

ABOUT LIBRARIES

Creators and Keepers of knowledge

EKT

NATIONAL DOCUMENTATION CENTRE

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Translated by Menelaos Kyparassis

On the title page: Books in the form of papyrus rolls, placed on shelves.
Copperplate based on a lost Roman-era relief from Neumagen, Germany.

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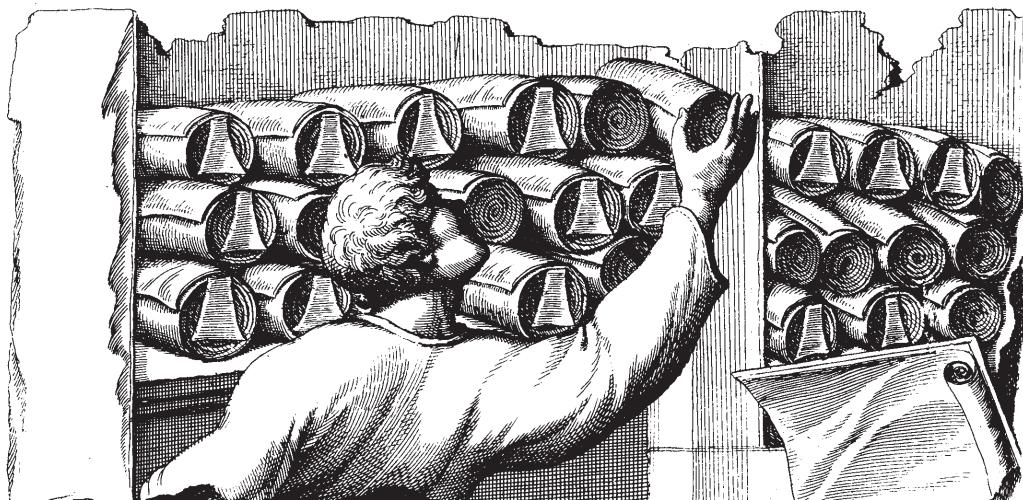
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ABOUT LIBRARIES

www.aboutlibraries.gr

An online encyclopedia
of the world of libraries
from antiquity to the present



NATIONAL DOCUMENTATION CENTRE

ABOUT LIBRARIES

TO THE READER

The publication you are holding is the result of a fortuitous meeting and an important collaboration. It stems primarily from the creative spirit, the great, systematic work of Kostas Staikos and the knowledge he has passionately accumulated about libraries' architecture, history and collections over time.

Since our organisations' start, we at EKT have been collaborating with libraries and Greek knowledge organizations, in order to support them in their transition to the digital age, to showcase the rich variety of their collections and to further facilitate knowledge circulation, which is our founding purpose.

With Kostas Staikos we share a common goal: to enrich and encourage the dialogue between people and the valuable cache of knowledge accumulated in libraries. He is a book historian and a researcher of Hellenic typographic and publishing history since the Renaissance era, who faithfully serves the art of publishing. So we went ahead with our collaboration by creating "About Libraries" website (www.aboutlibraries.gr), where all the available material is made accessible. This content will continue to grow through collaborations with the library network in Greece and abroad and will be available in a user-friendly search environment accompanied by clear licensing information.

At "About Libraries" researcher material meets our technical know-how, state-of-the-art technologies and the organisation's documentation and open access culture. One can find documents and visual material on the libraries' history in the Western and Eastern world, from antiquity to today as well as information on libraries' evolution and typology, the historical context and the intellectual movements that helped shape them. Moreover, for the libraries still present today, one can find information on the history and collections.

TO THE READER

A product of continuous bibliographic and iconographic research, “About Libraries” will be constantly updated by an interdisciplinary team. The classification system that has been developed in order to answer various research questions offers different options for navigating the content, which is displayed as thematic categories and can be indexed alphabetically, chronologically and geographically.

We want to offer an easy-to-use and exciting guide for different user communities looking for information channels and access to knowledge resources. Our ambition is to facilitate this content to reaffirm its universal value, to meet its audience, to influence and be of value in research, in education, in the public sphere. At the same time, we aim to highlight the history and modern day operation of Greek libraries, drawing on data not only from archival sources, but also from the libraries we are contacting.

On the pages of the print edition, the reader has a prelude of what follows in the digital space. One can see a presentation of the types of libraries and some iconic examples that stand out in modern Greek history: the National Library of Greece, a monastic library, a municipal library, a private library and a university library. However, the content of the website is not limited to Greece as it has a universal dimension and scope.

Kostas Staikos edited this publication for the reader’s enjoyment and in order to share knowledge with an “exceptional dimension of depth, offered by the visual experience” as noted by K.Th. Dimaras. We are committed to maintaining this quality in the digital environment.

Evi Sachini
EKT Director

ABOUT LIBRARIES

Cicero in one of his libraries. Engraving from: M. T. Cicero, "Epistolarum", Amsterdam, Blavius & Henricus Westenius, 1684.



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This publication contains representative entries on libraries, in an abbreviated form, all of them stand out in contemporary Greek history. The types of libraries that can be found on the website are included in a relevant table, which will be continuously enriched - its present form is intended as a sample drawn mainly from Greek sources. The abbreviated entry is followed by the titles of the remaining sections, which are developed in detail on the website About Libraries along with the fields of data entry and documentation of bibliography and visual material.

ABOUT LIBRARIES

The homepage of the About Libraries website (www.aboutlibraries.gr).

The screenshot shows the homepage of the About Libraries website. At the top right is a circular logo featuring a stylized figure in a library setting, with the text "ABOUT LIBRARIES" and "Creators and keepers of knowledge" below it. The main background image is a historical illustration of a grand library hall with wooden bookshelves and people studying at tables. Below this, there's a red banner with two large, ornate initial letters and the text "A multi-purpose digital library assembling". Further down, there are sections for "Antiquity" (with an Egyptian relief image) and "Byzantine Era" (with a manuscript page image). At the bottom right is the logo for the National Documentation Centre (EKT) and the Greek eGovernment logo.

ABOUT LIBRARIES
Creators and keepers of knowledge

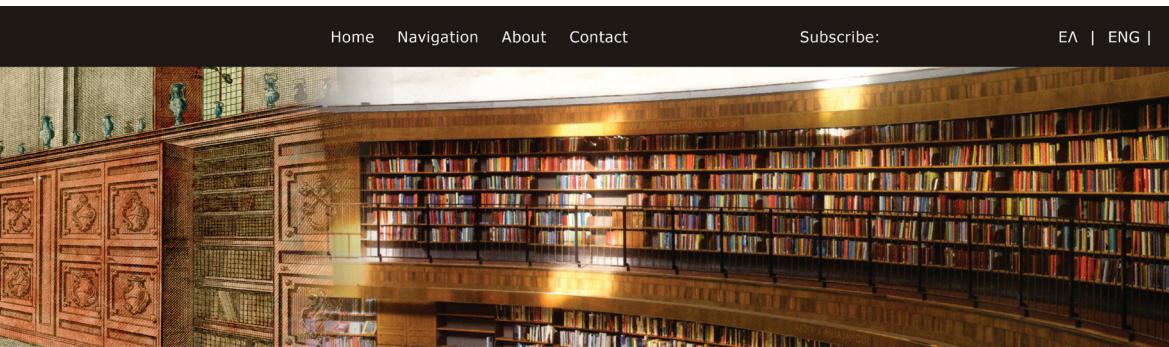
A multi-purpose digital library assembling

Antiquity

Byzantine Era

EKT NATIONAL DOCUMENTATION CENTRE | eCo

Home Navigation About Contact Subscribe: EA | ENG |



Pinelli Gian Vincenzo, Lawyer - book collector

gital encyclopaedia that presents the history and content of
d all over the world from antiquity to the present day ...

 LOCATION

 SUBJECT

Western Middle Ages Renaissance Modern Era

content

repositories EKT
DIGITAL COLLECTIONS

K. Sp. Staikos

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ABOUT LIBRARIES

Types of Greek libraries represented on the website

TYPES OF LIBRARIES	
S E C U L A R	
National libraries	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• National Library of Greece
Public libraries	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public Library of Lefkada• Public Historical Library of Andritsaina
Municipal libraries	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Koventarios Municipal Library of Kozani• Charamogios Special Library of Lefkada• Vikelaia Municipal Library of Heraklion
Institutional libraries	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Library of the Hellenic Parliament• Library of the Ministry of Labor & Social Affairs
University libraries	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Library of the University of Crete• Library of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki• Library of the School of Philosophy of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens
Foundation libraries	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Historical Library of the Aikaterini Laskaridis Foundation• Library of the Hellenic Library and Historical Archive (ΕΛΙΑ)<ul style="list-style-type: none">– National Bank of Greece Cultural Foundation• Hellenic Library of the Onassis Foundation• Library of the Corfu Reading Society
Research libraries	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Library of the Institute of Historical Research of the National Hellenic Research Foundation• Gennadius Library• Library of the Hellenic Institute of Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Studies in Venice

TYPES OF LIBRARIES

TYPES OF LIBRARIES	
Private libraries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library of the Society for the Study of Modern Hellenism - <i>Mnimon</i> Journal • Kaireios Library of Andros
Personal libraries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library of Kostis Palamas (Kostis Palamas Foundation) • Library of Giorgos and Maro Seferis (Vikelaia Municipal Library of Heraklion) • Library of K. T. Dimaras (Aikaterini Laskaridis Foundation) • Library of Adamantios Korais (Public Library of Chios) • Library of Emiliос Typaldos (Library of the Hellenic Parliament) • Library of Giannis Saregiannis (National Hellenic Research Foundation)
School libraries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library of the 1st Gymnasium of Nafplio ("Palamidis" Public Library of Nafplio) • Library of the Gymnasium of Ermoupolis in Syros (General State Archives – Archives of Cyclades Prefecture)
Archival libraries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library of the General State Archives – Central Service Archives • Library of the General State Archives – Archives of Argolis Prefecture
Museum libraries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library of the Benaki Museum • Library of the Byzantine and Christian Museum
THEOLOGICAL	
Patriarchal libraries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople • Library of the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Alexandria
Cathedral libraries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library of the Holy Metropolis of Lefkas and Ithaca • Library of the Holy Metropolis of Grevena
Monastic libraries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library of the Monastery of Simonos Petra at Mount Athos • Library of the Monastery of Saint John the Theologian at Patmos • Library of the Monastery of the Holy Lavra at Kalavryta • Library of the Monastery of the Prophet Elias at Thera

ABOUT LIBRARIES

Pages 12-15
showcase indicative
documentation
fields that
accompany entries.

Erasmus, scholar (People)



Historical period:	Renaissance
Name/Agnomen:	Erasmus (Desiderius)
Attribute/Position:	Scholar
Place of birth:	Rotterdam
Place of death:	Basel
Place of activity:	Gouda Deventer Paris Cambridge London Rome
Date of birth:	ca. 1466
Active during:	15th-16th c.
References:	People Didymus of Alexandria, philologist Lucian, sophist - author Bessarion, cardinal Pliny the Elder, historian Aristotle of Stageira, philosopher Terentius Gnaeus, scribe Aristarchus Diogenes Laertius, author Epicurus Aristophanes of Byzantium, grammarian Libanius, orator Hieronymus Eusebius Sophronius (Saint Jerome) Socrates, philosopher Plato, philosopher Virgil (Publius Vergilius Maro) Theophrastus, philosopher Martialis, poet Horace, poet Ovid, poet Image Gallery Title page of the edition «Adagia», Basel, Johann Froben, 1523 (ph. N Panagiotopoulos). Portrait of Erasmus signed by Albrecht Dürer, «Cabinet des Dessins» (Paris, Louvre Museum). Erasmus composing the «Adagia». Marginal illustration by H. Holbein from the edition, «Laus Stultitiae», Basel 1515. Erasmus, engraving by Albrecht Dürer. Steel engraved portrait of Erasmus by E. Scriven, from the original picture by G. Penn in his Majesty's Collection at Windsor.

