



# Gennadeion News

A SPECIAL INSERT TO THE NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN SCHOOL OF CLASSICAL STUDIES AT ATHENS

## Library Benefit Supports Renovations

On June 7, the Overseers of the Gennadius Library hosted a special evening to benefit the Library and to honor Lord Jacob Rothschild, whose support of archaeology through the Butrint Foundation has shed new light on the site and region of Butrint and on Albanian archaeology in general.

In a short presentation, Lord Rothschild discussed Butrint within the context of the Mediterranean from pre-history to the Ottoman period with examples from the excavations and the archaeological park that the Butrint Foundation has established in the region. The presentation was followed by a beautifully illustrated lecture by John McK. Camp II, Director of the Agora Excavations, entitled "Edward Dodwell's Visits to Corfu in 1801 and 1806."

The event was sponsored by Alpha Trust Mutual Fund Management S.A., Alapis, Nicholas J. Theocarakis, and Mr. and Mrs. Alexander E. Zagoreos. The net proceeds—over \$130,000—from the benefit evening will be used to match the challenge grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to renovate the library in order to provide improved access to the collections as well as a new exhibition space.

## Art Exhibition Showcases Gennadeion Founder

Earlier this year the Gennadius Library commissioned 65 local artists to produce works inspired by the personality and life of the Library's founder, Johannes Gennadius. On June 8, 2010, hundreds of people flocked to the Library for the formal opening of the group art exhibit "Johannes Gennadius and his World." Through this exhibition, curated by art historian and art critic Iris Kritikou and on display at the Library through the summer, the Gennadius Library sought to showcase the wealth of its treasures to a non-academic audience and to open a creative dialogue with contemporary artists who are inspired by, and comment on, its historical significance through their art.

The bulk of the works of art were displayed in the exhibition wing of the Library (Basil Room), although several of the works hung in the main Reading Room and the Gennadeion gar-



*Alexandra Vovolini with Lord Rothschild in front of P. Tanimanidis' artwork, entitled "Would you join us for a cup of tea, Mr Gennadius?"*

Photo: H. Akriviadis

dens. The unexpected intrusion of works of art near rare books and scholars gave the Library a different feel. This artistic "invasion" opened new vistas for the Library while respecting its academic mission.

A fully illustrated catalogue contains introductory essays by

curator Iris Kritikou and Library Director Maria Georgopoulou. A portion of the proceeds from the works sold benefited the Library. The exhibition was made possible thanks to the generous support of OPAP, S.A. ❁

## Cotsen Retires From Gennadeion Board

Lloyd Cotsen recently stepped down from his positions on the Boards of the Gennadius Library and of the School to become Chairman *Emeritus* of the Gennadius Board and *emeritus* on the School Board. His legacy and lifelong interest in the School and the Gennadius can only be hinted at in this short article.

An avid collector and a philanthropist, Lloyd was trained in history, architecture, and busi-

ness. He was President, CEO, and eventually Chairman of the Board of Neutrogena Corporation. His philanthropy has centered on archaeology (amply demonstrated by the foundation of the Cotsen Institute of Archaeology at UCLA and his generosity to the American School), books and libraries (exemplified by the colorful Children's Library at Princeton University that houses his exquisite collection of illustrated children's books), and

folk art (most patently demonstrated by the Neutrogena Wing/Cotsen Gallery at the Museum of International Folk Art in Santa Fe, New Mexico).

Lloyd came to the American School as a student and fellow in 1955–56, and has remained a friend of Greece ever since. He worked as an archaeological field architect at the excavations of Lerna, Pylos, and Kea. He joined the School Board in 1977,

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## Rare Maps Digitized

Several of the rarest maps from the Gennadius Library collections, including Buondelmonti's *isolario*, Basili-cata's maps of Crete, and maps by cosmographer André Thevet, were photographed digitally this summer, at no cost to the School, by archaeological photographers Jennifer and Arthur Stephens. More than 900 digital images of the highest quality are now available for use in publications or online presentations. All available digital images have been linked with the MedMaps database, a component of the Digital Library for International Research, on the server of the Gennadius Library.

When all maps of the Gennadius collections are available digitally, the images in the MedMaps database will be widely available for use as a springboard for various web-based projects. ❀



*The island of Euboea, from Cristoforo Buondelmonti's manuscript Liber Insularum Archiep-lagi (15th century).*

Gennadeion News pages are compiled by Gennadius Library Director Maria Georgopoulou, Librarian Irini Solomonidi, and Archivist Natalia Vogeikoff-Brogan, and edited by Sally Fay.

