info@agioritikiestia.gr
Τηλ/Tel: +30 231026 3308

Copyrights:
© για τις φωτογραφίες και την έκδοση: Αγιορειτική Εστία
© για τὰ κείμενα: οι συγγραφεῖς

Κανένα τμῆμα αὐτοῦ τοῦ βιβλίου δὲν μπορεῖ νὰ
ἀναπαραχθεῖ σὲ καμία μορφὴ καὶ μὲ κανένα μέσο
ήλεκτρονικό ή μηχανικό, συμπεριλαμβανομένου
όποιουδήποτε συστήματος ἀποθήκευσης καὶ ἀνάκτησης
δεδομένων, χωρὶς τὴν γραπτή ἀδεια τοῦ ἐκδότη.

Organization – Publishing Editor
Anastasios Ntouros

Coordination
Maria Giannelou

Text Editor
Vangelis Maladakis

Translation
Andrew Hendry
Text of Archimandrite Vasileios of Iviron
Elizabeth Theokritoff

Design
Thanasis Georgiou

Printing and Binding
Thessprint

ISBN
978-618-82272-3-1

Εγνατία 109, 54635 Θεσσαλονίκη
109 Egnatia Ave. 54635 Thessaloniki
Greece

Copyrights:
© for the photos and the public: Mount Athos Center
© for the texts: the authors

All rights reserved. No part of this book is may
be reproduced in any form by any means, electronic
or mechanical, or by any information storage
and retrieval system,without the written permission
by the producer.

**ΔΙΟΙΚΗΤΙΚΟ ΣΥΜΒΟΥΛΙΟ
ΤΗΣ ΑΓΙΟΡΕΙΤΙΚΗΣ ΕΣΤΙΑΣ**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE MOUNT ATHOS CENTER

Πρόεδρος
Κωνσταντίνος Ζέρβας
Δήμαρχος Θεσσαλονίκης

Α' Αντιπρόεδρος
Γέρων Συμεών Διονυσιάτης
Β' Αντιπρόεδρος
'Ερωτόκριτος Θεοτοκάτος
Δημοτικός Σύμβουλος Θεσσαλονίκης

Τακτικά μέλη
Ιερομόναχος Φιλόθεος Κουτλουμουσιανὸς
Ιερομόναχος Θεόφιλος Παντοκρατορινὸς
Πέτρος Λεκάκης
Ἄντιδημαρχος Ἀθλητισμοῦ – Νεολαίας –
Ἐθελοντισμοῦ Δήμου Θεσσαλονίκης
Αθανάσιος Βρίτκας
'Επιστημονικὸς Σύμβουλος
Δημάρχου Θεσσαλονίκης

Άναπληρωματικά μέλη
Άρχιμανδρίτης Μεθόδιος
Καθηγούμενος Ἰ. Μ. Χιλανδαρίου
Γέρων Ταράσιος Κουτλουμουσιανὸς
Ιερομόναχος Ἐπιφάνιος Παντοκρατορινὸς
Στέφανος Γωγάκος
Δημοτικός Σύμβουλος Δήμου Θεσσαλονίκης
Ιωάννης Κουριαννίδης
Δημοτικός Σύμβουλος Δήμου Θεσσαλονίκης
Βασίλειος Μωύσιδης
Δημοτικός Σύμβουλος Δήμου Θεσσαλονίκης

Εισηγητής
Άναστασιος Ντούρος
Διευθυντής τῆς Αγιορειτικῆς Εστίας

Γραμματεία
Μαρία Γιαννέλου
Προϊσταμένη Οικονομικῶν & Διοικητικῶν
Υπηρεσιῶν τῆς Αγιορειτικῆς Εστίας

President
Konstantinos Zervas
Mayor of Thessaloniki

First Vice President
Elder Symeon of Dionysiou Monastery
Second Vice President
Erotokritos Theotokatos, City Council Member
of Municipality of Thessaloniki

Ordinary members
Hieromonk Philotheos
of Koutloumousiou Monastery
Hieromonk Theophilos
of Pantokratoros Monastery
Petros Lekakis
Deputy Mayor for Sport, Youth and Voluntary
Work of the Municipality of Thessaloniki
Athanasiос Vritkas
Scientific Advisor to the Mayor of Thessaloniki

Alternate members
Archimandrite Methodius
Hegumen of Chilandariou Monastery
Elder Tarasios of Koutloumousiou Monastery
Hieromonk Epiphanios of Pantokratoros
Monastery
Stefanos Gogakos, City Council Member
of Municipality of Thessaloniki
Ioannis Kourianidis, City Council Member
of Municipality of Thessaloniki
Vasileios Moisidis, City Council Member
of Municipality of Thessaloniki

