Gennadeion Library Embarks on Map Cataloguing Project

In collaboration with the Council of American Overseas Research Centers, the Gennadius Library has embarked on a project that aims to inventory, catalogue, and selectively digitize its extensive collection of early maps. With the working title “Traders and Travelers, Scholars, Soldiers and Sailors: Mapping Mediterranean Lands in War and Peace,” the umbrella project will assess and ultimately make more accessible important early and unique maps in the libraries of American overseas research centers around the Mediterranean.

The Gennadeion is in possession of a remarkable and little-known collection of maps and engineering surveys of Greece as well as the entire Mediterranean basin, some dating as early as the fifteenth century. Many of them were produced by and for the Republic of Venice. The Library also possesses a rare selection of maps by Greek cartographers of the sixteenth through the nineteenth centuries. These pre-modern maps document the shifting tides of political fortunes, preserving early place names as well as information on flora, fauna, and human habitation altered by development and modernization.

However, these materials in the Gennadeion have been underutilized. Many of the items form part of what are known as John Gennadius’ scrapbooks, a collection of works on paper put together over many years by Gennadius. As part of his collection of books by early travelers, Gennadius bought important manuscript portolans, such as William Henry Smith’s Directions for navigating the Black Sea and a Description of its ports, 1818. He was also able to obtain Nicholas Kephalas’ three nautical charts of the Mediterranean, published in 1818, possibly the first issued by a Greek. Others, such as the unique Grimani folio of survey maps produced in 1699–1701, acquired after John Gennadius’ time, would also reward more thorough study and publication.

The Mediterranean maps project is under the leadership of cartographer Leonora Navarri, a bibliographer and cartographer with extensive experience work-

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Spring Opening Set for Library’s East Wing Renovation

With construction proceeding apace, May 25, 2004 has been set for the grand opening of the Gennadeion’s renovated East Wing and the unveiling of Cotsen Hall, the wing’s new 375-seat lecture hall. The celebration will mark the successful conclusion of Phase II of a four-phase, multiyear program of renovation and expansion to the Gennadeion Library.

Construction on the current phase of the Gennadeion Library building project began on February 9, 2002 and is expected to conclude in late winter of 2004. As the construction effort winds down, the focus has shifted to refinement of the interior design of Cotsen Hall, named for Gennadeion Board Chairman Lloyd E. Cotsen. To augment the cutting-edge physical, structural, acoustical, and lighting design produced by project architect Ioannis Vikellas (in consultation with British theater design experts Arts Team, European engineering firm Ove Arup & Partners International Ltd., and London audiovisual/lighting experts Theatre Planning and Technology Ltd and Lightmatters), Mr. Cotsen recently retained the services of interior designer Gere Kavanaugh to develop a concept for the interior of Cotsen Hall as well as its lobby.

Ms. Kavanaugh’s concept is tied to the nature and mission of the School and the Library, as well as to the School’s other historic buildings. Her proposed color palette is inspired by both the existing building and colors that appear in the neo-classic, which have their origins in the rediscovery of Pompeian painting in the late eighteenth century. Key to her design is a canvas hanging, showing an historic map of Greece and the eastern Mediterranean, to be selected from the Gennadeion collection. Throughout, carefully selected colors, textures, and decorative elements create a unique sense of place and an elegant public space.

Also to be dedicated on May 25 are the new Rare Book Reading Room, which will be named in honor of the late John B. Mandilas thanks to the generous support of KOSMOCAR S.A. and Mr. Mandilas’ family; the extension to the Main Reading Room, to be named the Dory Papastratou Reference Room in memory of the late Dory Papastratou, due to the generosity of her family; and the Seminar Room in the Main Building, which will memorialize Mary and Stratos Athanassiades, thanks to a generous gift from Elaine and Ted Athanassiades and family.

As the completion of the wing and the hall draws near, planning also focuses on the Hall Terrace and East Gardens. These areas were addressed in a Master Plan produced by renowned Philadelphia landscape architecture firm The Olin Partnership. The East Gardens will be modified to provide an outdoor area for receptions and space for public gatherings. The basic planting schemes developed by The Olin Partnership are being adapted to incorporate native flora and plants capable of thriving in a Mediterranean climate. Greek architect Alexander Kalligas has donated his time and talent to the design of the hardscape, incorporating pavements and walls that utilize native materials and design styles indigenous to the region, and M.I.T.-trained landscape architect Thomas Doxiades is contributing his advice and expertise on plant selection, placement, and installation methods appropriate to the region.