DOCUMENTATION FIELDS

The Bodleian Library (Libraries)



Name:	Bodleian Library
Historical period:	Renaissance [Semantics]
Place of establishment:	Oxford [Semantics]
Place of operation:	Oxford [Semantics]
Time of establishment:	1602
References:	<p>People</p> <p>Bodley, Thomas Sir Pliny the Younger, politician - orator Bury Richard de, «Philobiblon» Petrarch, Francis Chrysoloras Manuel Boccaccio, Giovanni</p> <p>Image Gallery</p> <p>Alcove in Duke Humfrey's Library. The ceiling of the library of the Duke of Humfrey. The library of the Duke of Humfrey, with the reinforced floor beams by Gaito (1877) hanging horizontally up to the dome of the Divinity School. Oxford University in an engraving by David Loggan. Manuel Philes, Bestiary. Greek manuscript copied by Angelos Vergikios (1564), with illuminations probably by his daughter. 1647.</p> <p>Theodoros Komnenos Doukas Synadenos and his wife Eudokia, from the Greek codex containing the typikon of the Convent of Bebaia Elpis in Constantinople, 1327-1342. Oxford, Lincoln College (gr. 35, fo. 8r).</p> <p>The portrait of Thomas James which hangs in the Curators' Room with the portraits of other Bodley's Librarians. It is unsigned. From the inscription at the foot of the portrait it can be deduced that it must have been painted after 1620 and before James's death in 1629.</p> <p>Portrait of Duke Humfrey, drawn by Jacques Le Boucq.</p> <p>Sir Thomas Bodley. Engraving after a painted portrait (Mrs. R. Lane Poole, Catalogue of Portraits in the Bodleian Library, 71).</p>
Is Referenced By:	<p>People</p> <p>Hearne Thomas Bodley, Thomas Sir Arethas, archbishop Usher James, archbishop</p>
Notes:	The official opening of the Bodleian Library took place in 1602. However, the initial seed of its operations dates back to the 14th century.
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Identifier:	123 134
Appears in Collections:	Libraries

Library of the Monastery of Great Lavra (Libraries)



Name:	Library of the Great Lavra Monastery
Historical period:	Byzantine Era { Semantics }
Place of establishment:	Great Lavra Monastery (Mount Athos) { Semantics }
Place of operation:	Great Lavra Monastery (Mount Athos) { Semantics }
Time of establishment:	963
References:	<p>People</p> <p>Laskaris Janus Marcus Musurus Manutius, Aldus Aristophanes, comic poet</p> <p>Image Gallery</p> <p>Imaginary view of the Monastery of the Great Lavra and its arsenal. Edited together by Unknown using a watercolour and a photograph from 1810 and 1962 respectively.</p> <p>The phiale at the Monastery of the Great Lavra. Woodcut by D. Lancelot, 1861, from the periodical "Annales archéologiques" by Didron ainé. Gennadius Library, Athens.</p> <p>The exonarthex of the katholikon of the Great Lavra. Photos: S. Meletzis, from «A Photographic Itinerary on Mount Athos», Mount Athos 1996.</p> <p>The Monastery of the Great Lavra. Copperplate by Unknown, 1810. Great Lavra Monastery, Mount Athos.</p>
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Identifier:	92 215
Appears in Collections:	Libraries

Plato's Academy (Architecture)



Historical period:	Antiquity Semantics
Place:	Athens Semantics
Completed:	4th c. BC
References:	<p>People Plato, philosopher Libraries Library of emperor Trajan The Library of Hadrian Image Gallery The Academy of Plato: reconstruction of the layout and function of each space, according to W. Hoepfner. Drawing by K. SP. Staikos. The Academy of Plato: reconstruction of the layout and function of each space, according to W. Hoepfner. Drawing by K. SP. Staikos. Geometric figures in the plan of the Academy. Drawn by K. Sp. Staikos. Plan of the Academy, according to the archaeological evidence, measured drawing by I. Travlos (1967).</p>
Is Referenced By:	<p>People Eratosthenes, poet - mathematician Lycurgus of Athens, politician - orator Lucian, sophist - author Aristotle of Stageira, philosopher Neleus of Scepsis, philosopher Philolaus of Croton, philosopher Archytas, philosopher Plato, philosopher Epicurus Eumenes II Soter, king of Pergamon Bion of Borysthenes, philosopher Theophrastus, philosopher Themistius, teacher - philosopher Libraries Introduction text for "Libraries" Architecture The Lyceum of Aristotle Hadrian's library in Athens</p>
License:	In Copyright (InC)
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Identifier:	264 375
Appears in Collections:	Architecture

PREFACE BY K. SP. STAIKOS

The *About Libraries* website is a multi-purpose encyclopaedia that presents the history and content of libraries assembled from antiquity, in cultures like those of the Sumerians and Assyrians who classified their written tradition in archives, to the present day. Our mission is to make this wealth of information readily available, not only to the global scientific community and centres of education, but to as wide an audience as possible. The texts are supplemented by abundant visual material (miniatures of manuscripts, woodcuts, copperplates, lithographs, paintings, representations and photographic illustrations of sculptures and architectural works, etc.). At the same time, numerous entries refer to the architectural evolution of the spaces that housed all kinds of archives and libraries.

Alexander
the Great
safeguarding
the works of
Homer, possibly
the copy
commented
on by Aristotle
himself.
Drawing by
Marcantonio
Raimondi.



The creation of this website is a natural progression and result of my many years of work dedicated to the architecture, history and content of libraries: My contributions to this field include the remodelling of the interior of the Library of the Monastery of Saint John the Theologian at Patmos, the Library of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, the Library of the Arsakeia Schools and the “Dimitrios Pournaras” Library of the Journalists’ Union of the Athens Daily Newspapers (ΕΣΗΕΑ).

A highlight of my activity in this area has been my research on the history of the book, particularly in the Greek-speaking world, starting with its first steps pre-1500. This work began in 1975, on the occasion of the then-upcoming celebration of 500 years (1476–1976) from the publication of the first Greek book. The first of many results to come out of this process was the release of the great volume *Charta of Greek Printing* (Greek edition 1989, English 1998).

Until 2001, I organised 15 exhibitions of Greek books in Greece and other European countries, publishing comprehensive catalogues in collaboration with Professor Manousos Manousakas. Some of these are still used by researchers: *Treasures of the National Library of Greece* (1999), *500 Years of Printed Text Tradition in Modern Greece 1499-1999* (Hellenic Parliament, 2000), *The Publishing Centres of the Greeks* (2001; in Frankfurt). The international conference *The Printed Greek Book, 15th – 19th Century*, which I co-organised with Triantaphyllos Sklavenitis at Delphi in 2001, had a special impact; its complete proceedings were published in a large volume in 2004.

During the first two decades of the 21st century I completed the research, writing and publication of the five-volume work *The History of the Library in Western Civilization from Antiquity to the Italian Renaissance* (2002–2012), published in Greek and in English. It is also currently being translated into Chinese. In the context of my architectural quests for the design typology of the spaces that treasured all forms of literary texts from antiquity onwards, I wrote *The Architecture of Libraries in Western Civilization*, published in 2016. This edition was presented along with an expansive exhibition of relevant material at the Benaki Museum.

Most recently, Triantaphyllos Sklavenitis and I released a collective volume on the Koventarios Municipal Library of Kozani (2018), on the occasion of its relocation to a modern building, brilliantly designed by Professor Panos Tzonos and featuring a museum display curated by Professor Matoula Scaltsa. Since 2017, I have also been writing the multivolume work *Intellectual Routes of the Greeks through the Manuscript and Printed Book* (Vols. 1-3 released in 2017, 2018, 2019), which will be completed with the release of the fourth volume in 2021.

Researching, writing and publishing all these books, as well as working on the study, design and implementation of other relevant projects at the same time led to my accumulating a vast amount of documented information and images about the book, libraries, reading and writing, across a variety of cultures and languages. I felt that all this material could be supplemented with specifically designed additional research, documentation and data processing to take the form of an encyclopaedia, which could only be made available to the public and accordingly reviewed and edited in an online format. So, I decided to create the website and launch it on an experimental run.

PREFACE BY K. SP. STAIKOS



Inspired by the ongoing translations of my work in several languages, I decided that this treasure trove of knowledge deserved a lasting home. In September 2019, I consulted the then President of the Hellenic Republic, Mr. Prokopis Pavlopoulos, expressing my intention for this website to serve as an offering from our country to the global community, carrying on the tradition established by the ancient Greeks of disseminating original thought and scientific data through the manuscript. He shared my vision and referred me to the Minister of Digital Governance, Mr. Kyriakos Pierrakakis, who not only approved of the proposal but was also enthusiastic when I suggested that I work with Dr. Evi Sachini and the National Documentation Centre (EKT) to realise this vision, the service best equipped to develop the website's technological infrastructure and see to its enrichment, organisation, and capacity to reach a worldwide audience Libraries, www.aboutlibraries.gr.



My ongoing collaboration with Oak Knoll Press in Delaware, the world's most important publishing house on book and library history, which represented the British Library's publications on the American continent, and with the Dutch publishing house Hes & De Graaf (Brill today), provided our books with the opportunity to reach all kinds of libraries and bookstores around the world. These institutions and stores exceed 250,000 in number, and they are regularly informed about our publishing activity.



Interior of the Bodleian Library. Engraving by Joseph Constantine Stadler, based on a painting by Augustus Charles Pugin. From R. Ackermann, A History of the University of Oxford, London 1814.

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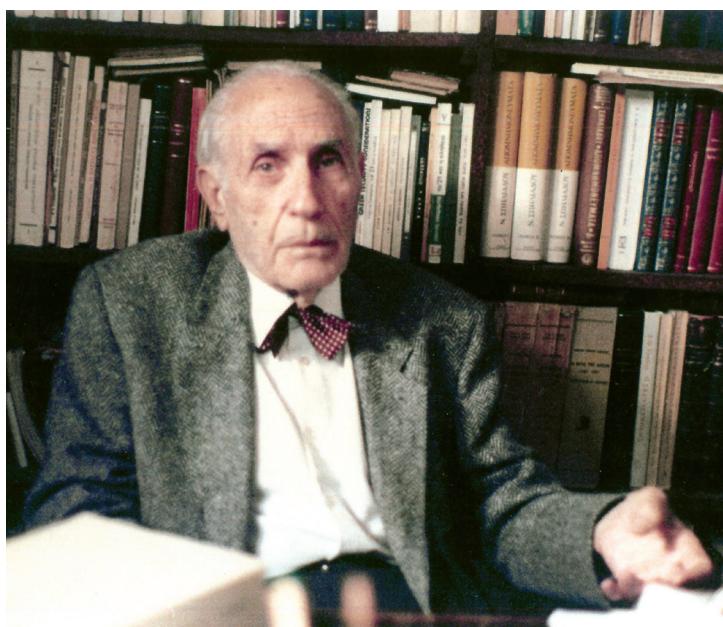
Margaritis Proedrou, Panagiotis Frantzis

Special thanks to Anastasia Karastathi, Lilian Tzanetou,
Eleni Mavroedi, Elena Lagoudi and Trudy Missia
for their contribution.

ABOUT LIBRARIES



THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARCHIVE



On page 22, above: The façade of the residence of Ioannis Theologis, erected in 1928 on the plot where the house of Ioannis P. Kokkonis (1795–1864), Director of the Didaskaleion under the reign of Otto, previously stood. The building served as the home of the Eleni Theologi – Konstantinos T. Dimaras family, housing the office and library of Dimaras, while nowadays it is the headquarters of the About Libraries archive. Below: View of the reception area.

On page 23, above: Work space. Below: K.T. Dimaras (1904–1992) at his desk.

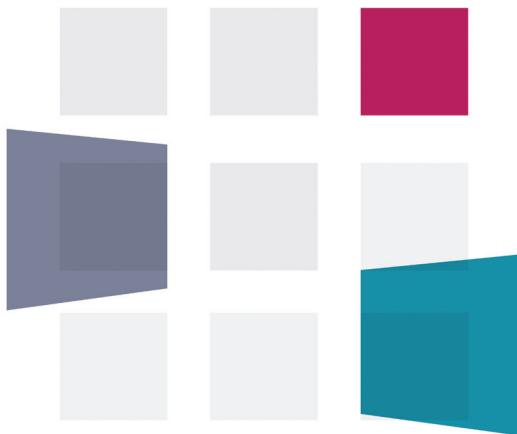
NATIONAL DOCUMENTATION CENTRE

The National Documentation Centre (EKT) is a public organisation that promotes knowledge, research, innovation and digital transformation. It is supervised by the Ministry of Digital Governance and develops state-of-the-art infrastructures that support knowledge circulation and the transition to a digital society and economy.

Its primary mission is the collection, documentation, preservation and dissemination of scientific and cultural content. It focuses on developing digital services for libraries and information systems and on simplifying the process of sharing new knowledge. EKT operates accredited aggregators and collaborates with major institutions to make inoperable, semantically enrich and promote the cultural and scientific assets that the country holds and develops.

Since its beginning, the organisation has been associated with the communities of research and academia. It also provides Greek researchers with access to financial and professional opportunities, while promoting innovation and reform within public bodies and businesses. EKT keeps track of the country's foremost scientific minds, undertaking initiatives to share knowledge and to enhance the digital skills of the citizens, taking action in critical areas such as education, public administration and research.

EKT is built on the combined intelligence of people and data. It is literally a hub for data and knowledge which enables it to serve as the most reliable provider of data for the design of efficient public policies in the fields of research, technology and development. As a Nation-



al Authority of the Hellenic Statistical System, it continually conducts statistical surveys and produces indicators for the national innovation system. It interacts and creates synergies with important organisations and supplies the public sector with its expertise and with the necessary tools to design and evaluate policies.

EKT operates on the principles of open science and open access, a monitoring developments in its area of activity and taking part in the public dialogue with a quarterly journal.

EKT AND LIBRARIES

EKT has been linked to libraries since its establishment. In 1983, a state law established its institutional role, according to which its mission includes providing libraries with “automation, new technologies, access and interconnection with banks of scientific and technological information- both domestic and foreign- through appropriate national and international networks”.

At that time, the focus was on the creation of networks, with the objective of accelerating the transition from the local to the national. Since then, EKT has developed technological infrastructures that have taken libraries out of isolation and provided users and information scientists alike with easier access to their resources.

The creation of the National Union Catalogue of Scientific Journals (ESKEP) marked the first step towards modernisation. ESKEP



launched in 1983 and has been consistently kept updated since. It is the first online database created by EKT, drastically changing the way users access information, as library catalogues are now interconnected.

During the 1990s, the ESKEP gets a new feature, the interconnected library lending system fully developed by EKT to facilitate the circulation of publications between libraries in order for them to better serve their users. It was followed by the National Network of Science & Technology Libraries, a nucleus of 250 libraries working together to fulfil orders for online copies of journal articles from their collections. Another important intervention was the development of “Argo”, an environment facilitating the open access to bibliographical information resources, to facilitate cataloguing for library staff.

A second key milestone is the first edition of the ABEKT Library Automation System, which is developed exclusively by EKT. ABEKT, available since 1987, brings necessary technological advancement to the field of information systems. Built fully in accordance with international standards, it is a very easy-to-use tool that has proved indispensable for information scientists. EKT is constantly developing updated versions of ABEKT and provides users with training and full support. Various editions of it have been used in over 2,500 public and private libraries in Greece, Cyprus and abroad.



The publication of the DEWEY Decimal Classification System in Greek, a project years in the making, the Thesaurus of Greek Terms (general and medical terminology), the collaboration with BIBLIO-NET and especially the continuous support and training of their staff, simplified procedures and contributed to the development of a culture of documentation of scientific and cultural content, introducing international standards to Greece's libraries.

