



Members of the Educational Association (EO) in Greece: Quantitative and Qualitative Data

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Abstract

The article deals with the members of the Educational Association "Ekpaideftikos Omilos" (EO), which was founded in Athens in 1910 by well-known and prominent people of the time, with the main purpose of improving Greek education and language and educational reform. The main topic is the investigation of the founding members and common members of the EO, in the context of its operation from 1910 to 1930. The purpose of the article is to answer the main question-topic: who and how many were the members of the association, and under what conditions could they register as members. In addition, the article clarifies certain parameters regarding the qualities and under what conditions of someone to become a member. In more detail, it explores the ideological stances of the members on the language issue, rights, obligations, and any quantitative data on the number of members registered based on the minutes. Also, it explores their social and educational status. Finally, it examines evidence about the founding members and their role and the differences between common members and founding members.

Keywords: Members, Founders, Conditions, Role, Ideology

1. Introduction

EO was an educational organization founded in 1910 in Athens, with founders Tsirimokos, Triantafyllidis and Delmouzos. It aimed to carry out an educational/linguistic reform with the introduction of elementary school and other changes in the structure of education, and the ultimate goal was to improve the training of Greek teachers and the state of Greek schools. The work presents the difficulties of cooperation, the ideological transitions and the different approaches between the main partners-protégés of the group, regarding its operation, directions and basic program. Focusing on the difficulties of the Group's protagonists is useful as it can justify its programmatic action, and interpret any failures and to some extent foresee the eventual halting of its operation. In any case, the search for the problems and difficulties of the partners of this educational organization highlights issues of an ideological nature as well as issues of the era and the Greek society of the beginning of the 20th century, apart from interpersonal relationships, therefore it is of particular interest.

1.2 Research Methodology

The method followed is the historical interpretive method of accessing evidence from several archives as well as relevant literature. The paper attempts to reconstruct the action and effect of the Educational Group using primary and secondary sources, and the interpretive historical method of their analysis. It is a type of research that proceeds to explain the emergence and evolution of phenomena in a specific historical context by periodization, classification, and comparison of evidence (Kallas, 2015, p. 159). The historical method is identified with the citation of abstract technical recipes and patterns of thought (Noutsos, 2011, p. 146). It is a necessary condition for giving meaning to empirical research and as a supplement to it and for formulating pedagogical questions (Pyrgiotakis, 1981). The evidence comes from the anecdotal archive of Delmouzos, the digitized archive of Glinos and Triantafyllides, the archives of Dragoumis, Sotiriou and Someritis and books and articles on the role of the EO. Also, the paper focuses on the impact of the EO's action on ordinary teachers as well as the views of the group's pioneers themselves.

1.3 Research Results

1.3.1 The founding members

The first members who made up the association as founders belong to the so-called modernists and with their action they aim at the entry of various people who belong to the circle of the so-called early adopters. After the linguistic compromise of Venizelos, with the incorporation of Article 107 into the constitution, the founders of EO understood the difficulty of spreading their reformist ideas in the Greek reality (from the base to its leadership and the upper layers) that covered the first years of action that is, from 1910 to 1916. From 1917, they sought diffusion in a reverse course from top to bottom, in the context of the modernist adaptation through the immediate implementation of the reform, as a planned social change of the Liberal government that had cooperated with them in an agreement (Terzis, 2010, pp. 299, 300, 308, 309, 324). Founders as modernists maintained contacts with foreign societies, were characterized by cultural and social extroversion and exerted influence due to their high status in society. Referring to the origin and career of the founders, Terzis called them a typical group because among them there were people who later became: prime ministers of the country (four), ministers (seven), parliamentarians (three), university professors (three), ambassador (one), admiral (one), director of the national art gallery (one), director of the national theatre (one), president of the national tourism organization (one), members of the Academy of Athens (two), important writers (two: Kazantzakis, Karkavitsas), journalist (Gavrielidis), etc. (Terzis, 1993, p. 203) and (Terzis, 2008, pp. 34, 35).

