



Summary :

Educational club of Trebizond. Its history is closely connected with the club "Charitable Society" of the same city.

Date

1865-1881 (at least)

Geographical Location

Trebizond (Trabzon)

1. Foundation, objective and rise of the club

The educational association Greek Commercial Club "Anatoli" (Orient) was founded in [Trebizond](#) (Trabzon) in 1865 and survived at least until 1881. The history of the club is closely connected with the club "Charitable Society" of the same city and the adventures of its building, where it was accommodated after 1875. "Anatoli" aimed at entertaining and educating its members. For these reasons, there was a reading room and a small library, public lessons were given and discussions were held on various matters concerning commerce and issues of general interest. In the first years of operation the club enjoyed great prosperity: it included a large number of members and also hired and furnished a building for 80 Ottoman lira. In that thriving period, which continued after the club moved to a different building, the treasurer Georgios Giannikapanis played an important role.

However, gradually and for unknown reasons the club started to decline. At that moment the history of the club was closely connected with the history of the club "[Charitable Society](#)" of Trebizond. "Charitable Society" decided to invest its capitals in the construction of a building in order to hire it out to the club, which suspended its operations until September 1875, when the new building was finished. It immediately hired the building from the "Charitable Society", while a part of it was subleased to the [club "Xenophon"](#).

The committee of "Anatoli", which consisted of P. Avgerinos and G.P. Souliadis, actually reorganised the club after the previous inactive period and maintained it for three years. The first president of the new club was Th. Spatharis. The club prospered again in the following years. It included more than 65 members and new corporate bodies were elected. The board consisted of G. Seirinopoulos (president), G. Kakoulidis (treasurer), P.L. Efraimidis (secretary), A. Fyllitizis (member), S.E. Perseidis (member), I.G. Giannikapanis (member) and G.P. Tzouliadis (member). Furthermore, a three-member committee was formed to revise the regulation of the club (the three members were S.E. Perseidis, S.L. Melidis and A.N. Ieroklis).¹

2. Decline

"Anatoli" prospered for two years; in the third year it started to decline and faced economic problems. As a result, it could not pay in time the rent to the "Charitable Society". In exchange, the Society expropriated the newly bought furniture of the club, whose value balanced the debt. In addition, there was no interest in the renewal of the board: throughout these three years the club was managed by those who had initially been elected after its reorganisation, as the members never convened in plenum in order to hold an election. In the fourth year, as there was no interest in maintaining "Anatoli", the club "Xenophon", which had already subleased part of the building from "Anatoli", decided to hire the entire building from the "Charitable Society" undertaking also its maintenance. A special committee was elected for this reason consisting of S. Melidis and I. Seirinopoulos, who convened a meeting and proposed that "Xenophon" be assigned with the maintenance of the club "Anatoli", on condition that "Xenophon" would be responsible for electing the heads of the club, while members of "Anatoli" could be elected as well. When these propositions were accepted, "Xenophon" elected A. Triantafyllidis, D. Kasfykis, S. Melidis and S.C. Kousis as heads of "Anatoli". Because the committee was not particularly active, the existence of a special board for the club was considered unnecessary in the following year and "Xenophon" became exclusively responsible for the club. However, the damage caused by the lack of new members led "Xenophon" to withdraw from the maintenance of the club.



1. Μαμώνη, Κ., "Σωματειακή οργάνωση των Ελλήνων της Μικράς Ασίας. Γ': Σύλλογοι της Καππαδοκίας και του Πόντου", *Δελτίο Κέντρου Μικρασιατικών Σπουδών* 6 (1986-1987), p. 191.

Bibliography :

Μαμώνη Κ., "Σωματειακή οργάνωση των Ελλήνων της Μικράς Ασίας Γ': Σύλλογοι της Καππαδοκίας και του Πόντου", *Δελτίο Κέντρου Μικρασιατικών Σπουδών*, 6, 1986-7, 155-225

Sources

Εύξεινος Πόντος 1 (8/11/1880), 24, p. 369.