

REPORT
ON THE WORK OF THE ACADEMY DURING 1967 *

BY

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During the course of the last year the Academy of Athens wept over the loss of two of its ordinary members, both belonging to the Section of Letters and Fine Arts, the academicians **Christos Karouzos** and **Dionysios Kokkinos**. *Chr. Karouzos* was an excellent archaeologist. Equipped with a rare philological and historical classical erudition and gifted with artistic sensitivity, he succeeded in penetrating into the difficult problems of his field and interpreting the works of classical art in an original and eminently expressive way.

As brilliant specimens of Karouzos' skill in interpretation we mention here only two, his essay on the statue «Poseidon of Artemision» and the «Pericalles agalma», where Karouzos interprets the esthetics of archaic Greece. As an archaeologist Karouzos enjoyed international esteem, which is proved by the fact that he had been elected as ordinary member of the Archaeological Institute of Berlin, and the Austrian Archaeological Institute in Vienna, honorary member of the «Society for the Promotion of Hellenic Studies» in London, and finally as an honorary doctor of the University of Bale in Switzerland.

Dionysios Kokkinos had become well-known as a writer of fiction and short stories and as a columnist in the news papers before associating his name closely with the Greek Revolution of 1821. However, his monumental work on the Greek Revolution is a real masterpiece of one who quietly worked for long years and totally devoted himself to that great period. Dionysios Kokkinos by this work handed down to the succeeding generations of Greeks immortal pictures of the Great deeds of '21, of

* Read during the official meeting of 28th December 1967.

the tragic errors of that period, and of the illustrious personalities who brought about the liberation of modern Greece. It was the first time that the history of the Revolution of 1821 had come to light so fully. It will be very difficult for a future writer to detach the laurels of the historian of 1821 from Kokkinos' head.

If, however, Death has deprived the Academy of two of its outstanding ordinary members, Life has given instead to the Academy during the course of the past year two new ordinary members, i. e. **Ioannis Charamis** and **Takis Papatsonis**.

Ioannis Charamis was appointed ordinary member of the Academy to the chair of Medicine belonging to the Scientific Section; *Takis Papatsonis* to the chair of poetry, belonging to the Section of Letters and Fine Arts. Moreover in the course of last year there were appointed as foreign associates, in particular in the Section of Letters and Fine Arts Mr. **Paul Lemerle**, Professor of the College de France, Mr. **George Ostrogorsky**, Professor of Belgrade University and member of the Serbian Academy, Mr. **Albin Lesky**, Professor of the University of Vienna, and Mr. **Benjamin Meritt**, member of Princeton Institute for Advanced Studies. Finally, the conductor and Professor of Geneva University Mr. **Samuel Baud-Bovy** was appointed as corresponding member of the Section of Letters and Fine Arts.

In the past year 37 scientific communications were given by members of the Academy at public sessions, of which 33 were by non-members and 4 by members of the Academy.

In the central library of the Academy as well as in the libraries of its Research Centers there were entered circa 3,000 volumes of books or periodicals. During the year 1967 the following publications of the Academy were issued:

Parts A' and B' of the **Praktika** of 1967, the essay by Theod. Papadopoulos, bearing the title «*Africanobyzantina*», as the 27th volume of the *Pragmateiai*, as well as the 1st volume of documents illustrating the *Cretan uprising of 1866-1869*, as the sixth volume of the «*Monuments of Greek History*»; also, the 14th volume of the *Epetiris of the Center for Medieval and Modern Hellenism* and issues Nos. 16, 17, 18, 19

and 20 of the «*Contributions*» of the Research and Computing Center.

Finally 811 new tape recordings of traditional songs and folk dances were made by the Center of Greek Folklore.

At a special session of the Academy, at which the members of the Berlin Academy of Fine Arts were received, following an address by the Secretary General of the Academy Prof. **Ioannis Theodoracopoulos**, the leading philosopher of existentialism Mr. **Martin Heidegger** spoke on the subject: «*The origin of Art and the destiny of Thought*».