Dragoumis, the founder and man of the political career of the time, related to various people, and corresponded with Petrokokkinos, Pallis, Triantafyllides and other demoticists. It acted as a link between genuine and moderate demoticists. According to Leandros Palamas, Dragoumis deepened and broadened the principle and idea of folkism by recognizing the existence and value of our modern Greek culture (Palamas, L. I. Dragoumis, DEO, vol.9, 1919, pp. 94-98). Another important executive in the founders was Petrokokkinos, who took over the financial affairs of the Group as treasurer until his resignation in 1920 (Ten years, DEO, vol. 9, 1919, p. 23) and had connections with Psycharis, Pallis and Fotiadis. However, Tsirimokos, the founder himself, in his History of EO mentioned that the Club included a minimal part of writers, because many considered it better not to join (Tsirimokos, 1927, p. 402). The founding members remained active until 1912, when the pioneers Triantafyllidis, Glinos and Delmouzos assumed the main role in a well-established union with 650 members.

Then they withdrew completely, while Tsirimokos withdrew from 1915 (Tsirimokos, M. (1927, p. 401).

1.3.2. The (common) members

From the beginning of the convening of the EO, there was a specific line to prevent the group from ending up in a field of language fights. Based on this line, the Group set the conditions for selecting and accepting someone as a member: the conservatives (pure essentialist moderates of the middle path of Korais) and the dissolute (dogmatic Psycharians, extreme socialists who want to subjugate demoticism to a social system, such as the Skliros) and the rest were accepted (Gatos, 2003, p. 39).

The EO expressed the mixed group of demoticists, that, according to Psycharis, followed the moderate path of educational demoticism combined with Venizelism. Socialists were also initially excluded from joining the union as unrestrained but schematic and absolute to avoid the risk of the Group belonging to a social system. Proof that they can subjugate demoticism to a social system" (Tsirimokos, 1927, pp. 405-406). The exclusion did not apply in the case of people, who were merely carriers of socialist ideology. Informally, the pool of members of the EO drew from the political space of the liberals of the 1st period (Charalambous, 1987, p. 58, 59). The original fear of the founders was verified by the union's turn after the split despite its repeated declarations that it was not a political union.

From the beginning, care was taken for the registration of new members and the strengthening of the Group. In August 1910, the EO committee sent a written invitation to anyone interested becoming a member, to ask for the help of their friends or to request books that were available to the Club (Letter from Athens to a member of an Educational Club, August 1910. Typewritten letter regarding the publication of the bulletin of the Educational Club. Series: B. Language Education Archive, folder B 14 Club and Educational Committee, subfolder B 2. Minutes of the Educational Committee. Statutes, Sessions, Work Programs of the Educational Club, 1910-1920, Triantafyllidis Archive). With the same letter, the commission of the ephorate addresses had selected recipients of the statute and asked them to invite their acquaintances to become members of the Group and to prepare the acceptance of its ideas by others (Letter of the Committee of the Group, Reflections on the course of the Educator Club, Typescript (copy) of text regarding thoughts on the development of the Training Club. Series: B. Language Education Archive, folder B 14 Club and Training Committee, subfolder B 2. Minutes of the Training Committee. Training Club Constitution, Sessions, Programs of Work, 1910 -1920, Triantafyllidis Archive). The well-known linguist Psycharis had belonged to the recipients of the membership invitation and the Club's statutes, who had denied his involvement and distanced himself (Dimaras, 1994, p. 217). However, Psycharis was probably registered as a member of the EO in the first phase of its operation.

