

EVAN SERGE AND NELLIE DESPINA BALTAZZI



The Baltazzis are of a very old Venetian origin; their name is derived from the Venetian Baldo. The Baltazzi Coat of Arms can be found on page 94 of the "Collezione rara di stemmi gentilizi italiani," by Edgardo Mattei. It has been authenticated and registered by the Committee on Heraldry of the New England Genealogical Society on 6/1/81. Evan is the direct descendant of the main branch of this family, which counts among others, Bernardo, Commander of the Venetian galleys against the Turks in 1573, Gian Battista, who was killed at the battle of Lepanto, Pietro, Secretary of the Republic of Venice, Marco eminent philosopher and theologian, and many others. Until the first half of the 15th century, the Baltazzis of the main branch were not yet "hellenicized" and remained stout Catholics and 100 percent Venetians. It is only after the family was established in Crete, then

left for Chios to escape Turkish oppression that they became Greek Orthodox. A work, including the genealogy of the Greek branch of the Baltazzis, was published in 1946 by Greek historian A. Benaki. Aristide Baltazzi donated Greek antiquities found on his property to the Louvre Museum (Paris).

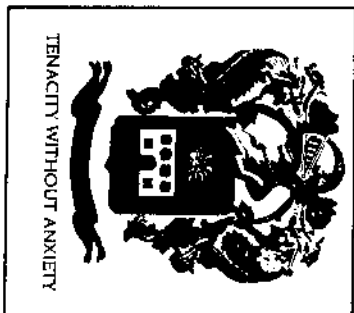
The Coat of Arms of the Prussian side of the family, von Pilgrim-Baltazzi, can be found in Siebmacher's Preussische Adel, vol. 35 table 177 (Cleveland Library); while the Gotha mentions the Ritter (Knight) von Baltazzi, 1910, p. 591. Alexander von Baltazzi was the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Austro-Hungarian Empire before WWI, and the uncle of the tragic Baroness Maria Vetsera who died in Mayeving with her lover Archduke Rudolf, heir to the throne.

On the American side of the family, Captain Harry Warner Baltazzi U.S.N.

Aegean in 1922 and was able to find and save Evan's grand-uncle Theodore. Evan's maternal grandfather, Jean Varda, MD, was separated from his children and left under French protection on the warship "Jean Bart," while Evan's parents and paternal grandmother escaped on an Italian ship.

Following a brief stay in Belgium and France, Phocion, a civil engineer, returned to Greece. Evan studied Chemistry at Athens University, joined the Greek Army during WWII, and served as a chemist for the International Red Cross Committee in Thessaloniki during the German occupation. There, he met and married, on July 17, 1945, Despina (Nellie) Biorlano, daughter of a Russian landowner refugee who had studied marine engineering in Genoa, Italy, and a Greek mother, Maria Stringo. They have three children, Agnes Victoria (Paris, 1949), James Phillip (Oxford, 1954), and Maria Irene (Chicago, 1959).

Evan and Nellie left for France on February 21, 1946, where Evan earned a Doctorate in Sciences (Physique) (Sorbonne). While working for the French National Research Center, at the Institut Pasteur in Paris, he was sent to England in 1952 (D. Phil., Oxford, Chemistry, 1954). Following completion of his work at Oxford, Evan, at the recommendation of Sir Robert Robinson (Nobel Prize winner), won an assignment to the Canadian National Research Council (Ottawa) in 1955. His academic research involved synthesis of chemotherapeutic agents, natural products (penicillin precursors, porphyrins) and identification procedures via ultraviolet and infrared spectra. Evan accepted an offer by Nalco Chemical Company of Chicago, Ill, and came to the United States, with Nellie, on March 29, 1959. On July 21, 1964, the Baltazzis became U.S. citizens.



The Baltazzi Coat of Arms

Evan was named Citizen of the Year (1964), received the Distinguished Service Award (Science, 1965), and has several publications and patents to his credit. These include the patent on the first tabletop copier using organic photoconductors. He has organized and chaired several national and international conferences and symposia, including the first International Symposium on Organic Photoconductors (Cleveland, 1974), the first Gordon Research Conference on the same topic (1976), and was a consulting engineer to major American, European, and Japanese (Toshiba) companies for ten consecutive years until his retirement in 1988. A fellow of the Royal Chemical Society, the American Institute of Chemists, the New York Academy of Sciences, and other learned societies, Evan served on the 12-member U.S. Currency Committee of the National Research Council.

Highly trained in the fighting arts, Evan was a member of the fencing team of the Faculty of Sciences at the Sorbonne, and Captain of the Oxford University Judo team (1952-54). He and his team remained unbeaten, were awarded the colors, and Judo was recognized for the first time as a major varsity sport in Oxford. Evan served

on the U.S. Olympic Judo and A.A.U. Committees for two Olympiads (1965-74) and was an official at the Pan-American Games held in Winnipeg, Canada, in 1967. He developed a system and method of general applicability to the combative arts and sports, which received international recognition. Evan published a book on this subject under the title: *Self-Protection Complete: The A.S.P. System*. He has also published articles in the Journal of Physical Education, four books on the same topic, and chaired the Health and Physical Education Research Methods Conferences (Chicago, 1970-71). Evan is the author of a novel, "Dog Gone West. A Western for Dog Lovers," and most recently completed a free translation of Plato's "Apologia," with commentary for the general public. It has been accepted for publication by the A.H.E.P.A. Evan is listed in *Who's Who in America*.

Nellie attended the French school, Calzanti (Thessaloniki), and studied French Civilization at the Sorbonne (Paris). She holds a B.A. and LL.B. (Chicago) and is active in civic societies, such as the International Training in Communication (ITC). She served as president of the ITC Great Lakes Council III. A member of the National Association of Parliamentarians and the Ohio Association of Parliamentarians (vice president, Nellie Cooley Unit), Nellie was the president of the Northern Summit County Multiservice Center (1994). She has taught Sunday School and was a Cub Scout den mother. Nellie is an avid downhill skier, tennis player, and swimmer. Her oil paintings received a second place prize at a Montreal, P.Q., Canada, exhibition.

Evan and his son James are VIPs (Volunteers-in-the-Parks), working with physically challenged people at