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Gennadeion News

A NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN SCHOOL OF CLASSICAL STUDIES AT ATHENS

Novelist Elias Venezis Remembered

On April 9 large crowds flocked into Cotsen Hall to celebrate the completion of the cataloguing of the Elias Venezis Papers, which were donated to the Gennadius Archives in 2010 by the author's daughter, Anna Venezi Kosmetatou. The well-known writer and member of the Academy of Athens, Elias Venezis (1904–1973), wrote novels and short stories that reflect his horrible experiences of cruelty before and after the Asia Minor Disaster (1922). In his first book, *Number 31328* (1931), he recounts the fourteen months he spent as a "slave laborer" in Anatolia, rebuilding what had been destroyed during the war between the Greeks and the Turks. His later novel, the *Aeolic Earth* (1943), narrates Venezis's childhood in his native Aeolia.

Papers of Venezis on display in Cotsen Hall. Photo: H. Akriviadis

A small exhibition of Venezis's manuscripts, books, private correspondence, and printed materials highlighted the newly catalogued archive. Anna Venezi shared rare photographs from the family's archive and her personal memories of her father focusing on her parents' loving relationship. Writer Takis Theodoropoulos eloquently reviewed Venezis's books about Asia Minor, *Number 31328*, *Serenity*, and *Aeolic Earth* (or *Beyond the Aegean*), reminding the audience that Venezis's writings never conveyed nostalgia for the lost fatherland or hatred for the conquerors; on the contrary, his pain appears as a constructive force. Demetra Papaconstantinou (Demos Fellow for 2012) drew the author's portrait through her study of his personal correspondence, while Natalia Vogeikoff-Brogan (Doreen Canaday Spitzer Archivist) presented a lesser known work of Venezis, the *American Earth*, a chronicle of his trip to America in 1949, showcasing the fact that Venezis was the first in a long list of intellectuals from Europe to visit the United States with the

continued on page G3

Exhibition Brings to Life the Vovolinis Archive

The exhibition "Konstantinos A. Vovolinis and the Great Hellenic Biographical Dictionary," on view at the Gennadius Library from March 11 to June 29, 2013, celebrates the donation of the Archive of Konstantinos Vovolinis (1913–1970) to the Gennadius Archives. The event was co-organized by the Gennadius Library and the Economia Group-Kerkyra Publications.

The exhibition showcases unique archival material collected by Konstantinos Vovolinis for the Great Hellenic Biographical Dictionary. Several important figures in the economic, political and scientific life of Greece are represented, including Venizelos, Caratheodory, Loverdos, Eftaxias, Kallifronas, Trikoupis, Diomedes, Kanellopoulos, and Maximus. The material was selected by archivist Georgia Panselina, and aims to highlight not only the wealth of evidence offered by the assembled material, but also the role of an archive, its necessity and contribution to collective memory.

On the occasion of the opening of the exhibition, professors Stathis Kalyvas (Yale University) and Kostas Kostis (University of Athens) discussed with journalist Antonis Papagiannidis of the Economia Group the topic of business and intellectual life in twentieth-century Greece.

Professors Stathis Kalyvas (via Skype) and Kostas Kostis (forefront, at left) discuss with journalist Antonis Papagiannidis (at right) the business and intellectual life in twentieth-century Greece. Photo: Ace Images

The life and work of Konstantinos Vovolinis form the subject of a book published by Georgia Panselina and a documentary produced by Nikos Politis.

