

## CURRICULUM VITAE

### IAN ANDREW VORRES

- Born in Athens, Greece in 1924 and graduated from Athens College, an American School in Greece.
- During World War II, at the age of 18, he joined the underground forces (OSS) and fought behind the German lines on the mountains of Greece.
- Between 1944 -1962 he studied and worked in Canada and became a Canadian citizen. He attended Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario where he obtained a B.A. in Economics. He then attended the University of Toronto, obtaining an M.A. in Philosophy and Psychology. He also obtained a degree from the Ontario College of Education. He became a journalist and an art critic writing and lecturing in Canada and the U.S., always promoting the civilization of ancient and modern Greece.
- In 1955 he organized the first post war Byzantine icon exhibition in Toronto, Canada, as well as a painting exhibition of female Greek painters.
- His book, "THE LAST GRAND DUCHESS", the memoirs of Grand Duchess Olga, youngest sister of Czar Nicholas II of Russia who lived in exile near Toronto, was published in the U.S. and England in 1964 and has been translated into several languages, including Finnish, Danish, Greek and Lithuanian. The last 4<sup>th</sup> edition circulated in Canada and the U.S. in 2001.
- In 1962 he returned to Greece to take over the family business which however he sold to dedicate himself to the creation of the Vorres Museum and its collections.
- In 1967 the Greek government appointed Ian Vorres Director of the Greek Pavilion at Expo in Montreal with the rank of Ambassador. He was the only Canadian citizen to be head of a foreign pavilion at the exhibition.
- Ian Vorres retained his interest in journalism and continued writing from Athens for major Canadian and U.S. newspapers. He is an honorary member of the Foreign Press Association of Greece, honorary President of the Hellenic Canadian Association of Greece and the Greek South African Association. He is also an honorary member of the Athens Lions Club and a member of the board of the Athens YMCA.
- For many years he served as Board Member of the Canadian Mediterranean Institute in Ottawa and helped establish the Canadian Archaeological School at Athens. He acted for many years as a Trustee of the board of the Society for the Preservation of the Greek Heritage in Washington, D.C. He has also served as cultural advisor to the Athens College Theater, the Hellenic American Union and as a special consultant to the government of Cyprus for the planning of a new agricultural and folk museum in Nicosia. He was a member of the Committee for the Preservation of Historic Greek Monuments of the Greek Ministry of Culture & a former member of the Athens Cultural Council.

- He served as Mayor of Paiania between 1991-1998.
- Ian Vorres has established scholarships at Queen's University and the University of Toronto for Canadian students of classical studies to do post-graduate work in Greece.
- He is the creator of the Vorres Museum in Paiania near Athens, which he has donated to Greece in the form of a cultural foundation. The museum receives today an average of 3,000 visitors per month, including many international personalities and heads of state. As President of the museum also, he has organized numerous exhibitions of contemporary Greek art in many cities in Greece, Europe, the U.S. and Canada.
- He has been honoured by the Soroptimist International Association and the Athens Lion Club and has been decorated by several European governments. In 2001 he received the honorary degree of Doctor of Fine Arts by the American College of Greece. He was selected as Man of the Year 2009 for Greece by the American Biographical Institute.
- In 2009 he was invested with the Order of Canada by H.E. the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, Governor General and Commander in Chief of Canada.
- Besides Greek he speaks English, French and German.