



Portraits of Juan Fernández de Heredia, from manuscripts preserved in the Biblioteca Nacional (National Library), Madrid, Spain

Juan Fernández de Heredia

Grand Master of the Order of the Knights of St John of Jerusalem and Rhodes 1377-1396

Since my very first holiday to the island of Rhodes at the age of seven, I have been fascinated with the story of the Knights of St John. I have been fortunate enough to return many times over the ensuing years and I have spent countless hours exploring the structures and wandering over the walls, back streets and lanes of the 'Old City' built by the Knights. I have enjoyed reading many books on the subject.

Last year, I added another book specifically about the Knights to my bookshelves. During the initial quick browse, a sentence jumped out one of the pages - 'He builds the Castel Rosso or Red Castle on the island of Megiste, which has given the island its popular name of Castellorizo.'¹

'He' is Juan Fernández de Heredia. I am sure that most Castellorizians will not be familiar with this name.

de Heredia was the 32nd Grand Master of the Knights of St John and without him, in all probability, no castle would have been built on the island and thus the name 'Castellorizo' would not exist.

Historians record that de Heredia was born about 1310 in the mediaeval kingdom of Aragon in Spain. Most historians state that he was of 'noble' birth as it was an absolute requirement to be of aristocratic origin to join the Order of the Hospital of the Knights of St John of Jerusalem (the Hospitalliers).

From about the age of 20 when he joined the Order, de Heredia secured the confidences of princes and popes. He became a companion to the heir to the Aragonese throne, Peter, with whom he shared a passion for literature and history. When Peter was made king, he appointed de Heredia to the position of Castellan (governor)

of Amposta in the Catalanian region of Spain. In this position, his talent for administration excelled and he furthered his taste for books by ordering the creation of the Cartulary (register) of Amposta in which were recorded all the charters, title deeds, grants of privileges and other documents of significance belonging to a person, family or institutions of the province.

Upon his appointment, Pope Clement V declined to move to Rome, remaining in France and in 1309 moved his court to the papal enclave at Avignon. The subsequent popes of Avignon found the Knights of St John especially useful servants and by around 1340 all the provinces of the papal states in Italy were being administered by the Hospitalliers in the absence of a pope in Rome.

During the reign of Pope Innocent VI, de Heredia, as the papal envoy, travelled to Rhodes in 1355 for the first time to enforce disciplinary and administrative changes that the pope was seeking in the Order.

In 1356, two of the highest offices in the Order were bestowed on de Heredia - Prior of St Gilles and Prior of Castille. During this time, he undertook studies of the ancient Greeks and began building his library. He had the support of Pope Innocent VI and settled at the papal court at Avignon, where the Pope appointed him governor of the city and instructed him to build the famous walls around the town. He maintained good relationships with the following Pope Urban V. He had the confidence of the next pope, Gregory XI and as admiral of the fleet, de Heredia accompanied this pope when he returned the papal enclave to Rome in 1376. For the first time in the history of the Order, upon the death of Grand Master Robert de Juilly, the Pope openly bypassed the law and in 1377 unilaterally appointed Juan Fernández de Heredia as the new Grand Master of the Order of the Knights of St John of Jerusalem and Rhodes.

Subsequently, de Heredia embarked at Naples for northwest Greece. The Order had already acquired the port of Vonitsa in Epirus in 1377.

KNIGHTS OF ST JOHN

by Maria Voyage, Sydney



From the Grand Masters Palace, Rhodes



By late April 1378, he was in Vonitsa. From there, he made a rash attempt to take the city of Arta (in Albania), but was captured by its lord, Ghin Buoa Spata, who sold him to the Turks. The Order paid a ransom without delay and by early 1379 de Heredia was back in the western Peloponnese of Greece.

The new Grand Master arrived in Rhodes in September 1379.

In Rhodes, de Heredia sought and found the required funds to bolster the defences of the mediaeval city, strengthen the walls around the commercial harbour, erect two new towers and refit the maritime fleet. He cared for the sick and the poor. During this time he built the 'Castel Rosso' on Megisti.

