RELIGION & CULTURE IN CLASSICAL GREECE

THE OLYMPIAN GODS & THEIR SACRED PLACES

Aboard the All-Suite, 114-Guest Corinthian II
May 1 - 13, 2007
COLUMBIA FACULTY

History Professor RICHARD BILLOWS has taught at Columbia University since 1985. He specializes in Ancient Greek and Roman History and Greek epigraphy. Professor Billows looks forward to discussing the intersection of religion, society, and culture in classical Greece, and has a long-standing interest in the origins of Christianity and its relationship to earlier religions. He is the author of numerous publications, including *Antigonos the One-Eyed and the Creation of the Hellenistic State* and *Kings and Colonists: Aspects of Macedonian Imperialism*. His current research interests include Macedonian and Hellenistic warfare, and Julius Caesar and the end of the Roman republican governing system. Educated at Balliol College, Oxford University; King's College, London; and UC Berkeley, Professor Billows has been a lifelong scholar of the classical world and is eager to share his knowledge and insights with alumni.

GUEST LECTURERS

KAREN ARMSTRONG is an internationally renowned author, lecturer, and broadcaster. In the 1960s, she spent time as a Roman Catholic nun. She devoted the next 10 years to studying and teaching English Literature. In 1982, she dedicated herself to writing and broadcasting full-time. Today, she regularly appears on radio and television and contributes to conferences, panels, newspapers, and periodicals. Her television credits include writing and presenting “The First Christian,” a 6-part documentary on St. Paul, and an appearance on Bill Moyers’ 1996 series “Genesis.” She is best known for her meticulously researched and comprehensive studies of the major religions. Her books have been translated into over 30 languages and include *Holy War: The Crusades and Their Impact on Today’s World*; *Muhammad: A Biography of the Prophet*; the international best-seller *A History of God*; *Jerusalem: One City, Three Faiths*; *In the Beginning: A New Interpretation of Genesis*; *The Battle for God*; *Islam: A Short History*; *Buddha*; two autobiographies (*Through the Narrow Gate* and *The Spiral Staircase*); and most recently, *A Short History of Myth and The Great Transformation: The Beginning of Our Religious Traditions*. Ms. Armstrong has been Tillich Lecturer at the Memorial Church, Harvard University, as well as a resident scholar at Lowell House.

AARON J. PAUL, a Harvard trained curator and art historian, is an Associate of the Material Culture Program at Harvard University’s Center for Hellenic Studies in Washington, D.C., where he is organizing the international exhibition project, *Greek and Etruscan Encounters: Contact and Change in Ancient Italy*. As Curatorial Research Associate of Ancient Art at Harvard University Art Museums, he was curator and catalogue author for the innovative exhibition at the Fogg Art Museum: *Fragments of Antiquity: Drawing upon Greek Vases*. In 2002, as the Richard E. Perry Curator of Greek and Roman Art at the Tampa Museum of Art, he co-organized the international exhibition and co-edited the catalogue for *Magna Graecia: Greek Art from South Italy and Sicily*, which brought Italian national treasures to the United States for the first time. Specializing in the field of Greek vase painting, he was invited by the Vatican Museums to research and publish vases in the Museo Gregoriano Etrusco, and has been a Visiting Scholar on several occasions at the American Academy in Rome.
Dear Fellow Columbian,

Next May, as Persephone steps out from Hades' cave to greet the wildflowers of spring, join Columbia Professor Richard Billows, fellow alumni, family, and friends for an extraordinary voyage in the Aegean of the Olympian gods aboard the luxurious all-suite, 114-guest small ship Corinthian II.

On our survey of the Mediterranean's ancient religions, we will cruise to Delphi, Olympia, Ephesus, Samothraki, Delos, Eleusis, and Athens—the most important sanctuaries of ancient Greece. Via expert-guided tours and on-board lectures by our superb study leaders, we aim to create an exciting, illuminating portrait of ancient Greek culture, and explore the history of rites and observances that animated the polytheistic pagan world.

Departing from Athens, our first call is Delphi, the omphalos, the center of the world. In this astonishingly beautiful, mountain-surrounded site, young Apollo slew the dreaded serpent Python. Pegasus tapped the earth with his hoof, the Castalian Spring rushed forth, and strange vapors inspired Sibylline utterances.

Next, we sail for Olympia, the great cult center in Greek antiquity and the birthplace of the Olympic Games. Amid the vast site, and around the titanic ruins, we will learn how the Games and their champions gave tribute to Zeus by athletic prowess, every four years, for more than a millennium.

