

# " XANTHI & PORTO LAGOS FROM THE 19th TO 20th CEN-

## XANTHIA İSKEÇE XANTHI PORTO LAGOS

City of Western Thrace, beginning from classical antiquity, Byzantium, the Ottoman period, to its incorporation into the Greek National state.

The city has been a crossroads of cultures, ethnicities and various religions. In the whirlwind of time, the region experienced the presence of troops Cicones, Macedonians, Byzantines, Catalans, Bulgarians, Ottomans and finally since 1919 the Greek army.

Since the 18th century, the cultivation of tobacco became a major draw for the merchants from Europe and working hands from Balkans and Asia Minor, and gave a distinct level of glamour owing to the wealth, which made it stand out from the neighboring cities.

In this period of time, the port of Porto Lagos played its own important role in the development of the tobacco trade, making it possible to export more easily and at the same time to import products from Europe and the East.

From the late 19th to the early 20th century, the city experienced a belle époque similar to the great cities of Western Europe.

World War I and the two Balkan wars that followed were the beginning of a new course for the new Greek Xanthi.

But in 1922 a large wave of impoverished Greek refugees from Asia Minor became a new addition to the long-suffering new homeland that was trying to pick up the pieces from the constant wars and disasters that had plagued it since the dawn of the 20th century.

Since then Xanthi has maintained its cultural and economic trajectory with a gap due to the Bulgarian occupation of 1941-1944.

Today is a modern city with everything that modernization entails.

Through the pictures presented in this postcard exhibition an attempt is made to convey the atmosphere and the flavor of the times depicted,

for one picture is worth a thousand words

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# " XANTHI & PORTO LAGOS FROM THE 19th TO 20th CEN-

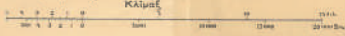
43° 41' ΕΑΝΘΗ

43° 42' ΣΤΑΡΑ ΖΑΓΟΡΑ



Επίμνησις 1:200 000 η 1:200 000

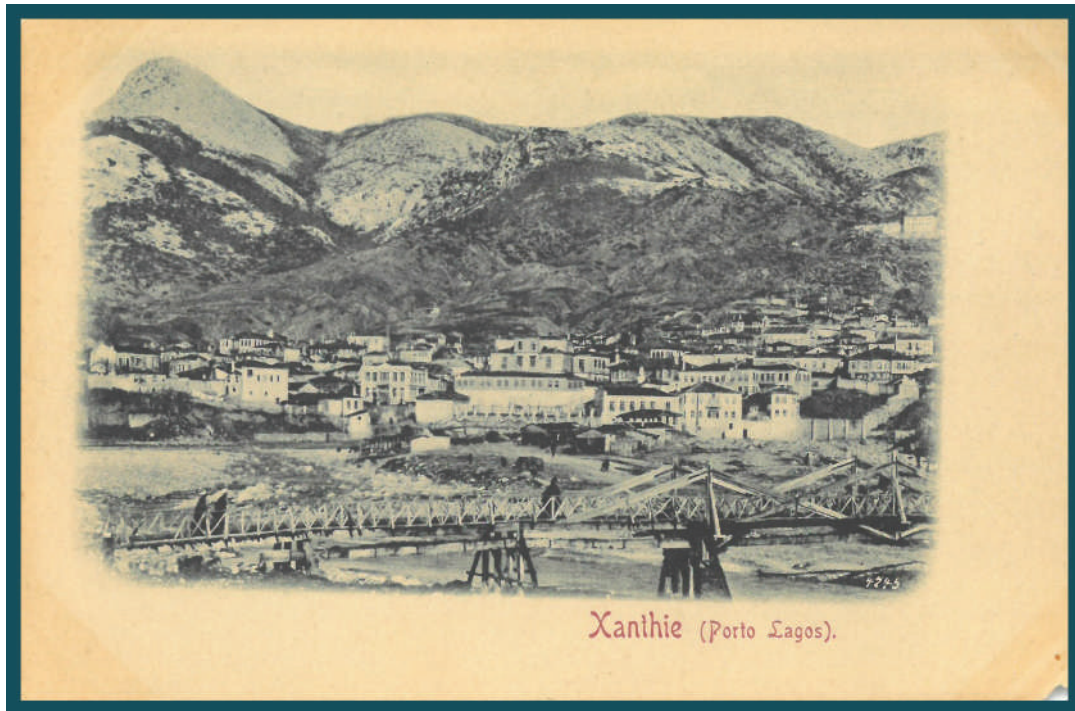
Κλίμαξ



— Πύξινος ή οξείος όρεινός ή πρό αστυλισμένης  
— Αστυλισμένη δει ή όρεινη  
— όρεινή δει αστυλισμένη



## " XANTHI GENERAL VIEW"



### **EDITOR: E.S Blatscho**

The card is believed to be of this editor by the way it is printed

### **Kossinthos**

The oldest known photo of Xanthi is taken from the eastern side of today's bazaar, which at that time was a river.

Both banks enclosed a piece of land, known as Kanaras Island, where there were vegetable gardens, tanneries (tabahana), slaughterhouses, etc. In the foreground we see the first photographed form of the wooden bridge on wooden plinths, which was replaced around 1900 by another wooden one on stone plinths. It is the second bridge.

The two aforementioned bridges were the ones that ensured access to the islet and ceased to exist in 1914, when the second bed of Kossinthos was abolished.

The diary provides us with a flurry of information that could fill pages on its own, regarding the built environment of that time and the great contribution of the Christian community and not only, to the development of Xanthi over time.

Also next to the inscription Xanthi there is the inscription in quotation marks

### **Porto Lagos.**

This probably happened because at that time Porto Lagos was an important port in the region with a customs authority as well as various foreign post offices.

## " XANTHI GENERAL VIEW"



**Editor: Dem.N. Caravidas**  
Xanthi

### **Panorama of Xanthi from the area of Samakov (1920)**



**Editor: B.Raptopoulos**

### **Xanthi 1920**

On the left is the district of Mitropolis and on the right is the district of Ydragogeio. Make out a Muslim cemetery above. The picture was taken from Samakov district.



## " XANTHI GENERAL VIEW"

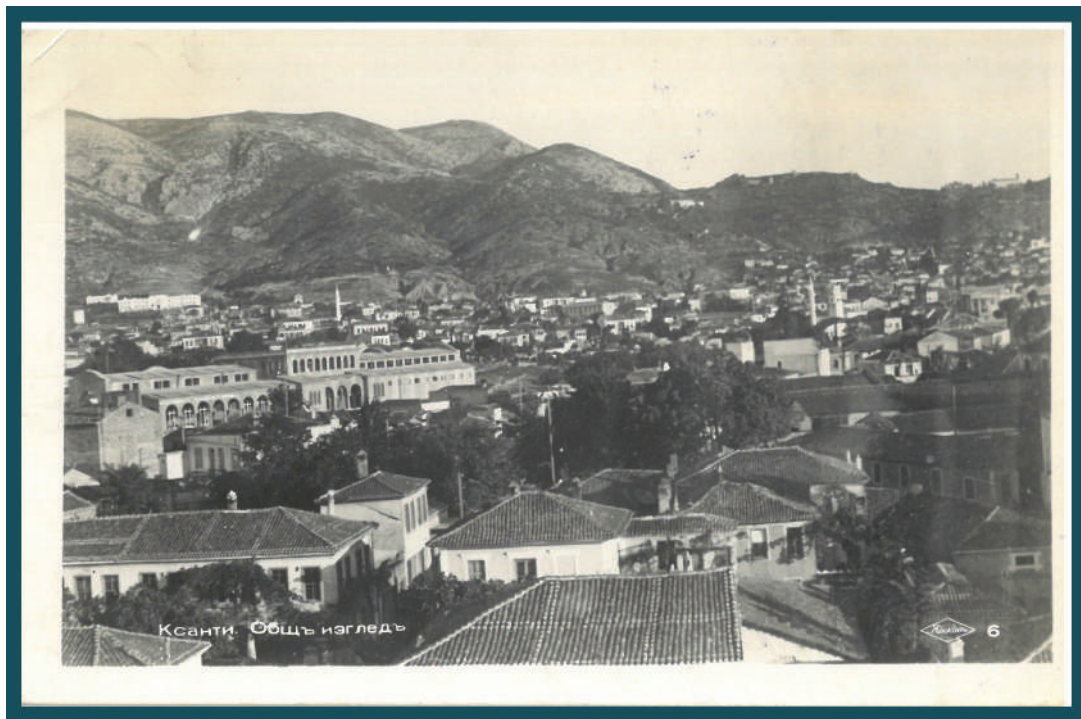


### View of the Mitropolis district in 1915 on a Bulgarian postcard

We can see the cathedral of the Metropolis, and to the left of its sanctuary a tree known as "Kavaki", from which the wider area got its name. This tree could be found behind the temple of Taxiarches (Kavaki) and from one of its branches was hung the bell of the church since the Ottoman administration at the time prohibited the construction of bell towers.

After the liberation of Xanthi by the Greek army, the current bell tower was built. On the left we can see the imposing building of the "Elysia" cinema, which at the time still had its decorative Gothic turret. The mansions of many wealthy families from the beginning of the previous century can also be seen.

## " XANTHI GENERAL VIEW"



Editor Gr. Paskoff  
Sofia Bulgaria

### View of the new city,

the photo was taken from the bell tower of the church of the Twelve Apostles during the period of the Bulgarian occupation 1941- 1944. On the left you can see the current municipal market which was not finished due to the war.



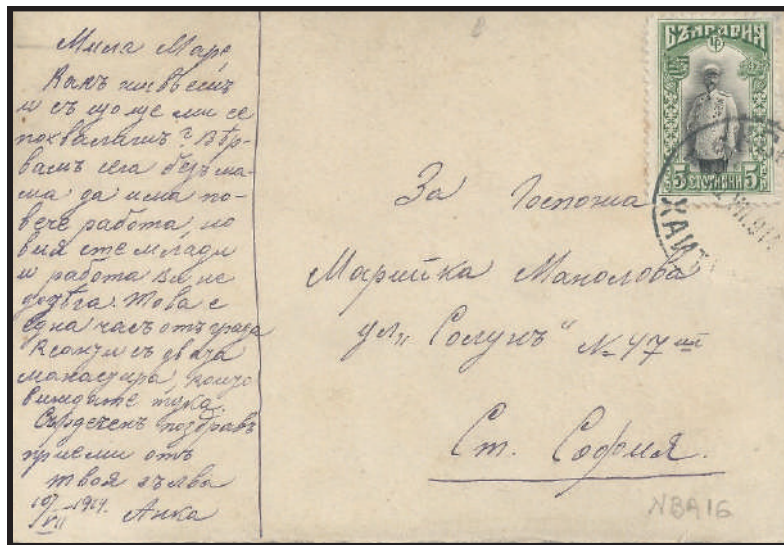
EDITOR: Volidis  
Xanthi

### Northeast view of Xanthi (1934).

Also taken from the bell tower of the 12 Apostles.  
To the right, the two tobacco warehouses still exist today on Stathmos (Station) Street.



## " XANTHI GENERAL VIEW"



The following postcard was mailed  
from Xanthi to Sofia  
on July 10, 1914

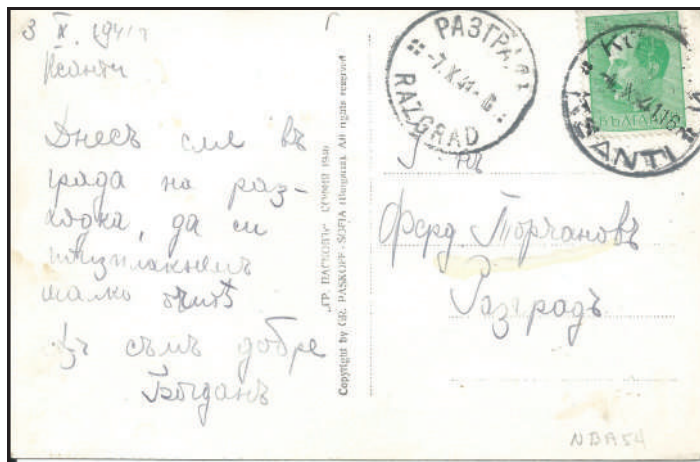


### **Postcard from the period of the first Bulgarian occupation.**

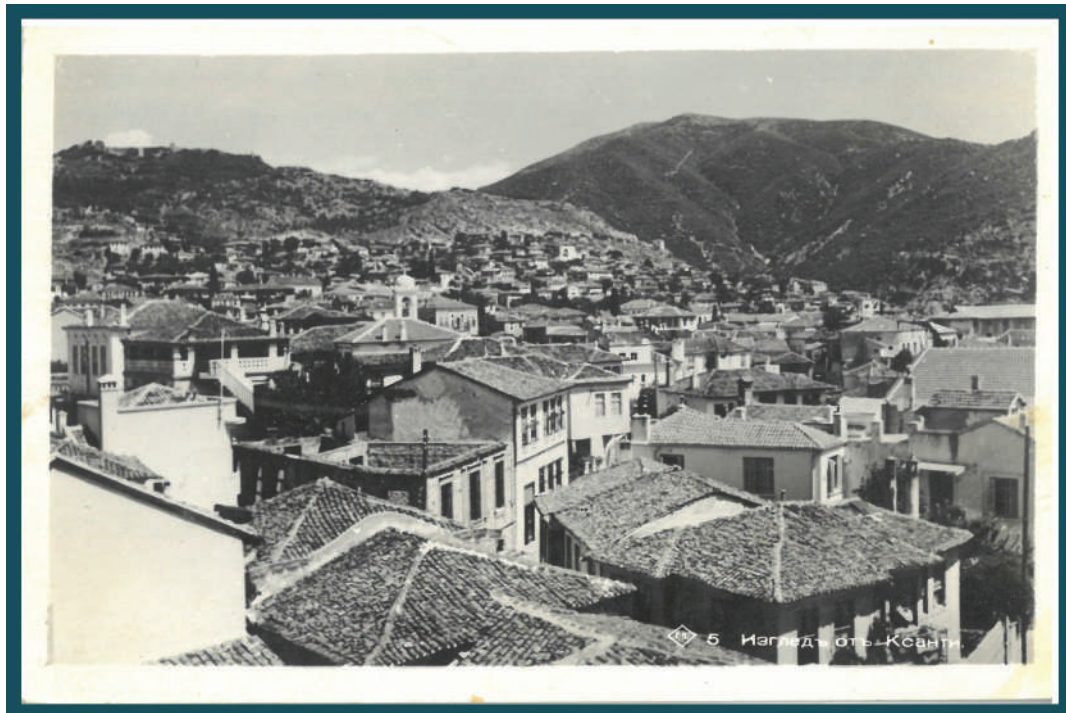
The open stream that crossed in front of the municipal market and made its way to Kosynthos. This location is to west of the municipal market.

The little bridge led to Heroes Street and further down to the central square and the clock that can be seen in the distance.

## " XANTHI GENERAL VIEW"



Postcard from Xanthi to  
Razgrad, Bulgaria  
04 October 1941



Editor Gr. Paskoff

### **North view of Xanthi (1941).**

Also taken from the bell tower of the 12 Apostles.  
The city as seen from a different angle, from the  
Daniel mansion, also known as the  
Hadjidakis house.