In just a few months over four hundred people were registered as members and by the end of 1911 over six hundred and fifty (Lambraki A-Paganos, 1994, p. 100). In May 1911 there was a very positive outlook in the club where many good followers were registered (11th letter K.P. Christakou to Delmouzos on May 2, 1911, F.11, Delmouzos Archive). In his history, Tsirimokos referred to all the people who had entered the EO as founders and subsequent collaborators, scientific founders of the Sociological Society, such as: Al. Papanastasiou, Triantafyllopoulos, Thr. Petmezas, Al. Mylonas, pure nationalists Mavilis, Ida, Karkavitsa, Ramas (Tsirimokos), Petrokokinos, Sotiriadis, K. Pasayiannis. The cooperation of the progressives with the nationalists was based on the common basis that real and modern education had a common feature, evolutionism (Tsirimokos, 1927, p. 405). Evolutionism was mentioned by Tsirimokos here as a point of intersection of people with different ideological backgrounds (conservatives, radicals and future socialists) that allowed

them, however, to distinguish the "station" where they were and to keep up with progress. According to Tsirimokos, the power of adapting to new conditions and needs was the distinguishing difference between the evolutionists and those who remained attached to the old order of things as conservatives or as dissolvers who sought dissolve what exists in pursuit of something absolute. G. Kitsaras reported that in the first year the EO had recorded the most explosive increase in members to over 650, which included the most famous names in science and literature (Hatzistefanidis, 1986, p. 182). Named members included N. Hatzidakis, professor of mathematics at the National University, G. Papandreou, later minister of education and prime minister, the poet K. Cavafis (Dimaras, 1994, pp. 156, 214), K. A. Haritakis, doctor, editor of the journal *Paedologia* (Rogari, 2010, p. 217), N. Kazantzakis writer (Dimaras, 1994, p. 118). K. Kavafis and K. A. Charitakis belonged to the list of recipients of the initial letter and circular of the ephorate (Dimaras (1994, p. 219), informed us that their names were included in the general list of members and that they maintain ties with the Group through I. Dragoumis and D. Petrokkokinos). Sotiriou, later an important executive, had saved his first presence, at one of the first gatherings of the EO in a speech by St. Rama (pseudonym of M. Tsirimokos): *I went to the hall at the appointed time, a ground-floor hall on Omirou Street. There were twenty-five in the audience. M. Tsirimokos spoke to the primary school simply and convincingly. The topic of the speech: what should we do about educational reform? In the end he says: If you didn't have a good time here, it's not your fault for the issue I handled, it's your fault for not handling it well. But if what I said...you think is right, we should make a group. And I propose to call it the Educational Group. Those of you agree to sign this paper. I was in my twenties, as the youngest I signed last.* So, he enlisted and as one of the youngest founders of EO and then as an ordinary member. Sotiriou reported that the first gatherings took place in November 1909, i.e., long before the official announcement of its foundation (Sotiriou, 1987, p. 40). He did not belong to the founders, but signed the declaration of membership in December 1911 (Dimaras, 1994, p. 38).

1.3.3 Foreign Members & Legal Entities

Dimaras gave us the names of the members who were registered with the EO. Among the listed names were several foreign members: Augustino Pol, Milan, Eftychia Stefanou Parga of Alexandria, Creba Phil, Hungary, Dalla porta in Marseilles, Giustiniani in Alexandria, Murray in Germany, Roussel in Paris, L. Schurjza professor in Switzerland, Steinmetz, professor of German in Syra, Charlton professor in Odessa. There were also registered legal entities, such as the boys' elementary school Katsiki of Crete, the Greek school of Odessa, Boukaouris, Andreakopoulos in Patras, the wine and spirits company of Roussopoulos Kalamata, the Greek school Socrates in Chicago, USA, the Anorthosis clubs in Cyprus, Didaskalon in Corfu, Greek high school graduates in Alexandria, Aeschylus-Arion in Alexandria and the non-national table of women in Athens (Dimaras, 1994, pp. 211, 212, 217). In the DEO (magazine of EO) there was a reference to 542 registered members of the Group in 1911 (Accounting and Report for the 2nd Year of the EO, DEO, vol. 2, vol. C', 1912, p. 171), while on 19/4/1915 the members decrease to 190 and in 1917 only 89 remain. The difficulty of spreading the Club's action and the paradoxical contradiction of enlightening public opinion alongside the decrease in the number of registered members and subscriptions are pointed out (Letter, 1910 August, Athens to a member of the Educational Group. Printed letter to a member of the Educational Group. Series: B. Language Education Archive, folder B 14 Group and Educational Committee, subfolder B 2. Minutes of the Educational Committee. Statutes, Sessions, Work Programs of the Educational Group, 1910-1920, Triantafyllidis Archive).

