

Eastern Churches NEWS-LETTER

*A quarterly publication of the
Anglican and Eastern Churches Association*

No responsibility can be accepted either by the General Committee
or by the Editor for the views expressed by contributors.

No. 37

APRIL, 1965

CONTENTS:

Editorial.

Anglican/Orthodox Conversations.

News and Causerie.

Letter from Alexandria.

Book Review.

Price 2/-, post free, to non-members

**THE ANGLICAN AND EASTERN CHURCHES
ASSOCIATION**

founded in 1864

Orthodox Patron:

The Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople
His All Holiness Athenagoras I

Anglican Patron:

His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury

Anglican President:

The Bishop of London

Orthodox President:

Metropolitan Athenagoras of Thyatira

Chairman of Committee:

The Revd. AUSTIN OAKLEY

General Secretary:

The Revd. HAROLD EMBLETON, R.N.,
88 Farlington Avenue, Drayton, Portsmouth

Treasurer:

J. S. ULLMER, Esq.,
32 Chiltley Way, Midhurst Road, Liphook, Hants

Editor of News-Letter:

The Revd. HAROLD EMBLETON, R.N.

EDITORIAL

No apology is required for the fact that so much space is taken up this quarter by the visit to London of the Representatives of the Oecumenical Patriarch, the Most Revd. Metropolitans of Helioupolis and Myra. They came to convey formally to the Archbishop of Canterbury the decisions of the Third Pan-Orthodox Conference in Rhodes in November, 1964: on their way to London they called upon the Pope in Rome; and from here they went on to the Netherlands to visit Archbishop Rinkel of Utrecht, Primate of the Old Catholics, with the same purpose of acquainting them of the decisions taken by Orthodoxy as a whole in solemn conference.

By a most happy coincidence (or, as I would prefer to say, Providentially) their visit coincided with the regular half-yearly meeting of the Church of England's Council on Foreign Relations at Lambeth Palace. That session, therefore, began with and was largely devoted to the reception of the distinguished visitors from the Phanar and to the exchange of formal and informal messages. The text of these will be found in this number of the News-Letter.

Apart from the presence there of our Anglican Patron and our Orthodox President, the Association participated in the persons of our Chairman of Committee, General Secretary, and about half the Committee, who were present as members of the Council; and it is with real pleasure that we record that our Chairman, the Revd. Austin Oakley, was among those decorated with the Patriarchal Order of the Cross of St. Andrew on behalf of His All-Holiness.

This event marked a definite stage on the road towards the eventual reunion of the Orthodox and Anglican Churches, which is the goal of our Association's work and prayers. May this resumption of the Orthodox/Anglican joint theological discussions be accompanied by a revival of our Association's activity.

ORTHODOX CONTACTS WITH THE ANTI-CHALCEDONIANS

It has proved necessary to hold over until July a fuller paper on the recent contacts between the Orthodox and anti-Chalcedonian Churches, a subject on which we reported briefly last quarter. This delay is no reflection on the importance of what was initiated at Aarhus last summer.

METROPOLITAN JAMES OF CHRISTOUPOLIS

By the time these lines appear in print, that beloved figure Metropolitan James (Virvos) of Christoupolis will have sailed away from these shores to his well-earned retirement in his native Greece. After some 35 years amongst us he will be sorely missed, and he carries with him our deep gratitude and love. It is typical that he should write to me and say that he intends to devote much of his time in retirement to a project which has long been mooted amongst us: the building up of a sister-Association among our Orthodox brothers in Greece. As ever we are in His Grace's debt; and we are very happy to record his firm intention of coming back to us for visits as often as possible.

At our Farewell Reception to Bishop James, held at Lambeth Palace at the insistence of the Archbishop of Canterbury, the latter's message contained the following words: "... By his sympathy, wisdom, and combination of deep Orthodox fidelity with the understanding of other Churches, he has had a truly oecumenical influence..." We can but add: "Amen."

