



ITHACAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY LECTURE SERIES

The Ithacan Historical Society (IHS) is proud to launch a new series of lectures and discussion forums which aim to promote interest in the history of Ithaca and the Ionian islands, from antiquity to recent times.

<https://www.ithaca.org.au/historical-society>

Upcoming lecture

The O. Stathatos Nautical School of Ithaca (1907-1914): A pioneering donation to Ithacan and Greek society

Machi Paizi-Apostolopoulou
Research Professor Emerita,
National Hellenic Research Foundation

Monday, 4 April 2022
7:30pm (AEST Melbourne)

Watch live via YouTube, or join via Zoom and participate in the discussion.
[Links above.](#)

Synopsis

The first day of September 1907 had particular significance for Ithacans. This was the opening day of a new school which the island received as a donation from a fellow islander, Othon Stathatos. The school would supply shipping and trade companies with young graduates well trained to respond to the demands of the era. Earlier attempts by successive Greek governments to establish such academies had not succeeded.

Othon Stathatos had already proven his skill in these fields. He had established a maritime trade company whose fleet of river boats made it a major player in trade on the Danube, allowing him to grow an enviable fortune. Being the visionary he was, he saw that a new cohort of young graduates, trained in the newest technologies of steam-powered shipping, would be much demanded. His love for his homeland led him to invest a great part of his wealth to transform little Ithaca into a centre for this kind of education.

The School Archive, which has been preserved, reveals its deep connection with the society of the island, the free provision of education, the high quality of instruction, with specialised teachers and paedagogies.

