



# Gennadeion News

A NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN SCHOOL OF CLASSICAL STUDIES AT ATHENS

## Curtis on Tour Performs in Cotsen Hall

The magic of music performed by the gifted musicians of the Curtis Institute of Music attracted large crowds to Cotsen Hall for a second year in a row thanks to the support of the Schwarz Foundation.

Through its various music, art and theater programs, the Schwarz Cultural Foundation promotes intercultural dialogue between people actively engaged in the creation of a new Europe. The Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia is “one of the best Academies in the world” (BBC Culture) offering talented young musicians a tuition-free,

performance-inspired program. The global touring group of the Institute, Curtis on Tour, was initiated by Baroness Nina von Maltzahn. Students participate in concerts around the world performing musical works with well-known alumni and professors thus obtaining a wonderful professional experience.

This year’s performances featured pianist Leon McCawley, guitarist Jason Vieaux, violinist Nigel Armstrong, cellist Jean Kim, and violist Roberto Díaz, President of the Curtis Institute of Music, who played pieces by Haydn, Schubert, Chopin, Bach, Brahms, Mauro Giuliani,



*Members of Curtis on Tour take their bows*

Isaac Albéniz, Paulo Bellinati, Hans Werner Henze, Antonios-Carlos Jobim, Duke Ellington,

Fernando Bustamante, Zoltán Kodály, Tian Zhou, and Nicolò Paganini. ❁

## George Theotokas Joins the '30s Generation at the Gennadius

The papers of the man who penned the manifesto of the '30s Generation (and also credited by many with coining that term) joined the Archives of the Gennadius Library, together with the papers of George Seferis, Odysseus Elytis, Stratis Myrivilis, Angelos Terzakis, and Elias Venezis.

At the age of 24, Yorgos Theotokas (1905–1966) addressed to his peers a daring and provocative essay that he wrote about the aspirations of his generation, advocating both individualism and pluralism, exposure to international literary currents, and a break from the provincialism and isolation of the previous century. Subsequently he established himself as one of the leading novelists, playwrights, and essay-

ists of his generation. One of his novels, *Leonis* (Λεωνής, 1940), the coming of age and adventures of a boy growing up in Constantinople before 1922, was translated into eight languages including English and Japanese. Vassilis Lambropoulos of the University of Michigan considers Theotokas the most pivotal figure of that generation: “He was the person whom everybody knew, liked, trusted, consulted, collaborated with.”

The sister of Theotokas, Lily Alivizatou (“κυρία Λιλή” as she is known to family and friends), not only has been responsible for processing and cataloguing the Theotokas papers since the author’s death in 1966, but also for making the collection available to anyone who has conducted



*George Theotokas (in suit) with actors of the National Theater of Northern Greece, Thessaloniki ca. 1950*

research on the '30s Generation and the history of Greece. In 2015, Mrs. Alivizatou decided that it was time to part with the papers of her brother, which her family donated to the Gennadius Library. On July 1, 2016 my colleagues Leda Costaki and Alexis Malliaris packed up the archive

in 25 boxes in the presence of “κυρία Λιλή” and the transfer took place the day after. The collection has been re-housed in archival boxes and is available for research.

—Natalia Vogeikoff-Brogan  
Doreen Canaday Spitzer Archivist

## World's Rarest Book of Botany on Display

The Gennadius Library presented *Flora Graeca*, a ten-volume masterpiece of Greek flora, to approximately 2,000 visitors from March 8 to June 30, 2016. The pioneering work by 18th century botanist John Sibthorp, with 966 water-color drawings by Ferdinand Bauer, was the main focus of an exhibition highlighting the eastern Mediterranean's contribution to botanical studies from ancient times to the early modern period.

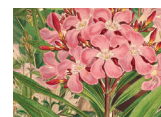
The exhibition which was sponsored by the Bodossaki Foundation and Lana Mandyla in memory of her mother Theodoti, also featured materials graciously lent by the Goulandris Natural History Museum, the Ilias Lalaounis Jewelry Museum, Hermès, the Biology Department of the University of Athens and the Piraeus Bank Group Cultural Foundation.

A series of lectures inspired by *Flora Graeca*, seminars on



topics including therapeutic plants and archaeobotany, roundtable discussions, and a visit to The Mediterranean Garden Society's demonstration garden in Peania to see living examples of plants depicted in *Flora Graeca*, offered audiences several ways to appreciate Greece's rich botanical life and its role in the development of botany as a scientific field. ❀

*Top: Lavandula stoechas plant drawn by Ferdinand Bauer from Sibthorp's Flora Graeca. Bottom: an Ikebana demonstration by Ioanna Charitou-Bartzyk was part of the many events taking place during the exhibition*



**Missed the exhibition? Explore with the app by Clío**

**Muse: <http://bit.ly/FloraGraeca-en>**

## Lectures Explore Common Cultural Expressions of Greece and Turkey

In a series of talks initiated by Ottoman historian Evangelia Balta of the National Hellenic Research Foundation entitled "Glimpses of the Past in the Cultural Expressions of Greece and Turkey," seven academics from those nations explored different facets of cultural interactions between the two countries.

