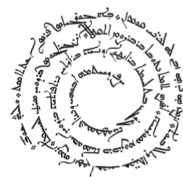


Before The Silence



BEFORE THE SILENCE

Archival News Reports of the Christian Holocaust That Began to be Remembered

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“In a room where people unanimously maintain a conspiracy of silence,
one word of truth sounds like a pistol shot.”

—Czeslaw Milosz

“The destruction of the past is perhaps the greatest of all crimes.”

—Simone Weil

TRIBUTE
TO



“NELLY”
ELLI SOUYOULTZOGLOU-SERAIDARI
(1899–1998)

“Nelly” survived the entire burning of her predominately Greek home town of Aidini, Asia Minor by Turkish forces. Through her photographs, she later went on to become an Internationally acclaimed photographer—whose work was much sought after.



“REFUGEE SORROWS”

The Turks bellowed,
“THEIR WIVES WILL BE WIDOWS AND THEIR CHILDREN ORPHANS!”
At times orphans were killed as Turks shouted,
“KILL ALL THE ORPHANS!”

A REFUGEE HERSELF, Nelly empathized with the sufferings of the refugees from Asia Minor. In 1926, the Near East Relief Foundation commissioned Nelly to photograph the plight of the refugees in a series she named "REFUGEE SORROWS." Through her camera lens she conveyed, *"their tragic wretchedness and the heart-breaking depths to which they had sunk."*



"REFUGEE SORROWS"



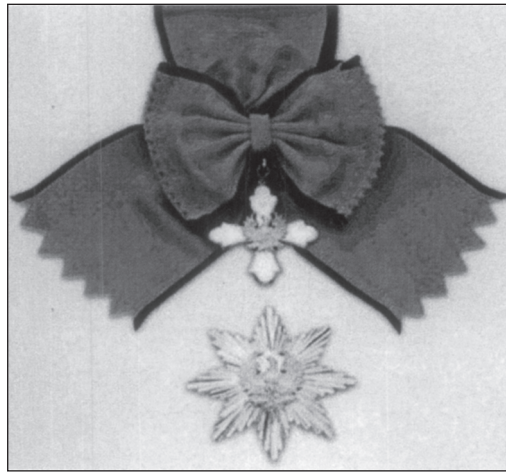
"REFUGEE SORROWS"

BEFORE HER 100TH BIRTHDAY, a retrospective of her work, *“From Athens to New York The Work of Elli Seraïdari”* was exhibited at New York City’s prestigious INTERNATIONAL CENTER OF PHOTOGRAPHY [ICP]. The exhibition was curated by Katerina Koskina, from the J.F. Costopoulos Foundation. Nelly’s works were drawn from the Benaki Museum’s Photographic Archives, and from Nelly’s personal collection as well.

Her photograph of a Greek Evzone (of the elite presidential guard) appeared on the cover of
LIFE Magazine—December 16, 1940

With her camera Nelly captured a legacy of extraordinary images of olden Athens, factory interiors, agricultural scenes, architectural edifices, and portraits that ranged from shepherds to noted figures such as Prime Minister Eleftherios Venizelos, the Greek poet Kostis Palamas—and more.

The book *Nelly’s from Athens to New York: A Retrospective Exhibition of the work of Eli Seraïdari* contains some fine examples of Nelly’s memorable photographs. It was published by Bastas-Plessas Editions, 1997. ISBN 960-7418-27-1. (Out-of-print).



In 1995, Nelly was awarded the “ORDER OF THE PHOENIX”
the highest honor a civilian can receive from the Greek Government.

Nelly’s death on 17 August 1998, was reported by at least two newspapers:..

The New York Times, 19 August 1998. Headline: “Photographer Nelly died at 99”

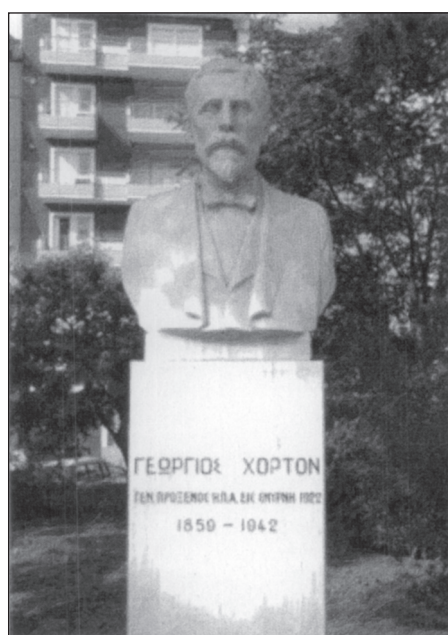
EXCERPT: She embarked on her photographic career in 1922 when the Turks were decimating Smyrni and other Greek cities on the Asia Minor coast. The Turks had burnt Nelly’s birthplace in 1920.

Athens News Agency, 19 August 1998. Headline: “Pioneering photographer ‘Nelly’ dies at 99”

EXCERPT: Born in Aidini, [common use] [*Aydin*, International use] [*Idnion*, Greek use] Asia Minor in 1899, Nelly survived the destruction of the predominately ethnic Greek town by Turkish forces in 1919 before moving to Smyrna and then to Dresden, Germany, where she studied music, art and photography. She first arrived in mainland Greece in 1924.

“NELLY” ELLI SOUYOULTZOGLOU-SERAIDARI’S funeral was held with state honors at the Nea Smyrni Cemetery in Athens.

POINT OF INTEREST: *Nea Smyrni* (New Smyrna), Athens, Greece is where many of the refugees from Smyrna, Asia Minor settled. The ESTIA MUSEUM in Nea Smyrni operates as a cultural museum and houses the Asia Minor heritage. On the grounds of The Estia Museum stands a bust of the beloved GEORGE HORTON who was the United States Consul General for 30 years in the Near East and in Smyrna. Horton was a noted literary critic, author, and poet of several books, including his legacy of the two historical books: *The Blight of Asia* and *Report on Turkey*. (SKK)



GEORGE HORTON
1850–1942

PLEASE SEE THE NEWS FROM NELLY’S HOMETOWN:

The New York Times, July 6, 1919. Headlines: “TURKS OCCUPY AIDIN.” “Greeks Evacuate Asia Minor Town, Taking Civilians with Them.”

The New York Times, 15 August 1919. Headlines: “Turks Slay 21 Boy Scouts” “20 Defenders at Aidin.”