

Stavros S. Niarchos Language Study Fellowship 2006
Report for Emily S. K. Anderson

During the summer of 2006 I had the opportunity to undertake intensive Modern Greek language study with the support of a Stavros S. Niarchos Language Study Fellowship. I undertook this study at the Athens Centre, in Athens, Greece, from 29 May- 4 August, 2006. I was also able to utilize the months spent in Athens to conduct research in museum collections and libraries for my dissertation, which concerns anthropological approaches to archaeological material from the Bronze Age Aegean.

The Athens Centre offers Modern Greek language instruction at numerous intensities and geared towards attaining various levels of proficiency. Based upon the class schedule, I was able to participate in three courses at the Centre over the summer of 2006, at the highest intensity levels (“accelerated” and “immersion”), and covering proficiency levels II-IV. These courses provided invaluable training both in conversational and reading skills.

As a PhD candidate researching the archaeology of Bronze Age Greece, specifically the glyptic tradition of Early-Middle Minoan Crete, I have much need for a working proficiency in Modern Greek. It is critical to my scholarship that I am able to read studies and site reports, many of which have been and continue to be written in Modern Greek. Further, working in Greece on a regular basis, I believe it is imperative to be able to take part in a dialogue with Greek colleagues and peers in the living language of their scholarship. The Niarchos Study Fellowship awarded to me for the summer of 2006 greatly enabled me in working towards these goals.

In addition to intensive language study, living in Athens during the summer of 2006 also permitted me to continue dissertation research in the museums and libraries of the city. Having spent the Spring semester of 2006 in Athens as a member of the American School of Classical Studies, I was able to extend my research goals in Greece by lengthening my stay throughout the summer. In this way, I dedicated many hours to the study of material in the National Archaeological Museum and in other collections of Bronze Age seals and related objects, as well as conducting research in the libraries of the American and British Schools.

Having now reached the end of this research period, I consider the summer of 2006 as having surpassed my expectations concerning both language and dissertation work. Following my time at the Athens Centre, I have been able to apply my enriched Modern Greek skills to the exploration of several archaeological texts; I look forward to continuing my pursuits in this arena. Also, based upon research conducted during the summer, I have made significant additions to my dissertation that would not have been possible without the contact with material afforded by the time in Greece.

I am truly grateful for the generous award of the Stavros S. Niarchos Study Fellowship dedicated to this research. The role of these fellowships, to permit a deepening both quantitatively and qualitatively of the research efforts of young scholars working in Greece, is an incredible asset to our university community. I am confident that the financial and intellectual support provided to me has contributed not only to my present research efforts, but undoubtedly also to the life of my scholarly career in the field of Greek archaeology.

Gratefully submitted,

Emily S. K. Anderson