



The Smithsonian Associates

Barbara S. Tuceling
Director

April 9, 2008

Mr. Nick Larigakis
American Hellenic Institute, Inc.
1220 16th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Mr. Larigakis,

Acting Secretary Cristian Samper has asked me to respond to your letter of March 27th regarding the upcoming program "A Glimpse of Macedonia." We take your concerns seriously.

While we recognize that there is an ongoing dispute with regard to the use of the name "Macedonia," it is the Smithsonian's policy to use the nomenclature employed by the U.S. Department of State. Consequently, we have used in our program description the name Republic of Macedonia.

To create a picture of that country, it is necessary to provide an historical overview of the larger geographic area. The description for the lecture was never intended to encompass the identity and immense contributions of the Hellenic empire or Alexander the Great. Through an exploration of arts and archaeology the lecturer will provide the participants with insight into the contemporary country, as if they were traveling there today. Dr. Georgievsk-Shine is a well-respected art historian who has lectured for the Associates for many years, both here and at various Embassies with whom we have collaborated. She has always received outstanding evaluations from our members and our diplomatic partners.

Meanwhile, as you know, we have hosted scores of programs on Greece and Hellenic Civilization over the years, and indeed have a program on *Coins in the Ancient World* scheduled for April 21 and a program on *Greece and the Greeks: The Power of the Hellenic Heritage* on May 19. Both of these were developed in concert with the Greek Welfare Foundation for Social and Cultural Affairs.

We appreciate your concerns. I hope you will consider coming to the lecture as our guest, and I am confident it will allay your apprehension about the content of the lecture.

Sincerely,

cc: Dr. Cristián Samper, Acting Secretary, Smithsonian Institution
Rep. Doris Matsui, Member of the Board of Regents, Smithsonian Institution

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