NEWS FROM OVERSEAS

I am most happy to publish the first of a series of Letters from the Patriarchates and other Autocephalous Churches. It is right that, in view of all the emphasis this quarter on the visit of the Bishops from the Great Church of Constantinople, this first letter should be from the Throne second in precedence in the Eastern Church, Alexandria. Dr. Moschonas is an old and valued friend of the Anglican Church: years ago he lived in Manchester, from whose University he holds a degree, and now for long he has been the Patriarchal Librarian in Alexandria. Recently he has been attending the sessions of the Vatican Council, first as a specially-invited Guest and then also as official Observer for his Patriarchate. We look forward to regular contributions from our revered mentor and dear colleague.

FINANCE

In these days of ever-rising costs (printing no less) and apparently ever-diminishing reserves, it would be wrong to avoid the "sordid" matter of finance! We have enjoyed the sustained and generous support of many members, who have not forgotten us even in death; and for these donations, subscriptions and legacies we are immensely grateful. But

individually we need to ask ourselves whether we are contributing what we could: for good reasons we do not insist on an "economic" subscription for membership, and so the onus falls upon conscience.

Be on the look-out for more members; and especially try to get parishes, as well as individuals, to associate themselves with us. Thus we should have a tremendously increased field of influence for the dissemination of information and also a great increase in the volume of prayer for unity. Any addition to the formal types of membership would require action at the Annual General Meeting; but there is nothing to prevent a Parish Priest or Parochial Secretary joining on behalf of his parish.

THE DECISION TO RESUME ANGLICAN/ORTHODOX DOCTRINAL DISCUSSIONS

(Here follow the speeches made at Lambeth Palace on Friday, 19th February, 1965, on the occasion of the presentation to the Archbishop of Canterbury and the whole Anglican Communion by the Special Envoys of His All-Holiness the Oecumenical Patriarch, of the decision of the Third Pan-Orthodox Conference held in Rhodes in November, 1964, to resume Anglican-Orthodox Joint Doctrinal Discussions)

SPEECH OF METROPOLITAN MELITON OF HELIOUPOLIS

Your Grace,

His All-Holiness the Oecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras I and his Holy Synod have entrusted to us the task of conveying to Your beloved Grace and to the venerable Anglican Church the message of love, peace and hope in Christ from our holy Orthodox Church of the East.

First of all we present to your Grace the brotherly kiss in Christ of His All-Holiness, assuring you at the same time that your radiant and inspired personality remains always vivid and dear in the memory of our Oecumenical Patriarch and of the Orthodox Church in general, and that your Anglican Church always preserves its very special place in the heart of of the whole of Orthodoxy.

Together with the expression of these sincere feelings, we have the blessed and most honourable mission of communicating to the venerable Anglican Church — on the instructions of the most holy Oecumenical Patriarch who, according to our ecclesiastical order and tradition, is acting on behalf of the whole Orthodox Church — the decision of the Third Pan-Orthodox Conference on the question of relations

between our Orthodox and your Anglican Church. It is our task to announce officially this good news, that our holy Orthodox Church unanimously desires the continuation of the theological discussions between our two Churches, which were discontinued some years ago; and in particular it is the desire of our Church that they may be resumed with full representation on both sides. Therefore the Third Pan-Orthodox Conference has decreed the immediate creation of an inter-Orthodox Committee, in which all the local Orthodox Churches will be represented, the members of this Committee being appointed by each local Church itself. This inter-Orthodox Committee will give final form to the list of themes which from the Orthodox point of view should be the subject of theological discussions with your Church, and it will prepare its presentation of the Orthodox viewpoint upon these themes; and it will then be ready to establish contact with the corresponding Anglican Theological Committee, in order to commence discussion with it in the setting of a joint mixed theological commission. Since there is a general desire in the Orthodox Church for the continuation of these discussions, and since the list of themes for discussion which has been prepared by the Oecumenical Patriarch has already been accepted by the Third Pan-Orthodox Conference as a sufficient basis, from the Orthodox point of view, for the final joint agenda, we hope that there will be no delay from our side over the procedure for commencing this important work.

With this hope, it is with great joy in the Lord that we present to Your Grace, as the chief Hierarch of the Anglican Communion, this fraternal letter of announcement from His All-Holiness the Oecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras I, who has written in accordance with a Pan-Orthodox decision, as well as the message and decision of the Third Pan-Orthodox Conference of Rhodes.

