

# Rare ancient coins on display

Rare ancient coins, representative of many parts of the ancient Hellenic world, with the focus on the Black Sea and Asia Minor regions, are on display at the Foundation of the Hellenic World (FWH), or "Hellenic Cosmos" as it is more popularly known.

"The FWH numismatics collection is the fourth largest Asia Minor collection in the world and reached Greece in 2007 from a German collector who wanted to sell it," Foundation managing director Dimitris Efraimoglou told ANA-MPA.

He noted that only a part of the collection is currently on exhibit, but gradually the entire collection will be on display.

The exhibition presents coins depicting gods and deities of antiquity, nymphs and heroes worshipped in the city or kingdom that minted the coin, depictions of temples and public buildings, statues that were found in sacred or public places, the region's flora and fauna, and even themes from Homer's Iliad.

A total of 160 coins from the Collection of the Foundation of the Hellenic World, the fourth largest



coin collection from Asia Minor in the world, are initially on display. Geographically the exhibition covers the largest part of the ancient Hellenic world, from Thrace to Mesopotamia, while it covers the time span between the 6th century BC and the 3rd century AD.

Unique representations and inscriptions on the coins bring to light unknown information about every

aspect of life during that period of time.

The collection includes more than 13,000 coins and was purchased from the German collector Karl Eduard Reinhard Donat on 29 November 2007.

The coins are exhibited in ten showcases, each one dealing with a specific subject matter.

The newly acquired numismatic collection was built up by three generations of collectors from the same family in accordance with the European humanitarian ideals of the 19th and early 20th century.

The collection consists of 12,854 ancient Greek coins, dating from the 6th century BC to the 4th century AD, 254 Byzantine coins, 320 Byzantine lead seals, 104 Arabo-Byzantine coins of the Artukid dynasty, 99 seals and weights and 58 small objects.

The coins represent most of the regions of the ancient Hellenic world, from present-day France to Egypt, with emphasis on the Black Sea area and Asia Minor.

The exhibition will run through February 28. (ANA)

## George and Helen dual face of Channel Ten news

“Helen Kapalos & George Donikian will present Channel Ten’s new extended daily news service”



George Donikian and Helen Kapalos in Melbourne’s Channel Ten studios

Greek Australian news readers George Donikian and Helen Kapalos are teaming up to co-anchor the five o’clock news as part of a channel Ten news revamp.

Starting from January 24, Donikian and Kapalos will co-host an hour of news from 5pm, followed by a half hour current affair program hosted by George Negus at 6pm, local news with channel Ten veteran Mal Walden at 6:30pm and then the entertainment current affairs program The 7pm project.

The news presenters, who have worked together on shorter stints in the past said their on-air chemistry makes them a winning duo.

"We genuinely like one another and I think when we've got that respect and you're with a colleague it's almost like an aspirational relationship," Kapalos told Neos Kosmos.

"George wants me to be the best I can be, and I want the same for him, she said, adding "it is like a marriage, my boss told me when I first started there'll be days when your co-anchor is in a bad mood and you're there to lift them up".

Nicknamed "hurricane Helen" for her indefatigable nature, Kapalos said consistency is vital to being a good news presenter.

"The most difficult thing is keeping that energy for 5pm".

The onscreen duo said their chemistry most definitely comes from being Greek.

"We try not to distance ourselves from anyone but we do have great chats during the day often," Kapalos said.

"I love that we're both Greeks, for me, having come down here from Newcastle and Sydney, the Greeks in Melbourne just lift your spirits," she said.

Asked if the teaming of two Greeks on a prime time commercial news program was revolutionary, Donikian responded "it's not just revolutionary, this is the first in the world".

It hasn't always been an easy road, Kapalos said. "People wanted me to

change my Greek name when I first started. I was too old, not small enough, I was subjected to all of those stereotypes".

Donikian encountered a similar struggle. "I was told I could be George White, Brown, Black, any colour, but having an 'ethnic' name, they didn't want."

Kapalos said covering the Athens Olympics was her biggest breakthrough. "Nothing was going to stop me going there. I had such a focus and an intent to cover the story, even though channel Nine told me there hadn't been a woman sent overseas for 20 years," she said, adding "I'm a female but I'm a reporter; I'm not a dol-

ly-bird".

Donikian is enthusiastic about channel Ten's new venture. "We're calling it a revolution, it's exciting, and Helen's going to lead the five o'clock news in a way no one has ever seen before," Donikian said. "I'm thrilled that I can finally come out of the shadows, I have an identity here, and it's a Hellenic identity".

Kapalos said she feels "buoyed" by her Greek identity.

"It gives me such a sense of pride, I feel like I inherited this huge Greek family in Melbourne," she said. "It's awesome, I love it."

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