

# RENOS EVRYVIADES WIDESON

Renos Evryviades Wideson was born in Larnaca, Cyprus in 1920.

His interest in photography was sparked by a Kodak 'Box Brownie' camera which his father gave him as a boy and this interest was to become a life-long passion.

His early working life as Village Roads Paymaster and later as Assistant District Inspector involved travelling widely throughout the Larnaca District and from this grew his parallel passion for the landscape and people of his homeland.

After service in the Cyprus Volunteer Force and later the Cyprus Regiment, he relinquished his commission as Major in 1949 to take up an appointment as Hotels' Inspector with the Cyprus Tourist Office. He eventually headed the Cyprus Tourist Development Office under Lawrence Durrell who was then in charge of the Public Information Office. A large element of his work involved publicising Cyprus and this gave him the opportunity to visit and photograph many remote and isolated rural corners of the island. He was able to indulge his 'passions' to good effect. It was during this period that the majority of the pictures in this book were taken.

In 1956 he joined the then newly created Television Department of the Cyprus Broadcasting Service and headed a small film unit which produced a number of documentary features illustrating aspects of the island's life.

He emigrated to the UK in 1959 with his wife and two sons, where he took up a position at the Ealing Film studios of the BBC. He was appointed Head of Film Operations in 1975. He retired in 1977 and now lives in Buckinghamshire.

## CYPRUS REMEMBERED

This is the fourth book of photographs by Reno Wideson, recording and celebrating the people and landscape of Cyprus.

'Cyprus in Picture' and 'Portrait of Cyprus' were published in black and white in 1953 and 1955 respectively. 'Cyprus- Images of a Lifetime' was published in colour in 1992. All have been out of print for many years.

'Cyprus Remembered' revisits the Cyprus of the 50's and early 60's and contains a number of the photographs which appeared in the first two books, together with much previously unpublished material. It presents an image of the life of the island as it was before the enormous changes brought on by the political and economic upheavals of the 70's and beyond and in particular the explosive expansion of the tourist industry and the transformation of the built environment.

Cyprus is of course no stranger to dramatic changes in its varied and turbulent history. It is fascinating to see how much has changed in these last fifty years or so and to reflect on how much has been achieved and possibly how much may have been lost.