Press Release 20/5/11

RUNCIMAN AWARD TWO WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Molly Greene’s Catholic Pirates and Greek Merchants (Princeton University Press) and Emily Greenwood’s Afro-Greeks: Dialogues Between Anglophone Caribbean Literature and Classics in the 20th century (OUP) are sharing the prestigious Runciman Award 2011. The winners will receive their award at a ceremony held at the Hellenic Centre, London, on the 8th June.

The Chairman of the Judges for 2011, Dr. Karim Arafat said of the winners:

“The judges were unanimously enthusiastic about Molly Greene’s Catholic pirates and Greek merchants, seeing it as very scholarly and well-documented, with new thinking on Orthodoxy, Ottomans and Rome and opening up many new areas for future research. At the same time it is very accessible.

The other winner is Emily Greenwood’s Afro-Greeks. This is a highly original book, thoroughly academic but appealing also to the general reader, not least through its consideration of familiar writers such as James, Walcott and Naipaul. It will no doubt also prove useful to all those who are interested in colonialism and its consequences.”

Dr Arafat also praised the other short listed books, whose subject matter covers virtually every period of culture and history from Homer to the present day.

About thirty books, on subjects ranging from Classical to Modern Greece, were submitted for the £9000 prize, administered by the Anglo-Hellenic League and sponsored by the National Bank of Greece. In addition to the winners, the short list included:

- D.W. Graham, The Texts of Early Greek Philosophy (Cambridge University Press)
- Edith Hall, Greek Tragedy: Suffering under the Sun (Oxford University Press)
- Gonda Van Steen, Liberating Hellenism from the Ottoman Empire (Palgrave Macmillan)

Notes to editors:

2011 Runciman Award join winners

- Molly Greene, Catholic Pirates and Greek Merchants (Princeton University Press)

The Runciman Award, named in honour of the late Sir Steven Runciman and generously sponsored by the National Bank of Greece, is awarded by the Anglo-Hellenic League to a book on Greece or some aspect of the Hellenic scene. Books published in English anywhere in the world are eligible for the Award.

The aim of the award, first presented in 1986, is to stimulate interest in Greek history and culture from earliest times to the present; to reward and encourage good and accessible writing, of which Sir Steven’s works are an example; and to promote wider knowledge and
understanding of Greece’s contribution to civilisation and values.

The Runciman Award Judges for 2010 were:

- **Dr Karim Arafat**, Director, Centre for Hellenic Studies, King’s College London
- **Dr John S. Taylor**, Head of Classics at Tonbridge School
- **Professor Leslie Brubaker**, Director, Graduate School, College of Arts & Law, University of Birmingham
- **Mr. Dionysis Kapsalis**, Director, Cultural Foundation of the National Bank of Greece

The Runciman Award Administrator is Dr Sophia Economides.

**The Anglo-Hellenic League** was founded in 1913 and is dedicated to Anglo-Greek understanding and friendship. It is a Registered Charity. In addition to the administration of the Runciman Award, the League organises events and activities promoting its aims. It also publishes the bi-annual Anglo-Hellenic Review whose main purpose is to inform all those with an interest in Greek affairs of Hellenic achievements, both past and present. The office of the League is at the Hellenic Centre, in Marylebone London.

**Queries:** For all information and queries please contact Dr Sophia Economides on: info@anglohellenicleague.org or call the office on 020 74869410 (voicemail).