## " XANTHI GENERAL VIEW "

Editor: Foto Komninos

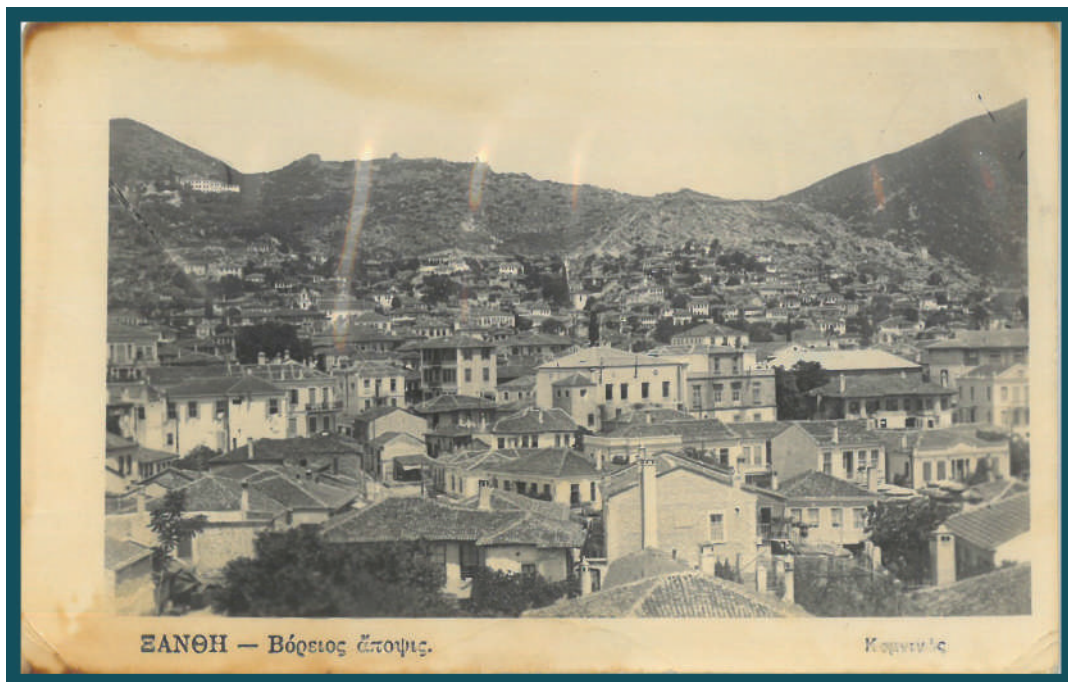
Xanthi



### Northeast view

#### The district of Agios Vlasios in 1930.

The picture was taken from the minaret of the mosque on IX Merarchias street (Sunne mahala). The house of Isaac Daniel (old guardhouse), the bell tower of the church of the same name and the school in its courtyard . The long narrow two-story building with the balcony is the orphanage



### North view

View of the old city, the photo was probably taken from the bell tower of Agios Georgios. In the center you can see the old municipal library, today the culture house of FEX, and a bit further to the right is the town hall. If we look at the mountains we will see that they have no trees, and from this we can determine the time when the photo was taken, as the forest above Xanthi was planted In 1936 by EON.

# " XANTHI GENERAL VIEW "

**Editor: Foto Komninos**  
Xanthi



## **Southwest view**

View of Xanthi from the Samakov district in 1952. Notice the construction of the today's concrete bridge while the second one right next to it is still in operation.



## **Northwest view**

The photo was taken from the same location as the previous picture though it is looking further north.

A possible point of note is the road that leads to the monastery of " Pnagia "



# " XANTHI GENERAL VIEW "



1011-2.- ΞΑΝΘΗ Μερική άποψις

XANTHIE Vue partielle

Εκδόσεις «ΔΕΛΤΑ» Αθήναι

## Editor : "DELTA"

Athens

## Some views of the city in 1930s

The postcard shows us almost the entire western side of the city from the Smakov district to the refugee settlement and the entrance to the city from the west.

It is a card that the publisher managed to present all the districts of the



The postcard was mailed from Xanthi to Athens on May 24, 1937. It also bears a propaganda logo of the 4th of August

**"THE 4TH OF AUGUST IS THE WORK OF ALL OF YOU"**

I. METAXAS



Ξάνθη — Γενική άποψις

## General view era 1930s

## " XANTHI GENERAL VIEW "



### South and Southeast view View of Xanthi from Foros, circa 1950

The view is captured from the North exit of the city, which leads to the village of Echinis, Stavroupoli and ultimately links Xanthi with the city of Drama. **"Foros"** was the name given to the location where tax collectors in stone buildings or shacks collected entry and exit fees from the municipality from the producers who transported their goods for sale on bales and carts.



## " XANTHI GENERAL VIEW "



### View on the Aegean sea

The Acropolis quarter, with a view that extends to the Aegean Sea.



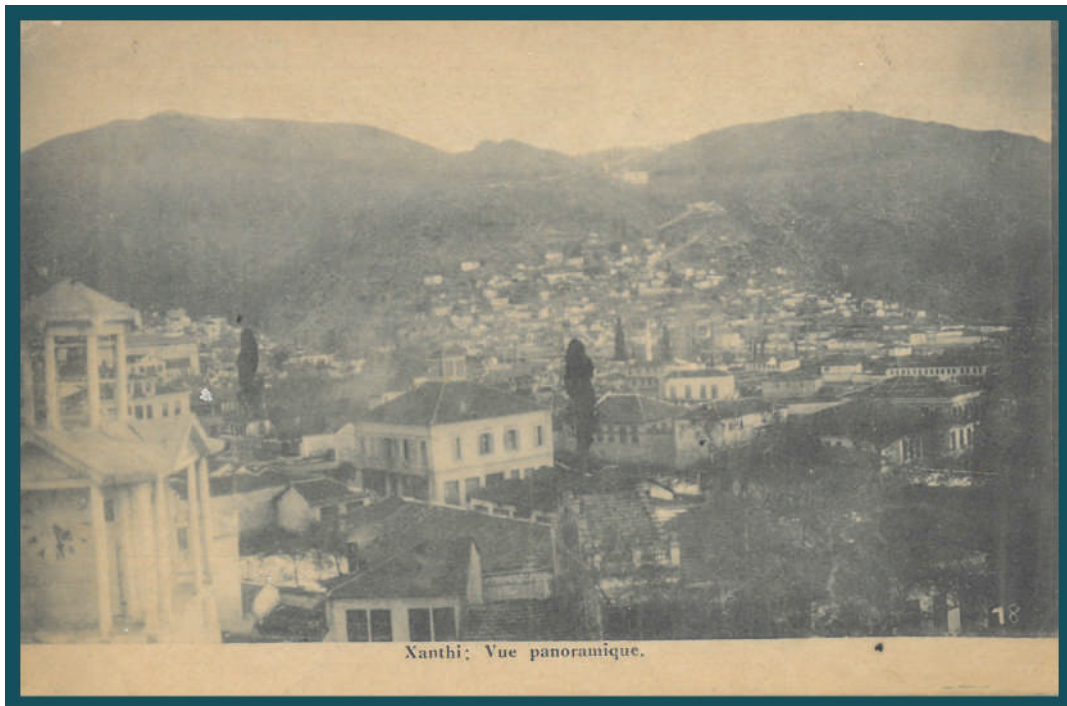
### Panorama of Xanthi 1920.

The southern part of the panorama which is probably taken from the minaret of the mosque of today's Central Square. The Muslim Sunnah quarter is shown with a number of tobacco merchants bey houses

## " XANTHI GENERAL VIEW "



**Panorama of Xanthi 1920.**  
The central part of the panorama.  
The old town is seen in the background.



**Panorama of Xanthi 1920.**  
The northern part of the panorama.  
The Samakov district is seen in the background.



## " XANTHI GENERAL VIEW "



**EDITOR: Volidis**

Xanthi

### **Later photo taken about 1926**

Taken from the minaret of the Agora mosque, Pazar Yeri camii or Merkez camii.since demolished

The photographer chose noon time for the shot here as well so that there would be plenty of light back in the city.

It is believed this was taken around 1926 since the imposing building of the National Bank which was built later cannot be seen on the postcard.

## " XANTHI GENERAL VIEW "



### Postcard circa 1926

This time from the clock tower.

Komotini street is on the right, the "Royal" hotel in front, and in Background we can see the Samakov district.

On the left we see the two-story building where the "Astoria" club was housed on the first floor and the "HELLAS" restaurant on the ground floor

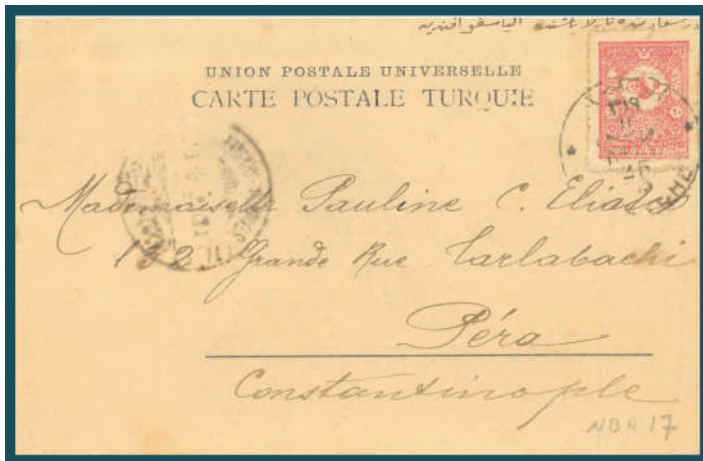
The postcard offers a lot of information about the shops of the era near the clock. Buildings still exist today.



# " XANTHI CITY'S CENTER"

## Postcard by: E.S. Blatscho

The photographer is only known for his postcards of Xanthi from the last years of 19th century. Going by his name we believe that he is a Bulgarian photographer, but there is no actual information available on him. The only information is from a Canadian Philatelic magazine that he kept a Philatelic shop in Xanthi and he editing postcards



The postcard was mailed from Xanthi to Constantinople in 1903



## View of the central square of the city, 1890.

We can see the structure that remains to this day the symbol of the city, Xanthi's clock tower.

The tower was built around 1870 by Haci Emin Ağa, a cosmopolitan and aristocratic Ottoman, a very rich Bey and tobacco merchant from Genisea, as a gift to the city of Xanthi.

## " XANTHI CITY'S CENTER"



**Editor E.S. Blatscho**

### **Central square, Ottoman period (1900)**

The building belongs to the central administration which served as the seat of the Kaimakami (province). It was found on the southern side of the Culigiye (religious commercial and administrative center) during Ottoman rule.

Demolished in 1970 during the Colonels' junta.



**Editor Dem. N. Karavidas from Xanthi**

### **Xanthi Central square**

A view of the square before 1912 (still in the Ottoman period). We get a much better view of the mosque and the clock from the side of the footbath where Muslims used to wash their feet before entering the mosque.



# " XANTHI CITY'S CENTER"



Editor: B. Raptopoulos

## **Xanthi Central Square**

Also known as Market square, it was known by this name because up until 1918 the weekly bazaar was held there.



Editor: B. Raptopoulos

## **1915, First Bulgarian occupation**

The square seen from a different angle. We see on the right side the shops have changed their shop signs from Greek to Bulgarian.

## " XANTHI CITY'S CENTER"



### **The square circa 1919**

We notice that the look of the street has changed, the stalls are mostly gone, and people have started adopting a Western way of dressing.



### **Bulgarian occupation circa 1919**

Shortly before the liberation from the Greek army. Bulgarian officers and civilians wait in line while small shoe polishers wait for customers on the pavement.



# " XANTHI CITY'S CENTER"

**EDITOR: Volidis**  
**XANTHI**

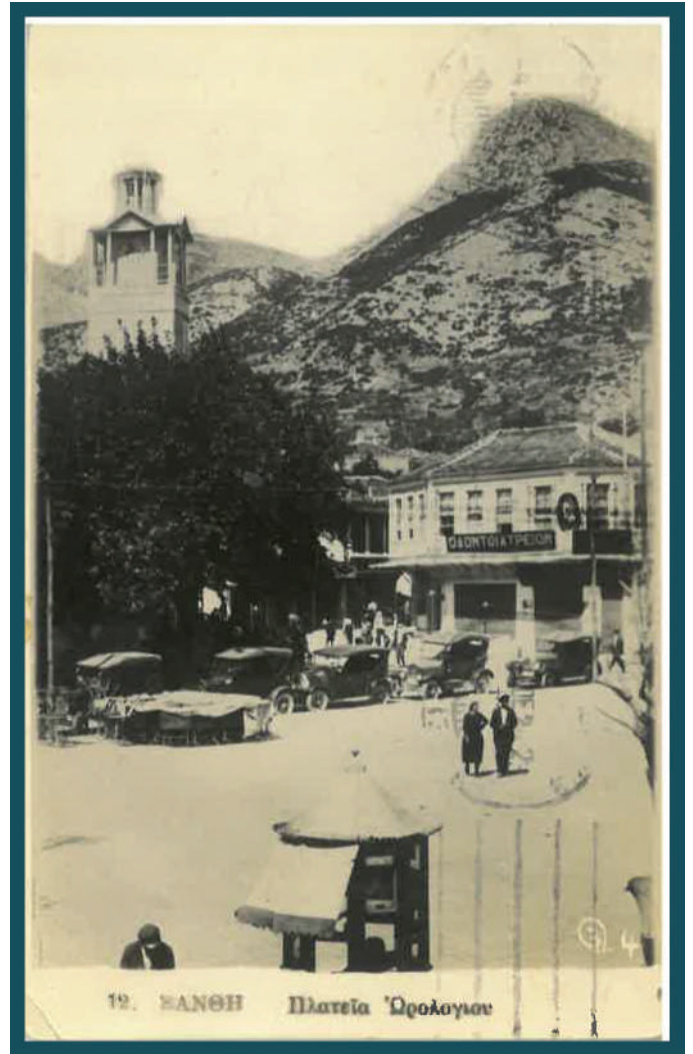


**Publisher's signature**



## **Clock Square 1926.**

The city is moving into an era of Westernization. We notice that the square has changed shape, that the first taxis and the first kiosks of this era have begun to appear.



## **Clock Square.**

View from the South side of the square. The taxi stand has already appeared but the horse-led carriages (peyton) are still found in the city as the taxi of the day.

# " XANTHI CITY'S CENTER"

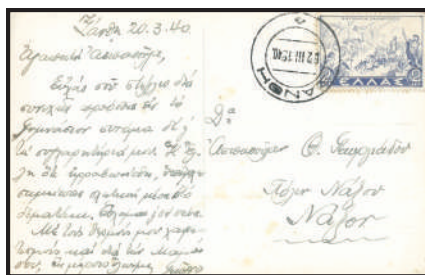


## Central square, 1934

### The city begins to take a more European look

Taxi stand in front of the clock tower and the mosque. Ford taxis are now the established means of transport. The sign on the electricity pole is typical for the era, it reads Xanthi Traffic Police.

And the local kiosks have largely taken the shape of their French counterparts.



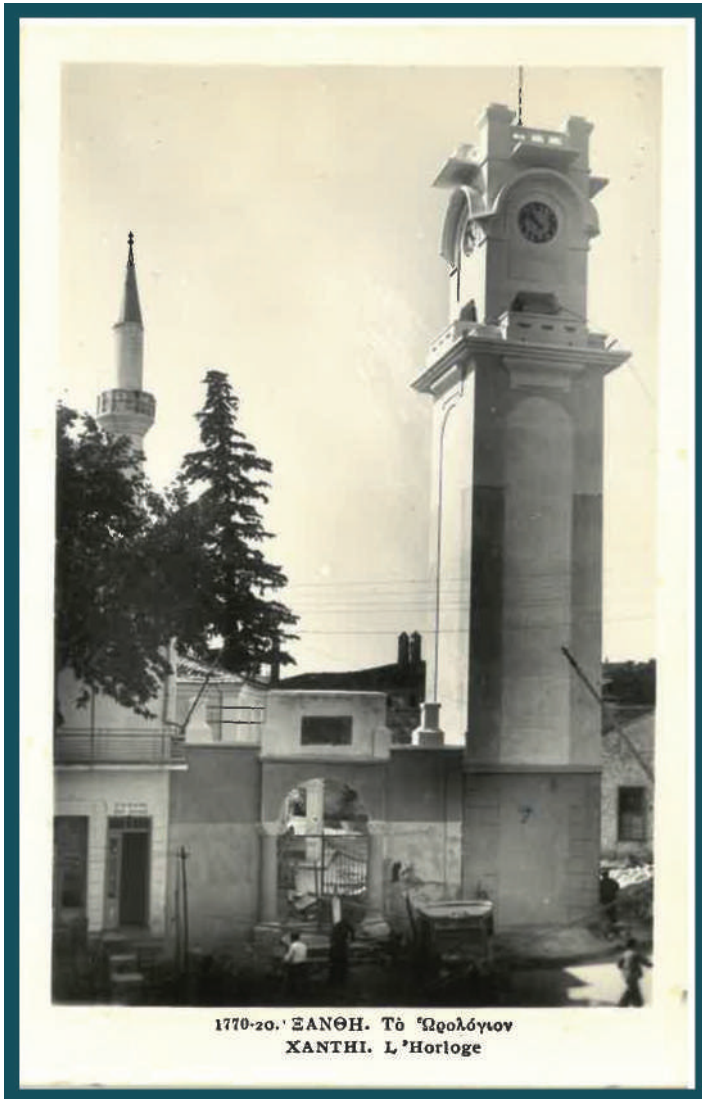
Card posted 23 of March 1940  
to Naxos

### The clock tower and the Mosque (Yeri Pazar Jamisi) in the background

Late 30s. Still under Greek administration



## " XANTHI CITY'S CENTER"



Editor M.S. Diakakis  
Andrianou 35 Athens

The clock tower and at the back  
Mosque (Yeri Pazar Jamisi)



The Mosque ( Yeri Pazar Jamisi )  
And the Clock Tower

A view from the west side. Era 30s .  
The clock tower still have the old appearance.