Rapporteur
Anastasios Ntouros
Director of Mount Athos Center

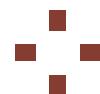
Secretary
Maria Giannelou
Head of Administrative and Financial Services
of Mount Athos Center



ΧΑΙΡΕΤΙΣΜΟΣ
ΤΗΣ Α.Θ.Π.
ΤΟΥ ΟΙΚΟΥΜΕΝΙΚΟΥ
ΠΑΤΡΙΑΡΧΗ
κ.κ. ΒΑΡΘΟΛΟΜΑΙΟΥ

ADDRESS
BY THE ECUMENICAL
Patriarch
BARTHOLOMEW

ΓΙΩΡΓΟΣ ΠΟΥΠΗΣ GIORGOS POUPIIS
Ο ΣΤΑΥΡΟΣ ΣΤΗΝ ΓΗ ΤΟΥ ΑΓΙΟΥ ΌΡΟΥΣ THE CROSS IN THE LAND OF MOUNT ATHOS



ΧΑΙΡΕΤΙΣΜΟΣ
ΤΗΣ Α.Θ.Π.
ΤΟΥ ΟΙΚΟΥΜΕΝΙΚΟΥ
ΠΑΤΡΙΑΡΧΗ
Κ.Κ. ΒΑΡΘΟΛΟΜΑΙΟΥ



Τῷ Ἐντιμοτάτῳ κυρίῳ Ἀναστασίῳ Ντούρῳ, Διευθυντῇ τῆς ἐν Θεσσαλονίκῃ Ἅγιορειτικῆς Ἑστίας,
τέκνῳ τῆς ἡμῶν Μετριότητος ἐν Κυρίῳ ἀγαπητῷ, χάριν καὶ εἰρήνην παρὰ Θεοῦ.

Στοιχοῦντες τῷ αἰτήματι ὑμῶν, ἀποστέλλομεν τὸν παρόντα Πατριαρχικὸν Χαιρετισμὸν ἐπὶ τῇ διοργανώσει ἐν Θεσσαλονίκῃ ἐκθέσεως φωτογραφίας τοῦ φωτογράφου Γεωργίου Πούπη μὲθα «Οἱ Σταυροὶ τοῦ Ἁγίου Ὁρου»¹, πρὸς καταχώρισιν αὐτοῦ εἰς τὸν Κατάλογον τῆς ἐκθέσεως.

Ἐν τῷ Σταυρῷ τοῦ Κυρίου συμπικνοῦται ὁλόκληρον τὸ μυστήριον τῆς Θείας Οἰκονομίας. Διὰ τοῦ Σταυροῦ, ὡς γράφει ὁ Ἅγιος Ἰωάννης ὁ Δαμασκηνός, ὁ θάνατος κατήργηται, ἡ τοῦ προπάτορος ἀμαρτίᾳ λέλυται, ὁ ἔδης ἐσκύλευται, ἡ ἀνάστασις δεδώρηται, δύναμις ἡμῖν τοῦ καταφρονεῖν τῶν παρόντων καὶ αὐτοῦ τοῦ θανάτου δέδοται, ἡ πρὸς τὴν ἀρχαίαν μακαριότητα ἐπάνοδος κατώρθωται, πύλαι παραδείσου ἡγούμησαν, ἡ φύσις ἡμῶν ἐκ δεξιῶν τοῦ Θεοῦ κεκάθικε, τέκνα Θεοῦ καὶ κληρονόμοι γεγόναμεν. Διὰ τοῦ Τιμίου Σταυροῦ εὐλογεῖται καὶ ἀγιάζεται σύμπας ὁ βίος τῶν πιστῶν. Ἄνευ δὲ τῆς σταυρικῆς πορείας καὶ τῆς συσταυρώσεως τῷ Χριστῷ δὲν δυνάμεθα νὰ ἐλπίζωμεν εἰς συνανάστασιν Αὐτῷ καὶ εἰς ζωὴν τὴν αἰώνιον.

