



A SUMMARY

This is a book about the village of KROKYLIO. As you can see it is a mountainous place. It is located in the southern part of central Greece. The place, as many similar places in Greece is, I am afraid, in irreversible decay. In its good times it had about 1,000 inhabitants. Now, in winter time its population is about 30, mostly old people. The only time of the year it looks like old times is for about ten days in August when many Krokylians visit the place.

This book aims at giving some insight on aspects of the past glory. The vehicle to achieve this is both text and picture. I hope the reader will find the presentation of facts about a small village interesting and will enjoy the book. I also hope that the interest this book raises will last and the book will be a means of revitalising the place, a beautiful place, somewhat. If that hope turns out to be false then the book could be considered a requiem.

The title, IN KROKYLIO OF THE DORIAN (PROVINCE), is based on a past formal expression used at the end of every document, official or unofficial, denoting the place, preceding date and signature.

The author gives thanks to the individuals, both Krokylians and non-Krokylians that helped in various ways.

The summary follows the outline of the book, chapter by chapter. At the end of each chapter the reader will find a list of the pictures in it.

CHAPTER 1

pp. 15-20. Chapter 1 takes us to Krokylio by means of a journey in 1961 from the town of Aeghio in Peloponnese to Krokylio. Today the trip by car takes about two hours. Then it took a whole day and part of the night in our case. The local bus broke down and the three travellers, the author, his father and his cousin, had to walk for one hour and a half, in dark and snow, to reach home for Christmas.

pp.21-22. These pages deal with the subject of internal immigration answering indirectly to the reason for the trip described earlier. More specifically, they describe the hard life conditions of the highschool students that had to relocate, usually to the village of Lidoriki, since there was no Highschool in Krokylio.

pp.22-23. Here we describe how one could travel by changing three or four different buses or, in older times, by walking for about ten hours to the coast to board a ship.

pp.25-26. This part refers to immigration, internal first, to the mines of Lavrio in Attica and external later to North and South America. The text in the darker boxes refers to funny highlight local stories. Not always though. The text in the box on p. 26 refers to consequences of relocation to domestic animals. One of the two goats of author's family was sold to the butcher. The second, luckier, to a family staying behind. The faithful family mule, Marika, was sold to another village where it had a hard time because it was old. We never learned what happened to Marika and how she ended her days.

Pictures of chapter 1.

1. Towards Krokylio.
2. ...and we saw Krokylio (in the dark and snow).
3. Mother is waiting.
4. Good news, we arrive.
5. Next day all is well.
6. Local bus of the time.
7. Steamship "Pylaros" (stopped working in 1920).
8. Long distance bus (to Athens, around 1960).
9. Bureaucracy (permit to immigrate, 1916).

CHAPTER 2

pp. 27-32. It introduces us to the geography and geology of the place. How the region was probably formed. Also we present the known part of an unexplored cave discovered accidentally some years ago.

Pictures of chapter 2.

10. It shows the area from above. The numbers on it refer to the names of various localities of Krokylio (the names are given on p. 29). The red line shows the boundaries of the Krokylio area. The blue, yellow, sienna and green lines show old paths and roads. The brown line close to numbers 45,41,40,32,44 shows the approximate boundary of the (unofficial) archaeological place of Krokylio.
- 11-12. Local rock formations.
13. Soil depression.
14. Cave, view to the left.
15. Cave, view to the right. The cave is unexplored so we do not know what is beyond the dark hole in the center of the picture.

