AMY MIMS-SILVERIDI

Minos the Minotaur and Daedala the Dreamer

From PATRICK LEIGH FERMOIR’S Letter Concerning This Book

"I find it fascinating, infinitely rewarding and full of surprises. Her life has been intertwined with all that has happened in Greece, and with many of the most interesting and important figures in Greek art and literature, over these disturbing decades. In the mosaic of books on Greece by creative people who have experienced the Greek world in a uniquely personal way (including Miller's "Colossus of Maroussi" [and] Lawrence Durrell's "Bitter Lemons"), Amy Mims' work... will find a distinguished and honourable place.

Yours sincerely,

Patrick Leigh Fermor"

Concerning the three volumes of the "Greek Trilogy" in English, special mention for the excellent contribution of VICKY MOURAFETI for the Photo-Shop preparation of the English Edition and of ELENI BOURKOULA, for her impeccable computerisation of the many manuscripts.

... From the very first day of her arrival in Greece – early in August of 1958 – Amy Mims knew that this would be her ever Motherland. In spite of her Harvard and Oxford education and her Irish roots, she turned her back on the past. In the course of almost six decades, she has worked continuously in the rich fields of Greek Literature and History (including her English translations of several books by Kazantzakis, and the 9-volume masterpiece entitled "Iconostasis of Anonymous Saints" by Ritsos, as well as four of his long poems; and also 20 plays by various modern Greek playwrights (including Kambanellis and Korres). For her twelve original works, see the List at the back of this book for their titles and dates. Here, we mention only: Her first book received warm words of appreciation from Henry Miller and Anais Nin; her second, third and fourth books were dedicated to the Tragedy of Cyprus, caused by the Turkish invasion of the Island on July 20th, 1974; her fifth book was dedicated to Ritsos, while her sixth book focused on a "free thinker" she had once loved. Her seventh book was the only text of literary "criticism" she ever wrote, with an enthusiastic "Note" by Louis de Bernières. This was followed by a five-year-period of silence, when she concentrated on collecting all the necessary material for the three volumes of her "Greek Trilogy" in Greek. And finally – before turning to the English version of the Trilogy – an Anthology was published of her lyrical Poetry and plays, with an enthusiastic "Note" by Louis de Bernières. The cd contains Makarios' live radio-message, on his way to exile. His wish was to reassure the Cypriot People that he is still alive.

However, Daedala did not consider her own writing as her most challenging work in Greece. In retrospect, she chose the miniature "avant-garde" theatre – Amy's "Ark" – which she created with Minos Argyrakis during the happy years of the Greek Sixties.

"Grandfather" Sotiris Spatharis – the greatest Greek Artist of Shadow Theatre – together, with Tsarouhis, expressed the previous joyful spirit of the "Ark". The vision of uniting the finest Greek Artists into a truly creative Movement was indeed a rare source of delight. Even foreign Artists (including Lawrence Durrell and Gian Carlo Menotti and Nureyev together with Margot Fonteyn), visited the "Ark". The cd contains Makarios' live radio-message, on his way to exile. His wish was to reassure the Cypriot People that he is still alive. From the very first day of her arrival in Greece – early in August of 1958 – Amy Mims knew that this would be her ever Motherland. In spite of her Harvard and Oxford education and her Irish roots, she turned her back on the past. In the course of almost six decades, she has worked continuously in the rich fields of Greek Literature and History (including her English translations of several books by Kazantzakis, and the 9-volume masterpiece entitled "Iconostasis of Anonymous Saints" by Ritsos, as well as four of his long poems; and also 20 plays by various modern Greek playwrights (including Kambanellis and Korres). For her twelve original works, see the List at the back of this book for their titles and dates. Here, we mention only: Her first book received warm words of appreciation from Henry Miller and Anais Nin; her second, third and fourth books were dedicated to the Tragedy of Cyprus, caused by the Turkish invasion of the Island on July 20th, 1974; her fifth book was dedicated to Ritsos, while her sixth book focused on a "free thinker" she had once loved. Her seventh book was the only text of literary "criticism" she ever wrote, with an enthusiastic "Note" by Louis de Bernières. This was followed by a five-year-period of silence, when she concentrated on collecting all the necessary material for the three volumes of her "Greek Trilogy" in Greek. And finally – before turning to the English version of the Trilogy – an Anthology was published of her lyrical Poetry and plays, with an enthusiastic "Note" by Louis de Bernières. The cd contains Makarios' live radio-message, on his way to exile. His wish was to reassure the Cypriot People that he is still alive.