

# Gennadeion News

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

## Gennadeion Board Elects New Member

At their October meeting, the Gennadeion Board welcomed Theodore (Tod) Sedgwick as its newest elected member.

Mr. Sedgwick, who began his career as a reporter, later founded Pasha Publications, publishers of newsletters and magazines in the areas of energy, defense, and the environment. He is currently chairman of Io Energy LLC and president of Sedgwick Publishing Company, which publishes daily and weekly periodicals on energy and other topics. His interest in Greece, as well as his introduction to the Gennadius Library, dates to his time as a student at College Year in Athens in 1967. Mr. Sedgwick's experiences in Athens were enhanced by a familial connection: a relative, *New York Times* correspondent Alexander "Shan" Sedgwick,

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*Theodore (Tod) Sedgwick*



## Plans Move Ahead for Restoration of the Gardens

Since they were first laid out in the 1920s, the gardens of the Gennadius Library have long provided readers, friends, and neighbors an oasis of green in the center of downtown Athens. When the campaign for the Gennadius Library was launched in 1997, their restoration and revival formed a central part of the plan, in recognition of their importance not only to those who enter them but also for the surrounding community.

In keeping with the architecture of the Library itself, the gardens were designed in a formal, neo-classical style in 1922. In the early years, white rose bushes flourished alongside the axial paths lined with neat rows of boxwood, and the baby cypresses planted at the corners of the 1926 Main Building took root and began to grow. In later years,

however, through World War II and its aftermath, the bushes and trees suffered from disease and neglect. They were revived briefly in the early 1960s with the help of landscape architect Ralph E. Griswold, who also worked with the American School on the design of the Agora archaeological park. But climatological changes in Athens have forced a reassessment of the plantings. Furthermore, it has become apparent to all that the gardens' design no longer serves the needs of the members and staff of the Library and School or the surrounding community.

In 2001, thanks to the support of the late Deno Leventis, Trustee of the Library, and other generous donors in Greece and the United States, the Library retained The Olin Partnership of Philadelphia, one of America's

*Artist's rendition of the Gennadeion's East Fountain gardens*

*Courtesy The Olin Partnership*

most renowned firms for landscape architecture, to develop a Master Plan. Partners Laurie Olin and Dennis McGlade, along with Associate Cricket Brien, traveled to Athens in February 2002 to assess the garden itself and to speak with students, scholars, faculty, staff, and friends of the Library and School. They also took the opportunity to meet with local landscape contractors and experts in Greek horticulture.

Based on their interviews, site visits, and research on Greek gardens, The Olin Partnership prepared a detailed program as a basis for the Master Plan. The program calls for the elimination

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## Gennadeion Broadens Collections on Venetian Studies

The collections of the Gennadius Library include significant works illuminating the history of Venice and of Greek areas under Venetian domination from the thirteenth to the eighteenth centuries. John Gennadius himself amassed a diverse body of material, including many rare books, documenting the important role played by Venice in the history of post-antique Greece. In 1938 then-Director of the Library, Shirley Weber, made a significant and important contribution to the Venetian collection when he purchased a unique set of late seventeenth–early eighteenth century topographical surveys of cities in the Venetian Peloponnese, commissioned by Francesco Grimani.

Over the past several years, the Library has continued to enhance this already rich collection. In addition to the purchase in recent years of the complete *Studi Veneziani*, in 2002 the Library acquired, through gifts and exchanges, the gamut of publications issued by the distinguished Venetian research center, Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti, founded by Napoleon in the late eighteenth century. Among these are the *Atti dell' Istituto*

### *Codex Grimani, Venetian plan of Modon, early 18th century.*

Photo: Marie Mauzy

*Veneto*, dating from 1939 to the present.

Thanks to these and other acquisitions, such as the 10-volume *Storia della Cultura Veneta, Storia di Venezia*, the Library now possesses a collection of Venetian materials almost unsurpassed outside of Italy. Not only is it important for the study of Venetian and European history, art, and civilization; the collection also supports research in other fields such as archaeology, since Venetian explorers excavated for Greek and Roman antiquities in areas of Venetian domination, including Crete and the Peloponnese. ❀

— Alexis Malliaris  
Special Research Archivist  
(Translation by Anna Nadali)

## Levinge Book Enriches Early Travelers Collection

Thanks to the generosity of newly-elected Library Trustee, Theodore Sedgwick, the Library recently acquired Godfrey Levinge's *The Traveller in the East; being a guide through Greece and the Levant, Syria and Palestine, Egypt and Nubia... Excursions through the Southern provinces of the Kingdom of Naples, Albania, the Ionian Islands, and the principal islands of the Archipelago...* (London: printed by the author, 1839).

