Gennadius Library Showcases Ottoman Athens in Exhibition and Symposium

The exhibition “Ottoman Athens, 1458–1833” (February 10 through June 30, 2015), curated by Aliki Asvesta and Maria Georgopoulou, explored the topography, archaeology and history of Ottoman Athens. The Library showcased 80 travelers’ books, maps, and works of art from its collections, along with 20 archaeological finds from the American School’s excavations at the Athenian Agora.

Representing the period from the conquest of Athens by the Ottomans in 1458 to their withdrawal in 1833, the exhibition highlighted the everyday life of the inhabitants of Ottoman Athens and the visitors’ interest in the antiquities of the land. The items on display highlighted themes of coexistence, common culture, and shared fashions and tastes. From its inception the show attempted to create links with other museums that have similar collections, such as the Benaki and the Museum of the City of Athens, in order to entice the visitor to explore other parts of Athens. A photographic exhibition entitled “Life among Ruins, pictures of the 1930s and 1940s from the excavations at the Athenian Agora conducted by the American School of Classical Studies at Athens,” curated by Joanita A.C. Vroom, was held at the Nederlands Instituut Athene (N.I.A). Walking tours, storytelling, traditional Kara-giozis shadow-theater, and a painting workshop for children enlivened the show.

Several lectures and a two-day symposium on April 23–24 brought together an array of scholars who illuminated the history of Ottoman Athens with presentations focusing on travelogues, architecture, epigraphy, history, archaeology, and cartography.

Papers of Novelists Lymberaki and Karapanou Donated

Margarita (Rita) Lymberaki and her daughter Margarita Karapanou lived in a beautiful Kolonaki apartment overlooking the Acropolis and the island of Aegina. Cosmopolitan, highly creative but also tormented, theirs was a life that deserves to be made into a movie. After their death, Rita’s sister, Aglaia (Bouba) Lymberaki, inherited their papers. Upon her own death, her son, Konstantinos Moralis, donated the papers to the Gennadius Library on the advice of a family friend, Angela Foka.

The archive consists of material related to Lymberaki’s and Karapanou’s careers as writers, including correspondence, literary manuscripts and typescripts, notebooks and loose handwritten notes, drawings, photographs (in albums, loose and in frames), sound and video recordings, printed material relating to their work, offprints, books, and press cuttings. The photographic material documents their personal and professional lives in Athens, Paris, and on the island of Hydra. In addition, there are photos of well-known Greek and foreign artists and writers who had frequented their house in Paris during the Greek dictatorship (1967–1974).

Rita Lymberaki (1919–2001) is best known for her novel The Straw Hats (Τα ψάθινα καπέλα), first published in 1946. It re-

President of Greece Tours Library

The School had the honor of hosting the President of the Hellenic Republic Prokopis Pavlopoulos on June 29. The President was able to put Greece’s economic troubles behind him for a while and immerse himself in the magnificence of the Gennadius collections and archives.

At right: School Director James Wright and Gennadius Library Senior Librarian Irini Solomoni show President Pavlopoulos the riches of the Gennadius Library in the Mandylas Rare Book Reading Room.

continued on page 3
News from the Librarian

Acquisitions

Thanks to the generous donations in memory of Ted Athanassiades the Gennadius Library acquired an extremely rare Greek Horologion (book of hours) printed in Venice by Zacharias Kallierges in 1509: Ωρολόγιον συν Θεώ, περίεχον τα κάτωθι γεγραμμένα. The book is one of the earliest of its kind, and therefore a landmark in the history of Greek printing; a work printed exclusively for the Greek expatriate community in Venice, while most print editions from that time and place were produced for humanist scholars by the printing press of Aldus Manutius. The book shows signs of heavy use, includes annotations in Greek and Ottoman Turkish, and still preserves its original binding ‘a la greca.’