On the 24th May 1967 occurred the opening of the building of the Academy of Athens, which was erected on the site of the house bequeathed to the Academy by the late academician Prof. G. Oeconomos and stands at the corner of Heraclitou and Anagnostopoulou streets. The President of the Academy Mr. **Maximos Mitsopoulos** gave a speech during the opening ceremony. In this building are already established the Research Centers of the Academy, which were formerly housed in the basement of the main building and in other premises rented for this purpose.

The international meetings, in which the Academy participated during the past year are the following:

1) The meeting of the World Union of Academies at Oslo in Norway, in which the Academy of Athens was represented by its Secretary General *Ioannis Theodoracopoulos*.

2) The International Congress of Medicine in Rome, in which the Academy's representative was its member Mr. *Nicolas Louros*.

3) The meeting of the members of the Institut International de Philosophie in the Belgian city of Liège, in which the Academy was represented by its Secretary General *Ioannis Theodoracopoulos*.

4) The 13th general meeting of the International Astronomical Union in Prague.

5) The 25th Symposium of the International Astronomical Union in Budapest.

In both these last meetings the Academy of Athens was represented by the academician Mr. *Ioannis Xanthakis*, and

6) The 5th world Congress of Cybernétique at Namur in Belgium,

in which the Academy was represented by the academician Mr. *Philon Vasiliou*.

The Research Centers of the Academy — namely those for the Historical Dictionary of Modern Greek, for Greek Folklore, for Modern Hellenism, for the History of Greek Law, for Medieval and Modern Hellenism, and the Research and Computing Center — continued their quiet and hard work, which cannot be dealt with in detail during this brief survey, as it is spread over many fields. I wish, however, to praise from this position the work conducted in the various fields of research and to extol the activity and conscientiousness of the scholars working in the above Centers. Unfortunately, it was not possible to start functioning the new Research Centers of the Academy, which were founded by virtue of No. 4545 Legislative decree of 1966, notably: the Research Center of Greek Philosophy, the Center for Collection and Classification of the Holy Canons, the Archives of place names, and the Office for Scientific Terms and Neologisms. The reason for this was the fact that the filling of the positions envisaged by the provisions of the above decree had not been approved. Nor did it become possible to fill the additional positions of the other research centers, in which work was also considerably obstructed during last year by the suspension of transfers of certain scholars working at state schools. Fortunately these transfers were recently renewed by the Ministry of Education.

The Academy is hopeful that next year the State will approve of the filling of certain positions provided by the law of its personnel in the old as well as in the new Research Centers. One must state here frankly that in order to promote the work of the Academy it is absolutely necessary for the State to attend to the work conducted here with particular interest and provide the Academy with the necessary powers. I avail myself of this opportunity to stress here that the work of the Academy of Athens is being observed and recognized by all the Academies of the world, as I realized myself during the Oslo meeting of the World Union of the Academies last summer, when I had the honour to represent the Academy of Athens.

Continuing its old tradition the Academy awards the following

prizes and distinctions this year in accordance with proposals of its three Sections and resolutions by the Assembly :

In accordance with a proposal of the *Scientific Section* and a resolution by the *Assembly* :

1) Mr. **Dimitrios Stathopoulos** is commended because for twenty years he has given his blood gratis to many patients. Many honorary distinctions have already been conferred of him from several Ministries, the Greek Red Cross, philanthropic institutions and county councils. Mr. Stathopoulos has given an excellent example of social assistance.

2) The 25,000 Drch. prize of the *Public Power Corporation* in memory of Alexander Vlangalis is given to Messrs. **George Papamatthaiakis** and **Ioannis Xynopoulos**, engineers, for their study submitted to the Academy on the application of atomic energy to produce electric power in Greece. The first part of the study, which deals with the economic-technical aspect of the subject, can be considered as complete, whereas the whole approach to the problem is made on a rational basis.

3) The 25,000 Drch. prize of the *Agricultural Bank of Greece* is given to Mr. **Nicolas Tzelepis** for his study submitted to the Academy on the position of Greek agriculture following Greece's joining the European Economic Community. This study which is both systematic and interesting testifies that the author is aware of the developments and prospects of agriculture within the European Economic Community as well as of the actual position of Greek agriculture. His analysis per product and branch is remarkable and fully attested.

