

# Χαιρετισμός

Gabriella BULLOCK

Kyries kai kyrrii, Ladies and Gentlemen

TEN years after my first visit, Crete has become an unimaginably treasured part of my life. Every year it is like coming home, it feels as if I am among family. The link is deep and strong. At the University we have met many marvellous and inspiring people: hugely dedicated academics, and hugely impressive students. It is all such an honour.

This year my husband and I are here for this prize-giving ceremony, and also to take part in a commemorative ceremony in the mountain village of Patsos, in the Amari. The story of the abduction of the German General Kreipe has assumed the quality of legend. My father kept a diary of those weeks in 1944, and this was the basis of his book *Ill Met by Moonlight*.

It was his book, but it tells your history—for without the courageous help and support of your parents and grandparents, the mission would have failed. It did not fail. And there were some terrible reprisals, as we know. It is all very humbling.

My husband and I had the idea of donating to Crete my share of the royalties from *Ill Met by Moonlight* and *A War of Shadows*—the two books of my father's which, largely, tell Crete's own wartime story. Here at the University of Crete, two yearly prizes were established. There isn't much money in publishing, and the prizes are sadly not large. They are more symbolic. Our hope is that, in a very small way, they pay tribute, publicly and in my father's name, to the extraordinary courage of the hundreds—the thousands—who generously and selflessly gave so much, and risked their lives, to help him. They paid a very high price.

The book of *Ill Met by Moonlight* was first published nearly 70 years ago, in 1950. It has been in continuous print ever since. This is rare in the world of publishing. In 2017 it was published in Greek for the first time. I am amazed—and I think that he would be—that my father's little book still has appeal. His other wartime memoir *A War of Shadows* was

reprinted in Britain and America a few years ago. I am grateful that, together, they just about generate enough income to fund these small, but symbolically-charged prizes—which I hope will help to keep the memory of all that happened alive, for all those who care, and for future generations.

