

OPENING ADDRESS : ANDREAS ANDREADES

by LAZAROS HOUMANIDIS

Dear Colleagues :

I feel especially happy to be addressing you today from this stand and to be able to thank both my Greek and foreign colleagues for participating in this International Congress of the Greek Economic Association held to honor the memory of Andreas Andreades.

Andreades was a colossus, a culture that embraced Literature, Theater, Music, Arts, History, Economics, Sociology, and Philosophy—precisely as the field of Economic History which attracted him more. Keynes described Andreades as «a man of wide culture, almost as much interested in Arts as in Politics, Economics and History».

Andreas Andreades is undoubtedly one of the greatest historians of Economy, a field which he explored in depth, even before it had been included in Greek university curricula. He specialized in the History of Public Finance, particularly that of Greece, although quite a large portion of his work also deals with the History of Public Finance in Foreign Countries such as England, Japan and the Most Serene Republic of Venice during its occupation of the Ionian Islands.

The actual pioneer in the development of Public Finance in Greece was Ioannis Soutsos, a student of Jean Baptiste Say and professor at the University of Athens, who in 1864 published a paper entitled, «Public Finance». In 1879 professor, Ioannis Zographos, taught the subject of Public Finance at the University of Athens ; we should also note that his «Public Finances Studies» (Vol. 1-3, 1925-1926) deals with Public Finances in Ancient Greece, in Rome, Byzantium and Greece under Turkish occupation.

But it is Andreas Andreades' work—an unparalleled historical document on Economics—that gained world wide importance. For his monographs have shed light on a number of obscure and unexplored areas of the History of Public Finances in Greece. And, as mentioned earlier, his inquiry was not limited to Greece alone but encompassed other areas as well.

Andreades was born in Corfu on December 12, 1876, but his parents came from Crete and Chios. After graduating from the Gymnasium in Corfu (1892)

he traveled to France and graduated from the University of Paris in 1895. In 1899 his dissertation on «Les Peines Alternatives ou Parallèles : Essais de Théorie Penale» earned him a PhD in Law, while in 1901 the same University granted him a PhD in Economic Studies for his dissertation on «Essai sur la Fondation et l'Histoire de la Banque d'Angleterre», which also won a prize.

In 1904, Andreades published his «Histoire de la Banque d'Angleterre, ses Origines, sa Fondation», a monumental work, which earned him world recognition. The book, which was prefaced by professor Coen of the University of Paris' Law School and a member of the Institut Français at Lyon, was translated into English in 1909 and into Japanese in 1932.

Upon returning to Greece, Andreades was elected, at the age of 28, Assistant Professor of Political Economy and Public Finance at the Law School of the University of Athens; in 1906 he was elected full professor at the University's chair of Public Finance and Statistics which subjects he taught for 25 consecutive years with great zeal and assiduousness.

When the Academy of Athens was founded in 1926, Andreades became a member; he remained active at both the University and the Academy until 1934, when he retired from teaching because of ill health problems.

At a farewell dinner for Andreas Andreades, Alexandros Svolos, then Dean of Athens University's Law School, spoke of Andreades' abilities and his contribution to Science (his address, published in the February 15, 1935 issue of «Nea Estia» magazine) produced such deep feeling that in his response Andreades expressed the wish he might continue teaching; however this was no longer possible.

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Andreades was an advocate of the Liberal School, directly influenced by his teacher Leroy Beaulieu and by the works of John Stuart Mill and of Luigi Einaudi. A certain deviation from this liberalism was mainly due to the influence of historicism and to the broad and varied education Andreades had received, opening up wide horizons within which this rare and restless spirit could move. Uneasy about the consequences of interventionism, of state expenditure, and of the weaknesses of bureaucracy, he exerted strong criticism against tax exemptions and privileges and supported the taxation of savings though not of protective deposits. However, he never related these principles to the political arena since, although he was offered Ministerial posts on several occasions, he never became involved in politics. In fact even his closest friends did not know what his attitude toward the then political parties was. Besides his dedication to History led him away from dogmatic stands, while none of the political programs nor any of the politicians seemed to be quite satisfactory to him. Perhaps, because he unconsciously compared these to his own talents, his education and his personality and because, as a wise teacher, he felt alien to irresponsible demagoguery.