On through Rhodes and Ephesus, both sites of former World Wonders, we cruise to the rarely visited far northern Aegean for a pilgrimage to Samothraki's Sanctuary of the Great Gods, the site of important Hellenic and pre-Hellenic religious ceremonies. We also see Mount Fengari, the tallest peak in mountainous Samothraki, which provided Poseidon with the perfect vantage point to watch the action of the Trojan War.

In Macedonia, at the foot of Mount Olympus, we’ll admire the treasure, tombs, and temples of Alexander the Great's forefathers. We then sail down to the Cyclades for the sacred UNESCO World Heritage Site of Delos. This is where Apollo and Artemis were born and commemorated by impressive structures, which exist now as extensive ruins.

Finally, we disembark in the Peloponnese to delve into the mysteries of Eleusis, tour Old Corinth, and conclude in Athens. Accompanying us will be travelers from Harvard University, the Archaeological Institute of America, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

The religious consciousness of the Western world begins with the gods of Olympus and the rich Ariadne's web of tales in which they are intertwined. Our story begins here, too.

Sincerely,

Eric J. Furda
Vice President for Alumni Relations

Telephone: 212-472-4365 or 866-3-ALUMNI (866-325-8664)
E-mail: travelstudy@columbia.edu

Religion & Culture in Classical Greece is the first in a unique three-part series of enrichment voyages entitled A History of God. This three-part series is a survey of tradition and practice in Greek mythology, Judaism, early Christianity, and Islam in the medieval world.

For travelers interested in understanding the development of belief in the ancient world, an enrichment voyage series has no equal. Each cruise, each destination, and each lecture is specifically arranged to create a broad, integrated understanding of our subject, much like a series of university courses within a major field of study.

Unlike a university course, however, you will have no grades, no examinations, no required reading, nothing to impede your enjoyment. Just the extraordinary sensation of seeing, and standing within, places with an extraordinary sense of the sacred. This is history—with the five senses.

You are completely free to embark upon a single voyage or more, or to join us for the full series.

The differences between Greek mythology and the three great monotheistic religions may seem stark, but historically speaking, they were never cut so clearly. The creation of the world in Genesis, the tradition of Easter, the concept of the Trinity—all had important concepts in common with pagan traditions, merging into monotheistic belief by syncretic practices. Join us for a fascinating discovery of continuity in supernatural belief.
Tuesday, May 1, 2007
USA
Fly from the U.S. to Athens, Greece.

Wednesday, May 2
ATHENS | PIRAEUS, GREECE | EMBARK
Upon arrival in Athens, continue to Piraeus to board Corinthian II. In the evening, transit the Corinth Canal. (D)

Thursday, May 3
ITEA | DELPHI | ITEA
The Sanctuary of Apollo at Delphi is one of the most impressive sites in Greece. Begin at the Castalian Spring and continue up the Sacred Way, passing the Treasury of the Athenians, the Temple of Apollo, the theater, and the ancient stadium. Also visit the Archaeological Museum. (B, L, D)

Friday, May 4
KATAKOLON | OLYMPIA | CHLEMOUTSI CASTLE | KATAKOLON
Today’s journey leads to Olympia, the birthplace of the Olympics, and a vast sanctuary of well-preserved altars, temples, and other ruins. Highlights of the site include the 40,000-seat stadium, the Temples of Hera and Zeus, the Council House, and the Treasuries. Enjoy the afternoon at leisure in Katakolon or, alternatively, take an excursion to the Castle of Chlemoutsi, a vast hexagonal castle built in 1220. (B, L, D)

Saturday, May 5
AT SEA
While relaxing at sea, attend lectures by the accompanying lecturers or partake of the ship’s amenities. (B, L, D)

Sunday, May 6
RHODES | LINDOS | RHODES
Arrive in Rhodes this morning and ascend Monte Smith, the site of the ancient acropolis of Hellenistic Rhodes. See the restored 2nd-century B.C. stadium, the theater, and the remains of temples dedicated to Zeus, Athena, and the Pythian Apollo. Continue to the ancient Doric city of Kameiros, whose extensive ruins include well-preserved Hellenistic houses. In Lindos, enjoy lunch at Mavrinos, one of the island’s best-known restaurants. Later, you may take a donkey ride up to the acropolis of Lindos. (B, L, D)

Monday, May 7
KUSADASI | EPHESUS AND PRIENE OR APHRODISIAS | KUSADASI, TURKEY
Settled in the middle of the 2nd millennium B.C., the ancient city of Ephesus was renowned for its great mother goddess Cybele, later identified as Artemis, or Diana of the Ephesians. Tour the site’s remarkable ruins, including the immense ancient theater and the eminent Library of Celsus. In the afternoon, visit Priene, founded by Greek colonists in 350 B.C., with its Temple of Athena. Alternatively, take a full-day excursion to Aphrodisias. See the 1st-century B.C. Temple of Aphrodite; stroll through the monumental gateway and baths built by the Roman Emperor Hadrian; and visit the well-preserved stadium, one of the largest to survive from the Greco-Roman era. (B, L, D)

