



Athens, 24/10/2012

PRESS RELEASE
SYLVIA IOANNOU FOUNDATION

I. ANNOUNCEMENT OF SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

The Foundation, announces the establishment of its **1st Scholarship Programme** for the Academic year 2013-2014. This Programme will award scholarships for **post-graduate studies** in the fields of **Humanities and Social Sciences on subject related to the island of Cyprus**.

This initiative was announced by the President of the Foundation, **Stelios Christodoulou** in the context of the **1st International Conference on the Greek World in Travel Accounts and Maps**, held on 18-20 October 2012 in Athens, at the Museum of Cycladic Art, under the title "Cyprus on the crossroads of travellers and map-makers from the 15th to the 20th century".

For more information about the scholarship programme please visit the link:
<http://www.sylviaioannoufoundation.org/en/scholarships.html>

II. 1st CONFERENCE ON THE GREEK WORLD IN TRAVEL ACCOUNTS AND MAPS

The 1st International Conference of the *Sylvia Ioannou Foundation*, was held in Athens, at the Museum of Cycladic Art under the title "Cyprus on the crossroads of travellers and map-makers from the 15th to the 20th century". The conference was organised in co-operation with the University of the Aegean and the Department of History and Archaeology of the University of Cyprus. 28 speakers attended from universities, research centers and libraries of **nine countries** (France, Germany, Greece, United States, United Kingdom, Spain, Israel, Cyprus and Romania). In a

crowded hall, leading foreign scholars of History, Geography, Cartography and of Travelling, such as **Catherine Delano-Smith**, **Tony Campbell** and **Patrick Gautier Dalché**, Greek colleagues, like **Christos Zacharakis**, **Evangelos Livieratos** and **George Tolia**s, as well as distinguished scholars of the History of Cyprus, as **Gilles Grivaud** and **Benjamin Arbel**, presented new interpretations and hitherto unknown material and participated in active discussions with many students and younger researchers who had filled the room.

Admittedly, the conference was a bold and successful initiative and gathered some of the most distinguished scholars and innovatively expanded the range of sources and their approach; the illustrations in medieval manuscripts and editions of the Bible, the humanist and ottoman cosmography texts, nautical charts and drawings of army engineers were among the topics raised.

Moreover, the testimony excursion approached through new optics, illuminating the development of communication networks, the travelling practices at local and international level, and the involved matters of ideology and attitudes. As delegates interventions aimed at integration of interpretive sources within the broader historical and cultural context, the conference highlighted the central role of the example of Cyprus in the study of Mediterranean and European History during modern times, and showed that Cyprus is indeed the crossroads of cartographers and travelers.

The conference was attended among others by the Director of the Greek Institute of Venice academic Chryssa Maltezou, rectors of the Universities Aegean and Cyprus, Paris Tsartas and Constantinos Christofides, the founder of the Foundation Sylvia Ioannou Foundation and many academics and researchers.

III. SYLVIA IOANNOU FOUNDATION

The *Sylvia Ioannou Foundation*, based in Vaduz, holds one of the largest private collections of books and maps dedicated to the island of Cyprus. The collection includes more than **2,000 manuscripts and rare books on Cyprus**, an excellent set of travellers' texts, and more than **600 maps and atlases** of Cyprus and the wider geographical region, dating from the 15th century to modern times. In 2009, Sylvia Ioannou created the Foundation with main objective to bring this valuable material available to researchers, scientists and collectors around the world. As a first step was created the website **www.sylviaioannoufoundation.org**, where is published part of the collection, which is constantly updated. This material mounted in parallel by the

National Documentation Centre of the National Hellenic Research Foundation. The aim of the Foundation is to digitize the whole collection, manuscripts and maps, so the entire collection to be accessed by all interested parties. In addition, the Sylvia Ioannou Foundation organizes an international biennial scientific conference on the Greek World in Travel Accounts and Maps, each focused on a different site.

Director of the Foundation is Artemis Scutari.

INFORMATION

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