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

Gennadeion Acquires Rare Winckelmann Volume

A generous gesture by the Philoi (Friends) of the Gennadius Library in honor of former School Director William D.E. Coulson, combined with quick action on the part of the Library, recently resulted in the addition of a rare book to the Gennadeion's collection.

I had come across a 1765 translation of Johann Joachim Winckelmann's Reflections on the painting and sculpture of the Greeks, with Instructions for the connoisseur, and an essay on Grace in works of art in a bookdealer's catalogue. The book, although

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Gennadius Expansion Enters Construction Stage

Phase II in the Gennadius Library building project stepped closer to reality in December with the awarding of a contract to the highly regarded Athens-based construction company, J&P. J&P was previously responsible for construction in Phase I, the renovation and underground expansion of the Library's 1926 Main Building, completed in 1999. Ground breaking for Phase II, which includes the renovation of the East Wing and construction of the Cotsen Auditorium, named for Board Chairman Lloyd E. Cotsen, will take place on February 9, 2002, in the presence of the President of Greece, Constantine Stephanopoulos. Work is expected to be finished by late 2003.

The construction phase culminates many months of effort involving a number of European architectural and engineering firms. The project's lead architect, Greece's Yiannis Vikellas, worked in consultation with Arts Team, a British firm specializing in theater design, to produce the final plans for the lecture hall. Currently consulting architect to Athens' Megaron Mousikis for the construction of the new Athens Opera House and the Athens Conference Center, Arts Team has designed over a hundred theaters in Great Britain and Europe. Ove Arup & Partners International Ltd., one of the best-known engineering firms in Europe, advised on structural engineering; and Theatre Planning and Technology Ltd and Lightmatters, two London firms with broad experience in outfitting auditoria of all types, consulted on Phase II's audiovisual and lighting systems.

Final plans for the renovated East Wing include a Rare Book Reading Room, to be named after the late John B. Mandilas, thanks to Kosmocar S.A., and an extension to the main reading room, to be named after the late Dory Papastatou, thanks to gifts from her family. A new Seminar Room will be named in memory of Mary and Stratos Athanassiaides, thanks to Elaine and Ted Athanassiaides and their family. The East Wing will also house the Gennadeion Archives, one of the Library's most important components.

The renovated East Wing will also contain a conservation lab for book repairs, offices for staff and visiting scholars, and space for computer terminals that will provide access to the Library's electronic catalogue and other electronic resources. The existing East Wing, built in the 1970s, will be completely gutted.

With the construction for Phase II underway, detailed planning is beginning for Phase III, which will transform the existing West Wing into exhibition halls, and Phase IV, which involves restoration of the gardens. A committee headed by Gennadius Library Trustee Helen Philon has already begun raising funds toward the garden campaign, with the hope that the project will be completed in time for the Athens Olympics in 2004.

Title page from the rare 1765 Winckelmann volume.
Photo: Marie Mauzy

Above: Design for Cotsen Hall.
Architectural rendering: Y. Vikellas
Work Continues on Schliemann Papers

With the help of a three-year grant from the Institute for Aegean Prehistory (INSTAP), the Archives are undertaking important work on the Schliemann Papers. Our foremost goal is to improve access to Schliemann’s vast correspondence (35,000 documents). For the incoming correspondence, the former archivist of the Gennadius Library, Christina Vardas, had prepared a very useful card catalogue. For the outgoing correspondence, there was, however, no finding-aid of any kind for the scholars. Schliemann kept copies of his outgoing correspondence in

Development Officer Joins School Staff

In October, the Princeton office welcomed Susan Bombieri as a Development Assistant, responsible for grant writing and development efforts on behalf of the Gennadius Library. Her position is funded by generous donations from several Gennadius Library trustees as well as a grant from the Jesse Ball DuPont Fund. The grant also covers the costs of a new software system for fund raising and general administrative purposes.

Prior to joining the School staff, Ms. Bombieri spent four years as a grant writer and development specialist for Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic, also located in Princeton. Other previous experience includes database consulting for the practice development department of a mid-size law firm and editing for a national consumer magazine. Ms. Bombieri also lived in Italy for many years and has taught Italian to children and adults.