In 1921, due to political circumstances, the task of registering new members became unimaginably difficult. Until May of the same year, it was reported that only 15 members had been written (12th letter of Glinos to Delmouzos on May 15, 1921, F. 14, Delmouzos Archive). In 1921, another appeal was sent to various recipients with the aim of morally and materially strengthening the Club and registering new members. The result of the venture was the registration of approximately 150 new members, a number that was negligible compared to the number of 5000 copies that seem to have been sent out to catch new members. However, with the efforts made, it seems that in February 1922 the registered members exceeded 500 (Gatos, 2003, 12th, 21st letter).

After the division of the members of the EO in the General Assembly of 1927, in the evidence of the Glinos Archive and at the meetings of the Board of Directors several resignations of old members and several registrations of new members were recorded. In November 1928 the members reached 250 (The Life and Activity of the Educational Group, *Neos Dromos*, f.1, 1 November 1928, p. 8) and in March 1929 they exceeded 300 (The Life and Activity of the Educational Group, *Neos Dromos*, f. 9, November 1, 1929, p.12).

Dimaras listed in the General List of Members in his book of the same name 890 names of natural persons who had been members of the EO for at least some time from 1910 to 1927. The basis of his list was the list provided to him by Lachanas, the last treasurer of the EO after the split, registered in the special book-register of members and the list of Glinos. Dimaras drafted one General List which must cover 73% of all members registered with the Group, as the 380 missing refer to all those deleted due to non-fulfillment of their financial obligations. Of the 890 in Dimaras' list, 732 were men, and 158 were women (Dimaras, 1994, pp. 32,45, 49, 52). In total, those registered as members of the EO should not exceed a thousand people according to his estimates. We cannot be certain and absolute about the exact number of members, as from the second year the policy of deleting members was decided and applied in case of non-payment of their financial debts to the EO. In March 1927, after the General Meeting of March 24, another clearing of the members who remained and those who resigned was carried out, followed by a third one in 1928 with the decision to delete members who did not settle their financial obligations. The Glinos's Archive included the name cards of the 215 active members of the union during the phase before the split. Of these 152 members resigned in 1927 or became inactive and left in March 1927 after the split. The remaining members left in 1927-28 or were deleted in January 1929. The tabs were noted by Petrokokkinos and Glinos regarding their application for registration or their application declaration of the desire to be deleted by the collector who collected their annual subscriptions. The name was recorded on the tabs, on some of the professions/properties, the address, and at the bottom there were columns with any donations, with the years of membership or the magazine subscription completed with the corresponding amount of 5 drachmas.

After the split of the EO, in December 1927, Glinos argued for the double number of people registering as those who had resigned. In the minutes of the meetings of the Board of Directors of the year 1927-30, 87 names of new members from the Board of Directors were registered, to be approved by the Board of Directors, in accordance with the new statute. Therefore, the number of new members finally reached 137 people. Of these, the largest number of new members were students and workers-graduates of schools mainly of law, pedagogic academy, professors, and final students at schools. They came mainly from Athens, less from Thessaloniki and there were sporadic records of new members from various regions such as from Corfu, Aeginio, Kalamata, Drama, Chania, Aitolokarnania, Nemea, Zichni, Famagusta, Levidi, F. 1, ASKI and archive of K. Sotiriou).