'The castle itself appears to have been rebuilt during the long reign as Grand Master of Juan Fernández de Heredia upon the earlier Byzantine fortifications...'²

'...the fortification...served both as a prison for troublesome members of the Order and as an attacking bastion positioned on the promontory...'³

de Heredia gained a reputation as a bibliophile and a patron of letters. During his duties as Grand Master, between 1379-1382, de Heredia commissioned the translation, into Aragonese, of Greek texts, until then unknown in the West, including *Parallel Lives* by Plutarch and *The History of the Peloponnesian War* by Thucydides, as well as the *Chronicle of Conquerors Part 1*, covering the period 780AD - 1118AD and Part 2, which was divided into 18 books, each dedicated to an illustrious conqueror of antiquity and the Middle Ages (including Antony, Octavius, Tiberius, Attila, Charles Martel, Charlemagne, Tarik, Muza, Genghis Khan, Ferdinand III and James I the Conqueror). He wrote, in Aragonese, a compilation of the *Chronicle of the Morea*, a description of the West European Crusaders who settled in the Peloponnese (called Morea at the time) following the Fourth Crusade (14th century).

de Heredia spent his last years at Avignon where he became a patron of learning and continued to build his library. There he died in March 1396.

Over the years, his books were passed down through aristocratic families and examples are now held in the National Library of Spain in Madrid.

His memory and achievements continue to be acknowledged. de Heredia is the subject of many books and articles. His alabaster tomb is preserved in the Church of Santa Maria la Mayor del Pilar in Caspe, an historic town in the Zaragoza province of Spain, which was originally a settlement founded by the Knights of St John. The municipality of Munébrega, in the same region, has named a plaza after him. There is a Juan Fernández de Heredia Cultural Association registered by the Government of Aragon.

History has recorded de Heredia as successful and revered. He was a consultant, confidante and counsellor, an author, a soldier, sailor, diplomat, humanist, architect, builder and religious Grand Master.

That de Heredia was held in such high esteem, the French historian Rene Aubert de Vertot, is recorded as stating: 'It would have been better had he never joined the Order at all, or, if possible, that he should have remained its leader forever.'⁴

When next you visit and stand upon, or look up at the castle ruins, spare a thought for Juan Fernández de Heredia and the very significant, but rarely mentioned role he played in the history of the island and the legacy that he gave to Castellorizo.

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THE FORGOTTEN WARRIORS

A Photographic Exhibition

At least 57 men of a Greek family served overseas with the Australian armed forces during the First World War, including the Gallipoli Campaign. Of these men, twelve men served on Gallipoli: Corporal Jack Mark, Lance –Corporal John Zavitsanos and Privates Constantine Aroney, George Cretan, Robert Crocos, Arthur Halkas, Percy Koukousakis, Leonidas Manus, George Pappas, Peter Rado, Roy Ralph and Anastasios Rebea.

Amongst the men who fought in France and Belgium were several Castellorizians such as Constantine Coufos, Arthur Halikas, Constantine Kailis, Stavros Kakoulas, Agapitos Michael, Constantine Passaris and James Basil Zempilas.

None of these men of Greek origin have been awarded an appropriate award by the Australian authorities of that time or since that time. In fact, Nicholas Rodakis, who was transferred to the 105th Infantry Battalion of the USA, was awarded by the USA the highest award, the Distinguished Service Cross for his bravery.

In WWII Angelo Barbouttis was conspicuous among courageous actions in battle where he had served in a Light Horse unit of the CMF before enlisting in the 31/51st Battalion. Lance Corporal Barbouttis, who was gazetted as carrying out an act of bravery in Papua New Guinea against the Japanese, has a street named after him in Townsville, yet no appropriate award has been given by the Australian authorities.

A petition of signatures were collected at this exhibition so that the Castellorizian Association NSW (former Club), the Australian Hellenic Historical Society and many other established Greek organisations, will present it to the authorities, on behalf of the Barbouttis family.

This photographic exhibition has been curated by Nicholas Malaxos and Tasha Vanos, and is an initiative of the Castellorizian Association NSW (former Club) and the Australian Hellenic Historical Society and supported by a local grant from the Australian Government's Anzac Centenary Local Grants Program.