4) The *silver Medal of the Academy* is conferred to the **Greek Mathematical Society** for its fiftieth anniversary since its founding. Particularly important has been the Society's contribution to the creation of a mathematical research movement in Greece through the publication as early as 1919 of an annual periodical — which was soon recognized internationally and comprises original essays by Greek and foreign mathematicians — and by organizing lectures and Panhellenic mathematical meetings. Moreover the Society made great efforts towards raising the level of mathematical teaching in the schools of Secondary Education, and suggested to the Ministry of Education several measures, many of which were put into force. Finally, it is worth mentioning the

Society's preoccupation with strengthening interest in mathematics among the pupils of High Schools.

In accordance with a proposal of the *Section of Letters and Fine Arts* and a resolution by the *Assembly*:

1) Mr. **Dimitrios Skouzes** is favourably mentioned for his book «*By gone Athens*», in which the author, providing useful information, depicts and analyses the form and life of the old city of Athens.

2) Mr. **Sozos Tombolis** is favourably mentioned for his book «*Cypriot Phythms*», which comprises a musical anthology of traditional Cypriot music of all kinds as well as folk dances of that island. The author compiled the musical texts by ear, though very accurately. By this work he contributes not only towards making the traditional Cypriot music known to a wider public, but also to the musical investigation of the popular musical tradition of that island.

3) Mr. **Constantin Karapatakis** is favourably mentioned for his book «*A Wedding in Old Times*». The author, using keenness and interest in his subject, describes clearly, methodically and pleasantly the preparations, the performance and the festivities of wedding in the district of Ventzia - Grevena. In that district enclosed between the mountains of Pindos and Camvounia within the big bend of the river Aliakmon, the existence of a picturesque traditional civilization of a genuinely Greek population is thus disclosed.

4) Mr. **Ioannis Kolitsaras** is commended for his 3 volume book «*Proverbs of the Greek People*». The author has worked with love and zeal to compile this work, by collecting his material from written as well as oral sources. He has gathered 6,000 proverbs and sayings, and carefully interpreted each item, often comparing with similar texts or ideas.

5) A prize is given to Mr. **Christos Zalokostas** for his book «*Constantin Palaeologos*» but also for his entire literary activity.

With fervour and imagination the author describes the youthful life of the last emperor of Byzantium, his heroic temper, his indomitable courage, the tragic reign and his even more tragic end, which created the hopeful legend in enslaved Hellenism.

6) A prize is given to Mrs. **Tatiana Stavrou** for her book «*The Greek Philological Society in Constantinople*». In the pages of this book is

reflected the uninterrupted cultural activity during six decades (from the year 1861 - 62 to 1911 - 13) of this Society, which owing to its wide, manifold and extremely successful activities in literary, scientific, educational, moral and nation-saving aspects, was justly called «The Ministry of Education of unredeemed Hellenism».

The authoress, having collected a vast amount of material from every possible source, proceeded to a methodical classification and distillation of the more characteristic and important of its features.

The work has been conducted with great effort but, at the same time, with a sacred zeal and deep feeling for that great and peaceful achievement of the unredeemed Hellenism, which expired together with the Hellenism of the East as a result of the disaster in Asia Minor.

Mrs. T. Stavrou, having succeeded in gathering and mastering an enormous wealth of material, offers us with literary skill not merely the history of an ideal and a chronicle of its realization but the spectrum itself of the Nation's soul in one of its most unknown and fruitful intellectual struggles.

7) A prize is given to the **Institute for Balkan Studies** in Thessaloniki, an annex of the Society for Macedonian Studies since 1954, for its scientific and national activity. In the field of promoting Balkan Studies the Institute has proved an important centre of research.

Its contribution has been outstanding with regard to collecting, editing and the study of various material referring to the Macedonian Struggle and the Diplomatic History of the Macedonian Question. Equally important are also the publications on the history and archaeology of Macedonia, as well as on the problems and the economic and technical development of Northern Greece. In addition to these the Intitute has extended its interest over the general history of Hellenism and of the Balkan peoples with a series of remarkable publications.

