ONASSIS INTERNATIONAL PRIZES

LAUDATION
For the
Center for Hellenic Studies of Harvard University
By
Professor George Babiniotis

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The Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation is awarding today to the "Harvard Center for Hellenic Studies" the "International Onassis Prize 2006".

The Board of the Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation decided to give the award to the Center located in Washington D.C. and affiliated with Harvard University, for its valuable contribution to the enhancement of Hellenic Classical Studies both in the field of research and in the promotion and dissemination of Hellenic Studies throughout the world.

Under the inspired guidance (since 2000) of renowned Hellenist, Professor of Classical and Comparative Philology at Harvard University, Gregory Nagy, the Center has succeeded in becoming the **research institution** of Classical Hellenism and Classical Hellenic Letters, by offering annually **12 fellowships to researchers** from the US, Europe and other continents. These scholars-researchers from many different countries form research cells that ensure communication and cooperation among scientists from the whole world in the field of Hellenic Studies.

Another activity of the CHS involves **scientific debates in the form of symposia, conferences, seminars and lectures.** The results of these meetings, which are essential for the preservation, promotion and dissemination of Hellenic Studies, are published by the Center and are also available on its website. Most important, they are also available on data banks that can be accessed via the Internet.

A major attribute of the Center's current Director, Professor Nagy, is his good knowledge of educational technology and its efficient use for the purposes of the Center. Thus, seminars, lectures and debates are organized by means of "distance learning" techniques, which make the Center's activities accessible to the broader scientific community, "the property of the many". It should be noted that the imparting of scientific knowledge and research findings is not linked to certificates, degrees or other titles. It remains at the level of pure learning, research and scientific knowledge, the essence that is, outside and beyond any formal qualifications or academic titles. A further application of educational technology is the

CHS's plan for a "Virtual Center" that will provide on a steady basis live and archived educational programs through remote participation via the Internet.

Finally, two other activities, the **Washington Summer Seminars** and a **Study Program with visits to Greece** complete the Center's educational mission.

The creation of a **CHS Regional Office in Nafplion**, conceived and implemented by Professor Nagy, represents the culmination (and necessary complement) of the Center's work.

These few observations that the limited time of this ceremony allows, clearly show why the Onassis Foundation has chosen to give this prize to the Harvard Center of Hellenic Studies, in fair recognition of Harvard's outstanding scientific contribution to Hellenism and Greece in the last 45 years.