CHAPTER 3

This is the longest chapter and it refers to the history of Krokylio and its area, a subject rarely touched upon so far.

pp.33-34. Introduction to mythology and the dawn of the area history. In antiquity Krokylio belonged to Aetolia. Aetolians participated to the expedition of the Greeks to recover the golden fleece. They also participated to the war against Troy under the leadership of Thoas.

p. 35. Description of the people. Aetolians spoke idiomatic greek as they did until very recently. The area was dangerous to travel. In this page there is reference to the first appearance of the name in history. It appears in Homer's list of towns that sent ships to Troy, a fact that seems to contradict today's situation since Krokylio is located high up in mountains.

p.36. The name Krokylio appears, for a second time, in Thucydides' History of the Peloponnesian War. The Athenian General Demosthenes burned three villages, Potidanea, Krokylio and Tychio, during a punishment campaign against Aetolians who were allies of Spartans. Eventually, Athenians suffered a devastating defeat.

pp.37-38.The author here tries to reconcile and combine the seemingly irreconcilable events. Aetolians were closely related and had common borders with the kingdom of Ulysses. We know that around the time of the Trojan War a severe climatic event caused upheaval in Eastern Mediterranean. This allows the hypothesis that the sea town of Krokylia, as Homer calls it, was relocated to the mountains of the related Aetolians. Another problem with the history of the area is that we cannot be sure that today's Krokylio is the same with that of Thucydides. The maximum we can say is that it is possible. This will become a certainty when we will find inscribed objects.

pp.38-56. These pages contain pictures of ancient objects found in the area. It should be noted that at no time official excavation work took place. The area is overshadowed by the importance of the nearby shrine of Apollo at Delphi.

pp.56-57. Based on the archaeological items and on various references by older writers and travellers we draw the reasonable conclusions that the village was important in the area and was inhabited from neolithic times to late antiquity.

pp.58-60. During the Roman, Medieval and early Turkish occupation times the area almost vanishes from history. We have only traces of Slavic influence on the local Greek idiom.

p.61. The first orally mentioned relocation from the area to Southern Peloponnese around 1800.

pp.62-64. The modern Greek state was created after the Liberation War of 1821-1829 against the Turks. There are records that 72 Krokylians participated. We have information for three of them dying in this war.

pp.64-65. Ioannis Makriyannis was, and still is, the most eminent Krokylian. His family was forced to relocate to the town of Levadia around 1800, when he was an infant. He fought throughout Greece. After the war he was one of the leaders of the 3rd September 1843 coup that forced the absolutist king Otto to accept the first constitution of the Greek state. He also wrote his famous memoirs considered by many as a monument of the modern Greek language. It should be mentioned that because of their importance they have been translated, in part or whole, to many languages. He is also known for the paintings of various important battles that he had made by a greek painter under his direction and at his expense.

pp.65-67. The existing remains of Makriyannis' house at the location of Avoriti are examined. It is not well known that something of the kind exists and consequently, and regretfully, interest in preserving it is minimal. The house was bought by the family of author's mother. We present some evidence based on a contract of 1863 indicating that the house was bought and not inherited. We also theorize on how the house looked based on the last house of the era in Krokylio.

pp.72-74. Reference to the life of the second most eminent Krokylian of the era Athanassios Lidorikis. He served as one of the secretaries of the then powerful Ali Pasha of Ioannina. After Independence he served in various high government positions. He also left memoirs although not so vibrant and important as Makriyannis. He was very well educated. He spoke French, a highly unusual occurrence at the time. Lidorikis was the person that took young Makriyannis to his service before the Independence War. However, there is no evidence that they ever met after the war. From some remarks in Makriyannis' memoirs we can conclude that they did not think the best of each other.

pp.75-76. The events after Independence War. The most notable is the change of the village name from Paleokatuno to Krokylio in 1915. Krokylians participated to all wars of modern Greece. During the German occupation Krokylio was part of "free Greece".

