



ALPHA BANK

# Press Release

## **The Ionian Bank and Its Privilege of Issue (1839-1920)**

Organised by  
Alpha Bank Historical Archives

**July 2, 2014 - December 31, 2015**

**Banknote Museum of the Ionian Bank, Corfu**

The exhibition entitled “**The Ionian Bank and Its Privilege of Issue (1839-1920)**”, which is mounted by the Alpha Bank Historical Archives at the Banknote Museum of the Ionian Bank in Corfu, was inaugurated on **Wednesday, July 2, 2014**, on the occasion of the commemoration of the 150 years from the Union of the Ionian Islands with Greece.

The Exhibition follows the history of the privilege of issue of the Ionian Bank, the first Bank to operate in Greek lands, which in 2000 merged with the Alpha Credit Bank in order to form Alpha Bank.

Namely, the Exhibition spans a period of the Ionian Bank’s history (1839-1920) during which its course was intertwined with that of the Ionian Islands. In the same period, the privilege of issue held by the Bank played a decisive role in its operation and, concurrently, in the financing of the Islands’ economy. As of 1920, when the privilege was terminated definitively, the Ionian Bank continued to support the economy of the Ionian Islands but henceforth operated exclusively as a commercial bank.

The Exhibition presents rare items (documents, securities, accounting book volumes, photographs, memorabilia), owned by the Alpha Bank Historical Archives, as well as material showcased at the Banknote Museum, such as banknotes issued by the Ionian Bank in its capacity as the Bank of issue of the Ionian Islands. In parallel, visitors have the opportunity to observe exhibits kindly lent by other Greek and foreign Historical Archives, Foundations and Libraries. It is also worth noting that, in the context of the Exhibition, part of the Ionian Bank Archives, which are located at the British Library of Political and Economic Science of the London School of Economics, has been utilised.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by a representative of his Eminence, the Metropolitan Bishop Nektarios, entrepreneurs, representatives of the Press, of the Arts and Letters, friends of the Museum as well as Customers of the Bank.

Exhibition duration: July 2014 - December 2015



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**BANKNOTE MUSEUM OF THE IONIAN BANK**

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**Opening hours**

**April 1 - September 30**

Wednesday and Friday: 09:00-14:00 and 17:30-20:30

Thursday: 09:00-15:00

Saturday and Sunday: 08:30-15:00

**October 1 - March 31**

Wednesday to Sunday: 08:00-15:00

**For further information**

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Athens, July 11, 2014