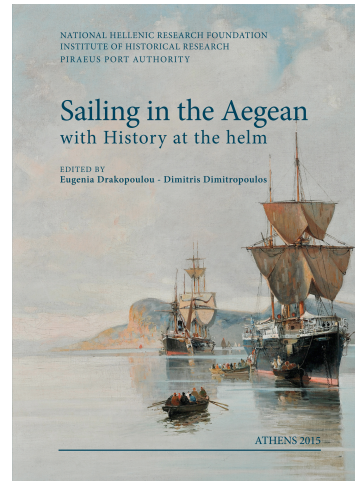




INSTITUTE OF HISTORICAL RESEARCH
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Eugenia Drakopoulou – Dimitris Dimitropoulos (eds.),

Sailing in the Aegean with History at the helm,

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History as it actually happened and fiction as History which might have happened are the protagonists in this volume. Thus, we have eighteen destinations and eighteen actual histories and fictions-as-history dealing with the ports of the Aegean. Today, these ports are reception centers for travelers, constituting open gateways to the Aegean’s natural beauty and to its products, culture, and history.

It was in searching out this history, not as a successive narrative of events and eras but as a flash of illumination on important or insignificant moments from the history of specific places, that we started this undertaking. As regards the style of writing and approach to various places, we attempted an experiment. Authors were asked to choose a topic anchored in a place and port, and to tell a story, that is, to recreate an incident involving “major” or “minor” history as they themselves would consider it most attractive and appropriate –i.e., by employing traditional historiographical narrative or fiction– but with a commitment to scholarly validity and documentation. In any case, the ultimate objective of our effort was not so much for readers to enrich their encyclopedic knowledge as it was for them to catch a whiff of vibrant moments from the past, to absorb something of an era’s atmospheric quality, especially if the volume happens to be accompanying them during a tour of the Aegean. For this reason, we sought a chronological span for the texts hosted in the volume that would extend from prehistoric times to more recent ones. As regards its spatial development, the volume follows that of the ports visited by today’s travelers.

In this volume 17 authors collaborated with texts for the following ports of Aegean: Piraeus (Angelos Chaniotis), Nafplio (Eftychia Liata), Chania (Kostas Tsiknakis), Rethymno (Eugenia Drakopoulou), Heraklion (Angeliki Panopoulou),

Santorini (Anna Michailidou), Mykonos (Dimitris Dimitropoulos), Naxos (Yiorgos Anomeritis), Syros (Christos Loukos), Paros (Marina Loukaki), Melos (Eugenia Drakopoulou), Rhodes (Efthymios Nikolaidis), Kos (Harikleia Papageorgiadou), Patmos (Zisis Melissakis), Chios (Katerina Dermitzaki), Lesbos (Panagiotis Michailaris), Volos (Dina Moustani), Thessaloniki (Anastasia Tourta).

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