8) The 60,000 Drch. prize of *Dimitrios and Aigli D. Botsaris* is given to Mr. **George Laios**, a high school classical scholar, for his unpublished work on Simon Sina's life and the history of the Sinaia Academy. This essay, provided with an accurate and complete argumentation, is based not only on books and other printed material, which the author has used very methodically, but also on a great number of documentary records,

most of them unpublished, which the author studied in the archives, where these are kept.

Mr. Laios has written an extremely important monograph, which meets the requirements of a remarkable scholarly and owing to its character difficult work.

In accordance with a proposal of the *Section of Moral and Political Sciences* and a resolution by the *Assembly*:

1) Mr. **Leonidas Lolos**, Director of the Commercial Bank of Greece, is favourably mentioned for his book «*The Banking System*». In this the author in a clear and comprehensive manner acquaints the Greek reader with the history of the banking system and with the now existing banking organization in the main countries.

2) Miss **Olga Michailidou** is commended for her remarkable philanthropic, social and christian activity she has displayed in Northern Greece by establishing Students' Homes and infant nurseries and by performing other tasks of social character.

3) Messrs. **Panayotis Papaevangelou** and **Charilaos Tzogas** are commended for their work «*Greek Theological Bibliography of the last hundred Years 1860 - 1960*». This work, which has been conducted with effort, care and good method certainly fills a wide gap in the means of research into our modern theological literature.

4) The 30,000 Drch. prize of the *Royal Fund* in memory of King Paul, aimed at persons or Societies, whose general activity is centered on the economic, social, spiritual etc. development of Greek villages, is conferred on the «**Union of the Arcadian Kerasèa**», having its seat in Athens, which has been working successfully towards improving the living conditions of the people of Kerasèa and generally towards raising their cultural standard.

5) The 25,000 Drch. prize of the *Evangelistria Holy Establishment* on Tinos for the best theological work is given jointly to the two University Professors Mr. **Panayotis Trembelas** for his 3 volume book «*Dogmatic Theology of the Orthodox Church*» — a French translation of which has been coming out in Paris since last year — and Mr. **Vasilios Vellas** for his book «*The Prophet Daniel*».

6) A prize is given to the **Association of the Great School**

Alumni in Athens, which was founded in 1927 by ex-students of the well-known Nation's Great School in Constantinople, and since then has displayed a praise-worthy activity in the national, religious, cultural and social fields.

7) *A prize* is given to Mrs. **Nelly Mikroulaki**, President of the Society for Protection and Rehabilitation of disabled Children, for her valuable contribution to the task of protecting the disabled child in Greece.

Mrs. Mikroulaki has devoted herself fully to and has assiduously worked in that difficult task. Her assistance has covered not only the fields of medical and hospital treatment of disabled children but also the education of the mentally handicapped children and their professional adjustment.

8) The *Bronze Medal of the Academy* is conferred on Mrs. **Lina Tsaldari** for her long activity so useful to the nation, and her assiduous efforts particularly in the domain of Social Welfare, but also in other fields of national life. This distinction is conferred on the occasion of the appearance in the current year of a two-volume book by Mrs. Tsaldari bearing the title: '*National, social and Political efforts*'.

9) The *Bronze Medal of the Academy* is conferred posthumously on **Alcestis Agorastaki** for deeds of great heroism and self-sacrifice.

Agorastaki, a senior student of the Classical Faculty in Athens University enjoying a high esteem in the society of Canea for her outstanding character and manners, was among the passengers on board the ferry-boat «Heraklion» which sank in the waters of Falconera that horrible night of 9th December of last year. Struggling against the waves and defying imminent danger, through her admonitions and actions she contributed to the saving of other shipwrecked people. Finally, however, overcome by exhaustion after a long struggle against the raging sea and after helping others to save themselves she was unable to survive herself. Her sacrifice made a deep impression upon the minds of the people of Crete and made her a symbol of bravery and a rare Christian self-denial.

The Athen's Academy, moved by the grandeur of the heroic girl's sacrifice is conferring the Medal on her family as an expression of the deepest participation in their mourning.