

The London Hellenic Prize

It was exactly twenty years ago that John A. Hadjipateras OBE and John D. Criticos, prominent members of London's Greek shipping community, conceived of this international award. Inspired by the ideals of Hellenic culture and guided by the best commercial and cultural traditions of British society, both men were committed to the promotion of Anglo-Hellenic cultural exchange in a number of significant ways. John D. Criticos, specifically, devoted himself to long-lasting charitable projects in both countries, which his wife, Mrs Elizabeth Criticos-Fotinelli, continued and enhanced after his death.

The Prize usually receives over 100 submissions each year from numerous publishers and individual authors across the globe, from California to London, Athens, and as far afield as Sydney. Areas of interest are not restricted and, since its inception, the Prize has been awarded to books on archaeology, architecture, art, classics, history, literary criticism, social studies, as well as to numerous works of fiction in recent years. The list of winners overleaf shows the originality and wide range of scholarship and subject matter recognised over the years by the Adjudicating Committee. This is a truly international award in scope and substance.

The Adjudicating Committee draws its strength from authors, artists, historians and scholars with specialist knowledge of all the fields for which there are eligible candidates. It is re-formed each year and outside readers are co-opted to assist in the best assessment possible of all books submitted. Thanks to the generosity of our current sponsors, the bursary of the Prize remains £10,000.

The Prize has always been administered by the London Hellenic Society, established in the 1960s on the foundations of the long and distinguished Hellenic presence in England. London has always been a nexus of commercial, political and cultural exchange. It was the collective efforts of individuals like Bloomsbury-based shipping executive Dimitris Vikelas, Highgate-based Domini Crosfield, and Eleftherios Venizelos and his wife, Helena Schilizzi, which helped grow the most philhellenic spirit in England in modern times. It is this proud tradition which the London Hellenic Society strives to strengthen.

Adjudicating Committee for the 2016 Prize

Dr Jennifer Wallace (Peterhouse, Cambridge) – Chair, author and literary critic
Dr Felix Budelmann (Magdalen College, Oxford) – classicist
Robin Lane Fox (New College, Oxford) – classicist, historian, gardener, *FT* columnist
Dr Nick Lowe (Royal Holloway, London) – classics and literature
Prof. Stephanos Pespazoglou (Panteion University, Athens) – political theory and public policy
Elizabeth Speller – poet and author

Readers

Prof. Liz James (University of Sussex) – art historian and Byzantinist
Fani Papageorgiou – poet and critic

The Prize is co-ordinated by **Michael Moschos**, assisted by **Jason Leech**

The London Hellenic Prize, The Hellenic Centre, 16-18 Paddington Street, London W1U 5AS

www.LondonHellenicPrize.org

The London Hellenic Prize

Friday, 10 November 2017 at 18:30

The British Residence, Athens

George Rodopoulos (President, The London Hellenic Society)

Welcome

Robin Lane Fox

Twenty years of the London Hellenic Prize

Dr Jennifer Wallace (Chair of the Adjudicating Committee)

The 2016 Prize

Donald Futers (Editor, Penguin)

Introduction

Karen Van Dyck

The anthology and translation

Excerpts from *Austerity Measures*

read in Greek and English by the poets and their translators

HE The British Ambassador Ms Kate Smith CMG

awards the 2016 London Hellenic Prize

Michael Moschos (Vice President, The London Hellenic Society)

Concluding remarks

Also short-listed for the 2016 London Hellenic Prize

Paul Cartledge, *Democracy: A Life* (Oxford University Press)

Peter McDonald, *The Homeric Hymns* (Fyfield Books)

Thanassis Valtinos, trans. Jane Assimakopoulos, *Orthokostá* (Yale University Press)

Tim Whitmarsh, *Battling the Gods: Atheism in the Ancient World* (Faber & Faber)