

CHRYSSA MALTEZOU: A BYZANTINE LADY



A Byzantine lady, who has honoured Greece abroad, has taken her place on the Board of the Academy of Athens.

That lady is Chryssa Maltezo, Director of the Hellenic Institute of Byzantine and Post Byzantine Studies in Venice (since 1998), and Professor Emeritus at the University of Athens. She was elected to the “History of Modern Hellenism (1453 – 1821)” chair, succeeding another female academic and splendid Byzantinologist, the late Angeliki Laiou.

Chryssa Maltezo was born in Alexandria, Egypt, and graduated from Averofeio High School. She however pursued her studies at the University of Athens, The University of Mediterranean Studies at Aix – en – Provence (France), and the Institute of Byzantine and Post Byzantine Studies in Venice (Italy).

She continued her studies at the University of Padua (1965 – 1967) and obtained a Degree from the School of Paleography, Archival and Diplomatic Studies of the State Archives of Venice.

Among other things, Mrs. Chryssa Maltezo was a researcher for the Centre for Byzantine Studies of the Greek Research Institute (1969 – 1979), she taught Byzantine History and History of the Latin rule in the Greek East as visiting Professor at the University of Crete (1977 – 1982), and History of Culture at the Drama Studies Department of the University of Athens.

A member of Greek and foreign scholarly associations, she has participated in several Greek and international scholarly conferences and organised international meetings, conferences and symposia. In 1982 she was awarded the prize of the Academy of Athens for her contribution to the preservation and study of the Historical Archives of Kythera, while in 2003 she was awarded the Gold Cross of the Legion of Honour by the President of the Hellenic Republic at the time, Mr. Constantinos Stefanopoulos, for her scholarly work, and the Dante Aligheri Prize in 2007. At the Institute of Byzantine and Post Byzantine Studies she succeeded academic Manousos Manousakas. Being an active and energetic person, Chryssa Maltezo has never ceased to fight for the ongoing operation of the Institute and the preservation of its valuable treasures.

Postscript: Kytherians all over the world are indebted to this remarkable scholar who in the 1970s was responsible for salvaging and restoring the invaluable archival records in the Kastro at Hora.

George Vardas