Ταύτην τὴν σταυροαναστάσιμον ὁδὸν ἐκπροσωπεῖ ἐν τῇ Ἐκκλησίᾳ κατ' ἔξοχὴν ὁ μοναχικὸς βίος, ἡ ὅλη ἡ ἀφιέρωσις εἰς τὸν Θεόν, ἡ βίωσις τῆς παρουσίας τῶν Ἐσχάτων καὶ ἡ διακαής προσδοκία τῆς τελικῆς ἀνακαίνισεως τῶν πάντων ἐν τῇ Βασιλείᾳ τοῦ Θεοῦ. Οὐδαμοῦ τῆς χριστιανικῆς οἰκουμένης, ὁ Σταυρὸς εἶναι τόσον στενῶς συνδεδεμένος μὲ τὴν Ἀνάστασιν, ὃσον εἰς τὸ Ἁγιον Ὁρος. Ἐδῶ εὑρίσκεται καὶ ἡ δέουσα ἀπάντησις εἰς διαφόρους συγχρόνους τάσεις ἐν Δύσει, αἱ δοῖαι, ἀδυνατοῦσαι νὰ ἀποδεχθῶσι τὴν ἀναστάσιμον διάστασιν τοῦ Σταυροῦ, θεωροῦσιν αὐτὸν σύμβολον καταπιέσεως καὶ ὑπαρξιακοῦ ναυαγίου.

Όντως, τοῦτο τὸ σταυροαναστάσιμον μυστήριον τῆς πίστεως ἡμῶν, τὸ ὅποιον βιοῦται διηνεκῶς ἐν τῇ Ἀθωνίτιδι μοναστικῇ πολιτείᾳ, προβάλλει καὶ ἡ ἐκθεσὶς τοῦ γνωστοῦ, μακαριστοῦ πλέον, φωτογράφου Γεωργίου Πούπη, ὁ ὅποιος εἰργάσθη καὶ ἐφωτογράφισεν εἰς τὸ Ἁγιον Ὁρος πλέον τῶν δύο δεκαετιῶν. Διὰ τῆς προβολῆς καὶ παρουσιάσεως πρὸς τὸ φιλόμουσον καὶ εὐσεβές ποίμνιον τῶν ἱερῶν τούτων κειμηλίων τοῦ Ἁγίου Ὁρους, ἐκτὸς τοῦ ὄρατοῦ πνευματικοῦ πλούτου, ὑποτονθορίζεται ἡ διὰ τοῦ Σταυροῦ ἐλθοῦσα ἐν ὅλῳ τῷ κόσμῳ χαρὰ καὶ ἡ ἐλπὶς τῆς κοινῆς Ἀναστάσεως καὶ ἡ θεοχαρίτωτος ἐλευθερία τῆς μοναχικῆς ὁδοῦ, ἥτις οὐδὲν ἴδιον θέλημα ἔχει εἰ μὴ μόνον τὸ τοῦ Κυρίου, ἐν ὑπακοῇ, ἐν ἀκτημοσύνῃ, ἐν προσευχῇ ἀδιαλείπτῳ καὶ ἐν ἀγάπῃ ἀνυποκρίτῳ.

Οἴθεν, ἀπὸ τοῦ Μεγάλου Μοναστηρίου τοῦ εὐσεβοῦς ἡμῶν Γένους, ἀπὸ τοῦ Ἐσταυρωμένου Φαναρίου τῆς ἀειφεγγοῦς Αναστάσεως, εὐλογοῦμεν πατρικῶς τὴν ἐκθεσιν ταύτην, καταστέφοντες διὰ τῆς Πατριαρχικῆς ἡμῶν εὐχῆς τοὺς ὄργανωτὰς ἀλλὰ καὶ τοὺς ἐπισκέπτας αὐτῆς, καὶ δεόμεθα ὑπὲρ ἀναπαύσεως τῆς ψυχῆς τοῦ δημιουργοῦ αὐτῆς ἀειμνήστου Γεωργίου Πούπη. Ή δὲ ζωοπάροχος χάρις καὶ τὸ πλούσιον ἔλεος τοῦ Κτίστου τῶν ἀπάντων καὶ Δωρητοῦ παντὸς ἀγαθοῦ, τοῦ Σταυρωθέντος διὰ τὴν ἡμῶν σωτηρίαν, Ἀναστάντος ἐκ τάφου καὶ Συναναστήσαντος παγγενῆ τὸν Ἄδαμ Κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ εἴησαν μεθ' ὑμῶν.

βιη' Ιουλίου ε'

Γεωργίου διάσκεψης Θεοῦ εὐχέλευτος

ADDRESS
BY THE ECUMENICAL
Patriarch
BARTHolemew



To the most honourable Mr. Anastasios Ntouros, director of the Mount Athos Center in Thessaloniki, beloved child of our Modesty in the Lord, grace and peace from God.

In fulfilment of your request, on the occasion of the organisation in Thessaloniki of an exhibition of photographs by the photographer George Poupis on the theme 'The Crosses of Mount Athos', we are sending you the present Patriarchal Address for inclusion in the catalogue of the said exhibition.