The book was initially intended to be a guidebook, “a brief sketch of directions and routes” for “some friends who were...proceeding on a tour into Greece and to the Levant.” Although the title page is dated 1839—when the introduction was typeset—the work was actually finished in about 1846, the date of the preface. It was privately printed by the author; as he notes, “The Traveller, the Author, and Printer, of the following pages is the same person.” Thus, it took Levinge seven years to produce the book. He intended to publish a second volume, to contain “the islands of Asia Minor, Syria and Palestine, Egypt and Nubia,” and as he wrote, “I trust I may not be so long occupied at it, on the contrary I look forward to be able to present it to my friends early next year.” Unfortunately, despite his intentions, he never finished it.

Levinge lived in the Levant from 1831 to 1834, and his manuscript was responsible for much of the information in John Murray's first handbook for trav-

elers in the East, published in 1859. Most of the work is devoted to Greece and Asia Minor, from Smyrna to Constantinople. The binding has the original mauve pictorial cloth gilt, though a little faded, is in octavo format, and is about 340 pages long. A rare first edition, the book is a welcome addition to the Library's world-famous collection of works by early travelers to Greece and the Eastern Mediterranean. ❀

— Anna Nadali  
Associate Librarian

## Philoï Notes

The *Philoï* inaugurated their winter program in December with a lecture by Ambassador Ioannes Bourlogiannis-Tsangarides on “The Greek Revolution and the German Philhellenes,” held at the Historical and Ethnological Society of Greece. Next, the *Philoï* inaugurated the new year with the cutting of the vassilopita and a lecture at the Archaeological Society, where Linos Benakis presented “Pages of History and of the History of Philosophy in the Last Decades of the Byzantine Empire: Gennadios, Pletho, Bessarion.”

Winter activities will conclude with the annual lecture in memory of John Gennadius, to be held in the Gennadius Library reading room on February 26. Thanos Veremis, Professor and Konstantinos Karamanlis Chair, Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, is the scheduled speaker. ❀

## Mark Your Calendars!

The New York–area friends of the Gennadius Library are organizing a third annual Clean Monday celebration, to be held March 10 at Estiatorio Milos in New York City. For more information, please contact Jane Goble at the U.S. office of the Library (telephone: 609-683-0800; e-mail: jgoble@ascsa.org).



## From the Archives

## The Kastriotis Papers: Portrait of an Artist

In 2000 the Gennadius Library acquired the papers of noted sculptor George Kastriotis from his widow Mary Kastriotis. Besides their intrinsic value as the record of one of Greece's well-known figures in twentieth-century art, the papers also amplify the Library's collection of archives connected with the family of Heinrich Schliemann.

George Kastriotis was the nephew and godchild of Sophia Schliemann, a member of the Kastromenos (later Kastriotis) family. Born in Athens in 1899, he was the only son in a family with four daughters. His father died when he was five and his family soon moved to Paris.

In 1917 he attended the Engineering School in Lausanne, although health problems prevented him from finishing his studies. He was evidently interested in the applied sciences throughout his life, to judge not only from his numerous inventions but also from the structure of his sculptures and his knowledge of materials. Among his papers are several blueprints for inventions such as "An electric clock operated by the swinging of a metal sphere" or "A hydraulic installation to supply water (or any liquid) to a tank and evacuate it automatically through a single pipe, in cases of failure of water supply."

After performing his military service, Kastriotis traveled in Austria, Germany, and Italy, visiting museums and sites and discovering his attraction to art. In 1926 his uncle showed the great twentieth-century sculptor Émile-Antoine Bourdelle one of Kastriotis' first pieces of sculpture. Bourdelle admitted Kastriotis to the Académie de la Grande Chaumière and his private atelier, where he studied for two years—a period about which he would speak enthusiastically



*Kastriotis putting his final touch on the clay model of John F. Kennedy's bust, 1965.*

Photo: ASCSA Archives

for the rest of his life.

