

Obituary Notice

*Dr. Panagiotēs Kavvadias*¹. Dr. Panagiotēs Kavvadias, who died on 20th July at the age of seventy-seven, had rendered eminent services to learning as excavator, writer, and teacher, still more as a courageous far-sighted administrator. Forty years ago, when richer countries were doing little even to protect national monuments, he found means to expand and perfect the Greek archaeological service, and to co-ordinate all available resources, voluntary as well as official, foreign as well as native, for the study and preservation of his country's heritage from the past.

He was born on 1st May 1851 in Cephalonia, of a family that had been prominent during the long Venetian occupation. From the university of Athens he went to study archaeology in Munich under Brunn, and afterwards in Berlin and Paris. On his return to Greece in 1879 he was appointed Ephor of antiquities under the Archaeological Society, and from 1881 directed its excavations at Epidaurus. In 1884 the retirement of an Ephor General, who had held office for twenty years, afforded an opportunity for reorganizing the government service, and a year later Kavvadias was appointed to the post. In Greece the department of antiquities is attached to the Ministry of Religion and Education, a grouping which well expresses the national sense of its importance. The moment was propitious, for Athens was becoming a centre of archaeological studies, and the Tricoupis government was sympathetic. It is impossible to exaggerate the importance of the work accomplished during the years that followed. The National Museum was completed and arranged. Throughout the provinces scattered antiquities were brought together in local museums, and ancient sites put in charge of resident guardians. Systematic excavations on the Acropolis under Kavvadias's own direction furnished a wealth of material illustrating the growth of Attic art; and his assistants, Stais, Tsountas, and others, were busy at many other centres.

Though he obtained larger government grants than his predecessors, much of the work initiated by his department was done at the cost of the Archaeological Society, which derived a large income from a lottery sanctioned by the state. It became necessary to define the relations of the two bodies, and a new constitution was devised under which in 1895 the Society entered on a wider sphere of work with the Crown Prince as president, and Kavvadias as secretary. Its resources, wisely administered, grew from year to year, and it was able to devote large sums to the repair and partial reconstruction of monuments, especially on the Acropolis. In 1899 the Society built for itself new quarters near the University, containing a library which has become a fruitful centre of research. Kavvadias marked the occasion by compiling a history of its work since its foundation in 1837. Both as secretary of the society and as a pro-

¹ This is the spelling familiar to archaeological readers. The transliteration adopted by the family in recent years is Cawvadias.

fessor in the university he spared no pains to train a school of Greek archaeologists. To further this end he published a manual of *Prehistoric Archaeology* and a large *History of Hellenic Art*, both in Greek. To the foreign institutes he was a good friend, continuing the generous policy which permitted them to excavate, and enlisting their aid in other tasks, the preparation of catalogues, reconstructions, regional surveys. They learned to respect his scholarship and his prodigious industry, and to rely on his sound judgement and impartiality.

His activities were interrupted by the military revolution of 1909–10. The virtual dictatorship that he exercised in archaeological matters laid him open to attack, and for some months he was deprived of all his functions. This evoked two spontaneous votes of confidence, one from scholars of many nations who testified to the value of his work; the other from his compatriots in Cephalonia who chose him by a large majority to represent them in the National Assembly. On the dissolution of the Assembly he was restored to his posts in the University and the Archaeological Society, and became chairman of the Archaeological Board, the post of Ephor General being abolished. He held this office until his resignation in 1920.

As an excavator he won fame by his exploration of the pre-Persian *strata* on the Acropolis, and also did important work at Lycosura, and in his native island. But his heart was given to Epidaurus, where he spent many summers—it was almost the only holiday he allowed himself—and laid bare the sanctuary of Asclepius. His persistence in excavating there at midsummer brought on the seizure that ended his life. He published *Les Fouilles d'Épidaure* in 1893: a second volume was far advanced at the time of his death.

Honours came to him from many foreign universities and academies. He was a member of the German Academy of Sciences, a corresponding member of the French Institute, and an honorary professor in the University of Leipzig. As early as 1893 he was elected an honorary Fellow of our society, and in 1904 he received an honorary degree in the University of Cambridge.

In physique and character the people of Cephalonia and Ithaca, rocky and relatively barren, differ from those of the other Ionian Islands, which breed a less energetic type. Kavvadias with his resolute face and short thick-set frame might have sat for a portrait of Odysseus. He combined the vision that plans boldly for the future with the tenacity and force of character that enabled him to realize his hopes. Free from all personal interest, he was a just and scrupulous trustee of the antiquities which Greek law long ago declared to be the common possession of the nation.

R. C. B.