



# Gennadeion News

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

## DEVELOPMENT NEWS

### Chair Pledges \$1 Million for Capital Campaign

Gennadeion Board Chair Lloyd Cotsen has pledged a challenge grant of \$1 million to be matched by fellow Trustees, as a first step in laying the groundwork for the Library's second capital campaign, set to launch in 2008. Matching gifts and pledges of over \$1 million have already been received.

The campaign comes some ten years after the launch of the Library's first campaign, which raised about \$11 million towards renovations, expansion, and endowment. The new campaign will enable the Library to rebuild the West Wing and Main Entrance Court, the last remaining components of its building program; and raise endowment for operations and future growth.

Campaign leadership is in the hands of the Board's Executive Committee, led by Mr. Cotsen; Catherine deG. Vanderpool, President; Nassos Michas and Nicholas Bacopoulos, both Vice-Chairs; and Alexander Zagoreos, Secretary-Treasurer. The Trustees are working closely with School leadership to coordinate the Gennadeion campaign with that planned for the School.

### Other News

Gennadeion Trustees have donated and raised \$175,000 towards expenses associated with the Gennadeion capital campaign.



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## Rare Books Acquired for Gennadeion

Although the cost of purchasing rare books has reached heights beyond anything John Gennadius could have ever anticipated, the Library occasionally manages to spot a treasure within reach.

Thanks to the sharp eye of Librarian Irini Solomonidi, the Library recently acquired *Venetia, città nobilissima et singolare, descritta in XIII libri da M. Francesco Sansovino*, published by Iacomo Sansovino in Venice in 1581. Francesco Sansovino was the son of renowned sculptor and architect Jacopo Sansovino, designer of the Marciana Library in Venice, among much else. The younger Sansovino wrote two guides to Venice; the Gennadeion's, an excellent copy bound in

eighteenth-century Italian vellum with a morocco label, is the first edition of the larger of these, both of which served as a prototype for later guides.

In another fortunate acquisition, the Library has purchased *Trattato dell'immagine della Gloriosa Vergine Dipinta da San Luca, Conservata già molti secoli nella Ducal Chiesa di San Marco della Città di Venetia*, written by Monsignore Giovanni Thiepolo, primicerius of the Basilica of San Marco, and published in Venice by Alessandro Polo in 1618. An extremely rare first and only edition, this monograph discusses the icon of the Madonna Nicopeia (Our Lady of Victory) now in the Basilica of San Marco in Venice. Believed to have been

*The Thiepolo manuscript, published in 1618: an extremely rare first (and only) edition.*

painted by the hand of St. Luke during the lifetime of the Virgin, this miracle-working icon—according to legend—was captured by the Venetians during the siege of Constantinople in 1204 and thereafter brought to the city, where it was venerated and became a palladium in the Renaissance.

Both of the new acquisitions are welcome additions to the Library's growing collection of materials on Venice and the Venetians, who played a key role in the history of Greece for many centuries. ❁

## Pausanias Explored by Exhibition and Symposium

Few ancient authors have been as influential in modern classical scholarship as Pausanias, the second-century A.D. traveler whose *Hellos Periegesis (Travels Through Greece)* has served for hundreds of years as a point of reference for exploring the art, archaeology, culture, and topography of ancient Greece. To illuminate his manifold contributions, in May 2007 the Gennadius Library and the National Hellenic Research Foundation organized an exhibition, "Following Pausanias," along with a three-day international symposium that focused on the impact of Pausanias on European thought.

The Gennadeion exhibition, curated by Library Director Maria Georgopoulou and by Aliko Asvesta, drew on its own materials, much of it assembled by John Gennadius himself. For many early travelers to Greece, Pausanias was indispensable in their quest for the monuments and the art of classical Greece. This tradition of travel is intimately connected with the rise of antiquarianism and the advent of archaeological exploration in the early modern period. It produced a wealth of manuscripts, rare books, precious bindings, archives, maps, engravings, and works of art about Greece, many

*Gennadeion News* pages are compiled by Gennadius Library Director Maria Georgopoulou, Librarian Irini Solomonidi, and Archivist Natalia Vogeikoff-Brogan, and edited by Catherine deG. Vanderpool, President of the Board of the Gennadius Library, and Sally Fay, Editorial Associate.

