NEW BOOK RELEASE
FROM THE BANK OF CYPRUS CULTURAL FOUNDATION
IN THE GUIDES TO BYZANTINE MONUMENTS SERIES

The church of Panagia Amasgou at Monagri

Now in circulation is the sixth volume in the series Guides to Byzantine Monuments of Cyprus entitled The church of Panagia ‘tis Amasgou’ at Monagri. The book is published by the Bank of Cyprus Cultural Foundation in collaboration with the Holy Bishopric of Limassol and the Department of Antiquities.

Apart from the Byzantine monuments of Cyprus included in the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage list, the guide series will cover additional monuments of significance found in Cyprus, Byzantine and post-Byzantine alike. Net proceeds of the sales will be ceded to special funds at Holy Bishoprics and Monasteries intended for the monuments’ restoration needs.

Yiannis Kypri, the Chairman of the Bank of Cyprus Cultural Foundation, provides the foreword to the publication. Addresses by the Most Reverend Athanasios, Metropolitan of Limassol, and the Abbess of the Monastery of Panagia Amasgou, Nun Epiphania follow.

The Guide offers a retrospective on the history of the Monastery and on the architecture and art of its katholikon, which is dedicated to the Entrance of Theotokos into the Temple. An account on the Byzantine church of St Marina at Kantou, a dependency of the Monastery of Panagia Amasgou is interceded, together with a text on the mobile finds of recent excavations carried out on the site by the Department of Antiquities.

The church belongs to the wooden-roofed type, proper to Cypriot Church architecture. The chapter on the church’s architecture presents the monument’s typology, as well as its different construction phases and building materials.

An extensive text follows on the church’s wall-paintings, executed upon five different layers, dated from the 12th to the 16th century.

In the last chapter, the carved wooden iconostasis of the 17th century is described, together with portable icons spanning a period from the 12th to the 19th century, and sacred vessels. Tables with the topographical and architectural plans follow, indicating the position of the wall-paintings.

At the end of the Guide, a Glossary is intended for the better
understanding of the texts, and supplemented by selected bibliography.
The text on the history of the Monastery is included in the Foreword by the Very Reverend Archimandrite Epiphanios Efthyvoulou. The account of the church’s architecture is written by the Architect Diomedes Myriantheas and the text on the church of St Marina at Kantou by the Archaeologist Doria Nikolaou. Giorgos Philotheou, Archaeologist at the Department of Antiquities, focuses on painting, whereas Christodoulos Hadjichristodoulou, Archaeologist and Curator of Collections at the Bank of Cyprus Cultural Foundation signs the texts on iconography, portable icons and sacred vessels. The architectural designs are made by Diomedes Myriantheas.

Photo shoot is by Vassos Stylianou, whereas photographs from the Archive of the Department of Antiquities have also been used. Art and printing editing as well as colour separation were provided by En Typis Voula Kokkinou. Printing by Kailas Printers and Lithographers Ltd. Head of the Guides Series is Dr Christodoulos Hadjichristodoulou, Archaeologist, Curator of Collections at the Bank of Cyprus Cultural Foundation. The English, Russian and German version of the guide is scheduled to be published soon.

The Guide measures 22x16 cm and numbers 140 pages with 113 black and white and colour photographs, and 12 designs. It is sold for € 10.00 at the Cultural Foundations’ Shop, Agora, at the Holy Bishopric of Limassol, the Holy Monastery of Panagia Amasgou at Monagri, known bookstores across Cyprus, and on the Internet at www.boccf.org.

Nicosia, 6 April 2012