Nevertheless, whenever the necessity arose Andreades served his country

well and not from his academic position alone. During the 1912-13 Balcan Wars, he served as director general of Press and Information, as expert in the Paris Convention (1919-1920), as Greece's representative at the League of Nations and at The Hague's Council of Reparations (1923, 1924, 1929), and finally as advisor to Eleftherios Venizelos. Thanks to his knowledge of French, English, Italian and German, he wrote many articles and essays for a number of distinguished Greek and foreign journals.

Let me mention some of his foreign language essays : «Tipi di politica finanziaria nell'Antichità Greca» (1927), «The finances of tyrant government in ancient Greece» (1937), «La mort de Sparte et ses causes démographiques» (1931), «La population de l'Attique aux Ve et IVE siècles» (1928), «Le montant du budget de l'état Athenien aux Ve et IVE siècles av. J.C.» (1931), «Les finances de guerre d'Alexandre le Grand» (1929), «Des droits de douane prélevés par les Lagides sur le commerce extérieur», «De l'origine des monopoles ptolemaïques», «Les finances byzantines» (1911), «De la monnaie et de la puissance d'achat des métaux précieux dans l'Empire Byzantin» (1924), «Le recrutement des fonctionnaires et les universités dans l'Empire Byzantin» (1926), «Byzance paradis du monopole et du privilège» (1934), «L'administration financière de la Grèce sous la domination Turque» (1910), «Ali Pacha de Tébélin, économiste financier» (1912), «L'administration financière de Jean Capodistrias» (1911), «Les progrès économiques du royaume des Hellènes depuis 40 ans» (1918-1919), «De l'Empire Japonais et son Evolution (1868-1931)», Paris 1932. Except the above mentioned works I must mention here and his two-volume book : «On the Economic Administration of the Ionian Islands under Venetian domination» (1914) in greek, which is quite unique. Finally, I should mention that Andreades was the editor of the Journal «Bulletin d'Orient» (1904-1918), which was instrumental in apprising the world of Greece's rights.

Andreades' works offer complete bibliographies, thorough research and a fine sensitivity of expression. His studies in philology and literature helped him select from among ancient papyri, orators, little known writers and old texts those features which could serve his purpose. In fact what one most admires in Andreades' work is the marvellous way in which he uses his sources, his sound critique, his spontaneity and his conscientiousness. No wonder therefore that translators such as Ernst Meyer in Germany and C.N. Brown in England undertook to translate his work and make it known in their respective countries.

As a university teacher, Andreades was not known for his rhetorical virtues but for the clarity of his lectures, which he enriched with the views and opinions of various writers as well as with anecdotal stories, all of which brought him a captive and attentive audience. Despite his temperamental outburst, he had a deep love for his colleagues and his students. In addition to the University of Athens, Andreades delivered talks at such foreign institutions as King's College (1920), the Academy of International Law at The Hague (1934), at four university institutions in Belgium (1927) which earned him a third doctorate degree from the University of Louvain, at the University of Cairo (1932), at the University of Paris.

(1933) and at the University of Lyon, which granted him an honorary doctorate degree (1934); finally he took part in several congresses, notably concerning Byzantium, and in the World Economic Congress of London (1933).

Andreades' contribution to learning was rounded off by his role in the operation of a model study center which he directed. He constantly guided the students in their endeavors and encouraged many of them to publish their papers. Thus many significant original essays were published, among which L. Makkas : «The role of Kapodistria in Public Finance» (1910), Th. Kriezis : «On the Finances of the Island of Hydra» (1911), I. Tsaggaris : «Contribution to the History of Public Finances of the Revolution» (1917), etc.

