



The Circle of Hellenic Academics in Boston

A LECTURE ON Disease and Therapy: Medical and other Therapeutical Practices in Prehistoric Eastern Mediterranean

By Professor Eleni Mantzourani
University of Athens, Athens Greece

DATE: Sunday, March 8, 2015
TIME: 2:00 p.m.
PLACE: Alumnae Lounge, **TUFTS University**
40 Talbot Avenue, Medford, MA 02155

*A reception will follow the lecture and discussion
also celebrating the one-year anniversary of the Circle*

ABSTRACT

This lecture addresses the issue of health and the medical and other therapeutical practices in the east Mediterranean during later Prehistory, namely the 3rd and 2nd millennium BC. The main sources, from which knowledge regarding the health conditions of any given population in prehistoric times derives, are the study of the skeletal remains, the archaeological finds and the textual evidence. Three key-areas are examined: Egypt, Mesopotamia and the Aegean. Although Egypt offers the most detailed picture regarding diseases and their therapy, important insights may be gained as regards the other two areas, too. Thus, the treatment of wounds and other external injuries (legs, feet, arms and head) suggests a sophisticated knowledge of orthopedics and surgery. There is also evidence for infectious diseases, caused by viruses and/or bacteria. Hence, disease and injury would have played an important role in life and death in prehistoric east Mediterranean. It is argued that healing and medicine would probably have begun as closely related to magical and other ritual practices.

Biographical Information: Dr. Mantzourani holds a BA in History and Archeology from the University of Athens and an MA and a PhD in Archeology from the University of London. She is presently Professor of Archeology at the University of Athens where she has been a staff member since 1981. Her research interests are in Minoan Archeology, Cypriote Archeology and Archeological Surface Survey. She has been a visiting Professor in several European (Italy, Spain and Great Britain) and US Universities.

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The Circle of Hellenic Academics in Boston was established in January of 2014 and aims to: *Sponsor educational and intellectual events; Network with graduate and undergraduate students of Hellenic descent; Establish and administer a scholarship and awards program, and Interact with institutions and organizations, which share the same goals and purposes*

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