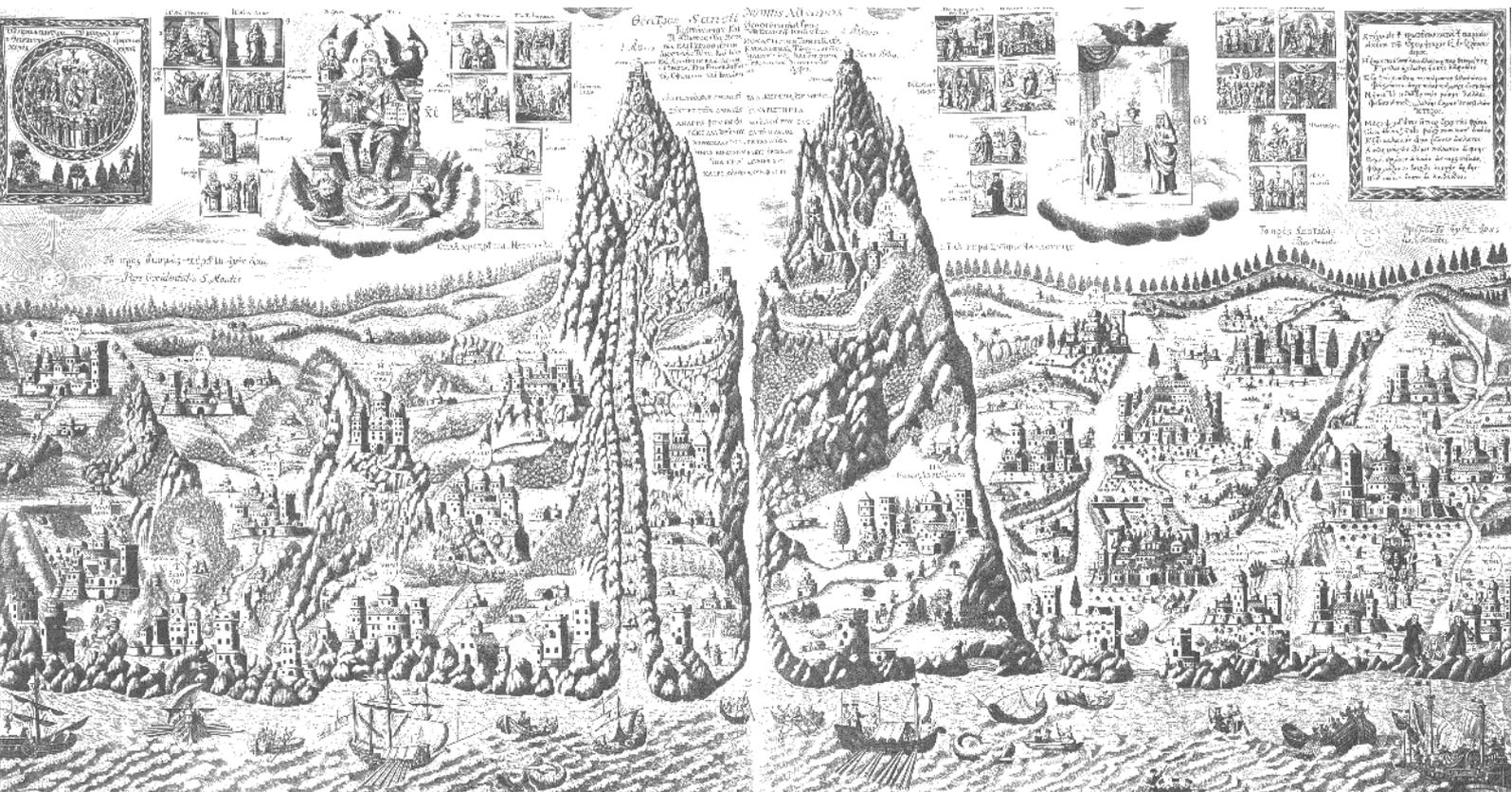




ΑΓΙΟΡΕΙΤΙΚΗ ΕΣΤΙΑ



20 ΧΡΟΝΙΑ



Mount Athos
during the period of the Greek Revolution.

PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

Thessaloniki, January 2021

2021 marks the two hundredth anniversary of the beginning of the Greek Revolution of 1821. The whole of the Greek nation (both within and outside the borders of the Greek state) will be celebrating this important anniversary with a host of different activities and events.

As is well known, the outbreak of the Greek Revolution in Macedonia and particularly in Chalkidiki stirred the Athonites profoundly. Many of them, in fact, such as the energetic Nikephoros the Chartophylax of Iveron Monastery, had been initiated into the Philike Etaireia years earlier. In May 1821, at a jubilant gathering at the Protaton Church, the Athonites resolved to join the revolutionary movement of Emmanuel Pappas. However, the revolt in northern Greece was to end quickly and ingloriously and the Athonites had to pay a heavy price for their involvement. Turkish troops were installed in the monasteries, which were forced to maintain them. A hefty extra tax was imposed on the Athonites as a whole and the regular taxes were doubled. The dependencies in Chalkidiki were badly damaged and the flow of revenues from the profitable dependencies in Moldo-Wallachia was interrupted for at least five years. Debts mounted, a large number of monks abandoned Athos, and many monasteries were reduced to a state of utter poverty and were forced to sell off a large number of treasures, although the most precious of these were removed to safety on the islands of revolutionary Greece, while the number of monks fell dramatically. During the decade for which this dire state of affairs continued, no construction work or artistic activity of any consequence was carried out. The measures against Mount Athos were eventually lifted in 1830.

