

THE AMERICAN EXPRESS CO., INC.

31, STADIUM STREET



VISITORS' WRITING ROOM

(NOT OFFICIAL)

ATHENS,

14th October

1922

Dear Folks -

After a beautiful trip down

the Adriatic, along the Italian

Coast, stopping in various interesting

port towns of the Jugoslavians and

little Albania, the latest nation

to be freed from the Turk before

the war, arrived in

the ancient port

of Piræus, port for Athens.

Here in the Bay of Salamis

the Athenians beat the Persian

fleet five hundred years before

Christ and the dawn of the

about Persian galleys had made the
mountains which flank the bay
a lovely faint rose colour,
which catches the sun of evening
and deepens to a darker pink.

Piræus is full of refugees
from Smyrna, whose scarred
embers testify to the ambition
of a country to set back the
hands of time, not to bring back
the glorified days of the past,
when the only permanent thing
in life is change. There
are five hundred thousand Greeks
on the mainland here who have
fled to the frontier of the
Turks, when their own

an army fled before a much smaller
army of Turkish soldiers. These
poor people have hated blood
and massacre in their history -
many of them are accustomed
to filth and yet to
see them lying about the streets
of Pireas and Athens, in
unspeakable hygienic conditions.

a few clothes and rags which they
brought with them in their hasty
flight - living in the midst of
their own refuse - thousands of
millions of flies, and very hot -
we can easily imagine what
an ancient city under siege
was like when the plague or

Cholera broke out.

Our hotel in a suburb of Athens is calm & fresh - & the ancient glories of the Age of Pericles remain as immortally beautiful in cream marble upon the Acropolis; yet with all the modernity of a modern government, just set up by a peaceful revolution, the Smyrna refugees must go on starving & suffering.

We are going from here to Constantinople next week - thence down the coast to Syria (Beirut), Palestine & Egypt. A new civilization stretches before us - & we are keen to feel its pulse.

I am fine - & wish for you all health & happiness. Lots of love. Melvin.

AMERICAN EXPRESS COMPANY INC.

BANKING

AT STREET

VISITORS WRITING

(NOT OFFICIAL)

Mr. & Mrs. M. J. Brerly

20 P. S. Procter

524 West 72^d Street

Chicago - Illinois

America