

Mining History

Society, Environment, and Politics in
Early-Twentieth-Century Cyprus

THE STORY

OF

CYPRUS

MINES

CORPORATION

by DAVID LAVENDER

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SKOURIOTISSA:
INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDY OF THE ARCHAEOLOGY
AND ENVIRONMENT OF CYPRUS'
LAST OPERATING COPPER MINE

**Principal Investigator: Professor Vasiliki Kassianidou,
Archaeological Research Unit,
Department of History and Archaeology,
University of Cyprus**

Abstract

The scope of this project funded by the A.G. Leventis Research Programs of the University of Cyprus was to record the history, archaeology and ancient environment of the mine of Skouriotissa, and thus preserve this important aspect of Cypriot cultural heritage that has been severely damaged by one hundred years of modern exploitation. The mine of Skouriotissa, together with those of Mavrovouni and Apliki, are part of the mining region of Solea, which is located in the north-western foothills of the Troodos mountains. The mine of Apliki is, according to Lead Isotope Analysis, most probably the mine that generated the copper used to produce the vast majority of copper oxhide ingots found in Cyprus and abroad during the Late Bronze Age (16th – 12th century BC). In the Iron Age (from the 11th century onwards), the most enigmatic period of copper production on the island of Cyprus, the mines belonged to the kingdom of Soloi, one of the most prosperous on the island. In the Roman and Late Roman/Early Byzantine periods, mining and smelting at Skouriotissa reached an unprecedented scale. Slag, the waste from the smelting furnaces, accumulated in large heaps. They formed an impressive landmark, which eventually gave the name to the Monastery of Panagia Skouriotissa and then the whole area around it.

The Late Roman slag heaps of Skouriotissa were systematically recorded by the author, in collaboration with colleagues from other academic institutions within the framework of two interdisciplinary projects, namely, the “Troodos Archaeological and

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Η ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΜΕΤΑΛΛΕΥΤΙΚΗ ΕΤΑΙΡΕΙΑ

Η ΠΟΡΕΙΑ ΤΗΣ 1923-2000

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MENT OF CYPRUS'
NG COPPER MINE

Professor Vasiliki Kassianidou,
Research Unit,
History and Archaeology,
University of Cyprus

Leventis Research Programs of the University of Cyprus, the study of the archaeology and ancient environment of the mine of Skoufou, an important aspect of Cypriot cultural heritage that has been largely neglected since the years of modern exploitation. The mine of Skoufou and Apliki, are part of the mining region of the Troodos mountains. The mine of Skoufou, most probably the mine that generated the production of copper oxhide ingots found in Cyprus and the Aegean (from the 12th century BC). In the Iron Age (from the 8th to the 6th century BC) the period of copper production on the island of Cyprus was at its peak. In the Byzantine periods, mining and smelting at Skoufou continued. Slag, the waste from the smelting furnaces, is an impressive landmark, which eventually gave rise to the Skoufou Riotissa and then the whole area around it. The Skoufou Riotissa were systematically recorded by the University of Cyprus, from other academic institutions within the Troodos mountains, namely, the "Troodos Archaeological and

Levant Supplementary Series 14

LANDSCAPE & INTERACTION

Methodology, Analysis & Interpretation

M. Given, A. B. Knapp, J. Noller

L. Sollars, V. Kassianidou

Troodos Archaeological and Environmental Survey Project, Volume 1

ΛΑΗΝΙΚΗ

ΜΑΛΕΥΤΙΚΗ

ΓΑΙΡΕΙΑ

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ΛΙΟΤΙΣΣΑ:
ΕΞΕΛΙΞΗ ΤΗΣ ΑΡΧΑΙΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ
ΤΗΣ ΠΕΡΙΟΧΗΣ ΤΗΣ
ΠΑΛΑΙΟΧΑΛΚΟΥ ΜΕΤΑΛΛΕΥΣΗΣ

Professor Vasiliki Kassianidou,
Leventis Research Unit,
Department of History and Archaeology,
University of Cyprus

The Leventis Research Programs of the University of Cyprus have investigated the geology and ancient environment of the mine of Skouli, an important aspect of Cypriot cultural heritage that has been largely overlooked since the days of modern exploitation. The mine of Skouli and Apliki, are part of the mining region of the Troodos mountains. The mine of Skouli, most probably the mine that generated the majority of copper oxhide ingots found in Cyprus and the Aegean (from the 12th century BC). In the Iron Age (from the 12th century BC) the period of copper production on the island of Cyprus was at its peak. The region of Soloi, one of the most prosperous during the Byzantine periods, mining and smelting at Skouli. Slag, the waste from the smelting furnaces, is an impressive landmark, which eventually gave rise to the village of Liotissa and then the whole area around it. The Liotissa slag mounds were systematically recorded by the University of Cyprus, from other academic institutions within the region, namely, the “Troodos Archaeological and

LANDSCAPE & INTERACTION

Methodology, Analysis & Interpretation

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Troodos Archaeological and Environmental Survey Project, Volume 1

Michael Given

Mining Landscapes and Colonial Rule in Early-Twentieth-Century Cyprus

ABSTRACT

In the early 20th century the large-scale copper and asbestos mines of Cyprus were intimately associated with colonial rule, both in their ideologies and in their actual operations. For the Cypriot miners, this represented a major disruption of long-standing values and required a new negotiation of their relationship with their British colonizers. Attempts to control mining landscapes and communities interplayed with a range of actions from submission to everyday resistance to strikes and riots. These dynamics are most clearly seen by examining the entire landscape. Particularly revealing aspects include the naming of mining landscapes, the surveillance of miners, the complex relationship between mining and agriculture, the actual and symbolic manipulation of artifacts, the expression of control and resistance in miners' housing, and shifting concepts of community.

Introduction

On 26 April 1929, a motor lorry driver for the Cyprus Asbestos Company stopped in the village of Kato Amiandos, on his way up to the mine. A woman gave him a bundle of cloth and requested him to take it to her husband, Stylli Hadji Ktori, who worked in the mine. He agreed and continued on his way up the mountain road. At the entrance to the territory controlled by the mining company, he was stopped by a mine official, distinguished by the cloth badge on his arm:

He asked me if I had bread in my car. I said "no." He said that he would search my car. I said that he could search and when he searched he seized the bundle which was given to me by the wife of Stylli Hji Ktori saying that it contained 3 loaves of bread (Cyprus State Archives SA 1/909/1929, Red 14).