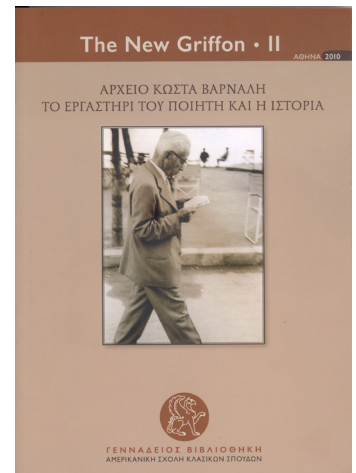
This publication is produced semi-annually. E-mail correspondence for Gennadeion News to [ascsa@ascsa.org](mailto:ascsa@ascsa.org).

## Varnalis Subject of New Griffon Issue

The most recent issue of *The New Griffon* (Volume 11) presents for the first time an in-depth view of Kostas Varnalis' literary work and life through his letters and papers, which were donated to the Gennadius Library by the poet's daughter in 2001. The volume has been edited by philologist Theano Michailidou, who also processed and catalogued Varnalis' papers. In addition to the catalogue, which forms the core of this volume, Michailidou has provided an insightful introductory essay on the work of Varnalis and the value of his papers, and another (in English) on Varnalis as a poet, prose writer, and critic. Other essays

in the volume are contributed by Dora Moatsou and George Kotzioulas. A series of evocative photographs recording the life of the poet appear at the end of the volume.

A contemporary of Angelos Sikelianos and Nikos Kazantzakis but also of the "Generation of the '30s," Kostas Varnalis (1884–1974) followed an autonomous course in the history of modern Greek letters, which was partly determined by his political aspirations, as well as his decision not to embrace Modernism. His poetry and prose (*The Burning Light*, *Enslaved Besieged*, and the *True Apology of Socrates*) all aspire to a classless society. *The Burning Light* (1922) may



be considered the first Marxist work in Greek literature. In 1959 Varnalis was awarded the Lenin Prize for peace. ❀

## News From the Library

Gennadius Library Director Maria Georgopoulou is on research leave this academic year. She was awarded a prestigious fellowship at the National Humanities Center in North Carolina in order to complete her book, *Arts, Industry, and Trade in the Medieval Mediterranean*. Irini Solomonidi has been appointed Acting Director of the Gennadius Library, effective as of July 1, 2010.

The electronic cataloguing of our periodicals holdings, funded by a two-year grant from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, is progressing on schedule. All ceased publications are now fully catalogued. Special attention has been given to archival materials such as personal correspondence of Johannes Gennadius with publishers. Vassiliki Liakou-Kropp continues the cataloguing of the Library's Greek manuscripts under a grant from the Demos Foundation.

The Library will host a concert honoring the 50th anniversary of Dimitri Mitropoulos' death on March 31, 2011, featuring acclaimed pianist Charis Dimaras.

Several recent gifts have enriched the Library's collections. Mrs. Elizabeth Barber donated a bilingual Greek-Latin edition of Achilles Tatius' Hellenistic novel *Erotika*, published in Leiden in 1640 by the scholar Claudius Salmasius (Claude Saumaise). Gennadius Library Trustee and benefactor Loyd Cotsen offered the Library three framed artworks, two of which are by Roger Tourte (1903–1972), whose watercolors are part of the art collections of the Library, as well as a poster by Alekos Fassianos.

The Library's collection of CD-ROMs is now fully catalogued and placed in special shelves in the second basement stacks. A thorough inventory of the Library's holdings was performed

in February 2010. The stacks were found in good order and several books considered lost during previous inventories were rediscovered.

Several fellows focusing on a variety of research topics are making use of Gennadeion holdings. The 2010 Frantz Fellow, Krisztina Szilagyi (Princeton University), is at work on her dissertation, entitled "After the Prophet's Death: Body of Muhammad in Christian-Muslim Polemic." Massimo Pinto, Cotsen Traveling Fellow for 2010–11, is studying the nineteenth-century scholar and forger Constantinos Simonidis. His research explores the papers of Joannes Gennadius, who bought a set of Simonidis' books at one of the sales of the personal library of John Eliot Hodgkin. The work of the fellows and other researchers will be shared with the School and the wider academic community through the Work-in-Progress Seminars held in the Mandilas Rare Book Reading Room on Thursday evenings. ❀

—Irini Solomonidi, Acting Director



## Fundraising Update

The Gennadius Library has been very successful in its fundraising efforts this past year. The Board and the Friends of the Library have raised funds to match two major challenge grants: a challenge grant from Lloyd Cotsen to the Library's Overseers for the Gennadeion's endowment, and another challenge grant from the NEH for the Library's capital construction fund.