The Cross of our Lord encapsulates the whole mystery of the Divine Economy. For, as St. John of Damascus says, 'No other thing has subdued death, expiated the sin of the first parent, despoiled Hades, bestowed the resurrection, granted the power to us of contemning the present and even death itself, prepared the return to our former blessedness, opened the gates of Paradise, given our nature a seat at the right hand of God, and made us the children and heirs of God, save the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. Through the Holy Cross the whole life of the faithful is blessed and sanctified. Without the way of the Cross and our crucifixion with Christ, we cannot hope to be raised with Him to eternal life.'

In the Church this way of attaining resurrection through crucifixion is primarily represented by the monastic way of life, which involves total devotion to God, experiencing the presence of the End Times and the fervent hope of the final renewal of all things in the Kingdom of God. Nowhere in Christendom is the Cross more closely connected with the Resurrection than on Mount Athos. Here lies the answer that needs to be given to various modern tendencies in the West which, unable to accept the resurrectional dimension of the Cross, regard it as a symbol of repression and existential despair.

Indeed, this way of resurrection through crucifixion, which is a mystery of our faith and experienced constantly in the monastic republic of Athos, is highlighted by this exhibition of work by the late departed well-known photographer George Poupis, who worked as a photographer on Mount Athos for over twenty years. The presentation and display of these Athonite relics to the devout and art-loving faithful, apart from the visible spiritual wealth of the objects concerned, also provides glimpses of the joy that the Cross has brought into the world, the hope of Resurrection for all mankind and the divinely blessed freedom of the monastic way, in which the monk's only desire is to do the will of the Lord, in obedience, penury, unceasing prayer and undissembling love.

Thus, from the Great Monastery of our pious nation, from the Crucified Phanar of the ever-resplendent Resurrection, we bestow our patriarchal blessing on this exhibition, asking that the Lord might heap His blessings on its organisers and all those who visit it, and we also pray for the repose of the soul of its creator, the late departed George Poupis. May the life-giving grace and rich mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Creator of all and Giver of all good things, He who was crucified for our salvation and rose from the grave and raised up with Himself the whole race of Adam, be with you all.

5th July 2018
X Bartholomew of Constantinople
Your fervent suppliant before God

εγών με σέβω διάνεκτος ορθός είμαστε.

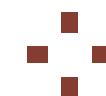




ΧΑΙΡΕΤΙΣΜΟΣ
ΤΗΣ ΙΕΡΑΣ
ΚΟΙΝΟΤΗΤΑΣ
ΤΟΥ ΑΓΙΟΥ ΟΡΟΥΣ

ADDRESS
BY THE HOLY
COMMUNITY
OF MOUNT ATHOS

ΓΙΩΡΓΟΣ ΠΟΥΠΗΣ GIORGOS POUPIΣ
Ο ΣΤΑΥΡΟΣ ΣΤΗΝ ΓΗ ΤΟΥ ΑΓΙΟΥ ΟΡΟΥΣ THE CROSS IN THE LAND OF MOUNT ATHOS



H καθ' ήμας Ιερά Κοινότης τοῦ Ἅγίου Ὁρους μὲν ίδιαιτέραν χαρὰν καὶ ίκανοποίησιν χαιρετίζει τὸ παρουσιαζόμενον εἰς τὸν μετὰ χεῖρας κατάλογον ἀξιόλογον φωτογραφικὸν ὑλικὸν τοῦ φιλαθωνίτου φωτογράφου μακαριστοῦ Γεωργίου Πούπη, ἐνθέρμου προσκυνητοῦ τοῦ ἀγιωνύμου ἡμῶν Τόπου.

Ο παρών κατάλογος συνοδεύει τὴν κατ' αὐτὰς ὁργανωθεῖσαν καὶ λειτουργοῦσαν εἰς τὰς ἐγκαταστάσεις τῆς Ἀγιορειτικῆς Ἐστίας ἔκθεσιν ὑπὸ τὸν τίτλον: «Οἱ Σταυροὶ τοῦ Ἅγίου Ὁρους», μίαν συλλογὴν ἐπιλέκτων πρωτοτύπων φωτογραφιῶν, ἐκ τῶν πολυαριθμῶν φιλοτεχνητῶν ὑπὸ τοῦ ὡς ἄνω φιλοπόνου δημιουργοῦ, μὲ θεματικήν ἀναφορὰν εἰς τοὺς σταυροὺς τοῦ Ἅγίου Ὁρους.