As Stylli Hadji Ktori knew very well, the Cyprus Asbestos Company refused to allow its employees to bring their own bread into the mine. Instead they had to buy the expen-

sive bread made on the premises using flour imported from abroad. As this story shows, the Amiandos asbestos mine (Figure 1) and the other mines of early-20th-century Cyprus formed autonomous territories with their own border points, regulations, and economies. When the British colonial government heard about the bread incident, they were concerned that the mine was becoming an "*imperium in imperio*," and began a series of investigations (SA1/909/1929, Red 4).

"An empire within an empire" is precisely what the mines were. With their carefully regulated and orchestrated activities where each mine worker had a precisely defined role, with their paternalistic institutions such as benevolent societies and model workers' housing and clubhouses, and with their absolute control over a landscape dedicated to their own profit, the mining companies were modeled on colonial rule. They even became "models for" colonial rule, expressing the ideal of a perfectly regulated but paternalistic state. As with major state building projects, where the antlike activity of thousands of workers symbolizes the state's control of society (Paynter and McGuire 1991:9), so here does the mining landscape with its highly controlled processes and social organization reflect the ideal of colonial rule.

The investigation focused on the intimate relationship between the organization of mining landscapes and the mechanics of colonial rule. The open cast and underground copper and asbestos mines of the 1920s and 1930s in Cyprus provide a wealth of material, documentary, and oral information, and the political conditions of the time brought the imperialist organization of the mines into public debate—as Hadji Ktori succeeded in doing following the confiscation of his bread.

Methodology

The main historical sources in this paper consist of government correspondence preserved in the Cyprus State Archives in Nicosia and oral history data from informants in the former mining village of Mitsero and elsewhere.

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"Interior of Panayia Skouriotissa church," photograph by Ruby Jackson from 1924. Courtesy of the William Johnson Everett archive at the Center for Visual Arts and Research, Nicosia.



Και ἐγγραφέθη ἕνεκα τούτου γὰρ διαπα-
ρήστῃ διὰ τὴν ἐπισκευὴν τῆς Μητροπό-
λεως πλέον τῶν 100 λιρῶν διὰ τὴν ἐπι-
σκευὴν τοῦ μοναστηρίου Μελανδρίνας ἴσον
ποσόν, διὰ τὸ μοναστήριον Σκουριώτισσάν
λ. 80, ἴσον ποσόν διὰ τὴν ἐπισκευὴν
τῆς μονῆς Ἀχειροποιήτου, 50 λ. ὑπὲρ
τῆς μονῆς τοῦ Ἁγ. Ἰωάννου, 30 ἐπίσης
λ. διὰ τὸ μοναστήριον Ἁγ. Μάμαντος,
30 λ. ὑπὲρ τοῦ μοναστηρίου Ἁγίου Νι-
κελάου, 20 λ. ὑπὲρ τοῦ μοναστηρίου Πο-
δηθού, λίρας 13 ὑπὲρ τῆς μονῆς Τριχου-
τσίας, λ. 20 ὑπὲρ τῆς μονῆς Ἁγ. Ἀν-
θρέου, λ. 10 ὑπὲρ τῆς μονῆς Ἀράκου,
λ. 20 ὑπὲρ τῆς μονῆς τοῦ Σταυροῦ
Λιουμάτι.

Above: excerpt from the newspaper *Κύπριος*, 3 November 1900. Left: the interior of Panagia Skouriotissa, from a group visit I led there on 14 July 2024.



“Bishop’s house,”
photograph (colourised)
by Ruby Jackson from
1923. Courtesy of the
William Johnson Everett
archive at the Center for
Visual Arts and Research,
Nicosia.



"Monastery courtyard,"
photograph by Ruby
Jackson from 1923.
Courtesy of the William
Johnson Everett archive at
the Center for Visual Arts
and Research, Nicosia.



The Late Roman slag heap of Skouriotissa (photograph by V. Kassianidou, taken in 2011). Reproduced from Kassianidou, Agapiou, and Manning, "Reconstructing an Ancient Mining Landscape," 996.



CYPRUS

OUR NEW COLONY



AND

WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT IT

LONDON :

GEORGE ROUTLEDGE AND SONS,
BROADWAY, LUDGATE CHURCH.

CYPRUS.

CHAPTER I.

DESCRIPTION OF CYPRUS, AND HOW TO GET THERE.

Origin of name Cyprus—Shape of the island—Its size—Its distance from mainland of Asia Minor, Malta, and Port Saïd—Routes from London—Time and cost of journey—Description of route *vid* Genoa—Mountains, forests, rivers, and plains—Harbours or roadsteads—Ancient cities—Modern towns, Lefkosia, Famagosta, Larnaca, Limasol, Tzerinia—Roads—Telegraphs.

THE origin of the name of the island, which has now for all practical purposes become part and parcel of the British dominions, is a matter of dispute. General Cesnola, following Engel, inclines to the derivation of *Kypros*, the name given to it by the Greeks, from the Hebrew *Kopher* (Henna = *Lawsonia alba*), a plant found abundantly there, and from which in ancient times various oils and salves

were made. Others again would trace the origin of the name to the fact that in antiquity Cyprus abounded in copper, the name of which among the Romans was "cyprum." This is open to the objection that "cyprum" ("cuprum," whence E. "copper"), is clearly only a contraction for "æs cyprium," which was also in use, and therefore it is more likely to have been derived from the name of the island than that the latter should have gained its name from the metal. One authority boldly ventures the suggestion that it was called Cyprus from the cypress-tree, which certainly abounds there, but the opinion is not supported by anything beyond the similarity in the names.*

The ancients compared the shape of the island of Cyprus to that of a deer's skin, or a fleece spread out, and a glance at the map will show that the fancied resemblance was not inappropriate. The head of the fleece points to the south-west, and Baffo, the ancient Paphos, may be said to occupy the left ear, while Cape Kormakiti on the north, and Cape Gatto on the south, indicate the truncated

* Cyprus had many other names in antiquity, as Acamis (from a cape on N.W.); Amathusia, Paphia, Salaminia, Aphrodisia (from its cities); Macaria (from its fertility of soil); Acrosa (from its copper mines); Collinia (from its hills); Cerastes ("Horned," from its numerous promontories), and others.