# " XANTHI CITY'S CENTER"



**Editor:: DELTA Editions  
ATHENS**

## **Between the clock tower and the District Court**

In the centre we see the Enosis Club, on the ground floor there is the pharmacy of Nikolaos Tsitsis. On the left we see an awning with the inscription **Ethnikon Skopeftirion** and on the wall the inscription **E.O.N. (National Youth Organization)**.

The club building, together with the Mosque (Yeri Pazar Jamisi) and its Minaret, were demolished by the Bulgarians at the beginning of the second Bulgarian occupation (1941-44).



## " XANTHI CITY'S CENTER"

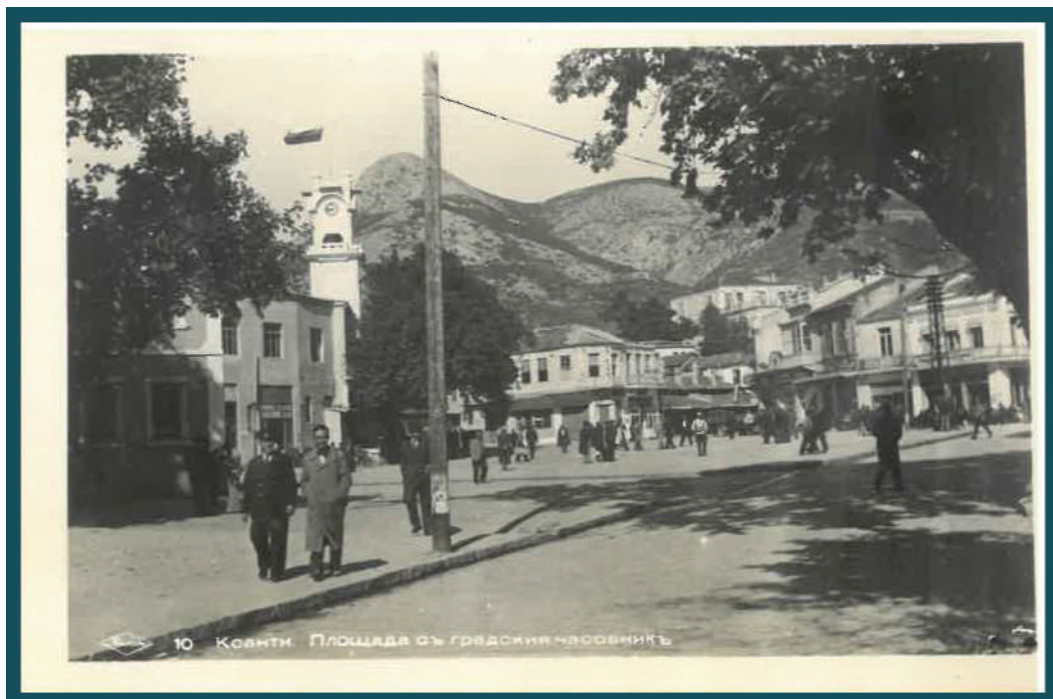


Editor Gr. Paskoff

Sofia Bulgaria

### Central square 1940

The city under Bulgarian occupation  
The signs have been forced to change from Greek to Bulgarian



Editor Gr. Paskoff

### Central square 1941

The Bulgarian flag can be seen flying above the tower

## " XANTHI CITY'S CENTER"

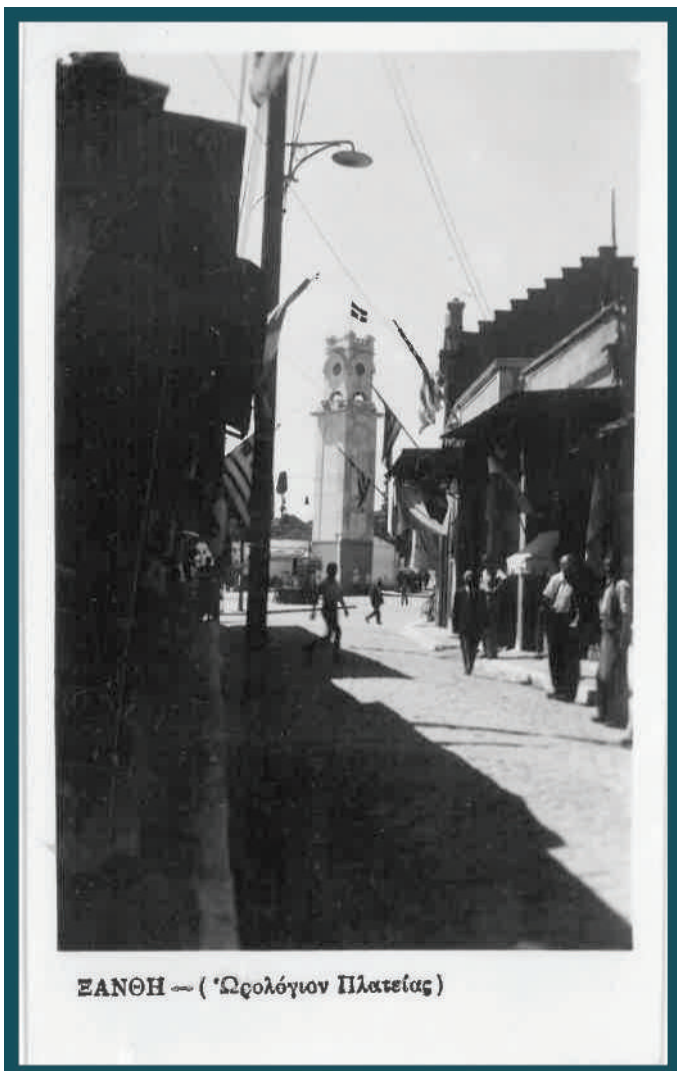


**Editor Gr. Paskoff**

Sofia Bulgaria

**The central square 1942**

On the windows there are still the tapes that protected the windows from the bombings.



**Editor: Foto Komninos**

Xanthi

**Today's Panagi Tsaldari street,**  
**formerly Komotini's.**

Filled with flags and car-free, even the electricity pole was stood on the road itself.

The photo was taken in the late 50's.

ΞΑΝΘΗ — ( 'Ωρολόγιον Πλατείας )



## " XANTHI CITY'S CENTER"



### Northwest view.

Georgiou Stavrou street and the adjacent Bey properties. The view is immortalized from the National Bank building

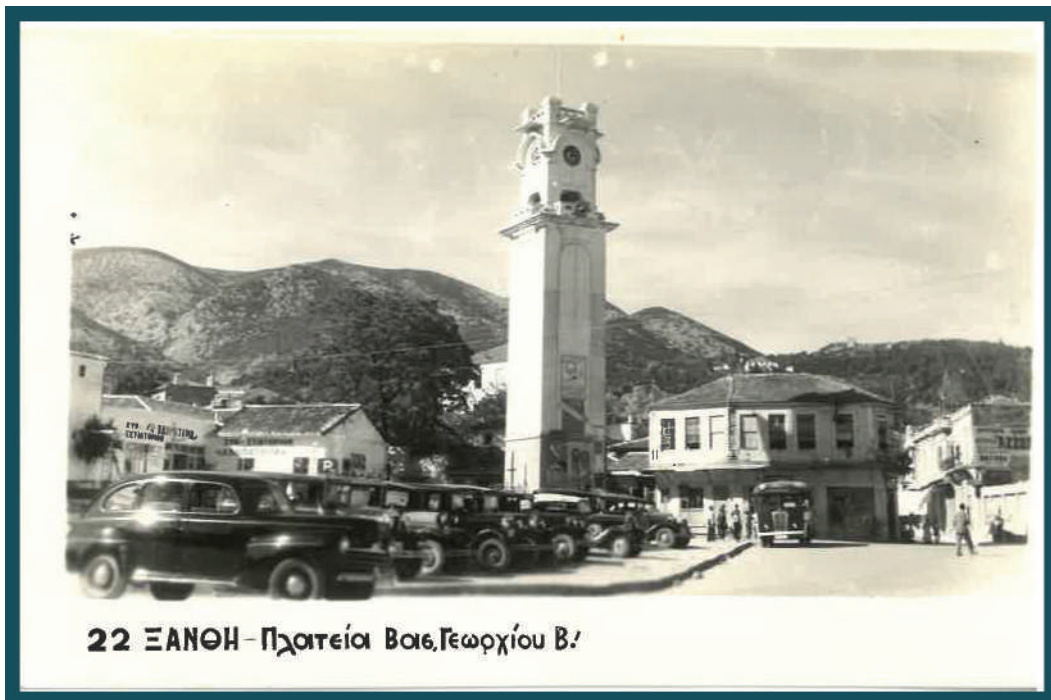
The postcard gives us a post-war view of Xanthi.

Up front we can see Georgiou Stavrou Str. and on our left the "Royal" Hotel, which was renamed "Lux" after being named "Bulgaria" during the Bulgarian occupation.

On either side of the street are Bey properties . This then leads to Komotini street which joins the central square with the market. Across the square we see the District Court which was demolished in 1970. And in the distance to the left the tobacco warehouses (remnants of a thriving local industry). On the right is the Kavala Road ( named October 28 today) essentially the entrance to the city from the West from Kavala.

Parallel to it ,we see the Heroes Street that leads to the city's public market . In recent years the two streets have been united but during the refugee period small patches of land were allocated for the building of shops. And coming back we see the clock tower , while the mosque is now missing as it was burned by the Bulgarians. We can see also the traces of another arson on a two-story building that housed the Astoria club on the first store and the Hellas restaurant on the ground floor (during the second Bulgarian occupation, the Bulgarians typically burned what was not necessary for them.)

## " XANTHI CITY'S CENTER"



The central square. King's George II  
Early 1950s



The square at the end of 1950s



## " XANTHI CITY'S CENTER"



The square at the end of 1950s



The square at the end of 1960s

# " XANTHI"

## KOSSINTHOS RIVER AND THE INFRASTRUCTURES ON ITS BANKS



**EDITOR: E.S Blatscho**



### **Railway bridge and view of a city district**

The card was issued after 1893 because the bridge was built by French engineers in 1893  
Posted to Kavalla on April of 1906



# " XANTHI"

## KOSSINTHOS RIVER AND THE INFRASTRUCTURES ON ITS BANKS



**EDITOR: B.Raptopoulos**

### **The first bridge**

Casting of the Cross into the water , by Metropolitan Ioakeim Sgouros during the Epiphany around 1900.

The first bridge of Kossinthos, the old eastern entrance of the city and the monastery of Panagia Kalamou are depicted.

The first bridge appears in its original form in a photo of 1902, after which it took its final form and lasted until 1912 when it collapsed. ( çay köprüsü )

**The manuscript mentions that the monastery is under construction**

This means that the card dates from around 1904

# " XANTHI"

## KOSSINTHOS RIVER AND THE INFRASTRUCTURES ON ITS BANKS



**Editor: B.Raptopoulos**

### **The first bridge**

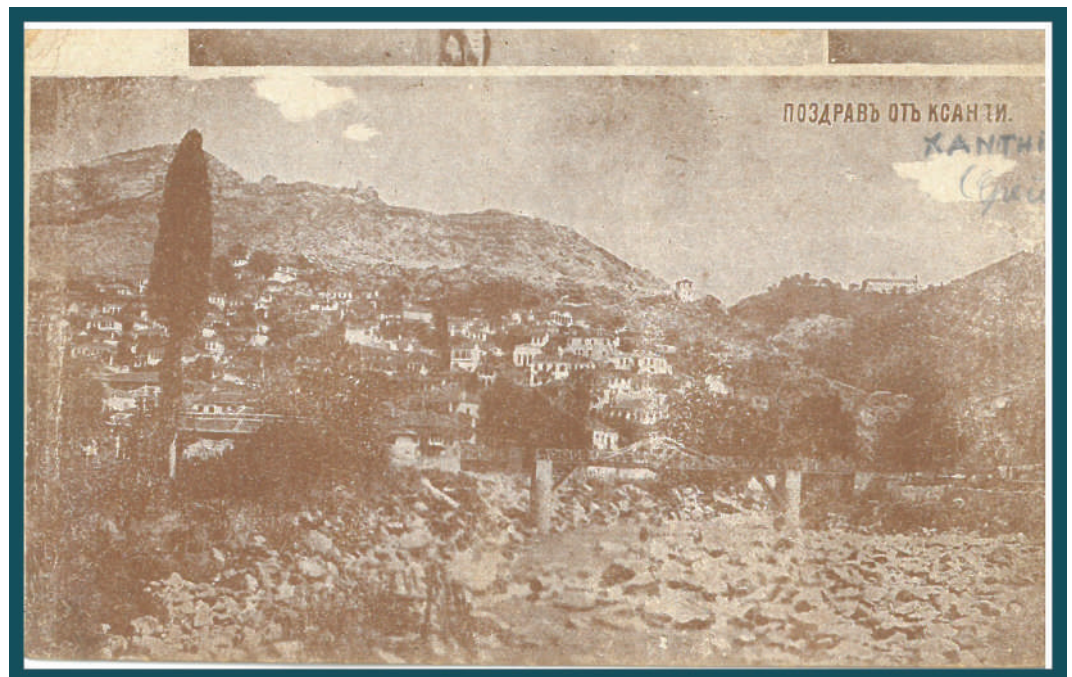
In 1902 before its collapse in 1912.