Your Grace,

Our holy Orthodox Church, in proceeding to this proposal, is confident that it is continuing its oecumenical tradition in general, and especially the long and blessed history of happy fraternal relations, cooperation, and theological discussions with the beloved Anglican Church; and also she knows that there is in your Church an equally sincere and warm desire for the further promotion of relations between our two Churches, and for the continuation of the theological dialogue between us. We have many and various indications of this sacred desire on your side, and in particular the official expression of it from the very mouth of Your Grace during your unforgettable visit to the Oecumenical Patriarch.

Thus, through the grace of the Lord, by a common sincere will, we inaugurate today a new period in the relations between our two Churches; and dedicating it to the watchful guidance of the Holy Spirit, we look forward to the evolution of these relations in the direction of unity according to the will of Christ.

Truly, as the great Father of the Church St. John Chrysostom says epigrammatically, nothing provokes God so much as the division of the Churches (Migne P.G. 62, 83); and, indeed, nothing else so greatly scandalises the world of the faithful, and the world of those who await the Gospel and salvation, as the division of the Church. For, as we are taught by another Father of the common undivided Church, St. Ignatius of Antioch, the Church of God is one body, one thought, one mind, one faith, one love (Patrologia, Apostoliki Diakonia, Vol. III, p. 97); and then truly we may say with St. John Chrysostom that nothing can be stronger than the Church: it is higher than the heaven, it is wider than the earth, it never grows old, but always flourishes (Migne P.G. 32, 402).

Looking to this Church of our common Fathers and of the common Apostolic tradition, let us devote ourselves and one another to the building up of our unity, in faithfulness to our Lord Jesus Christ and to the truth of the Gospel, as the undivided Church taught, in a spirit of adoration, in prayer and humility, in patience and perseverance, and above all in love. Let us work out our unity not as an end in itself, but as a contribution to the building up of the Oecumenical Christianity of the whole body of the Risen Christ.

And so, "speaking the truth in love, let us grow up into Him in all things, who is the Head, even Christ" (Eph. iv 13).

THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY'S RESPONSE

Dear Brothers in Christ: I thank you for your kind words, and my heart is full of gratitude for the loving message from His All-Holiness the Oecumenical Patriarch which you have brought to me. Today is the fulfilment of hopes of very many years, hopes of the resumption of full authoritative theological conversations between the whole of the Orthodox Church and the whole of the Anglican Communion. You, dear Metropolitan, have conveyed to me from His All-Holiness and from the Pan-Orthodox Synod the definite decision that there will be the resumption of theological conversations, Orthodox and Anglican.

Let me have the joy of telling you in return that already all the Metropolitans of the Anglican Communion throughout the world have agreed for the resumption of these theological discussions and already, with the aid of our Council on Foreign Relations, plans are being made for the construction of a Pan-Anglican Theological Commission of learned theologians drawn from many parts of the world, who will be ready in due course to meet and engage in discussion with the Commission appointed in the name of every part of the Holy Orthodox Church.

For this great event our hearts are full of gratitude to the great Providence of Almighty God who has brought us in His goodness to this point in history in spite of many difficulties and distractions; and I ask you, dear Metropolitans, to convey to His All-Holiness my own love and gratitude and esteem, and the thankfulness of the Anglican Churches that this great step in friendship and theological rapprochement is now going to be possible.

As a little token of great love and gratitude, I ask you to carry this Cross as my personal gift to His All-Holiness the Oecumenical Patriarch. And then to you, dear Metropolitan of Heliopolis and dear Metropolitan of Myra, I wish to confer on you the Cross of the Order of St. Augustine of Canterbury. It is an entirely new Order of which you will be the first recipients.

My dear Metropolitan of Heliopolis and Metropolitan of Myra, the Holy Orthodox Church could have had no two more kind, loving, gracious and helpful representatives for this purpose than you. I so well remember the privilege of my own visit to the holy Orthodox Academy at Halki some two years ago when you yourselves took such a leading part in the making of the plans which are now coming to fruition.

But all the while there is with us in England His Grace the Metropolitan of Thyateira, and it is through the constant presence of His Grace the Metropolitan that our friendly and loving relations with the Holy Orthodox Church are not just a matter of special occasions but are a matter of all days and every day: and, dear Brother, I ask you to accept this little token of our great love and gratitude.