2. Social stratification

It seemed that the union attracted people from various professional occupations as partners, but their common background could be perceived to be a relatively high/average level of education and possibly a prominent position in society. Forty members come from the teaching profession, some members were university professors and others were ministry officials. The search for collaborators was considered easy by Tsirimokos because several elite members of society, politicians, scientists, and people with a good encyclopedic education, understood the importance of language change as the beginning of the intellectual revolution (Tsirimokos, 1927, p. 404).

Several hold important positions or were employees of ministries, a large number belong to teachers mainly of primary school and inspectors, and at least they graduated from high school, students, or other educated workers, from various regions of Greece and mainly Athens. Their registration in the Group can be explained either by their open spirit that pursues innovations (see the case of the early adopters of Terzis) or by political circumstances and pressures. Later, from 1917 to 1920, the need for individual promotion leads some workers to join the Group. Dragoumis reported that in April 1920, some members, few, or many, used the Club as a pillar for individual advancement (Dimaras, 1986, p. 24), implying that it was for some foolish teachers a political act that could help them in their personal and professional development, as, later during the counter-reform phase, they often resign. A similar observation was made by Tsirimokos in his History, regarding the massive attendance and enrollment in the Club of several teachers during the educational reform period, as they sought personal benefits (Tsirimokos, 1927, p. 469). Finally, in the last phase of registration of new members after 1927, the records of the minutes demonstrated that most were students, educated and professionals. The registered members of the cartels, where the professional occupation was mentioned, include ten lawyers and one doctor of law, two engineers, 18 teachers of various specialities, mainly philologists, fourteen elementary school teachers, five elementary school inspectors, five high-ranking officials ministries, two ex-ministers, six professors of the national university, an accountant, a journalist, seven students, an antiquities curator, a business bookseller, four doctors, an agronomist, a painter, a member of parliament. Of the total of 215 members, 54 were women, the rest men (Document NE 346, 215 files with members who resigned or left from 1927 onwards, Glino's Archive).

3. Role of members: rights and obligations

If one wanted to verify the participation of the ordinary members in the formation of the EO's policy and its decisions and actions, one was faced with reasonable questions that must be answered: if the members and to what extent participate in the General Meetings, if they express their opinion in the making decisions or simply approving them, although to what extent they contribute their services in favour of the Group. The available files contained many letters between the initiators and founders or named members or active members of EO such as Saratsis, Christakou, Triantafyllopoulos, and P. Delta. Their anxiety, their moral and material support with their donations, their interest in the spread of demoticism and their action with their properties were recorded. Their references to the need to strengthen the role of ordinary members and their participation in the life of the EO were very limited. They focus on strengthening the idea of demoticism.

There was a clear sense of differentiation between those who had the first say that was, the most elite partner-members and the ordinary citizen-members who were useful for the wider acceptance of the EO's work. The distance of the DE from the rest was also very clearly

erased, whose role was mentioned as necessary and helpful. From the beginning of the operation of the EO, Triantafyllidis emphasized that special attention was required in the part concerning the inclusion of foreign people in the EO, to the integrity of their ideas and the correctness of their actions. In his letters, Triantafyllidis insists on the criticality of the selection of executives as he was afraid that something dangerous might happen (Typescript of a letter from Triantafyllidis to Dragoumis on April 10, 1910. In: Triantafyllidis, M. (2001). *Correspondence 1895-1959* (Philological curator: University of Mulas, Maria Vertsoni-Kokoli, Efi Petkou). Thessaloniki: Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Institute of Modern Greek Studies - Manolis Triantafyllidis Foundation, p. 150. He writes that he encloses a draft of the Statute drawn by Pallis. Plan not found).

