
In memoriam Jacqueline KarageorghisMarguerite Yon et Demetrios Michaelides

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IN MEMORIAM

JACQUELINE KARAGEORGHIS

Jacqueline Karageorghis-Girard nous a quittés le 10 mars 2018, à l'âge de 85 ans. Elle laisse un grand vide, et nous n'oublierons pas son sourire et son amitié.

Il y trois ans, notre *Centre* lui avait dédié le volume 45, 2015 des *Cahiers du Centre d'études chyriotes*, sous le titre de *Kypromedousa* qui rappelait l'influence qu'elle a exercée sur la culture à Chypre, et la remise de ce volume (*Fig. 1*) lui avait causé une grande joie dont elle nous avait fait part. En introduction¹, nous avons longuement rappelé la place qu'elle avait tenue dans la recherche archéologique à Chypre pendant des années, marquée par une très grande ouverture d'esprit en même temps que par une modestie rare et une activité infatigable. Je me permets donc de renvoyer à ce dossier, présenté il y a peu de temps, accompagné par la liste de ses travaux publiés², et je me contenterai de rappeler quelques dates.



B. Imhaus, J. K. E. Raptou V. Karageorghis

Figure 1. Remise du volume d'hommage CCEC 45, 2015, le 4 mai 2016 à Nicosie, par Brunehilde Imhaus et Eustathios Raptou au nom du Centre d'Études chyriotes.

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1. Claire Balandier, Brunehilde Imhaus, Eustathios Raptou et Marguerite Yon, « *Kypromedousa* ("Celle qui règne sur Chypre") », Hommage à Jacqueline Karageorghis », *CCEC* 45, 2015, p. 15-22.
 2. Bibliographie de J. Karageorghis, *CCEC* 45, 2015, p. 23-24.

Jacqueline Girard est née le 3 juillet 1932 à Saint-Étienne dans la Loire. C'est à l'université de Lyon qu'elle avait fait ses études universitaires et suivi l'enseignement du professeur Jean Pouilloux, ce qui a eu une incidence profonde sur les recherches archéologiques françaises à Chypre. Depuis 1965, à travers nos rencontres annuelles lors des missions de fouilles de l'équipe lyonnaise à Salamine puis à Kition, l'amitié s'est renforcée au cours de plus de 50 années de joies, mais aussi de moments difficiles ou tristes, au travers des découvertes, des projets, des questionnements scientifiques divers...

Elle s'est installée à Chypre lors de son mariage en 1953 avec l'archéologue chypriote Vassos Karageorghis qui, devenu directeur des Antiquités de la toute jeune République de Chypre née en 1960, a fait de l'île un centre majeur de la recherche archéologique de Méditerranée. Jacqueline a participé activement à cette œuvre, à la fois par son rôle irremplaçable comme médiatrice entre son île et les innombrables visiteurs, amateurs ou professionnels qui découvraient Chypre, ses habitants, ses paysages et son histoire, mais aussi sa langue et sa culture quotidienne, et par une production scientifique de grande qualité. Demetrios Michaelidès dit plus loin la place qu'elle a tenue dans l'île où elle a su créer une harmonie entre ses deux cultures, la française et la chypriote.



M. Yon J. Pouilloux

J.K.

J. Deshayes

L. Kahil

G. Roux

Figure 2. Dr Jacqueline Karageorghis, soutenance de thèse le 17 mai 1975, à l'université de Lyon.

Jury : Professeurs Jean Deshayes (fouilles de Paphos-Ktima 1952-1955), directeur de thèse ; Lilly Kahil (fouilles de Soloi 1965-1973) ; Jean Pouilloux, Georges Roux et Marguerite Yon (fouilles de Salamine 1964-1974).

Elle était Commandeur des Palmes Académiques, Officier de l'Ordre National du Mérite, Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur, et Docteur *Honoris Causa* de l'Université de Chypre.