This is a day for which we will long give great thankfulness to Almighty God and it will encourage us to pursue our way, "speaking the truth in love" in the conviction that there is for all of us "one faith, one hope, one Lord."

ARMENIAN SUPREME CATHOLICOS IN LONDON

His Holiness Vazgen I, Supreme Catholicos of All Armenians, spent a week in England at the beginning of February. On the Sunday he celebrated the Divine Liturgy at the Armenian Church of St. Sarkis in Kensington, at which service the Archbishop of Canterbury was officially represented; and three days later he was officially received at Lambeth Palace by the Archbishop of Canterbury and subsequently was entertained to lunch, at which the General Secretary of our Association had the honour to be present. Afterwards the Archbishop announced his intention to visit Etchmiadzin, His Holiness's see, in 1966 "between Easter and Pentecost", which quite plainly gave pleasure and satisfaction to the distinguished visitors. The Armenian Archbishop Toumayan, who is so well known to us in England, was invested with the Lambeth Cross in the Palace Chapel, in the presence of the Supreme Catholicos and the other luncheon guests.

NEW ORTHODOX NEWSPAPER IN ENGLAND

We would extend our sincere congratulations to Metropolitan Athenagoras of Thyateira and to his staff on the appearance of their new monthly paper, *The Orthodox Herald*. It was published for the first time in January, 1965, and is printed partly in Greek and partly in English: whether the proportion of two thirds Greek to one third English has any esoteric significance is not for us to speculate! Seriously, it is very well produced indeed; and it is very much in accord with all the new vitality in the Diocese of Thyateira: we pray God's blessing on this venture in the vital field of "communication".

BLESSING THE WATERS IN MARGATE

On the Saturday after the Feast of the Epiphany, the service of the Great Blessing of the Waters was held at Margate: this is the first time in our country that this service has been conducted by the seaside. The Metropolitan of Thyateira presided, assisted by Bishop Matthew of Vilno (Polish Orthodox Church) and many Orthodox clergy; and also present were many Anglican clergy, the Mayor and Corporation in state, and members of the Greek Embassy in London. It is hoped that this spectacular ceremony will become an annual feature of the life of the Orthodox Church in this country.

RUMANIAN ORTHODOX CHAPLAIN IN LONDON

The Revd. Vintila Popescu has been appointed by the Patriarch Justinian of Rumania to be Chaplain to the Rumanian Orthodox community in England and also the Patriarch's personal representative to the Archbishop of Canterbury. The Rumanian community have not hitherto had a chaplain in England, nor a church; and for the time being they are being permitted to use the Guild Church of St. Dunstan-in-the-West, whose Vicar is Canon J. R. Satterthwaite, General Secretary of the Council on Foreign Relations. We cordially welcome Fr. Popescu to London and to Great Britain.

ORTHODOX ORDINATION IN ANGLICAN CHURCH

On Sunday, 7th March, in St. Michael's Church, Derby, a Serbian deacon was ordained to the priesthood and another Serb was made deacon, the ordinations being performed by the Polish Orthodox Bishop Matthew of Vilno, since there is no Serbian Orthodox Bishop in England. The Bishop of Derby and the Council on Foreign Relations were represented at the service, which was in Slavonic. St. Michael's Church is used regularly by the local Serbian Orthodox congregation.

CONFERENCE IN ADDIS ABABA

The Eastern Anti-Chalcedonian ("Monophysite") Churches held a Conference in Addis Ababa from 15th to 21st January: it was the first such gathering of its kind in history, and met in Ethiopia by invitation of the Emperor Haile Selassie, upon whom the assembled Patriarchs bestowed the title of "Defender of the Faith". Those attending the Conference were the Patriarch Cyril VI (of the Coptic Church), the Patriarch James III (of the Syrian Church), the Supreme Catholicos Vazgen I (of the Armenian Church in the U.S.S.R.), the Catholicos Koren (of the Armenian Catholicosate of Cilicia), the Patriarch Basil (of the Ethiopian Church), and the Patriarch Augen I (of the Syrian Church in India), together with their suites.

According to Press reports, certain internal reforms were proposed at this Conference, viz. a reconsideration of the rules of fasting, reform of the Calendar and the introduction of the Gregorian system, renewal of the spirit of monasticism, ways of educating the young and of bringing them into the life of the Church, the publication of religious and liturgical books, etc.