Consistent with its strategy EKT inaugurated a process of digital transformation for libraries. In 2017, EKT launched the openABEKT cloud service, which replaces ABEKT, the long-standing software for the creation and management of bibliographic content, as well as management of collections and circulation of material.

OpenABEKT incorporates EKT's know-how and experience of interacting with a network of partner libraries for more than thirty years. It is available in over 200 libraries of all kinds in Greece and abroad.

The service offers the library community and the wider ecosystem of scientific and cultural institutions the opportunity to digitally organise their catalogue and services according to the needs of their users, as well as to communicate with each other and exchange data and services. At the same time, it offers a friendly working environment even for non-specialised staff, while fully meeting the growing public

needs for modern online services. During the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown, it allowed libraries to operate smoothly, both as work environments and as public services.

Looking back in time, one inevitably remembers using tags to search through a library's catalogue. Today, anyone can search for content from anywhere in the world, accessing interconnected libraries through the openABEKT Central Catalogue (catalogue.openabekt.gr).

The technological infrastructure and the OpenABEKT Central Catalogue are regularly enhanced with new functions and features, with the aim of continuously upgrading the contents of the libraries and producing exemplary catalogues.

It is worth noting that the links of co-operation and communication between libraries and EKT go beyond the provision of a technological environment. They reach beyond services to a shared understanding of libraries' role, promoting and highlighting their work. EKT invests in the intrinsic value of libraries as a dynamic social and financial asset, with a timeless contribution to the historical development of science and culture.

Through their collaboration with EKT, libraries have become more extroverted and organised, opening their collections to the public, and transforming their modern-day operation. Utilising the technological infrastructure and other services provided by EKT, they fully engaged with local communities, creating interconnecting networks of communication and feedback. Primary objective since the 80s has been to increase the capacity to foster scientific awareness, communication, networking and collaboration. The development of this culture will determine whether the institution will be able to make the leap into the digital age.

EKT'S COLLABORATION WITH THE WORKING GROUP OF K. SP. STAIKOS TO UPDATE THE LIBRARIES WEBSITE

The function and values of EKT, as well as its catalytic role in strengthening the role of libraries, fully converge with the scientific and histori-



cal content of the research of K. Sp. Staikos. Moreover, a shared supervisory task for highlighting the causal links between people, ideas and cultures, as embodied by the institution of the library and the medium of the book, emerges as common ground.

In the context of co-operation with the K. Sp. Staikos working group, EKT is taking the necessary steps to develop a technological infrastructure for the ingestion and provision of digital content with a special focus on the history of libraries, the individuals who establish and preserve them, the conceptual and material components of their creation and their operation over the centuries.

At the present time, the focus of this collaboration is the upgraded Libraries website, which incorporates much of the material available in the collection of K. Sp. Staikos, concerning not only the history of the library as an institution, but also featuring descriptions of important libraries around the world from antiquity to the present day, analysing the architectural evolution of the space and presenting the timeline of private book collections.

These texts are accompanied by rich illustrations (engravings, miniatures, drawings, photographs and title pages of old publications), as well as references on all historical events and descriptions for each record contributed by eminent members of the scientific community.

As an institutional body dedicated to the collection, documentation, preservation and dissemination of scientific and cultural content, EKT studies the existing content and upgrades the structure of its descriptive data and of its collections, applying the recommended good practices for the organised and methodologically appropriate production of new content in order to integrate modern library science standards and models of information processing into the upgraded website.

At the same time, it proceeds with the analysis and identification of the operational and systemic requirements for the development of an infrastructure for digital content, as well as for the integration of existing and currently produced material. The functions of the infrastructure are in line with the requirements of scientific supervision and research methodology for creating records; they support them and utilise the semantic information that is incorporated in the content for the development of services for the library public.

The infrastructure's architecture ensures its capacity for expansion and the integration of new functions and services that will be required in the future. The upgraded website is intended for use both by specialised professionals and wider audiences, and provides advanced features for displaying and discovering content, while also supporting multilingualism, interconnection of data with external sources and vocabularies, unique identifiers of information resources. It will illustrate the intellectual and cognitive development of humans, through the manuscript and printed book, highlighting its intercultural dimension, with the prospect of eventually covering libraries and their history on a global scale.

The anticipated result of this collaboration is the creation of a digital environment that will be part of the content infrastructures developed and made available by EKT. All content that will be made available on this website will be accompanied by the appropriate licences and the appropriate copyright notice.

Using its network of collaborators, EKT will promote the results of this partnership throughout the literary world and across a variety of languages beyond English, highlighting the project's multifaceted scientific and cultural value, the benefits to the community and its national character, as evidenced by the diffusion of concepts, institutions and values of Greek culture and its interactions with other cultures, all over the world.

Thus, a narrative forms that highlights the historical course of libraries and their world and at the same time defines the framework of humanitarian values for the operation of modern libraries as organisations of public interest, with an impact on the development of all sciences and the economy, on the smooth operation of democracy and on the shaping of the cultural model.

THE BENEFITS OF CO-OPERATION

With the development of the infrastructure, the curated documentation of the content and the further expansion of scientific research across space and time, the Greek and worldwide communities will both acquire a unique cognitive environment surrounding libraries and the book, and in essence the very history of ideas, philosophy, science, and knowledge.

The entries on individuals, on libraries and their architecture are the building blocks for constructing an epistemological narrative about the timeless mechanisms of the creation and transmission of knowledge and its crucial role in shaping the historical course of culture. Furthermore, the role of political events, religious beliefs and social practices that have influenced and have been influenced by libraries and communities of knowledge is highlighted.

The public will be given the opportunity to get to know the libraries, not only their historical identity but also their contemporary activity, when it exists, as the content will be constantly updated. The contribution of Greek culture to the creation of concepts and values that shaped thought and science in the ancient and modern world will be highlighted.

The libraries themselves will possess a hub of visibility and presence in a complex environment that historically and scientifically intersects the institution of libraries with its imprint on humanity.

Research communities will have access to a primary source of study and information on libraries in their entirety, which will contribute to the dissemination and production of knowledge both academically and scientifically, and to the application of this knowledge on all levels of education.

Regarding the content itself and the research, their value will be upgraded in terms of technology, logistics and documentation through this collaboration. Its promotion will contribute to the mobilisation of institutions (libraries, cultural organisations, museums, etc.), both in the inclusion of new material as well as in its implementation and further dissemination within user communities. At the same time, it will contribute to the creation of a research community around the world that will feed the infrastructure with content and will interact with the scientific team that will manage it.

The maximum benefit for the country is the maintenance and strengthening of a unique research project with a global impact for Greece, presenting new opportunities of cultural diplomacy for the Greek state.

FUTURE PLANNING

The enrichment of the Libraries website, with the addition of new entries and visual material, will be ongoing. The aim is for the content to cover libraries around the world, extending its mapping of libraries eastward -especially to China- and for Chinese to be one of the languages of the interface.

Increasing the content by referring to its influence on different peoples and cultures, i.e. the approach of universality as a fundamental value, is a strategic goal and guide for the development of this infrastructure.

At the same time, the creation of a community of collaborating institutions and individuals in order to highlight the wealth hidden in the country's existing private and public libraries, is at the forefront of the working group's objectives.

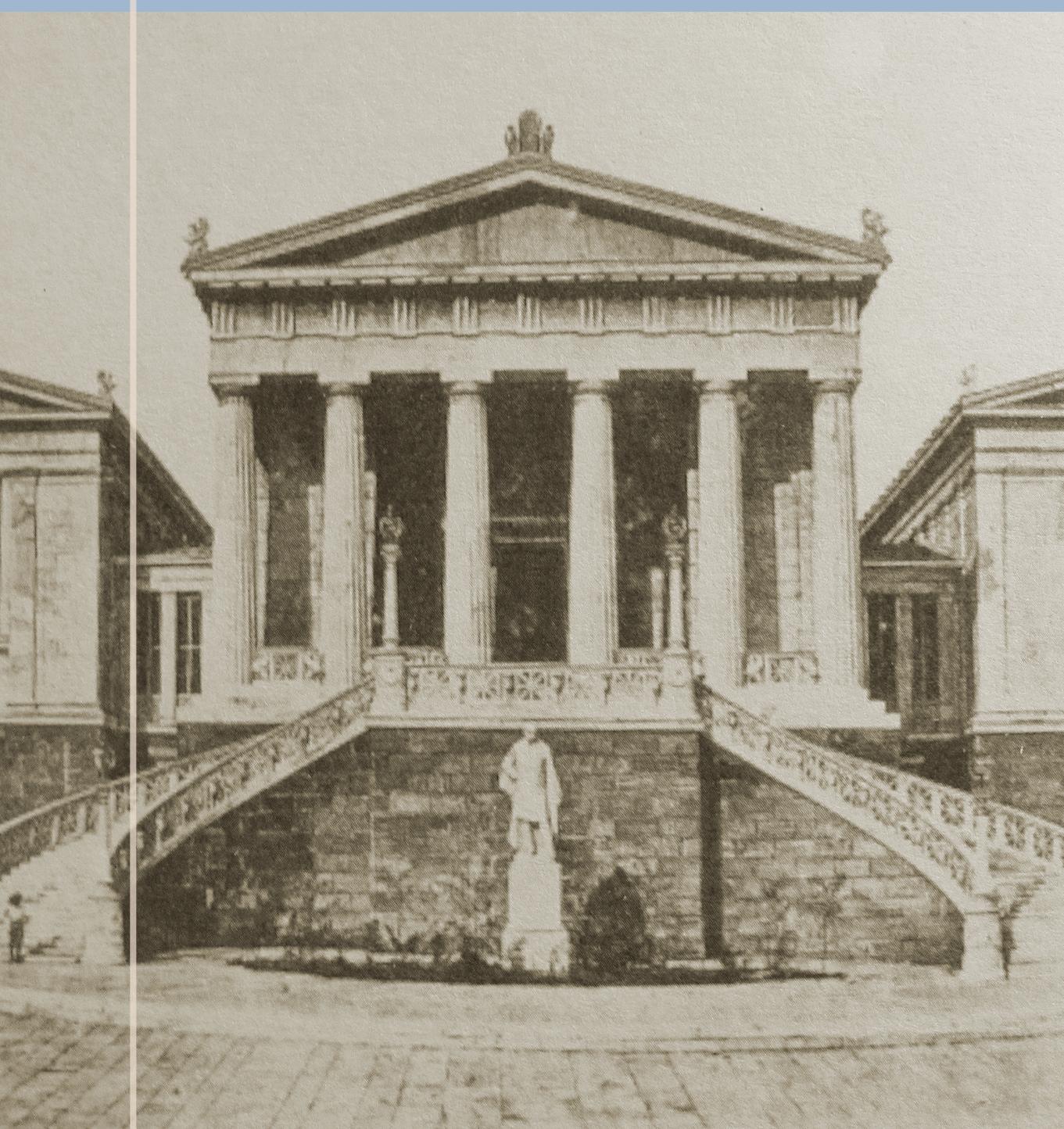
The horizontal and unhindered communication of the people who work in the libraries that operate in the country today, the formation of a network for the exchange of information and knowledge and the collection and promotion of the best practices throughout Greece for showcasing collections unknown to the general public, and often even to experts, are important goals and challenges for the immediate future.

For EKT, this collaboration has even greater significance. It signals technological and operational evolution, through the process of acquiring modern methodologies of organising and documenting complex content with an encyclopaedic orientation, which support while intelligibly rendering the narrative of its creators.

Learning from user communities, from their questions and from the way that they use the infrastructure, EKT will develop updated versions with new functionalities, add new content and enrich the narrative and interpretation of this digital public space.

The National Library of Greece ca. 1900.

NATIONAL
LIBRARY
OF GREECE



ABOUT LIBRARIES



The reading room of the National Library at the historic Vallianeo building during the 1990s.

HISTORY

The invention and spread of printing in the 15th century found Greece under the occupation of foreign powers, with the production of books by and about Greeks taking place abroad. Gradually, the monasteries that kept manuscripts in their libraries began to obtain printed books through donations and purchases, enriching their collections. During the centuries of foreign rule and especially from the middle of the 18th century onwards, in the spirit of the Neo-Hellenic Enlightenment and until the eve of the Revolution of 1821, teachers and scholars in Greece and throughout the Greek Diaspora had established their own libraries, which they bequeathed to the monasteries and schools of their places of origin.

The Greek Revolution of 1821 and the founding of the independent Greek state in 1830 created new needs in education. National benefactors and book publishing sponsors sent large amounts of copies to the Greek administration, which began planning for the establishment of libraries: A public-national library in the capital, public libraries in the regional centres, and school libraries in primary and secondary schools. Within this network of libraries, a central, public, national library would be the head of all other individual (local, school, special, etc.) libraries, responsible for their organisation and enrichment. Therefore, the belief and expectation that the central and the other libraries would make a key contribution to the cultivation of the nation's education and would lay the foundations for the creation of a contemporary national identity was created.

The establishment of the Orphanage of Aegina, on March 9, 1829, by governor Ioannis Kapodistrias (1776-1831) foresaw within its premises the operation of a depository for books that had been collected from all the sponsorships from Greeks and Philhellenes before and during the Revolution. The pioneer of the Orphanage and chairman of its Committee was the scholar and politician Andreas Moustoxydis (1785-1860), who, in addition to his duties as chairman, was also responsible for all the institutions (mutual learning schools, the National Archaeological Museum, the National Printing House, etc.) located in this vast area of 67 acres in total, in which the facilities of the Orphanage extended.

Two years after its founding, this depository numbered 1,018 volumes of books, many of them in multiple copies. According to a decision made by Moustoxydis, one third of them would be distributed to schools in the territory, one third would be kept on site and the rest would be sold for the purchase of new books.

The continuous enrichment of the depository made it necessary for a catalogue to be compiled, the first of which was produced by Georgios Gennadios (1786-1854), a teacher at the Central School of Aegina. His listing records 777 titles, 911 bodies and 1,866 volumes. These books form the first nucleus of the National Library, which was founded on May 15, 1832 in Aegina, under Gennadios' care.

