

Chanticleer

Who Saved the Parthenon? Chanticleer William St Clair

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in this magisterial book william st clair unfolds the history of the parthenon throughout the modern era to the present day with special emphasis on the period before during and after the greek war of independence of 1821 32 focusing particularly on the question of who saved the parthenon from destruction during this conflict with the help of documents that shed a new light on this enduring question he explores the contributions made by the philhellenes ancient athenians ottomans and the great powers marshalling a vast amount of primary evidence much of it previously unexamined and published here for the first time st clair rigorously explores the multiple ways in which the parthenon has served both as a cultural icon onto which meanings are projected and as a symbol of particular national religious and racial identities as well as how it illuminates larger questions about the uses of built heritage this book has a companion volume with the classical parthenon as its main focus which offers new ways of recovering the monument and its meanings in ancient times st clair builds on the success of his classic text the reading nation in the romantic period to present this rich and authoritative account of the parthenon s presentation and reception throughout history with weighty implications for the present life of the parthenon it is itself a monumental contribution to accounts of the greek revolution to classical studies and to intellectual history

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