



OBJECT ID	1996.93.3
OBJECT NAME	Handkerchief
MEASUREMENTS	37.3075200000 cm. W x 33.8150200000 cm. L Since this is a textile, the dimensions may change depending on how it is displayed., Item (Overall)
MATERIAL	Silk
OBJECT ENTITIES	Panayoti Avgidis, Foti (is related to) Kefala, Merisini (is related to) Kefalas, Peter (is related to) Kefalas, Vasil (is related to)
RELATED ITEMS	Photograph, 1996.93.1 Stefana, 1996.93.2.A Stefana, 1996.93.2.B Stefana, 1996.93.2.C Glove, 1996.93.4.A Glove, 1996.93.4.B Certificate, Marriage, 1996.93.5 Certificate, Marriage, 1996.93.6 Invitation, 1996.93.7
ACCESS POINTS	flag flowers

OBJECT DESCRIPTION

Silk square handkerchief, hand embroidered on one corner. The hanky itself appears to be white or cream, but shows some sepia coloring around the edges and seams. The design depicts flowers and flags with "Happy Christmas" greeting beneath them. The Happy Christmas writing is embroidered in red, with a yellow vase filled with blue and pink flowers immediately above it. Five flags of different countries, including the flag of Belgium, the United States of America flag, the French flag, the United Kingdom flag, and the flag of Italy are arranged in a semi-circle above the vase of flowers. The rest of the hanky is somewhat sheer, with a wide lace edging on all four sides.

ORIGIN

Was loan item 9.1996.5

Foti (Frank) Panayoti Avgidis was born in Balukiser(sp?), Turkey in 1894 of Greek parents. In 1912 he immigrated to America in order to escape being drafted into the Turkish Army. As a young man he worked in his brother in law's bakery in Crystal City, MO. His brother in law returned to Turkey to bring his family back to America, but was caught up in the massacre of the Greeks by the Turks. All of my father's family, mother, father, sisters and brother in law were all massacred. Mr. Avgidis then worked for the railroad, laying railroad ties as the west was becoming the new frontier. He worked all the way to the state of Washington.

Merssini Kefala was born in Pelikintos (sp?), Mytelene, Greece in 1904 (?). She immigrated to America in 1923 accompanied by her sister in law to be. They came to Stallings, IL to the farm owned by Peter and Vasil Kefalas, her brothers.

Mr. Avgidis was a friend of Peter and Vasil Kefalas and thereby the couple became acquainted. They were married December 7, 1924 in the home that Foti had built for his new bride.

They had two children, Diana and Frances. There were married 48 years. Both Mr. and Mrs. Avgidis are deceased along with their daughter Diana.

CITATION

Handkerchief, *National Hellenic Museum*, <https://collections.nationalhellenicmuseum.org/Detail/objects/>. Accessed 10/14/26.