The postcard was mailed from Xanthi to Alexandroupoli (Dedeagac)

The card was posted on 17th of September 1912

**Editor: Pachilov**  
**Bookstore**  
**Xanthi**

Seeing as this is the era of the first Bulgarian occupation, the photographer's name suggests that he may have been a Greek bookseller who was forced, or even openly chose to change his name to Bulgarian to enjoy the freedom



### **The second river bridge**

Circa 1914 after the first one was destroyed during the great flood of 1912



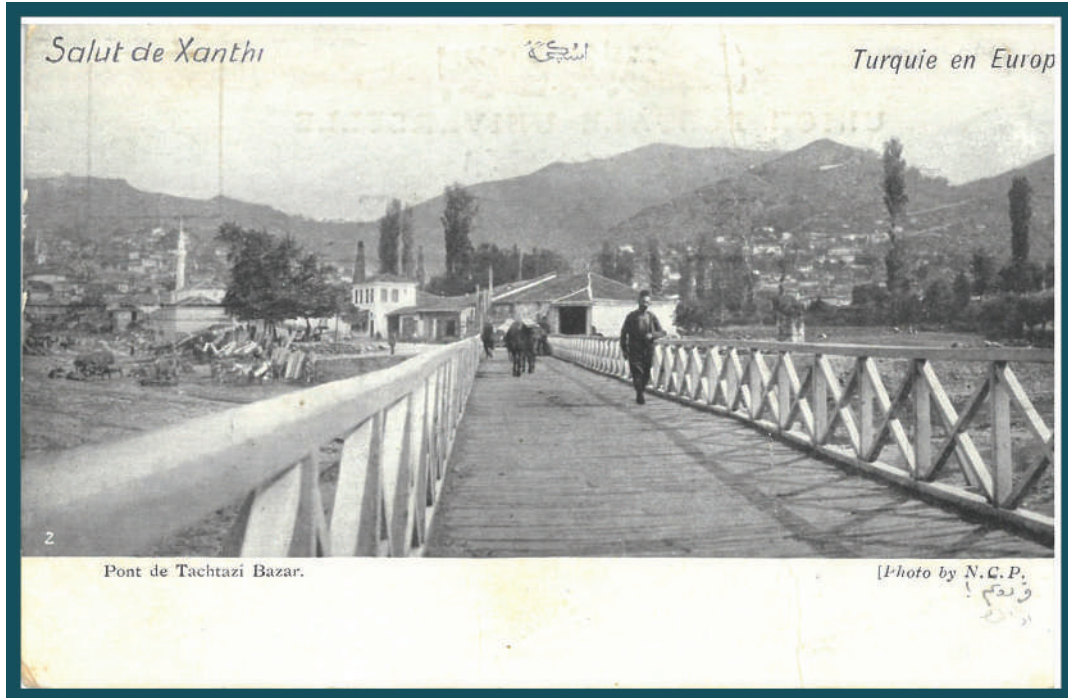
# " XANTHI"

## KOSSINTHOS RIVER AND THE INFRASTRUCTURES ON ITS BANKS

**Editor: Nikolaos Paraschou**

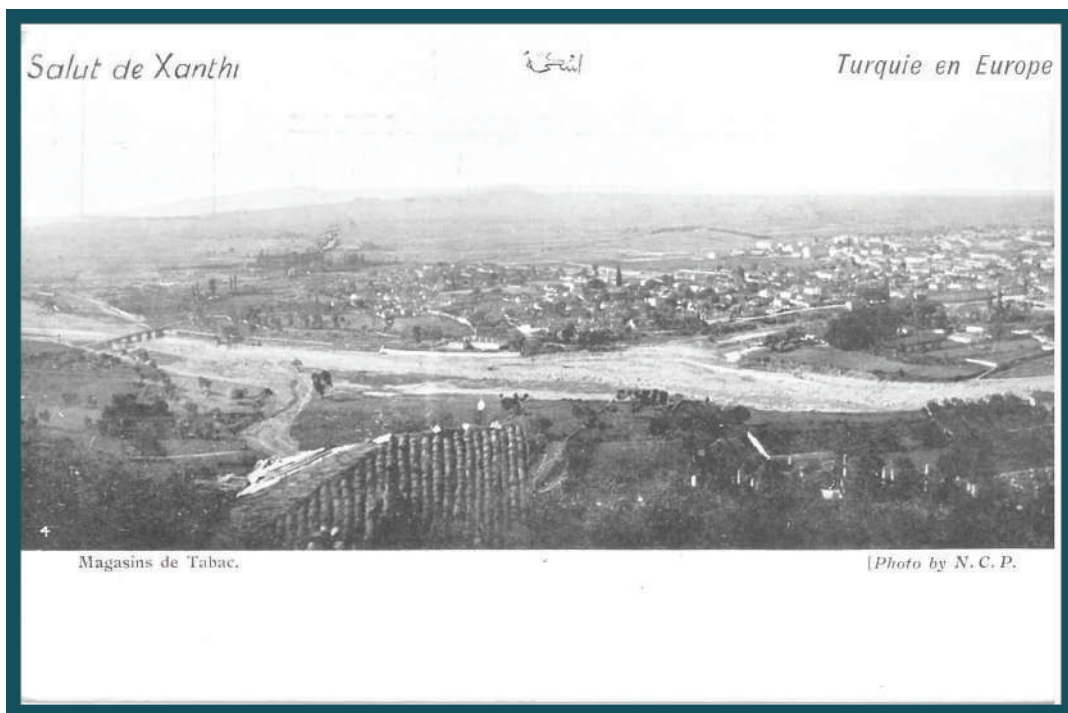
Tobacconist and Photographer  
based in London

**Printed by: Wightman & Co.,Ltd.**  
in London



### Tahtatzi Kioprou.

The bridge linked Komotinis Street with the kerestezidika (wood warehouses) of the Tabak Hane district (tanneries).



The location where the two river beds join back into one. We can see also the island of Kanaras  
The railway bridge can be seen on the left

# " XANTHI"

## KOSSINTHOS RIVER AND THE INFRASTRUCTURES ON ITS BANKS



**Editor: Bookshop S.Vasiliadou**  
Xanthi

### **The second river bridge**

The card was issued around 1930 and shows  
the Municipal Slaughterhouses of Xanthi  
The two long and narrow buildings on the left which shut down 1931



**Editor: Emm.S.Diakakis**  
35 Adrianou st. Athens

### **The second river bridge**

The card was issued around 1935 .



# " XANTHI" KOSSINTHOS RIVER AND THE INFRASTRUCTURES ON ITS BANKS



Συνοικία Καβάκι. Ξάνθη.

Quartier Kavaki, Xanthi.

**Editor: Dem.N. Caravidas**  
Xanthi

**Kavaki district 1926**



ΦΩΤΟ  
ΚΟΜΝΗΝΟΣ  
ΞΑΝΘΗ

18 ΞΑΝΘΗ — Ποταμός Κόσινθος

Φωτο-Κομνηνός

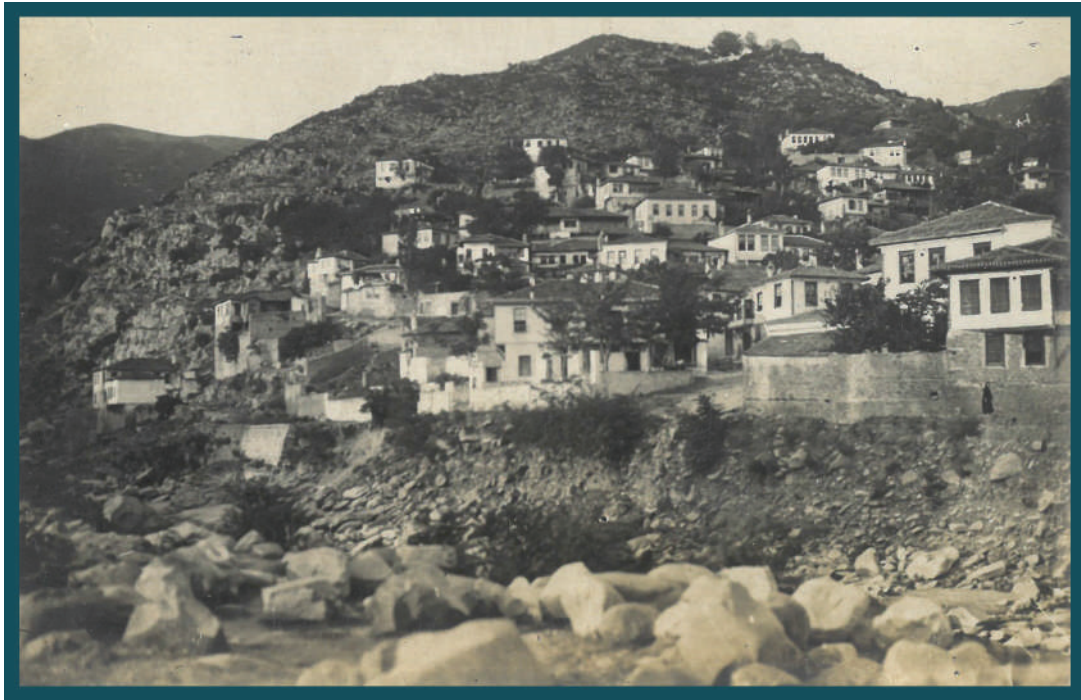
**Editor: Foto Komninos**  
Xanthi

**Kossinthos 1932**  
And to the left the Kavaki district



# " XANTHI"

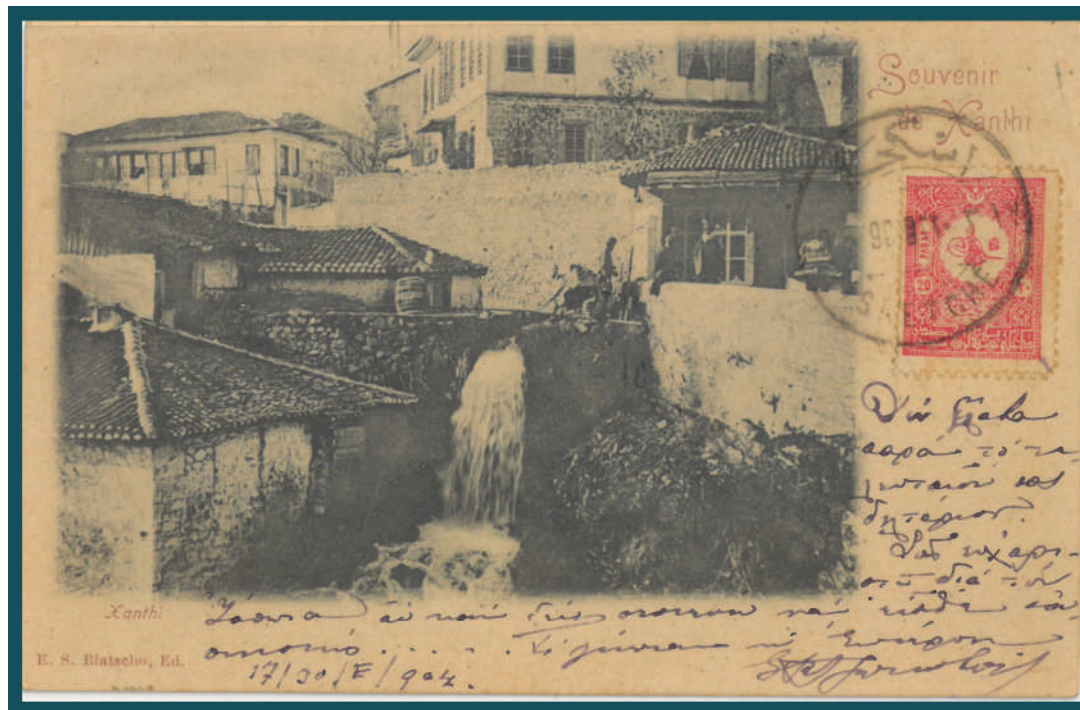
## KOSSINTHOS RIVER AND THE INFRASTRUCTURES ON ITS BANKS



### Kossinthos 1913

The right bank of the river at the location of the destroyed first bridge. The bridge base can be seen on the left. Behind it we can see the Samakov district.

Editor: E.S Blatscho



### Kossinthos circa 1890

North point of the river in the water mills area  
The card was mailed on May 30th 1904 from Xanthi and arrived on May 31st in Constantinople by French mail





# " XANTHI"

## KOSSINTHOS RIVER AND THE INFRASTRUCTURES ON ITS BANKS



**Editor: P. Gounari Bros**  
stationer's shop " Progress"

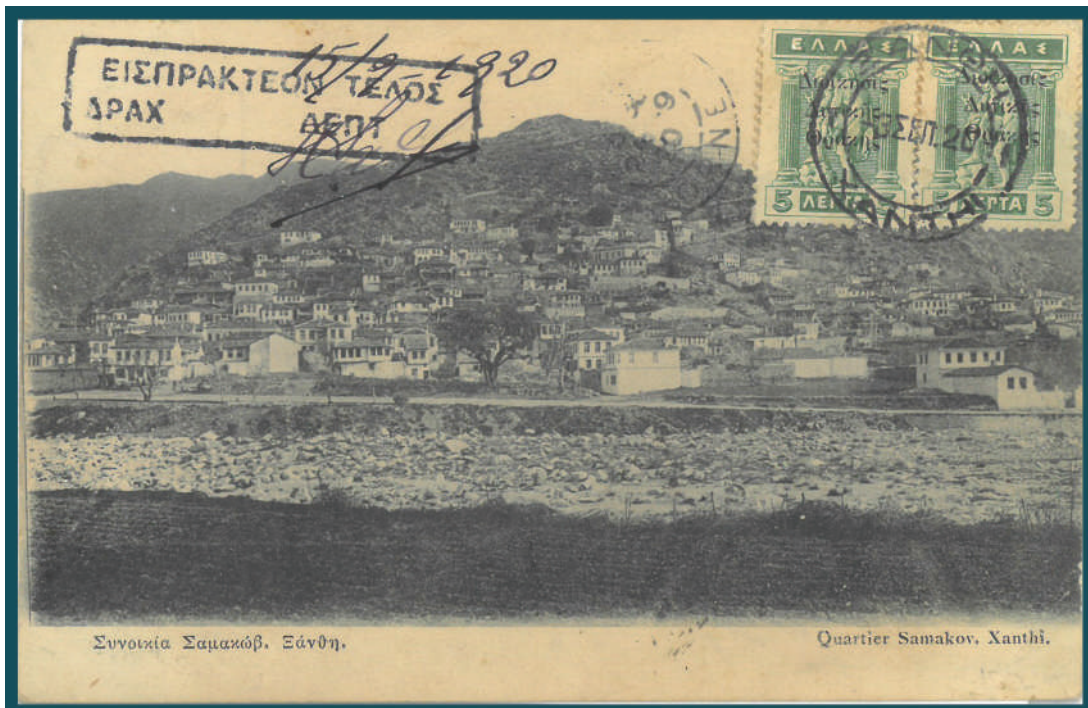
### Kossinthos 1920

The river at the northern point.

This is point where the first bridge was located.

On the left we can see the Hatzioiannou water mill. One of the three water mills that existed at that time.

On the hill to the left we see the building named **Foros** and in the distance the monastery of Panagias Kalamous.



**Editor: Dem. N. Caravidas**

Xanthi

### Kosinthos east coast 1920

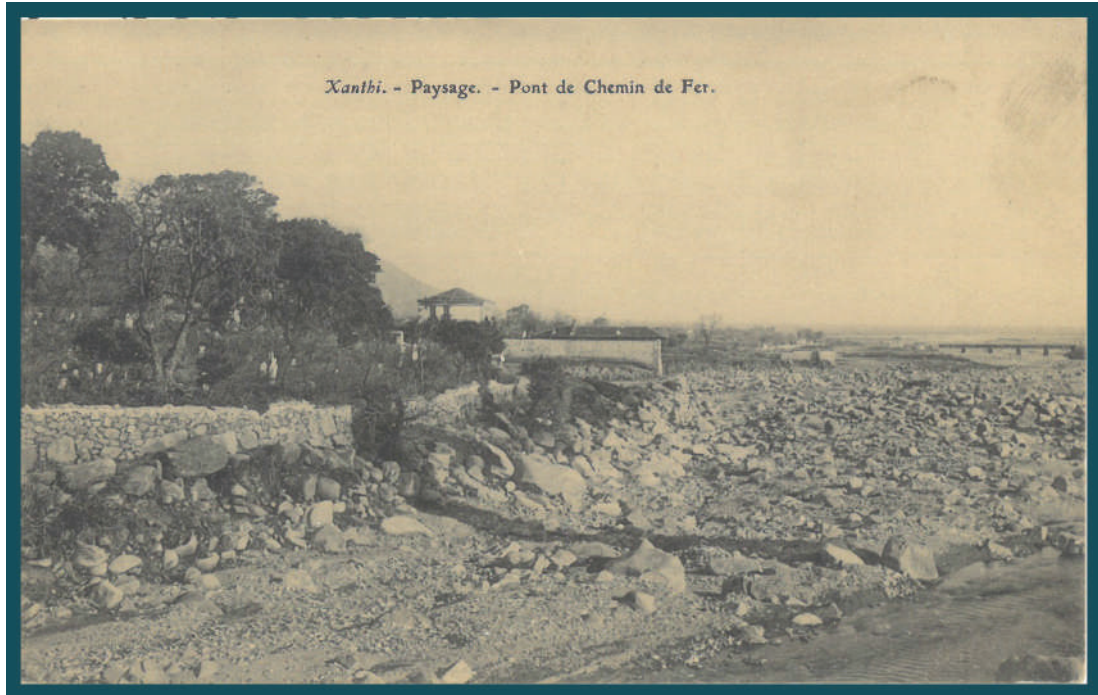
Panoramic view of the Samakov district

The card was mailed from Xanthi on September 3, 1920, arriving in Normandy in the Orne region on the

27 September 1920 via Thessaloniki (04 Sept. 20)

# " XANTHI"

## KOSSINTHOS RIVER AND THE INFRASTRUCTURES ON ITS BANKS



**Editor: B.Raptopoulos**

### **Cossinthos east coast circa 1912**

The eastern bank of the river further south and in the distance the railway bridge. At this point are the Muslim cemeteries of Karsi Mahala (opposite neighborhood) or Samakov are located there .

