Gifts, Purchases Add to Rare Book Collection

Thanks to the generosity of numerous donors, the Gennadius Library was able to enrich its collections this past year with old and rare materials.

Mr. Antonis Marinakis, descendant of Aristides Yorgancoglu Pasa, a minister in the Ottoman government in the nineteenth century, donated a valuable family collection of eleven volumes including travel books and literary works in Arabic and Persian dating from the sixteenth to the nineteenth centuries. Of special interest are eight volumes of the Journal des savans, which is the earliest scientific journal published in Europe, dating to the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries; and an early German travel book by Salomon Schweig- ger, Ein neue Reysbeschreibung auss Teutschland nach Constanti- nobel und Jerusalem (Nürnberg: Johann Lantzenberger, 1608).

Thanks to Gennadius Library Trustee Apostolos Doxiadis, Ms. Tatiana Averoff-Ioannou, daughter of the political figure Evanghelos Averoff-Tositats (1908–1990), donated 65 volumes from her father’s book collection. Many of them are signed with dedications to Mr. Averoff-Tositats by the late President of the Hellenic Republic Konstantinos Tsatsos and his wife Ioanna Tsatsos, whose archive is in the Gennadius Library. Among the volumes, of particular interest are three early liturgical Greek books, including a Gospel in a precious binding published in Venice by Nikolaos Glykys in 1818 and a manuscript of canon law dating to the eighteenth century.

Dr. Alexander Thomas Simos donated Travels in various countries of Europe, Asia and Africa [pt. 2], section the second, volume the sixth: Greece, Egypt, and the Holy Land (London: Printed for T. Cadell and W. Davies, 1818), in honor of Gennadeion Trustee Irene Moschaliadis.

ASCSA Trustee Robert McCabe and his daughter Anne donated one of the volumes that John Gennadius had to sell in auction in 1895: Wilhelm Froehner’s Choix de vases grecs inédits de la collection de son altesse impériale le prince Napoléon (Paris: Impr. J. Claye, 1867). The copy contains a notation from the original owner. The McCabes were able to purchase the volume at the Bonham auction this past March. The Library has also made several notable purchases.

From the Bonham auction in March, the Library acquired E. Collinot et A. de Beaumont’s Ornaments turcs: Recueil de dessins pour l’art et l’industrie (Paris: Canson, 1883), bound with Grandjean’s Ceramique orientale (Paris: E. Henri, [1922]). The original provenance of the volume was the Henry Blackmer collection.

A 1744 edition of Ekthesis epistolikon typon by Theophilos Korydalleus was among the rare items acquired from the collection of Leonora Navari.

CAORC Grant Funds Journal Cataloguing

In 2008, the Library received a grant from the Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC) to fund a pilot project for the electronic cataloguing of several periodicals of special historical interest for Greece. The project represents the initial phase of the Greek and Southeastern European Research Journals Project (GSERJ), a CAORC initiative. As a first step, Asimina Rodi, who holds a master’s degree in library science and has extensive experience in cataloguing periodicals, entered a portion of the Library’s collection of old Greek periodicals (350 titles) in AMBROSIA, the union catalogue of the ASCSA and British School libraries. Ms. Rodi has also catalogued several rare historical issues of journals found in John Gennadius’s scrapbooks, digitized recently through an EU Information Society grant.

Megas Alexandros, a bilingual newspaper, is one of the periodicals to be catalogued.
Maps from Samourka Collection Exhibited in Athens

Sixty rare maps of the Samourka Map Collection were exhibited at the National Research Foundation in Athens in Fall 2008 under the title “Maps of Greece during the Renaissance, 1478–1598.” The exhibition presented various cartographic conceptions of Greece during the early modern period, showcasing the formation and development of the basic models for the cartography of Greece.

One of the most important collections of its kind in the world, the Samourka Map Collection has been a subject of systematic research and the basis for numerous exhibitions and publications. Assembled by Margarita Samourkas, a devoted trustee of the Gennadius Library, the unique collection comprises 1700 historical early modern maps of Greece, which cover the major part of the cartographic history of that period and the schools of mapmaking.

The exhibition was accompanied by a Greek-language catalogue, History of the Cartography of Greek Lands, 1420–1800. Maps of the Samourka Collection. Written by historian George Tolias and bibliographer Leonora Navari, this beautifully illustrated book presents the history and evolution of Greek cartography, focusing on the changing geographical conception of Greece according to the school of thought to which their European cartographers subscribed. In the preface, Margarita Samourkas discusses the importance of maps for the advancement of knowledge, as well as their significance as works of art and as instruments of the imagination.