The delegates also proposed theological conversations with the Orthodox with a view to the removal of the Christological differences; conversations with the Vatican on the possibility of refraining from proselytism; and participation in the World Council of Churches.

The Conference set up a committee, composed of two delegates from each Church, to prepare for the summoning of a permanent body of the Oriental Churches whose task would be to put into practice the decisions taken.

PUBLICATIONS

The following two pamphlets are available from the General Secretary:

- (1) "Orthodoxy and Anglicanism in the 20th century"; by Professor V. T. Istavridis of Halki; price 2/- plus 3d. postage.
- (2) "The Anglican and the Orthodox Churches"; two essays by Nicholas Arseniev and R. M. French; price 1/3 plus 3d. postage.

TWO NEW BOOKS

- (1) "Theological Studies on Christian Unity" (in Greek) by Metropolitan Athenagoras of Thyateira, our Orthodox President. Price: £1. The book is in two parts: the first part, dealing with basic theological problems, the doctrine of the Church, the meaning of Tradition, and related themes; and the second part, concerned mainly with the Second Vatican Council, but also describing the author's visit to Rome to prepare for the historic meeting in Jerusalem between the Oecumenical Patriarch and the Pope at the beginning of last year.
- (2) "Calendar of the Archdiocese of Thyateira and Great Britain, 1965". Published in Greek: price 2/-.

Both books are available from the Office of the Archdiocese, 5, Craven Hill, London, W.2.

FURTHER BIBLIOGRAPHY

I am indebted to the distinguished quarterly of the Patriarchate of Jerusalem, *Nea Sion*, and to the invaluable fortnightly journal of the Church of Greece, *Ekklesia*, for news of the following publications, which will interest many among our members who have the benefit of Modern Greek.

- (1) "Luther and Melancthon on the Orthodox Church": an article in *Theologia* (No. 34, 1963) by Professor John Karmiris.
- (2) "The Orthodox Church in Hungary": a book by Dr. T. F. Berki, published in Thessaloniki in 1964.
- (3) "Monasticism and the Modern World": a Symposium published by the "Zoe" Brotherhood of Theologians in Athens in 1963.
- (4) "Mount Athos and its Importance": a book by Panayotis I. Vrachiotis, published in Athens in 1964.

POETRY IN THE PULPIT: A SHORT QUOTATION

"At this time and in this place all nature dances and rejoices with us; for to this miracle earth offers the Cave, mankind the Virgin Mother, sky the Star, and heaven the hosts of angels praising God and saying: Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, goodwill towards men".

(The Metropolitan of Pella, preaching in the Church of the Nativity at Bethlehem)

VISUAL AND AUDIO AIDS

A variety of Transparencies, Film Strips, Slides, and Tape Recordings are available for sale. For a list of them please write to the Revd. John Innes., 69, The Furrows, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey: the latter is a member of our Association's Committee, who has also taken charge of our collection of slides, etc. This is an invaluable side of our work of mutual knowledge of our Churches' life.

LETTER FROM THE GREEK ORTHODOX PATRIARCHATE OF ALEXANDRIA

The writer is much obliged to be asked to act as Correspondent to the E.C.N.L. At the moment of writing, he turns back to the old days when he was resident in Manchester, quite a young man after the First World War, and acquainted with the Anglican and Eastern Association and unforgettable names like Canon Douglas, Bishop Temple, the Revd. Constantine Callinicos, Ambassador Johannes Gennadios, and C. P. Scott and the staff of the "Manchester Guardian" (1918 — 1922).

* * *

His Beatitude the Patriarch Christophoros was 89 on 29th January, 1965. He has been in Athens since 1961, for reasons of health, and the Patriarchate is administered by Metropolitan Nicholas (Varelopoulos) of Eirenoupolis as "Mandator".

To mark the occasion of the Patriarchate's participation in the Third Phase of the Vatican Council (14th September — 21st November, 1964) by the presence as Observers of the Archimandrite Cyril Coucoulakis and the Librarian Dr. T. D. Moschonas, the Patriarch bestowed the Holy and Apostolic Order of St. Mark, Founder of the Church of Alexandria, on Cardinal Bea (President), Bishop Willebrands (Secretary), and Frs. Duprey and Arrighi (Under Secretaries) of the Secretariate for Promoting Unity among Christians.