Gennadeion 75th: A Photo Gallery

On June 18, School staff and distinguished guests gathered on the grounds of the Gennadius Library in celebration of the Library’s 75th birthday. Festivities began with an alfresco reception, which marked the opening of an exhibition of selected items from the collections of John Gennadius, curated by bibliographer Leonora Navari (who also wrote the exhibition catalogue). The birthday fete, as well as the exhibition and catalogue, were generously underwritten by The Samourkas Foundation.

Photo, above-left: Theodore Samourkas. Photo, above-right: Margarita Samourkas, Catherine Vanderpool, and Ambassador Alexander Philon, Greece’s emissary to Washington, D.C.

Photo, above-left: Director of the Library, Haris Kalligas, guides Minister of Culture Eleftherios Venizelos around the exhibition. Photo, above-right: A guest takes a few moments to admire one of the 75 treasures on display.
Photographic Archive Organized

Typically, it is an archive’s most fragile items that are the most frequently asked for. In order to protect these often-unique items, the Library’s Archives established a preservation policy whereby both texts and pictures are microfilmed or photographed only once, in order to retain the content without risk of damage to the original item from repeated copying. All subsequent reproductions of the item are then made using the Library’s negative copy.

The need for the development of a photographic archive, where all negatives would be classified, was identified at a very early stage of this process. Archivist Natalia Vogeikoff-Brogan and Assistant Archivist Maria Voltera set the standards for such an archive and created a database to input all the data for the negatives from the Library’s negative copy.

For the readers—a much more comprehensive — Katerina Papatheophani

On October 2000, I was assigned to update the database, which numbered 143 entries at the time. My task was to identify and classify the slides and then put into archival storage for protection. After nearly a year of hard work, during which I used the electronic catalogue to find possible sources and then methodically searched the books one by one in the stacks, the database numbered 2,580 entries, with very few slides still unidentified.

In conjunction with the massive database update, some of the most celebrated image collections of the Library have been brought together, including the Lear and the Makiyannis paintings, Buondelmonti’s Liber Insularum, Grimanis Racolta delli disegni della pianta di tutte le piazze del regno di Morca . . . , and a selection of Haygarth’s original sketches of Greek scenery and costumes.

Of course, during this retrospective effort, current applications for photographs were also served. However, in order to facilitate the whole process — both for the Archives staff and for the readers—a much more detailed application form was introduced, which assists in updating the database promptly and comprehensively.

— Katerina Papatheophani

Kites Away!

The New York–area friends of the Gennadius Library have begun plans for a second annual Clean Monday celebration, to be held March 18 at Estiatorio Milos in New York City. The event, under the patronage of the Ambassador of Greece and Mrs. Alexander Philon, will showcase special cuisine prepared under the direction of Milos’ owner, Costas Spiliadis, as well as musical entertainment by the Mylos All-Star Band. Proceeds from the celebration will support the Gennadius Library’s building campaign.

Clean Monday, a national holiday in Greece, marks the end of Carnival and the beginning of the Lenten season. In Athens, the Gennadius Library opens its gardens each year to the neighboring community for a day-long “glendi” featuring a rich buffet of Lenten specialties and dancing to the music of famed musician Domna Samiou and her orchestra. The inauguration of Clean Monday festivities at Estiatorio Milos last year brought the wonderful traditions and festive spirit of the holiday to the Library’s U.S. friends.

For more information, please contact Susan Bombieri at (609) 683-0800 or at susan@uscsc.org.

Winckelmann Volume (continued from page G1)

Winckelmann Volume, which I felt was a most appropriate one to honor the memory of an archaeologist, and the book was quickly acquired.

The Abbé Winckelmann, Librarian of the Vatican, has been known as the father of archaeology and his ideas formed one of the major forces in German intellectual life in the eighteenth century. His major work, the History of Ancient Art, published in German in 1764, soon acquired an international reputation. It was such a success that Winckelmann was immediately involved in doing further research and adding to it with a view to re-publication. A new edition of his History came out posthumously in 1776. The book remained for some fifty or so years after his death as the standard text on the art of antiquity. It was the bible of late eighteenth-century Neoclassicism, and Winckelmann himself was a hero of the classical revival that gripped the art world at the time.