Tuesday, May 8
SAMOTHRAKI, GREECE
Nestled in a peaceful valley on the remote and beautiful island of Samothraki is the impressive Sanctuary of the Great Gods. Most striking are the 4th-century B.C. Temenos, the sanctuary’s central building; the Hieron; and the Anaktoron, which served as a hall of initiation into the mysteries. Also visit the island’s main town, where whitewashed homes sit beneath the hills of Mount Fengari and the ruins of a Byzantine fort. (B, L, D)

Wednesday, May 9
PLATAMONAS | DION | VERGINA | PLATAMONAS
Visit the archaeological site at Dion, which consists of sanctuaries erected...
in honor of both Greek and foreign gods. Continue to Vergina, the ancient Macedonian capital of Aigai. View the ruins of the palace and the tumuli (chamber tombs) of Macedonian royalty, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Also visit the nearby museum. (B, L, D)

Thursday, May 10
DELOS | MYKONOS
Situated in the heart of the Aegean, legend identifies the pristine island of Delos as the birthplace of Apollo and Artemis. A walking tour leads to the excavation of the main shrines of Apollo and Artemis, as well as to the Terrace of the Lions, which guards over the Sacred Lake. Continue to the Cycladic Island of Mykonos and enjoy its celebrated labyrinth of narrow streets, whitewashed houses, and domed chapels. A remote fishing village until recently, Mykonos is now known as one of the liveliest of the Greek Islands. (B, L, D)

Friday, May 11
PIRAEUS | DISEMBARK | ELEUSIS | OLD CORINTH | ATHENS
Disembark in Piraeus and drive to Eleusis. Founded around 2000 B.C., Eleusis is home to the Shrine of Demeter. Continue to Old Corinth, with its Doric Temple of Apollo and 5th-century B.C. theater. Accommodations will be at the King George II Hotel in Athens. (B, L)

Saturday, May 12
ATHENS OR BRAURON
In the morning, take a tour of the Acropolis, crowned by the incomparable Parthenon. Alternatively, drive to Brauron to visit the Sanctuary of Artemis, a wonderfully situated site within hills at the head of a bay. In the afternoon, visit the National Archaeological Museum. (B, L)

Sunday, May 13
ATHENS | USA
Transfer to the airport for return flights to the U.S. (B)
Corinthian II — The ideal combination of cruise ship grandeur and small-ship intimacy

**Spacious Suites**
The five-star deluxe *Corinthian II* is an all-suite mega-yacht accommodating no more than 114 guests. Originally built in Italy in 1992, *Corinthian II* was refurbished and redecorated in 2005 specifically to create an atmosphere of effortless elegance and easy conviviality. All 57 outside-facing suites are a minimum of 225 square feet, appointed in rich wood tones with two twin-size beds or one queen-size bed, sitting area, TV, mini-refrigerator, safe, and a marble-appointed bathroom with fine toiletries. Several suites include private balconies accessible via sliding-glass doors. Fresh flowers and a bowl of fruit provide a bright and comforting touch in each guest’s suite.

**Fine Dining**
Superb Continental cuisine is created by *Corinthian II*'s European chefs and served either in the stately restaurant or *al fresco* on the wide sun deck, which is specially equipped for outdoor dining service. Select regional wines are complimentary with lunch and dinner. Fresh ingredients are chosen locally at many ports of call. All meals are served at one, unassigned seating; varied seating arrangements assure comfort for all. *Corinthian II*'s widely praised service equals that of the finest restaurants.

**Effortless Elegance Each Day and Night**
Returning from excursions, enjoy complimentary refreshments, afternoon tea, and all-day coffee in The Club, a civilized space for relaxation with panoramic windows. Before or after dinner, savor a cocktail while the ship’s pianist plays arrangements ranging from jazz to classical to contemporary. *Corinthian II* also features a library, Internet center, beauty salon, gym, elevator serving all decks, and a wraparound sun deck with jacuzzi. The 70 European officers and crew ensure an atmosphere akin to a private club for the length of your voyage.