Pictures of chapter 3

16. Approximate boundaries of ancient Aetolia.

- 17-23 Potsherds, vases (neolithic). Important objects. They show that the area was populated during prehistoric times.
- 24 Potsherd, (Mycenaean 1300-1200 B.C.).
- 25 Aryballos (650-625 B.C.) .This small vase was used to store perfumes and ointments. It could be considered luxury item.
- 26-27. Potsherds (possibly 4th-2nd centuries B.C.).
28. Small kantharos (possibly 4th-2nd centuries B.C.).
29. Potsherd, possibly from a salt box (4th-3rd centuries B.C.).
30. Potshard, small vase (possibly 6th-4th centuries B.C.).
31. Potsherd, possibly askos (pourer) (possibly 6th-5th centuries B.C.).
- 32-33. Potsherd, unknown type and date.
34. Potsherd, possibly from a flat cooking vase with lid (2nd century B.C.-6th century A.D.)
- 35-40 Potsherds, vases, unknown type and date.
41. Spindle whorl (neolithic).
- 42-43. Horse terracotta figurine (6th-5th centuries B.C.).
44. Horse terracotta figurine (6th-5th centuries B.C.).
45. Terracotta spindle whorl (possibly 4th-1st centuries B.C.).
- 46-47. Pyramid-shaped loomweights (4th-1st centuries B.C.).
48. Large round loomweight with stamp. It could belong to a professional weaver (possibly 3rd-1st centuries B.C.).
49. Base of pithos (storage jar), unknown type and date.
50. Part of large pithos, unknown date.
51. Rim of large pithos, unknown date.
- 52-53. Bones, unknown animal and date.
54. Glazed pebble (possibly neolithic).
55. Perirrhanterion (lustral basin), unknown date.
56. Small column, unknown date.
57. Stone column drum, unknown date.
58. Stone column drum (possibly Early Christian).
59. Stone column drum lying in a field.
60. Stone retaining wall.
61. Large ancient stone incorporated into the wall of a small church.
62. Mycenaean or older stone grave, view from outside.
63. Same grave, view to the inside.
64. Another stone grave, different location.
65. Possibly side grave stone lid.
66. Stone piece, possibly from a votive stone shield.
67. Terracotta water pipe.
68. Byzantine coin.
69. Embrasures of an old house.
70. House of Turkish era.
- 71-72. The contract of 1863.
73. The ruins of Makriyannis' house in Avoriti.
74. Krya Vrissi. The birth place of Makriyannis.
75. Modern war memorial with the names of the men that died at war.

CHAPTER 4

We now turn to some highlight events of the time after 1830.

pp. 77-80. The building of the main village church of Aghios Georgios (St. George) finished in 1857. No bell tower was erected then.

p. 80-85. Here we present a confiscation court order of 1864. The person with the confiscation order, accompanied by the appropriate authorities, raided the houses of various friends to which the adversary had divided his things so that they could not be found. One of these friends was one of the author's ancestors. The document was found in his files.

pp. 85-97. The great public works that gave the village its present form occurred at that time. The first was the highschool. It does not exist today. In its place stands the village hotel. It was built with money collected by the Krokylian mine workers in Lavrio. The second public work was the primary school building. It still stands but it is not used as school due to lack of children. It was built with money from a Fund which is not related to Krokylio. The third large scale work was the building of Megali Vrisi, the main water spring of the village, in 1899. Around that time Krokylians rebuilt the bell tower of Aghios Georgios church. It had to be rebuilt higher to accomodate the public clock. The winding mechanism of it consisting of two weights which travelled more than the bell tower height. The clock was bought with money collected by the Krokylian mine workers of Lavrio and after that Krokylio was the first and only village in the area that possessed a public clock. Around the same time three bridges were built with money from the US. Today, one is not on the main road and it is not used. The other two are covered by the modern road. The peak of public work enthusiasm of Krokylians was the construction of the road from Krokylio to the main road district road as soon as Krokylians received information that a main road would be constructed. It is 10 km (6.2 miles) long and was made totally by pick and axe, voluntary work and no budget. It took five years to be completed and it constitutes a rare example of will and cooperation.

p. 98. The creative force of Krokylians continued surging forward after WWII. In 1960 the Makriyannis monument was erected. In 1977 Krokylians institute "Makriyannia", cultural festivities (every four years) the first of its kind in the area. Ten years later the first hotel of the area was built with money collection from all Krokylians all over the world. The project was completed with state money when a high state official became enthusiastic with the initiative.

Pictures of chapter 4

- 76. Wood carved partition in Aghios Georgios church.
- 77. Aghios Georgios church (St. George).
- 78. Tin and leather document folders.

