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The following is a brief biographical sketch of Antonios N. Jannaris. For the purpose of the Symposium publication it will be expanded with more details.

## Antonios N. Jannaris

by

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Antonios N. Jannaris was born in the village of Lakkoi, in the Prefecture of Chania, of the Island of Kriti (Crete) on the 25<sup>th</sup> August 1852. He died aboard a vessel on his way from Hellas to America on the 26<sup>th</sup> April 1909. Following his early education in his native Kriti, he pursued studies at the University of Athens as well as in Bonn and Marburg. He held the degrees of M.A. and PhD.

Jannaris spent a large part of his adult life outside Hellas. His first university post was a brief tenure of a lecturship in Mediaeval literature at the University of Athens. He was one of the initial members of the Ἐπιστημονικὴ Ἑταιρεία (The *Scientific Society* of Athens, established in 1888), which in 1889 founded the venerable journal Ἀθηνά, which served the scholarly world till 1985.

Jannaris soon made his mark as a serious, erudite, and meticulous scholar, publishing a large number of educational and scientific works, i.e.:

- Ἄσματα κρητικὰ μετὰ διστίχων παροιμιῶν [*Kretas Volkslieder nebst Distichen und Sprichwörter*] (Leipzig 1876);
- *Neugriechische Grammatik nebst Lehrbuch der neugriechischen Volkssprache* (Hannover 1978);
- *Adnotationes Criticae in Longini qui fertur Περὶ Ὑψους libellum* (Marburg 1880);
- Μέθοδος τῆς γερμανικῆς γλώσσης (Ἀθῆναι 1887);
- Θεωρητικὴ καὶ πρακτικὴ μέθοδος πρὸς ἐκμάθησιν τῆς γαλλικῆς γλώσσης (1888);
- Ἐρωτόκριτος (1889);
- Μέθοδος τῆς ἀγγλικῆς γλώσσης, as well as a number of lexica:
- *Deutsch-Neugriechisches Handwörterbuch*, unter besonderer Berücksichtigung der neugriechischen Volkssprache (Hannover 1884);
- Λεξικὸν Ἑλληνικόν, 2 Vols. (Ἀθῆναι [before] 1891);
- *A Concise Dictionary of the English and Modern Greek Languages* (1895), etc. etc.

Jannaris was thus a very learned and mature scholar when he undertook to write his magnum opus, *An Historical Greek Grammar. Chiefly of the Attic Dialect as Written and Spoken from Classical Antiquity Down to the Present Time. Founded upon Ancient Texts, Inscriptions, Papyri and Present Popular Greek* (1897). To this end he spent five years (1892-1896) at the British Museum researching and writing this monument to the Hellenic Language. At the end of this period and at the recommendation of the erudite scholar and bibliophile John Gennadios, Greek ambassador to London, Jannaris was offered a lectureship in Post-classical and Modern Greek at the University of St Andrews, Scotland. He thus became the first Hellene to hold a university post in Britain. His salary was paid by the Rector of the University himself, the great Philhellene and Lover of things Greek, John III, Marquis of Bute, reputedly the richest man in Britain. It is to him that Jannaris dedicated his *Grammar*. During the seven years (1896-1903) that Jannaris taught at St Andrews, he made a deep and lasting impression on his colleagues, who in their turn, lavished on him their kindness and friendship.

At the Marquis' passing away, Jannaris had regretably to resign. In appreciation of his services to the university, the Senatus Academicus of the University of St Andrews commissioned three Professors, Lang, John Burnet and Lindsay, to draw up an appreciation of Jannaris. This document states i.a.:

That the Senatus Academicus of the University of St Andrews has learned with much regret of the termination, in consequence of the death of the Most Honourable the Marquis of Bute K.T. of the arrangement whereby Dr A. N. Jannaris, M.A. PhD. has acted as lecturer on Post classical and Modern Greek in this University for seven years.

In Dr Jannaris the Senatus has had a most distinguished colleague, remarkable as a scholar for wide, brilliant, and profound learning, especially in the Greek languages (sic) of every period, an original mind, and independent judgment, and immense industry.

As a teacher (scholar) possessed of an extensive knowledge of the English language and its idioms, and endowed with great power of exposition, Dr Jannaris has attracted the very best of our students of Classical Literature and retained them even after the graduation course was finished. ...

The Senatus deems it an honour for this University to include among its staff the leading authority upon Post-Classical and Modern Greek, and feels strongly that his departure is nothing short of a distinctive loss. In him the University loses a great thinker, a great teacher, and a great writer.

Already in 1889 Jannaris had taken part in the Kretan people's struggle to free themselves from Turkish tyranny. When later High Commissioner Prince George's rule proved too despotic, Jannaris, imbued with the democratic sentiments of freedom and dignity, protested strongly, as a consequence of which George had him interned for a period of two years (1904-06). His friends at the University of St Andrews as well as other British men of letters took an active part to bring about his release from prison. Following Jannaris' release, Prince George came to think that since Jannaris was not sympathetic to him, he must be a potential foe. To thwart

any eventuality, he decided to put him in jail again. Jannaris fled to the mountains, where he hid for six months, and then escaped to Piraeus. In April 1909 he was aboard a vessel going to the United States, where he died suddenly, 56 years of age!

But though Jannaris is dead, his great work, his *Historical Greek Grammar*, has survived him for more than one hundred years. The distinguished Publishing House of Georg Olms, Hildesheim, Germany, has repeatedly republished this Grammar (also recently), making it available to all lovers of the Hellenic Language.

It should be underlined that such an ambitious, ‘impossible’ project has not been entertained—much less attempted—by anyone else since Jannaris. Jannaris accomplished it in five years.

The aim of this Symposium is to honor the memory of one of the most brilliant scholars of the nineteenth century, who though plagued by privations, unsettled life, and other misfortunes, offered everything he had on the Altar of Science.