

(summary)

AVI SHARON

*Greece as She Is, Not as She Was*

George Katsimbalis and Patrick Leigh Fermor, Behind the Scenes

In the dimming light of an autumn evening in 1939, Henry Miller listened to George Katsimbalis tell his reverberating tales on the verandah of his home in Maroussi, and *caught the old and the new Greece in their soft translucence*. This double vision, the ability to see Greece as she was *and* as she is, Classic and modern, can be found throughout Patrick Leigh Fermor's books as well. Katsimbalis was a friend and inspiration for both writers, embodying the contradictions that make Greece what it is—he was the Classic Colossus, not of Rhodes, but of Amaroussion, the modern Athenian Suburb. This essay is an account of the evolving 'modernist' perception of Greece by the Anglo-American west, driven in large part by the efforts of Katsimbalis and his cohort, among whom Leigh Fermor was proud to be numbered.