One quarter of the working male population of Greece migrated to the United States during the first decades of the 20th century. The effects of this experience have been profound in shouldering Greece’s first bankruptcy (1893) though remittances and in establishing a permanent diaspora in the U.S. The material culture of this experience, however, remains undocumented as Greek-Americans moved out of their ethnic slums and as Greece rejected modernity as worthy of archaeology. Recent fieldwork of deserted Greek villages and of American Greektowns reveals the centrality of material culture in reconstructing transnational realities of home, labor, worship, and ethnicity.

Image: Saint George Greek Orthodox Church, 1922. Courtesy Greek American Heritage Society of Philadelphia

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