



Athens, 4 November 2015

Encyclopaedia Britannica (UK) Ltd  
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Subject: About Rigas Velestinlis

Dear Sirs,

The Scientific Society of Studies Pheres-Velestino-Rhigas deals with Rhigas Velestinlis' life and works. Also, it has reedited all his works and has translated "The Revolutionary Scripts (Revolutionary Proclamation, Human Rights, The Constitution and Thourios)" into ten languages (English, French, German, Spanish, Italian, Bulgarian, Serbian, Albanian, Russian, Romanian), whose copies have been sent to 1.000 Libraries (Nationals and Universities) of 150 States of the world.

We would like, in our letter, to point out an inaccuracy in the article of your excellent Encyclopaedia Britannica "RIGAS VELESTINLIS", where it is written that "Rigas Velestinlis was...a Hellenized Vlach from Thessaly".

Our systematic research, that is documented on the specific work "Rigas Velestinlis' name and descent", Athens 2000, has mentioned that Rigas was a native of Velestino and not a Vlach from the villages of Pindus mountain.

However, it is important to point out that the Vlach historian Leandros Vranoussis, ex-director of the Office of Research on Medieval and New Hellenism of the Academy of Athens, in his article "Rhigas Velestinlis" (Biographic Lexicon, Athens 1992) has stressed out that somebody of the permanent residents of Velestino was self-named "Velestinlis" and not the Vlach, who was always coming to live in the region of Velestino in winter only. These people (the Vlachs) considered as their birth place the villages of Pindus and not the places where they were living in winter.

Another interesting point is that Rigas on his Map of Greece has not mention any villages of Vlachs (Periboli, Samarina, Abdella etc.). That shows that Rigas wasn't familiar with any of them. If he had been aware of them he would have mentioned them, as he did about the places of Thessaly and specifically of Magnesia on his Map, where he used to live.

We would like to add that Rigas has never mentioned the "Hellenized Vlachs" in his works as he did about the permanent residents of Thessaly "Garagkounides", whom he considered as descendants of the ancient population "Centauris", as they are mentioned in his book "Young Anacharsis (Vienna 1797, page 263) and in his Map of Greece, (leaf 5).

In addition, Rhigas spent part of his life in Vienna not only in 1790 but also in 1796-1797, where he dreamed of his strategic plan of revolution and published his significant works: Revolutionary Scripts, Map of Greece, Maps of Wallachia and Moldavia, The Moral Tripous, Young Anacharsis, the Icon of Alexander the Great and the Manual of war.

If you would like any more information we are willing to provided it to you.  
We would be very grateful if you let us know about our letter.

Yours sincerely

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President of Scientific Society of Studies Pheres-Velestino-Rhigas