Source: Research Project "Economy, environment and landscape in the Cypriot *longue durée*"

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<https://kitchener.hua.gr/en/>

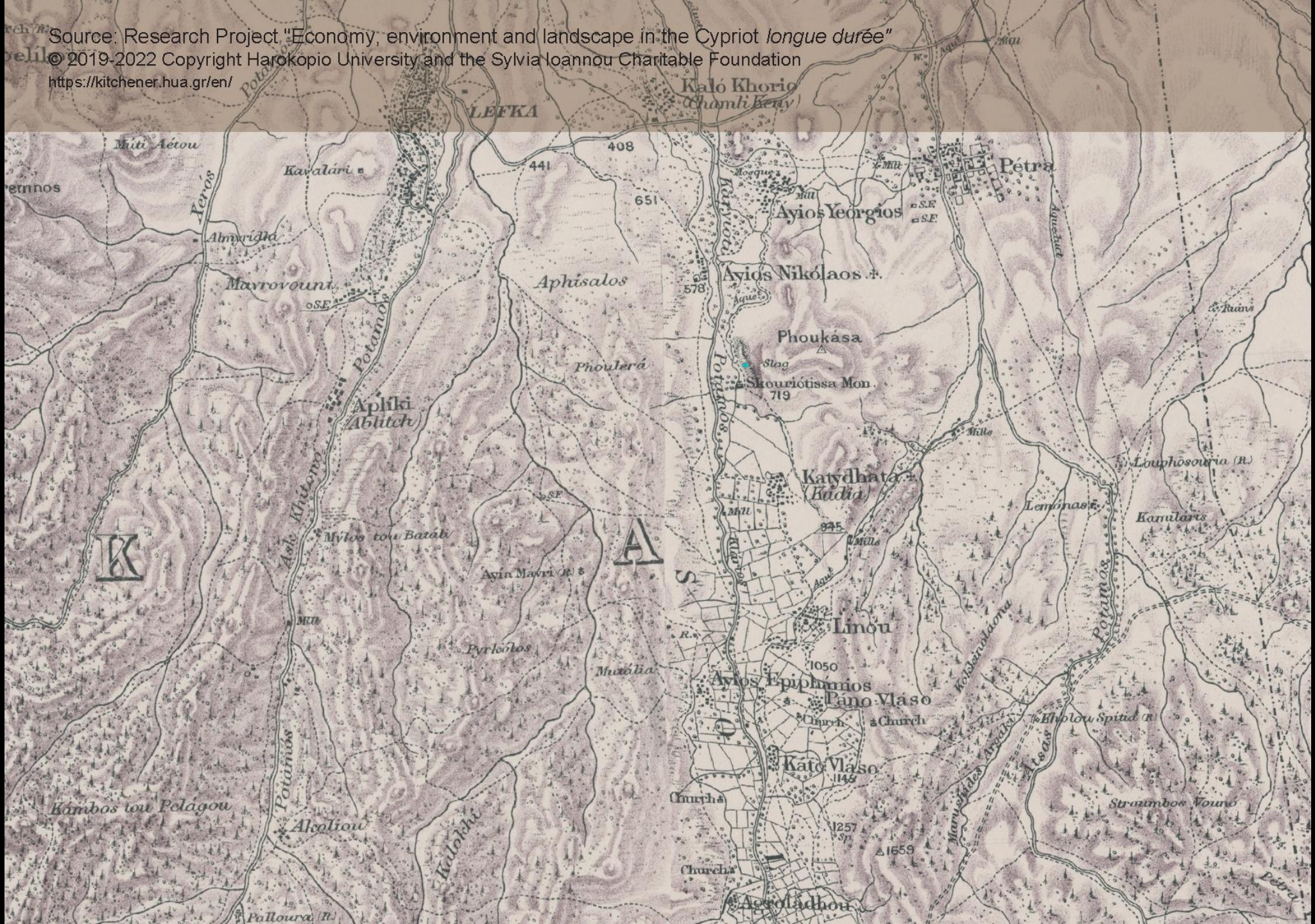


Table 24
Minerals and Mining: Important Signposts

Year	<u>Employment</u>		<u>Share of GDP</u>	<u>Mineral Exports</u>	
	No. Employed in Minerals & Mining	% of Economically Active Population	% of Total	Value £ m.	% of all Domestic Exports
1929	6,098	6.4	24.0	0.6	38.3
1932	1,690	1.2	-	0.2	24.1
1938	9,200	5.8	-	1.5	62.7
1949	5,330	2.9	-	3.6	48.3
1952	6,585	3.1	16.7	10.3	56.9
1954	6,716	2.5	13.5	9.8	56.6
1956	6,660	2.6	14.4	13.8	66.1
1961	5,300	2.2	9.3	8.4	47.1
1966	5,072	2.0	6.8	12.2	41.7
1971	4,203	1.5	4.6	9.5	22.6
1973	3,747	1.3	3.8	9.9	16.3
1976*	2,332	1.1	2.3	8.2	7.7
1981	1,511	0.6	1.2	9.0	3.8
1986	950	0.4	0.7	5.2	2.8
1989	700	0.2	0.3	2.3	0.9

Note: *1976 and later figures refer to government-controlled areas only.

Sources: Oakden (1935); Census Reports; Annual Reports of the Mines Inspector or Service; Industrial Statistics; Economic Reports; and Central Bank Annual Reports.

Demetrios Christodoulou,
*Inside the Cyprus Miracle: The
Labours of an Embattled Mini-
Economy* (Minneapolis:
University of Minnesota,
1992), 75.

Table 1: Mineral Production and the economy.

Year	Number of Employed	Share of Economically active population (%)	Share of GDP (%)	Mineral Exports as a share of all exports (%)
1921	>1,000*	>1	1.4	8
1938	9,200	5.8	17.2	62.7
1952	6,585	3.1	16.7	56.9
1961	5,300	2.2	9.3	47.1
1971	4,203	1.5	4.6	22.6
1976	2,332	1.1	2.3	7.7
1981	1,511	0.6	1.2	3.8
1989	700	0.2	0.3	0.9
2010	585	0.14	0.3	0.8

*The 1921 data is in shift days hence an approximation only is possible²².

It is also worthwhile to point out that as an export industry copper mining in Cyprus was very sensitive to global prices and global demand. Hence the industry's growth was not linear to Cypriot development. A slump in global trade, especially during the great depression (1929-1934) checked the great growth achieved in the latter half of the 1920s. The majority of interwar mineral value added growth took place after 1934 as Cypriot copper ore proved essential to German re-armament²³. Cypriot ore provided crucial raw materials in which Germany was not self-sufficient: copper and sulphur. Before 1934, Germany imported most of its ore from the biggest European producer of copper sulphate, the Spanish mines of the Rio Tinto Company²⁴. Yet Rio Tinto was facing an increasingly difficult situation in Spain, with constant labour unrest and threats of violence from the early 1930s. This led to the decision of Rio Tinto to reduce its investment in its Spanish mines, leading to a reduction of their output and creating a large supply-gap in the European copper sulphate market²⁵. With the outbreak of the civil war in Spain in 1936, the demand for Cypriot copper ore was increased further, leading to the exponential growth shown in figure 1.