From the Librarian: Acquisitions Enhance the Collection

Several rare items were acquired in auction: correspondence of Joannes Gennadius concerning the appointment of an Asia Minor refugee to the newly founded Gennadius Library in 1926; an 1827 letter of British philhellene Richard Church signed in his own hand; several issues of the Greek newspaper *Περιοδικόν του Αναγνωστηρίου «η Σμύρνη»* published in Izmir in 1871; an issue of the Messenian resistance newspaper *Ελληνική Σάλπιγγα* (1943); an 1889 issue of the Greek newspaper *Εθνοφύλαξ* containing translations of letters from Victor Hugo and Garibaldi to the president of the provisional government of Crete; an issue of *Penny Magazine* (May 4, 1833) about the channel of Euripus; a 1776 issue of the *London Chronicle* containing an article on the destruction of Kephalonia from an earthquake; and a French leaflet printed in Paris in 1741 about commerce in the Peloponnesus and Albania.

A wonderful hand-drawn map of Constantinople from the 17th century was purchased from a French bookseller. It showcases in ink all major monuments of the city.

The Library's book collection has recently been expanded by 491 gifts. Among the highlights: Irini Miliou, a faithful friend of the Library, has offered forty books about the island of Chios; Sokrates Kougeas donated several Greek newspapers (some of which are old and rare); and the *Philoi* of the Gennadius Library donated a Greek New Testament printed in London by the Biblical Society in 1925.

The Estate of Crawford H. Greenewalt Jr. enriched the art collection of the Gennadeion with the donation of two paintings: a landscape by Wolfenberger and a drawing of Greek general Theodoros Kolokotronis.

New Web-Resource Maps Jewish Communities in Byzantium

On February 13, Nicholas de Lange of the University of Cambridge presented a new web-based map of the Jewish Communities of the Byzantine Empire, created in collaboration with the Jewish Museum of Greece (www.mjcb.eu). The project has mapped Jewish life in the Byzantine Empire using Geographical Information Systems (GIS). Based on published and unpublished evidence from texts, inscriptions, and archaeology relevant to Jewish communities, it integrates firm and reliable data within a GIS environment, making it possible for the first time to study the Jewish minority not only in its own right, but also within wider Byzantine and Jewish history.

Gennadeion News pages are compiled by Gennadius Library Director Maria Georgopoulou, Senior Librarian Irini Solomonidi, Administrative Assistant Maria Smali, and Archivist Natalia Vogeikoff-Brogan.

This publication is produced semi-annually. E-mail correspondence for *Gennadeion News* to ascsa@ascsa.org.

Demos Fellow Inspects Manuscript Collections

The generous support of the Demos Foundation has provided funds to bring to the Gennadius Library conservator Myrto Delivorria to produce a detailed treatment report for the manuscript collections of the Library. She will provide measurements for their storage in custom-made acid-free archival boxes and note specific conservation needs for particular specimens.

Art in the Library

The art collections of John Gennadius were the subject of a lecture that Director Maria Georgopoulou gave in Cotsen Hall on the occasion of the Memorial Day of John Gennadius, organized annually by of the *Philoi* of the Library. In a richly illustrated lecture, Georgopoulou presented the artworks that will soon be fully digitized and freely available on the web thanks to a European Union grant from the National Strategic Reference Framework (ΕΣΠΑ).

The Süleymaniye Mosque in Istanbul from John Frederick Lewis, Lewis's Illustrations of Constantinople Made During Residence in that City &c. in the Years 1835–6 (London, 1837). Engraved by Charles Hullmandel.

Debate Over the Exchange of Populations of 1923

Characterized as the "largest population movement in history," the exchange of populations that the Lausanne Treaty proposed as a solution in the aftermath of the Greco-Turkish war of 1919–1922 created numerous demographic and economic upheavals. On January 15, historians George Th. Mavrogordatos of the University of Athens and Ayhan T. Aktar of the Istanbul Bilgi University discussed the exchange of populations between Greece and Turkey as viewed from either side of the Aegean.

Professor Ayhan T. Aktar (on the left) and Professor George Th. Mavrogordatos (at right) discussing the 1923 exchange of populations.