In recognition of his broad scholarship and varied activities, Andreades, was awarded many medals and other distinctions. Thus he was appointed Chairman of the Centenary Committee for Lord Byron, Dean of the Law School of Athens University, Chairman of the Anglohellenic Association, Chairman of the Greek Association for the League of Nations, and was elected member of the Royal Economic Society, of the Academie des Sciences Morales et Politiques of Paris, of the Academy of Political Science of New York, of the Bavarian Academy of Munich, of the Academies of Bucarest and Cairo.

Andreades stayed clear of theory since this would have involved dealing with subjects based on logical constructions and using abstraction, schematic meaning and abstract thought. Instead, he opted for the historical field of real life, describing events, examining them in depth, registering similarities and drawing useful conclusions, which could be acted upon. The subjects that preoccupied this tireless servant of science were numerous; his acute and inquiring mind led him into new quests and into new adventures in knowledge, which he subsequently strove to disseminate and impart to his fellowmen. This continuous anxiety and toil could not but eventually ruin his health, so much so that he used to tell his friends that he didn't expect to live beyond the age of 55. It is with this thought in mind that this Doctor Faustus of the History of Public Finances toiled to bring new facts to light from the depths of the historical archives he knew so well how to investigate. Apart from his personality as a scholar in the sciences, Andreades was also an excellent theater critic, his articles covering both Greek and foreign productions. In fact he is the author of two books on contemporary theater in London and in Vienna, as well as of several articles in newspapers and journals which he signed under the pen-name «Alk». At the same time he wrote articles on economic, historical, diplomatic and literary subjects in such foreign newspapers as «Temps», «Comedia», etc. Among Greek newspapers he wrote for «Eleftheron Vima», «Estia», «Vradyni», «Ethnos», and the French language «Messager d'Athènes».

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On May 29, 1935 Athens, the city where he had taught, was shocked to hear that Andreades was dead. Soon the whole of Greece and many other countries

as well were mourning the passing of the man whose brilliant career had come to an end at such an early age. He was only 59.

Andreades had made his will one year before his death designating as his executors Professor George Maridakis, Professor Panagiotis Kanellopoulos, and his lawyer Petros Mamopoulos. He had bequeathed his office, his books, various manuscripts and paintings to the Law School of the University of Athens; his books on the theater and on other literary subjects went to the «Parnassos» Literary Society and his other books to the Reading Society of Corfu.

Several obituaries were written for Andreades, both in and outside Greece. Of these we mention only J.M. Keynes' in the «Economic Journal» (1935), Ch. Rist's in the «Revue d'Économie Politique» (1935), H. Baynes' in the «Times» of June 5, 1935, A. Lalande's in the «Journal Officiel de la République Française» (1935) and had his friend Edgeworth been still alive, we would surely have had an obituary from his as well.

Many interesting essays were written on the work of Andreades after his death. The most significant of these was one by Professor Athanassios Sbarounis entitled, «André Andreades, fondateur de la Science des Finances en Grèce,» Athens, 1936, prefaced by K. Varvaressos; the essay was also published in Germany with a preface by W. Sombart. Other essays on Andreades included one by N. Kaskarellis published in the Journal «Ergasia» (Labor) of February 23, 1936; two papers by P. Dertilis published in «Rivista di Diritto Finanziario e Scienza delle Finanze», 1939 and in «Ergasia» of June 6, 1935; and finally Kyriakos Varvaressos' announcement at the Academy of Athens published in the «Newspaper of Greek Law» of May 16, 1932.

Honoring Andreades' varied contributions, the University of Athens published three large volumes entitled «Works of Andreas Andreades», Athens 1938, edited by K. Ch. Varvaressos, G.A. Petropoulos and I.D. Pintos. In addition, under the chairmanship of Academician Kyriakos Varvaressos, Andreades' friends and students published a special volume entitled «Études dédiées à la mémoire d'André Andréades», Athènes 1940.

The respect that Andreades inspired both as a scholar and as a man was such that Edwin Seligman described him, as early as 1926, as «the most distinguished Public Finance specialist of his time».