Lecture Notes in Computer Science　7616

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Progress in Cultural Heritage Preservation

4th International Conference, EuroMed 2012
Limassol, Cyprus, October 29 – November 3, 2012
Proceedings

Springer

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Description of the Cover Page

St. Euphemianos (Themonianos) Church at Lyssi Village

The church of St. Euphemianos is situated about 3 km southwest of Lyssi village in the Famagusta District in Cyprus and is a small single-aisled church with a dome. In accordance with the founders' inscription at the basis of the apse, which was destroyed by illicit dealers in antiquities, we know that the St. Themonianos Church was dedicated by priest-monk Lavrentios, abbot of the Monastery of St. Andronicos.

The church, which is only 7.5 X 3.5m (without the apse), was built on rough limestone, next to a clump of eucalyptus trees, which is like an oasis in the lonesome landscape. The church was adorned with frescoes, which have suffered the ravages of time because of humidity. Therefore, the Department of Antiquities undertook the conservation of the frescoes in 1973, a year before the Turkish invasion of 1974.

The Frescoes

The fresco from the dome of the church depicts the Pantocrator at its center, inscribed in a circle having a diameter of 1.94 cm. In a band of 0.83-cm height round the Pantocrator, the Preparation of the Throne is depicted, flanked by Virgin Mary and St. John the Baptist, followed by standing angels who are praying.

The other fresco comes from the apse and depicts Virgin Mary standing, painted in the Blachernitissa manner, with Christ in a medallion in front of her, and with her hands raised in supplication between Archangels Michael and Gabriel. A large part of Archangel Michael's torso was destroyed from humidity, but his face and the form of Archangel Gabriel are in very good condition.

The frescoes of St. Euphemianos, Lyssi, with the careful drawing, the correct proportions of the figures, the detailed rendition of the characteristics of the figures, the harmonious colors the strong calligraphic rendition of the beard and the hair of Jesus, the suppleness of the figures in the apse and the light colors, constitute the last echoes of the paintings of the mid-Byzantine era in Cyprus. These frescoes date to the third quarter of the thirteenth century and are classified among the characteristic works of Maniera Cypria, the comparative art which developed in Cyprus under Frankish rule during the thirteenth century.

The Cutting, Stealing, and Illegal Export of the Frescoes

In the mid-1980s, in addition to icons, the first frescoes and mosaics detached from church walls started to make their appearance in the international art

markets. The first discovery, after the Kanakaria mosaics, was the thirteenth-century frescoes from the apse and the dome of the church of St. Euphemianos at Lyssi, which the Menil Foundation in Texas, following consultations with the Government and the Church of Cyprus, bought in 1985 from Aydin Dikmen, a Turkish dealer in illicit antiquities. These frescoes dating to the thirteenth century ad were detached from the walls of the church and cut into 38 pieces in a professional manner by a group of thieves, headed by Aydin Dikmen, who was well-known from the Munich case. This attests to the brutal destruction of the cultural heritage of Cyprus by Turkish illicit antiquities dealers in the Turkish-held part of Cyprus and also to the participation and support of the Turkish occupation army in the looting, given that St. Euphemianos Church is situated in a military area. With the consent of Archbishop Chrysostomos A', the De Menil Foundation built a small chapel-museum in which the frescoes were placed following their conservation and piecing together that lasted from 1984 to 1988. Under an agreement signed in 1986 and amended in 1992 between the Church of Cyprus and the De Menil Foundation, the foundation took over the custody of the frescoes for a period of 20 years, in exchange for the costs of scientific conservation and restoration of the frescoes. The final agreement envisaged the return of the frescoes from Houston to Cyprus on expiry of the agreement in February 2012.

The Repatriation of the Frescoes

The frescoes were repatriated from the USA on March 16, 2012, following coordinated efforts by the Church of Cyprus and the authorities of the Republic of Cyprus and are temporarily exhibited at the Byzantine Museum of Archbishop Makarios III Foundation, until the day the Turkish-held township of Lyssi, where the looted St. Euphemianos church is situated, is liberated.

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Preface

Welcome to the island of Cyprus, which has been a bridge to three continents in the world going back to the origins of civilization. It is a place where the fingerprints of several ancient cultures and civilizations on earth can be found, with a wealth of historical sites recognized and protected by UNESCO.

It was an honor for Cyprus to be chosen as host for EuroMed 2012. Moreover, it is the first time that several organizations have decided to cooperate together in order to create an optimal environment for the discussion and explanation of new technologies, the exchange of modern innovative ideas, and in general to allow the transfer of knowledge between a large number of professionals and academics during one common time period.

This conference was held during the period of the Cypriot presidency of the European Union's Council and just before the final negotiations at the European Union on the European Regional Funds and the next Framework Programme, Horizon 2020, which will be the largest in the world in terms of financial support on research, innovation, technological development, and demonstration activities.