The volume acquired by the Gennadeion, published in London in 1765, is the predecessor of the History of Ancient Art and was translated from the German original of the Abbé Winckelmann by Henri Fusseli. The 293-page book consists of an essay and various reflections on Greek painting and sculpture, an account of a mummy in the Royal Cabinet of Antiquities at Dresden, instructions for the connoisseur, and an essay on grace. The first essay in the book, “On the imitation of the painting and sculpture of the Greeks,” is a translation from the German original Gedanken über die Nachahmung der griechischen Werke in der Malerei und Bildhauerkunst, published in 1755.

The only way to become great, according to Winckelmann, is the imitation of the ancients, and by that he meant imitation of the Greeks. It was this brief work that contained the seeds of all Winckelmann’s ideas and initiated his spectacular career.

— Sophie Papageorgiou, Librarian
Philoi Launch Activities Under New Leadership

Last June, the newly elected Board of Directors of the Philoi (Friends) of the Gennadius Library inaugurated its lecture season with a look at libraries ancient and modern. Philoi Vice President Andreas Zaimis, who is also President of the “Friends of the Library of Alexandria,” organized a lecture given by Professor Evangelos Moutsopoulos, member of the Academy of Athens, on the fascinating history of the famous Library of the Greek Antiquity. Mr. Zaimis himself presented a fully detailed account of the construction of the new, ultra-modern Library of Alexandria.

On June 18 the Philoi joined many others in the Library and School community who convened to celebrate the 75th birthday of the Gennadius Library. Philoi volunteers and Library staff members helped organize a successful book sale to benefit the Library. The Philoi offered 120 copies of their first two publications, an annotated catalogue of the Kyriazi-Spentsas collection by Leonora Navari and a collection of the first four lectures in memory of John Gennadius. The day also marked the launch of “The Engineer Francesco Basilicata in the Gennadius Library,” written by Philoi President Stella A. Chrysochoou and dedicated to the memory of John Gennadius and the 75th birthday of the Library. The Philoi offered 100 copies of the book in support of the fund raising.

A visit to Ancient Corinth rounded out the month’s activities. Corinth Excavations Director Guy D.R. Sanders introduced the Philoi to the excavations of the former Director, Charles K. Williams II, which focused on the Frankish period, as well as his own excavations, which focus on more recent times, namely the Greek revolutionary period of the nineteenth century. With his perfect Greek, and his love for and dedication to his work, he explained the significance of the city of Corinth in Greek history, not only in early antiquity or the Roman period, but through the centuries, due to the importance of its geographical position.

The Philoi were deeply saddened by the tragic death of former School Director William D.E. Coulson. He was a real friend to all of us and a great Philhellene. We cannot forget our excursions to Crete in 1994 and to Laconia and Messenia in 1996; on these journeys, he introduced us to his favorite places, where his years of hard work were accompanied by the assistance and love of the local people.

In his memory the Philoi donated to the Gennadius Library the 1765 English translation of a book by Johann Joachim Winckelmann, Reflections on the painting and sculpture of the Greeks, with Instructions for the connoisseur, and an essay on Grace in works of art. We also hope to organize a lecture in memory of Mr. Coulson later this winter.

Schliemann Papers
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copybooks, using a certain copying method that was not always very effective. As a result, the archive presents scholars with very fragile and blotched documents that are often difficult to read. The absence of any finding-aid has also limited the access to these documents.

Our grant proposal to INSTAP involved a two-stage project. First, the card catalogue of the incoming correspondence had to be transferred to an electronic format, as a database. This part of the project has been completed, thanks to the hard work of Peter Schultz. The second and more difficult task entails the electronic cataloguing of the outgoing correspondence. The Archives assigned this project to Stefanie Kennell, a multilingual and dedicated scholar, who already has been able to read and catalogue more than 6,000 letters. While working on the project, Ms. Kennell developed a personal interest in Schliemann. Recently, she delivered a lecture at the Canadian Archaeological Institute on Schliemann’s Paris years, an understudied period in Schliemann’s life. The Archives also secured Russian scholar Igor Bogdanov for the Russian part of Schliemann’s correspondence. In October, he spent two weeks in Athens cataloguing letters written in Russian.

We are currently spending funds awarded for year two of the INSTAP grant. It is our belief and intent that by the end of the project in 2003, a great deal of new information on Heinrich Schliemann will be available to the scholarly world.