In 1834, the National Library was transferred to Athens, to the Great Bath, also known as the Ula-Beri or the bath of Staropazaro in the area of the Roman Agora, and later to the church of Panagia Gorgoepikoos (the Church of St. Eleutherios, which also served as the Metropolis at the time) and to the Metochion of Kaisariani (the Church of Saint Nicholas), location of the present-day Metropolis, with its collections continuing to grow rapidly. As is the case with all public-national libraries, its enrichment benefited from the introduction of the law mandating the submission of copies of every book, newspaper and magazine that would be printed in the Greek state, even if this law was never implemented to a satisfactory extent.

The Library continued to operate on a basic level due to the inadequacy of its accommodation and insufficient cataloguing, despite the generous efforts made by Gennadios. As a result, the National Library

could not successfully serve its founding purpose, namely to develop into the central nervous system of a network of public libraries, which it would exercise control over, as well as supply with books.

An event that played a decisive role in the development of the National Library was the formation of the Library of the University of Athens in 1838, a year after the establishment of the academic institution, which, thanks mainly to the contributions from Greeks, philhellens and universities of Europe, also began to grow rapidly. The University and its Library were originally housed in the residence of the architect Stamatis Kleanthis in Plaka, but due to lack of space they were moved in 1841 to the Main Building of the University of Athens, the present-day location of the “architectural trilogy of Athens” consisting of the Academy of Athens, the University of Athens and the National Library.



The University building, where the National Library and the University Library were housed together from 1842 to 1903.

The growth in the number of the University Library's books was rapid, reaching 20,000 stored volumes in 1841, while the National Library numbered 15,378 volumes during the same period, including large donations by Christoforos Sakellarios (5,395 volumes), Konstantinos Bellios (1,886 volumes), and the Zosimas brothers (1,005), the purchased library of Dimitrios Postolakas (1,995 volumes), et al.

The urgent need for a new home for both Libraries in combination with the particular shortcomings of each led to their unification by Royal Decree signed on 19 / 31.3.1842. Georgios Kozakis Typaldos (1790-1867) was appointed Curator of the new Library by the Government, while the University had the right to supervise the organisation, operation and enrichment of the National Library.

The offerings of books to the two Libraries continued unabated, coming from two main sources, the Greeks living in the parishes who sent their offerings to the National Library, and the academic institutions of Europe and America which sent their own publications, as well as other titles, to the University Library.

However, the donations were not enough to cover the founding purposes of the Libraries. As described by the Rector of the University of Athens Konstantinos Asopios (1785-1872), the limited state budget did not allow for the acquisition of a series of scientific publications, which would cover the needs of each scientific branch in the case of the University Library, or for the purchase of all books by and about Greeks in the case of the National Library.

After the end of Typaldos' term, in 1863, the continuous changes (20 in total) in the position of head of the united Library negatively affected its organisation and operation. In addition, the continuous need for expansion of the National Library's space in the university building exacerbated the dissatisfaction of the rectory authorities, which had been demanding the separation of the two Libraries since 1864. The State, however, did not consent to the removal of the National Library in order to avoid facing the problem of its housing. On the contrary, in 1866 it proceeded to the administrative merger of the Libraries under the title National Library of Greece (N.L.G.).

The co-habitation of the National and the University Library at the main building of the University of Athens lasted until 1903, when they were transferred to a new building, the Vallianeo, located next to the Main Building of the University of Athens. The project was funded by the Vallianos brothers, Marinos or Maris (1808-1896), Panagis (1814-1902) and Andreas (1827-1887).



The reading room of newspapers and periodicals of the National Library at the University in the early years of their cohabitation.



*The Vallianos brothers.
From the left,
Marinios, Panagis
and Andreas.*

The Vallianos brothers were born and raised in the rural settlement of Kerameies in Kefalonia, at a time when the Ionian Islands were under British protection. Their family cultivated their own land in the area, which allowed them to comfortably – by the standards of the time – raise six boys in total. However, the aspirations of the three brothers transcended Greek territory, with Marinios leaving his place of origin first in 1825, followed by Andreas in 1840 and later by Panagis, all of them seeking a better fortune abroad. Taking advantage of their island's maritime and shipping tradition, they quickly developed significant commercial activity between the Black Sea and the Western Mediterranean, becoming prominent businessmen, merchants, brokers and bankers in the geographical areas of Russia, Europe, America and Africa.

Despite their personal success, the three brothers did not forget their birthplace of Kefalonia, providing sponsorships for the construction of many public benefit institutions (schools, hospitals, a technical vocational school, etc.). The decision to finance the construction of the National Library building next to the University was made by Panagis, when, in 1884, he met with Prime Minister Charilaos Trikoupis and it was agreed that the Vallianos brothers would finance the entire project.

The Vallianos National Library began construction in 1888 in accordance with the designs of the Danish architect Theophil Hansen

and under the supervision of the German architect Ernst Ziller. However, despite the relocation of the two Libraries to the new space, their cohabitation remained problematic. The initiative for their separation now came from the National Library, which by law 2386 of 1920 was considered a Legal Entity headed by a Director and a Board of Trustees. In 1929, Director Markos Tsirimokos requested that the University separate the Libraries, stressing the need for specialisation against the pervasive inclination towards unification, and the immediate transfer of the student Reading Room from the N.L.G. to the Student Club (this was realised in 1931).



Rear view of the National Library's building on Panepistimiou street.

*View from inside
the building of
the N.L.G. at the
S.N.F.C.C.*

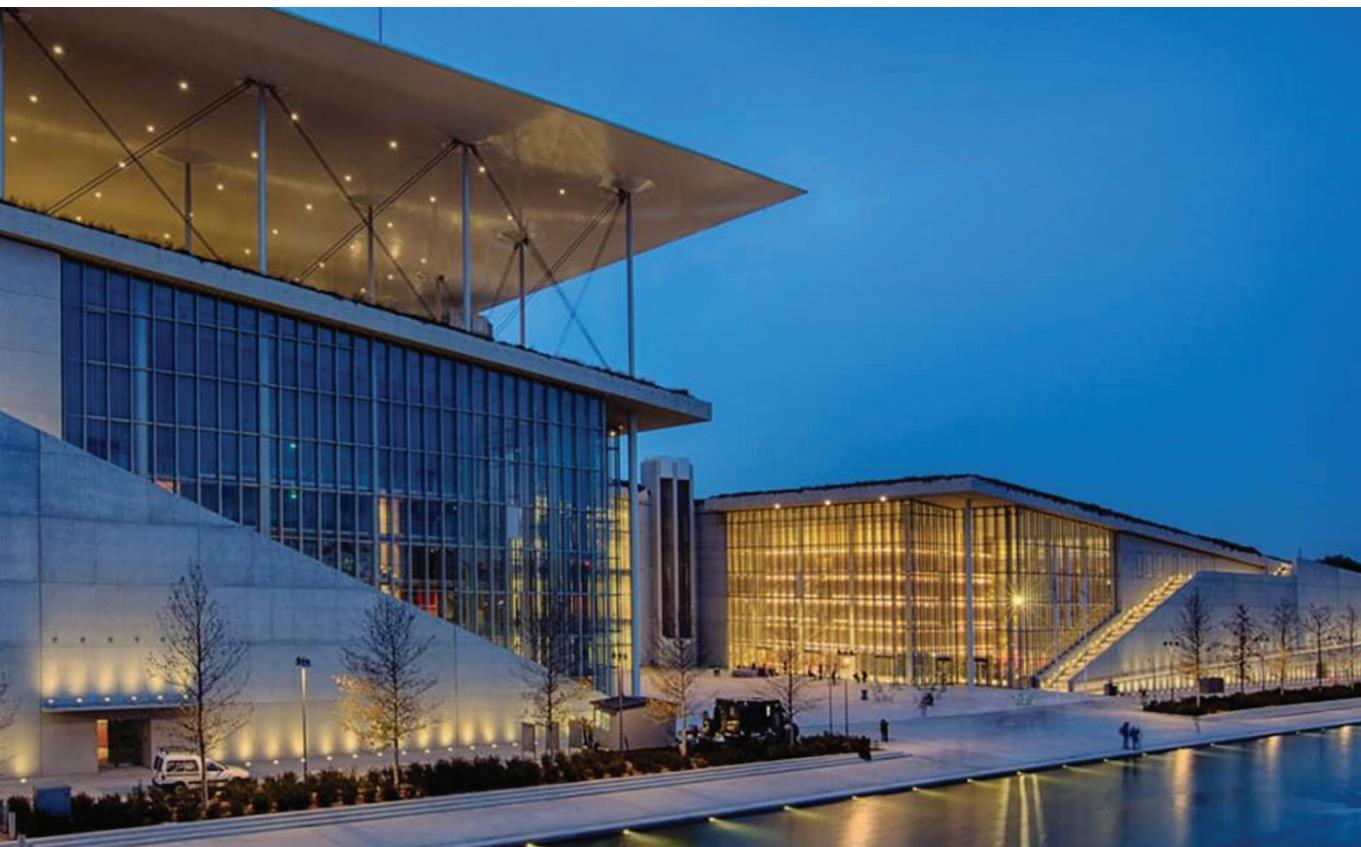
*On page 45,
evening view of the
National Library's
building at the
S.N.F.C.C.*



THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF GREECE AT THE S.N.F.C.C.

The Libraries were never finally separated, nor was the Hellenic General Council of Libraries, founded in 1931, able to lead them towards a harmonious coexistence and cooperation. In addition, the building problem remained, as the otherwise brilliant Vallianeio building suffered from functional imperfections that could not be overcome. At least not before 2018, when the National Library was transferred to the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Centre, with the aim of creating a modern centre of knowledge, integrated into the digital age, featuring both digital and unified records of documents, allowing citizens free access to all its contents, regardless of whether they come from the National or the University Library.

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF GREECE



The contract between the Foundation and the Greek Government was signed in 2009 and provided for the construction of the new building of the National Library in the complex of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Centre (S.N.F.C.C.), with a total area of 210,000 square metres, which would also host the facilities of the Greek National Opera, as well as the Stavros Niarchos Park. The project was designed by the Italian architect Renzo Piano and was an exclusive donation of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation (S.N.F.), amounting to 596 million euros. The total cost of relocating the National Library exceeded 10 million euros, with the Greek Government and the S.N.F. contributing equally.

CLASSIFICATION AND CATALOGUING SYSTEM

In 1867, one year after the administrative merger of the National with the University Library, Emil Steffenhagen was entrusted with the organisation of the N.L.G. He introduced the German system of organising the material into three mobile catalogues (bulletins). His effort, however, remained unfinished, as three years later his collaboration with the Library came to an end.

By 1875, two of the three mobile catalogues (bulletins), the scientific and alphabetical ones, had survived, while only four sections of the scientific one had survived from the permanent records. The total number of bulletins was 48,448 for 46,221 titles and 92,618 volumes or issues. This particular recording system created major problems in counting books, resulting in confusion regarding the number of lost volumes, mainly due to the borrowing of books. The corrections made in the following years were not sufficient to improve the classification system.

During the 1880s, the ongoing work for the completion of the mobile catalogue was suspended and a new cataloguing of the National Library was attempted through the publication of catalogues in five sections (Theology, Archaeology, Linguistics, Greek Philology and Latin Philology), resulting in the deregulation of the Library's internal operation. Finally, in 1903, the mobile catalogues (bulletins) returned.

The ambiguity surrounding the identity of the N.L.G. and its consequently non-uniform mode of operation was also reflected in the inventories of its new acquisitions. The annual reports of the University's rectors usually included lists of the new books that had come to the Library. On the other hand, the National Library published corresponding catalogues of its own acquisitions in 1891, 1896 and 1934, as well as the annual *Greek Bibliography* in 1931. Subsequently, the Hellenic General Council of Libraries would cover the Greek Bibliography from 1932 to 1939. However, World War II would abruptly discontinue the practice of publishing catalogues.

The cataloguing of books would continue after the war, employing an old Prussian system known as the system of Halle until 1977. The Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules were adopted in 1978. The

classification system was the only remnant of the old system, until it was eventually abandoned in 2000. Starting then, books were sorted by entry number.

In 1983 the catalogue of the library's incunabula was created and printed, and from 1990 onwards the N.L.G. would start publishing the *Greek Bibliography* (1989-1994) annually, as well as auxiliary catalogues for library scientists, and guides and manuals addressing their needs. In 2004, the N.L.G. acquired the completely automated HORIZON library system. Today, the management system used by the National Library is the open source KOHA software.

Two milestones in the history of the National Library were the establishment of the Department of Manuscripts in 1883 and the establishment of the Historical Archive in 1895. Catalogues were also created for the archival collections of the N.L.G., albeit too slowly in relation to their ever-increasing volume. A thematic catalogue of 220 theological manuscripts from 1876 was a first attempt that would remain unpublished. A basic catalogue of the first 1,856 manuscripts was printed in 1892, but it took a century for it to be continued: The catalogue of manuscripts 1,857 through 2,500 was published in 1991, while the catalogue of manuscripts published in 1996 accounted for numbers 3,122 through 3,369.

The creation of the Historical Archive of the N.L.G. in 1895 was imposed by the absence of General State Archives, which were only established in 1914. Sporadic and occasional donations were followed by the acquisition of parts of state, judicial, community and private archives, but the release of an index-catalogue is still pending.

ABOUT LIBRARIES

View of the shelves of the N.L.G. at the Vallianeo building.



