



Summary :

A journal which was published in the years 1910-1913 as a publication of the sports club "Pontus" in Merzifon. It included articles about important social issues of the time and often expressed innovative opinions on them.

Date

1909-1913

Geographical Location

Merzifon

1. First publication of the journal and collaborators

The journal *Pontus* was first published as a manuscript in 1909 by Orthodox students of the "[Anatolia](#)" college in [Merzifon](#). Next year the sports club "[Pontus](#)" decided to make the review its official journal and to undertake its printed publication.¹ The editing committee comprised Dimitrios Theocharidis, Kallisthenis G. Chourmouziadis and Leonidas M. Kazezoglou. In order to express the intellectual quests of the students and the graduates of the college, but also to challenge them to extend the field of their interests outside their courses and in other fields of social life, the journal invited the students, the graduates of Anatolia college, and also their friends to collaborate.

2. Themes and positions of the journal

Pontus dealt with historical, archaeological, sociological and philosophical issues. It also contained translations of foreign philological works, poems and moral-religious articles, as well as news from the club's activity and the life of the urban class of the [Pontus](#). In order to inform its readers the review also mentioned the conference of the Orientalists in Athens in 1912. It should be stressed that the review contained articles related to the intellectual avant-garde of the time and touched important issues such as the language problem and the position of women. The opinions of the authors on these issues could be considered characteristic of the ideology of the literate middle strata. The recognition, for example, of the right of women to be considered political beings –with any reservations indirectly expressed by the author of the relative article in the issue of May 1911- is consistent with similar opinions of the middle strata all around Europe, whereas the proposition for a moderate prevalence of the demotic language as the language "of the national soul" echoes views of the lingual problem in Greece (see quotation).

1. Its full title was *Pontus: Monthly philological, scientific and pedagogic journal of the Pontus*.

Bibliography :



Μαμόνη 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



Πόντος: Μηνιαίον δημοσίευμα φιλολογικόν, επιστημονικόν και παιδαγωγικόν του Πόντου (Merzifon 1910-1913)

Quotations

On the language problem

«...δια να αποδειχθή τίς η καταλληλοτέρα των δύο γλωσσών, οφείλει να δοθή εις αμφοτέρας ευρύ πεδίων δράσεως και συναγωνισμού του οποίου το τέλος θ' αποφασίση ο χρόνος. Η εξαφάνις της διγλωσσίας δεν επιτυγχάνεται δια βιαίου περιορισμού της μιάς, αλλά δι' ελευθέρας αναπτύξεως αμφοτέρων, οπότεν μοιραίως, ως εκ της φυσικής αυτής υπεροχής, θα υπερισχύση η καταλληλοτέρα. Η γλώσσα ήτις δεν εκτελεί τον προορισμόν της θ' αποθάνη αφ' εαυτής τον εξ ατροφίας φυσικόν θάνατον καθώς και πας άλλος οργανισμός ...»

Πόντος, April 1911, n. 8, p. 120

«...τι λοιπόν! Θα εξακολουθήση η επάρατος διγλωσσία, θα έχομεν πάντοτε την πνευματικήν ζωήν χωρισμένην από την ζωήν του έθνους, μιαν γλώσσαν της διανοίας και άλλην του αισθήματος; Όχι. Ο χωρισμός του λόγου του πνευματικού βίου από της γλώσσης της εθνικής ζωής, θα παύση όταν παύση η επικράτησις της πνευματικής ολιγαρχίας και του λαϊκού ληθάργου, θα παύση όταν επικρατήση η πραγματική δημοκρατία του πνεύματος...»

Πόντος, May 1911, n. 9, p. 136