The Library also acquired a charming prayerbook, Εγχειρίδιον καθολικόν, printed in Vienna by the widow of Anthony Strausius (Ἀντωνίου Στραουσίου) in 1838, probably for the flourishing expatriate Greek community there; two signed letters by Reverend Vere Monro, a traveler to the Near East and author of A Summer Ramble in Syria, with a Tar-tar trip from Aleppo to Stamboul; an album of views of Mount Athos by monk Stephane printed in 1913; Greek philosopher Iostipos Moisiodax’s adaptation of Locke and Fenelon’s writings, entitled Treatise on the Education of the Youth (Venice, 1779); a 1640 Paris edition of the works of bishop Synesius of Cyrene; and an extremely rare 19th century textbook of modern and ancient Greek by D. Ioannidis, printed in Paris in 1833: Atlas de la Méthode analytique de la langue grecque ancienne et moderne, en 20 tableaux.

We are grateful to the Archaeological Society at Athens for the gift of three hundred books of Byzantine, post-Byzantine and early modern Greek history, literature and culture from the collection of the late Professor Manousos Manousakas, and to archivist Alexis Malliaris for an album of views of Mount Athos by monk Stephane printed in 1913; Greek philosopher Ioannis Vreerius, an extremely rare 19th century textbook of modern and ancient Greek by D. Ioannidis, printed in Paris in 1833: Atlas de la Méthode analytique de la langue grecque ancienne et moderne, en 20 tableaux.

We are grateful to the Archaeological Society at Athens for the gift of three hundred books of Byzantine, post-Byzantine and early modern Greek history, literature and culture from the collection of the late Professor Manousos Manousakas, and to archivist Alexis Malliaris for an album of views of Mount Athos by monk Stephane printed in 1913; Greek philosopher Ioannis Vreerius, an extremely rare 19th century textbook of modern and ancient Greek by D. Ioannidis, printed in Paris in 1833: Atlas de la Méthode analytique de la langue grecque ancienne et moderne, en 20 tableaux.

Recent acquisition: an extremely rare Greek Horologion (book of hours) printed in Venice by Zacharias Kallierges in 1509

Medieval Greek Summer Session

The sixth Gennadius Library Medieval Greek Summer Session (July 10–25) was a great success thanks to the generous support of the A. G. Leventis Foundation. Selected out of a pool of 38 applicants, 12 graduate students from Classics, Byzantine History, Byzantine Art History, and Theology were selected for the summer session participants, from upper left: Jaspreet Singh Boparai, Luis Josué Sales Smith, Hana Coufalova, Skyler Anderson, Edward Bryson Sewell, Ana-Maria Raducan, Melissa Browne, Alexandros Alexakis, Lorenzo Bondioli, Stratis Papaioannou, Eleanna Karvagiotou, Elif Demirtiken, Isabel Simpson Kimmelfield, Aleksandar Jovanović, and Shannon Steiner

In preparation for the new West Wing of the Library and the establishment of a Special Collections Unit for rare books, archives and research collections, senior staff from Archives, IT, and the Blegen and Gennadius libraries has given careful consideration to the ways in which the shelving, classification, protection, and in-house circulation of books and archival materials can be improved and updated.

The Demos Fellow for 2015, historian-archivist Marina Stolaki, has been inventorying and marking the rare books that will form the core of the Special Collections Unit at the Gennadius Library. The project is conducted under the close supervision of Senior Librarian, Irini Solomonidi.

In order to equip all research books and archival boxes with anti-theft RFID tagging, we have received funding from the Latsis

continued on next page
Lectures, Events for 2015–2016

The Cotsen Lecture series has brought to the School Professor Veronica della Dora of Royal Holloway, University of London, who spoke on Mount Athos as seen by Western women in the period 1880–1980 (November 10, 2015) and Professor Sharon Gerstel of the University of California, Los Angeles, who presented her recent research on “Ecclesiastical Soundscapes of Byzantine Thessaloniki: A Trans-disciplinary Project” (November 24, 2015).

In 2016, Thomas W. Gallant of the University of California, San Diego will speak on “Murder on Black Mountain: Love and Death on a Nineteenth Century Greek Island” (February 23, 2016); Ioannis Kokkonas of the Ionian University, Greece will discuss some early personifications of Greece from the 15th to the 18th century (March 29, 2016); and Professor Curtis Runnels of the Boston University will discuss whether Heinrich Schliemann was a good archaeologist based on what his books reveal (May 24, 2016).