Sa thèse sur la *Grande Déesse de Chypre*, soutenue le 17 mai 1975 à l'université de Lyon – comme nous le rappellent quelques photos d'amateur aux couleurs un peu passées (Fig. 2) – et publiée en 1977³, et le volume *Kypris* paru en 2005 à Nicosie délimitent en quelque sorte une carrière scientifique exemplaire. Le premier ouvrage, un travail de référence qui part des origines pour aboutir à l'image d'Aphrodite que l'on connaît à l'époque archaïque, pose les bases et le cadre d'une recherche qui, au fil des années, se fera plus large et plus approfondie.

Trente ans plus tard *Kypris*⁴, un beau livre sur la déesse lié au concept de « route culturelle d'Aphrodite », le long de la côte méridionale de l'île, de Paphos à Amathonte et à Kition, marque l'aboutissement d'une quête qui, à partir du thème central de la présence d'Aphrodite, revisite des millénaires d'histoire des idées et de l'art, des artisanats ; il replace aussi l'île dans un large espace culturel et idéologique qui concerne à la fois l'Europe, le monde méditerranéen et le Proche-Orient. La grande déesse de Chypre est indissociable de l'œuvre qu'a su construire Jacqueline et à laquelle toute recherche sur Aphrodite, et plus largement sur les cultes chypriotes, doit désormais se référer.

À notre ami Vassos, à ses deux enfants Cléo et André, à ses petits-enfants, et à ses arrière-petits-enfants qu'elle a eu la joie de connaître, le *Centre d'Études chypriotes* redit sa tristesse, et le grand souvenir que nous garderons d'elle.

Marguerite YON

Maison de l'Orient, Université de Lyon

REMINISCENCES OF A PUPIL AND FRIEND

As I write this, I realise that a year has already passed since Jacqueline left us. A year full of well-merited tributes and eulogies for all the wonderful things she managed to achieve in her life. Thankfully, the tributes began long before she passed away so she was able to enjoy and I hope rejoice in the general love and appreciation that was bestowed on her, on one hand by the international academic community and, on the other, by just about every section of Cypriot society. In fact, few people coming to Cyprus from abroad have enjoyed and merited such unmitigated adulation from their adopted country. All praise her quality as an archaeologist, as a teacher and, above all, as a human being.

The facts regarding her life and career are well known. In fact, this very seat published a long appreciation of her work and personality, accompanied by a bibliography, in

3. 1977. *La Grande déesse de Chypre et son culte à travers l'iconographie, de l'époque néolithique au VI^e s. a.C.*, Maison de l'Orient, Lyon.

4. 2005. *Kypris, the Aphrodite of Cyprus, Ancient sources and archaeological evidence*, Fondation AG Leventis, Nicosie.



a. At Salamis.



b. Studying at home.

Figure 3. Jacqueline Karageorghis during her early years in Cyprus.

Courtesy Clio Karageorghis.

“*Kypromedousa, Hommages à Jacqueline Karageorghis*”, a volume published in her honour;⁵ while in the present volume, Marguerite Yon offers further informations and her own appreciation of a friend and colleague. Thus, I will not repeat all the detailed information. Suffice it to say that Jacqueline Girard was born in Saint-Étienne (Loire) on July 3rd 1932, and studied at the University of Lyon. She met Vassos Karageorghis in 1949 and they got married in 1953, after which she made Cyprus her home for the rest of her life. She did not practice archaeology as such, although, through Vassos, she was involved in everything archaeological that was taking place in Cyprus, and she continued her own research, writing articles and books dealing with Cypriot themes and, especially, her greatest love, the Great Goddess of Cyprus/Aphrodite. This culminated in her 1975 Ph.D. thesis at the University of Lyon, published in 1977 under the title *La Grande déesse de Chypre et son culte à travers l'iconographie, de l'époque néolithique au VI^{ème} s. a. C.*, and in the volume *Kypris, the Aphrodite of Cyprus. Ancient sources and archaeological evidence*, published in 2005.⁶ However, apart from looking after and caring about Vassos, Clio and Andreas, her day-to-day occupation was teaching French, and I was lucky enough to be one of her pupils. She was my teacher for only three years,

5. See note 1.

6. Maison de l'Orient, Lyon, and A.G. Leventis Foundation, Nicosia, respectively.

but that was the beginning of a lifelong friendship. The following are some personal reminiscences about a teacher and friend that marked and, in many ways, guided my life.