- 79-82. The pages of the confiscation court order.
- 83. Primary school.
- 84. Megali Vrisi.
- 85. One of the three bridges.
- 86-87. Proclamation of the village authorities and dignitaries to collect money for the road (two pages).
- 88. The 10 km (6.2 miles) of the road, from the air.
- 89. Makriyannis monument.
- 90. Highschool (it does not exist today).

CHAPTER 5

This chapter describes various everyday activities of past life.

pp. 99-102. Gardening. It was essential for survival even for the very few salaried people, like state employees. One of the reasons: there was no fruit and vegetable stands and production was for domestic use only.

pp. 102-105. Collection and processing of walnuts was important. Krokylio had a significant production of walnuts consumed locally.

pp. 105-106. In the fall preparations were to collect and preserve fruit for winter. These included sun-drying of figs, gathering apples, grapes hanged in the air to wrinkle somewhat, and the preparation of an air dried sweet made of walnuts and condensed grape juice.

pp. 107-113. Here we describe the work involved in wine-making. Krokylio produced red wine and in sufficient quantity. The vines were destroyed around 1930 by a then new and unknown disease.

pp. 113-116. Weaving was important as well. A man or better woman-powered loom was used to produce various artifacts from blankets to bed sheets.

pp. 116-118. Another activity was embroidery, exclusively by women.

p. 118. The coffee shop was the center of social life for men in the village. Women socialized by forming groups in houses during leisure hours.

pp. 119-126. Sheep and goat farming were probably the most important activity in the village. It involved another "custom", animal theft. There was also constant friction between animal herders and farmers. Here we include a court document of 1866 that refers to a farmer asking for compensation after his crops were damaged by animals.

pp. 126-127. This final part deals with pork meat processing. In former times meat was rare. Almost every family raised a hog that was killed at Christmas. The processed products lasted through the winter up to Easter.

Pictures of chapter 5

- 91. Old John fastens his vines.
- 92. Garden.

93. Pumpkins for pies.
94. Watering the garden.
95. Shaken walnuts.
96. Fresh walnuts drying in the sun.
97. Sun-treated walnuts.
98. Shaking walnuts from the tree.
99. Apples.
100. Sun-dried figs.
101. Grapes hanged in shade to wrinkle (lasting two to three months).
102. Air-dried sweet from walnuts and grape juice.
103. Grape-gathering from low vines.
104. Grape-gathering from tree-climbing vines.
105. Filling up transportation reed basket.
- 106-107. Transportation.
108. Red grapes.
109. Red grapes.
110. Processing the grape juice.
111. Grape-crushing.
112. Large barrel for the initial violent grape juice fermentation.
113. Red grape of the variety grown in Krokylío.
114. Red wine.
115. Loom warp.
116. Weaving.
117. Loom product (kourelou, carpet).
118. Loom product (mantania, blanket).
119. Loom product (koukiasti, blanket).
120. Embroidery (curtain).
121. Embroidery (pillow).
122. At the coffee shop.
123. Mid-day animal rest.
124. Goat milking.
125. Grazing.
- 126-128. Court document referring to crops damaged by animals.
129. Pork fat product (tsigarithres).
130. Pork fat melting to obtain fat and undissolved fried fat pieces (tsigarithres).

CHAPTER 6

This chapter deals with construction of houses and other structures.

pp. 129-136. Description of the houses in Krokylío. The standard type of the area house is called “sterfogaláro”, a term from pastoral life. It means a house giving shelter to all, milk producing as well as to sterile sheep and goats. This means that people and animals lived under the same roof. This categorization, however, is too

general. Instead, house types of Krokylio are examined chronologically. When this is done, three types of houses emerge. First, the early type built during the Turkish occupation up to about 1900. Second, the intermediate type built from around 1900 to around 1930. Third, the new type built after 1930. The material used was local stone. Mortar was made from bad quality sand from local creeks and lime produced locally. The roofs were covered with local stone slabs and ceramic tiles. Wooden parts were also made from locally produced boards. The older houses had not any glass panes. As we can see everything was produced locally for two reasons: First, people hadn't money to buy materials. Second, even if somebody had money, no roads existed to transport the extra heavy construction material.