This publication is produced semi-annually. Address all correspondence to *Gennadeion News*, ASCSA, 6–8 Charlton St., Princeton, NJ 08540-5232. Tel: (609) 683-0800 or e-mail: [ascsa@ascsa.org](mailto:ascsa@ascsa.org). This issue is reproduced in color at: [www.ascsa.edu.gr/publications/Akoue](http://www.ascsa.edu.gr/publications/Akoue).

*In 2008, the Gennadius Library will put online its Travelers' Database, a research tool based on the Library's famous "Geography and Travel" section of the collections. This database, the fruit of many years of work by Aliko Asvesta, indexes information from travelers' texts chronologically according to book, place, monument, occupation, and other subject headings, and offers scholars a historical panorama of travel literature. Look to the School website for more information, <http://www.ascsa.edu.gr/gennadius/EducationalPrograms>.*

of which are now in the Gennadeion collections. The exhibition put on display some 100 books, including early editions of Pausanias, as well as books by travelers and scholars, manuscripts, maps, and engravings.

On view at the National Hellenic Research Foundation was a pendant exhibition. Curated by Konstantinos Staikos, the exhibit displayed archaeological models from the Acropolis of Athens, Delphi, and Olympia as well as rare editions of Pausanias and other travelers to Greece. Both exhibitions were accompanied by a catalogue in Greek and English, *Στα βήματα του Πανσασίας. Η αναζήτηση της ελληνικής Αρχαιότητας and Following Pausanias. The Quest for Greek Antiquity*, with many images from the Library collections.

The project "Following Pausanias: The Quest for Greek Antiquity" was funded through the "Open Doors—2nd Cycle" Program of the National Hellenic Research Foundation, with expenses for the program shared by the European Regional Development Fund and by Greek national participation. ❀

## Annual Trustees' Dinner

The Trustees of the Gennadius Library honored **Peter Brown**, Philip and Beulah Rollins Professor of History at Princeton University, at their fifth annual Trustees' Dinner in Athens on June 11, 2007. Over 200 people joined the Trustees for the presentation in Cotsen Hall followed by dinner in the Gennadeion East Gardens.



*Honoree Peter Brown with Angeliki Laiou, Harvard University and member of the Academy of Athens.*

Patron of this year's event was Mr. Lavri Lavrentiadis and the Lavrentiadis Group of Companies. Sponsors were the Public Benefit Foundation Alexander S. Onassis, Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Samourkas, and the National Bank of Greece.



*At the June 11 event, from left: Gennadius Library Trustee Apostolos Doxiades, Board President Catherine Vanderpool, and event patron Lavri Lavrentiadis.*

*Photos: H. Akriviadis*

## Development News

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The Fifth Annual Trustees' Dinner in Athens, celebrated on June 11, 2007, netted nearly \$60,000 to be applied to the capital campaign.



The Library purchased special shelving for its oversize rare books with \$75,000 in proceeds from the June 2006 Trustees' Dinner and 2007 Clean Monday benefit in New York City and several individual donors.



Chair Lloyd Cotsen donated \$25,000 towards covering expenses of the Gennadeion Lecture Series and special events in 2006–07.



The Council for American Overseas Research Centers, with funds donated by the Hellenic Telecommunications Company (OTE), awarded the Library a grant of \$30,000 towards electronic cataloguing of its rare Greek periodicals. ❀

## Lecture Series Covers Wide Range of Topics

The Gennadeion Lecture Series for 2006–07 brought some of the world's most distinguished scholars to Cotsen Hall.

**Speros Vryonis, Jr.**, Professor Emeritus of New York University, inaugurated the series with “Μέρες του 1955: τα Σεπτεμβριανά και η καταστροφή της ελληνικής κοινότητας της Πόλης” [Days of 1955: The Events of September and the Destruction of the Greek Community of Constantinople]. He focused on the pogrom that took place in Istanbul on September 6–7, 1955, two days of violence that virtually destroyed the small Greek community that had remained in the city after Turkey defeated Greece in the war of 1922. One of the most eminent Byzantinists of his generation, Mr. Vryonis has worked extensively on the history and culture of the Greeks from Homer to the present, and on their relations with the Slavic, Islamic, and New Worlds.

