My lecture examines the wider cultural developments of the 1940s and early 1950s, a period marked by the re-opening of the British Council in Greece and a different kind of rediscovery of the country by the British. The main focus lies on the periodical “The Anglo-Greek Review/Αγγλοελληνική Επιθεώρηση” (1945-1952 and 1953-1955) which can be seen as part of a nexus of public lectures, visits, exchanges, translations and reviews and of the wider British strategy (involving the British Council and the BBC external services) of promoting liberal democracy and offering a taste of British life and culture.

In the 1940s and early 1950s there was also an anthropological rediscovery of Greece supported by modern literature (e.g. the English translation of Zorba the Greek). It is important to point out that this rediscovery did not involve antiquity and Greece was emerging as a modern site of energy, creativity and pleasure and not simply a site of ancient ruins and past glories. The image of Greece as an exotic land for tourists and an earthly paradise for intellectuals has its origins in this period. “The Anglo-Greek Review” was part of this wider process and made a significant contribution to this new myth of Greece and its culture.