

Villhellenelle

George Economou

What Schliemann unearthed for the world to see,
down and down strata to Troy VIIa,
Ottomans pitch as their antiquity.

Pergamum, Ephesus, and Priene,
plus the towns 'neath Hissarlik that display
what Schliemann unearthed for the world to see.

Homer's poem's home, though no wooden horsie,
which they'd build if they could—and make it neigh,
Ottomans pitch as their antiquity.

Parts of "Priam's Prize" sneaked to Germany,
pissing-off Turkey, which then tried to stay
what Schliemann unearthed for the world to see.

It's all been theirs since 1453,
beautiful booty—better not betray
Ottomans' pitch as their antiquity.

Baksheesh from Byzantium, valued debris
that's been claimed and renamed to make it pay,
what Schliemann unearthed for the world to see,
Ottomans pitch as their antiquity.

Xeno, Xeni, Xenitia

Adrienne Kalfopoulou

*I wanted history to touch me
And stay*

Nicolas Samaras, "In a Time of Fire"

Xeni I am called when I don't understand
the Greek a public servant insists
I must write in. My father learned
German in high school,
the language of the enemy
when the mountaintops of northern Greece
were full of *xena* troops
who butchered and were butchered.

My father is disoriented
By my coming to the country he was
exiled from after the war, a place
displaced, while his
Greek self was replaced
by *xenitia*, a state of continuous
estrangement,
not without its blessings.

Paaa-xeni (more of
strange) to my father,
who generally considers women
complicated. I find it difficult to explain
the hospitality of this strangeness,
xeni to the ancients,
who understood the foreigner as *xenos*
both guest and stranger.

On the generous divide of otherness
unfamiliar to the self,
(the grounds, Anne Carson notes,
for ecstasy coming into
one's own through (an) other
makes me think of

Margaret Fuller
 in the village of Reiti
 where she gave birth in anonymity.

It was Giuseppe Mazzini's dream to make Italy
 a Republic, not prey to the other—
 in his time, the Venetians.
 Finally, a nightgown of skin,
 the lees of her mind spume-soaked,
 Fuller drowned
 with her baby
 and Ossoli
 on *The Elizabeth*
 wrecked off the coast of New England.
 Her Italian sojourn
 had made her *xeni*
 to her own compatriots,
 Hawthorne for example
 who based Hester Prynne on Fuller's
 having given birth out of wedlock.

For Hawthorne sensuous women
 remained other,
 and ecstasy, the ancients' nation
 of union,
 suspect.
Xeno to the Puritans
 who took over a land never theirs,
 the Native American continent remained
 Satan's wilderness,
 never a possibility
 for ecstasy—which meant
 One could not feel joy
 in foreign lands, including
 the self displaced, or
 replaced by its own estrangement
 a fateful *exenitia*
 I have fallen in love with.

Advice from Crow

Sam Hamod

I've been watching humans
for some time now,
we always fly together,
no one can break us apart,
humans move away from their parents,
their children, their friends,
to chase money,
we stay together,
we can always survive that way,
we can share our food,
and if any of us is in trouble,
we band together, because we are together
and mount a counter-attack, whether it be

hawks, eagles, humans, cats,
whatever, and we do not stop
until we have run them off or
knocked them to the ground,
when we move,
we move together, like humans
used to do, when they moved whole families
never leaving anyone behind, never
abandoning any of their own
but these days, we see them in
what they call senior centers, or
in hospital beds, abandoned, or
being given poison called anti-depressants
because they are so unhappy,
and getting worse, more confused,
though we are not loved by others,
and many shoot at us for fun,
we have survived
and will continue to survive,
long after these humans are gone,
long after they can no longer breathe the polluted air,
long after they can no longer drink the polluted water,

long after they can no longer eat their polluted food
because we can handle all these things,
we were built for longevity and survival

humans, if they were smart
could learn a thing or two from us

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