New Griffon Explores Xenitia

Recently published, Volume 10 of The New Griffon, “The Archaeology of Xenitia: Greek Immigration and Material Culture,” focuses on the impact of Greek immigration on the material culture of the homeland and the host countries. The huge wave of Greek immigration to the United States, Canada, and Australia between 1900 and 1915 left an indelible mark on Greek society, but also created new diasporic communities in the host countries. Greek immigration, Xenitia, has been studied by various disciplines, entering the popular mainstream through movies, comedy, television, academia, museums, and culinary institutions. The historical enterprise of Greek immigration in the twentieth century, however, has lacked a significant archaeological voice. This publication, put together by guest editor Kostis Kourelis, contains essays by Susan Buck Sutton, Timothy E. Gregory and Lita Tzortzopoulou-Gregory, Philip Duke, Kostis Kourelis, Natalia Vogeikoff-Brogan, Eleni N. Gage, and Jack L. Davis that address this lacuna. New archaeological data from Epeiros, Kythera, Keos, the Southern Argolid, and the Nemea Valley highlight the effects of emigration, and data from Colorado, Philadelphia, and Sydney illustrate the effects of immigration.

Gennadeion Hosts Wide Range of Lectures and Events

Cotsen Series 2008-09

In November, Diana Gilliland Wright, NEH Fellow at the School, launched the year’s Cotsen Lecture Series with a presentation on “Ottoman-Venetian Cooperation in Post-War (1463–1478) Morea,” based on the letters of two Venetians who had participated in a series of cooperative Venetian-Ottoman efforts. This lecture was co-sponsored by the Director of the School. In December, Cotsen lecturer Dimitri Gutas, Professor of Arabic at Yale University, explored “The Arabic Background of Western Philosophy and Science,” with a focus on the transmission of ancient Greek scientific and philosophical knowledge into Arabic, and subsequently into Latin.

In January, Bet McLeod, Curator at the Department of Prehistory and Europe of the British Museum, presented a significant jewelry hoard found in the area of Halkis (Euboea) and sold to the British Museum in the mid-nineteenth century. Her presentation was accompanied by a historical and archaeological analysis of the period by the Director of the Gennadius Library, Maria Georgopoulou, and the Director of the 23rd Ephorate of Byzantine Antiquities, Eugenia Gerousi.

Leda Costaki, responsible for cataloguing the Gennadeion’s archives of novelist and playwright Angelos Terzakis, organized in February a celebration to mark the completion of the archive’s catalogue. Theater director Spyros Evangalatos of the Academy of Athens, award-winning author Menis Kourantaras, Ms. Costaki, researcher Bart Soethaert, and the novelist’s son Dimitris Terzakis presented aspects of “The Multifaceted Angelos Terzakis and his Archive at the Gennadius Library.” The speeches were accompanied by an exhibition of manuscripts and photographs from the Gennadeion Archives, costumes from the National Theater of Greece, and excerpts of the movie “Night Adventure,” written and directed by Angelos Terzakis, 1954.

The Cotsen Lecture Series closed out the year in June with a presentation in Greek by Professor Eleni Bastea of the University of New Mexico, whose talk was entitled “Athens, 1896. Karagiozies and the Olympic Games.”

Other Lectures

Together with the Fulbright Foundation in Greece, in November the Library presented an event headlined by Olga Broumas, poet and Director of Creative Writing at Brandeis University, entitled “Translation and Original: the Journey of Poetry.” Ms. Broumas spoke about the complexities of decoding poetry into another language, focusing on poems of the speaker herself, Odysseus Elytis, W. C. Williams, continued on page G3
From the Archives

Poet Yorgis Paulopoulos donated his papers to the Gennadius Library Archives. Here, Research Archivist Leda Costaki recalls his work.

Yorgis Paulopoulos belonged to the first post-war generation of poets. Paulopoulos and a number of other poets and novelists born in Eleia, such as Takis Sinopoulos, Nikos Kachtites, and Elias Papademetrakopoulos, form an interesting group of intellectuals bound by strong ties of friendship. Scarred by the hardships of the German Occupation, the Resistance, and the Civil War, their work is permeated by unfulfilled visions and by ever-present love and death.

Paulopoulos, a respected figure in the modern Greek literary scene and a poet associated with George Seferis, had a mundane job in the local bus company and lived all his life in his home town, Pyrgos. The impact of nearby ancient Olympia (which he visited thousands of times, as he himself says in one of his interviews), and the Eleian landscape, especially the rivers Lagon, Alpheios, and Erymanthos, is evident in his work.