Arzu Öztürkmen of Boğaziçi University and Yannis Papadopoulos of the University of Athens discussed televised serials of historical fiction within their social context. Anna Stavrakopoulou of the Aristotelian University of Thessaloniki spoke on Karagiozis's performances in Greek

cities and the countryside while sociologist Serdar Öztürk of Ankara's Gazi University explored Karagöz's performances in Ottoman coffeehouses. The musical exchanges and influences between the Muslims and the religious/ethnic minorities in the Ottoman Empire such as the Greeks, the Jews and the Armenians was the theme of the third session, presented by Panagiotis Poulos of the University of Athens and Okan Murat Öztürk of Başkent University, Ankara.

The initiative was sponsored by the Turkish Doğu Group and the Culture and Tourism Office of the Turkish Embassy at Athens. ❀

## Digitization of the "Akolouthies" collection of Dory Papastratou

The Dory Papastratou collection of 665 printed pamphlets of "Akolouthies," which record the worship of particular saints in church, was offered to the Gennadius Library by her daughters, Daphne and Marina Eliades, and was digitized thanks to a grant by the Demos Foundation. The collection can be accessed freely on the internet at [www.ascsa.edu.gr/index.php/gennadius/the-akolouthies-digitization-project](http://www.ascsa.edu.gr/index.php/gennadius/the-akolouthies-digitization-project). Kriton Chrysochoidis of the National Hellenic Research Foundation and Anastasia Tourta of the European Centre for Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Monuments presented the materials collected by Dory Papastratou on November 18, 2016 in Cotsen Hall.





## News from the Librarian

Five skilled library interns have cleaned-up the union catalog AMBROSIA and separated the rare from non-rare materials at the Gennadius Library in preparation for RFID and security tagging thanks to the support of the Latsis Foundation, The Hellenic Initiative and the Demos Foundation.



The Library has joined the Consortium of European Research Libraries (CERL), and has hosted Geri Della Rocca de Candali from Oxford, an expert on early Greek books, who has recorded information found in 15th-century printed books (incunabula) in the Material Evidence in Incunabula database (MEI). Senior Librarian Irini Solomonidi attended the CERL Annual General Meeting and Seminar, *Manuscripts: innovation and collaboration* at the Bibliothèque nationale in Paris (October 20–21). The next Meeting of CERL will take place in Athens in March 2017 and will be co-hosted by the Gennadeion and the Aikaterini Laskaridis Foundation.

### New Acquisitions

The Library acquired the following items: a very rare first edition of Bochart's *Geographiae sacrae*

printed in Caen in 1646, which includes five different alphabets (Latin, Greek, Jewish, Arab and Ethiopian); a manuscript concerning Greece in the hand of philhellene Hugues Pouqueville (1824 to 1827); and a 1776 French edition of the *Iliad*. Two important editions were also added to the Library's collection: a bilingual edition of Saint Justin printed in Venice in 1747 in Greek and Latin, and a 1774 German translation of the apocalyptic texts of Pseudo-Methodius, containing two folded plates with illustrated prophecies about the Ottomans.



Georgios Veloudis (1935–2014), Professor of Modern Greek and Comparative Literature at the University of Ioannina, bequeathed his library and the rights to his publications to the Gennadius Library. An inventory of the collection of 5,639 books was drafted by Mina Rodi with the help of Eleni Pylarinou of the Friends of the Gennadius library and that of a summer intern from Smith College, Sophie Herreid.



Inspired by the exhibition *Flora graeca* in June 2016, visual artist Judith Allen-Efstathiou donated to the Gennadius Library the

*Mapping the Walk* archive, which consists of 36 original graphite and gouache drawings based on her field sketchbooks that record the flora growing along an ancient footpath on the island of Kea.



Thanks to the efforts of the Library's Friend, well-known author Athena Kakouri, a selection of documents and photographs belonging to Loukia Efstratiadou,

who supervised many activities of the post-World War II Royal Welfare Fund (Vassiliki Pronoia), have been given to the Gennadeion.



Professor Curtis Runnels donated to the Library two manuscripts from his private collection, a Greek prayer book of 1805, and a collection of Greek songs rendered into French followed by an account of a journey to Juilly, France in 1807.

## A.G. Leventis Foundation Honored at School Gala



*Anastasis Leventis accepts the Gennadius Prize from Gennadius Overseer Leo Milonas, with Typhaine (Zagoreos) de Bure and Library Director Maria Georgopoulou*

On May 12, 2016, almost 300 people gathered at the Metropolitan Club in New York to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the Gennadius Library and the 135th year of the American School's work in preserving, protecting, and promoting the past. The event raised over \$300,000 to support the work of the School and the Library.