In the phase of his letter communication with Delmouzos and Dragoumis during the founding of the Group, Triantafyllidis had expressed concern or reservations about certain partners, if they were people of trust. In another letter he emphasized, for example, about Glinos that he would be a useful helper for us later. In his letter to Delmouzos, Dragoumis asked to indicate the persons he considers most suitable for the management committee of the Group and mentioned his opinion and that of Petrokokkinos: Sotiriadis, Petrokokkinos for treasurer and Tsirimokos. The remaining founders could choose three others for the committee (Letter from Dragoumis to Delmouzos on May 20, 1910, F. 9, Delmouzos Archive).

The Board consisted of the well-known faces of the founders and key executives, trusted persons, so that their decisions and the Board's choices were in line with the original program. The main actors of the EO aim to consolidate some basic principles and spread their ideas, through a possible educational reform. They aim at the maturation of people and societies, so that they can accept what they support regarding language and the state of education. At first it appeared that the participation of the members consisted of the formal approval of the report, and the budget and listening to the accounts and speeches of the pioneers. The content of the original program was shaped by the founders Dragoumis, Tsirimokos, Petrokokkinos and perhaps Triantafyllidis. People who became members of the union do not have the right to opinion and co-formation in the work of the union. The participation of ordinary members in practice was limited to their vote in the General Meetings.

The most influential members with their name, presence and social influence provided the glamour and prestige that the EO needed, to have a greater response in the society. Some of them became regular collaborators either by writing articles, and texts that were published in the DEO or by preparing lectures that they give on various specialized or educational topics in the Club Hall. Often reservations were expressed about the value of some contributors and their content was questioned. The drafting of the Bulletin clearly expressed that the views of partners weigh on them. The active members of the AC attended the meetings on Mondays, and Thursdays chaired by specific partners, such as Miliadis, Theodoropoulou, Svolos, and Glinos and they often intervene either by making observations on issues that have been raised, formulating their opinions, or asking questions and sometimes recapitulating the previous one's meetings.

Joining the union had the character of financial support and rather passive participation, rather than active involvement. Active participation was found in the case of some women from well-known families in Athens or with a high educational level, who were active in the progressive urban movement and present in the intellectual and artistic life of the place. The participation of women of the time was another notable observation as urbanism defended their rights and so did EO. The Association for Women's Rights, respectively, was on the side

of the demoticists. After all, many of the female members of the Group were also members of the Women's Association (Repoussi, 2012, pp. 258, 259).

Women participated and seemed to assume an active and essential role either in the Board as members, or in the work of the Board, or with their suggestions to the Group. Many were written in the Women's School that the Club operated on the initiative of Glinos. The moderate path chosen by the Group from the beginning, according to Dimaras, perhaps justified the relative inactivity of its members as it did not attract either progressive or conservative people (Dimaras, 1994, pp. 55, 66, 67). On the other hand, as can be seen, the role of the secondary members was neither clear, nor their stance in attacks against the EO. For example, even though he was a member of the Group, Eleftheroudakis, the editor of the magazine *Pedagogos*, allowed Kalliafa to express himself abusively towards the pioneers of educational reform in an article in the magazine. Glinos did not forgive him and argued with him, as he considered his attitude unacceptable since he is like-minded (Noutsos, 1990, p. 40). Eleftheroudakis, however, in another case seemed to encourage specific persons by promoting them as future successors of the Group's work, such as Telos Agra who was elected to the Board during the Group's General Meeting in 1921. The representation of various social classes and the expansion of the base of the EO was a theme raised by the speeches of Triantafyllides (Noutsos, 1990, pp. 231, 232).