We can see just a narrow dirt path. This path is today's Queen Sophia Street. The road used from by city residents as well as trade caravans coming to the city from Anatolia also crossed here.

Behind the large trees was the vineyard of doctor Georgios Maletsidis which he donated it to the Greek Orthodox Community of Xanthi, for the creation of the "Orfeus" Music Gymnastics Club.

In the background, the Gymnastiriou neighbourhood was created in the mid-1920s during the mayorship of Evripides Hasirtzoglou



# " XANTHI"

## KOSSINTHOS RIVER AND THE INFRASTRUCTURES ON ITS BANKS

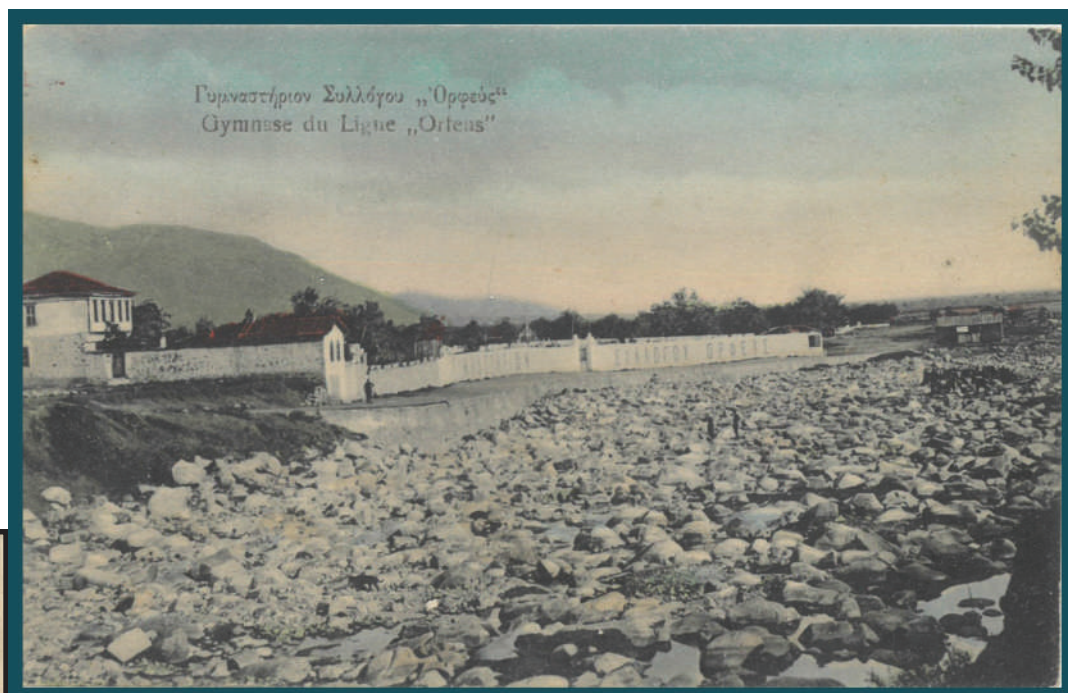


**Editor: P. Gounari Bros**  
stationer's shop "Progress"

### Cossinthos east coast between 1913 and 1919

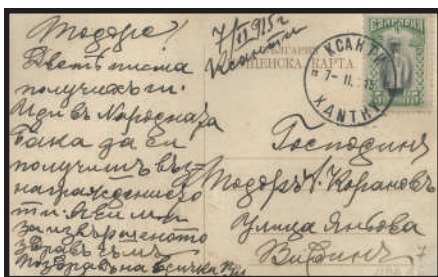
#### And the gymnasium of the Orfeas Club

The Orfeas's stadium was built around 1910. The card dates back to the time of the Ottoman administration of Xanthi. The plot was donated in 1908 by the "Greek citizen" from Epirus, doctor Georgios Maletsidis



### Cossinthos east coast between 1913 and 1919.

We can see the sports and music club "ORFEAS" stadium, Since the card was issued during the first Bulgarian occupation, the wall here bears the name of the youth organization "Momitsil Yunak" in the Bulgarian language.  
(named after the 13th century Bulgarian bandit who ruled the region with his gang.)





## " XANTHI"

### KOSSINTHOS RIVER AND THE INFRASTRUCTURES ON ITS BANKS



**Editor: Foto Komninos**  
**Xanthi**

**1952 Times are Changing, the old gives way to the new**  
View of Xanthi above the last houses of Samakov. The new concrete bridge can be seen before its completion and next to it the old one still in operation.



**Editor: Emm.S.Diakakis**  
**35 Adrianou st. Athens**

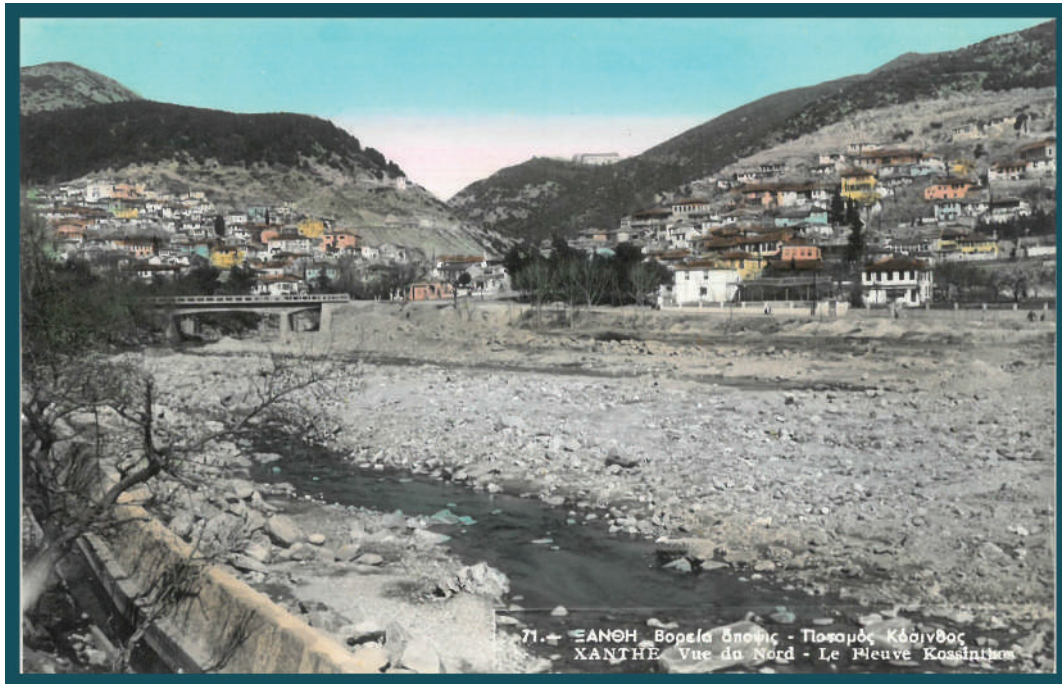
### **Cossinthos West bank**

View of Xanthi in 1935. Below right is the area of "Mylagonia" today's "Nisaki". This was the water mills district

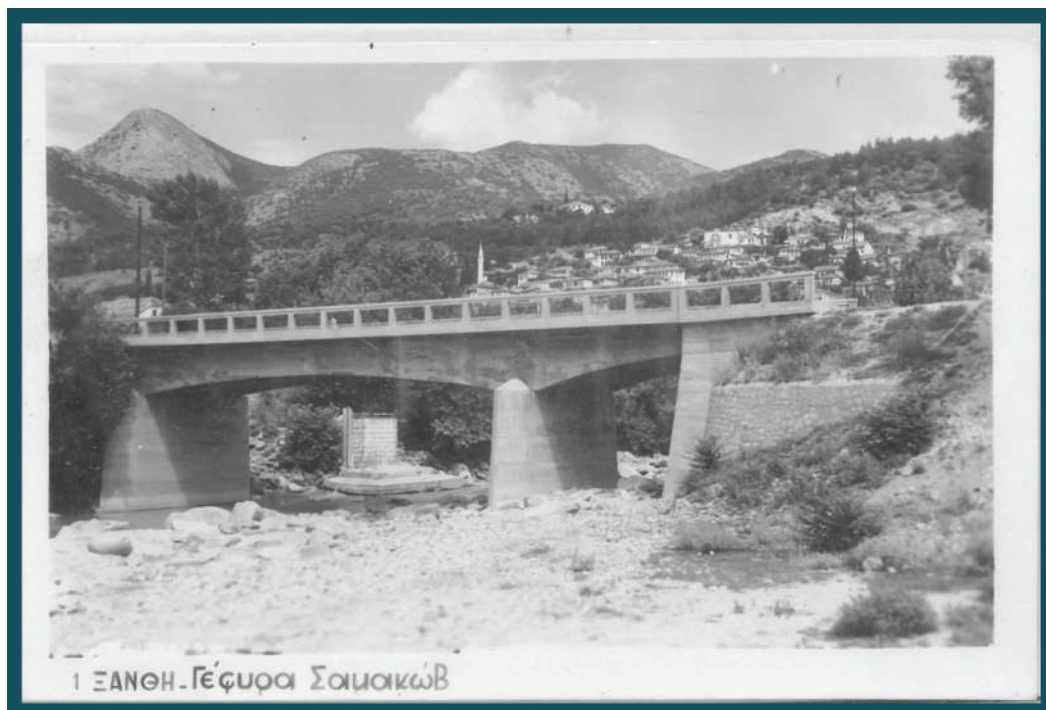


# " XANTHI"

## KOSSINTHOS RIVER AND THE INFRASTRUCTURES ON ITS BANKS



**Postcard that depicts the new bridge, circa 1955.**  
Alongside a view of thr North side of the city



**The new concrete bridge of Kossinthos in 1955.**  
The stone base of the old wooden bridge can still be seen

# " XANTHI"

## KOSSINTHOS RIVER AND THE INFRASTRUCTURES ON ITS BANKS



### Panoramic view of Xanthi in 1924

This card shows a panoramic view of Xanthi from the road that leads to the Monasteries.

Up front we have a few houses from the Samakov district, the river Kossinthos, the small island of Kanaras and after that the bazaar area.

Then, in the distance, we can see the clock tower and next to it the mosque. While the experienced eye discovers the tobacco warehouses, the refugee settlement called "Tsimentionia" (Cement houses) and many other parts of the city.



## " XANTHI CITY'S BAZAAR AREA "



**Editor: Nikolaos Paraschou**

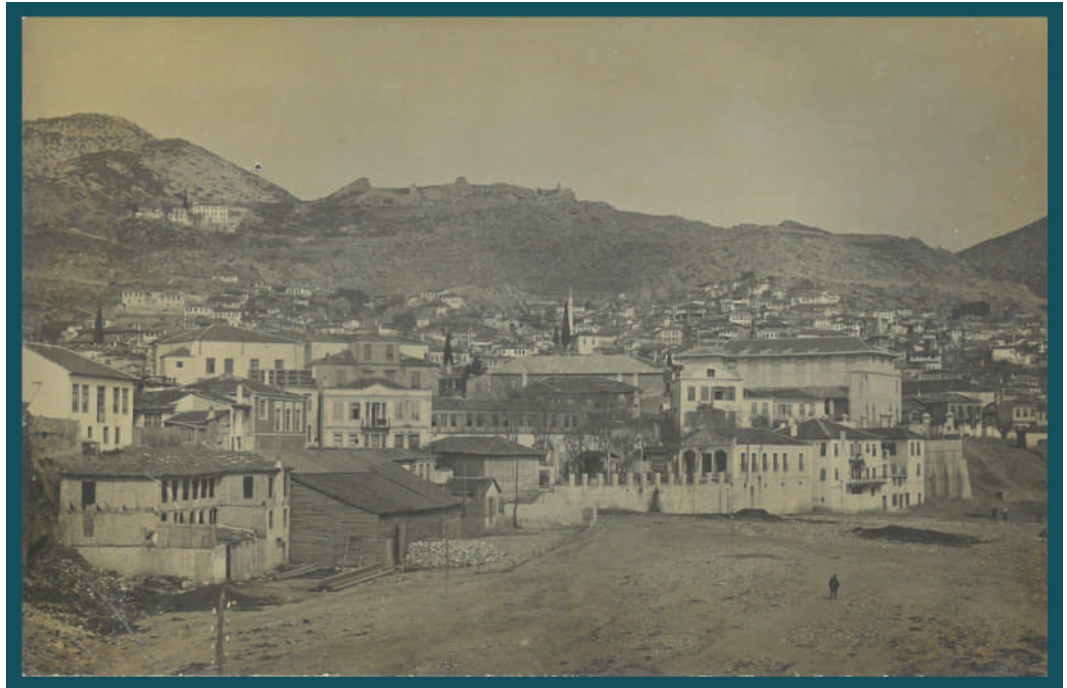
Tobacconist and Photographer  
based in London

**Printed by: Wightman & Co.,Ltd.**  
in London

### **City's bazaar area the days of configuration**

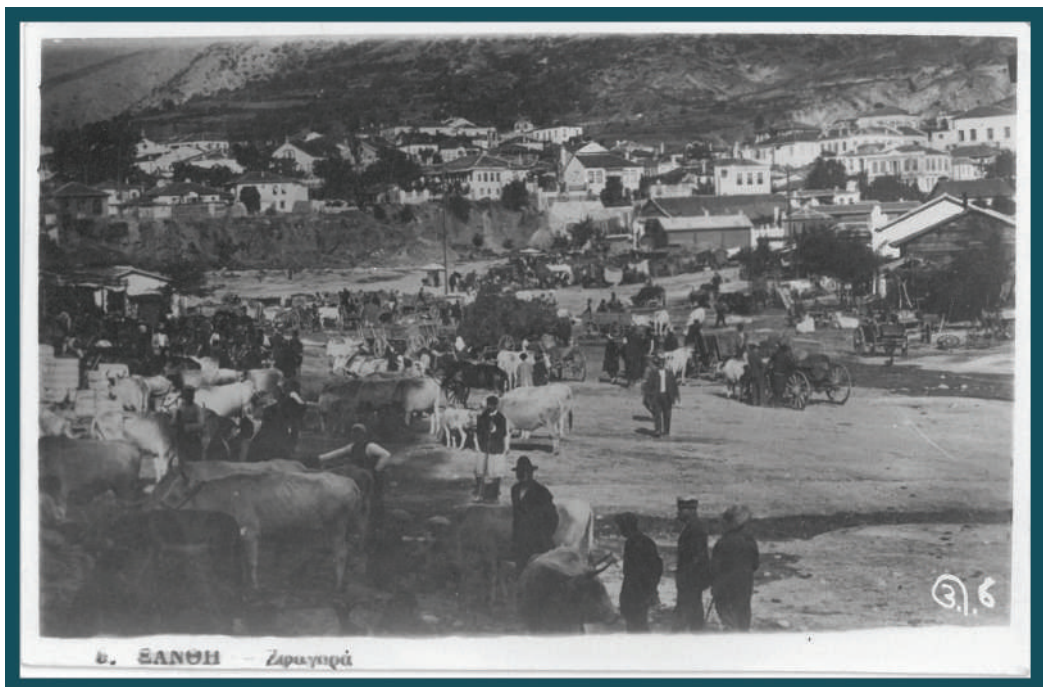
The photograph is taken from the 2nd bridge, of the west bank of the Kossinthos river, Tahtatzi Kioprou, where the bazaar is located today. This linked the "Kerestezidika" (wooden warehouses) of Tabachani (tanneries) with Komotinis street. In the center and a little to the right, we can see "Orea Thea" ( Nice view )and many mansions of the period, including that of Aaron Moses, which later became the City Hall.

# " XANTHI CITY'S BAZAAR AREA "



The area opposite today's DEI ( state electricity corporation ) building in 1920.