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**Program Inclusions**
- 9-night cruise aboard the all-suite, 114-guest *Corinthian II*
- Two nights at the *King George II Hotel* in Athens, with breakfast
- Welcome and farewell cocktail receptions aboard ship, hosted by the captain
- All meals aboard ship, including house wine, beer, and soft drinks with lunch and dinner
- Complete program of tours and excursions
- Educational program of lectures and discussions by Columbia Professor Richard Billows and other accompanying lecturers
- Professional Travel Dynamics International tour staff
- Complete pre-departure materials
- Baggage handling and transfers aboard on the designated program departure and arrival dates
- Port dues and embarkation taxes
- Gratuities to porters, guides, and drivers

**Not Included:** Airfare; visa and passport fees; luggage and trip cancellation insurance; meals, soft drinks, and alcoholic beverages other than those specified above; personal expenses such as laundry, telephone calls, faxes, and e-mail service; and gratuities to shipboard personnel.
**MAIN SPECIFICATIONS**

Overall Length: 297 feet  |  Beam: 50 feet  |  Draft: 12 feet
Gross Tonnage: 4,200  |  Flag: Malta  |  Suites: 57

**Cruise and Land Rates**

All accommodations aboard *Corinthian II* are suites. They face outside, affording sea views, and several have balconies with sliding doors. All suites include a bedroom with two twin-size beds or one queen-size bed, sitting area, ample closet space, mini-refrigerator, TV, marble-appointed bathroom with shower, and other amenities.

**Deck Plan**

![Deck Plan Diagram]

**Rate**

**Category**  | **Description**                                                                 | **Rate**  
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**E** | Deluxe suites on Magellan Deck with portholes and sitting area. 225 sq. ft. Suites 250 - 252 | $7,895  
**D** | Deluxe suites on Columbus Deck with window and sitting area. 225 sq. ft. Suites 329 - 332 | $8,595  
**C** | Deluxe suites on Magellan Deck with portholes and sitting area. 235 sq. ft. Suites 254 - 262 | $9,295  
**B** | Deluxe suites on Columbus Deck with window and sitting area. 235 sq. ft. Suites 333 - 348 | $10,095  
**A** | Deluxe suites on Marco Polo Deck with window and sitting area. 235 sq. ft. Suites 416 - 428 | $10,895  
**AA** | Deluxe Suites on Marco Polo Deck with forward and side windows and sitting area. 285 sq. ft. Suites 414 - 415 | $11,795  
**VS** | Deluxe *Veranda Suites* on Erickson Deck with private balcony and sitting area. 300 sq. ft. (including balcony) Suites 505 - 512 | $13,295  
**PHS** | Deluxe *Penthouse Suites* on Explorer Deck with private balcony and sitting area. 400 sq. ft. (including balcony) Suites 601 - 604 | $14,295

**Single Supplement:** A limited number of cabins have been designated for single travelers in Categories D - A at a supplement of $2,695 to the per person, double occupancy rates. Singles in Categories AA - PHS are available at double the per person, double occupancy rates.

**Airfare:** Round-trip airfare from the U.S. to Athens is not included in the Cruise and Land Rates. Please contact Valerie Wilson Travel, Inc., the agency handling the air arrangements for this program, for competitive international airfares. To reach VWTI, kindly call toll-free 877-711-9896 or 212-592-1340 for air reservations and ticketing information, and please have your tour code (7412) handy for reference.

*Corinthian II offers all-suite accommodations, a luxurious comfort after a day’s activities*

*Relaxing on Corinthian II’s Sun Deck*
Enclosed is my check or credit card no. for $ _______ ($1,000 per person) as a deposit to hold ______ place(s) on Religion & Culture in Classical Greece. I understand that final payment is due ninety (90) days prior to departure.

Please make check payable to:
Travel Dynamics International
and mail with this registration form to:
Columbia Alumni Travel Study Program,
P.O. Box 169, New York, NY 10028.
(Or, fax to 212-517-7770.)
Phone: 866-3-ALUMNI (866-325-8664)
or 212-472-4365 in New York City
E-mail: travelstudy@columbia.edu

☐ AmEx  ☐ Discover  ☐ Visa  ☐ MasterCard

No.  Exp.  3- or 4-Digit Security Code __________

NAME

IN ORDER OF PREFERENCE:

☐ Twin Beds  ☐ Double Bed  ☐ Single Occupancy  ☐ Share

Cannot be guaranteed, but I will pay the single supplement if need be.

DR./MR./MRS./MS.  FIRST LAST

SIGNATURE DATE

SIGNATURE DATE

SEX

ADDRESS

CITY/STATE/ZIP

TELEPHONE (DAY) (EVENING)

E-MAIL

Each participant must sign below: I/We have read the “General Information” section and agree to its terms.
For further information about this travel program, please contact the Columbia Alumni Travel Study Program. You may reach us toll-free at 866-3-ALUMNI (866-325-8664). New York City area residents may reach us at 212-472-4365. fax 212-517-7770 • e-mail: travelstudy@columbia.edu website: www.alumni.columbia.edu/attend