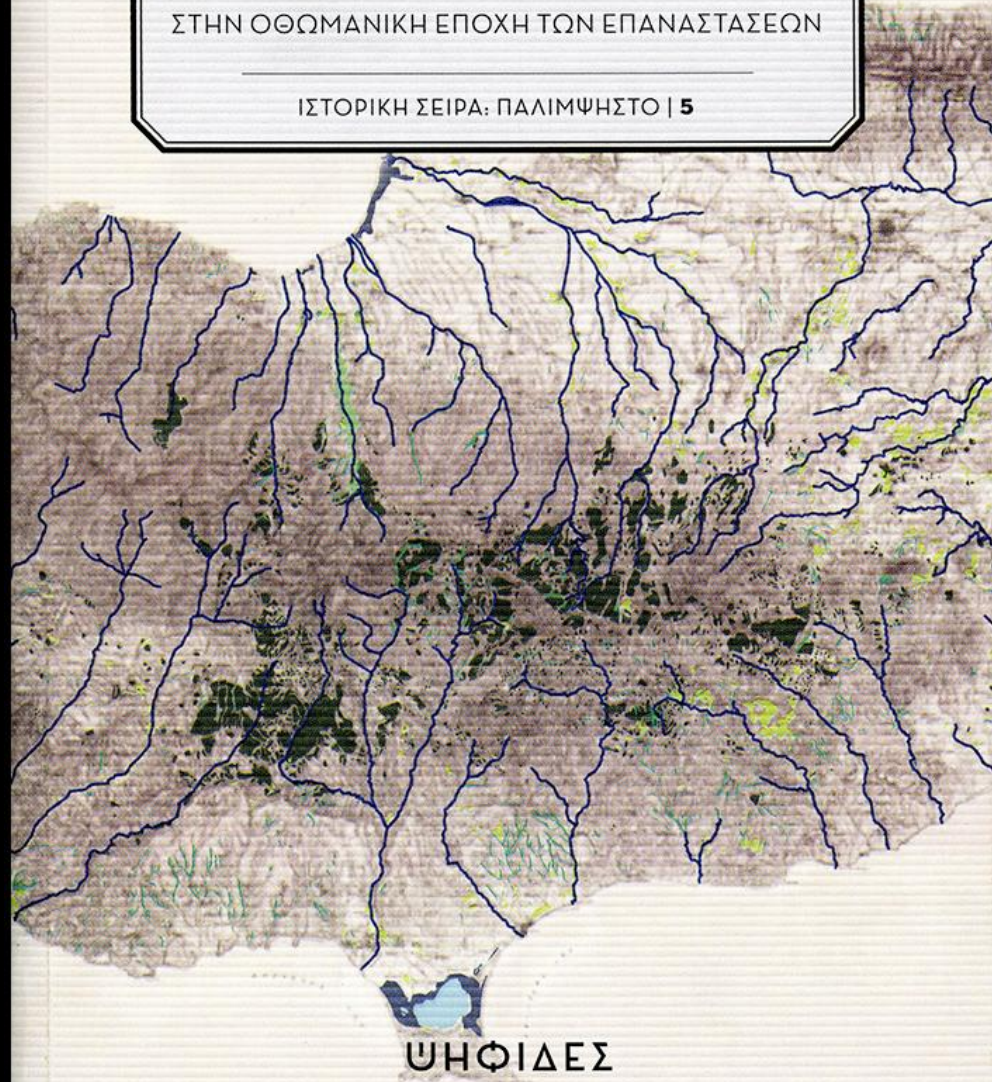
Alexander Apostolides, "Copper and Foreign Investment: The Development of the Mining Industry in Cyprus during the Great Depression," *Munich Personal RePEc Archive*, April 11, 2012, 10.

ΑΝΤΩΝΗΣ ΧΑΤΖΗΚΥΡΙΑΚΟΥ

ΧΕΡΣΑΙΟ ΝΗΣΙ

Η ΜΕΣΟΓΕΙΟΣ ΚΑΙ Η ΚΥΠΡΟΣ
ΣΤΗΝ ΟΘΩΜΑΝΙΚΗ ΕΠΟΧΗ ΤΩΝ ΕΠΑΝΑΣΤΑΣΕΩΝ

ΙΣΤΟΡΙΚΗ ΣΕΙΡΑ: ΠΑΛΙΜΨΗΣΤΟ | 5



θρώπων της Κύπρου και δείχνουν, για άλλη μια φορά, ότι η λογοτεχνία προκαταλαμβάνει την ιστορία.³

Με ποιους τρόπους δεν είναι αυτονόητη η γεωγραφία; Καταρχάς, αυτή δεν είναι αμετάβλητη στον ιστορικό χρόνο. Η έκρηξη ενός ηφαιστείου, λόγου χάρι, μπορεί να προκαλέσει την ανάδυση ή την κατάδυση ενός νησιού, ενώ, στη μικροκλίμακα της καθημερινότητας, οποιαδήποτε ακτογραμμική είναι διαρκώς μεταβαλλόμενη. Στο επίπεδο της ανθρώπινης δραστηριότητας, η διάνοιξη μιας διώρυγας ή η ανέγερση μιας γέφυρας μετασχηματίζουν τους χωρικούς συσχετισμούς. Ακόμα κι αν αποδεχθούμε ότι στον μακρύ ιστορικό χρόνο η γεωγραφία έχει μια σταθερότητα, η σημασία της δεν είναι αμετάβλητη. Αν σε συγκεκριμένες χρονικές συγκυρίες η Κύπρος είχε κάποια ιδιαίτερη γεωστρατηγική σημασία, λόγω της γεωγραφικής της θέσης, αυτό δεν ισχύει για όλη την ιστορία της. Άλλη ήταν η γεωστρατηγική της θέση επί βενετικής κυριαρχίας και άλλη επί οθωμανικής. Κατά την οθωμανική περίοδο υπήρξαν μεγάλες διακυμάνσεις στη γεωστρατηγική σημασία του νησιού, κάτι το οποίο ισχύει και για τη βρετανική περίοδο, παρότι αυτή ήταν πολύ πιο σύντομη. Είναι ενδεικτικό ότι το 1915 η βρετανική κυβέρνηση θεώρησε προς στιγμή ότι η Κύπρος ήταν αναλώσιμη και, παρά τις σοβαρές ενστάσεις του Υπουργείου Αποικιών και του Γενικού Επιτελείου, την πρόσφερε στην Ελλάδα ως αντάλλαγμα για την είσοδό της στον Α΄ Παγκόσμιο Πόλεμο. Επομένως, τα ιστορικά συμφραζόμενα μεταβάλλουν τη σημασία του χώρου.

