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INAUGURATED 1926 | SPECIAL NEWSLETTER | AMERICAN SCHOOL OF CLASSICAL STUDIES AT ATHENS

Renowned Scholar and Author Emily Wilson to Continue Engaging Potamianos Lecture Series in United States

After garnering rave reviews for her first Potamianos lecture at Cotsen Hall in Athens, Emily Wilson, esteemed classicist, author, and translator of Homer's *Odyssey*, will deliver her next two lectures in America.

Wilson's "The Myth, Magic, and Mystery of the Ancient Greeks: Exploring the Connections to Contemporary Cultures" is the 2023–2024 installment of the Thalia Potamianos Annual Lecture Series on the Impact of Greek Culture presented by the Gennadius Library. This program is made possible by a generous grant from Gennadius Library Overseer Phokion Potamianos.

Wilson's first lecture, "The Vulnerability of Heroism," drew a capacity crowd at Cotsen Hall and a significant online audience. The second lecture, "Destiny, Tradition, Choice," will be held on January 24, 2024, at

Georgetown University in Washington, D. C., and the third, "The Wisdom of Stories," will be held on May 8, 2024, at St. Bartholomew's Church in New York City. The Potamianos lectures are free to attend and livestreamed. Please visit ascsa.edu.gr/potamianos-lecture-series now to reserve your seats.

"My three talks examine the themes of heroic greatness, destiny and wisdom in the Homeric poems and other works of ancient Greek literature," explained Wilson; "I will reconsider the connections, gaps, and differences between antiquity and contemporary cultures."

She added: "I am thrilled to launch this season of the Potamianos Lecture Series, providing a platform to examine the profound influence of ancient Greece



From left: Director of the Gennadius Library Maria Georgopoulou, Potamianos Lecture Series speaker Emily Wilson, and Overseer Phokion Potamianos in Cotsen Hall

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A Warm Welcome to the Gennadius Library



Maria Georgopoulou
Director, Gennadius Library

Welcome to the Gennadius Library, a cherished institution steeped in the preservation of Hellenic culture and heritage. It is our privilege to extend an invitation to immerse yourselves in the richness of our unparalleled collections and vibrant scholarly endeavors. As you will see in this newsletter, our mission extends beyond preservation, embracing a commitment to foster academic excellence, promote research, and share the many facets of Greek civilization with a global audience.

Through engaging exhibitions, enlightening lectures, and groundbreaking academic programs, we endeavor to inspire a profound appreciation for the depth and breadth

of Greek culture. Our dedication to accessibility and innovation led us to launch digital initiatives, ensuring that our invaluable resources are accessible worldwide.

We invite you to embark on a journey of discovery with us, exploring the enduring legacy of Greece at the Gennadius Library.

Maria AMH



Andreas Zombanakis
Chair, Gennadius Library Overseers



In the Name of Humanity: American Relief
Aid in Greece, 1918–1929, currently on
display in the School's Makriyannis Wing



Gennadius Library: The Ark of Hellenism



George T. Orfanakos
Executive Director, American School
of Classical Studies at Athens

Since 1926, the Gennadius Library has been a guiding beacon for the American School of Classical Studies at Athens, shedding light on the vast tapestry of Greek history from antiquity to the present day. Today, with its exceptional collection of rare books and manuscripts, complemented by a robust academic program and an extensive array of lectures, exhibitions, and concerts—both in person and online—the Gennadius is positioned to enhance the world’s understanding of Greece’s rich heritage.

In our commitment to fostering awareness of the various facets of the American School, we are delighted to unveil a new short film, *Gennadius Library: The Ark of Hellenism*. Directed by award-winning filmmaker Nikos

Dayandas and narrated by Pia Zombanakis, this two-and-a-half-minute film follows a young girl whose perspective is transformed by her encounter with the Library.

We invite you to watch this short film at ascsa.edu.gr/ark-of-hellenism and visit us when you are in Athens for a private tour of our historic campus and world-renowned collections. To schedule a tour, please visit ascsa.edu.gr/private-tour.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Library!

George Bonno



Bonna D. Wescoat
Director of the School





Portrait of Ambassador Joannes Gennadius by Philip de László

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2023–2024 Potamianos Lecture Series

continued from cover

on our contemporary world. By fostering dialogue and intellectual exchange, we hope to broaden our understanding of the past and its impact on the present.”

