

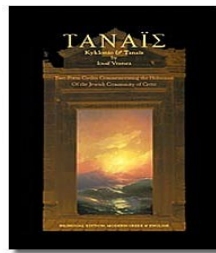


The Program of Modern Greek Studies,
Department of The Classics, Harvard University
presents a poetry reading of *Tanais* and *The Game* by

Iossif Ventura

Brief introductions by

Panagiotis Roilos & Vassiliki Rapti



**Wednesday,
April 6, 2016,
3:30 – 5:30 p.m.**

**Boylston Hall 110
(Fong
Auditorium)
Cambridge, MA
02138**

**Reception to
follow the poetry
reading**

**Event free
and open
to the public**

On June 9th, 1944, almost 72 years ago, six-year old Iossif's life would be irrevocably changed. Almost the entire Jewish community of Chania, Crete, would leave the island in the hold of a German commercial vessel, the *Tanais*. They were on their way to German death camps, but their death would come sooner. The ship was torpedoed by the British off the coast of Santorini and all those on board would drown, among them eighty-eight Jewish children from Chania. Although surviving, because his father heeded warnings and got the Ventura family safely to Athens, Iossif was haunted by the loss of the Jewish Community of Chania, especially the losses of the children.

Iossif Ventura was born in Chania, Crete. He is the author of six volumes of original poetry in his native Greek and one bilingual anthology of medieval Jewish poets. His poetry collections *Kyklonio* and *Tanais* were published in a bilingual edition (Red Heifer Press, California, 2015).

He has also translated into Modern Greek poems of Jerome Rothenberg and several poems of the 12th Century Troubadours. He writes and translates poetry, publishes poems and essays in literary journals, and participates in poetry-related fora and conferences. His poems have been translated into English, French, Hebrew, Spanish, Serbian and Arabic. He directs the web magazine for poetry "POETICANET" (www.poeticanet.gr). He is member of the "Hellenic Authors Society" and of the International Committee of the French festival "VOIX VIVES de Méditerranée en Méditerranée".