The year's Walton Lecture was presented in January by **Mark Mazower**, Professor of History at Columbia University, who spoke on “The Virgin Mary and the War of Independence: Religion and Nationalism on Tinos in the 1820s.” Mr. Mazower discussed the establishment of the Greek



Mark Mazower



Slobodan Ćurčić with Library Director Maria Georgopoulou and Antonis Papadimitriou, President of the Onassis Foundation.

Orthodox Cult of the Virgin on Tinos in the 1820s, and the impact of the War of Independence on relations between the island's Catholics and Orthodox inhabitants. The author of numerous books, articles, essays, and reviews focusing on the history of modern Greece, Mr. Mazower's most recent book, *Salonica. City of Ghosts*, was recently translated into Greek. A bestseller in Greece, the book's success helps account for the overflow audience that crammed into Cotsen Hall for his lecture.

In co-sponsorship with the Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation, in February the Library presented **Slobodan Ćurčić**, Professor of Art and Archaeology and Director of the Program in Hellenic Studies at Princeton University, who spoke on “Divine Light: Symbol and Matter in Byzantine Art and Architecture.” Mr. Ćurčić explored how Byzantine architects and painters employed a common symbolic language—expressed in media as different as mosaic, fresco painting, and brick and mortar—to convey the notion of divine light in physical terms. A prolific writer on Byzantine art and architecture, Professor Ćurčić has also trained numerous young scholars on the art history of the medieval Balkans.

Turning to the world of late antiquity, **Traianos Gagos**, Associate Professor of Greek and Papyrology, and Archivist of Papyrol-

ogy at the University of Michigan, spoke on sixth-century A.D. papyri from Petra, particularly the 150 carbonized papyrus rolls discovered during the 1993–94 excavations in the annex of a sixth-century Byzantine basilica. As he described, the papyri help address questions relating to the social classes of the city, the nature of the economy, the role of Petra within the Byzantine Empire, and the ethnic identity of the Nabataeans' successors in the Byzantine period. In addition to his numerous publications on

all aspects of Greek, Roman, and Byzantine Egypt and Petra, Mr. Gagos is director of an international digital consortium project, the Advanced Papyrological Information System (APIS), which seeks to make all papyrus collection in North America and worldwide available on the Internet through electronic cataloguing and digital imaging.

Byzantine icons were the focus of the lecture presented by **Robert Nelson**, Professor of the History of Art at Yale University, in March. In “The Light of Icons at Mount Sinai,” he explored the sources of light in the Church of St. Catherine on Sinai as well as the use of religious icons in the liturgy and as cult objects. He also introduced the exhibition “Icons from Sinai” that he curated at the J. Paul Getty Museum, exploring issues of display and appreciation of powerful religious objects in the context of a secular museum.

## Library Receives Donations of Books and Papers

Several generous donors have given books and papers from their private collections to the Library. Among these are several nineteenth-century volumes on Greek grammar, history, and literature, as well as Greek translations of French literature, given by Mrs. Georgia Tatsiramou. The Tatsiramou gift will help enrich the Library's section on the history of the Greek language, in particular the section on the science of language.

The Library's history section and archives were enhanced by a gift from Mrs. Julia Souli-Tsouri, who gave several books with a special focus on Epirus as well as Byzantine and Balkan history. Ms. Souli-Tsouri also gave the Library the archives of her father, Christos Soulis (1892–1951), who served as Director of the

prestigious Zosimaia School of Ioannina. The papers cover the period 1919–1946. The history section was also the recipient of books on Greek and Romanian twentieth-century history and culture, thanks to Mr. Stavros Deliyorgis.

Adding to the collections of Greek works in translation, Mme. Sophia Prats, Ambassador of Chile to Greece, together with the Director of the Center for Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies of the University of Chile, Professor Miguel Castillo Didier, donated the publications of important Spanish translations of Greek literature, published by the “Centro de Estudios Bizantinos y Neohelénicos Fotios Malleros, Facultad de Filosofía y Humanidades, Universidad de Chile.”

## Mellon Fellow Prepares Mt. Athos Publication

An important trove of material from Mt. Athos nears publication, with Kyrill Pavlikianov, professor of Classics at the University of Sofia, St. Clement, Ochrid, completing final stages of his research at the Gennadius Library with the support of the Mellon Foundation.