He published his first poems in 1943 in the journal Odysseas of Pyrgos and ultimately published over six collections of poems, the most recent posthumously, under the title Να μην τους ξεχάσω (Kedros 2008). His most famous collections, The Cellar, The Passkeys, and A Little Sand, were translated into English, the first by Peter Levi, the others by Darlene Fife. Seferis described the poetry of Paulopoulos as being effective without any ornaments (ψυμόθια). Paulopoulos collaborated with his friend Takis Sinopoulos in writing jointly experimental poetry. Like Sinopoulos, he was an amateur painter and had participated in a panhellenic show.

Yorgis Paulopoulos died on November 26, 2008. In June 2006 I visited him at his house in Pyrgos in order to receive some of his papers, which he wished to donate to the Gennadius Library Archives. Although his health was already failing, I will always remember how soft-spoken he was, extremely polite, and, along with his wife, Metse, very hospitable. The papers he donated to the Archives consist of his correspondence with George Seferis and Nikos Kachtites, as well as various typescripts of their works in progress given to Paulopoulos. Seferis’ letters to Paulopoulos date from 1962 to 1971 and provide evidence of a warm relationship; Seferis frequently sent his comments on Paulopoulos’ poems and also dedicated a poem to him, ‘Η δεσπονίς Πήτος’ (1963), in remembrance of an excursion they went on at Drouva, near Olympia. Kachtites’ letters to Paulopoulos cover the period from 1952 to 1967 and are written from Athens, Cameroon, and Montreal, where Kachtites finally settled. There are also typewritten manuscripts of Kachtites’ books with handwritten corrections, among which the best known is Ο Ήρωας της Πόντου, published in 1967. Paulopoulos’ own notes on Kachtites’ work are an important addition to the collection.

Scholars at the Gennadeion

During the 2008–09 academic year at the Gennadius Library, three Work-in-Progress Seminars were held in the Mandilas Rare Book Reading Room. Museologist Alexandra Bounia of the University of the Aegean presented her study about the collection of Heleni Stathatos and raised issues of display of private collections in institutions open to the public.

Bart Soethaert, a Ph.D. candidate at the Freie Universität of Berlin, explored the appearance of the Slavs in Angelos Terzakis’s novel Πίτυς. Princess Izambo and the relation to historical events surrounding the composition of the work.

Nikolaos Chrissidis of Southern Connecticut State University and Christos Cabolis of the Athens Laboratory of Business Administration (ALBA) presented their work on indulgences in the Eastern Orthodox Church as evidence of oligopolistic behavior.

The recipient of the Cotsen Travel Fellowship, Nikolaos Chrissidis, Professor of History at Southern Connecticut State University, studied Greek textbooks of the seventeenth century as well as old and rare publications to explore the educational and cultural activities of Greek scholars in the establishment of the first academy in early modern Moscow.

Also at the Gennadeion in 2008–09 M. Alison Frantz Fellow Stavroula Konstantopoulou, a graduate student at Ohio State University, used the Gennadeion collections for her dissertation, “The Historical Role and Profession of the Byzantine Diplomat, 4th–6th centuries A.D.”

Save the Date!

On February 15, 2010, the Gennadeion celebrates the tenth anniversary of its Clean Monday event in New York City. Mark your calendars!
In Memoriam

ANGELIKI LAIOU
1941–2008

A great Byzantine historian who had been associated with the Gennadius Library for many years, Angeliki E. Laiou died of cancer in Cambridge, Massachusetts on December 11, 2008. An indefatigable scholar of the social and economic history of the Byzantine Empire, she was a pioneering woman in the international academic world and in the Greek government.

In 1978–79 she served as Samuel H. Kress Professor of Hellenic Studies at the American School, in charge of the Gennadius Library. During her tenure at the Library she was involved with the School’s academic program and organized a colloquium on “Trade and Art in the Eastern Mediterranean in the Thirteenth Century.”

Her research and publications (fourteen authored and edited books) on the crusades, on peasant society, on the role of women in Byzantium, and on marriage and the law broke new ground in Byzantine history and inspired numerous historians who hold teaching positions in universities all over the world.