This fruitful period came to an end in 1928, when he yielded to his mother's request that he return to Athens. There, he continued to pursue his interest in art. In 1930, he passed the examinations at the School of Fine Arts of the Athens Polytechnic School and began to participate in sculpture competitions. During this early phase Kastriotis created several works, which show some tentativeness in execution: the *Mourning Goddess*, *Life*, a *Sleeping Woman*, a relief called *At the tomb of Eleftherios Venizelos*, and a bust of his aunt and godmother *Sophia Schliemann, wearing the diadem of Troy*. He worked as a conservator during 1935 and 1936 at the National Archaeological Museum and the Acropolis Museum, where he improved his knowledge of technique, but soon resigned because he wanted to concentrate on sculpture.

When World War II began, Kastriotis was living with his mother at the family home at

Psychiko. After finishing a relief called *Greece and the Berlin-Rome Axis*, he stopped working for several years, exhausted not only psychologically but also physically due to lack of food. The death of his mother, in 1943, increased his feelings of sorrow and pain.

Greece's liberation from the German occupation reinvigorated Kastriotis. Between 1946 and 1966, he created 76 sculptures, organized two major exhibitions of his work, and participated in Panhellenic exhibitions in Athens, Paris, Stockholm, and Copenhagen. In 1958, he exhibited 70 works, an impressive quantity, in the Parnassus Hall. His second one-man show, at the Hellenic-American Union in 1965, featured 72 of his works. Among them was a copy of the bust of John F. Kennedy that Kastriotis created after the president's assassination and sent to his widow Jacqueline, who placed it in the Kennedy Library in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Kastriotis led a life devoted to art. Although he died in 1969 without receiving proper critical recognition, his widow has worked energetically to establish his posthumous reputation. Mary Kastriotis donated 80 of her husband's works to the Municipality of Piraeus and they are permanently housed and exhibited at the Kastriotis Room. She also wrote the biographical introduction to *Georgios Kastriotis, the Sculptor* (Athens, 2002), which forms the basis of this article. This volume contains a reassessment of Kastriotis' work by Paolo Moreno, Professor of Archaeology and History of Greek and Roman Art at the University of Rome, which validates Kastriotis' status as a sculptor of note. ❀

— Maria Voltera  
Assistant Archivist

### Memorial Concert Scheduled

A concert in memory of long-time Gennadius Library Trustee **Constantine Leventis**, who died in London last July, will take place at the Gennadius Library on May 28. The program will feature English music for the virginal and works by Bach, Marais, and Handel.

For more information, please call the Gennadius Library (telephone: 010-721-0536) or e-mail Gennadius Library Director Haris Kalligas (hkalligas@ascsa.edu.gr) or Head Librarian Sophie Papageorgiou (spapageorg@ascsa.edu.gr).

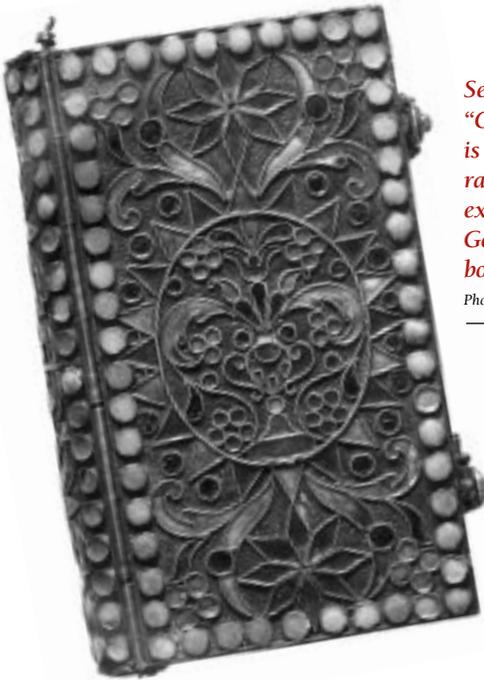
### New Board Member

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lived in Athens at the time, was married to a Greek, and was a well-known figure in postwar Athens.

Subsequent trips to Greece nurtured his interest in the region, and he developed an especially strong affinity for the Byzantine and Ottoman periods. Mr. Sedgwick wrote his thesis on the Greek Rebellion of 1770 and received a B.A. in Ottoman history from Harvard in 1971. His enduring interest in the period is reflected in his passion for collecting rare books on the Greek world and the Ottoman Empire.