Η διερεύνηση της κυπριακής νησιωτικότητας, του αθροίσματος, δηλαδή, των χωρικών ιδιοτήτων και χαρακτηριστικών ενός νησιού, γίνεται μέσα από το πρίσμα της «χωρικής

3. Λουίζα Παπαλοΐζου, *To Βουνί, Το Ροδακιά*, Αθήνα 2020· Christakis Georgiou, *Archipelagos: Twenty years in Labour*, The Book Guild, Σάσσεξ 1997 (ελλ. εκδ. *Το αρχιπέλαγος: είκοσι χρόνια γεννητούρια*, χ.ε., Λευκωσία 1990).



“CMC, mini bir hükümet gibiydi”

“CMC was like a mini-government”



“Pay day at Skouriotissa.” Photo taken by Ruby Jackson on 23 December 1923. Courtesy of the William Johnson Everett collection at the Center for Visual Arts and Research, Nicosia.

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IN THE PUBLIC WEAL

day programs and distributed gifts of cigarettes and clothing gathered by the village sports clubs. Because of their experience with the work, George and Elsie White were called to Egypt in August 1943 to help the Greek government with its entire relief program. Elsie White returned to CMC in December, but her husband was away intermittently until the spring of 1944, when UNRRA, the United Nations relief organization, took over the work.

Another far-reaching effect of the Whites' work was the spread of the weaving industry. A few individuals began studying the CMC program in order to establish similar projects at their villages. Then the government grew interested. When Tate became deputy controller of supplies, he searched throughout Cyprus for spinning wheels and looms, located no less than 1,900, and with them established an island-wide program.¹¹ After the war the work concentrated commercially at Nicosia and added another light industry to the island's resources.

With good reason Harvey Mudd wrote Duncan in 1942, "The Welfare Department has been very efficient and helpful and I now get more satisfaction out of their work than anything else we are doing on the island except insofar as we have been useful to the Government and Army." The Whites' reports in particular he used to take home and share with his wife.

Meanwhile he and the staff in Los Angeles were doing what they could to further the war effort in America. Bruce acted as a government consultant on zinc production. Henry Mudd went to Washington for a time as head of the fluorspar section of the War Production Board, then entered the navy. In 1943 his father became chairman of the Los Angeles War Chest, leading the fund drive well beyond its quota of \$6,800,000—a money-raising feat never before equaled in California.

To help produce strategic minerals, CMC organized a subsidiary, Coronado Copper and Zinc Company, which pressed exploration and development work near Goodsprings in southern Nevada, at Johnson Camp in the Dragoon Mountains east of Tucson, and in Sonora, Mexico. The difficulty of securing miners crippled the work in Nevada, and the lead-zinc property in Mexico proved too marginal to be exploited. The Johnson Camp operation held more hope. George Nicolson, who had left the island of Cyprus after Italy's declaration of war, went there as superintendent. Duncan Moir drew up plans for a 175-ton concentrator; and Claude Sides was put



A statue of a miner erected in Lefka in memory of the 1948 strike. The trilingual inscription on the plinth reads:

“On 3 March 1948 the colonial police fired on the workers to break the strike. This monument is built in memory of Mehmet Bilal, Izzet Ali Hacı Izzef, Ahmet Necat, Philippos Sapouros, Georgios Georgiades, and Frixos Zografos, who were severely injured; and in memory of the 76 miners and their spouses who were sentenced to up to two years in prison.”

Ομοσπονδία
Η απεργία, η οποία διοργανώθηκε από την
ΠΕΟ και την ομοσπονδία των Τουρκοκυπρίων
Εργατών ενάντια στην Κυπριακή
Μεταλλευτική Εταιρεία (ΚΜΕ) ήταν η πιο
σημαντική απεργία στην ιστορία της Κύπρου.
Αυτό το μνημείο χτίστηκε εις μνήμη των
εργατών, των συνδικαλιστών και του λαού
της Κύπρου, που πήραν μέρος στην απεργία.
Μια απεργία που ήρθε αντιμέτωπα με την
πιο σκληρή αντιπροσώπευση του
ιμπεριαλιστικού κεφαλαίου που εκμεταλλεύτηκε
τους πόρους της χώρας μας.
Δημαρχείο Λεύκας

VAT '69'
SCOTCH WHISKY

Διαρκής παρακαταθήκη παρά τῷ κ.

ΚΩΣΤΑ ΜΟΥΡΤΟΥΣΑΝΗ
Ταχ. Κιβ. 113 ΛΕΥΚΩΣΙΑ

Τὸ φύλλον
μισό γρόσι.

ΕΛΕΥΘΕΡΙΑ

ΚΑΘΗΜΕΡΙΝΗ ΕΦΗΜΕΡΙΣ — ΙΔΡΥΤΑΙ: ΚΥΡΟΣ ΚΑΙ ΔΗΜΟΣΘΕΝΗΣ Θ. ΣΤΑΥΡΙΝΙΔΗΣ
ΔΙΕΥΘΥΝΤΗΣ ΚΑΙ ΙΔΙΟΚΤΗΤΗΣ Δ. Θ. ΣΤΑΥΡΙΝΙΔΗΣ

ΚΑΘΗΜΕΡΙΝΟΣ

For longer long drinks
and snappier short ones



BOOTH'S
HIGH & DRY
GIN

ΕΤΟΣ ΔΑ'—ΑΡΙΘΜΟΣ 2280]

ΛΕΥΚΩΣΙΑ (ΚΥΠΡΟΥ): ΓΡΑΦΕΙΑ ΚΑΙ ΤΥΠΟΓΡΑΦΕΙΑ ΟΔΟΣ ΕΛΕΥΘΕΡΙΑΣ.—ΤΑΧ. ΚΙΒ. 25. ΤΗΛΕΦ. 217.

ΤΕΤΑΡΤΗ, 15 'Ιουλίου 1936.

ΕΠΙΣΤΟΛΑΙ ΕΞ ΕΛΛΑΔΟΣ

ΤΟ ΕΞΩΤΕΡΙΚΟΝ ΧΡΕΟΣ ΚΑΙ ΑΙ ΑΞΙΩΣΕΙΣ ΤΩΝ ΟΜΟΛΟΓΙΟΥΧΩΝ

ΗΜΕΤΕΡΟΥ ΤΑΚΤΙΚΟΥ ΣΥΝΕΡΓΑΤΟΥ

ΑΘΗΝΑΙ, 'Ιούλιος 1936.

