

***For all women of our Cathedral from the DOP Book Club***

The Daughters of Penelope, Antikleia Chapter # 68, invites you to our third book discussion.

*Where:* via Zoom (Your Zoom access will be emailed to the membership and to those who indicate an interest in attending.)

*When:* May 19, 2021

The third Wednesday, at 7:30 pm

*What:* We proudly present a biography, *Mistress of the Elgin Marbles: A Biography of Mary Nisbet, Countess of Elgin* by Susan Nagel. Please see: [Mistress of the Elgin Marbles: A Biography of Mary Nisbet, Countess of Elgin by Susan Nagel \(goodreads.com\)](#)

*Who:* Prolific reader, Kathryn Helen Geranios, will lead the discussion on May 19<sup>h</sup> at 7:30 pm.

**RSVP to [katgeranios@yahoo.com](mailto:katgeranios@yahoo.com)** if you are interested in participating in the third book talk as a *guest* of the Daughters of Penelope.

**About the Author:**

.According to her publicist, Susan Nagel has written for the stage, the screen, scholarly journals, the Gannett newspaper chain, and *Town & Country*. She is a humanities professor at Marymount Manhattan College, New York City. Nagel is noted for her critically acclaimed biographies. One focuses on the writings of French diplomat, dramatist, essayist, and author Jean Giraudoux. In another illustrious work, Nagel weaves a terrifying mysterious tale that surrounds the life of Marie-Thérèse (the only surviving daughter of Marie Antoinette and Louis XVI).

Our book discussion focuses on the life of Mary Hamilton Bruce, Countess of Elgin (née Nisbet; 18 April 1778 – 9 July 1855), the first wife of British diplomat Thomas Bruce, 7th Earl of Elgin during his term as an ambassador to the Ottoman Empire.

*Mistress of the Elgin Marbles: A Biography of Mary Nisbet, Countess of Elgin* has garnered acclaim for presenting a multi-faceted complex personality. Nisbet is known for many charitable contributions, blended with international intrigues and wily escapades. She is celebrated as one of the most influential and wealthiest heiresses of the late 18th and early 19th century.

As the Countess of Elgin, Mary Nisbet is considered a unique woman in history; Nagel has authored a highly readable biography of a woman ahead of her time. According to Booklist, "the reconstruction of her [Mary Nisbet's] sparkling personality and her exciting life story makes required reading for anyone interested in cultural history."

The French painter, Baron François Gérard, captured the lustrous dark hair, fair complexion, and the elegance of her garments and pose in the portrait of *Mary Nisbet, Countess of Elgin*, which is prominently displayed in the Scottish National Gallery.

### About the Parthenon Marbles:

A woman ahead of her time, Nisbet is portrayed by the author, with intentions partly and perhaps, strategically, shrouded. The Elgin Marble controversy, for which she played a prominent role, can be—for us-- as invigorating a discussion as Nagel's biography. It is clear Nisbet had her delicate hand in swooping the Parthenon Marbles from the Greeks to bring those treasured relics to the British Museum. Even today, the controversy continues. Greece asserts its rightful claim while England's grip remains firm. In addition to this fascinating biography, you may find this article from the University of Alabama helpful as it explores both sides of the debate:: [Elgin Marbles – Ancient Art \(ua.edu\)](https://ua.edu).

### Book Line Up for Summer and September: More on these books in the upcoming months!

Special Event: Wednesday, July 21: Read and Greet the Author, Our own Anne Conover! We will discuss *ESCAPE TO FLAMINGO*

Wednesday, September 15, 2021 led by prolific reader, Shelia Demetriadis: *The Island* by Victoria Hislop. It's the fictional account about Spinalonga, Greece's former leper colony.

*For all women of our Cathedral from the Daughters of Penelope*

What: "Great Lent and me for Thee", Chew 'n Chat discussion via Zoom

When: Third Wednesday of April 21, 2021 7:30 pm

We will be discussing a wide range of topics pertinent to the Lenten Season. Topics can range from sharing a favorite Lenten dish or special prayer or a beauty in nature or a personal spiritual experience to providing a service to others without asking or wanting anything in return. We can also discuss ways to seek forgiveness so our hearts can be warmed and set free. We can reflect upon the role of Our Blessed Mother, the Theotokos, the role model for women as well as an intimate intercessor for our prayer requests. Also, we can discuss the importance and impact of our giving (like the Red Tent and Penelope House). Lent is our time to grow spiritually. Let us join together and share our personal stories.

Please contact [katgeranios@yahoo.com](mailto:katgeranios@yahoo.com) if you are interested in joining in the Zoom program.