Director of the Gennadius Library Maria Georgopoulou said, “We are delighted to host such a brilliant, spirited classicist—one who does not shy away from reinterpreting ancient texts through translation to showcase how connected they are with our world today. We invite everyone to join us for Professor Wilson’s lecture series.”

The upcoming lectures are listed on the next page. To reserve your seats, please visit ascsa.edu.gr/potamianos-lecture-series.

About Emily Wilson

Emily Wilson has dedicated her career to investigating the profound and varied influences of ancient Greek and Roman literature on later cultures, to uncovering surprising new angles in canonical works of ancient poetry and philosophy, and to making these complex texts available to contemporary audiences. She has been instrumental in



Emily Wilson presents her first Potamianos lecture, “The Vulnerability of Heroism,” to a capacity crowd at the American School’s Cotsen Hall in Athens

shedding new light on the works of ancient writers and promoting an inclusive and diverse perspective in classical studies.

She is, perhaps, best known for her critically acclaimed translation of *The Odyssey* (2017) into English, providing a fresh, unique translation of Homer’s work in iambic pentameter. Wilson’s *Odyssey* was

named by *The New York Times* as one of its 100 notable books of 2018, and it was shortlisted for the 2018 National Translation Award. In 2019, Wilson was the recipient of a MacArthur Fellowship “genius grant” for her work bringing classical literature to new audiences.

At the University of Pennsylvania, Wilson is a professor in the

Department of Classical Studies and serves as the Chair of the Program in Comparative Literature and Literary Theory. Her highly anticipated translation of the *Iliad* was published by W. W. Norton & Company in September 2023.

About the Thalia Potamianos Annual Lecture Series on the Impact of Greek Culture

Established in June 2020, the Thalia Potamianos Annual Lecture Series seeks to create a stimulating environment to draw the academic community and the public to the Gennadius Library of the American School. Every year, a highly distinguished, internationally renowned scholar is selected to conduct research and develop programs on a topic relevant to the Gennadius Library. The research will culminate in a minimum of three annual public lectures, which will be delivered in Athens and the United States. Overseer Phokion Potamianos named the series in memory of his grandmother, a distinguished Greek biochemist, scientist, and philanthropist.



Clockwise from top left: Wilson at the lectern in Cotsen Hall; Director of the School Bonna Wescoat introduces Wilson; Wilson and Potamianos at the post-lecture cocktail reception in the Cotsen Hall forecourt; Overseer Emerita Helen Philon with F. Bailey Green and Wescoat



Potamianos Lecture Series Schedule*

“The Myth, Magic, and Mystery of the Ancient Greeks: Exploring the Connections to Contemporary Culture” by Emily Wilson

- Lecture Two:
“Destiny, Tradition, Choice”



Wednesday, January 24, 2024
6:00 p.m. EST
Georgetown University
Washington, D.C.

- Lecture Three:
“The Wisdom of Stories”



Wednesday, May 8, 2024
6:00 p.m. EST
St. Bartholomew's Church
New York City

RSVP today at ascsa.edu.gr/potamianos-lecture-series

*Lecture One was held in Athens, Greece, on October 3, 2023.

Current Exhibition at the American School's Makriyannis Wing: *In the Name of Humanity: American Relief Aid in Greece, 1918–1929*

Organized by the American School Archives and the Gennadius Library

Curated by Eleftheria Daleziou, Maria Georgopoulou, and Natalia Vogeikoff-Brogan

October 17, 2023–February 18, 2024 | Makriyannis Wing, Athens, Greece | ascsa.edu.gr/humanity



To commemorate the centenary of the Lausanne Convention's signing, the American School is presenting an enlightening exhibition spotlighting a monumental humanitarian endeavor etched in history: the American relief aid extended to Greece from 1918 to 1929.

Organized by the American School Archives and the Gennadius Library, *In the Name of Humanity: American Relief Aid in Greece, 1918–1929* will be held in the School's Makriyannis Wing through February 18, 2024.

The profound impact of the Lausanne Convention's population exchange reverberated as 1.5 million Greek Orthodox Turkish nationals were uprooted from Turkey to Greece, alongside 500,000 Greek nationals of the Muslim religion from Greece to Turkey. This pivotal moment summoned forth the benevolent efforts of several esteemed American humanitarian agencies—including the American Red Cross, the Near East Relief, the American Women's Hospitals, and the YMCA—uniting to deliver invaluable emergency relief to orphaned children and displaced refugees.

