

**‘Cypriot Archives - Archival Testimonies on
Asia Minor Hellenism of Cyprus’
Proceedings of the 3rd Scholarly Symposium
[«Κυπριακά Αρχεία και αρχειακές μαρτυρίες
για τον Μικρασιατικό Ελληνισμό της Κύπρου»
Πρακτικά Γ’ Επιστημονικού Συμποσίου]**

**Charalampos Chotzakoglou (ed.)
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The interest on Asia Minor and its interaction with other lands of Hellenism has always been relevant. The work being presented under the title ‘Cypriot Archives - Archival Testimonies on Asia Minor Hellenism of Cyprus’, which was issued by the Association of Asia Minor Greeks of Cyprus, is included accurately in this framework. The Proceedings of the 3rd Scholarly Symposium, which took place in Nicosia on the 21st of October 2017, are presented in an elegant volume edited by Dr. Charalampos G. Chotzakoglou.

The subject matter is structured as an exposition of the nine scholarly studies based mainly on archival research, which elaborate equal-number individual matters of the activity of Asia Minor Greeks in Cyprus. They are preceded, on the one hand by the Foreword Note of the President of the Asia Minor Greeks of Cyprus and by the editor of the publication, and on the other hand by the greetings of the President of the Association of Asia Minor Greeks of Cyprus, by the Secretary General of the Federation of Refugee Associations of Greece and by the Ambassador of Greece in the Cypriot Republic.

In the main part of the work, Ms. Antonia Prodromou researches the Archive of the Holy Archdiocese of Cyprus and highlights matters related to the Asia Minor Hellenism of Cyprus. The following study, by Costas F. Colakides, itself constitutes archival research. Interesting topics are presented from the personal Archive of the Asian Minor Greek politician St. V. Theofanidis, who served as Deputy Minister of Mercantile Marine in the government of E. Tsouderos during the turbulent period of 1941-44 in Greece. There follows the study by Stelios Irakleous, which is devoted

to the Karamanlidian publications in Cyprus which were linked to the island via the Kykkos Monastery, utilising the manuscripts and incunabula of the permanent Collection of the Association. Savvas Lambrou deals with a special topic: the operation of the quarantine station (Λοιμοκαθαρτήριο in the original text) of Dekeleia and the presence of refugees therein. In parallel, it also highlights the attitude of the British administration on it investigating the State Archive of Cyprus. There follows an additional original archival research. Angelos Kuriacoudes presents the findings of his investigation with regard to the Asia Minor Greek Freemasons, who were members of the Lodge 'Zinon', number 18, of Limassol and the process of their integration in the social and cultural life of Cyprus during the early 20th century. The last, out of the archival researches, which is included in the Volume is the study by Charalampos G. Chotzakoglou, who studies the Archive of the Holy Church of Virgin Mary Faneromeni of Nicosia and collects News on Asia Minor Greeks. The following study constitutes a *post mortem* presentation of the work of Aristeidis Koudounaris on the Curricula Vitae of eminent Asia Minor Greeks who lived in Cyprus, upon the editorship by Dr. Chotzakoglou. In turn, Andreas Makrides presents Letters from the Hellenic Post of Smyrna a few months prior to the Disaster, utilising his personal Archive. The part of the scholarly studies is completed with a special topic. Androula Hadjiyiasemi deals with the 'needle lace' of Asia Minor as an element of the intangible heritage of Cyprus. All the studies are accompanied by an abstract in the English language. A considerable number of studies contain graphs and tables, while the tables which are included in the studies are cited in the Annex of the Volume.

Furthermore, following the scientific studies, the reader can utilise the highly thorough Greek – language and foreign – language index drafted by the Editor of the Volume. In the Annex, in addition to the images of the scholarly studies, the reader can find photographs from the proceedings of the Symposium, the contact information of the authors and a Publications List of the Association of Greek Asia Minor Greeks of Cyprus.

In summary, this is a remarkable publication, which highlights interesting aspects of Hellenism of Asia Minor in martyrical Cyprus. In this year (2022), on the centenary of the 1922 Asia Minor Disaster, more relevant as ever in the past is the reading of such works, which stimulate historical memory and bring to mind the words of our

National Poet Dionysios Solomos: «Δυστυχής! Παρηγορία/ μόνη σου έμενε να λες/
περασμένα μεγαλεία/ και διηγώντας τα να κλαις»¹.

Ioannis E. Kastanas

¹ D.Solomos, 'Υμνος εις την Ελευθερίαν 5. G.Veloudis (ed.), Dionysios Solomos Poems and Works [Διονύσιος Σολωμός. Ποήματα και Πεζά] (Athens: Patakis, 2008) (in Greek) p.67

'Miserable! The only solace/ left for you was to talk about/ past grandeurs/ and while narrating them you cry'. (An author's translation.)