Alexandros Papadiamantis

Alexandros Papadiamantis was one of the most important Greek writers. He wrote many short stories and poems. He was also a journalist and translator.

He was born in Skiathos on March 4th 1851. His father was the teacher and priest Adamantios Emmanuel and his mather was Angeliki Moraitis.
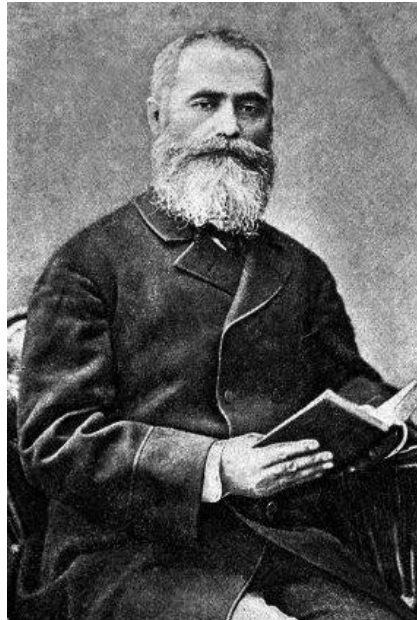
He learned his first letters in Skiathos, but went to secondary school in Chalkida and later in Athens. In 1874 he enrolled in the Philosophical School of the University of Athens, but did not receive his diploma.

He loved religion very much. In his twenties he went to Mount Athos and stayed there for a while. He was a cantor in the small church of Agios Elissaios in Monastiraki. His favorite pastime was the study of church books.

Initially he was working in newspapers and magazines. He wrote articles and translated literary works into English and French. He learned these two foreign languages by himself.

Later he began to write historical novels, such as "Immigrants", "Merchants of the Nations", "Gyftopoula", as well as poems.

Finally, he finds what suits him and writes short stories. Some of these are "Christos Milionis", "O Pentarfanos", "The Dead Traveler", "The Slayer", "The Witches", "Christmas Stories", "New Year's Stories", "Easter Stories", "The Little Star" , "Little house on the meadow" and the small masterpiece "To Christ in the castle".

His short stories describe the life of ordinary people. In these we can distinguish the love for nature, the religious reverence and the Byzantine melody.

While he lived most of his years in Athens, when he became seriously sick he went to his favorite island, Skiathos. He died there of pneumonia on January 3rd 1911.

Alexandros Papadiamantis was a quiet man of great faith, who loved solitude and the simple life. After all, he lived very poorly. He was called the "Cosmokalogeros" of Greek letters.

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