Furthermore, these organizations, in collaboration with the American Friends of Greece, the American Collegiate Institute Relief Committee, and the Near East Industries, ingeniously orchestrated avenues of employment, foundational education, and comprehensive mental and physical healthcare. These multifaceted initiatives empowered the refugees, particularly women, with the tools and resources to attain self-sufficiency, fostering resilience and rejuvenation within their lives.

American endeavors such as the construction of the Marathon Dam and the reclamation of the Strymon and Drama valleys marked transformative milestones in Greece's infrastructure. These projects not only provided employment opportunities for vulnerable refugees but also ushered in an improved quality of life, devoid of the scourges of malaria and disease. The enduring impact of American post-secondary institutions, established in Athens and Thessaloniki, played—and continue to play—a significant role in shaping Greece's system of higher education.



Greeks then living in Turkey who embarked on a journey to the United States also played a vital role, contributing to humanitarian aid efforts for their fellow countrymen in Greece while simultaneously forging a distinctive identity in America. The Greek American Anatolian diaspora made significant cultural contributions, notably through the widespread dissemination of folk and Rebetika songs capturing the challenges of population exchanges. These expressions vividly explore the profound impact of the U.S. on the refugees' lives.

This exhibition brings into focus the tireless efforts of diverse individuals, ranging from political appointees and philanthropic leaders to educators

and dedicated relief workers. Motivated by a sense of duty rooted in their Christian, patriotic, or personal beliefs, they collectively played a pivotal role in reshaping Greece into a more livable place after 1922.

Bert Hodge Hill, Edward Capps, and Joannes Gennadius were key figures associated with the American School and they played crucial roles in the American relief aid in Greece. Bert Hodge Hill served as Director of the School (1906–1926) and was instrumental in forging connections between the School and Greek institutions. Edward Capps, who served as Chairman of the School's Managing Committee (1918–1939), leveraged his influence as the Chair of the American Friends of Greece to provide humanitarian assistance to Greek refugees and support educational initiatives. Joannes Gennadius, a noted diplomat, who contributed 26,000 books in his collection to the American School's Library which bears his name, lobbied extensively for Greece in the United States. Collectively, their efforts not only advanced the cause of classical studies but also demonstrated a commitment to alleviating the suffering caused by the aftermath of World War I and the Greco-Turkish War (1919–1922), leaving a legacy of collaboration and compassion.

The exhibition draws upon a rich array of resources, including correspondence, official documents, rare publications, photographs, posters, short films, and artifacts. These treasures, curated from the School's extensive collections and borrowed from various institutions, converge here for the first time, weaving a compelling narrative of profound significance.

Homer at the Gennadius Library: Rare Editions of the Homeric Epics

Curated by Gennadius librarian Irini Solomonidi, the *Homer at the Gennadius Library* exhibition (October 3–24, 2023) featured a selection of rare editions of Homer from the Gennadius's collections and brought to life the metamorphoses of the primary Homeric material in time and space. Unique treasures like the first edition of the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey* printed in Florence in 1488, and the earliest paraphrase of the *Iliad*

in modern Greek printed in Venice in 1526, were displayed next to English, French, Italian, and Spanish translations showcasing the wide dissemination of the Homeric texts in Europe and North America. Evocative illustrations by John Flaxman further highlighted the importance of Homer's poetry to artists and collectors. The *Homer at the Gennadius Library* exhibition will be available online in January 2024 at homeratgennadius.gr.



Join the American Friends of the Gennadius Library

Stay connected with the Gennadius Library throughout the year! Scan the QR code at right and be the first to hear about upcoming lectures, exhibitions, and concerts. You can join us online or in person for these events.



Gennadius Library Acquisition Fund

The Gennadius Library is a leading research center for the study of Greek history, literature, and art, from ancient to modern times. Opened in 1926 with the 26,000-volume collection of diplomat, collector, and bibliophile Joannes Gennadius (1844–1932)—at the time the largest private collection of such material in the world—the Library now houses more than 150,000 rare books and bindings, research materials, manuscripts, archives, and works of art. To learn more about the Library, please visit ascsa.edu.gr/research/gennadius-library.

Make a Gift Today

The Library acquires rare books when funds permit. Your contribution to the Gennadius Library Acquisitions Fund enables us to continue expanding our important collection. Help ensure that the Gennadius remains a vital resource for future generations of humanists by making a tax-deductible gift today at ascsa.edu.gr/give-gennadius-library.