Ἀναμφιβόλως ὁ ἵερος Ἀθως, μὲ τὰ σεβάσμια μνημεῖα του, κατέχει μοναδικὴν θέσιν εἰς τὸν χῶρον τῆς χριστιανικῆς ἀνατολῆς καὶ εἶναι ἀπὸ τοὺς πλέον φωτογραφημένους καὶ ζωγραφισμένους ἱεροὺς τόπους τῆς ὁρθοδόξου χριστιανικῆς ἡμῶν πίστεως.

Οὕτω σήμερον παραδίδεται εἰς τὸ φιλότεχνον κοινὸν μία ἐνδιαφέρουσα, εὐρεῖα καὶ σύγχρονος συλλογὴ ἀγιορειτικῶν σταυρῶν ἀπὸ τὴν καλλιτεχνικὴν δημιουργίαν τοῦ ἀειψήστου Γεωργίου Πούπη, φωτογραφηθέντων μὲ τὸ ίδικόν του ὅμμα καὶ τὴν ἰδιάζουσαν γραμμήν του, φωτιζομένων δὲ ἐπιτυχῶς μὲ τὰς λεπτὰς διαβαθμίσεις τῆς δικῆς του ὁπτικῆς γωνίας.

Ταῦτα μὲ ξεχωριστὸν ἔγχοντα καὶ περισσήν ἐπιμέλειαν ἀπετύπωσεν ἡ κάμερα τοῦ σημαντικοῦ τούτου φωτογράφου τοῦ ἱεροῦ ἡμῶν Τόπου, εἰς τὰς αὐγὰς τοῦ εἰκοστοῦ πρώτου αἰώνος, βαδίζοντος εἰς τὰ ἔγχη καὶ τὰς διαδρομὰς προγενεστέρων ὄμοιών του, καὶ ἀπαθανατίσαντος ἐπιτυχῶς μοναδικὰ ἀρχιτεκτονικὰ σύνολα, μοναστικὰ μνημεῖα καὶ τοπία τῆς περιωνύμου ἱερᾶς ἀθωνικῆς χερσονήσου.

Ο Γεώργιος Πούπης συνεχίζων τὴν μακρὰν παράδοσιν καὶ διαδρομὴν τῶν παλαιῶν καλλιτεχνῶν ἀπετύπωσε μὲ ἐνθουσιασμόν, πάθος καὶ ἀγάπην τὴν φυσιογνωμίαν τοῦ ἀπαραμίλλου ἀγιορειτικοῦ τοπίου, δομημένου καὶ φυσικοῦ.

Τὸ πολύπλευρον καὶ βαρύτυπον φωτογραφικὸν ἔργον του ἔρχεται νὰ προστεθῇ, μὲ τὰ ἰδικά του εἰκαστικὰ στοιχεῖα καὶ τὴν προσωπικὴν σφραγίδα τοῦ ἀνεγνωρισμένου δημιουργοῦ, εἰς ἐκείνον τῶν παλαιοτέρων, ἀνωτέρῳ μνημονευθέντων, ὀνομαστῶν ἀθωνιτῶν περιηγητῶν καὶ φωτογράφων, ὡς συνέχεια μᾶς μακρᾶς παραδόσεως καὶ νὰ δώσῃ τὸ ίδικόν του στίγμα. Καθίσταται δέ, μὲ τὴν πληρότητα καὶ ποιότητά του, σταθμὸς καὶ σημεῖον ἀναφορᾶς εἰς τὴν σύγχρονον εἰκαστικὴν παρουσίασιν τοῦ Ἅγιου Ὁρους.

Αἱ ἐν λόγῳ ἔξαρτεοι λήψεις ἀναδύονται τὸ ξεχωριστὸν ἄρωμα τοῦ μυστικοῦ βιώματος ἀπὸ τὴν ἐπαφὴν καὶ συνομιλίαν τοῦ φιλαθωνίτου φωτογράφου μὲ τὸν ἱερὸν ἡμῶν Τόπον καὶ τοὺς ἔδω ἐνασκούμενους πατέρας, ὥστε δὲν θὰ ἥτο σχῆμα λόγου, ἀν λεχθῆ ὅτι κινδυνεύει νὰ ταυτισθῇ τρόπον τινά, μὲ αὐτὸν καὶ τοὺς οἰκήτοράς του. Εἰλικρινῶς δὲ χαιρόμεθα, διότι, οὕτω πως, ἔχομεν ἀποκτήσει ἐναντίον ἀκόμη ἐνθερμούν καλὸν φίλον καὶ πρεσβευτήν.