COLLECTIONS OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF GREECE

GENERAL

Books	614,000 titles covering all categories: Works of a General Nature, Geography / History / Biography, Language, Applied Sciences / Medicine / Technology, Religion, Fine Arts / Entertainment, Social Sciences, Literature, Mathematics / Natural Sciences, Philosophy / Psychology.
Periodicals	About 11,000 Greek and international periodical titles housed in the area of Votanikos. A collection of 775 selected titles, classified into seventeen thematic categories-scientific fields, has been made readily available to the reading public by the S.N.F.C.C.
Newspapers	3,500 titles in Greek and other languages - Athenian and provincial press. Some digitised (> 270,000 pages).
Microfilms	Cross-referenced with the 1821 Archive. Manuscripts from library and monastery collections, from Greece and abroad (Mount Athos, New Zealand, South Africa, America, et al.). Part of the newspapers and periodicals collection.

COLLECTIONS OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF GREECE	
SPECIAL	
Manuscripts and copies	5,431 documents dating from the 9th century onwards: palimpsest codices, manuscripts with texts from the time of Homer, manuscripts from the Byzantine period with luxurious decoration, post-Byzantine works, manuscripts that preserve all types of writing throughout their evolution, etc.
Rare and valuable	149 incunabula (1470-1500), including the first Greek book <i>Επιτομή των οκτώ των λόγου μερόν και ἄλλων τινόν αναγκαίον</i> [Summary of the eight parts of speech and other such necessities] by Constantine Laskaris, Milan 1476. Books, pamphlets and single pages, printed from the 16th to the 20th century.
Archival Collections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Official Historical Archive of the N.L.G. covering its operation since 1834 when it was transferred to Athens. Private Archives from the 17th to the 20th century: archives of associations and partnerships, archives of individuals who held high positions in church and state, or distinguished themselves in the sciences, letters and arts. Public Archives from the 17th to the 20th century: documents issued or sourced from local and religious authorities, by various authorities formed during the Revolution of 1821, by the kings of the Greeks, by members of the royal families and the palace services, by public services, notaries and mortgage offices, by the Greek communities and institutions abroad.
Posters	A wide range of themes from 1960 onwards.
Works of Art	Unattached engravings, paintings and albums, mainly by European and Greek artists, from the late 15th to the 20th century. They are distinguished into two separate collections: a) the donation of Ioannis Gennadios and b) the collection of the N.L.G., with works coming from donations, purchases and mandated submissions.
Papyri	Documents dating from the 3rd century BC to the 6th century AD. Includes papyrus sheets, fragments and a cylinder, containing legal documents, correspondence, records and religious texts in hieroglyphics, Greek and Coptic.
Maps	Cartographic documents issued from the 16th century until today in Greece and abroad. The collection includes maps of various interests, either stand-alone or integrated into atlases. Indicatively, these include geographical, naval, hydrographic, geological and military maps, city plans, portolani, isolaria, as well as geographical texts and first-hand accounts from travellers.



Above, the space exhibiting the ticket boxes and display cases at the Vallianeos Library. On page 51, the reading room of periodicals in the main building of the N.L.G. at the S.N.F.C.C.



OTHER THEMATIC SECTIONS DEVELOPED ON THE WEBSITE

Organisation of the N.L.G.

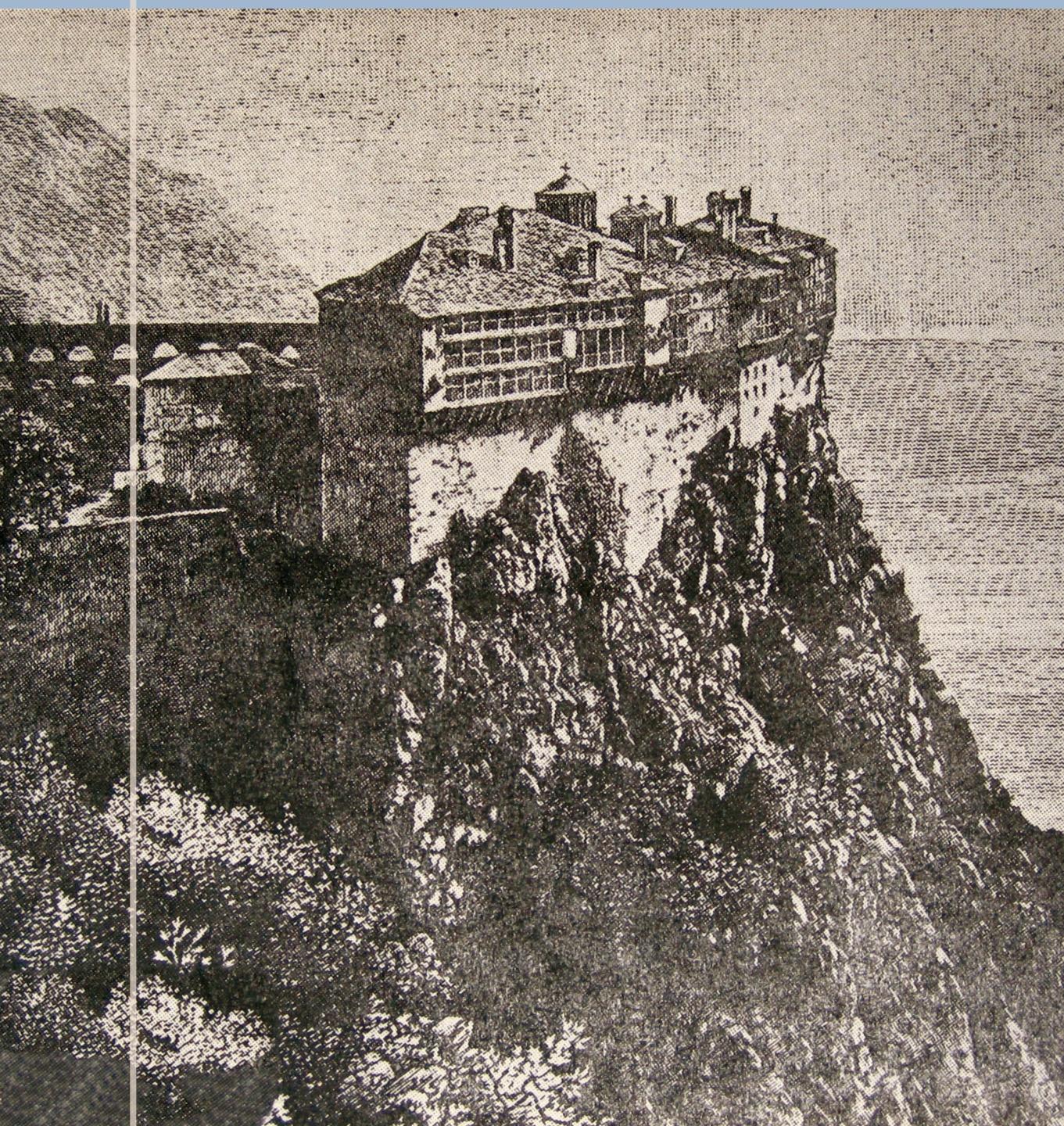
Library Publications of the N.L.G.

- *Bibliographies*
- *Catalogues*
- *Templates and manuals*
- *Miscellaneous*

Bibliography on the N.L.G.

Engraving of the Monastery of Simonos Petra, 1887.

LIBRARY OF THE
HOLY MONASTERY
OF SIMONOS PETRA





Simonopetra Monastery. Work by Spyros Papaloukas (oil on cardboard, private collection).

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF SIMONOPETRA

The Holy Monastery of Simonos Petra is located on the southwest side of Mount Athos and its complex, an area of 7,000 square metres total, is built on a granite rock, about 300 metres from the surface of the sea. Simonopetra unfolds in seven floors with several balconies – a unique monument of Byzantine and post-Byzantine architecture.

Its history dates from the 13th century, the period during which Saint Simon the Myroblyte lived (his date of birth is unknown; he died on December 28, 1257). After a vision that he experienced while practising in a cave in the wider area, Simon decided to establish a monastery in honour of the birth of Christ, giving it the name New Bethlehem. However, after his death the nickname Simonos Petra (Simon's Rock) or Simonopetra prevailed.

Between 1365 and 1371, the Monastery entered a new phase of operation and development, when its second owner, the Serbian Jovan Uglješa (the despot of Serres at the time), proceeded to renovate and expand it, providing rich donations and strengthening it with metochia and relics.

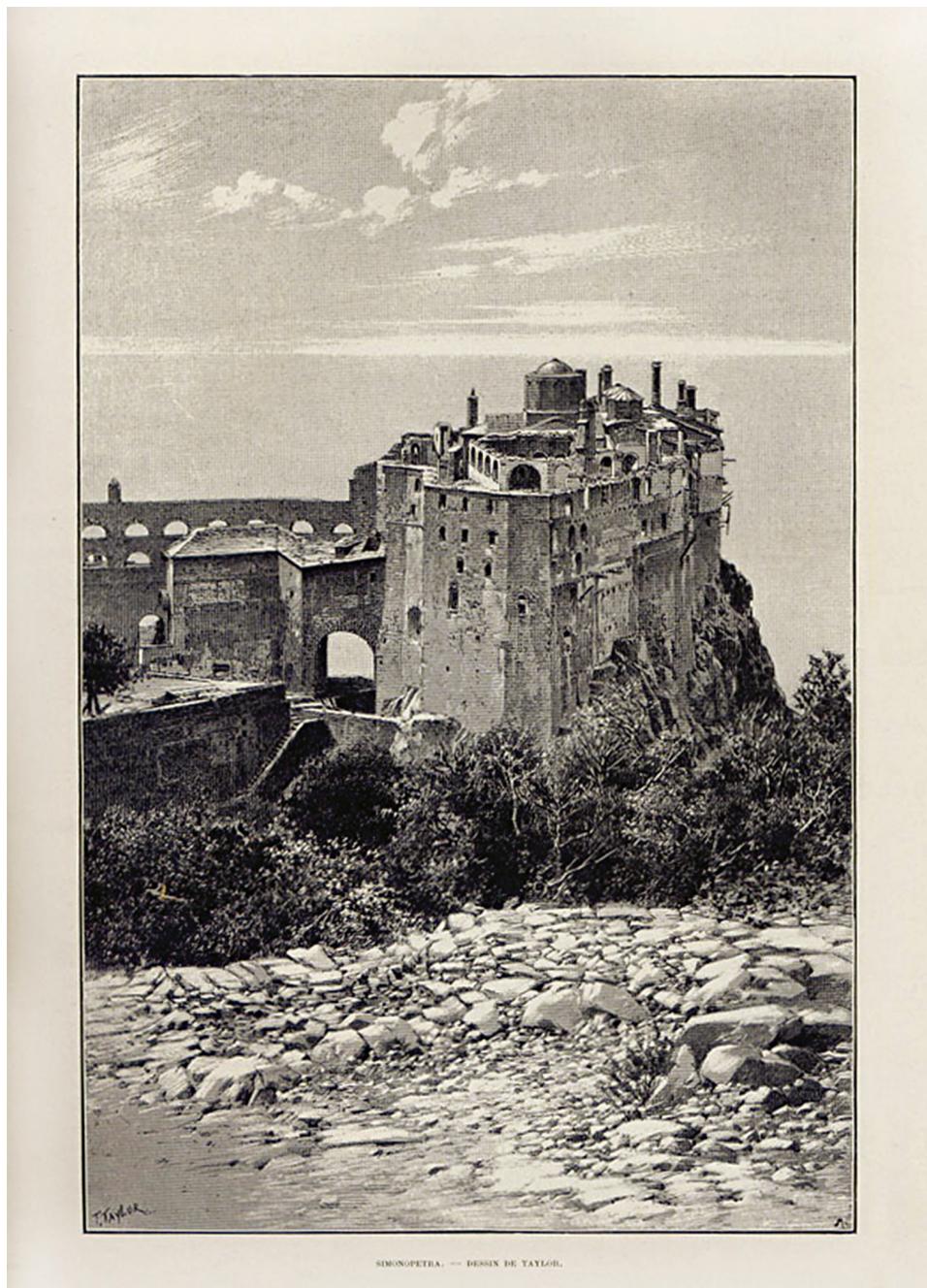
Major landmarks of the Monastery's history include three large fires that destroyed buildings and a treasure trove of relics, and cost the lives of many of its monks. The first fire broke out in 1580 after lightning struck the Monastery, causing great damage to its facilities and cells and burning valuable assets (relics, vestments, codices, sigils, etc.). The fact that the monks were forced to leave Simonopetra and settle at Xenophontos Monastery is a testament to the extent of the catastrophe. However, following the actions of the monastery's abbot, Eugene, who travelled to the Danubian Principalities to raise funds, the ruler of Wallachia, Michael the Brave (1558-1601) undertook the costs of its reconstruction.

The second fire, in 1622, combined with the heavy taxation imposed by the Turks, led the Monastery to decline and desolation. Thanks to the efforts of the hieromonk Ioasaph of Mytilene, Simonopetra reopened at the end of the 18th century. It was at that time that the multi-storey building on the south side was constructed. In 1821, during the Greek Revolution, the monastery was deserted for five years, but was rebuilt by the hieromonk and later abbot of Simonopetra Ambrosius, while in 1864, during the abbotship of Neophytos (1828-1907), the south wing was erected.

In 1891 the Monastery was to be hit by a new catastrophic fire, which completely destroyed its eastern side; neither the Katholikon nor the Library escaped the flames. In addition, the buildings that housed the altar, the guest house, the abbot's quarters, four chapels, the hospital, and the monks' cells were destroyed. At least the coffer with all the heirlooms, documents, holy relics and vestments was saved.

News of the destruction of Simonopetra reached its abbot, Neophytos, in Russia, where he had been since October 1888, accompanied by the monk Dionysios and the deacon and subsequent abbot Ioannikios, in order to raise financial aid for the Monastery. Upon returning to Mount Athos in 1892, Neophytos found the Monastery in such a tragic state that he thought of building a new monastery at a more even location. This idea was soon abandoned and the work for the restoration of the Monastery began immediately. Instead of renovating the now damaged east side, Neophytos decided to build a new multi-storey wing next to it. Work on the construction of the "St. Mary Magdalene" wing, as it was named in honour of the Monastery's patron saint, began in 1897 and was completed in 1902.