pp. 136-137. Here another type of local building is examined: rural cabins both one and two-level, similar to the previous houses but of poorer quality.

pp. 137-138. Here, brief mention of retaining walls is made. The mountainous area of Krokylio dictates that the only way to create relatively level fields suitable for cultivation is to build successive retaining walls stair-like fashion.

p. 138. Brief presentation of open water cisterns that collected small quantities of water, thus allowing watering of crops at regular intervals. Without the cistern water of such small amount could not be used for watering.

Pictures of chapter 6.

- 131. House of the Turkish era. It is probably the oldest building in Krokylio.
- 132. The base of the fire place, in the first floor, as seen from ground level.
- 133. Small window on the ground level. Its size did not allow a grown man to enter and steal the animals kept inside.
- 134. Cupboard with a special place to keep the salt dry.
- 135. Hinge of early type window.
- 136. Latch of the same window.
- 137. Early type window without glass panes.
- 138. Intermediate type house built around 1900.
- 139. Newer type house of around 1930. Most were built with money from the US.
- 140. Two-storey cabin.
- 141. Single-storey cabin.
- 142. Ruins of open-side, earth-roofed cabin.
- 143. Old retaining wall.
- 144. Open cistern.

CHAPTER 7

The presentation now turns to food of old times. We should not forget that at the place, until fairly recently, food was of the highest-ranking priorities and a matter of great concern. Meat was rare and no food based on it is examined.

pp. 139-140. Macaroni pie. Probably the most well-known food of the area. It is made of dough leaves filled with milk, eggs, white cheese and macaroni.

pp. 141-142. Wheat pie: Made from wheat oats, eggs, milk, cheese and olive oil.

Vegetable pie: Made of dough leaves filled with spinach or assorted green vegetables, white cheese and olive oil. Dough pie: Made of water, milk, olive oil and corn meal without dough leaves. When corn meal was replaced with wheat oats it was the oat pie or “trahanopita”. Sometimes it included vegetables, then it was called “babanatsa”.

pp. 142-143. “Cousimari”. It was the fondue of the area. Made of fresh (untreated by salt) white cheese melted in a pot and slowly adding corn meal. Porridge: Made of boiled water and corn meal.

p. 144. “Coucoufrini”: Made from goat milk right after birth when milk is extremely fat. This milk was baked.

p. 144. Food consisting of a liquid, i.e. milk or vinegar and bread soaked in it.

pp. 144-146. Maize bread. Most people in Krokylio grew maize one year and wheat the next. This was so in order not to exhaust the soil and also to manage watering of the fields. Maize needs watering, corn no.

p.146. Food from pumpkins. First, pies made with dough leaves, white cheese or alternatively sugar, olive oil and pumpkin meal. Second, pumpkin flowers stuffed with rice cooked in a pot or baked.

Pictures of chapter 7.

145. Dough leave.
146. Filling the macaroni pie.
147. The oven burns.
148. The baked pie cools down.
149. Macaroni pie. The final stage.
150. Vegetable pie.
151. Dough pie. Cold.
152. Fresh white cheese melts slowly.
153. Preparation of “cousimari”.
154. “Cousimari” ready to serve.
155. Porridge.
156. “Coucoufrini”.
157. Maize bread, unleavened.
158. Pumpkin leaves stuffed with rice.

CHAPTER 8

From this chapter on the book is based exclusively on pictures. The subject of this chapter is the flowers (mostly wild) of the Krokylio area. Obviously the subject

is not exhausted. Not all wild flowers of the area are presented. In describing the pictures the scientific name of each flower is given. Whenever possible, the common local name of the flower is also given (pp. 148-156).

Pictures of chapter 8.

