



23 December 2021

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY AND THE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH UNIT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CYPRUS FOR THE DEATH
OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS VASSOS KARAGEORGHIS**

The Department of History and Archaeology and the Archaeological Research Unit of the University of Cyprus express the deep sadness of their members for the death of the friend, scholar and collaborator, Professor Emeritus Vassos Karageorghis (1929-21.12.2021). Being a tireless researcher and a loving university professor, a pioneer scientist and curator of Letters and Arts, a person with leadership skills and creative initiative, Vassos Karageorghis, the father of the younger Cypriot Archaeology, leaves a huge gap in the Cypriot and the wider Greek and international academic community.

His career was shared between the Department of Antiquities of the newly established Republic of Cyprus (director 1963-1989) and the Archaeological Research Unit (ARU) of the newly founded University of Cyprus (where he served as director in 1992-1996). As an advisor of the President of the Republic of Cyprus, Mr. Giorgos Vasileiou (1989-1992), he established, organized and supported the development of the ARU, which would not exist without his vision and guidance. The 30 year-old ARU comprises part of the Department of History and Archaeology of the first University of the country, and includes 10 members of academic staff and 19 post-doctoral researchers.

Vassos Karageorghis' international scholarly profile and extensive network of collaborators promoted the ARU in the international scene. He also invited to Cyprus renowned archaeologists to work either as tenure or visiting staff, as researchers in the framework of scientific projects with funds secured by him, or to participate in numerous international conferences organised by the ARU. His relationship with the University of Cyprus and the ARU in particular continued to be close also after his retirement in 1996. Up until 2021, Vassos Karageorghis participated in a great number of ARU research projects, conferences and publications, while his special relationship with the University of Cyprus was once again confirmed by the donation of the private Library of Vassos and Jaquelin Karageorghis, one of the best informed and important archaeological libraries in Cyprus, to the University's Library.

The contribution of Vassos Karageorghis to archaeological research, the interdisciplinary study, conservation and archaeological heritage management of Cyprus and the Eastern Mediterranean intensified during the years he served as director of the ‘Anastasios G. Leventis Foundation’ (1989-2010), while he also served as Adjunct Professor at The Cyprus Institute (2013-2019). One of Vassos Karageorghis’ major contributions to his homeland was his appointment in 2016 as one of the four members of the Founding Committee of the Cypriot Academy of Sciences, Letters and Arts, as well as his election as one of its Transitional Regular Members in 2019.

Vassos Karageorghis was born at Trikomo, a village in the northern part of Cyprus occupied since 1974, which he was sadly not able to see again as part of a unified island. He was a distinct and strong personality, and thanks to his pure and deep love for his homeland, profound knowledge, vision, discipline, unparalleled hard work, his important excavations (from Salamis to Kition, and from Pyla-Kokkinokremmos to Maa-Palaiokastro) and hundreds of publications initiated new directions in Cypriot Archaeology, that he consciously and consistently served for 70 years.

The Department of History and Archaeology and the Archaeological Research Unit of the University of Cyprus mourn for the loss of Professor Emeritus Vassos Karageorghis, and express warm condolences to his family and loved ones. Vassos Karageorghis researched and masterfully approached the diversity of Cypriot and Mediterranean culture, and will live in eternity through his monumental work.