In an account of 1918, Triantafyllidis raised the question of the need for the EO to pay more attention to its ordinary members, to communicate with those who honour the union with their innocent participation: the occasions when the DE communicates with those who honour the union with their moral assistance and their presence. That's why he was looking for the need for society's help and emphasized: days like these the opportunity is -provided to those who work on the front line to gather their thoughts...and everyone else, not only to be enlightened about what happened...but also to help more actively to clarify and complete the program, to ensure success (Thoughts on the progress of the Educational Group. Typescript (copy) of text regarding thoughts on the development of the Educational Group. Series: B. Language Education File, folder B 14 Group and Education Committee, subfolder B 2. Minutes of the Education Committee. Constitution, Sessions, Work Programs of the Education Group, 1910-1920, Triantafyllidis File. and: The Accountability That Was Not Made. Handwritten Notes for a Speech. Series: B. Language Education File, folder B 14 Club and Educational Committee, subfolder B 2. Minutes of the Educational Committee. Statutes, Sessions, Work Programs of the Educational Club, 1910-1920, Triantafyllidis Archive).

After the split of the EO, greater democratization of its operation and more direct and conscious participation of the members in its life and struggles was sought (The statute of the EO as voted in the General Assembly of June 5, 1928, and ratified by the Court of First Instance of Athens with sub. No. Decision 5186/1928. It was noteworthy, however, that Article 1 repeated the phrase about the establishment of the association, entitled educational group to reform Greek education. The purpose was perhaps the only article of the statute, which did not change (Neos Dromos, f. 1, 1 November 1928, p. 7).

The members contribute by approving the amendments to the statutes, and approving the members' resolutions. There was a formal proposal for the Action Program by Miliadis in 1927 and later in 1929 another amendment to the Action Program was tabled presumably by the Communist group. Recently, various proposals had been submitted such as the one for the establishment of the cooperative, for questioning Miliadis, and for political neutrality, which emphasized the greater substantial participation of the members. There was a tendency to strengthen the participation of the members, which was related to the tendency to open and strengthen their voice, but it was not unrelated to the financial difficulties of the Group and

the request for financial support. After 1920 and onwards in the General Meetings the members participated in discussions on revision and addition of some articles of the statute such as the reduction of the number of members of the Board of Directors, approval of important texts such as the declaration, the action program of the Group and information on the content and development of the edition of the New Road, due to financial problems.

If we consider Aravantinou's tab and her note, where she asked for her deletion from the Group, because she could participate in its meetings and other actions, we understand that active members normally had to be present at the meetings and important gatherings of the Group, although this was not their usual tactic. Despite the obligation of registered members to participate and vote during the General Meetings, it was not possible to determine if and in what percentage they were present. The decision to postpone the General Meeting was frequent, because the number of attendees was not considered sufficient. From the lists with the signatures of the members in a few general assemblies (GA), the conclusion was drawn from the relatively small physical presence of members. Dimaras referred to the opportunistic attendance at the General Meetings of several members and determined the number of participations on the scale of 70 to 100 people for a total of 300-350 people per year (Dimaras, 1994, p. 66).

4. Conclusions

From the study of the archives and available sources, it appeared that the entry of members followed certain conditions: exclusion of conservative and dissolving people in the question of language use (those Greeks at that time excessively supported the purifying or absolute vernacular). Thus, those who become members belong to the group of "mild" publicists. In the 1st year, EO experienced the most explosive increase in membership with the registration of over 650 registered and anonymous members from Greece and abroad. Dimaras recorded the names of 890 members, while after the split 137 names were mentioned, mainly students and school graduates, and their social stratification was relatively high, with a high or average level of education.

The differentiation between ordinary members and elite associate members was obvious. The first members seemed useful for the better acceptance of his work and had the right to vote in the General Meetings. Later, more direct participation of ordinary members was sought. The social status of the members generally seemed to be medium/high and concerned people with some professional advancement and a lower or higher level of education. Regarding the founding members, they mainly belonged to the upper middle class of Athens and had a high level of education and social acceptance, they belonged to an elite group of intellectual people with a particularly important activity and role in their country. Finally, the executives who took over the leadership in 1912 of EO were educated and studied abroad. More generally, the founding members belonged to the modernists, were extroverted, maintained contacts with intellectual people outside Greece and constituted a distinctive group in Athenian society.

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