The seventh "Common Prayer of Christians in Alexandria" was held in St. Mark's (Roman Catholic) Church on 22nd January.

The Patriarchate, after having had its headquarters at Ibrahimia, beside the Patriarchal Library, since 1957, has moved back again to its old place by the venerable Church of St. Sava. The Library will remain at Ibrahimia.

TH.D. MOSCHONAS

BOOK REVIEW:

"THE REBEL NUN": by T. STRATTON SMITH

(Souvenir Press: pp 252 + xii illus: 25/-)

That there is no dearth of new books would be a truism . . . nor have we been without accounts, especially in the form of biography or autobiography, of life in the ferment that was Russia in the reigns of the last two Czars; nor of the lives of holy men and women in the Russian Orthodox Church, both

in the fatherland and in exile; nor of the privations and wanderings of "displaced persons"; nor of the dangerous existence of workers for the "Resistance" in Europe, and the horrors of the Nazi concentration camps. This book of T. Stratton Smith's is unusual in being a combination of these various strands.

Mother Maria of Paris, "the Rebel Nun", was the daughter of a typically "enlightened" landowner in the Crimea, Yuri Pilenko. She herself, who as a young girl enjoyed the devoted friendship of that famous Over-Procurator of the Holy Synod, Konstantine Petrovitch Pobedonostzev, was to join the Social Revolutionary Party: she knew and was involved emotionally with the poet Alexander Blok: at 18 she married a young Liberal lawyer, Dmitri Kerzmin-Karavaev, and ten years later, at the height of the Revolutionary struggle in the Crimea, she married the revolutionary Skobtzova, having been divorced from Dmitri.

In exile in Paris her subsequent life was one devoted to her fellow-men, caring and providing for a multitude of unfortunates, as well as for her own son and daughter; and later was to come her (fatal) involvement with the French Resistance. She was involved in the Russian Christian Student Movement, which was in effect the organisation of the Russian intelligentsia in exile; and Berdyaev and Bulgakov became her devoted admirers, as did Bishop Evlogy who professed her later.

Poet and artist, yet a scrubber of floors and indefatigable labourer for all her infirm brethren; an aristocrat by birth, yet a passionate seeker after social justice: she had to prove her love in surviving two years of imprisonment under the Nazis before dying in the gas chambers of Ravensbrueck. Thus she endured the "three kinds of martyrdom — white, green and red" (a quotation from an ancient Irish homily), the theme of this book's construction.

This is not a "theological" book: indeed Mother Maria's religion is rather implicit than explicit in this book, and is nothing if not unconventional. As a girl she had rejected Pobedonostzev's dictum, "The truth is in love . . . (of) the person next to one, the other who is by one's side . . ."; but such was her life to be. "Inasmuch as ye did it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me". This would be a good book to read in the Great Forty Days between Easter and Pentecost.

H.E

Aims of the Association

The Association exists to unite members of the Anglican and Eastern Orthodox Churches for the following objects:—

- (a) The principal object for which the Anglican and Eastern Churches Association is established is for the advancement of the Christian religion, in particular by means of teaching the members of the Anglican Churches and those of the Eastern Orthodox Churches the doctrines and respective principles and methods of each other in their work for advancement of the Christian religion.
- (b) The Association exists also to unite members of the two Communion in prayer and work in achieving the principal object, with a view to promotion of visible unity between them.

Some Methods of Helping the Work

1. By joining the Association and getting others to join.
2. By arranging for a meeting in the neighbourhood, when a lecture may be given on the Eastern Churches and Reunion, and the objects of the Association explained.
3. By asking the Parochial Authorities to promise a Sunday collection every year either in the service or afterwards at the doors.
4. By uniting in local centres for the study of Eastern Christendom, and for Intercession for Reunion.

Lectures — with or without visual aids — can be arranged by writing to the General Secretary.

Subscription

The normal annual subscription is 10/- (Life-membership £5), but none will be excluded solely on account of inability to pay this amount, while it is hoped that those who can afford to pay more will do so.

All members receive the Eastern Churches News-Letter which is published quarterly.