LIBRARY OF THE HOLY MONASTERY OF SIMONOS PETRA



Simonopetra after the fire of 1891 in a drawing by T. Taylor.

The southeast side of the Holy Monastery of Simonos Petra on Mount Athos.

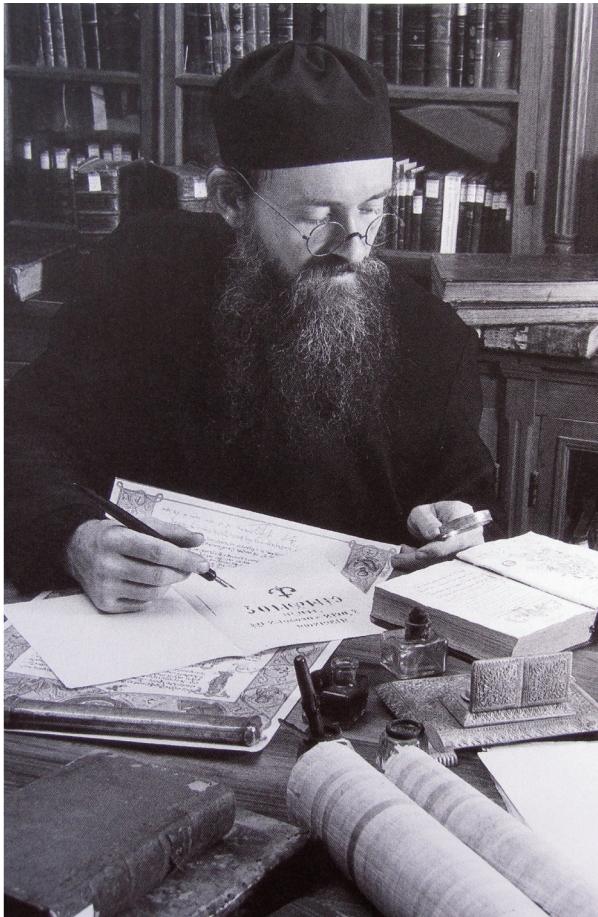


With Ioannikios serving as its abbot from 1907, Simonopetra entered a new phase of prosperity, in conjunction with the liberation of Mount Athos from Ottoman rule in 1912. The sudden death of Ioannikios in 1919, at the age of just 52, did not hinder the development of the Monastery; on the contrary, his successor Ieronymos (1871-1956) carried on his important work. The years of the Occupation were difficult, with the shortage of staff adding even more strain and the risk of the Monastery becoming derelict lurking throughout the next two decades, until 1973.

LIBRARY OF THE HOLY MONASTERY OF SIMONOS PETRA



At that time, a new twenty-member brotherhood from Meteora settled at the Monastery headed by the elder Emilianos (1934-2019) who was also elected its prior. Until 1995, as long as his health allowed, Emilianos attached great importance to the inner life of the Monastery, combining the experience of the older monks with the enthusiasm of the younger ones and attracting new monks to join the brotherhood. The Archimandrite Eliseus of Simonopetra has served as the Monastery's abbot since 2000.



A monk studying in the Library of the Monastery.

written by John Chrysostom, written on parchment during the 9th century, while the oldest dated document was a gospel copied by the priest Constantine in 1189.

According to the historian Kriton Chryssochoidis, the establishment of the Library of Manuscripts at the Simonopetra Monastery began with its foundation and continued in the following years with donations, purchases and copies of codices.

The first known donation came from the Serbian despot Jovan Uglješa (1365-1371), while at the beginning of the 16th century the bishop and abbot of the Monastery, Gerasimos, donated 54 manuscript codices. From the middle of the 16th century and throughout the 17th, the Library was enriched with codices, most of which were manuscripts of ascetic and hagiological texts, copied by the monks of Simonopetra.

THE MANUSCRIPTS

The history of the Library of the Holy Monastery of Simonos Petra is divided into two time periods, the period before the fire of May 28, 1891 and the period after. As mentioned, the great fire that started from the Monastery's bakery burned down the area where the Library was housed, as well as all its printed and manuscript books, resulting in the Library being rebuilt from scratch.

However, based on the list of manuscript codices compiled by the brilliant professor of the University of Athens Spyridon Lambros in 1880, we learn that until 1891 the Monastery held at least 245 manuscripts (56 of which were musical), dating from the 9th to the 19th century. The oldest of these documents was a study on the Gospel of John,

These books eventually amounted to 103 manuscripts, i.e. 55% of the total collection, as mentioned by K. Chryssochoidis. It should be noted that the copying of liturgical books was a common practice in all the monasteries of Mount Athos and, despite the discovery of printing in the middle of the 15th century, the copying and use of manuscripts continued. The continuation of this practice is mainly attributed to the high cost of printed books, but there was another factor, less practical, that enhanced the production and acquisition of manuscripts. Specifically, each manuscript copy came with additional aesthetic value and fidelity exclusive to it alone, products of the copier's toil.

After the fire of 1891, the new library of manuscripts was constructed, as befitting the predominance of the printed book at the time, with the objective of housing documents of museum value rather than those intended for immediate use. This pursuit arose from the general need for the monasteries of Mount Athos to include among their collections a category of relics, which would also feature valuable manuscripts.

The monastery's modern-day collection, according to philologist and palaeographer Panagiotis Sotiroudis, who began cataloguing the monastery's manuscripts in 2007 (the catalogue was published in 2012), consists of 179 manuscripts, all in paper except for one parchment saved in its entirety and a few surviving fragments from others. Chronologically, only four date back to the 12th (1), 14th (1) and 16th (2) centuries, while the rest - with the exception of the aforementioned parchment fragments – date from periods between the 17th and 20th centuries. The content of the manuscripts concerns mainly theological, ecclesiastical and musical subject matter, with emphasis on the services of the saints, especially for the patrons of the Monastery, Simon the Myroblyte and Mary Magdalene, but also other saints whose remains are kept there. The other manuscript books kept in the collection are classified into categories: legal-canonical, medical, school textbooks, books on rhetoric, grammar books, guides on lexicography, mathimataria, chronologies, et al.

PRINTED WORKS

Until 1891, in addition to the manuscripts, Simonopetra had a collection of printed books, which were also burned by the flames of the fire. According to the *Κατάλογος των εν τη πυρκαιά 1891 πυρπολυθέντων κυριοτέρων πραγμάτων* [Catalogue of the main items burned in the fire of 1891], compiled in the wake of the catastrophe between 1891 and 1893, at least 750 volumes of printed books were destroyed, in addition to the 245 manuscripts. In fact, as evidenced by other data from the Monastery's Archive, the actual number was much higher. Simonopetra had a remarkable Library that was located above the narthex of the Katholikon and where books from many fields (e.g. works by ancient Greek authors, works of ancient and Byzantine history, dictionaries, guides to Greek and French grammar and syntax, books on arithmetic and geography, physics, medicine, et al.) were kept in addition to the liturgical books for the daily needs of the Monastery. It also boasted a remarkable collection of periodicals, including *Εκκλησιαστική Αλήθεια* [Ecclesiastical Truth], *Ανατολικός Αστέρας* [Eastern Star], *Θράκη* [Thrace], *Φάρος της Μακεδονίας* [Macedonia Beacon], *Ελικωνιάδες Μούσες* [Muses of Helicon], et al.

The reconstruction and enrichment of the Library after 1891 was a key priority for the monks, as evidenced by the amounts spent for this purpose during the first five years after the fire: 773 groschen in 1892, 796 in 1893, 902 in 1894, while in 1895 expenditures skyrocketed to 4,984 groschen and were reduced to 2,345 in 1896, to finally stabilise at 400 groschen a year thereafter. Another source of acquisitions were the donations from individuals and institutions to the Library at the beginning of the 20th century. Donations from Eleni Evgeniou Palli, the widow of Andreas Mamoukas, the Patriarchate of Jerusalem, Konstantinos Doukakis, and others stand out.

In 1909 the librarian Nilos of Simonopetra attempted a first recording of the printed books kept at the Monastery, estimating their number at 252. Of these, 149 survive to this day, 39 (all liturgical) are missing, while another 43 were impossible to identify.

Today the Library of Simonopetra, which is now located on the 7th floor of the east wing, is in possession of about 65,000 book titles. Its

editions up to 1900 alone number around 4,500 publications. According to the results of the recording of the publications of this specific period, which were published in 1989 (see in this regard, Giannis Karas, *Ta ελληνικά έντυπα της Ι. Μ. Σίμωνος Πέτρας* [The Greek Publications of the Holy Monastery of Simonos Petra]), the Library numbered 2,425 titles dating up to 1900. According to the above cataloguing, most of the editions are from the 19th century, with only 276 works dating back to previous centuries (17 editions from the 16th, 62 editions from the 17th and 197 editions from the 18th century). The oldest comes from 1513 – *The Orations of Isocrates*, Venice, from the printing house of Aldus Manutius. The library treasures not only books in Greek, but also in various other languages, such as French, English, German, Russian, Romanian, et al. In addition, over 40% of the books are encyclopaedias and works by Greek and Latin authors from the classical era onward.

It should be noted that, throughout its run (that is, both before and after 1891), the Library of the Monastery maintained an open and functional character, lending books to its monks and to students attending the Athonite Academy.

OTHER THEMATIC SECTIONS DEVELOPED ON THE WEBSITE

The Archive of Simonopetra

Monastery Administration of Simonopetra

Library Organisation of Simonopetra

Publications of the Library of Simonopetra

- Catalogues
- Miscellaneous

Bibliography on the Library and Archive of Simonopetra

Exterior of the Koventarios Municipal Library.

KOVENTARIOS MUNICIPAL LIBRARY OF KOZANI



The City Hall
of Kozani and, next
to it, the church
of Agios Nikolaos.
In 1813, the “House
of Improvement”
and the Library,
where the books
of the school library
were collected, were
installed next
to the temple.



HISTORY

The establishment of the Library of Kozani is directly connected to the emergence of organised education in the city, and to the operation of the School of Kozani which dates back to the late 17th century. The first teacher for three years (1676-1679) was the scholar and writer Georgios (Gregory) Kontaris (1638-1698), bishop of Serbia (1685-1690) and metropolitan of Smyrna (1690-1698).

The establishment of the School, and consequently of the Library, was an initiative of Kozani's upper class, merchants and scholars in Central Europe, who, driven by love of their homeland and the flourishing of trade and industry in the region of Western Macedonia, decided to finance the establishment of a school and the organisation of a school library. At the same time, they donated sections or even entire private libraries, consisting of old collections of books, manuscripts and maps, to assemble the school library. Education, as the Kozani people of the Diaspora believed, would play an important role in disseminating the ideas of the Modern Greek Enlightenment to the enslaved Greek people and would gradually contribute to the formation of a national identity.

The existence in the following years of other emissaries, with Eugenios Voulgaris (1716-1806) pre-eminent among them - he taught at the School during between 1746 and 1749 – contributed greatly to the ongoing effort for the enrichment of the School library with private collections, consisting mainly of books of religious, but also of philological, philosophical and historical content.

According to a handwritten catalogue of the Library, in 1690 a core of 440 religious and philological books was formed, which continued to be enriched in the following years. By 1800 the number of books had doubled to 822 volumes.

In 1813 the Library was moved to a building constructed next to the church of Agios Nikolaos, in the centre of the city. A second building was erected next to it, called the “House of Improvement”, which would function as a study hall and meeting place for the “erudite” of the time. The transfer of the Library to a new space was not only related to spatial reasons, but also to the shift in the prevalent – up to that point – stereotypical perception that the book was intertwined with the educational process and therefore had to be housed in the school space. The conversion of the Library from school annex to community meeting point was a groundbreaking move for Greek education and letters.

The urbanisation of Kozani, combined with the view popular among scholars across all Western countries that this Library supported education in many ways, prompted progressive Kozani residents to build the vaulted building that housed the now-Community Library along with the House of Improvement, seeking to create a cultural centre not only for Greece but also for the entire Balkan region.

Book donations by important Greeks living abroad (doctors, priests, scholars, etc.) continued after the founding of the Greek nation, with the result that by 1862 the Community Library numbered 2,600 volumes and by 1880, according to unsubstantiated data, 6,600 volumes. Due to the ever-increasing acquisitions of the Library, in 1873 a new room was added and a new numbering and new sorting system of books commenced.

At the end of the 19th century, the operation of the School and Library was impacted as a consequence of the decline of Greek communities in Austria-Hungary and of the economic problems that Kozani itself was facing. As a result of these developments, the House of Improvement was forced to close at the beginning of the 20th century, in contrast to the Library which continued to operate.

In 1916, a second bold change took place in the Library’s ownership status and management: Having already gone from a school

library to a community library in 1813, it now transitioned to the jurisdiction of an association known as the “Kozani Reading Room”, founded by the then bishop of Eirinoupoli and subsequent Ecumenical Patriarch Photios II, with the aim of encouraging a culture of communication among its members, and the cultural improvement of the society of Kozani at large. The association had about 100 members. Its founding members and members of the Board of Directors were important figures in the city’s society (scholars, scientists, public officials and clergy), such as Georgios K. Varvoutis, lawyer, member of Parliament and minister, Konstantinos Tsitselikis, lawyer and writer, Panagiotis N. Lioufis, high school principal and author of the *History of Kozani* (*Ιστορία της Κοζάνης*), and Konstantinos M. Papakonstantinou, writer. The poor finances of the association were improved thanks to sponsorships from the Municipality and the Community of Kozani, while the Library was supported with book donations from the University of Athens, the Parnassos Philological Association, the Library of the Hellenic Parliament, et al.

Regarding the organisation of the Library, the curator was responsible for its day-to-day operation, maintenance and enrichment with book purchases, while the librarian was responsible for the classification and cataloguing of books and for assisting readers. It should be noted that the reading room was not open to the public, but only to members, who had to pay a monthly subscription of 2 drachmas.