*This photographic exhibition
The first exhibition to
It is touring Brisbane,*



AGAPITOS (JACK) MICHAEL

Agapitos (Jack) Michael was born in Athens Greece, of Castellorizian parents in 1884. The family moved to Perth Western Australia and he enlisted in Perth on 17 November 1916 at the age of 32. A cook by trade, he embarked at Fremantle on 29 January 1917 and disembarked at Devonport, England on 27 March 1917. He was promoted to Lance Corporal on 31 March 1917 in 11th Battalion and saw action in France. He was wounded on 26 August 1918 and admitted to hospital and re-joined his unit on 1 October 1918, returning to England on 12 April 1919 and then to Australia, where he was discharged on 25 December 1919. (Extract 'Greek – Australians in the Australian Armed Forces World War I & World War II by Steve Kyritsis and 'Australian and Greeks Volume II: The Middle Years by Hugh Gilchrist')

4 2 3
Exhibition is dedicated to them.
took place in Sydney on 21st March 2015.
Canberra and hopefully, Perth.
Bayer Town



CONSTANTINOS PASSARIS

Constantinos Passaris, the son of Anastasios Passaris, was born on Castellorizo in 1891. His family moved to Perth Western Australia where he enlisted on 23 November 1916 at the age of 25. He worked as a waiter and embarked from Fremantle on 29 December 1916 and disembarked in Davenport England on 3 March 1917. He saw action in France and returned to Australia on 8 September 1918 and discharged in Adelaide on 4 November 1918, due to poor vision. (Extract 'Greek – Australians in the Australian Armed Forces World War I & World War II by Steve Kyritsis and 'Australian and Greeks Volume II: The Middle Years by Hugh Gilchrist')



STAVROS KAKULAS (Kakulis)

Stavros Kakulas was born at Castellorizo, Greece in 1895 and he came to Australia at the age of 18 years and worked as a cook. He enlisted at Melbourne VIC on the 19 January 1918 at the age of 23 years and embarked from Melbourne VIC on 1 May 1918 and disembarked at Liverpool, England on 3 July 1918. He was sent to the 5th Battalion and on 9 October 1919 he became sick and was admitted to hospital and was discharged from hospital on 5 February 1919 and returned to Australia on 19 July 1919, and was discharged. . (Extract 'Greek – Australians in the Australian Armed Forces World War I & World War II by Steve Kyritsis and 'Australian and Greeks Volume II: The Middle Years by Hugh Gilchrist')

I AM DARWIN

by Tony Haritos, Darwin



Maria (Marie) Liveris (nee Haritos) with crocodile, 1951.

In 1914, a migration of Greek people to Darwin in Australia's north began. It was driven by the highly paid work being offered by the massive Vestey's Meatworks construction project and related railway extension from Pine Creek to Katherine River. By 1915, there were a few dozen Greeks in Darwin, then by early 1916, there were over a hundred and by 1917, there were several hundred the majority of whom were from Kastellorizo and included family names such as Haritos, Harmanis, Liveris, Kafcaloudes, Kailis, Margaritis, Taifilos, Macredis, Manolas, Katoope, Canaris and Paspalis.

The Haritos and Harmanis families are gathering from all over Australia at the Darwin 2015 Greek Genti Festival on the Queen's Birthday weekend in June to commemorate their arrival 100 years ago.

Eustratios (Stratos) Haritos set foot in Darwin 9th November 1915. Asimina Harmanis and her children including Eleni and Louis arrived in 1917. Eustratios and Eleni married soon after in Darwin's first Greek wedding. A Greek priest came from Perth to conduct what was in fact a double wedding.

The family is launching *I am Darwin* a 150 page coffee-table style book at the Genti.

The title is explained thus: when George Haritos was asked to describe his identity he said, "Well, I'm not English ... I don't feel Greek ... I'm not a 'Territorian' ... *I am Darwin.*"

The family is commemorating with a 200-seat dinner on Friday night, 5 June. We will have a marquee at the Genti with an exhibition and the book on sale. There will be a tour of the salt pans for many family members flying in from all over Australia that Stratos and his compatriots created in 1919. The family will also have a boat tour of Darwin Harbour which will include visiting the wharf that was built in the 1960s to enable exports from Louis Harmanis' mine at Frances Creek 100 kilometres south of Darwin.

The Harmanis family lived on Kastellorizo for a couple of generations prior to emigrating, and previously lived in Spetses, Hydra, Messolonghi and Syros.

Emmanuel Margaritis was a young man from Spetses in 1821. His exploits as a freedom fighter were such that Tourkomanoli became the single word epithet given to him. So recognised was his name, that it constituted the sole identifier on his death certificate.