Recent Donations by Overseer Curtis Runnels

- *A Romaic Grammar accompanied by a Chrestomathy with a Vocabulary*, by E. A. Sophocles, A.M. (Hartford, 1842)
- *A Lexicon of Modern Greek–English and English–Modern Greek* (2 volumes; Smyrna, 1867–1869)
- *History of the Greek Alphabet with Remarks on Greek Orthography and Pronunciation*, by E. A. Sophocles, A.M. (2 volumes; Cambridge, MA, 1848)
- *Ὁ Ἀναγνώστης ἤτοι Ποικίλα Μαθήματα πρὸς χρῆσιν τῶν διδασκομένων τὴν ἀνάγνωσιν* (Ἐν Σμύρῃ, 1841)
- *Guidebook of the Ruins of Ephesus*, by George Phaedros (Smyrna, 1910)
- A 16th- or 17th-century Greek manuscript, on paper
- A folder with Greek newspapers dated 1825–1834
- A folder with Greek manuscript documents (legal, financial, etc.) dated 1776–1860

Newest Acquisitions by the Gennadius Library

- A lithograph of Smyrna printed in Athens in 1922
- Olfert Dapper, *Naukeurige beschryving van gantsch Syrie, en Palestine of Heilige Lant* (1677)
- Wenceslas Hollar, *The Land & Kingdom of Candia* (1668)
- Frederick de Wit, *Insula Candia Ejusque Fortificatio* (1668)



Gennadius Academic Programs

Since 2021, the Gennadius Library has expanded its academic offerings through fellowships for advanced graduate students and recent Ph.D.s whose work explores post-classical and modern Greek studies. Each year, the Library awards fellowships to deserving candidates who enliven the School's scholarly community.

The **Alison Frantz Fellowship** supports research in the fields of late antiquity, Byzantine studies, and modern Greek studies for Ph.D. candidates and recent Ph.D.s from a U.S. or Canadian institution who demonstrate a need to work in the Gennadius Library.

The **Constantine and George Macricostas Fellowship** funds research focusing on the historical, political, and sociological dimensions of Eastern Orthodox religion from late antiquity to the present.

The **Cotsen Traveling Fellowship for Research in Greece** is a short-term travel award for projects and research at the Gennadius Library.

The **Kathryn and Peter Yatrakis Fellowship** is an award open to all Ph.D. candidates and early post-doctoral scholars who need to use the Gennadius Library collections for their research.

The **Schwarz Fellowship for Research on Music** is a full-year

fellowship for career musicians and musicologists to engage in research on music that focuses on cultural interactions in the Mediterranean world broadly defined.

The **Schwarz Fellowship for Research on Urban Architecture** supports a full-year of research on architecture, urban planning, and the history of the built environment in Greece from 1821 to the present. It is geared toward practicing architects and researchers who are pursuing their Ph.D. in architecture.

In addition, the Gennadius Library hosts a biannual **Medieval Greek Summer Session**. This program in intermediate-level

medieval Greek language and philology welcomes 12 graduate students in any field of late antique, post-antique, Byzantine, or medieval studies at any university worldwide. Scholars are exposed to the development of Greek language, literature, and book culture in the Byzantine period providing an outstanding service to the global academic community by educating students and emerging scholars in the medieval Greek language.

The month-long program at the Gennadius Library includes extensive site and museum trips, as well as individual tutorials that perfectly complement the lectures.



2023–2024 Gennadius Library Fellows

As a research institution, the Gennadius Library seeks to develop research projects and educational programs that promote the study of the Greek world after the end of antiquity. Fellowships, seminars, and symposia bring into contact scholars from all over the world, including

the 2023–2024 Gennadius Library Fellows listed below. To learn more about our educational programs, please visit ascsa.edu.gr/research/gennadius-library/educational-programs.