The Cotsen challenge was met with very generous gifts from Ted Athanassiades, Alan L. Boegehold, Nicholas Bacopoulos, the McCabe Family, Nassos Michas, Irene Moscahlaidis, Petros Sabatakakis, Nicholas J. Theocarakis, and Alexander E. Zagoreos.

The funding goal has been met for the first year of the NEH Challenge Grant, with \$752,260 for Year 1 and \$307,850 carried over for Year 2. We will need to raise \$292,150 more to complete the Year 2 benchmark for NEH. We are especially grateful to the Samourkas Foundation and Nicholas Theocarakis for generous gifts for the Gennadius Library toward this match. Also included among the matches are the funds raised through the June 2010 Gennadius Library event to honor Lord Jacob Rothschild. The event netted approximately \$133,000 for the renovations to the Library, thanks in large part to a very generous gift from Lord Rothschild. The net from the sale of the artwork created for the exhibition "Johannes Gennadius and his World" will also benefit the Library and be credited as a match to the NEH Challenge Grant.

Thanks to everyone for supporting the Gennadius Library and its programs!

## Lectures at Gennadeion a Continuing Draw

Having wrapped up last year's program of lectures in May with fascinating talks by renowned historian Reinhold Mueller of the University of Venice ("The Fall of Negroponte to the Ottomans in 1470 and Female Sanctity in Venice") and Judith Herrin of King's College (Fourth Annual Onassis Lecture, "The West Meets Byzantium: Unexpected Consequences of the Council of Ferrara – Florence, 1438–1439"), the Gennadius Library launched its 2010–2011 lecture season with the first offering in this year's Cotsen Lecture Series, made possible by the continuing generosity of Gennadius Library Board Chairman Lloyd Cotsen.

The lecture, by Jacques Bouchard (University of Montreal) on the role of the Phanariotes in Early Enlightenment (1680–1780), was given on October 12, on the occasion of the 300th anniversary of Nicholas Mavrokordatos as the first Phanariote hospodar of the Danubian Prin-



*Jacques Bouchard's lecture included this palace of the hospodar of the Danubian Principalities in Bucharest, depicted in Luigi Mayer's *Views in the Ottoman Dominions* (London, 1810).*

icipalities—Prince of Moldavia, and then Prince of Wallachia. This year's program will continue with lectures by literary critic Roderick Beaton and Ottoman historian Suraiya Faruqi. ❧

## Save the Date!

On March 7, 2011, the Gennadeion celebrates **Clean Monday** at Molyvos in New York City. Mark your calendars!

## Cotsen Departure

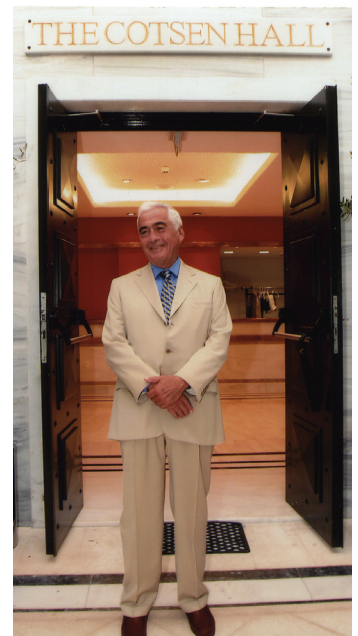
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and was a founding member and Chairman of the Gennadius Library Board since 1995. His dynamic presence, his vision and generosity, and his wise counsel have been instrumental in transforming the Gennadius Library into an influential intellectual center for the study of Hellenism. Throughout the years Lloyd has enriched the collections of the Gennadius Library with rare books and works of art, has promoted research through the establishment of the Cotsen Traveling Fellowship for Research at the Gennadius, has facilitated outreach through the Cotsen Lecture Series Fund, and has also been instrumental in modernizing facilities and in

mobilizing friends and supporters. Above all, the establishment at the School of a state-of-the-art auditorium, Cotsen Hall, has allowed us to host hundreds of public events that have attracted large crowds and had a huge impact in Athens and beyond.