Kalligas Featured Speaker at Award Ceremony

Gennadeion Library Director Haris Kalligas delivered the keynote address at the presentation of the International Carlo Scarpa Prize in Treviso, Italy this past May. The award, given annually by Fondazione Benetton to honor an outstanding work of landscape architecture, was conferred on the late Greek architect Dimitris Pikionis for the system of pathways he designed beneath the Acropolis and the Philopappou hill more than 40 years ago. The week prior to the ceremony, the Gennadeion hosted a discussion and reception for guests of the Fondazione, who had come to Athens to visit the pathways, along with several of Pikionis’ colleagues and students.

Among her many other duties as Director, Ms. Kalligas currently serves on a committee to develop a plan and strategy for integrated library and information systems at the School.

Recently, Ms. Kalligas edited issue number 5 of the New Griffon, New Series, published by the Gennadeion Library in June. The issue, dedicated to the memory of the acclaimed historian Sir Steven Runciman, is a collection of texts presented during the November 2000 memorial event held in his memory.

Ms. Kalligas, a Byzantinist and architect of note, enters her ninth and final year as Director of the Gennadeion Library, having played a crucial role in transforming the

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In May, the Gennadeion Library organized a concert of baroque music in memory of Trustee Constantine Leventis, who died last July. In the photo, Mrs. Edmée Leventis, widow of Mr. Leventis, and their son, Anastasios, greet guest Thanos Veremis before the concert. In the background is Stephen V. Tracy, Director of the School, talking with Ambassador Achilles Exarchos, Executive Director Emeritus of the Leventis Foundation.
**Mapping the Mediterranean**

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ing on the Gennadeion collection as well as on Mediterranean maps in general. In the first phase of the project, Ms. Navarri will work at the Gennadius Library with Assistant Archivist Alexis Malliaris to create a preliminary inventory of the entire collection. The next step will involve selective cataloguing and, eventually, digitization of the most important examples. She will also survey the collections in the School’s sister overseas research centers in Rome, Istanbul, Ankara, Amman, Jerusalem, Tunis, Tangier, Cairo, and Nicosia.

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**French Map of the Peloponnese, 1715.**

*From John Gennadius’ Collection of Scrapbooks, no. 47*

The project is funded by a grant to the Council on American Overseas Research Centers from the Bureau of Cultural Affairs of the Department of State. The ultimate goal is a searchable web-based catalogue of these materials enriched with selected digitized images and texts. These materials form a component of the American Overseas Digital Library, a web-based catalogue of the holdings of American overseas research centers.

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**Clean Monday Cookbook Available**

Guests who attended the third annual Clean Monday celebration at New York City’s Estiatorio Milos this past March took home the recipe booklet compiled by Diane Kochilas, one of the world’s foremost authorities on Greek cuisine. Copies of the booklet, which includes recipes for traditional Lenten fare, are available for the cost of postage and handling from the ASCSAs U.S. office (e-mail: ascsea@ascsa.org).

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**Philoil Close Out Busy Year**

The year 2003 began on a festive and eventful note for the Philoi, as a crowd of more than 200 came together on January 13 to hear Linos Benakis, specialist in the history of philosophy of Byzantium, speak about the great intellectual achievements of the fifteenth century. His talk focused on three important personalities at the end of the Byzantine Empire: philosopher Georgios Gemistos Plethon, Cardinal Bessarion, and Patriarch Gennadios. The New Year’s vassilopita was cut that same evening, and ASCSA Director Stephen V. Tracy made a special presentation to Mrs. Pothoulou Kapsambeli, translator and one of the most senior members of the Society of the Philoi, for her many contributions to the Society.

The Annual Lecture in Memory of John Gennadius was held in the Gennadius Library on February 19. Thanos Veremis, Constantine Karamanlis Professor in Hellenic & Southeast European Studies at Tufts University’s Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, spoke on “The ‘Virtuous Materialism’ of the United States,” an examination of the core elements of U.S. foreign policy.