Byzantine Art and Archaeology Showcased in Lectures

Distinguished Byzantinist Annemarie Weyl Carr, Professor Emerita from Southern Methodist University, delivered an erudite lecture on the icon of the Virgin of the Monastery of Kykkos in Cyprus. Weyl Carr explored the role that St. Luke the Evangelist played in the formal aspects of the icon. The miracle-working Byzantine icon of the Virgin Kykkotissa was invested with different roles as its image was reproduced in print and in painting in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries as a response to historical events and religious debates around the Reformation.

Archaeologist Lila Marangou was invited by the *Philoi* of the Gennadius Library to explore the Christian antiquities on the island of Amorgos. Her amply illustrated lecture enlightened an eager audience about recent discoveries on this Aegean island.

The Mother of God, labeled "the Eleousa of Kykkos," accompanied by a little figure of St. Luke, who is painting the image we see and venerate. Benaki Museum

Venezis

continued from page G1

School Director James Wright with Anna Venezi Kosmetatou, Venezis's daughter. Photo: H. Akriviadis

support of the Smith & Mundt Exchange Program.

The Papers of Elias Venezis consist of personal (including Venezis's letters from prison) and professional correspondence (correspondence with publishers and critics), unpublished radio speeches (from his career at National Greek Radio), and newspaper clippings. The online catalogue is available at http://www.ascsa.edu.gr/index.php/archives/elias-venezis-papers.

View of the Vovolinis exhibition which is on view until June 29, 2013 in the Basil Room. See front page for story. Photo: Ace Images

Clean Monday Held in NYC

Despite inclement weather, 120 Friends of the Gennadius Library enjoyed great food, drink, and dancing at Kellari Taverna in New York City on March 18.

The event was to celebrate Kathara Deftera, or Clean Monday, which marks the beginning of Greek Lent. Attendees included Mistras Group CEO Sotirios Vahaviolos and his wife Aspasia; George Iliopoulos and Koula Sophianou, the consuls general of Greece and Cyprus, respectively; businessman John Calamos; Alexander Zagoreos, Chairman of the Library's Overseers, with his wife Marine; and several other members of the Overseers and the ASCSA Board of Trustees.

This is the thirteenth year the Library has held the event, which was sponsored by Alpha-Trust. All proceeds from the evening contribute to the operating expenses of the Gennadius Library. New this year was an online auction in which attendees, as well as the public at large, could bid on experiences like personalized tours and a chef-prepared dinner.

Library Director Maria Georgopoulou with Ambassador Loucas Tsilas, Executive Director of the Onassis Foundation (USA).

Upcoming Lecture

On May 29, 2013, Professor Maria Mavroudi of the University of California, Berkeley, will explore the appeal of Greek philosophy and learning in the Ottoman court of Mehmet the Conqueror.

Another Busy Year for the Philoi

The agenda of the Association of the *Philoi* of the Gennadius Library was again filled with various activities. In January, the General Assembly was followed by the traditional cutting of the pitta. In addition to two lectures mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter, the *Philoi* organized a trip to Ancient Nemea accompanied by American School Director Jim Wright, who gave the group an extremely informative and inspiring tour on March 30, 2013.

School Director, Jim Wright, shows the Philoi the site of the Mycenaean tombs at Aidonia, near Nemea.

Research in the Library

Current and former fellows and local researchers who make extensive use of the Gennadeion collections shared their work with the wider School community in several Work-in-Progress Seminars. Ioannis Kyriakantonakis of the University of Athens presented his research on the intellectual history of Constantinople in the early modern period; Eleftheria Daleziou of the Gennadius Archives spoke on "Bert Hodge Hill and the Greek Refugee Crisis (1918–1928)"; and Aslihan Akisik spoke on "Apollo, Artemis, and Hellenic Philosophy in the Renaissance." In upcoming seminars, Gerasimos Pangratis will present his research on the Ionian islands in the nineteenth century, and Onassis Fellow Anne-Laurence Caudano will speak on "Of Spheres, Boxes and Eggs: Cosmological Order in the Late Byzantine and Slavic World."