The government of the Republic of Cyprus has included the European Union Cultural Heritage policy and the Europe 2020/Innovation Union Initiative as important thematic priorities in the work programme of the presidency of the Council of the European Union (Decision 11447/11 of the EU Council from 17.6.2011). Consequently, the EuroMed 2012 agenda focused on themes aiming at contributing to the programme of the Cypriot Presidency in the area of cultural heritage. Moreover, EuroMed 2012 enhanced and strengthened international and regional cooperation and promoted awareness and tools for future innovative research, development, and applications to protect, preserve, and document the European and world cultural heritage. Our ambition was to host an exceptional conference by also mobilizing policy makers from different EU countries, institutions (European Commission, European Parliament, Council of Europe, UNESCO, International Committee for Monuments and Sites ICOMOS, the International Committee for Documentation of Cultural Heritage CIPA, the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing ISPRS, the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property ICCROM, and the International Committee for Museums ICOM), professionals as well as participants from all over the world and from different scientific areas of cultural heritage.

Protecting, preserving, and presenting our cultural heritage are actions which are frequently interpreted as change management and/or change the behavior of the society. Joint European and international research has produced a scientific background and support for such a change. We are living in a period characterized by rapid and remarkable changes in the environment, in society, and

in technology. Natural changes, war conflicts, and man-made changes, including climate, as well as technological and societal changes form an ever-moving and colorful stage and a challenge for society. Close cooperation between professionals, policy makers, and authorities internationally is necessary for research, development, and technology in the field of cultural heritage.

Scientific projects in the area of cultural heritage have received national, European Union, or UNESCO funding for more than 30 years. Through financial support and cooperation, major results have been achieved and published in peer-reviewed journals and conference proceedings with the support of professionals from many countries. The European Conferences on Cultural Heritage research and development and in particular the biannual EuroMed conference have become regular milestones in the never-ending journey of discovery in the search for new knowledge of our common history and its protection and preservation for the generations to come. EuroMed also provides a unique opportunity to present and review results as well as to draw new inspiration.

To reach this ambitious goal, the topics covered at the conference include experiences in the use of innovative technologies and methods and how to best integrate the results obtained so as to build up new tools and/or experiences as well as to improve methodologies for documenting, managing, preserving, and communicating cultural heritage.

We present here 95 papers, selected from 392 submissions, which focus on interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research concerning cutting-edge cultural heritage informatics, physics, chemistry and engineering and the use of technology for the representation, documentation, archiving, protection, preservation, and communication of cultural heritage knowledge.

Our keynote speakers Kishore Rao, Ben Kacyra, Michael T. Jones, Thomas R. Kline, Nadia Magnenat-Thalmann, Daniel Thalmann, Livio de Luca, Eleanor E. Fink, John Greaves, Stefan Gradmann, Christina Sabbioni, Salavatore Siano, and Werner Weber are not only experts in their fields but also visionaries for the future of cultural heritage protection and preservation. They promote the e-documentation and protection of the past in such a way for its preservation for the generations to come.

We extend our thanks to all authors, speakers, and those persons whose labor, financial support, and encouragement made the EuroMed 2012 event possible. The International Program Committee, whose members represent a cross-section of archaeology, physics, chemistry, civil engineering, computer science, graphics and design, library, archive and information science, architecture, surveying, history and museology, worked tenaciously and finished their work on time. The staff of the IT department at the Cyprus University of Technology helped with their local ICT and audio-visual support, especially Filippos Filippou and Stephanos Mallouris. We would also like to express our gratitude to all the organizations supporting this event and our co-organizers, UNESCO (especially the director general Irena Bokova for supporting the conference under her patronage), the European Commission (particularly Androula Vassiliou, Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth), the European Com-

mission scientific and policy officers Michel Chapuis, Astrid Brandt-Grau, Wim Jansen, Fredrik Olsson-Hector, Alessandra Luchetti, Martin Lange, Arya-Marie Ba-Trung, and Irmela Brach, the director general of Europeana, Jill Cousins, and Milena Popova, Europeana's marketing coordinator, the ESF/COST programme Thierry Goger, Inge DePrins, Matthias Haury, and Soula Louka, the Cyprus University of Technology, the Ministry of Education and Culture and particularly Minister George Demosthenous, the director of Cultural Services, Pavlos Paraskevas, Antonis Maratheftis, Demetris Nikolaou, and Zachos Polyviou, the Department of Antiquities in Cyprus, especially the director Maria Hadjicosti, all the members of the Cypriot National Committee for e-Documentation and e-Preservation in Cultural Heritage and, finally, Christos Lambrias from the Press and Information Office, our corporate sponsor, Cyprus Tourism Organization, and our official carrier, Cyprus Airways, who provided services and 'gifts of kind' that made the conference possible.

We express our thanks and appreciation to Ewald Quak from Estonia, Eleanor E. Fink, senior advisor at the World Bank Group in USA, Joris Pekel from the Open Knowledge Foundation, and Stefano Campana from Italy for their enthusiasm, commitment, and support for the success of this event. Most of all we would like to thank the organizations UNESCO, European Commission, CIPA, ISPRS, and ICOMOS that entrusted us with the task of organizing and undertaking this unique event.

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Acknowledgement and Disclaimer

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