Michael Konaris (University of Thessaly): “Thucydides and the causes of the Peloponnesian War: a comparison of the views of George Grote (1794-1871), Ernst Curtius (1814-1896), and Konstantinos Paparrigopoulos (1815-1891)”

In his *History of the Hellenic Nation* (A, 1860), the modern Greek historian Konstantinos Paparrigopoulos accused two eminent contemporary fellow historians, the English George Grote and the German Ernst Curtius, of wrongfully exonerating Athens from the responsibility for the Peloponnesian war. In his view, the testimony of Thucydides unequivocally spoke against Athens. In my paper, I discuss the rival interpretations of the causes of the war offered by Paparrigopoulos, Grote and Curtius in the light of their respective national and intellectual contexts. I lay stress on how modern ideological standpoints and agendas informed each historian’s reading of Thucydides and their differing assessment of such issues as Athenian imperialism, the role of Pericles, and, ultimately, the party to be blamed for the war.