An exhibition on the history of John Sibthorp’s majestic publication Flora graeca, printed between 1806 and 1840 in only 25 copies, will explore the history of botanical illustration and the flora of Greece. Several lectures and events will complement the exhibit. For more information see: www.gennadius.gr.

The Walton lecture will be given by Professor Gerhard Beaton, a Roman historian and director of the Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florence on February 16, 2016.  

Novelist’s Papers continued from page 1

mains the coming of age Greek novel for women par excellence. Roderick Beaton, Koraes Professor of Modern Greek and Byzantine History, Language and Literature at King’s College London, considers it a pioneering work that “anticipates the style and preoccupations of Greek fiction in the 1970s and 1980s.” Too daring for its time, the novel did not become popular until after the Metapolitefsi (1974). From 1974–1984, however, it was reprinted more than fifteen times.

Lymberaki, nee Fexi, studied Law at the University of Athens. Her grandfather Ioannis Kokkonas and her mother, also a prominent poet, were major influences in her life. She was influenced by post-war European literary movements; she befriended philosophers Kornelios Kastoriadis and Costas Axelos, poet Odysseus Elytis, and author Albert Camus. If in the early 1940s Lymberaki found WWII too painful to cope with and retreated nostalgically to the 1930s as a source of inspiration, the Greek Civil War comprised the main theme of her next work, The Other Alexander (Ο Άλλος Αλέξανδρος), an allegorical novel that was published in 1950. It is a story of love and hate between the two families that reflects the fratricidal conflict of the civil war. “I am deeply moved by this book. It is true poetry,” Camus wrote on the front cover of The Other Alexander. Lymberaki’s third novel The Rite (Το Μυστήριο), published in 1976, is an idiosyncratic political novel mixing the ancient ritual of σπαραγμός with the student uprising at the Athens Polytechnic School. Lymberaki also wrote plays (e.g., Η γυναίκα του Καν-δαλή), as well as the script for the motion picture Phaedra (with Melina Merkouri and Antony Perkins, 1962) where she adapted Euripides’ Hippolytus into a melodrama combining elements from the lives of Greek ship owners with ancient drama.

The second woman with a literary career in the Lymberaki family was Margarita Karapanou (1946–2008), the daughter of Rita Lymberaki. Karapanou, who also spent her life in Paris and Athens, is the author of several novels, including Kassandra and the Wolf (New York 1976), The Sleepwalker (Ο Υπνοβάτης, 1983), and Rien ne va plus (1994). The Sleepwalker, published in French as Le somnambule, by Gallimard was awarded the Prix du Meilleur livre étranger in 1988. Her two autobiographical books (Δε μ’ αγαπάς, Μ’ αγαπάς and Η ζωή είναι αγαπή-ως αντίθετη), which describe her mental illness and her difficult relationship with her mother, were published a few days before her death in 2008.

Karen van Dyke, professor of Modern Greek Literature at Columbia University, considers Karapanou as one of “the most important writers of her generation who straddled the boundary between the Modernism of the early twentieth century and the postmodernism of the late century.” George Fragopoulos, professor of English at Queensens Community College, CUNY, writes “if Karapanou had written in a language less “minor” than Greek, her name would be a far more familiar one in the canon of world literature.”

The Lymberaki/Karapanou archive is one of the most important Greek literary collections acquired by the American School of Classical Studies at Athens in recent years. Since Frank Walton acquired the George Seferis and the Odysseus Elytis papers for the Gennadius Library in the 1970s, the Library and the Archives have made thoughtful acquisitions to build what is perhaps the best literary archive for the study of Modern Greek Literature in Greece or abroad.

— Natalia Vogelhoff-Brogan  
Doreen Canaday Spitzer Archivist

From the Librarian continued from previous page

Foundation for two library interns to clean up data in the Library Union catalog AMBROSSA for a year: Eleni Karagianni works at the Blegen Library and George Tsononas at the Gennadius Library. The two interns joined the Library team on July 1, 2015. A generous grant from The Hellenic Initiative will fund two more library interns in 2016.
Library Inaugurates Summer Series “Nights of Classical Music”

A packed Cotsen Hall of 375+ guests came alive each evening during August 21–22 and 24–25 with the sounds of world-class performances in opera, musical theatre, chamber music, and more for “Nights of Classical Music at the Gennadius Library.” The ASCSA and the Gennadius Library, in collaboration with the Schwarz Foundation (Germany, Greece), were delighted to host celebrated musicians from The Curtis Institute of Music (Philadelphia) for a concert series that left Athenians enthusiastically demanding an encore festival next year.