Οθεν, ἀπὸ καρδίας συγχαίροντες διὰ τὴν παραγωγὴν τοῦ ἐν λόγῳ, ἐντυπωσιακοῦ εἰς ἔκτασιν καὶ αἰσθητικοῦ, προσφερομένου εἰκαστικοῦ πανοράματος, εὐχόμεθα ὅπως ὁ Κύριος ἀναπάυσῃ τὴν ψυχὴν τοῦ φιλαθωνίτου τούτου φωτογράφου τοῦ ἱεροῦ ἡμῶν Τόπου.

Εὐχαριστοῦμεν δὲ καὶ συγχαίρομεν, ὡσαύτως, τὴν Ἀγιορειτικὴν Ἐστίαν διὰ τὴν εὔστοχον ἐπιλογὴν της, ὅπως ἀναλάβῃ νὰ προβάλῃ, ὑπὸ τὴν ἡγεσίαν τοῦ νῦν Προέδρου της καὶ Δημάρχου τῆς πόλεως Θεσσαλονίκης κ. Κωνσταντίνου Ζέρβα, τὴν παρούσαν ἐντυπωσιακὴν καλλιτεχνικὴν δημιουργίαν, διὰ τῆς ὁργανώσεως τῆς ἔκθεσεως, μὲ τὴν ἐπιλογὴν τῶν ἔξαιρετικῶν ἀγιορειτικῶν φωτογραφικῶν ἔργων τοῦ ἀγαπητοῦ ἡμῶν Γεωργίου Πούπη, συνοδευομένην καὶ ἀπὸ τὴν ἔκδοσιν τοῦ μετά χεῖρας καλαισθήτου καταλόγου, εἰς μνημόσυνον αὐτοῦ. Εὐχόμεθα δέ, ἐν κατακλεῖδι, δαψιλῆ τὴν εὐλογίαν καὶ σκέπτην τῆς Ὑπεραγίας Θεοτόκου, ἐφόρου τοῦ ἱεροῦ ἡμῶν Τόπου, τοῖς τε ἐντευξομένοις τοῦ παρόντος καταλόγου καὶ τοῖς φιλαθωνίταις ἐπισκέπταις τῆς ἔκθεσεως τῶν φιλακάλων ἔργων.

«Ἀπαντεῖς οἱ ἐν τῇ κοινῇ Συνάξει Ἀντιπρόσωποι καὶ Προϊστάμενοι τῶν εἴκοσιν Ἱερῶν Μονῶν τοῦ Ἅγιου Ὁρους» Ἀθω

It is with particular joy and pleasure that our Holy Community of Mount Athos greets the publication of this catalogue of remarkable photographic material by the late departed photographer George Poupis, an ardent admirer and pilgrim of our Holy Mountain.

The present catalogue accompanies the exhibition entitled ‘The Crosses of Mount Athos’ which has been organised by the Mount Athos Centre on its own premises and comprises a select collection of original photographs on the theme of the Crosses of Mount Athos, chosen from the huge stock of photographic material created by the industrious artist mentioned above.

Without a doubt, the Holy Mountain, with its venerable monuments, occupies a unique position in the Christian East and is one of the most photographed and painted sacred sites in the Orthodox Christian world.

Today, therefore, sees the opening to the art-loving public of an absorbing, wide-ranging and contemporary collection of photographs of Athonite crosses from the artistic output of the late departed George Poupis – a collection of crosses captured by his own artistic eye and particular line of vision, wonderfully illuminated by the subtle variations of light created by his unique personal perspective.

These crosses were captured with great enthusiasm and care by the lens of this important photographer of Athos in the early years of the twenty-first century, following in the footsteps of the photographers who had gone before him and capturing wonderful images of the unique architectural ensembles, monastic monuments and landscapes on the sacred peninsula of Athos.

George Poupis, continuing the long tradition laid down by earlier artists, captured the features of the unparalleled Athonite landscape, both natural and built, with enthusiasm, passion and love.

His multifaceted and precious work, with its unique artistic features that are now the trademark of a widely recognised artist, adds to that of the well-known Athonite travellers and photographers who preceded him, continuing a long tradition while also setting his own personal stamp upon it. With its completeness and high quality, it represents a landmark and a point of reference in the contemporary artistic representation of Mount Athos.

The superb photographs convey the unique nature of the mystical experience lived by the photographer in his contact and interaction with the sacred sites of Athos and strike one as being totally original in terms of their content and inspiration. One cannot help but admire and savour the skilful and creative way in which the theme of the Cross has been photographed and presented in such a variety of forms.