Alexandra Burkot
Brandeis University
Schwarz Fellowship for Research on Music
Topic: *"Greek Continuity and Resistance in Dimitrios Levidis's L'Iliade"*



Yusuf Ziya Karabicak
Mainz University
Constantine and George Macricostas Fellowship
Topic: *"Leaving the Revolution Behind: Negotiating a New Status for the Orthodox Patriarchate of Constantinople after 1821"*



Christos-Georgios Kritikos
National Technical University of Athens
Schwarz Fellowship for Research on Urban Architecture
Topic: *"The Right to Ownership vs. the Right to Cultural Heritage before and after 1975: Exploring the Delicate Balance between Private Property and Urban Heritage at the Gennadius Library Archives"*



Chiara Monaco
Ghent University
Cotsen Traveling Fellowship
Topic: *"The Aeolodoric Theory: A Paradigm for Ancient Greek Linguistic Approaches"*



Nikolaos Nikolaidis
National and Kapodistrian University of Athens
Kathryn and Peter Yatrakis Fellowship
Topic: *"The European Mercantile Community in Late Ottoman Athens"*



Kutay Onayli
Princeton University
Alison Frantz Fellowship
Topic: *"The Empire of Rum: History, Identity, and Belonging in Greek Ottoman Popular Writing, 1908–1930"*

Concerts Presented by the Gennadius Library



Curtis on Tour, the Nina von Maltzahn global touring initiative of the **Curtis Institute of Music**, brought to Athens eight exceptionally gifted alumni who offered three exquisite concerts at Cotsen Hall. This annual series is hosted by the Gennadius Library and made possible by a generous grant from the **Schwarz Foundation**.

Called “one of the world’s finest music academies” by *BBC Culture*, the Curtis Institute of Music pairs tradition and innovation, educating talented young musicians as artist-citizens who engage a local and

global community through music-making of the highest caliber. Grounded in the Institute’s “learn by doing” philosophy, tours feature extraordinary emerging artists alongside celebrated alumni and faculty.

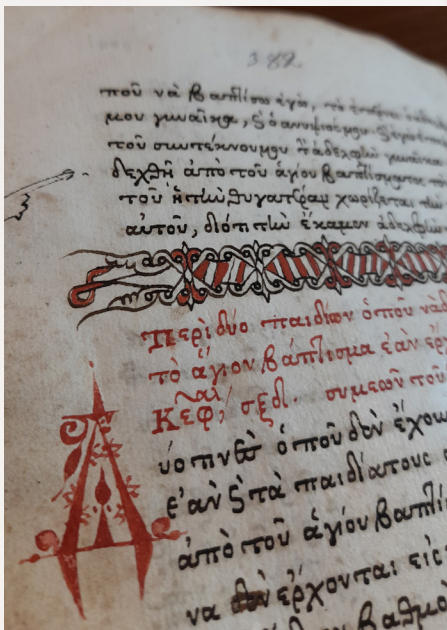
On November 30, 2023, Grammy Award winner **Christopher C. King** produced for the Gennadius Library an unforgettable evening of traditional music from Epirus. In a musical lecture entitled “**When Violin Was King**,” King unfolded, through his unique methodology, the history of the music of Epirus,

this time placing the violin at the center. Rare commercial 78s from the beginning of the 20th century were played and paired with three musicians—Kostas Karapanos (violin), Aurel Qirjo (violin), and Marios Toubas (laouto)—who brought to life the evolution and adaptation of the music of Epirus, recounting the archaeology of Epirote acoustics. Fans of traditional music and the culture of Epirus reveled in this musical celebration.

To watch concerts in our video archive, please visit ascsa.edu.gr/video-archive.



Give to the Gennadius Library Today



Through the doors of the Gennadius Library lies the history of the Greeks, lovingly preserved and made accessible to scholars and laypeople from around the world. Our collection of 150,000 books contains a unique record of Greek history. We also have maps, manuscripts, and archives that trace the reception of Greek antiquity by Renaissance humanists and early modern archaeologists, as well as highlight the beauty of the land that attracted travelers, poets, and artists. Scholars bring these unique materials to life through their research and resulting publications. This is one small way the Gennadius Library aids in disseminating knowledge about Greece and its culture to a wide audience without geographical borders.

There has never been a more exciting time for the Gennadius than now. We are hosting fascinating exhibitions, informative lectures, and spectacular concerts—accessible to the public at no cost. An increased number of fellowships means more postgraduate students will benefit not only from the guidance of senior scholars but also from the priceless

resources within their reach. Our continued commitment to digitizing our collections ensures that these invaluable materials are studied and admired worldwide. Your support will allow us to continue curating and growing these world-class collections, facilities, educational opportunities, and public programming.

Help ensure that the Gennadius remains a vital resource for future generations of humanists by making a tax-deductible gift at ascsa.edu.gr/give-gennadius-library, or scanning the QR code below.



SAVE THE DATE

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honoring

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Athens Prize Recipient

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