The Byzantine citadel of Xanthia, the monastery of Taxiarchon with the boys' orphanage that operated on the site, the minaret from the mosque of the Aqueduct district, which at that time was called Aren or Achrian Mahala, can all be seen to the right the long building at the centre. This building was the winter cinema "Elysia", immediately next to the other building with the long narrow roof which was the winter cinema "Olympia". To its left is today's town hall , which at that time was the home of the tobacconist V. Muratis. Right next to it is the building that today houses of the municipal library .In front of the town hall on the two floors the surgical clinic "Karageorgi" was housed, in the center the garden theater "The beautiful view"



**Editor : Volidis**



**Zooagora (animal market) 1920**

Located East of today's bazaar

**Publisher's signature**



## " XANTHI CITY'S BAZAAR AREA "



### Tanneries district ( Tabak hane )

We see the dried western bank of the river Kossinthos where the bazaar was established and in the background the tanneries



Editor : E.S Blatscho

### The Tannery district with the mosque that bore the same name ( Tabakhane camii )

In the foreground we see the stretched out skins  
The polytechnic school has been built on the site of this settlement

## " XANTHI CITY'S BAZAAR AREA "



The bazaar of Xanthi, the animal market square at the beginning of the 20th century.



### The bazaar of Xanthi

On the left, the building with the many windows used to operate as an inn. Then until the beginning of the 70s, the famous "16 windows" operated as a brothel.

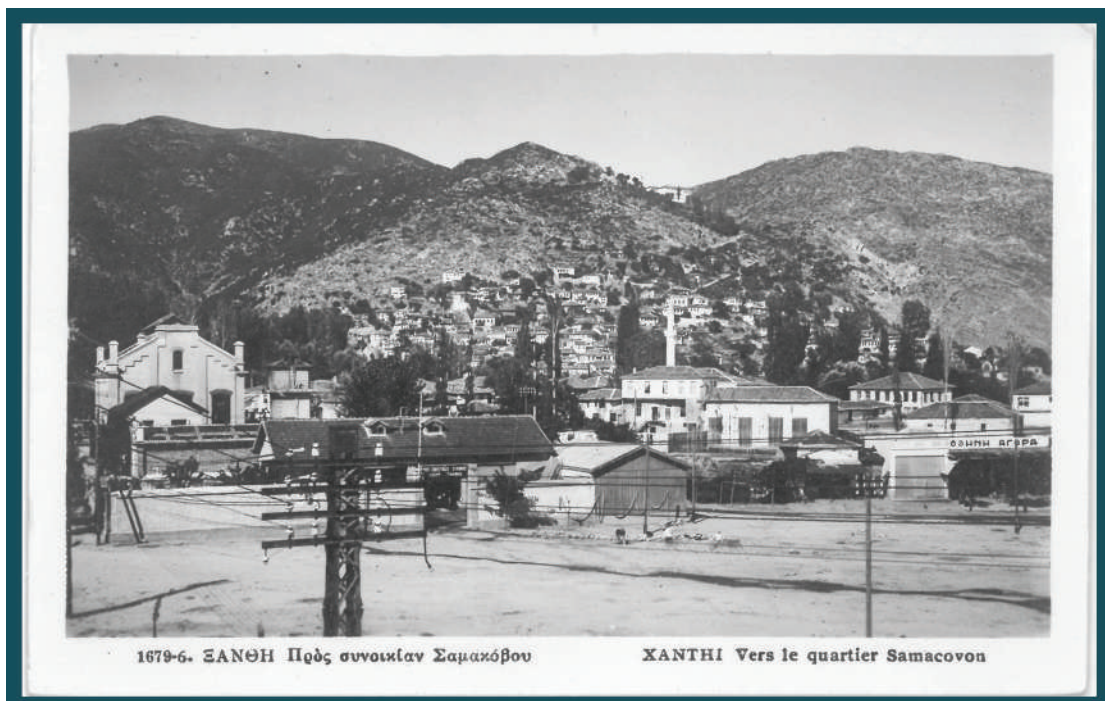


## " XANTHI CITY'S BAZAAR AREA "



### The western end of the bazaar

On the left is the building of the municipal electric lighting factory. It was built in 1925. Right in the centre is the building of the municipal fire department, which was built in 1930



### The western end of the bazaar

Up front we see the Fire station.  
In the background, we can see the tanners' mosque and by extension the neighbourhood of Samakov

## " XANTHI CITY'S BAZAAR AREA "



### Hydra's Street in the late 1930s.

To the right we can see the factory of the municipal electric lighting company.

Today, on the same place is the building of the Public Electricity Company. In the background we see the garden theater the "Nice view" later in the summer "Elysia" today its position is occupied by another building. It view was taken from the fence of the National Bank on the side of the bazaar.



## " XANTHI RAILWAY STATION "



Editor : E.S Blatscho

### The Railway Station 1895

The railway station of Xanthi was built by the French in 1891.



Editor : Volidis

### The Railway Station

# " XANTHI TOBACCO FACTORIES AND WAREHOUSES "



Editor : E.S Blatscho

## Postcards of the Blatsko series issued after 1895 General view of Xanthi from the side of the old airport

In the foreground are the tobacco shops and in the center we see the imposing building of the **Regie Co-interesse des Tabacs de l'Empire Ottoman** which was built in 1895. A company that is essentially multinational and not entirely Ottoman. The agreement signed between the government and the Rezi company has a duration of 30 years, with the right to renew and extend it (option) for an additional 15 years. The privileged concession (declaration) of the Tobacco Monopoly to the multinational Regi, gives it the right to control and determine the cultivation of tobacco varieties throughout the Ottoman Empire and to impose the purchase prices of tobacco.

The city can be seen in the distance.

On the left we see the road that leads to the city's railway station



The postcard was mailed from Xanthi on the 27th; September 1904 arriving at Bonnières-sur-Seine, France 03 October 1904.



## " XANTHI TOBACCO FACTORIES AND WAREHOUSES "



### Postcard the airport of Xanthi during the first Bulgarian occupation (1912 - 1919)

In 1916, aerial confrontation between the opposing sides of **WWI** escalated. The allied airports of Thassos, Limnos, Stavros, Thessaloniki, played a strategic role against the German-Bulgarian camps of Drama and **Xanthi**. This was located on the outskirts of the city, next to the tobacco warehouse of the Ottoman **Regie** monopoly.



### Postcard circa 1920.

The same view as the Blatscho card but closer. reconstruction has already begun and the Tobacco shops of the city have been built around the Regie building.

## " XANTHI TOBACCO FACTORIES AND WAREHOUSES "



The card is mailed from Xanthi on May 24, 1906 to Constantinople

Editor : E.S Blatscho



### Tobacco factory and tobacco warehouse street photographed probably before 1890.

The street went through many names before arriving to its current one : Buyuk Yolou, Istanbul Yolou, Kapnomagazon, Tsoiril, Stathmou, Konstantinoupoleos and finally M.Karaolis.

This was the most important street of the city. It led to the Railway Station, to the old capital of the prefecture, Genisea, but also to Porto Lagos, the most important port of Thrace at that time.



## " XANTHI TOBACCO FACTORIES AND WAREHOUSES "



**Editor: B.Raptopoulos**

**Xanthi**

### **Tobacco factory street, today's M.Karaoli street**

On the left side, we can see part of the Kouyumtzoğlu tobacco warehouses  
The water coming from the Public Fountain - Sebil Hane of the Central  
Square passes through the rudimentary street rain gutter.  
The photo was taken very close to 1900



**Editor: Foto Komninos**

**Xanthi**

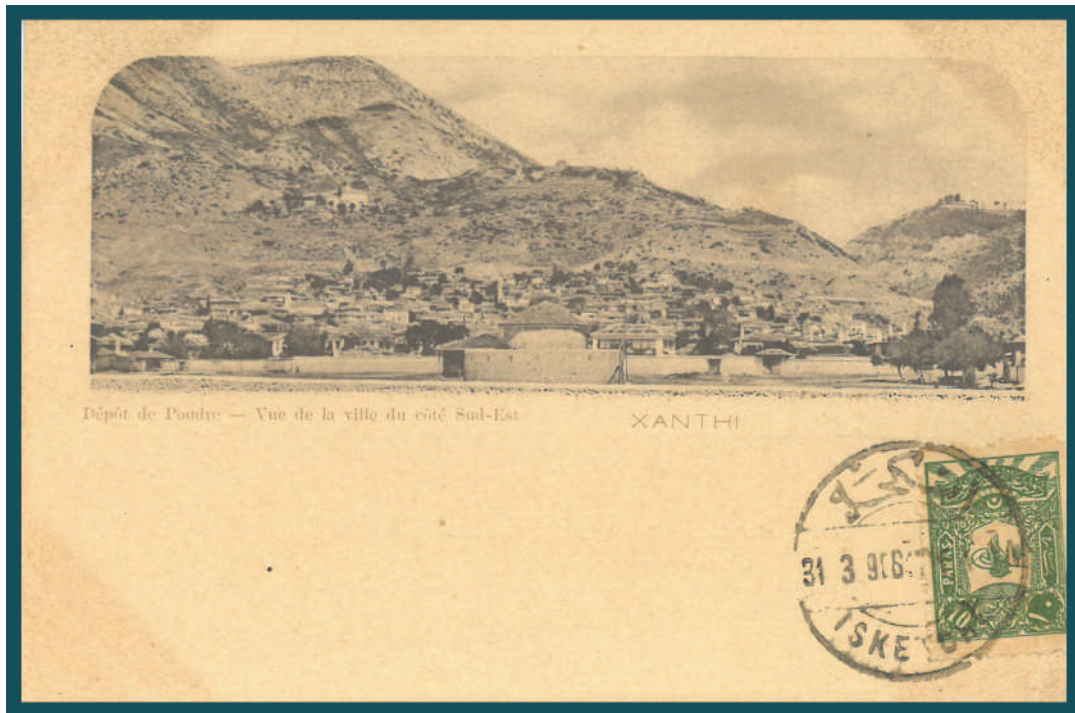
### **Station road written on the postcard**

But in reality this is Konstantinoupolis street and later M. Karaolis street.  
It is also referred as Station Road because it is the road that still leads to  
the railway station today.

But at the same time it was also the street with tobacco shops and  
tobacco warehouses.

On the left is the tobacco factory of Anargyros Sigalas and on the right  
behind the big tree is the Kyriazi mansion, which was later sold and after  
operating as a hotel for a time, later housed the Agricultural Bank

## " XANTHI MILITARY'S INTEREST PLACES "



### Postcard circa 1905.

In their approach to the city, the photographer captures a picture of a location that today lies almost at its centre.

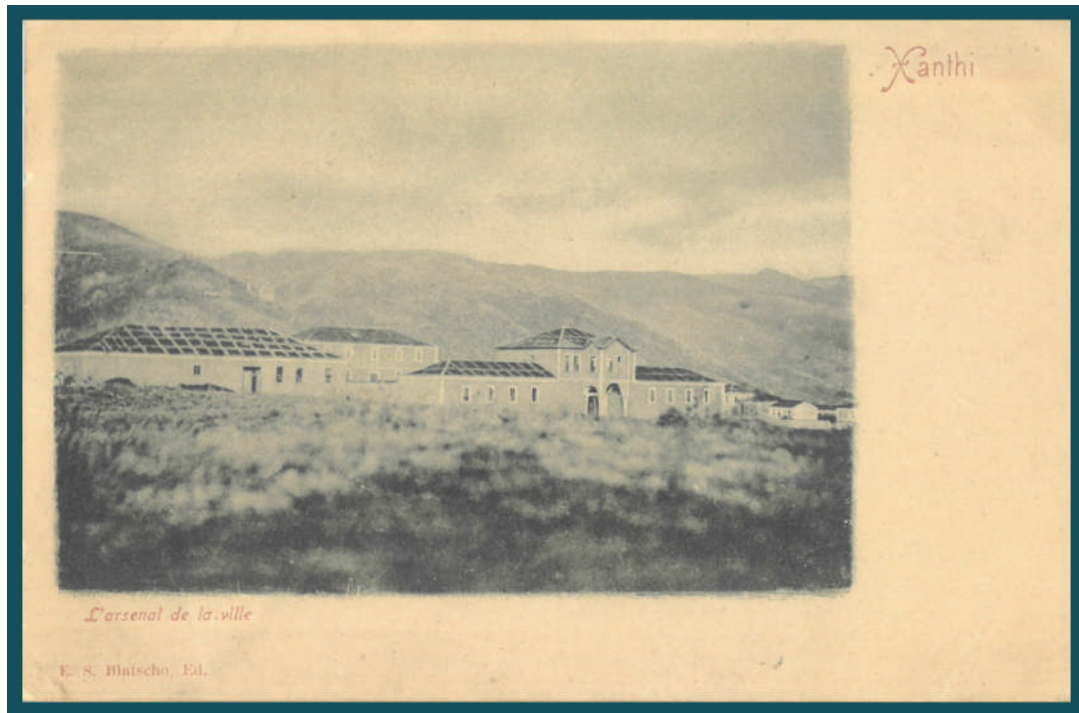
The long wall was most likely located on today's Velissariou street. The building in the centre was, according to the postcard's notes, a gunpowder warehouse.

The road between Xanthi and Echinus can be seen clearly above the city. What is notable here is that the two citadels of Xantheia are clearly visible.

Although the notes on the card attribute it to the photographer Blatscho and put its publication in the 1890s, this would not be possible. Evidence shows that the photo was taken in 1904 or later, as the road to Echinus that can be seen carved onto the side of the mountain was only opened that year.



## " XANTHI MILLITARY'S INTEREST PLACES "



**Editor : E.S Blatscho**

### **Border Sector of Xanthi**

On this postcard, the publisher immortalizes the Ottoman camp of that existed the city up until 1912, after which the Bulgarian army had use of the location until 1919. Up until 1955 then, save for a time during the second Bulgarian occupation in the Second World War, it served as the headquarters of the the Greek army's 41st Regiment. Known as Tomeas or Red Barracks due to the fact that the whole complex was painted red. A licence for a school complex was granted for the location after 1955. This was built in 1958 and remains in use until today.

## " XANTHI ARCHEOLOGICAL RUINS "



The postcard was mailed from Xanthi to Kavala on May 8, 1906



**Editor : E.S Blatscho**

### **The ruins of Xantheia Fortress circa 1890 The castle of Xanthi north of the modern city.**

Dating from the Byzantine era (12th century AD), the castle held great importance for the area, controlling passage to the mainland. In 1344-45 the Bulgarian warlord Momčil used it as his stronghold. Trees were planted in the area after 1920 and the ruins have since been covered by dense vegetation.



## " XANTHI CITY'S PLACES "



### Kavalas Street later (renamed to 28th October Street)

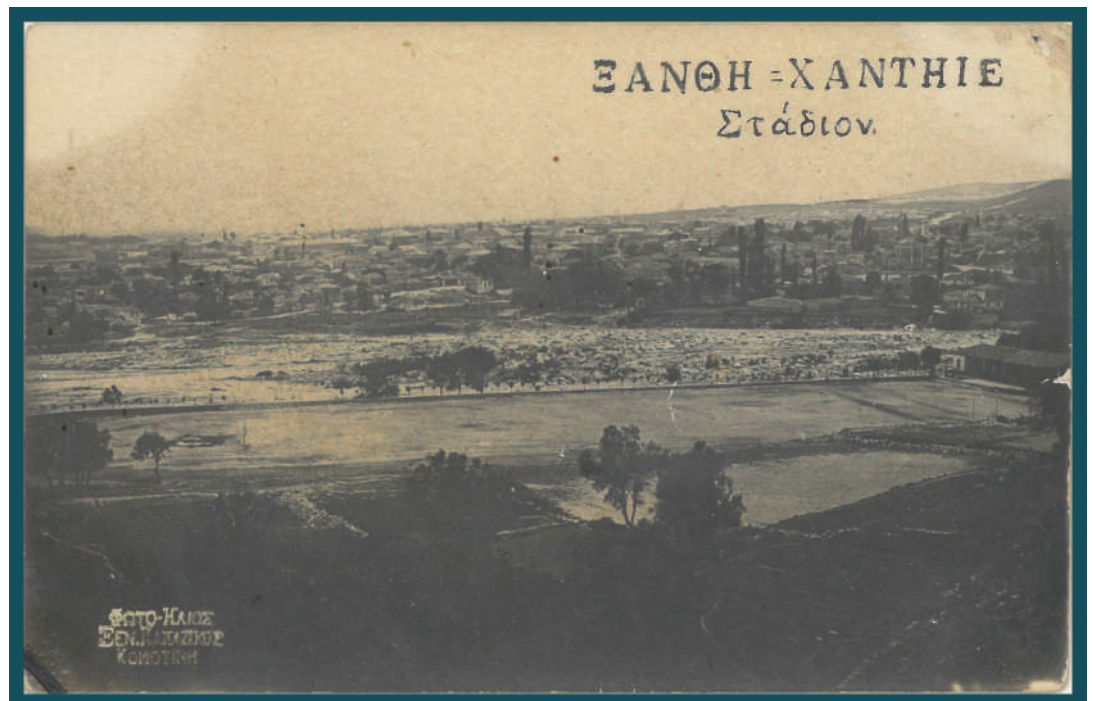
Probably published by a Bulgarian publisher given the spelling chosen  
For the city's name.