A true cosmopolitan combining European elegance with academic rigor, Professor Laiou was a powerful presence with a sharp intellect and a clear mind in the classroom and in public. She was also an efficient administrator, a brilliant organizer of symposia, and a great force at ensuring support for major projects such as The Oxford Dictionary of Byzantium (1991), edited by Alexander Kazhdan, and Economic History of Byzantium: From the Seventh Through the Fifteenth Century, published in English (2002) and Greek (2007). For this monumental work she assembled a team of great scholars and wrote eight chapters herself. In 2007 she published a shorter synthesis with Cécile Morrisson in The Byzantine Economy.

The Library will hold a conference in her memory titled “Migration, Gender, and the Economy in Byzantium” in Cotsen Hall on October 23rd.

— Maria Georgopoulou

Ed note: the full tribute can be found at: www.ascsa.edu.gr/index.php/gennadius/newsDetails/angeliki-laiou/

THEODORE SAMOURKAS
1928–2009

Theodore Samourkas, a prominent international businessman and philanthropist whose family foundation gave generously to the Gennadius Library, passed away in January this year after a long illness. Born in 1928 in Athens, he graduated from Athens College, going on to find his own businesses, the highly successful Bravo Coffee Company in Greece and the Anderson Organization, a real estate company in the US.

In 1987 he and his wife, Marigita (who has served as a Board Member of the Gennadeion since 1999), established The Samourkas Foundation, which has supported a wide range of educational, cultural, and scientific projects in Greece and the United States. Under his stewardship, the Foundation also gave generously over the years to the Gennadius Library. Perhaps even more important for those in the Gennadeion family were fortunate to know him, Theodore Samourkas was an inspirational figure; his incisive intelligence, kindly advice, and warm humanity will be sorely missed.

BUSY YEAR FOR PHLOI

The Philoi of the Gennadius Library rounded out an eventful year with a bookfair in the Gennadeion gardens to raise funds for the Library. Held in May in honor of Florence/Anthi Gennadius, the bookfair was a great success and was followed by a cocktail party organized by Gennadeion Director Maria Georgopoulou in appreciation for the Philoi’s support.

Also on the Philoi’s calendar this past year were lectures by musicologist Nikias Lountzis and by former Gennadeion Director George Huxley; visits to the New Acropolis Museum, the Numismatic Museum, the National Archaeological Museum of Athens, the Karamanlis Foundation, and the Greek Parliament and its libraries; a concert of music from the time of John Gennadius, by famous soloists Maria Asteriadou (piano) and George Demertzis (violin); and a trip to Prague, organized with the help of the Ambassador of the Czech Republic, Hanna Mottlová.

CHRISTINE D. SARBANES
1936–2009

Christine D. Sarbanes, member of the Gennadius Library Board of Trustees, retired educator, and wife of former Sen. Paul S. Sarbanes, died in March at the age of 73.

Born in London, Mrs. Sarbanes earned a bachelor’s degree in Literae Humaniores from St. Hugh’s College, Oxford University, in 1938, and a master’s degree, also from Oxford, in 1974. She met her husband when he was a Rhodes scholar at Oxford in the late 1950s; they married in 1960 and she took an active role in his political career.

In 1978 she joined the faculty of the Gilman School in Baltimore, Maryland, where she taught Latin and Greek for more than 20 years, retiring in 2000. Prior to that, she was a lecturer in classics at Goucher College.

In addition to pursuing a career as an educator, assisting her husband in his political career, and raising three children, Mrs. Sarbanes served on a number of boards. She joined the Gennadeion Board in 1995 and also served on the Board of Directors and Trustees of Baltimore’s Enoch Pratt Free Library for the past decade. A longtime UNICEF volunteer who in 2008 won the President’s Volunteer Service Award for her work with the UNICEF board, she was also active in the Maryland Humanities Council and the Washington-based Society for the Preservation of Greek Heritage, as well as the board of the University of Maryland Medical School.

CATHERINE GRIGORIOU-THEOCARAKIS
1960–2009

Catherine Grigoriou, wife of Gennadeion Trustee Nicholas Theocarakis, passed away earlier this year. Born and raised in Greece, Catherine was educated in the classics and literature, then in strategic studies at Cambridge University. An accomplished poet in both Greek and English, Catherine’s most recent publication, The TransAtlantic Icarus, reflected her “double destiny,” as she expressed it, since her adult life was divided between the worlds of Greece and New York City, her other home. Her exploration of the duality that, in her own words, “exists everywhere in our lives,” her search for “the known and the unknown,” her “passionate pursuit for alternative answers,” her struggle to confront “the division of self which, nevertheless, manages to retain unity and coherence due to a higher goal” characterized her work, which also extended to the visual arts, as photographer and independent filmmaker. Her luminous presence will be sorely missed by all. ☼