Mr. Sedgwick also serves on the boards of the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, D.C., the Civil War Preservation Trust, and the Wetlands America Trust. ❀



*Seventeenth-century “Cloisonné” binding is but one of the many rare and unusual examples in the Gennadeion’s extensive bookbinding collection.*

*Photo: Elias Eliades*

## Exhibition, Catalogue Celebrate Art of Bookbinding

In conjunction with the Seventh International Forum on the Art of Bookbinding, organized in November by the international association Les Amis de la Reliure d’Art (ARA), the Gennadius Library organized an exhibition of rare bindings from its extensive collection, curated by Vangelio Tzanetatos.

Among the items on display is a rare Renaissance Italian leather binding dating to 1464, created for a philosophical treatise written by Manuel Chrysoloras and owned by Sigismondo Malatesta, member of a leading family of the time. Also in the exhibition is an example of one of the Library’s Aldine bindings for a 1504 edition of Homer’s *Odyssey*, printed in Venice. Later Italian bindings are represented by an elaborate cover gold-tooled with the arms of Pope Pius VI, produced in 1774.

In 1924, the School’s President, William Caleb Loring,

wrote to John Gennadius: “The nearly one thousand beautiful bindings which you have gathered in your Library are a unique part of it... These bindings of the sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries are of surpassing interest, not only because they are beautiful examples of the binder’s art, but also because of the famous libraries from which they have come.”

In selecting the bindings for the current exhibition, on display until mid-March, Curator Tzanetatos included examples of the variety of styles represented in the Gennadeion’s collection, as well as those with special or unique characteristics. The exhibition catalogue, published thanks to the generosity of EFG Eurobank Ergasias, includes her detailed observations on over 70 bindings, with color illustrations of 16 of the most exceptional pieces. ❀

## Gardens

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of lawn areas and plants that are foreign to Greece, preservation of existing healthy trees, integration of plants capable of thriving in a Mediterranean climate, and reintroduction of fountains as a focal point. Spatial concerns are also addressed: the program emphasizes preservation of the historic front view of the Library, creation of outdoor spaces suitable for public gatherings, and delineation of private and public space. Circulation requirements and provisions for servicing the grounds were also included in the program.

With this framework, The Olin Partnership produced a Master Plan that designates five main garden areas, each with a distinctive character integrated into the overall fabric of the gardens. The Hall Terrace and East Fountain Gardens will become public areas, associated with the new auditorium, Cotsen Hall, and the entrance from Anapirou Polemou Street flanking the gardens to the east. The Main Entrance Gardens connect the grounds’ main entrance on Souidias Street, facing the School, to the imposing columnar façade of the Library’s Main Building. They, too, have a public character, and will retain the formality of design envisaged by the architects of the Gennadeion, but with changes in plantings. The West Fountain Gardens, which lie to the west of the main entry path, as well as the gardens flanking Loring Hall and Canaday House, a faculty residence, will provide more private garden spaces for students and faculty. The Loring Residence Gardens, nestling in the center of the Loring Hall residential complex, will serve West House, a faculty residence, as well as the Loring Hall dormitories and dining room.

With completion of the renovated and expanded East Wing, and Cotsen Hall, set for winter 2003–04, of immediate concern is the design of the Hall Terrace and East Fountain Gardens. When completed, the Hall Terrace will provide both an outdoor lobby space for public events and an area for receptions. A broad, easily walkable path will descend to the East Fountain Gardens, which will provide additional space for public gatherings. These gardens center on a pergola as well as a fountain area that is part of the original 1920s landscape design. A new fountain will be installed, along with lighting, plantings, paving, and several built-in benches. The two areas will be distinct yet will also be capable of functioning as a unified space adequate for handling 500 people.

The Main Entrance Gardens will also receive attention during this pre-Olympics time frame. Following a simple scheme outlined by The Olin Partnership, these highly visible gardens will be replanted, incorporating native and adapted plants with year-round interest. In the long term, the Master Plan calls for radically regrading these entrance gardens and creating a new access to the Library’s West Wing. However, the final form of the design will depend on decisions connected with the use and layout of the Library’s West Wing, still under discussion.

A color booklet entitled *The Gennadeion Garden Workbook: Creating a Master Plan* is available upon request from [jgoble@ascsa.org](mailto:jgoble@ascsa.org) in the U.S., for \$5.00 to cover shipping and handling. ❀

This publication of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens is produced semiannually. Address all correspondence to Newsletter Editor, ASCSA, 6–8 Charlton Street, Princeton, NJ 08540-5232. Tel: (609) 683-0800 or e-mail: [ascsa@ascsa.org](mailto:ascsa@ascsa.org).