This is the main commercial street of the city leading to the central  
square of Xanthi

The postcard was mailed in December 1933 from Xanthi to  
Constantinople (12/21/1933)

### Edited by: X. Papazekos Komotini

Photographer from Andria-  
noupoli who in 1922 came  
and settled in Komotini  
where he founded the  
"Photo Ilios"  
photography studio



### The Orpheus stadium (today's Panthrakikon )

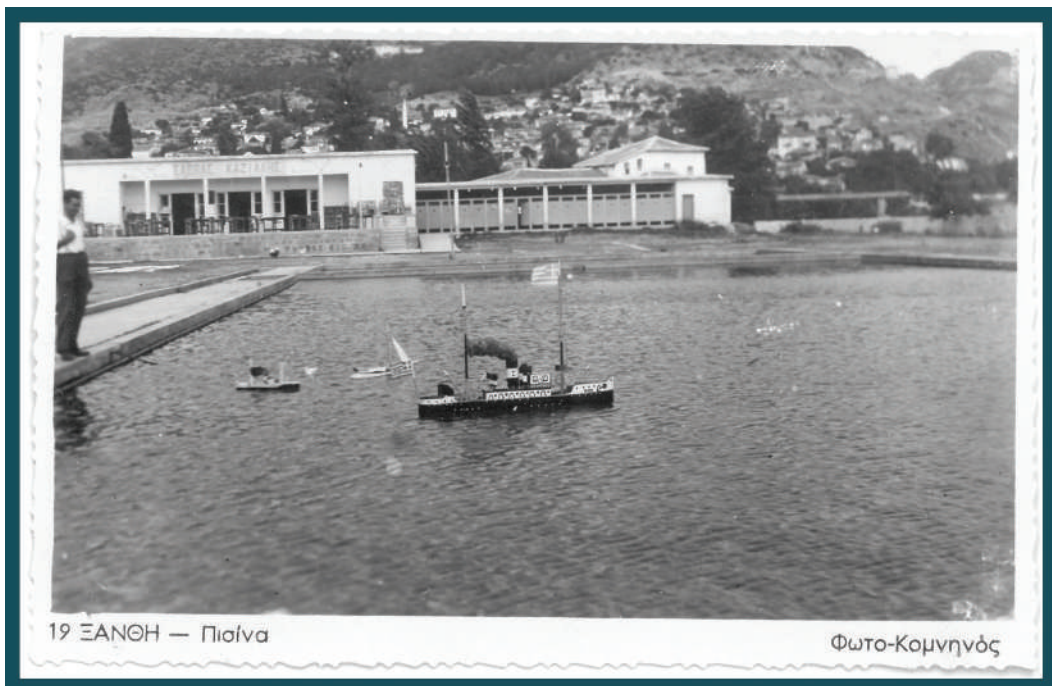
Directly opposite are the sleeping quarters of the Ottoman cavalry as well  
as the meeting point of the eastern and western branches of Kossinthos  
where the bazaar was established

## " XANTHI CITY'S PLACES "



### City swimming pool 1950s

The pool was built during the second Bulgarian occupation in 1942 . Nowadays it has been left to crumble



Editor: Foto Komninos  
Xanthi

### City swimming pool 1950s

The golden age. A meeting point for the residents of the city ,offering many activities with many activities.

The model boat enthusiast shown in the card is typical for the era



## " XANTHI CITY'S PLACES "



**Editor: Foto Komninos**  
**Xanthi**



### **Vasilisis Sofias Street in the 1940s.**

This is the road that passed in front of Elyssos (Xenia) hotel, which had not yet been built at the time. On the right side of the photo we can see some buildings of the Vyrsopeiseion district (Tabakhane) which were demolished in the early 70's to build the Xanthi Polytech-

## " XANTHI CITY'S PLACES "



Editor Gr. Paskoff

### The garden next to Kossinthos

The card is from 1941 and shows the side from the entrance of the garden. It is notable that the road has not yet been paved with cobblestones. This took place during the Bulgarian occupation using local forced labour.



### The entrance to the garden next to Kossinthos.

The same location was immortalised ten years later by the same photographer from a different angle.

The point that the photographer chose is the entry to the Kossinthos bridge in the direction of Prophiti Ilias.

The entrance to the Garden is on the right.

During the Ottoman years, the garden initially carried the name Milet Bahce, which translates to 'people's garden'.



## " XANTHI CITY'S PLACES "



The postcard is a "DELTA" edition  
Supplied by the  
Anania Ananiadis store in Xanthi

The garden next to Kossinthos  
The photo is taken from the opposite side of Kossinthos

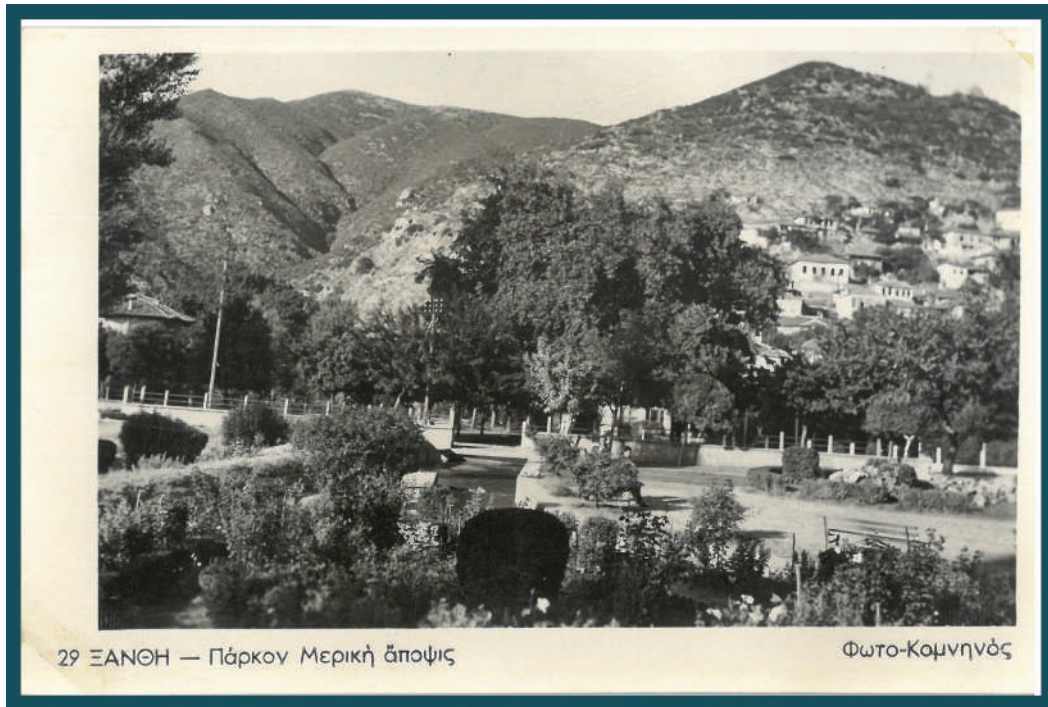


Editor Gr. Paskoff



The garden next to Kosynthos  
The card is from 1941 and shows  
the side from the entrance of the garden.

## " " XANTHI CITY'S PLACES "



**Editor: Foto Komninos**  
**Xanthi**

### **The garden next to Kossinthos**

The garden seen in a 1950 postcard,  
The canal seen here is the one that came from the  
water mill north of the garden, and made its way to  
the then vegetable gardens past the train tracks.



### **From the Orea Thea cafe, looking towards the Samakov district**

Orea Thea (Beautiful View), one of the oldest cafes in Xanthi, was built in  
1910. The open air cinema, Ilysia, operated in the courtyard of the cafe.



## " XANTHI CITY'S PLACES "



**Postcard by: Matarasso, Saragoussi & Rouso, Salonique**

The postcard was mailed from Xanthi to Budapest in May 1925.



### **Hotel Royal**

The hotel was built by Topuzlou Resit Bey in 1911.

On the postcard we find first the original name of the hotel in Arabic and below in French as Hotel Royal.

It later took the name Pallas and, following that, Lux. During the Bulgarian occupation of 1941- 1944 it was renamed Bulgaria.

**Johann Ehrlich** took over the management of the Royal in the first years of its operation, as the card on the back informs us.

The postcard was mailed from Xanthi to Budapest in May 1925.

## " XANTHI CITY'S PLACES "



**Refugee Settlement park, or Mexicana park.**  
**The park of the Refugee Settlement, located between the**  
**Adrianoupoleos - Filellini - Evzoni**  
**and Kioutahia streets**

The park was built in 1928 during the mayorship of Evaripides Hasirt-zoglou. Under Pygmalion Christidis, around 1936, it took the form we see on the postcard.

In 1937, the dance teacher Stavros Ioannidis converted a coffee shop on Filellinon Street into a Dance School and Dance Centre called Mexicana, which also operated after the war. Thus, for the people of Xanthi the park remained known as Mexicana, a name that it took from the dance school.



## " XANTHI CHURCHES MOSQUES MONASTERIES "



### The Metropolitan Church of Timios Prodromos of Xanthi, 1920

Postcard printed during the first Bulgarian occupation.



Editor: Dem. N. Caravidas

Xanthi

### The Metropolitan Church of Timios Prodromos of Xanthi, circa 1920.

The temple can be seen on the right, and in the background we can see the entrance to the Metropolitan Palace.

Most likely a day of celebration as the photographer has chosen to capture the moment where children have lined up in their school uniforms. Alongside the students we can see soldiers in ceremonial attire, as well as other people.

## " XANTHI CHURCHES MOSQUES MONASTERIES "



**Editor: X. Papazekos**

**Foto Ilios**

Komotini

**On the right we can see the Metropolitan Palace, the construction of which was completed in 1897**

During the First Bulgarian occupation (1912-19), the Bulgarians called the building palace, because this was where Prince Voris III (later Tsar) stayed every time he visited Xanthi.

During the liberation of the city in 1919-20, the palace was used as the headquarters of the IX Greek Division.

On the left we can see the Greek Schools.

First known as Macinios School and later First Primary School. Its construction began by the benefactor Michael Matsini around 1860-63. Following that, a short distance away, we find the building of the Greek School and the Girls' School of Xanthi. Its construction dates back to the same period of 1860-63, built by the Greek Orthodox community during the Ottoman period.

**The photographer captured the picture building probably on 1924 or 25'**

This postcard was sent by a relative of mine on 01/01/1926 from Xanthi to his mother in Laista in Zagori, Ioannina, on the occasion of the new year.



## " XANTHI CHURCHES MOSQUES MONASTERIES "



**Editor: "Proodos" Stationery**

Xanthi

**The building of the Greek School and the Girls' School of Xanthi.**

Its construction dates back to the same period 1860-63 by the Greek Orthodox community during the Ottoman period.

The postcard is from the first Bulgarian occupation (1912 - 1919) stamped as a gift on 08/01/1913



**Editor: B.Raptopoulos**

Xanthi

**The Metropolitan Palace and the community schools 1930**

The Metropolitan Palace was at the center of the Christian community who had been settled since Byzantine times

## " XANTHI CHURCHES MOSQUES MONASTERIES "



1928

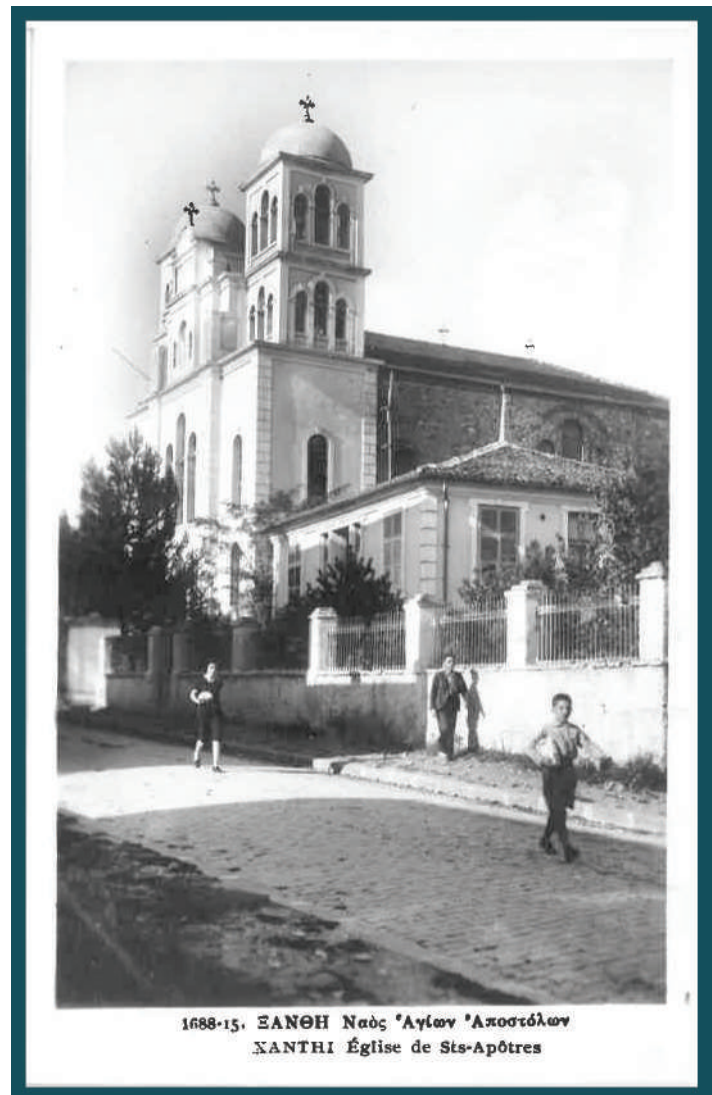
### The Metropolitan church of Timios Prodromos of Xanthi after 1923.

Up until 1923, the church had a wooden bell tower located on the left side of the church which replaced by the new tower in the picture here. The wooden tower was demolished in 1923 and the new tower remains in its place to this day.



# " XANTHI CHURCHES MOSQUES MONASTERIES "

The church of the Holy Twelve Apostles  
In the Hadjistavros district  
photo from 1937



1688-15. ΞΑΝΘΗ Ναός Ἁγίων Ἀποστόλων  
XANTHI Église de Sts-Apôtres



Postcard from 1947 depicting the Metropolitan church of Xanthi, the church of the Twelve Holy Apostles, and the monasteries on the mountain behind Xanthi.

# " XANTHI CHURCHES MOSQUES MONASTERIES "



**Editor: Foto Komninos**  
**Xanthi**

## **Postcard from the 1950s.**

Introduces us the monasteries on the mountain back from Xanthi and Agios Nikolaos in Porto Lagos.