However, the association’s limited finances, as well as the political and military upheaval inside the country (Division and conflict between Venizelists and royalists) and abroad (World War I), did not allow the Reading Room to continue. Its operation was initially suspended and finally terminated after the destruction of Asia Minor and the Library’s takeover by the Municipality.

In 1923 the Library was installed in one of the rooms of the town hall and remained there until 1934, when it was moved to the semi-basement of the then newly built city hall.

In 1946, the Kozani department of the General State Archives was established. In accordance with the law, parts of the archival material kept in the Municipal Library were transferred to it, while Nikolaos P. Delialis (1895 -1979) served as its director until 1972. Delialis was also curator of the Library from 1930 to 1959. During these 30 years the Library flourished, thanks to the dedication and unremitting efforts of its curator. In a 1983 tribute of the Elimeiaka journal to N. Delialis, his friend and former high school principal of the Kozani School Athanasiос S. Karakoulas mentions Delialis' relationship with the Library: "The Library was his home, and the books, his children. For that alone he lived and fought, untouched by all else. During the German invasion and the bombing of the city in 1941, while the others abandoned it, he stayed behind and at the risk of his life, cared for the Library and secured its treasures from being snatched and looted, by storing them in suitable crypts." Beyond being the Library's beating heart however, Delialis was a hugely versatile mind and the author of 40 books. For his multifaceted activity he was honoured by the Academy of Athens with a Public Commendation, while the Municipality of Kozani awarded him the Gold Medal of the city in 1971. He was succeeded by Vassilis Sambanopoulos (1960-1982, 1993-1996), an active local historian, who served just as important a role in the Library's history and development.

In 1963 the Library was relocated to the newly built expansion of the City Hall, whose ground floor and first floor were built with the sponsorship of brothers Konstantinos and Dimitrios Ioan. Koventarou, expatriates from Kozani who lived in the USA. The two brothers also financed the construction of a building that housed the city's conservatory. In honour of the two sponsors, the Library was now named Koventarios Municipal Library, a name it retains to this day.

In 1986 the Library moved to another building of the Municipality, at the shopping centre (number 7, 28th Oktovriou square), becoming a Legal Entity of Public Law of the Municipality of Kozani (decision of the Municipal Council of Kozani 40/86, Government Gazette 382, B, 10.6.1986), governed by a Board of Directors which is appointed by the Municipal Council for a term corresponding to its own.



Brothers Konstantinos and Dimitrios Koventarou (from left), sponsors of the expansion of the city hall where the Koventarios Municipal Library was housed from 1963 to 1986.

Twenty years later, the construction of a building that would house the Koventarios Municipal Library and its Museum began on a plot of land opposite the Municipal Garden (number 9, Konstantinou Davaki road). The new building, with a total area of 6,800 square metres, was completed in 2019 and inaugurated on October 10, 2019. The project was financed by the European Union's Structural Funds and Cohesion Fund programme (ΕΣΠΑ) (2007-2013) and its cost amounted to 7,110,358 euros.

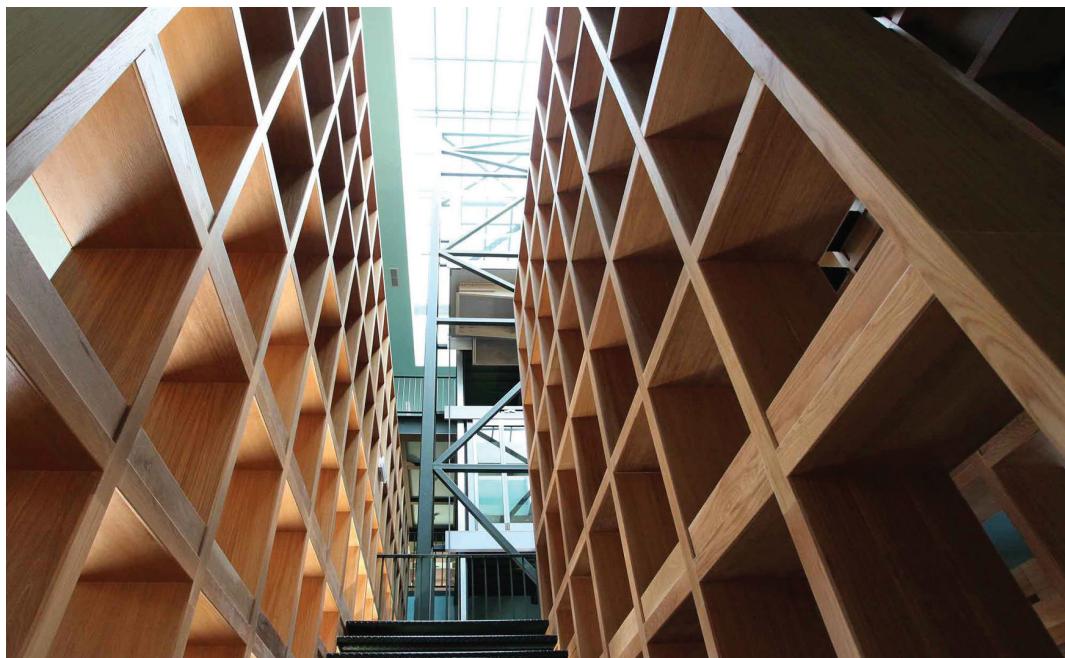
ABOUT LIBRARIES



The interior of the Koventarios Municipal Library.

KOVENTARIOS MUNICIPAL LIBRARY OF KOZANI

The building houses the Library (2,328 square metres), the Museum (1,000 square metres) and the common reception and service areas (725 square metres). The Library operates on the terms of a typical municipal library, with a reading room, lending section, children's section, special areas for scholars and researchers. There is also a workshop for the preservation of books and manuscripts, as the Library collects printed and manuscript material covering five centuries. As for the Museum, it draws its exhibits from the Library's collections, seeking to present and comment on Kozani and its society as well as the Kozani communities in the Balkans and Europe from the 17th to the 19th century. The exhibits reflect the social, political and cultural context of the time and highlight the role played by the Church, scholars, scientists, merchants and other donors in the Library's enrichment and development.



The main staircase from the ground floor to the floor of the Koventarios Library.

*The reading room
of the Koventarios
Municipal Library
in Kozani.*

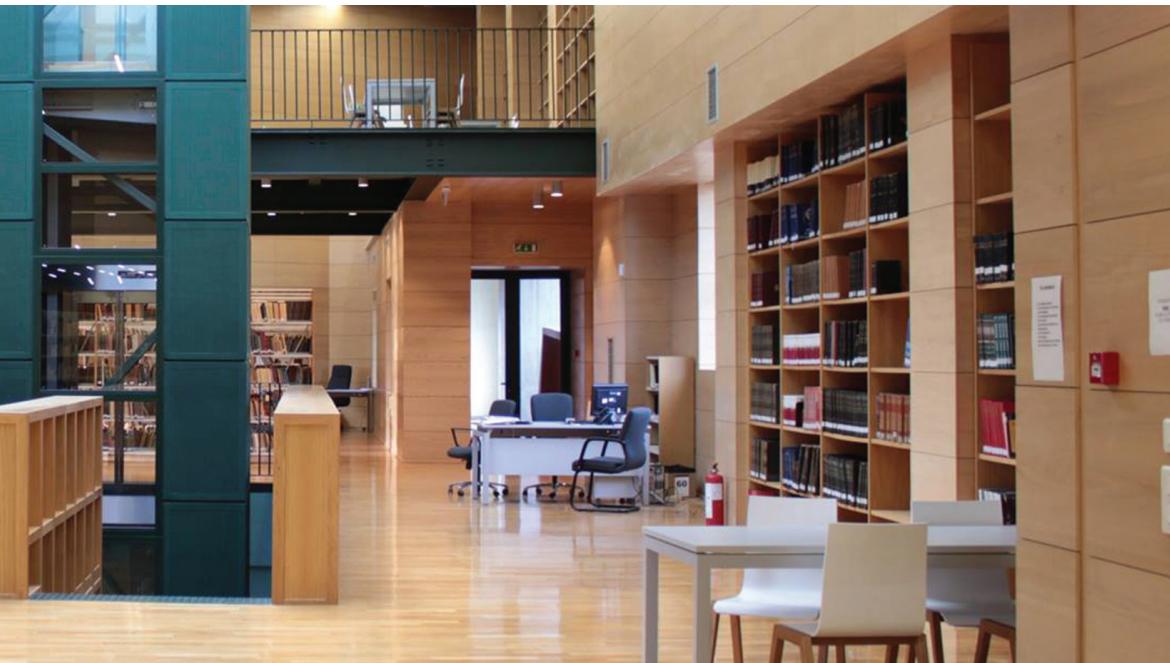


CLASSIFICATION AND CATALOGUING SYSTEM

In 1873, at the same time as the expansion of the Community Library building, due to the great increase in the number of books (from 1,000 volumes in 1830 to 2,600 in 1862), a committee was set up to reclassify the books and reorganise the Library's catalogue of literary manuscripts. By the end of the year the committee had completed its work.

The classification they used was typological. They divided the material into six categories, which they called "sections" and then divided them into subcategories. The Catalogue of the Community Library of Kozani, which was delivered to the Kozani Reading Room in 1916, recorded the books in thematic sections. The books amounted to 3,229 titles and 6,620 volumes.

In 1923, with the delivery of the Library and its assets to the Municipality of Kozani, the philologist G. Panagiotidis undertook the classification and cataloguing of 6,261 volumes of books, 684 manuscript codices and document codices and 307 journals, as calculated after the end of the process. G. Panagiotidis classified the books according to



scientific categories, which he marked in the catalogue of their classification using symbols and numbers, so that the book could be easily located in the book depositories. The three departments he created were a scientific one, a popular one and one for students.

In the following years, the efforts to catalogue the Library's collections continued, albeit in fragments. Until the end of the 1990s, the Koventarios operated by lending mainly literary books, without a bulletin catalogue available for the public, except for some handwritten forms that were completed for the convenience of the employees. However, the increase in visitors and the development of information technology pushed the Library management to proceed to the digital cataloguing of the collections, based on the modern classification standards (DEWEY system, AACR) and making the search of its catalogue open to users everywhere. The automation and documentation of the Library's content started in 2000 with the LIBRETTO system, followed by ABEKT in 2007, and then KOHA, which is still used to this day. The Library's archive is also being documented by the information Society, using the TAXINOMIA software.

**COLLECTIONS OF THE KOVENTARIOS
MUNICIPAL LIBRARY OF KOZANI**

Manuscripts	There are over 400, the oldest dating back to 1022. Most are post-Byzantine and newer, mainly from the 18th and 19th century, related to Kozani. Almost all manuscripts are paper.
Printed works	Most are donations, mainly from the people of Kozani, and originate in the period of the Modern Greek Enlightenment (18th-19th century). The library also treasures a significant number of books from the 15th to the 17th century. Seven incunabula (1494-1500) can be found among them, with the first being the Latin book <i>Expositiones super tractatum de urinis...</i> by J. M. Ferrarius (Milan 1494), publications of works by Aristotle, Pindar, the first surviving Greek newspaper (<i>Efimeris</i>), the <i>Charta</i> by Rigas Velestinlis, publications by the well-known Venetian printer Aldus Manutius, et al.
Local Historical Archive	Loose archival documents and bound document codices mainly from the period of Ottoman rule. The collection consists of ecclesiastical documents, minutes of the <i>Demogerontia</i> , as well as legal, administrative and educational documents in the Greek language and some in the Ottoman language. A large part consists of the document codices and the loose archives of the Holy Metropolis of Serbia and Kozani, but also documented archives from the Municipality of Kozani. The newest and most recent archive of documents mainly covers the period from 1914 to 1950 and is divided into two sections, the Municipality and the Prefecture.
Archaeological Collection	Icons, sacred relics, wood carvings, engravings, architectural parts and inscriptions. They date mainly from the post-Byzantine period.
Map Collection	A small but significant collection of maps, both standalone and bound in atlases. Most important among them are the twelve-page <i>Charta</i> by Rigas Velestinlis (1796-1797) and the four-page world map by Anthimos Gazis (1800). The collection is kept in the Lassanis Mansion.
Psarianos Library	Donation of over 10,000 books, including many books of music, made in 1995 by Dionysios Psarianos, Metropolitan of Serbia and Kozani from 1957 to 1997.
Contemporary Collection	Documents that have been published since the liberation of Kozani in 1912.

KOVENTARIOS MUNICIPAL LIBRARY OF KOZANI



The main exhibition space of the Museum at the new building of the Koventarios.

OTHER THEMATIC SECTIONS DEVELOPED ON THE WEBSITE

Organisation of the Koventarios

Publications of the Koventarios

- Catalogues
- Miscellaneous

Bibliography of the Koventarios

Statue of Kostis Palamas in the park of the Cultural Centre.

KOSTIS PALAMAS LIBRARY



*The two-storey house on 3,
Asklipiou street
before 1966,
the year of its
demolition.*



HISTORY

The Library of Kostis Palamas (1859-1943) is housed in the Kostis Palamas Foundation, at 3, Asklipiou Street, in the centre of Athens. It was founded in 1960 thanks to the actions of Giorgos Katsimbalis, Konstantinos Tsatsos, Andreas Karantonis, Dimitris Synadinos and, on the part of the poet's heirs, Christos Xanthopoulos-Palamas, Georgios Syriotis and Achilleas Valvis-Laskaridis.

The latter group in particular, on the occasion of the centenary (1959) of the birth of Palamas, unanimously decided to donate to the newly founded Foundation all they had from their poetancestor, such as manuscripts, books from his personal library and some objects from his household. At the same time, they granted the Foundation the intellectual property rights of Palamas' works.