The process of photographically recording his subjects undoubtedly allowed Poupis to develop a degree of intimacy with the Holy Mountain and its practising elders and monks, to the extent that it would be no exaggeration to say that, in a way, he runs the risk of becoming identified with the Mountain and its inhabitants. It truly pleases us to know that in this way we have gained one more good and ardent friend and ambassador.

Thus, giving heartfelt thanks for the production of this artistic panorama, which is so impressive in both its scope and aesthetic quality, we pray that the Lord may grant eternal rest to the soul of the photographer who was so endeared with our Holy Mountain.

Also, in like manner, we wish to thank and congratulate the Mount Athos Centre for its wise decision in choosing to undertake, under the aegis of the current President of the Mount Athos Centre and Mayor of the City of Thessaloniki, Mr. Konstantinos Zervas, a public display of the artistic output of our dear friend George Poupis by organising this exhibition with its superb selection of photographs of Athos, together with the publication of this elegant catalogue in honour of the photographer's memory.

In conclusion, we pray that our Most Holy Lady the Mother of God, the guardian of our Holy Mountain, may bestow her abundant blessings and protection on the readers of the present catalogue and all those admirers of Athos who visit the exhibition of elegant works.

The Representatives and Principals of the Twenty Monasteries of Mount Athos



ΧΑΙΡΕΤΙΣΜΟΣ
ΤΟΥ ΔΗΜΑΡΧΟΥ
ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗΣ
ΚΩΝΣΤΑΝΤΙΝΟΥ
ΖΕΡΒΑ

ADDRESS
BY THE MAYOR
OF THESSALONIKI
KONSTANTINOS
ZERVAS

ΓΙΩΡΓΟΣ ΠΟΥΠΗΣ GIORGOS POUPIIS
Ο ΣΤΑΥΡΟΣ ΣΤΗΝ ΓΗ ΤΟΥ ΑΓΙΟΥ ΌΡΟΥΣ THE CROSS IN THE LAND OF MOUNT ATHOS



Tὸ Ἀγιον Ὄρος, τὸ κορυφαῖο κέντρο τοῦ ὁρθόδοξου μοναχισμοῦ, ἀποτελεῖ ἀνὰ τοὺς αἰῶνες πόλον ἔλεης πλήθους προσκυνητῶν ποὺ ἀναζητοῦν στὰ προσκυνήματά τους τὴν προσωπικὴ συμμετοχὴν σ' ἓναν κόσμο μυσταγωγίας καὶ πνευματικότητας. Ὄταν δὲ οἱ ἐπισκέπτες αὐτοὶ εὐλογοῦνται μὲ τὸ χάρισμα τῆς δημιουργίας, τότε ὁ Ἀθως ἐπιδρᾶ μ' ἐναν μοναδικὸ τρόπῳ ἐπάνω τους καὶ τοὺς μαγνητίζει ἐσαεὶ, δημιουργώντας πλέον μιὰ σχέση μυστηριακὴ καὶ ἄκρως ἀληθινή.

Μιὰ τέτοια περίπτωση ἦταν ὁ φωτογράφος Γιώργος Πούπης, ὁ ὅποιος συνδέθηκε μὲ τὸν τόπο καὶ τοὺς ἀνθρώπους του μὲ τὸν μοναδικὸ τρόπο ποὺ ὁ ἕιδος ἔχει. Ἡ πορεία τοῦ Γιώργου Πούπη μέσα στὸ Ἀγιον Ὄρος ἦταν μιὰ πορεία ἐπαναβάπτισης, καθὼς ἡ ἀρχικὴ του σχέση μετενσαρκώθηκε διὰ μέσου τῶν μοναχῶν σὲ βίωμα ποὺ τὸν σημάδεψε καὶ τοῦ προσέφερε πολύτιμα δῶρα. Δὲν εἶναι τυχαῖο ὅτι ὁ ἕιδος καταθέτει τὰ ἀκόλουθα στὸ προσωπικό του κείμενο ποὺ ἐντάσσεται στὴν ἀνὰ χεῖρας ἔκδοση: «Τὸ μόνον ποὺ θὰ μποροῦσα νὰ πῶ: (τὸ Ἀγιον Ὄρος) εἶναι ἔνα συλλείτουργο ἀνάμεσα στὴν ἀγιορείτικη φύση καὶ χῶρο, καὶ στὴν πίστη σὰν ὑπέρτατη σοφία τῆς ὑπαρξῆς. Αὐτὸ τὸ θεῖο συλλείτουργο θέλησα νὰ φωτογραφίσω καὶ καλλιτεχνικὰ νὰ ἀναδείξω χωρὶς νὰ προσβάλω τὸ μυστικὸ μεγαλεῖο του».

