



OBJECT ID 1996.93.7

OBJECT NAME Invitation

DATE CREATED 1924

ALTERNATIVE NAME Wedding

EVENT Marriage of Fotis Pet. Avgidis and Merssini Kefala

MATERIAL Paper

RELATED ITEMS
 Photograph, 1996.93.1
 Stefana, 1996.93.2.A
 Stefana, 1996.93.2.B
 Stefana, 1996.93.2.C
 Handkerchief, 1996.93.3
 Glove, 1996.93.4.A
 Glove, 1996.93.4.B
 Certificate, Marriage, 1996.93.5
 Certificate, Marriage, 1996.93.6

OBJECT DESCRIPTION

Cream-colored printed invitation to the marriage of Fotis Pet. Avgidis and Merssini Kefala on Sunday, December 7, 1924 at the home of Fotis Avgidis 1528 7th Street, Madison, IL. The invitation is folded. The front cover image is one of a large green holiday holly wreath with red berries a red ribbon at the bottom. In the center of the wreath, a depiction of two hands shaking in black ink. The inside of the invitation is printed in Greek text with metallic gold font. On the very back of the invitation, there are some notes, hand-written in Greek in black ink.

ORIGIN

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

Invitation, 1924, *National Hellenic Museum*, <https://collections.nationalhellenicmuseum.org/Detail/objects/>. Accessed 05/06/24.