In early winter 2007, Mr. Pavlikianov spent three months at the Gennadeion working on 73 documents kept in the post-Byzantine archive of the Monastery of Vatopedi on Mount Athos. The archives, soon to be digitized by the National Hellenic Research Foundation, contain important materials on the history of the Balkans, including documents in Greek, Romanian, Turkish, and Slavic that pertain to areas well outside the Holy Mountain. Among the items that will be included in

Mr. Pavlikianov's book are eight previously unknown documents dated to the period 1462–1527, 32 unpublished charters from the period 1600–1707, and three already known Byzantine acts of the period 1406–1421 that pertain to the village of Lantzozos donated to Vatopedi by the Serbian Despot John Uglješa in 1369–1371.

With the help of the Gennadeion collections, Mr. Pavlikianov was able to complete his research and to write a detailed history of Vatopedi for the period 1462–1707. His fellowship was funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation as part of a program co-sponsored with the Council of American Overseas Research Centers to provide support for scholars from Eastern Europe to carry out research at major American overseas centers. ❀

## Conference Explores International Library Collaborations

Librarians specializing in Modern Greek Studies met for three days at the Gennadius Library in December 2006 to explore the establishment of transnational cooperation among libraries in Greece and North America.

Organized by the Consortium of Hellenic Studies Librarians (CoHSL) and the Gennadius Library, the “Modern Greek Resources Project Meeting” discussed issues of bibliographic control and access, indexing contents of periodicals, reformatting and digitization, and collection development as well as resource sharing. In three roundtables the foundations were set for further collaboration between academic libraries on both sides of the Atlantic.

Among the participants were bibliographers and system librarians

responsible for Modern Greek resources from a number of major U.S. and Greek institutions. The papers have been published in volume 9 of “The New Griffon.” ❀



**Keynote speaker James Simon, Director of International Resources and Director of the Global Resources Network, Center for Research Libraries.**

*Photo: Tina Zafeiropoulou*

## Trustees Visit Turkey

Following their Athens meeting in June 2007, members of the Gennadius Library Board traveled to Istanbul and Edirne. Highlight of the trip was their visit to His All Holiness the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of the Greek Orthodox Church, at the Patriarchate in Istanbul. The Trustees also visited the famed seminary on the island of Halki in the Sea of Marmara, as well as many other sites and monuments in the city itself and nearby Edirne (Adrianoupolis).



**From left: (in background) Trustee Tod Sedgwick; his daughter, Caroline; Helen Milonas, wife of Trustee Leo Milonas; the Patriarch.**

## Research in Dragoumis Archives Bears Fruit

With the help of the Gennadeion Archives, Nanaki Sawayanagi, the 2007 M. Alison Frantz Fellow and Ph.D. candidate at New York University, is helping to reshape thinking about modern Greek history in the first years of the twentieth century.

Contrary to the prevailing view among scholars that disorder and apathy were dominant in the political arena of Greece at the time, papers from statesman Stefanos Dragoumis in the Archives show, according to Ms. Sawayanagi, that he and his colleagues had the will and energy to radically improve Greek government and the political climate.

During her year at the Gennadius Library, Ms. Sawayanagi worked on her dissertation, entitled “The Team of the Japanese [Η Ομάδα των Ιαπώνων]: A Concept and Politics in Greece (1906–1908),” the “Omada” being the political party led by Dragoumis. The papers of the “Third Party” [Τρίτον Κόμμα],

the original name of the “Team of the Japanese,” are particularly significant for her research, since they include handwritten documents of the members and correspondence. The Dragoumis archives also include numerous files on activities of the party in connection with the economic, military, refugee, emigrant, educational, ecclesiastical, and Macedonian issues of the day. Among the questions Ms. Sawayanagi addresses in her thesis are the reasons for the establishment of Dragoumis’ new party, the party goals, the new factors it brought into Greek politics, and the party’s demise.

The Stefanos Dragoumis papers are part of the Dragoumis Family Archive that came to the Gennadius Library in 1960, donated by Philippos Dragoumis. Together with those of his son, Ion, they form one of the most important resources in the Library for the history of twentieth-century Greece and the Balkan peninsula. ❀