The first Gennadius Prize for "outstanding contributions to the advancement of knowledge of post-antique Greece" was accepted by Anastasis Leventis on behalf of the A. G. Leventis Foundation. Based on the vision of the Cypriot entrepreneur Anastasios G. Leventis, the Foundation promotes the dissemination of Greek and Cypriot cultural heritage, and facilitates public benefit programs, environmental protection projects, and medical research. The Foundation has been an active supporter of the Library's activities for the past 20 years and funds the Medieval Greek Summer Session.



*Apocalyptic texts of Pseudo-Methodius: illustration of prophecies about the Ottomans*

## Philoi Host Busy Schedule of Events

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, trips and visits to various cultural institutions including the new Wiener Lab of the American School.

Highlights included a tour of Chania and the spectacular new archaeological Museum of Eleutherna, led by its inspiring director, Professor Nikos Stampolidis, and an engaging tour of the new archaeological museum of Thebes, monastery of Skripou and Orchomenos by the Director of the American School, Dr.

James C. Wright.

Journalist Elena Matheopoulos presented a stimulating lecture on Greek gods, myths and heroes in opera, and Professor Ioli Kalavrezou of Harvard University spoke about real, symbolic and imaginary gardens in Byzantium.

Stavros Benos, President of the DIAZOMA Association, gave an inspiring presentation exploring the value and magic of synergy for the development of a fruitful regional strategy, while art historian Fani-Maria Tsigakou shared with the *Philoi* her unique insights on the art and personality of artist Yiannis Moralis.



*Prof. Stampolidis leads a tour of the storerooms at Eleutherna*

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 professor and journalist Nikos Bakounakis who gave a captivating lecture on the role of the book in the digital era.

This year saw a considerable increase in Friends membership,

in addition to financial contributions thanks to the work and generosity of Princess Catherine Aga Khan, and Reinhard and Martha Walther. Proceeds will cover the annual edition of the *New Griffon*.

— Ambassador Anastassios Kriekoukis, President of the *Philoi*

## Fellows at the Gennadius Library

Juan Carmona Zabala is the M. Alison Frantz for the academic year. A Ph.D. candidate at the University of California, San Diego, Juan is researching the history of Oriental tobacco in Greece and Germany (1880–1945).



Last year’s Alison Frantz Fellow, Simos Zeniou from Harvard University, continues to use the library for his dissertation research on 18th and 19th century literature and philhellenism.



Two NEH fellows are using the collections of the Gennadius: Michelle Louise Zerba from Louisiana State University, is working on a project entitled

*Modern Odysseys: Reading Homer with C.P. Cavafy, Virginia Woolf, and Aimé Césaire*; and Nassos Papalexandrou of the University of Texas at Austin is working on *Greek Antiquities as Diplomatic Gifts in Greek-US Relationships after WW II*.



The Cotsen Travel Fellow, Merih Erol from Koç University, will be researching American Evangelism and Greek-speaking populations in the Late Ottoman empire. Byzantinist Magdalene Breidenthal of Yale University is working for her dissertation on church, and Professor Molly Greene of Princeton University used the Gennadius Library for her latest book on the Kleftes and Armatoloi.

## Rovertos Saragas (1927–1979) Dancer, Choreographer, Teacher and Director

The personal archive of dancer Rovertos Saragas was recently catalogued and is now open to researchers interested in performing arts and dance in Greece in the 1950s and 1960s. A ballet dancer praised by author and critic Andreas Karantonis for the expressiveness of his hands and his passion and purity, Saragas divided his time between Athens, Berlin, and London. From 1958 he attended the famous Mary Wigman Academy for Dancers and Actors in Berlin, and in 1963 he joined the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art, as well as the Royal Shakespeare Company. One of the highlights of his time as teacher at the Royal Academy of Modern Art was the 1966 production of Sophocles’ *Oedipus the King*, which was hailed “as one of the best recent productions by students of the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art” by *The Times*. The archive includes personal and profes-



*Rovertos Saragas in an artistic photo shoot, circa early 1950s*

sional correspondence (with the painter Marios Loizides, poet Maria Servaki, and Dame Dorothy Tutin among others), newspaper clippings and promotional material of his performances, handwritten notes, and audiovisual material. The collection was donated by the dancer’s brother-in-law Kimon Charalambides.

— Eleftheria Daleziou  
Historian/Reference Archivist



Gennadeion News pages are compiled by Gennadius Library Director Maria Georgopoulou, Senior Librarian Irini Solomoni, Executive Assistant and Communications Co-ordinator Maria Smali, and Doreen Canaday Spitzer Archivist Natalia Vogeikoff-Brogan.

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