I was just 15 when I was sent by my parents to κυρία Ζακελίη to prepare for the GCE O Level exams in French. I had never met a French woman before, and I admit that as I cycled up the hill to 12 (now 16), Kastorias Street, I was filled with trepidation. When she opened the door, the incredibly kind smile in her eyes made me relax completely; and all I remember from that first lesson is her voice reciting Paul Verlaine:

*Il pleure dans mon cœur
Comme il pleut sur la ville ;
Quelle est cette langueur
Qui pénètre mon cœur ?*

I had little French at the time, so I cannot claim to have understood much of the poem but the beauty and rhythm of the voice drew me straight into the French language and French literature.

With my gradually better mastering of the French language we moved onto Baudelaire and then to Jean Cocteau's *Les Enfants terribles*; and, via Jean Cocteau's *La Belle et la Bête*, we moved to French cinema and in particular the films of Gérard Philippe, an actor for whom Jacqueline had a very soft spot.

It was not only French literature and cinema that we discussed, but also contemporary artists in France, Georges Braque, Henri Matisse, Pablo Picasso and others. Jacqueline introduced me to artists, such as Raoul Dufy and Andre Derain, that at the time, I knew nothing about, and she also gave me a number of the tiny booklets of the series that Éditions Fernand Hazan used to publish on contemporary artists, and which, diminutive though they are, still have pride of place in my library. A better way of learning a language and understanding a culture would be difficult to find; but Jacqueline was that kind of teacher and that kind of person.

She also gave me my first archaeological offprints, and encouraged me to pursue my interest and go on to study archaeology, something that was contrary to what my home environment wanted. She drove me in her car to see archaeological sites and new discoveries, and everything was tinted with a sense of discovery and adventure. In the late 1960s, when I was back from my studies in England for a brief holiday, she got me through the security guards at the entrance to the walled city of Famagusta (already out of bounds for Greek Cypriots). That was the last time I saw Famagusta before the Turkish invasion. The last time I saw Soloi was also with Jacqueline. The Christmas before the invasion, again on holiday from my studies, we went, with Cleo this time, to see the Canadian excavations there; and, most importantly, in order to pick wild anemonies, while Jacqueline was recounting the myth of Adonis and Aphrodite and how the anemonies sprang up from the former's blood drops and the goddess' tears.

Because of this association, anemonies were dear to Jacqueline but nothing like Cypriot *matsikorida*, a variety of highly scented narcissus. She told me many times how

their perfume reminded her of her first coming to Cyprus as a young married woman, beginning a new life in a new world that she found profoundly fascinating.

It is consoling to recall that the last conference she participated in (*Nea Paphos and Western Cyprus. New Archaeological and Historical Perspectives*) in 2017, combined many of the things that she loved and which marked her life and career: she was with Vassos, surrounded by many of the people that loved her dearly. The conference took place in Palaepaphos and Paphos, and she spoke to us about her beloved goddess: Aphrodite.⁷

It is often said that Jacqueline was one of the best ambassadors France ever had; but she was also one the best ambassador Cyprus could have towards the outside world. She never lost her Frenchness but she identified so much with the island, its people and its culture that she spoke like a Cypriot. She has also been referred to as ‘*une des Grandes Dames de l’archéologie chypriote*’;⁸ but Jacqueline was a lot more than that: a Grande Dame in all she did and all she said, and, above all, a great Human Being that touched the souls of many people.

Demetrios MICHAELIDES
University of Cyprus



Figure 4. Jacqueline Karageorghis, 2017.

7. “Sur les traces d’Aphrodite à Nea Paphos”, to appear in the conference proceedings: *Nea Paphos and Western Cyprus. New Archaeological and Historical Perspectives. International Colloquium, Kouklia and Paphos, 11-15 October 2017*, edited by C. Balandier, D. Michaelides and E. Raptou (in preparation).

8. A. Hermary, “Avant-Propos”, in C. Balandier, B. Imhaus, E. Raptou and M. Yon (eds), “Kypromedousa. Hommage à Jacqueline Karageorghis”, CCEC 45, 2015, p. 9.