Ἡ Κυβέρνησις, ὁ πολιτικὸς κόσμος καὶ ὁ τύπος εὐρίσκονται τὰς ἡμέρας αὐτὰς ἀπασχολημένοι μετὰ τὸ ζήτημα τῆς ρυθμίσεως τοῦ ἐξωτερικοῦ χρέους τῆς χώρας, δηλ. τοῦ ποσοστοῦ, τὸ ὁποῖον πρόκειται ν' ἀναγραφῆ εἰς τὸν προσηχὴ προϋπολογισμὸν διὰ τοὺς ὁμολογιούχους τῶν Ἑλληνικῶν δανειῶν.

Καὶ ἄλλοι εἶχον ἀπασχολήσει τὰς στήλας τῆς «Ἐλευθερίας» μετὰ τὸ σπουδαιότατον αὐτὸ διὰ τὴν χώραν ζήτημα. Κατὰ τὰ τοιαῦτα τελευταῖα ἔτη τῆς διακυβερνήσεως τῆς χώρας ὑπὸ τοῦ Λαϊκοῦ Κόμματος, οἱ ὁμολογιούχοι, καίτοι ἠγειραν ἐπανηλημμένους ἀξιώσεις πρὸς αὐτὸν τοῦ ποσοστοῦ 50 ο), τὸ ὁποῖον ἐκανόνιζεν ἐκάστῳ τῆς Κυβερνήσεως καὶ ἀνεγράφεον εἰς τὸν προϋπολογισμὸν, ἐν ταῖς πάντοτε ὑπεχώρουν ἐμπρὸς εἰς τὴν ἀδήριτον ἀνάγκην τοῦ «οὐκ ἂν λάβῃς παρὰ τοῦ μὴ ἔχοντος». Καὶ κατὰ τὸ παρελθὸν ἔτος, ὅτε αἱ ἀξιώσεις ἦσαν περισσώτερον πείσιμονες καὶ ἐστηρίζοντο ἐπὶ τῆς καλῆς ἐσοδείας τοῦ 1934, ὑπεχώρησαν μετὰ τὸ κίνημα, ὅπου πασιφανῶς πλεῖον εἶχεν ἔξαντληθῆ εἰς σημεῖον ἐπικίνδυνον εἰς τὴν χώραν, μέχρι καὶ

τὰ τῶν δανειστῶν τὸ ζήτημα τοῦ πληρωτέου ποσοστοῦ. Αἱ πρῶται ἡμέραι τῆς ἐν τῇ Ἀγγλικῇ πρωτεύουσῃ παραμονῆς τῆς Ἑλληνικῆς ἀντιπροσωπείας ὑπῆρξαν ἄχρσοι, μήτε καλά, μήτε κακά. Αἰφνιδίως ὅμως ἐλήφθη ἐκ Λονδίνου τηλεγράφημα, ὅπου κυριολεκτικῶς ἀνεστάτωσε τοὺς πολιτικοὺς κύκλους τῆς χώρας. Ἡ Κυβέρνησις συνεκάλεσεν ἐπευσιμένως τοὺς πολιτικοὺς ἀρχηγούς εἰς Συμβούλιον, κατὰ τὸ ὁποῖον ἐλήφθησαν ἀποφάσεις, αἵτινες καὶ ἐπηρεαγραφήθησαν πρὸς τὴν Ἑλληνικὴν ἀντιπροσωπείαν. Ποῖαι αἱ ἀποφάσεις αὐταὶ δὲν ἀνεκοινώθη ὑπὸ τῆς Κυβερνήσεως. Δλα ὅμως αἱ ἐνδείξεις πείθουν, ὅτι ὑπὸ τῶν ἔξω ὁμολογιούχων ἠγγράφησαν παράλογοι ἀξιώσεις, τὰς ὁποίας δὲν ἠδύνατο νὰ δεχθῆ τὸ Ἑλληνικὸν Κράτος χωρὶς νὰ συντριβῆ ὁικονομικῶς.

Συναφῶς μάλιστα ἐδημοσιεύθη, ὅτι οἱ ὁμολογιούχοι ζητοῦν 50 ο) ἐπὶ πλεονεξία διὰ τὸ περυσινὸν πρῶτον καὶ πέραν τοῦ 42 ο) διὰ τὸ παρὸν ἔτος. Πού ὅμως ἐστηρίζοντο οἱ ὁμολογιούχοι διὰ νὰ ἐγείρουν τὰς ὑπερβολικὰς καὶ παραλόγους ἀξιώσεις, τῶν; Διὰ τὴν εἶναι ἀφελὲς νὰ πιστεύσῃ κανεὶς ὅτι ἐτσιθελικῶς οἱ ἀντιπρόσωποι τῶν δανειστῶν ἠγε-

Στὴ Σκουριώτισσα καὶ τὸ Μαυροβούνι.

Δυὸ βουνὰ ἀπὸ χαλκὸ πού συντηροῦνε χιλιάδες κόσμο.

Συνέντευξη μετὰ τὸ Γ. Διευθυντὴ κ. Μπρούς.

Ἡ Ἐταιρεία πού ὄλο ξοδεύει, γιὰ νὰ μεγαλώσῃ τὶς δουλειές τῆς.— Πόσα εἶδη μεταλλεύματος ἐξάγονται.— Ὁ Πρόεδρος τῆς Ἐταιρείας ἐκπονεῖ σχέδια γιὰ μελλοντικὰς δουλειάς.— Μία δὴλωση πὼς δὲν θὰ εἶχα ἀπαίτηση γιὰ ἀποζημιώσεις.— Κατάβασις εἰς Ἄδου...

[Τοῦ ἀπεσταλμένου μας κ. Κώστα Μόντη.]

Ἀπάνω—ἀπάνω ἀπ' τοῦ Ξεροῦ τῆ γαλανῆ θάλασσα κ' ἐκεῖ πού μόλις δὲ φτάνουνε τῶν ἔξωχων οἱ Τροδοῦ ἀτέβατες



Τότε συνάντησα κλεισμένο σ' ἓνα δωμάτιο στὰ Κεντρικὰ Γραφεῖα τῆς Ἐταιρείας στὴ Σκουριώτισσα. Καμμιά πολυτέλεια ἐκεῖ μέσα— ὄλα ἀπλὰ, ἀπλὸς κ' ὁ ἴδιος ὁ κ. J. L. Bruce, ὁ Γενικὸς Διευθυντὴς τῶν μεταλλείων τῆς Cyprus Mines Corporation στὴν Κύπρον. Εἶναι δὲν εἶναι πενήντα χρονῶν, λιγὰκι φαλακρὸς, μετὰ ἀναστικωμένην στὴν ἀκρὴν μικρὴ μύτη καὶ δυὸ μάτια, πὺ ὁ κτυτῶν ἐξυπνα μὰ κ' ἀπονήρευτα μέσ' ἀπ' τοὺς φακούς του.

