

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΕΤΑΙΡΕΙΑ

Αρ. Πρωτ. 50

Ημερομηνία
18.1.99

ΕΑΚ Ενηλ. 9

ΓΙΑΝΝΗΣ ΑΝΤ. ΠΕΡΑΚΗΣ
ΔΗΜΑΡΧΟΣ ΙΤΑΝΟΥ

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Παλαίκαстро 11/1/1999

Σας ευχαριστώ για τις ευχές σας.

Πιστεύω ότι θα έχουμε μια καλή και ειλικρινή συνεργασία για το καλό του τόπου μας.

Σας εύχομαι ΧΡΟΝΙΑ ΠΟΛΛΑ, ΧΑΡΟΥΜΕΝΟ και ΔΗΜΙΟΥΡΓΙΚΟ το νέο έτος 1999, καθώς και κάθε προσωπική και οικογενειακή ευτυχία.

Με τιμή,



Γιάννης Αντ. Περάκης

SAW

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the hand of god is human, the work of man divine

28.x.98

Dear Kostas Carras,

Jamie Bruce-Lockhart has told me of your noble aims during his short visits to my corner this great island each summer, and urges me to contact you about a problem we have here. I am an archaeologist and university professor who has devoted much of his life to the pursuit of knowledge, largely of past societies, but very much live in the present. The past world I explore is that of Minoan Crete; I was in charge of Knossos for some years, and now excavate a large Minoan town site at Palaikastro, between Vai and Zakros at the eastern end of Crete. The beautiful coastline at Palaikastro has been protected from the greed of overexploitation, which has transformed much of Crete, because of its important archaeological remains; Dr. Costis Davaras devoted his life in the Greek Archaeological Service to maintaining a strict policy of low intervention here; it was he who invited my colleagues at the British School at Athens and I to begin excavations in 1986, which we have been doing with great success ever since.

My present concern, and the reason Jamie urged me to contact you, is that this region is under threat by a much greater force than the greed of local merchants. Very powerful outside interests have negotiated an arrangement with the local Toplou monastery to develop the entire peninsula to the north of us, while another developer has bought the one to the south. My dream is to encourage the locals to protect the last of their natural resources and establish a 'blue and green zone' on both sea and land, and encourage visitors to come here to see the last of an unspoiled Aegean environment. The local and migratory birds, including the rare Eleanor's falcon, are a delight and the sea is one of the cleanest in the region because of a strong current and lack of polluters. The people are farmers, shepherds and fishermen who are fiercely proud of their region, but the mayor is on the payroll of the development interests and tries to incite them against 'those archaeologists and ecologists' making them believe that we are demons come to deprive them of their fortune. The developers had a finger in the recent local elections, promising jobs if their man was re-elected, and when he wasn't, they prompted him to initiate a court case, which is the current state of affairs. As one who grew up in the large city of Montreal, Canada and lived the past eight years in New York City, where I taught at Columbia University, I can see the developer's tricks with ease. The new man, elected a few



weeks ago, came to see me before the elections and promised to help me with my dream of establishing a free natural zone throughout this region. The 'big money' is very unhappy with the election results and will not sit easily, as the new man is incorruptible. The situation is tense and unpleasant, and it saddens me to watch how easily the developers are manipulating the locals.

I could ramble on, but intend this note to introduce you to the situation, which perhaps Jamie has told you something about. I would be delighted to meet with you to discuss what I might do realise my ambitions here. I'm very committed to a strict publisher's deadline of December 15 for a large book on Sir Arthur Evans, and am working hard most days to finish the first draft. However, my Athenian friends have been screaming at me for months to leave here for a few days to visit them in the capital, and so I may go there in November, but can't predict when. In any case, I suspect that your programme is more strictly regimented at the moment than mine, and so leave a potential meeting in your hands.

I am a dreamer, but also a creator and my creations are always for the purpose of elevating human consciousness. I do hope you can join me to help convert my dreams into reality so that all species will have a free haven in which to enjoy our lives here in eastern Crete.

Please don't hesitate to contact me.

All very best wishes for the success of your society,

J. Alexander (*Sandy*) MacGillivray