



## Summary :

One of the most important societies of Ayvalik during the last thirty years of the 19th century, which developed remarkable educational and charitable activity.

## Date

1871-after 1890

## Geographical Location

Ayvalik

## 1. Foundation

The Charitable Society of Ayvalik (*Agathoergos Adelfotis Kydonion*) was founded in 1871 in [Ayvalik](#) (Cydoniae).<sup>1</sup> Its founding members were D. Gonatas, D. Malelis, G. Oikonomidis, I. Gouttas, G. Strongylis, A. Stavridis, while the majority of its members were young. Its aims were educational and charitable: the independent running of all the public educational institutes of Ayvalik and the management of their property, the maintenance of a girls' school, and the care of destitute individuals particularly during times of famine, fire or epidemic.

## 2. Activity

In 1873 the society founded the Girls' School of the Charitable Society (or Girls' School of the Upper District) in the Agios Dimitrios quarter. This was the Ayvalik's second girls' school and was located on the west side of the Old [Academy](#), the famous school of Ayvalik. However, the Society's largest offer to education was that in 1890 it managed to convince the community's opposing parties, at a time of intense dispute, to surrender to the society as a neutral body the supervision of schools. It was thus possible to overcome the difficulties regarding the appointment of teachers, professors and director and several more educational issues were resolved. During the period of the society's supervision of educational organizations, the Academy became a complete gymnasium (1884) and was recognized as such by the Greek State. After a decade the society returned the administration of schools to the council of elders (*dimogerontia*). Its later activity and the date of the society's dissolution are not known.

1. According to Athina Kerestetzi, it was founded in 1873. See Κερεσσετζή, Α. (Kerestetzi), *Αϊβαλί (1832-1922). Αναμνήσεις από το ανέκδοτο τετράδιο του ιατρού Ιωάννου Κερεστατζή* (Athens 1981), p. 33.

## Bibliography :

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- Κερεσσετζή Α.**, *Αϊβαλί (1832-1922). Αναμνήσεις από το ανέκδοτο τετράδιο του ιατρού Ιωάννου*



	<i>Κερεσσετζή</i> , Αθήνα 1981
	<b>Μαμώνη Κ.</b> , "Σωματειακή οργάνωση του ελληνισμού στη Μικρά Ασία", <i>Δελτίο Ιστορικής και Εθνολογικής Εταιρείας</i> , 26, 1983, 63-114
	<b>Τζηρίτης Γ.</b> , "Περί Κυδωνίων", <i>Ξενοφάνης</i> , 1, 1896, 241-250

Glossary :

	<b>dimogerontia</b>
Communal authority consisting of the elected community officials, known as <i>archontes</i> (potentates), <i>proestoi</i> (notables), <i>epitropoi</i> (wardens), <i>dimogerontes</i> or simply <i>gerontes</i> (elders).	