The names Tourkomanoli and Margaritis were used interchangeably in the dowry contracts of his seven children. In 1904, Tourkomanoli, who had always been the protector of the family, died on Kastellorizo at the age of 103.

In 1915, Tourkomanoli's eldest daughter, Asimina Harmanis (Eleni's mother) was seeking a better life. She had been recently widowed with seven children and they were suffering great hardship. Work

opportunities in Kastellorizo were drying up. They heard about opportunities for work in Darwin and decided to immigrate.

Stratos Haritos came from Moschonisi island (now called Cunda Adasi in modern day Turkey) which is 45 miles south of Gallipoli.

Stratos Haritos was a soldier who had been shot in the head in the Battle of Sorovich in 1912 in the First Balkan War. His near-dead body was rescued from a pile of corpses by an uncle. After recovering at a Russian hospital in Athens' port of Piraeus, Stratos had a stint as a 'powder monkey', blowing up hills for rock to strengthen the Suez Canal. Stratos, likewise, having heard of work in Darwin, decided to move there. Stratos worked on the construction of the Fergusson River Bridge, north of Katherine, before constructing the salt pans.

In a classic tale of migration, the families came by boat with nothing and built their first homes with walls of flattened tin kerosene drums and floors of crushed termite-mound at 'Greek Town', near the area of Daly and Cavenagh and Smith Streets in the centre of Darwin. The women would walk down the hill to collect water from the wells at the Chinese garden – but only at high tide at Mindil Beach as that was when the water also rose in the wells.

In just one quote in the book, Louis' wife Helene Harmanis (nee Kailis) says:

"The Moo boy, Willy-boy, he could speak Greek and we would give him the order for loaves of bread in Greek, then we'd go down the hill to the Chinese gardens in the afternoon and buy lettuce and cabbage. We'd go to the Chinese houses after school and chat with them. Then when they'd set the table for dinner, we'd have to go home. The dairy was across the road. Martin had two cows."

And where are the Haritos and Harmanis descendants now? Sydney, Perth, Adelaide, Melbourne, Canberra, Brisbane, New Zealand ... and Mullumbimby ... and of course Darwin.

The book *I am Darwin* was just an idea on New Year's Day 2015. However, I was haunted by the memory of buying my father three cassette tape recorders over 25 years and saying, "Dad, get it all down", only to throw them away and never-used.

In writing the book, we have been reminded why – even for those long-moved to other places – we still have an abiding passion for Darwin which has given us so much.

Indeed, 'We are Darwin'.

Also commemorating 100 years in Australia's north is the Liveris family in December 2015 and Canaris family in March 2016.

<http://100yearsindarwin.com>



Asimina Harmanis and granddaughters



ughters Mena and Despina

Stratos Haritos and Eleni (nee Harmanis) and family.

Haritos Brothers talking to the Duke of Edinburgh on the Darwin wharf in 1956 before taking him crocodile shooting.

George Haritos mwth speared barramundi and Tiwi Islander offsider.

Kerasma
Food evoking memories
of life in **Kastellorizo**

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KERASMA - Food Evoking Memories of Life in Kastellorizo

Attention all those who have memories of life in Kastellorizo. Please help us in our voyage through time to discern and present a treatise of what life in Kastellorizo was like in its 'hey day' using food as a recurring theme.

In almost every culture, food is viewed as an intergral factor in the expression of a person's identity. *Kerasma* will be more than a collection of recipes, it will be a book that depicts the relationship between the Kastellorizian kitchen, food, memories and identity.

Many of us have heard the stories but more importantly we are very fortunate to have in our midst, many who were born and bred on Kastellorizo and who are able to provide us with valuable insights and recollections of what daily life was like.

Are you interested in this project? Do you think you can help? We have a questionnaire that we can send out to you to give you an idea of the type of information we are seeking. Please contact Anna Koutsis (+61407 003 367) or Helene Pappas(+61411 362 299) or send us an email kerasma@gmail.com

To become a member, to advertise or for general information
contact Marilyn Tsolakis,

FoK Co-ordinator | + 61 423 776 896 | coordinator@kastellorizo.com
www.kastellorizo.com | PO Box 2118 Churchlands, WA 6018.

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