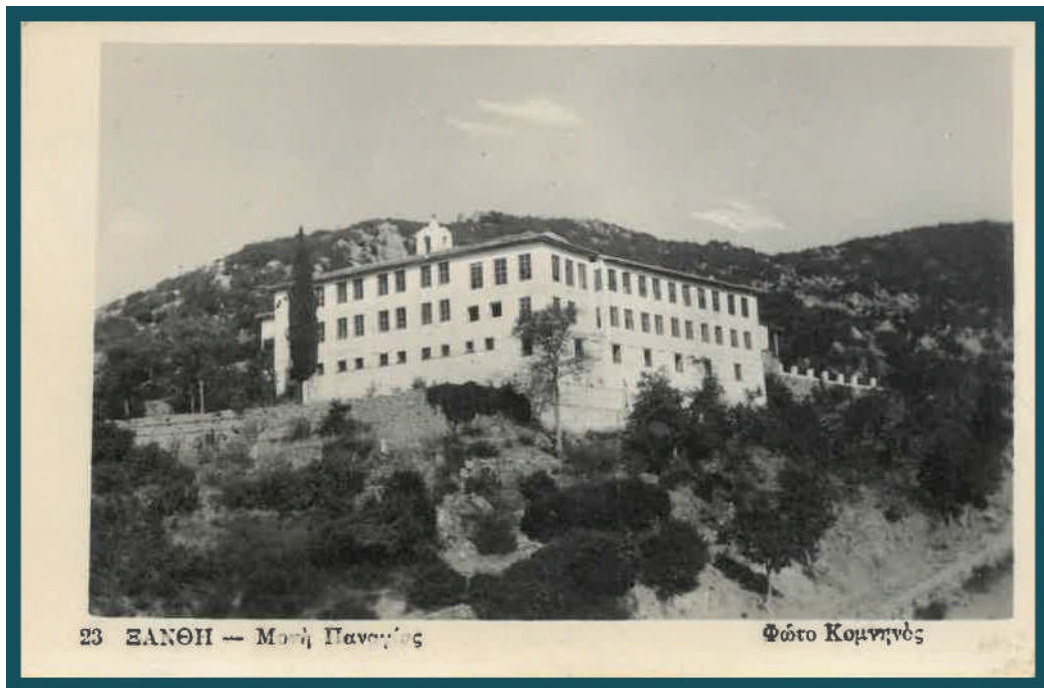
## **The monastery of Panagia Archangeliotissa**

Founded during the middle Byzantine era. It is located on the mountain and marks the east of the city.

This postcard shows the oldest wing, past the entrance to the monastery. This wing dates before 1829 and does not exist today



## " XANTHI CHURCHES MOSQUES MONASTERIES "



**Editor: Foto Komninos**  
**Xanthi**

**Postcard from the 1950s.**

**The Monastery of Panagia Archangeliotissa as seen from Xanthi**



**Editor : A. Volidis**  
**Xanthi**

**Panagia Kalamou observes the 9th day after**  
**the celebration of the Holy Mary on the 15th of**  
**August.**

## " XANTHI CHURCHES MOSQUES MONASTERIES "

### Ahrian Mosque (Ahrian camii)

Today's district of Acropolis (Ahrian mahalesi),  
below Xanthippi. It is  
the oldest mosque of Xanthi,  
dating back to the 16th century.  
The postcard was issued at the end of the 1940s



ΞΑΝΘΗ — Τέμενος.



13 ΞΑΝΘΗ - Τέμενος

The district owes its name to the  
Ahrianes inhabitants (Pomaks)  
of this district.



## " XANTHI CHURCHES MOSQUES MONASTERIES "



### The mosque of the Tanneries district (Tabakhane camii).

It was demolished in December 22, 1972,  
along with the entire settlement of the Tanneries.  
The polytechnic school of Xanthi was later built in its place.

# " PORTO LAGOS FROM THE 19th TO 20th CENTURY "

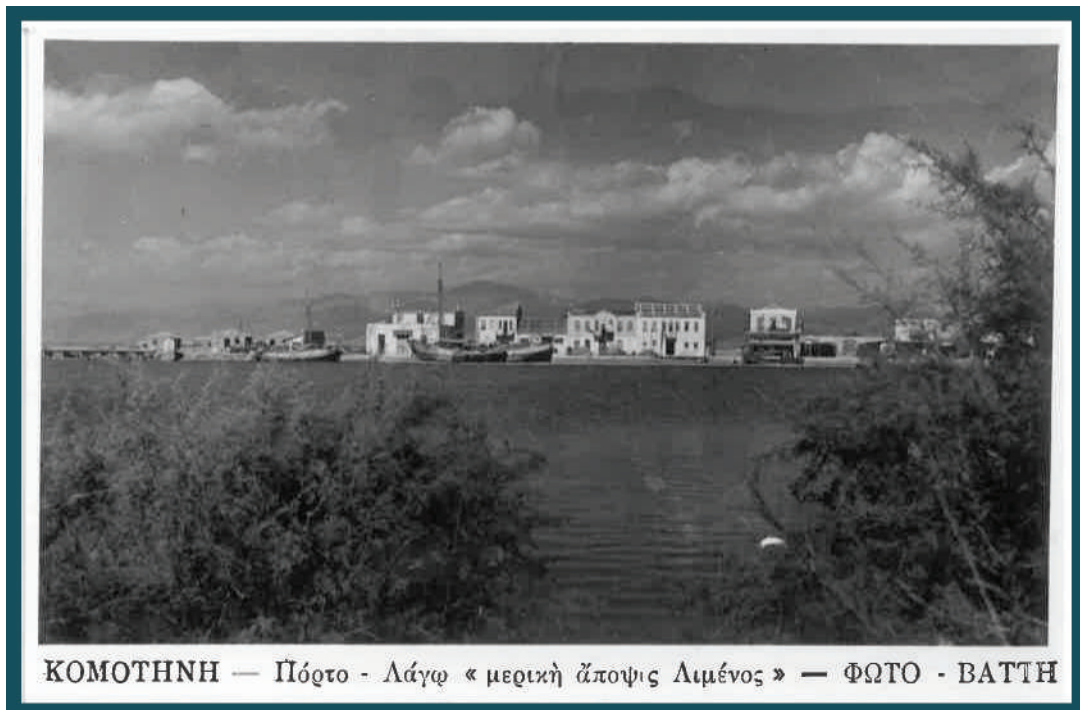
## Porto Lagos - Karagac

The largest fishing and commercial port of Thrace.  
Porto Lagos was a transportation hub, both for commercial and passenger ships.

The port was solely inhabited by Greeks, with offices of shipping companies, tobacco and other commercial enterprises. There were also warehouses, customs and port authorities, inns, police, a telegraph office and other administrative structures found in an integrated commercial and fishing port.



The glamour and economic prosperity of Lagos was owed to the export of the finest, 'gold quality' tobacco Xanthi had to offer, but also to the significant fishing income generated both by its sea and the lagoon of Vistonida.



Editor : Photo Vatti

## Porto Lagos, 1930s

Partial view of the Port.

The port belonged to the administration of Rodopi, which is why the postcard is inscribed Komotini. The province of Xanthi also fell under the same administration at the time.



# PORTO LAGOS FROM THE 19th TO 20th CENTURY



**Publisher Bookstation P. Popov**

Komotini

Photograph: K. Gunchev

**Porto Lagos in the early 20th century, as seen on a Bulgarian postcard**

A period in which the port was a very important centre of trade mainly thanks to tobacco exports.



**Stationer : N.Bakalov**

Stefan Karatza 15

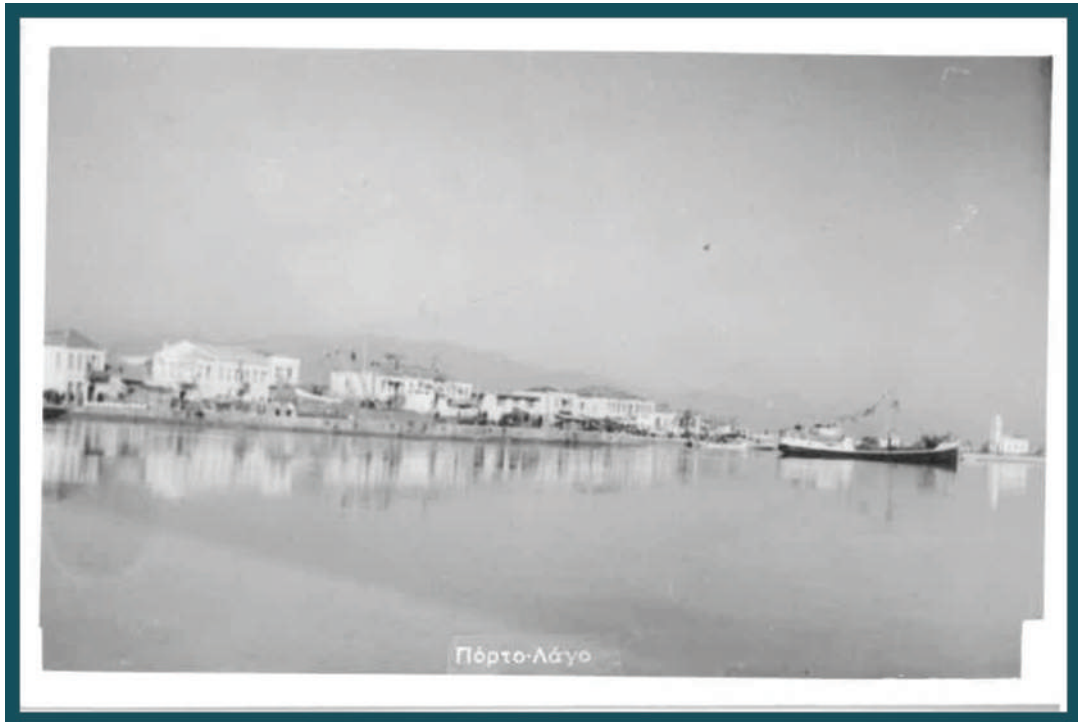
Sophia

**View of the harbour from the East**

The port in its original form at the beginning of the first Bulgarian occupation.

The postcard shows the port as it was during the Ottoman period. We see a boat arriving from the Monastery of Agios Nikolaos, which is located further east in the Lagoon.

## PORTO LAGOS FROM THE 19th TO 20th CENTURY



### **Porto Lagos 1930s**

A view of the port from the road leading to the peninsula that protect it.



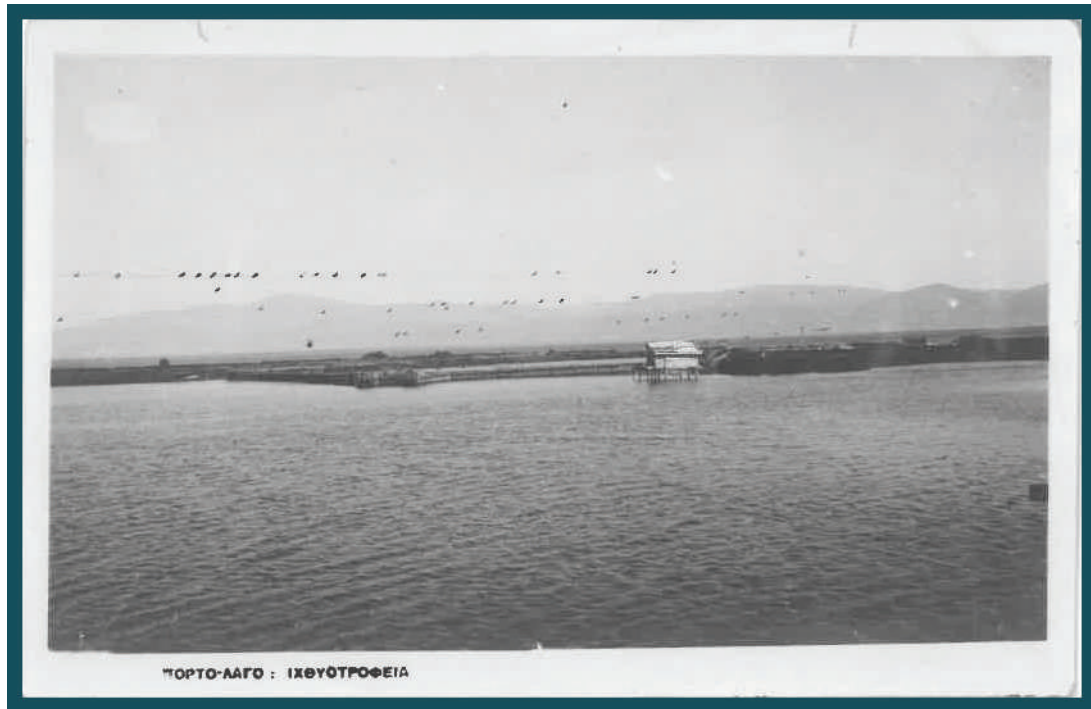
**Edited by: X. Papazekos**  
**Komotini**

### **Porto Lagos, 1934**

We are opposite the port on the peninsula that protects it. This is also an area that the inhabitants of Xanthi, alongside other people, used as a recreation and swimming area until recent times.



# PORTO LAGOS FROM THE 19th TO 20th CENTURY



## Porto Lagos 1940s

Fish farm in the lagoon of Porto Lagos

In the lagoon of Porto Lagos, fish farms produced large quantities of fish that were distributed throughout the region and not only there.

# PORTO LAGOS FROM THE 19th TO 20th CENTURY



**Publisher: Photo Vatti**  
Komotini

## **Agios Nikolaos of Porto Lagos**

Monastery in the lagoon of Porto Lagos.

An integral part of Porto Lagos and also of Xanthi.

The Monastery , together with a section of the lagoon and of lake Vistonida belongs to the Vatopedi Monastery of Agios Oros



**Stationer : N.Bakalov**  
Stefan Karatza 15  
Sophia

## **Porto Lagos, Agios Nikolaos, 1916**

Most likely taken on the day of Agios Nikolaos, given that one can see people in uniform as well as senior clergy on the boats.

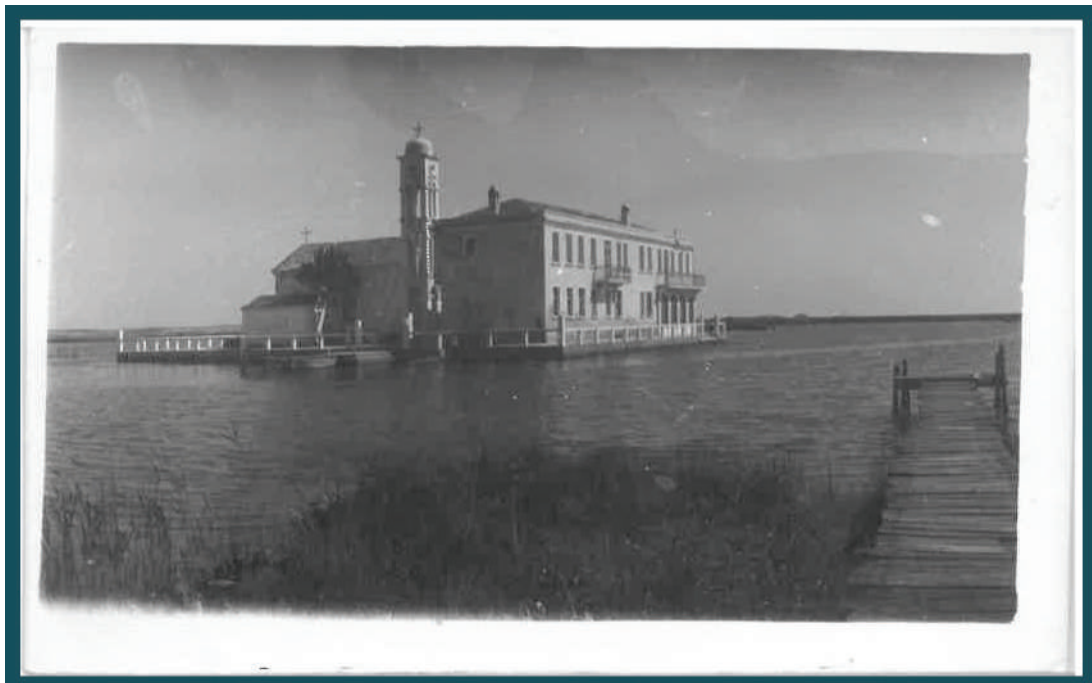


## PORTO LAGOS FROM THE 19th TO 20th CENTURY



### Agios Nikolaos

The guest house of the Monastery.  
It was built around 1910 and destroyed in 1948 by fire.



The monastery in the early 1940s.  
You can see the wooden pier from which the visitors  
boarded the boat to the monastery.

# " PORTO LAGOS FROM THE 19th TO 20th CENTURY "



## Agios Nikolaos

The Monastery after the fire of 1948 that destroyed the guest house.



## **PORTO LAGOS & AGIOS NIKOLAOS**

Panoramic view of the area from the lagoon.

Porto Lagos means Agios Nikolaos &  
Agios Nikolaos means Porto Lagos