In March, Aristophanes Pappas, president of the Dolianites, donated to the Philoi a copy of a letter that John Gennadius had sent to the residents of Doliaina, native town of Gennadius’ father, announcing the founding of the Gennadius Library by the ASCSA in 1924. The letter presents a fascinating glimpse into John Gennadius’ feelings about his heritage.

At April’s annual meeting of the Philoi, President of the Gennadius Library, Catherine deG. Vanderpool summarized the status of the on-going renovation and expansion to the Library’s East Wing and showed slides of the garden plans. The meeting featured speaker Loukia Droulia, Emeritus Director of the National Hellenic Research Foundation’s Institute for Neoellenic Research, who discussed the influence of certain nineteenth-century European writers’ anti-hellenic sentiments on Greek national self-awareness.

The year concluded with an April visit to the Cartographical Exhibition organized by the National Bank of Greece, and a May lecture, “George Gennadius and the Student Uprisings in Aegina’s Central School during 1831,” given by Greek educator Alexis Dimaras at the Historical and Ethnological Society of Greece.

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**Kalligas**

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Gennadeion into an internationally renowned study and research center for students and scholars of post-antique Hellenic civilization. She has also continued her active role in preserving Greece’s cultural heritage as President of the Architectural Committee of the National Trust of Greece.

At the end of her term on July 1, 2004, Ms. Kalligas will be succeeded by Maria Georgopoulou, currently Associate Professor of Art History at Yale University. A profile of Ms. Georgopoulou will appear in an upcoming issue of *Akoue*.
Gennadeion Inaugurates Annual Trustees’ Dinner

The Gennadius Library’s Main Reading Room was the site of the inaugural Trustees’ Annual Award Dinner, held on June 10 to honor noted writer, translator, and philhellene Edmund M. Keeley for his contributions to the study of post-ancient Greece. Professor Emeritus at Princeton University, trustee of the Gennadius Library, member of the Academy of Athens, and recipient of numerous awards, Mr. Keeley has devoted his life and art—poetry, novels, translations, and works of nonfiction—to the world of Hellenism. Most recently, he has been writing about his thirty-year friendship with Greece’s Nobel Prize-winning poet, George Seferis.

The roster of distinguished guests from Greek business and society included U.S. Ambassador to Greece Thomas J. Miller and Mrs. Miller; El. Andonopoulos, Managing Director of OTE; journalist Eleni Bistikas of Kathimerini; film director Michael Cacoyiannnis; Sofia Kalantzakou, Member of Parliament, Messenia; Kostas Karatzas, Chairman, ASPIS Bank; Mrs. Iro Kovas, wife of George Kovas, Managing Director, Violex-Bic S.A.; Alexander Makridis, President and CEO of Chryssafidis SA; and Th. Sarantopoulos, Chairman and CEO, Sarantopoulos SA.

Each guest at the dinner received as a gift a copy of George Seferis: Collected Poems (translated, edited, and introduced by Edmund Keeley and Philip Sherrard), autographed by the honoree.

The Trustees’ Annual Award Dinner was organized by the Athens Trustees and designed by Helen Philon, and was supported by generous contributions from KOSMOCAR and Loucas Kyriacopoulos. The event was established to celebrate the contributions of individuals who foster an understanding of Greek culture and civilization.

School Wins Grant for Electronic Catalogue, Library Management Software

The Stavros S. Niarchos Foundation has awarded the School a grant of $157,780 for the purchase and implementation of electronic catalogue and library management software. The grant will underwrite the School’s share of Ex Libris’ ALEPH 500, purchased in consortium with the British School at Athens, as well as hardware and training costs. Adopted by numerous educational institutions throughout Europe and the United States, ALEPH has been installed successfully at the new library of the National Technical University and the Agricultural University of Greece, among other institutions in Greece.

The new catalogue and library management software is a basic building block in the School’s plans for an integrated library and information system incorporating all the information resources under the School’s management. A planning grant from the Mellon Foundation will assist the School in mapping out a long-term, integrated information management program, an effort that is currently underway.

The Niarchos Foundation has a long history of generous support for programs devoted to the study of Hellenism. Its assistance to JSTOR made possible the inclusion of many journals pertinent to scholars of classics, art, and archaeology, including the School’s own Hesperia. The Foundation also helped the Gennadius Library in its campaign to match a National Endowment for the Humanities Challenge Grant in 1997.