Μὰς σφίγγει τὸ χέρι καὶ μὰς προσφέρει καθίσμα ἀνοίγοντας τὸ κουτὶ τῶν ποῦρων Ὁ γοαμματίας κ. Χ. Σ. Κτωφίδης, πού μὰς συνοδεύει, λαμβάνει τὴν καλωσύνη νὰ πῆ λίγα καλὰ λόγια γιὰ τὴν ἐφημερίδα πού ἀντιπροσωπεύουμε καὶ γιὰ τὴν καθημερινὴ τῆς ἐκδοσῆ. Ὡστόσο ὁ κ. Μπρούς φαίνεται νὰ τὴ γνωρίζῃ καλὰ τὴν «Ἐλευθερία», γιὰ τὴ ψιθυρίζει ὁλοένα: «Μάλιστα, ἔξω»

—Θέλουμε νὰ μὰς πῆτε, κ. Μπρούς, μερικὰ πράματα γιὰ τὸν ἑαυτὸ σας.

—Γιὰ τὸν ἑαυτὸ μου; Χαμογελᾷ ἐλαφρὰ κ' ἀφήνει τὸ βλέμμα του νὰ πλανηθῆ στὰ χαρτιά τοῦ γραφείου του.

—Διοριστικὰ Ἀντιπρόεδρος καὶ Διευθυντὴς τῶν μεταλλείων στὴν

—Δὲ θυμάμαι. Γιὰ νὰ μὴ σὰς μιλάω μάλιστα συνεχῶς γιὰ τὸν ἑαυτὸ μου— ἂν καὶ ἐσεῖς μοῦ τὸ ζητήσατε—σὰς λέω, ἂν θέλετε, καὶ κατὰ σχετικὸ μὲ τὶς δουλειές τῆς



Ὁ κ. H. S. Mudd, Πρόεδρος καὶ Γενικὸς Διευθυντὴς τῆς Cyprus Mines Corporation ἐν Ἄδου Ἀντι-

ΓΕΩΡΓΙΚΑ ΖΗΤΗΜΑΤΑ

ΔΟΚΙΜΑΙ ΕΠΙ ΤΗΣ ΦΘΟΡΑΣ ΤΩΝ ΕΣΠΕΡΙΔΟΕΙΔΩΝ

[Υπὸ τοῦ Κυβερνητικοῦ Μυκητολόγου κ. R. M. Nattrass.]

Τὰ εἰς Ἀγγλίαν ἀποσταλέντα 29ην Ἀπριλίου μετὰ ἀπόλυθα ποσοτικὰ ἐξοφροτώθησαν καὶ ἐξητάσθησαν κατὰ τὴν 27ην καὶ ἀπεσταλμένα:

Ἀπολύμανος.	Ἀριθμ. μισθίων.	Ὀλικὸς ἀριθμ. φρούτων.	Ἀρ. φρούθων.	Ποσοστὸν φρούθων.
«Shirlan — Agral» Περιτυλιγμένα ἐμβαπτισθέντα εἰς ἰώδιον	23	3.624	16	0.44
Μάρτυς	10	1.478	9	0.61
Μάρτυς	10	1.622	41	2.53

Ὡς προκαταρκτικὴ δοκιμὴ οἱ καρποὶ τριῶν κιβωτίων περιτυλιγθέντων μετὰ διαφανῆ περιτυλίγματα (cellophane) ἐμβαπτισθέντα εἰς τὴν ἰδίαν διάλυση ἰωδίου ὅπως καὶ τὰ χάρκινα περιτυλίγματα.

Δὲν ἐσφάθησαν φθαρμένα φρούτα εἰς κανένα ἀπ' αὐτὰ τὰ κιβώτια. Ἡ ἐπιθεσις ἀνέφερε ἐπίσης, ὅτι οὐτε ἡ ἀπολύμανος

«Shirlan» οὐτε τὰ περιτυλίγματα τὰ ἐμβαπτισθέντα εἰς ἰώδιον ἐπηρεάσαν οὐτως ἢ ἄλλως τὰς πρὸς πόλιν ἰδιότητας τῶν φρούτων.

Μέρος τῆς δοκιμῆς μεταφέρθη εἰς Λευκωσίαν ὅς καὶ εἰς τὴν προηγουμένην δοκιμὴν, ἀποθηκεύθη δὲ καὶ ἠγορεύθη κατὰ τὴν 1ην Μαΐου μετὰ ἀπόλυθα ἀποτελέσματα:

Ἀπολύμανος	Ἀριθμ. κιβωτίων	Ὀλικὸς ἀριθμ. φρούτων	Ἀρ. φρούθων	Ποσοστὸν φρούθων.
«Shirlan — Agral» Περιτυλιγμένα ἐμβαπτισθέντα εἰς ἰώδιον.	5	778	3	0.38
Μάρτυς	4	594	9	1.50
Μάρτυς	5	774	32	4.10

Διαφανῆ περιτυλίγματα ἐμβαπτισθέντα εἰς ἰώδιον.

Μάρτυς

Εἰς ἀμφότερα τὰ μέρη τῆς δοκιμῆς: ταῦτες, ἀμφότερα καὶ τὸ «Shirlan» (ψυχρὸν ἐμβάπτισμα) καὶ τὸ ἰώδιον ἐδείξαν μειώσεις τῆς φθορᾶς ἐν συγκρίσει μετὰ τὸν μάρτυρα. Τὸ δὲ «Shirlan» εἰδείξεν καὶ πάλιν μίαν ἀνωτερότητα ἐν συγκρίσει μετὰ τὸ ἰώδιον καὶ μεγαλύτεραν ἀνωτερότητα παρὰ εἰς τὴν προγενεστέραν δοκιμὴν. Αὐτὸ δύναται νὰ ἀποδοθῆ εἰς τὴν καλλιτέραν τεχνικὴν τοῦ ἐμβαπτίσματος, τὸ ὁποῖον προξενεῖ ὀλιγοτέραν ζημίαν εἰς τὰ φρούτα καὶ εἰς τὴν προσθήκην ἐνὸς διαβροκτικοῦ παράγοντος

πρέπει νὰ γίνῃ μετὰ κλειστοῦς ψυγίτης.

Περὶ τὰ τέλη τῆς περιόδου τὸ πλεῖστον τοῦ ταξιδίου γίνεται μετὰ ἀνοικτοῦ; φεγγίτες τὸ ὅσον δικιολογεῖ ἀναμφιβόλως, ἐν μέρει, τὴν ἐλάττωσιν τῆς φθορᾶς εἰς τὰς ἀποστολάς ταύτας.