We thank Lloyd and his wife Margit for their unwavering support of the Gennadeion and the School, but above all for their unerring love of Greece. They have managed to change not only the image but also the soul of the Gennadeion. We look forward to their continued interest for many years to come. ❧

— Maria Georgopoulou  
Director, Gennadius Library



*Lloyd Cotsen at the entrance to Cotsen Hall, June 2005.*

## Mystras Through the Eyes of Travelers

**A**liki Asvesta put together an exhibit of travelers' books, manuscripts, and maps from the Gennadius Library's Geography and Travel Collection to highlight some of the themes of the symposium "Mystras: Identities and Perspectives," held in Cotsen Hall on May 20, 2010.

Travelers in search of the antiquities of ancient Sparta were attracted to nearby Mystras, where they were impressed by the beauty of the landscape, the town's location, and its impressive monumental architecture.

The exhibition explored the different facets of the site's history as it was first discovered by European travelers and humanists, and showed how its historical emancipation was tied to the preoccupations of antiquarians, soldiers, merchants, and scientists, while its ruins also attracted the romantic imagination of nineteenth-century visitors. ❀

*Guillaume Abel Blouet, Expédition scientifique de Morée. Paris, 1831–38. GL, from the collection.*

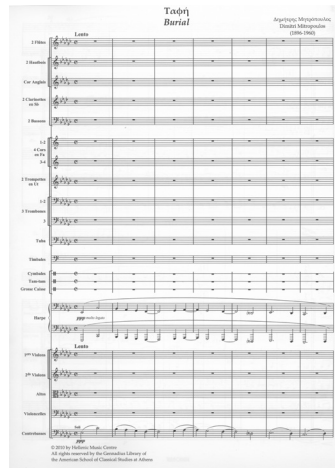


## Collaborations Promote Mitropoulos' Works

**B**est known as a conductor, Dimitri Mitropoulos (1896–1960), whose personal papers reside in the Gennadeion Archives, also experimented with composition during the early stages of his career, before his relocation to the United States in the late 1930s. To promote Mitropoulos' compositional work, the Gennadius Library has recently established a number of collaborations with interested parties, including the Ionian University's Department of Music Studies and the Hellenic Music Centre.

It is with pride that the Gennadeion announces the publication of the first edition of Mitropoulos' *Burial* by the Hellenic Music Centre, in collaboration with the Gennadius Library. The *Burial* was composed in 1915, inspired by the Biblical description of Jesus' burial by Joseph (Matt. 27:59–60).

The Hellenic Music Centre, founded in September 2006 by Yannis Samprovalakis and Yannis Tselikas, has also received permission from the Gennadius Library to publish another com-



*Publication of Dimitri Mitropoulos' Burial in 2010.*

positional work of Mitropoulos, the *Un morceau de concert* for piano and violin. In addition to the publication of the *Burial*, the Department of Music Studies of the Ionian University, under the direction of Charis Xanthoudakis, has published a critical edition of Mitropoulos' collection of songs based on Constantin Cavafy's poetry (14 *Invenzioni*). ❀

— Natalia Vogeikoff-Brogan  
Doreen C. Spitzer Archivist

## Philoi News

In May, the *Philoi* celebrated the Day of Florence/Anthi Gennadius with the third annual bookfair in the gardens of the Gennadius Library. Part of the funds they raised will cover the new cataloguing of the personal archive of Joannes Gennadius in order to provide a more complete reference tool for this important collection.

Numerous trips and events are planned for 2010–11, includ-

ing visits to the Onassis Foundation library, the house of Ioannis Metaxas, the Gennadius Library and its Archives, the Hellenic Literary and Historical Archive, the Byzantine and Christian Museum of Athens, and the Historical Archives of the National Bank of Greece. The General Assembly of the *Philoi* is scheduled for January 26, and the Fourth Annual Bookfair will take place on May 19, 2011. ❀



*At the May Bookfair: Vice-President of the Philoi, Mrs. Lydia Tricha; General Secretary, Mrs. Ioanna Phoca; President of the Board of the Philoi, Ambassador I. Bourloyannis-Tsangaridis; and Member of the Philoi, Mrs. Domna Dontas.*