The Mount Athos Center considered it its duty to play an active part in the national celebrations and, through its own programme of activities and events, to promote a very unique aspect of Athonite history: that of Mount Athos's participation in the Greek Revolution, which is little known by the general public. In this endeavour a very important part will be played by two of our city's most notable organisations, with which we will be working closely to realise our programme of events. These are the Society for Macedonian Studies, one of Greece's leading scientific associations, with which we will be jointly organising the International Conference, and the Ephorate of Antiquities of Chalkidiki and Mount Athos, with which we will be collaborating in the organisation of an exhibition of objects from Mount Athos and Chalkidiki, as is described below.

For this reason, the Board of Directors of the Mount Athos Center, by virtue of its decision no. 9/187/18.2.2019, has set up a Scientific-Organising Committee, to which it has entrusted the responsibility of preparing and submitting a programme of commemorative events.

This Committee is composed as follows:

Chairman

Kriton Chrysochoidis, Honorary Director, Institute of Historical Research, National Research Foundation

Members

Elder Symeon Dionysiates, First Vice-President, Board of Directors of the Mount Athos Center

Hieromonk Philotheos of Koutloumoussiou, Ordinary member of the Board of Directors of the Mount Athos Center

Hieromonk Theophilos of Pantokrator, Ordinary member of the Board of Directors of the Mount Athos Center

Vasileios Pappas, President of the Society for Macedonian Studies, Lawyer, Dr. of History

Symeon Paschalides, Professor, Faculty of Theology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

Phokion Kotzageorgis, Assistant Professor, School of History and Archaeology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

Ioakeim Papangelos, Dr. of Archaeology

Demetrios Liakos, Dr. of Archaeology / Ephorate of Antiquities of Chalkidiki and Mount Athos

Nikolaos Mertzimekis, Dr. of Archaeology / Ephorate of Antiquities of Chalkidiki and Mount Athos

After conferring together, the members of the Scientific Committee decided on the general framework for the celebrations and proposed that the following events be organised under the general title 'Mount Athos during the period of the Greek Revolution':

A. Organisation of an International Conference with the participation of Greek and foreign speakers.

Following the approval of the governing board of the Society for Macedonian Studies, the International Conference will be jointly organised by the Society and the Mount Athos Center and will be held on the Society's premises in the autumn of 2021.

B. Publication of a commemorative volume on Mount Athos's contribution to the Greek Revolution.

The volume will also focus on the conditions prevailing on Athos at the time of the Revolution. The scientific papers presented in the volume will aim, through published and unpublished historical documents, to highlight all the facets of the Athonites' involvement in the momentous event, their activities both within and outside Mount Athos, and the diverse consequences of their participation in the Revolution. For a deeper and more general understanding and interpretation of the event, it is proposed that the research and individual contributions be broadened to include the historical background of events on Athos both immediately before and after the Revolution.

C. A phototype edition of an old publication concerning the period of the Revolution on Mount Athos.

The Scientific Committee has chosen to publish a variorum containing articles and texts that have been written in the past about particular aspects of Mount Athos's participation in the Greek Revolution. The introductory text will be by Mr. Kriton Chrysochoidis, Chairman of the Scientific Committee and Honorary Director of the Institute of Historical Research at the National Research Foundation.

D. An exhibition on the theme of the revolutionary period on Mount Athos, with an accompanying catalogue containing texts based on original research into the period.

The initial aim is to present objects and pictures from the period between 1800 and 1830, both from Mount Athos and other parts of Chalkidiki. The exhibition

will be jointly organised with the Ephorate of Antiquities of Chalkidiki and Mount Athos.

E. An exhibition and a publication presenting the neomartyrs of Mount Athos.

These will cover both the period of the Greek Revolution and other periods. The exhibition will be accompanied by a number of original works by contemporary painters and iconographers that will later be included in the publication.

Taken together, the commemorative volume, international conference and exhibitions, with their diverse and varied subject-matter, could form part of a combined response to research needs on the subject of Mount Athos during the period of the Greek Revolution. These research needs could be condensed within the following indicative thematic units:

1. The Revolution of 1821 on Mount Athos:

A general picture of the situation on Mount Athos before the Revolution. The proclamation of the Revolution on Athos, the events of the Revolution and their direct consequences. A prosopography of the Athonites involved in the Revolution. The attitude of foreign monks to the Revolution.

2. The consequences of the Revolution for Mount Athos and the Ottoman authorities:

The relations between Mount Athos and the Ottoman authorities. The financial consequences of the Revolution. The demographic situation, the dispersal of the monks and its consequences. The monasteries' relations with their Balkan dependencies.

3. Mount Athos and revolutionary and free Greece (1821-mid 1830s).

4. The 'internal' history of Mount Athos:

The internal organisation of Athos and the functional bodies of the Koinon and the monasteries (after the issuance of the Typikon by Patriarch Gabriel IV in 1783). Mount Athos's relations with the Great Church.

5. Spiritual life:

Theological currents and ascetic figures during the period of the Revolution. Athonite hagiography and particularly the phenomenon of the neomartyrs before, during and after the Revolution.

6. Scholarship on Mount Athos during the period of the Revolution:

Athonite scholars, spiritual literary output, calligraphic activity, libraries, education on Mount Athos, Athonite chant.

7. The built environment of Mount Athos:

Architectural survey of the monasteries and their dependencies, as well as the settlement of Karyes, in the first thirty years of the 19th century. Building activity during the time of the Revolution.

8. Art on Athos during the Revolution:

Painting, monumental painting, portable icons, sculpture, other arts and craftsmen (metalworking, engraving and clock-making workshops etc.). The vicissitudes of Athonite treasures during the Revolution.

9. Mount Athos's relations with Chalkidiki and Macedonia during the period of the Revolution (pre-revolutionary and revolutionary periods).