Ἡ ἀπαθανάτιση τοῦ Σταυροῦ ἀπὸ τὸν Γιώργο Πούπη, αὐτοῦ τοῦ κορυφαίου συμβόλου τοῦ χριστιανικοῦ κόσμου, στὸ ὑπαίθριο περιβάλλον τοῦ Ἀγίου Ὄρους, κρύβει ἐκπλήξεις καὶ φανερώνει τὴν ἀέναη σύνδεση τοῦ συμβόλου μὲ τὴν καθημερινότητα καὶ τὴν βιωματικὴ ἐμπειρία τῶν μοναχῶν.

Ἡ ἀγιορείτικὴ Ἐστία, θέλοντας νὰ τιμήσει τὸν ἀείμνηστο φωτογράφο ποὺ τόσο πολὺ μόχθησε στὴν ἀθωνικὴ γῆ φωτογραφίζοντάς την γιὰ περισσότερες ἀπὸ τρεῖς δεκαετίες, παρουσιάζει τὴν ἐκθεση, ἀλλὰ καὶ τὴν ὁμώνυμη ἔκδοση μὲ τὸ σπουδαῖο φωτογραφικὸ ὑλικό, τὸ ὅποιο μένει ὡς τεκμήριο στὴν μνήμη του, ἀλλὰ καὶ στὴν μνήμη ὅλων μας.

Θὰ ἥθελα νὰ ἐκφράσω τὶς θερμές μου εὐχαριστίες πρὸς τὴν κυρία Παναγιώτα Πούπη, ἀδελφὴ τοῦ φωτογράφου, ἡ ὅποια, ἐνεργώντας μετὰ ἀπὸ ἐπιθυμία τοῦ Γιώργου Πούπη, δώρισε τὸ φωτογραφικό του ἀρχεῖο ποὺ ἀφορᾶ στὸ Ἀγιον Ὄρος στὴν ἀγιορείτικὴ Ἐστία. Ἡ δωρεὰ τοῦ ἐν λόγῳ ἀρχείου εἶναι ἔνα πολύτιμο δῶρο πρὸς τὴν ἀγιορείτικὴ Ἐστία, τὸ ὅποιο, μετὰ τὴν καταγραφὴ καὶ ἀρχειοθέτησή του, θὰ καταστεῖ διαθέσιμο πρὸς τὸ εὐρὺ κοινὸ γιὰ ἐπιστημονική, καὶ ὅχι μόνο, χρήση.

Κωνσταντῖνος Ζέρβας
Δήμαρχος Θεσσαλονίκης
Πρόεδρος τοῦ Δ.Σ. τῆς ἀγιορείτικῆς Ἐστίας

For centuries Mount Athos, the leading centre of Orthodox monasticism, has attracted large numbers of pilgrims seeking personal experience of a mystical and spiritual world. When these visitors are blessed with the gift of creativity, then Athos exerts a unique influence upon them, holding them in constant thrall and creating a mystic and utterly genuine relationship with them.

One of the visitors who fits into this category was the photographer George Poupis, who forged a bond with the place and its people in the only way he knew how. George Poupis' experience of Mount Athos was akin to a rebaptism since his initial relationship with the Holy Mountain was transformed, through the monks, into an experience that left a deep impression on him and rewarded him handsomely. It is no accident that Poupis himself states the following in his own text, which is included later in this publication: 'The only thing I could say is that (the Cross) acts as a concelebrant between the natural world and space on Athos and faith, as the ultimate wisdom of existence. It is this aspect of (the Cross) as a divine concelebrant that I wanted to photograph and portray artistically, without offending its mystical grandeur.'

George Poupis' images of the Cross, the symbol par excellence of the Christian world, in Mount Athos's external environment, conceal many surprises and reveal the everlasting connection between the symbol of the Cross and the everyday lives and experiences of the monks.

The Mount Athos Center, wishing to pay tribute to the late lamented photographer who for over thirty years dedicated so much time and effort to photographing the Holy Mountain, now presents an exhibition, together with this publication, of some of his remarkable photographic material, which remains as a testament to his memory and one that will forever be etched on all our memories.

I would like to express my warm thanks to Mrs. Panagiota Poupi, the photographer's sister, who, acting in accordance with her brother George's wishes, donated that part of his photographic archive relating to Mount Athos to the Mount Athos Center. The donation of this archive constitutes an invaluable gift to the Center, one which, once it has been documented and archived, will be made available to the general public for scientific and other purposes.

Konstantinos Zervas
Mayor of Thessaloniki
President, Board of Directors, Mount Athos Center