

INTRODUCTION of Prof. RICHARD CLOGG
by Professor Theodore Pappas

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is well known that the Ionian University started its courses for the first time in 1985 in Corfu, where the Ionian Academy, the first Greek university, had functioned from 1824 to 1864.

The Ionian Academy had been the vision of and was established by Frederic North, Earl of Guilford, a British Philhellene who had special bonds with Corfu that he had visited in 1791, when it was still under Venetian rule.

Close to twenty years later, when the British had conquered the Eptanissos and Corfu, he got the idea to establish in Ithaca a University manned by Greek scholars, in which Greeks but also students from other Mediterranean and Balkan countries would be educated, so that their going to European Universities for higher studies wouldn't anymore be necessary.

The explosion of the Greek War for Independence was the cause for moving the seat of the University to Corfu. The official inauguration of the Ionian Academy took place on the 29th May 1824 and its operation was ended immediately after the Union of the Seven Islands with Greece.

In the 40 years of its operation several distinguished personalities were teaching, like: Constandinos Assopeios, Christoforos Philitas, Ioannis Karandinos, Andreas Kalvos, Neofytos Vamvas, Constandinos Typaldos, Athanasios Politis, Petros Vrailas-Armenis, Constandinos Zavitsianos and many others. The Ionian Academy, despite its ingrown problems had been a university that had been designed with very high standards and specifications, during an especially difficult period.

Though its founder was British, its character was national from the beginning; it was in fact an Hellenic university that had to operate in a medium under foreign rule. Under these conditions, the Ionian Academy showed a magnificent record, providing higher education at first to all Greeks and later on, after the establishment of the Capodistrian University in 1837, mainly Eptanissians. The actual Ionian University is proud to consider itself as the continuation of that first Hellenic University.

By the occasion of the celebration of the 250 years from Frederic North, Earl of Guilford's birth, thanks to the initiative of the Friends of the "Memoire Albert Cohen" Foundation in Corfu, professor Richard Clogg, emeritus Fellow of St Anthony's College of the Oxford University, will present to us the life and work of that exceptional "Philellene of Philellenes".

Richard Clogg is a specialist in modern Greek history, and he has been a professor of Modern History of the Balkans at the University of London. He has written and edited a considerable number of books and articles relating to Greek history and politics. His work *has* been translated in many languages, while his most recent book that was published in Greek by *Katoptro* Editions in 2015 is the "Concise history of Greece, 1770-2013"

Ending this brief introduction, I would like to point out that it is a special honor for us to host today here, on the grounds of the Ionian Academy, Professor Richard Clogg.

Prof. Theodor G. Pappas
Ionian University's Vice Rector
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