The Curtis Institute is one of the world’s finest and most selective conservatories. The audience enjoyed an opening of Chopin favorites performed by pianist Alexander Ullman the first evening, before being treated the second night to the talents of soprano Ashley Milanese, bass-baritone Thomas Shivone, and pianist Mikael Eliasen (Artistic Director of the Curtis Opera Theatre) who performed opera arias and duets, musical theatre classics, and gems from Mozart, Handel, Donizetti, and Bernstein. In an engaging recital on August 24, cellist Timotheos Petrin along with Alexander Ullman performed beloved chamber works by Beethoven, Falla, Schumann, and Piazzolla. The final evening’s attendees witnessed Curtis Institute students, faculty, and alumni come together for a very moving recital of vocal and instrumental chamber music including selections by Rossini and Bernstein. Timotheos Petrin and Alexander Ullman performed a touching composition of cellist Leferis Papastavrou based on Greek folk melodies.

The timing of “Nights of Classical Music at the Gennadius Library” could not have been better, punctuating a historically eventful Greek summer, welcoming Athenians back from the islands and villages, and making way for a hopeful, bustling autumn. The special combination of arts and culture institutions that collaborated for the event, which offered free admission, and the leaders who made it happen also deserve a round of applause. Dr. Maria Georgopoulou, Director of the Gennadius Library, and Chiona Xanthopoulou-Schwarz, Director of the Schwarz Foundation, worked together to coordinate an Athens stop for Curtis on Tour, the global touring initiative of The Curtis Institute, generously funded by Baroness Nina von Maltzahn through the Anna-Maria and Stephen Kellen Foundation.

The ASCSA hopes to make this musical epilogue of celebrated masterpieces, familiar rhythms, timeless melodies, and internationally-renowned musical guests a reality for next August.

Philoi Organize Successful Events to Benefit Library

The Association of the Philoi (Friends) of the Gennadius Library in Greece had a busy year supporting the educational aims of the Library through the annual bookfair, lectures, films, and trips to various cultural institutions in Greece and abroad. Highlights included an engaging archaeological tour of Eleusis by site director Popi Papaggi, a trip to Vienna and the Monastery of Melk in Austria, and a visit to the archaeological site of Vravrona with informative commentary by Professor Lila Marangou. Corinth Excavations Director Guy Sanders led a group through medieval and post-medieval Corinth and offered updates on recently uncovered remains in the area.

Renowned artist Christos Bokoros lectured on the search of truth in art and life, while Maria Iliou’s film on Greek immigration to the United States attracted a large audience during a special screening. Landscape architect Thomas Doxiadis delivered a thoughtful presentation on green infrastructure for Athens. The signature event planned by the Philoi is the “Day in Memory of Joannes Gennadius.” This year’s celebration of the Library’s benefactor and namesake featured author and journalist J. Kairoyllas, while the 2016 lecture will be given by H.E. the British Ambassador John Kittmer on January 27.

This year saw a considerable increase in Friends membership, in addition to substantial financial contributions thanks to the work and generosity of Princess Catherine Aga Khan, Reinhard and Maritha Walther, and Maria Embiricos. Proceeds will cover the annual edition of the New Griffin. The Philoi also facilitated the donation of an original manuscript of Constantine Cavafy’s famous poem “Τα κεριά” (The Candles) from the Princess, who desired the piece, a family legacy, to reside in the Gennadius Library Archives.

The ASCSA hopes to make this musical epilogue of celebrated masterpieces, familiar rhythms, timeless melodies, and internationally-renowned musical guests a reality for next August.

— Ambassador Anastasios Krichoulis
President of the Philoi

Manuscript of the poem ‘Τα κεριά’ (The Candles) of Konstantinos Cavafis, with handwritten dedication to Alec Scouffi