



BIOGRAPHY

Lila de Chaves

Ethnologist

Lila de Chaves is an ethnologist who specialises in historical & ethnic textiles, jewellery & costumes and a supporter of Heritage & Museums around the world.

Address: c/o Benaki Museum
1, Koumbari St., Kolonaki, Athens, Greece
Telephone No: 210 7228701
Mobile: 6932 746 856
Email : lildechav@yahoo.fr
Birthplace: Athens, Greece

CONSULTANCIES

- Special consultant at the Benaki Museum since 1977
 - Curator of the jewellery art work Shop of the Benaki Museum
 - Former curator of the Benaki Museum's collection of Coptic textiles
 - Associate of the Hellenic Organisation for Small Scale Industries and Handicrafts (EOMMEX) since 1974 and in this capacity took part in international exhibitions of metalwork in Greece and abroad.
 - Consultant to the Hellenic Centre for Metalwork (ELKA), a subsidiary of EOMMEX, for three years.
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TEACHING

- Teaches history of the art and craft of textiles (medieval textiles, ecclesiastical and secular embroidery, Coptic textiles, kilims, carpets, lace), in the form of seminars at cultural institutions such as the American Women's Organisation of Greece (AWOG), Panorama (YWCA), and Athens College.
- Taught in the M.A. programme of the visual arts division of South-eastern American College, Athens.
- Developed an original, short seminar on handmade jewelry and micro-sculpture (silver and gold) at the Benaki Museum, where for the past twenty years she has been teaching techniques, such as filigree and repoussée that are gradually being lost. To date more than a thousand people have attended these seminars, many of whom were professional goldsmiths and silversmiths.
- As President of the Friends of the Museum of Greek Folk Art (MGFA), donated 14 table-top looms and kits, and set up successful seminars for tapestry weaving,

- within the framework of educational programmes for children and young people at the MGFA.
- Visiting lecturer at the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Athens. Currently supervises the post-doctoral degrees of Greek students at the Faculty of Philosophy (University of Athens) on the themes of “Exvotos” and “Metalwork”.
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PUBLICATIONS

- *Cretan embroidery from the 17th to the 20th century*, Ethnological Museum of Crete, Messara, Herakleio 1982
 - *Bobbin lace in the villages of South-eastern Attica*, Kalyvia 1985
 - Historical origin of some accessories of women’s dress in Boeotia (*Yearbook of the Society of Boeotian Studies* 1988)
 - Catalogue: “*Tresors de la Cathedrale Saint-Nicolas de Fribourg*”, for the exhibition of medieval vestments from St Nicholas’ Cathedral in Fribourg, Switzerland, held at the Benaki Museum. Supervised, translated and correlated with the Greek terminology for *polymita* post-Byzantine silk textiles.
 - Coptic Medallion “La fuite en Egypte et le retour des rois mages” *Bulletin de la Societé d’archeologie copte*, le Caire 1996. From the Benaki Museum’s collection of Coptic textiles.
 - “Greek lace: Medieval records” in the book entitled *Greek Textile Compositions* by Tatiana Giannara, published by Melissa Editions (1985).
 - “The Crucifixion with the Twelve Apostles” at the Benaki Museum. *Proceedings of the 5th International Conference of Coptic Studies*, Washington 1993.
 - *Greek Jewellery. History – Art – Technique*. Catalogue of the European Conference of Jewellers. Volos 1993. The first comprehensive study of the historic evolution of Greek jewellery from early antiquity up to the 20th century.
 - *Encyclopaedia of Greece and the Hellenic Culture*, Fitzroy and William, London 2000. Entry: “Metalwork”
 - Greek Lace at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London. Indictos, 1999.
 - Articles in the newspaper *Kathimerini* and television programmes in collaboration with the channels ET1, NET, TV5 & CNN.
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ORGANISATIONS

- Former Secretary General of the World Federation of Friends of Museums (WFFM) & Chair of the Development Committee
- Member of the Board of Trustees of European Museum Forum, EMF Council of Europe
- President of the Heritage & Museums (Coalition Partner of EMF- Council of Europe)
- Member of the International Council of Museums (ICOM)
- President of the Hellenic Federation of Friends of Museums (HFFM)
- Member of Europa Nostra
- Member of International Centre for Research into Old Textiles (CIETA)
- Member of the International Association for Coptic Studies (IACS)

- Vice-President of the International Committee for Measures to Promote Folk Culture of the International Organisation of Folk Art (I.O.V.), a non-governmental UNESCO organisation
- Ex-Vice President, Executive Global Public Relations and Cultural Chair of the EAWC (Euro-American Women’s Council)
- Member of the International Institute of Greek-Arabic & African Studies
- Ex-President of the Friends of the Benaki Museum
- Ex-President of the Friends of the National Museum of Greek Folk Art
- President of Friends of the Greek Institute of Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Studies, Venice
- Member and Coalition Partner of the “Best in Heritage” Foundation, Croatia
- Selected Personality in “Who is Who” International Organization, Greece 2009

DECORATIONS

- Officier de l’ Ordre National du Mérite du President de la République Française
- Cavaliere del Ordine del Merito Ossi della Stella della Repubblica Italiana
- Congressional Award, House of Representatives, USA

AWARDS

- Award by Greek Consulate in Lyon
- Honorary Member Award by the Greek Institute of Greek-Arabic & African Studies
- Hellenic News of America award
- Artemis award by EAWC (Euro-American Women’s Council)
- “Satyrion per l’ Archeologia” - Castello, Muscettola by Municipality of Taranto
- Awarded by the Society of Friends of the Benaki Museum
- Award by the National Rotary Club of Greece
- Rotary Club Athens-North Award
- Dialektikos Society of Psychiko Award
- Award by Inner Wheel Club

CONFERENCES & EVENTS

Has represented Greece and Benaki Museum at many conferences within the country and abroad, most of the times as a key-note speaker. For example:

- Stanford University, California USA (invited three times)
- Saint John University of Malta, Valetta
- University of Lecce and Taranto in Italy
- National University of Johannesburg
- Ain Shams University of Cairo
- National University of Beograd
- Town Hall, Lyon
- Riboux Foundation, Paris
- Friends of Museums & Saori Foundation, Japan

- Historical Museum of Textiles, Lyon
- Victoria & Albert Museum, London
- National Museum of Luxembourg
- Contemporary Art Museum of Folksbourg
- Budapest National Museum
- The State Museum of Moscow, Russia
- Abakan Intercultural Congress 2011, Russia
- World Forum for Intercultural Dialogue, Baku/ Azerbaijan
- Benaki Museum
- Greek Folk Art Museum
- Goulandris Natural History Museum
- Museum of Balkan Wars, Thessaloniki
- Byzantine Museum of Athens
- Lalaounis Jewelry Museum, Athens