



## Summary :

Charitable club among the oldest and most long-lived of Trebizond. Information about its activities is provided only after 1868. Its activity included all the inhabitants regardless of religion. The reconstruction of the building of the club "Anatoli" played an important role in the history of the club.

## Date

1868 – after 1915

## Geographical Location

Trebizond (Trabzon)

## 1. Foundation

The information about the year the club was founded is contradictory: [Chrysanthos Filippidis](#), the [metropolitan of Trebizond](#), dates it to 1830,<sup>1</sup> while the journal *Pontiaki Estia* reports that the club succeeded the "politiki kassa" (communal treasury), which was dissolved in 1844.<sup>2</sup> The activities of the club in this period remain practically unknown. However, it is certain that it was formed again in 1868, as part of the attempt of the Orthodox cities of the Pontus to create, after the [Tanzimat](#) reforms, a new public field of action.

## 2. Aim

The [charitable activities](#) of the club aimed at relieving the poor members of [Trebizond](#) community. However, they were not limited to the Orthodox population, as help was also given to the entire population of Trebizond in need for help, including Muslims and Armenians.

## 3. Activities

"Charitable Society" was one of the most long-lived clubs of Trebizond. However, it faced serious financial problems that affected its activities for several years. The prosperity of the first decade of operation, when the club managed to amass a capital of 800 liras, was followed by an extended period of slump. The capital was invested in buying a building that was going to house the [club "Anatoli"](#). This move was dictated by the lack of an adequate building in the city and by the wish to increase the society's income in order to perform its charitable activities more easily. Money was borrowed from the society "Syneranistiki Adelfotis", an event signalling the onset of problems. The interest-bearing loan hindered the operation of the club and, as a result, the charitable activities slacked off for five years and the club was nearly dissolved, since it hardly managed to pay off its debt to the "Syneranistiki Adelfotis". At the same time, the club "Anatoli", also facing financial problems, could not pay the rent to the Charitable Society and had sub-leased a part of the building to the association "[Xenophon](#)", which for a while hired the building directly from the Society and undertook its maintenance.

However, in 1878 the building, which was the only asset of the society, came to the possession of the "Syneranistiki Adelfotis". The metropolitan of Trebizond made a great effort towards the smooth rebirth of the club. In 1881, following a meeting of the supervisory body under the metropolitan, a special committee was formed aiming to promote the registration of new members, while other committees in the various parishes would care for the regular collection of donations from churches and households. Furthermore, some members of the "Syneranistiki Adelfotis" gave away shares to the "Charitable Society" and, as a result, the debt of the first to the second was reduced. It is unknown whether the ownership of the building was transferred to the Charitable Society.

However, the activities of the Charitable Society continued, as evidenced, even when things were difficult for Trebizond, as it happened during the cholera epidemic that afflicted the city in 1910 and the [persecutions against the Armenians](#) in 1915. Among other expenses, during the epidemic the club expended a part of its reserve funds in order to pay the nurses that relieved the deserted



victims of the epidemic,<sup>3</sup> while, according to information, in 1915 the club tried to help the Armenian children, which, with the intervention of the metropolitan of Trebizond Chrysanthos, had been exempted from exile.<sup>4</sup>

1. Χρυσανθος, μητροπολίτης Τραπεζούντος, "Η Εκκλησία Τραπεζούντος", *Αρχαίον Πόντου* 4-5 (1933), p. 747.
2. *Ποντιακή Εστία* 2 (1951), p. 786.
3. *Ξενοφάνης* 7 (1910), p. 396.
4. *Ποντιακή Εστία* 2 (1951), p. 786.

#### Bibliography :



**Μαμώνη Κ.**, "Σωματειακή οργάνωση των Ελλήνων της Μικράς Ασίας Γ': Σύλλογοι της Καππαδοκίας και του Πόντου", *Δελτίο Κέντρου Μικρασιατικών Σπουδών*, 6, 1986-7, 155-225

#### Glossary :



**politiki kassa (communal treasury)**

Taxes' distribution system developed in the first decades of 19th c. by the Orthodox community of Trebizond, aiming at a fair redistribution of the taxes between the members of the community depending on their income.



**tanzimat**

The 19th-century reforms in the Ottoman Empire, which were inaugurated in 1839 with the edict of Hatt-i Şerif and came to an end with the Constitution of 1876. The reforms, which were considered an effort for the modernization and liberalization of the state, concerned every aspect of the political, social and economic life in the Empire. Of particular importance were the ones that equated legally Muslim and non-Muslim subjects.

#### Sources

*Εύξεινος Πόντος* 1-2' (1880-1882).

*Ξενοφάνης* 7 (1910).

*Ποντιακή Εστία* 2 (1951).