159. *Pistacia terebinthus*. "Kokoretsa".
160. *Cyclamen graecum*. "Lelenta".
161. *Colchicum macrophyllum*.
162. *Rosa canina*. "Agriotriantafyllia".
163. Apple tree flower.
164. *Cercis siliguastrum*. "Coutsoupia".
165. *Anemone blanda*.
166. *Notobasis syriaca*. "Gaithouragatho".
167. *Sambucus ebulus*. "Frouxylia".
168. *Phlomis fruticosa*. "Asfaka".
169. *Anemone coronaria*. "Foniada".
170. *Cistus salvifolius*. "Knoukla".
171. *Cistus creticus*. "Knoukla".
172. *Helianthemum hymetticum*.
173. *Orchis quadripunctata*. "Agriozoumbouli".
174. *Vinca major*. "Prasinada".
175. *Doronicum columnae*.
176. *Crepis rubra*. "Pikralida".
177. *Convolvulus elegantissimus*. "Perikoklada".
178. *Campanula spatulata*. "Katsiabaki".
179. *Ornithogalum atticum*. "Asteraki".
180. *Lamium amplexicaule*. "Melissohorto".
181. *Lactuca virosa*. "Agria galatsida".
182. *Muscari comosum*.
183. *Aethionema saxatile*.
184. *Papaver purpureomarginatum*.
185. *Muscari neglectum*.
186. *Lunaria annua*. "Agriovioleta".
187. *Iberis*.
188. *Lathyrus sativus*. "Lathouri".
189. *Aruebia densiflora*.
190. *Orchis boryi*.
191. *Leopoldia canasa*.
192. *Cichorium intybus*. "Agrioradiko".

CHAPTER 9

This chapter is a collection of pictures with water scenes during various seasons

of the year. Krokylio is well known for its water abundance compared to other regions in Greece (pp. 157-168).

Pictures of chapter 9.

193. "Patsirorema" creek, Winter.
194. "Patsirorema" creek, Summertime.
195. "Avoriti" spring, Springtime.
- 196-197. Spring waters.
198. "Kefalovrisos" spring, Summertime.
199. "Avoriti" spring.
200. "Aiyannis".
201. "Megali vrisi" creek, Winter.
202. Mornos river after strong rainfall. Old scene, the river is now dammed.
203. "Megali vrisi", the main village spring.
204. The spring at Panaghia mountain.
205. A small spring in the village, now defunct.
206. "Avoriti" spring as it was before being destroyed by village authorities on the pretext of rebuilding it.
207. "Mantilo" spring before it was replaced by a new structure and after the tree was cut down without replacement.
208. Small spring in the oak forest east of Krokylio.

CHAPTER 10

This is also a chapter of pictures. It contains fog scenes. Fog covers the area often and it is a famous characteristic of the humid Krokylio climate. Despite the recent climatic changes fogs still visit the area often (pp. 169-180).

Pictures of chapter 10.

209. Fog, Mornos river valley.
210. Fog, Winter.
211. Spring starts setting in.
212. Panaghia mountain in clouds.
213. Fog, Mornos river valley.
214. Fog as seen from Panaghia mountain.
215. Night fog, Summertime.
216. Fog, Winter.
217. Fog, Springtime.

CHAPTER 11

This is the last chapter based again solely on pictures loosely classified according to season (pp.181-212).

Pictures of chapter 11.

- 218. We open a window to Krokylio.
- 219. Sunset.
- 220. Classic view of Krokylio.
- 221. Fall from Aghios Nikolaos (St. Nicolas) mountain.
- 222-224. Fall.
- 225. Winter.
- 226. Sunrise.
- 227. Snowfall.
- 228. Snow-covered Krokylio from Panaghia mountain.
- 229. Snow-covered Krokylio as seen from the East.
- 230. Snow-covered Krokylio.
- 231. Vardousia mountain as seen from Panaghia mountain.
- 232. Snowy sunrise.
- 233. Dawn.
- 234. Springtime in Avoriti.
- 235. Springtime.
- 236. Krokylio at night.
- 237. Krokylio, early in Spring, from Theoulis mountain.
- 238. Springtime. Krokylio as seen from the East.
- 239. Goodbye to Krokylio. We leave towards East.