Ἐργασίον καὶ ἐπιχειρήσεις ὀφείλονται πρὸς τοὺς κ. κ. Ν. Π. Λανίτην καὶ Σίαν, οἵτινες ἐπέκριναν νὰ γίνῃ ἡ δοκιμὴ μετὰ ποσοτικὰ, τὰ ὁποῖα ἐφροτώθησαν ὑπ' αἰθῶν καὶ παρέλασαν καθὲ ἐποχὴν σχετικῶς μετὰ τὰς ἀπολύμανσεις καὶ τὸ πα-

Ἄπάνω—ἄπάνω ἅπ' τοῦ Ξε-
ροῦ τῆ γαλανῆ θάλασσα κ' ἐ-
κεῖ πού μόλις δὲ φτάνουνε τῶν
ἐξοχῶν οἱ Τροοδογατέβατες
ὄρασις στέκουνται τὸ Μαυ-
ροβούνι κ' ἡ Σκουριώτισσα.
Δυὸ ἄδεντρα βουνά κ' ἐτοῦτο
κ' ἐκείνη, δυὸ βουνά ἀπὸ χαλ-
κῆ πρὸ τοῦς' φύσηξε ζωὴ μιὰ
ἑταιρεία, ἡ *Comite Minis*
Comite Minis ἀπ' τὸ Λὸς "Αν-
τζελες τῆς Καλιφορνίας.

Excerpt from the newspaper
Ελευθερία, 15 July 1936, Κώστας
Μόντης, "Δυο βουνά από χαλκό
που συντηροῦνε χιλιάδες κόσμο."

Συντροφισσα πιστὴ τοῦ Μαυ-
ροβουνοῦ ἢ Τουρκάλα ἢ Λεύ-
κα καὶ τῆς Σκουριώτισσας ἀ-
γαπητικὰς τὰ Καλὸ Χωριό.
Πνιγμένη κ' ἡ πρώτη πνιγμένο
καὶ τὸ δεύτερο μέσ' στίς πρα-
σινάδες· κι' ἀκοῦς κι' ἀκοῦς
κάθε πουρνὸ καὶ σαύρουλο πό-
σα παρακάλια καὶ πόσα κλά-
ματα κάνουνε γιὰ ν' ἀποφασίση
καγένα σπλαχνικὸ λεμονάδεν-
τρο, καμμιὰ συμπονετικὴ ἐλιὰ
νὰ ἀκαρφαλώση καὶ στίς γει-
τονικὲς ὀλόξερες πλαγιὰς, πού
τίς καίγει ὁ ἥλιος τοῦ καλο-
καιριοῦ. Καὶ τοῦ κάκου...

“Όταν σου δίνεται ζυφικὰ ἢ εὐ-
καιρία νὰ δῆς μὲ τὰ μάτια σου, νὰ
ψηλαφήσης μ’ ὄλο σου τὸ κορμὶ
καὶ κολλώντας τῇ μοίρῃ σου νὰ
μυριστῆς βαθειὰ-βαθειὰ κάτι, ποῦ
ὄνειρεύτηκες κι’ ἀποθύμησες νὰ
γνωρίσης, τότες τίποτ’ ἄλλο δὲν
κυττᾶς, τίποτ’ ἄλλο δὲν προσέχεις
παρὰ τὸ ρολοῖ σου, ποῦ ἀγγοκυ-
λάει τὰ δακτυλάκια του γιὰ νὰ δεί-
ξη τὴν ὥρα τῆς ἀπόλαυσης.

Excerpt from the newspaper *Ελευθερία*, 16
July 1936, Κώστας Μόντης, “Μέσα στις
μαυρισμένες γαλαρίες: ἐκεῖ πού ο ἄνθρωπος
σέρνεται σα σκουλήκι στα βάθη της γῆς.”

Ἐὐ μεταλλεῖο Ἐκεῖ ποῦ σέρ-
νεται σκουλήκι ὁ ἄνθρωπος, τοῦ
ἡλίου καὶ τοῦ ἀέρα ἀπαρνητῆς γιὰ
νάβρη ἢ νὰ μὴ ξανάβρη πῶς ἀνοι-
γμένη τὴν τρύπα, ποῦ θὰ τὸν ξα-
ναβγάλη στή ζωή... Ἐὐ μεταλλεῖο...
Αὐτὸ ποῦ γινε κατὰρα καὶ κτηγό-
ρια, θροῦλος κι’ ἱστορία Αὐτὸ ποῦ
τὸ θέατρο κι’ ὁ κινηματογράφος,
τὸ μυθιστόρημα καὶ τὸ τραγούδι ἔ-
πλεξαν ἀραχνιασμένους πέπλους γύ-
ρω ἀπ’ τὴ σκοτεινὴ του ἰσκιόζη.
Ἐὐ μεταλλεῖο....

Acknowledgements

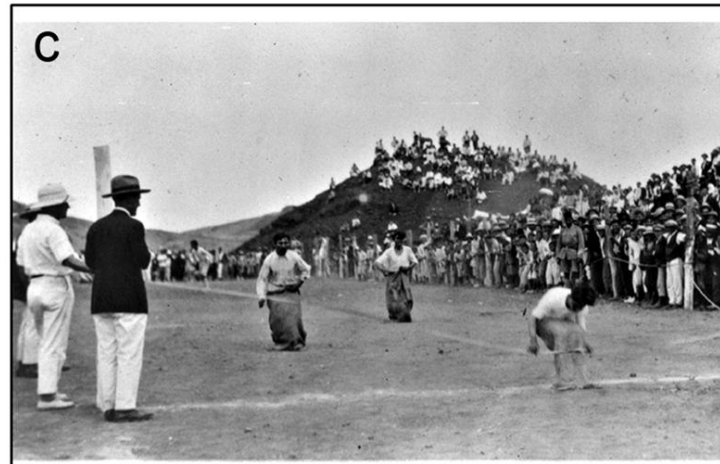
I am grateful to the Bank of Cyprus Cultural Foundation for inviting me to give this talk, and to the team at Bahçes Histories of Cyprus for making these events possible. Thanks to the Center for Visual Arts and Research for allowing me access to the Jackson Family Collection. Special thanks for helping this project become a reality are due to Michael Given, Marios Hadjianastasis, Anna Marangou, Christine Philliou, Matthew Shutzer, Elli Michael, and the community of Katydata.







a) The Skouriotissa slag heap in 1929; b-c) sports day at Skouriotissa, March 1929 (photographs from the J.L. Bruce archive, courtesy of members of his family). Reproduced from Kassianidou, Agapiou, and Manning, "Reconstructing an Ancient Mining Landscape," 996.





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