The poet lived with his family at the Foundation's present-day location from 1894 until 1935, when he was forced to move to another house in Plaka (5, Periandrou Street). In 1966 the two-storey building on Asklipiou Street was demolished and an apartment building was erected in its place. Three years later, in 1969, on the initiative of the first president of the Palamas Foundation, G. Katsimbalis, an apartment was purchased on the 4th floor of the newly built apartment building in order to host the Kostis Palamas Foundation, Museum, and Library. Symbolism, as it is understood, played the most important role in the selection of this property, as it was where the poet spent most of his life writing almost all of his poetic, literary and critical work.



Partial view of the Library, complete with the poet's desk and rocking chair at the Kostis Palamas Foundation.

A lover of books, Palamas did not stop reading and acquiring them until the end of his life: “I collect [books] to appease my heart’s craving, rather than my mind’s judgement” (*Ta Χρόνια μου και τα Χαρτιά μου. Η Ποιητική μου* [*My Years and My Papers: My Poetry*], vol. 1, Hestia, 1933, p. 89 / K. Palamas, Omnia, vol. 10, pp. 476-477). His following words are indicative of the importance he attached to the study of books as a springboard for his own creativity: “How many of the dreams I dreamed only for them to become taut verses or well-chosen words, first came to me as I was bent with a pencil over the pages of a book.” The poet was not only inspired by literary books or collections of poetry, but by books related to all disciplines: philosophy, economics, law, history, geography and travel, medicine, et al.

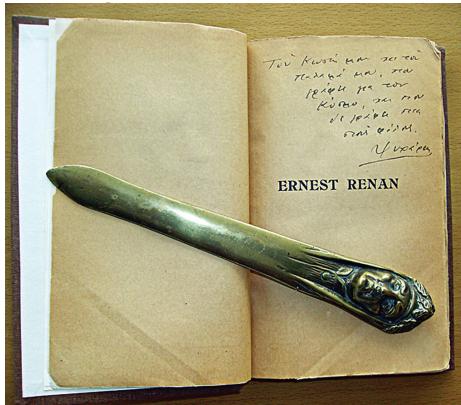
According to Konstantinos Kasinis, a scholar and bibliographer of Palamas, the poet’s Archive and Library remained intact until 1935, when he was forced to leave the house on Asklepiou street. Due to his ill health, Palamas could not control the safe transfer of his belongings during the move, resulting in the loss of part of his collection. According to Kasinis, the Library, as well as a large part of the poet’s handwritten poems, correspondence, personal documents and notebooks were among the material that was saved thanks to the efforts of the poet’s daughter Nafsika.

The situation in the Library remained like this until the death of Nafsika and her brother Leandros in 1958. The two siblings died a few months apart, Nafsika on February 12th and Leandros, three years her junior, on August 22nd. For the next two years, until it was absorbed by the Kostis Palamas Foundation in 1960, the Library was pillaged, mainly its Greek-language section. G. Katsimbalis undertook the task of preserving and classifying all of the remaining valuable material in the area of the Foundation, where it is kept until today.

COLLECTIONS OF THE LIBRARY

“...those books that carry the markings of my touch
and those still uncut
my books, my companions, my strangers, my friends,
who light my way and whisper a thousand whispers in my ear,
asking of me nothing in return,
and, while keeping me company,
allowing me my solitude”

(K. Palamas, *Omnia*, vol. 10, pp. 476-477)



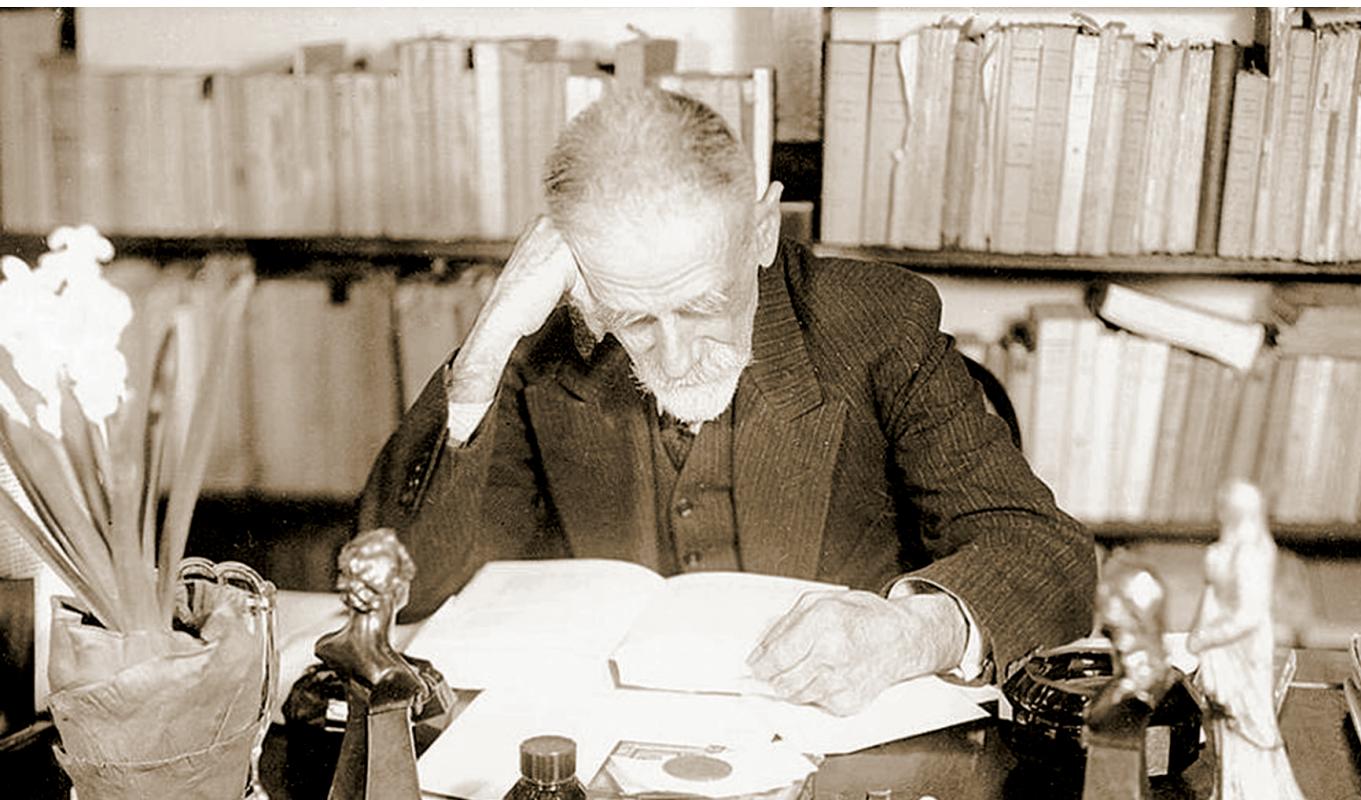
Dedication from
Yiannis Pscharis
on a book
by the philosopher
Ernest Renan
—his father-in-law—
which he gifted
to Palamas.

mology. However, most of the Library consists of literary books, mainly in Greek but in other languages as well.

The scientific volumes are littered with a variety of reading indications in the margins of the pages or on the printed text, as well as, in some cases, with handwritten notes by the poet himself. Many of the books come with dedications from leading figures in the world of letters to the poet. Thus, for example, Paul Valéry warmly sends to Palamas his book *Discours en l'honneur de Goethe* [Address in honour of Goethe] (1932) (“À Kostis Palamas avec mes remerciements et mes hommages. [To Kostis Palamas with my thanks and my respects.], Paul Valéry”) and Marinetti the book *La Ville Charnelle* [The Carnal City] (1908). There is also an interesting dedication by Yiannis Psycharis on the title page of Ernst Renan’s book (Psycharis had married his daughter): “To my Kostas and to my Palamas, who writes about the world, and who no longer writes to his friends. Psycharis.”

The books of K. Palamas amount to more than 3,000, but their exact number is not known. In another area of the Foundation there is a library of studies on the work of Palamas and his time. These books amount to about 1,200, 720 of which were donated to the Foundation by Andreas Karantonis.

Among the poet's over 3,000 books are titles of literature, criticism, philosophy, science and art, as well as books on psychoanalysis, medicine and cos-



Kostis Palamas studying at his desk.

OTHER THEMATIC SECTIONS DEVELOPED ON THE WEBSITE

Catalogues of books of the Kostis Palamas Library

Manuscripts and letters of the Kostis Palamas Library

Administration of the Foundation

Publications of the Foundation and Kostis Palamas Library

- *Kostis Palamas' Bibliographies*
- *Catalogues of the Kostis Palamas Library*
- *The Foundation's Publications on Kostis Palamas*

Bibliography on the Kostis Palamas Library

View of the Library from the second floor.

LIBRARY OF THE SCHOOL OF PHILOSOPHY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS





The main building of the University of Athens.

LIBRARY OF THE SCHOOL OF PHILOSOPHY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS

LIBRARY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS

In 1838, a year after the founding of the University of Athens, its Library began to operate, collecting books from donations by Greek scholars, philhellenes abroad and by European universities. Three years later, in 1841, the University Library reached about 20,000 volumes, with the consequent need for it to be moved from the house of the architect Stamatis Kleanthis in Plaka, where the University was located, to a larger space.

The solution given by the state was the merger and co-habitation of the University Library with the National Library - then referred to as the “Public” Library - which also faced a housing problem, as the church of St. Eleutherius near the Metropolis where it was housed was not equipped to store its more than 15,000 books (for more see the entry “National Library of Greece”). The new building of the University of Athens in today’s Propylaea was the space chosen to co-locate the two Libraries, on the first floor of the southwest side of the main building in 1842, before they were united administratively by law in 1866.

However, as it turned out in practice, the merging of the Libraries was a solution of necessity that altered the identity of both, and, as a result, neither institution could fulfil the purpose of its operation. The causes of this problematic relationship, which remained unchanged to the end, were rooted in the state’s intention of creating a large Hellenic Library in harmony with the spirit of the Great Idea and of a Greek nation that would illuminate the East; the Rector’s authorities consented to such a move, even though they foresaw early on the dangers of occupying spaces with books that were of little use to the University. Thus, the University Administration’s decision to not claim the books that bore its stamp when the unified Library was moved to the Vallianeos building in 1903 seemed deliberate. The consequence of this disparate coexistence was that the University Library, due to reduced



Friedrich Thiersch was a German philhellene and humanist philologist.

state funding, could not regularly and consistently supply the books that would serve the needs of its scientific topics and the educational process. The demand for university textbooks by the students was satisfied with printed and lithographed reprints as well as handwritten versions. As for the needs of the teachers' research work and the writing of studies, articles and announcements, they were covered until 1862 by the unified Library. From 1863 they had at their disposal the special Library of the University, which was housed in a separate space in the building and had as its core not only the books of the German philhellene and humanist philologist Friedrich Thiersch (1784-1860), but also selected modern scientific books purchased at the suggestion of the younger university professors and lecturers for research development. Towards the end of the 19th century the tuition halls, laboratories and other specialised areas of the University, which received the general name "branches"

or "appendices", acquired their own specialised libraries, with each of those libraries receiving those books of the special Library of the University that were relevant to its area of study.

LIBRARY OF THE SCHOOL OF PHILOSOPHY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS

THE SCHOOL OF PHILOSOPHY OF THE UNIVERSITY
OF ATHENS AND ITS BRANCHES

The School of Philosophy together with the Schools of Theology, Law and Medicine formed the initial core of the faculties of the University of Athens. In the founding decree of 1836, it was referred to as the “School of General Sciences”, but in the corrective decree of 1837 it was named “School of Philosophy”. Initially, its subjects included Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Natural History and Botany. However, the incompatibility between the applied and theoretical sciences became obvious; besides, the questions of dividing the School of Philosophy into Departments or establishing an independent School of Physics and Mathematics were reflected in its provisional regulation, published in the Government Gazette upon the School’s founding. The decision to split the School was finally made in 1904, when the School of Physics and Mathematics was founded, eventually evolving into the School of Science.



The Philological, Philosophical and Historical-Archaeological study halls in the main building of the University, at Propylaea, in the early 1920s.

The Philological Tuition Hall, which was founded in June 1842 by Royal Decree, was the first to operate as a “branch” of the University, headed by the later Rector of the University, Konstantinos Asopios (1785-1872). The purpose of the Philological Tuition Hall was to train those students who wished to work as teachers of ancient Greek and Latin in the field of Secondary Education, as well as those interested in the critical study and analysis of classical writers and poets. In October 1868, by a new royal decree, the Philological Tuition Hall was considered an “appendix” of the School of Philosophy, while from 1888 onwards other tuition halls began to be established under the same terms: the Archaeological Tuition Hall, the Philosophical Tuition Hall and the Historical Tuition Hall (1888), the Tuition Hall of Linguistics (1892), the Tuition Hall of Pedagogy (1899) and the Tuition Hall of Foreign Languages (1911). In addition, there was the Latin Tuition Hall, which, however, did not follow a regulation.

With the enactment of the new regulation of the University of Athens in 1922 (Law 2905, Government Gazette 127, A', 27.7.1922), the tuition halls were renamed study halls, but retained their previous scientific and administrative structure. In 1932, according to the new regulation of the National and Kapodistrian - as it was now called - University (Law 5343, Government Gazette 86, A', 23.3.1932), the Historical Study Hall was separated from the Archaeological Study Hall and two more were founded, the Study Hall of Byzantine and Modern Greek Philology and the Study Hall of Linguistics.

In general, each study hall followed internal regulations under the approval of the relevant School - in this case the Faculty of Philosophy - and their management was undertaken by the respective teachers of each chair. At the same time, their libraries, which had been established from the first day of each department's operation, when they were still called tuition halls, were enriched and expanded. Regarding the operation and enrichment of the libraries, a special fund was accounted for in the regular annual budget of the University. Nevertheless, a large part of their acquisitions came from donations by professors, writers, foreign universities, philhellenes, et al.

Alongside the aforementioned study halls, the School of Philosophy also featured two laboratories, in accordance with the European stand-

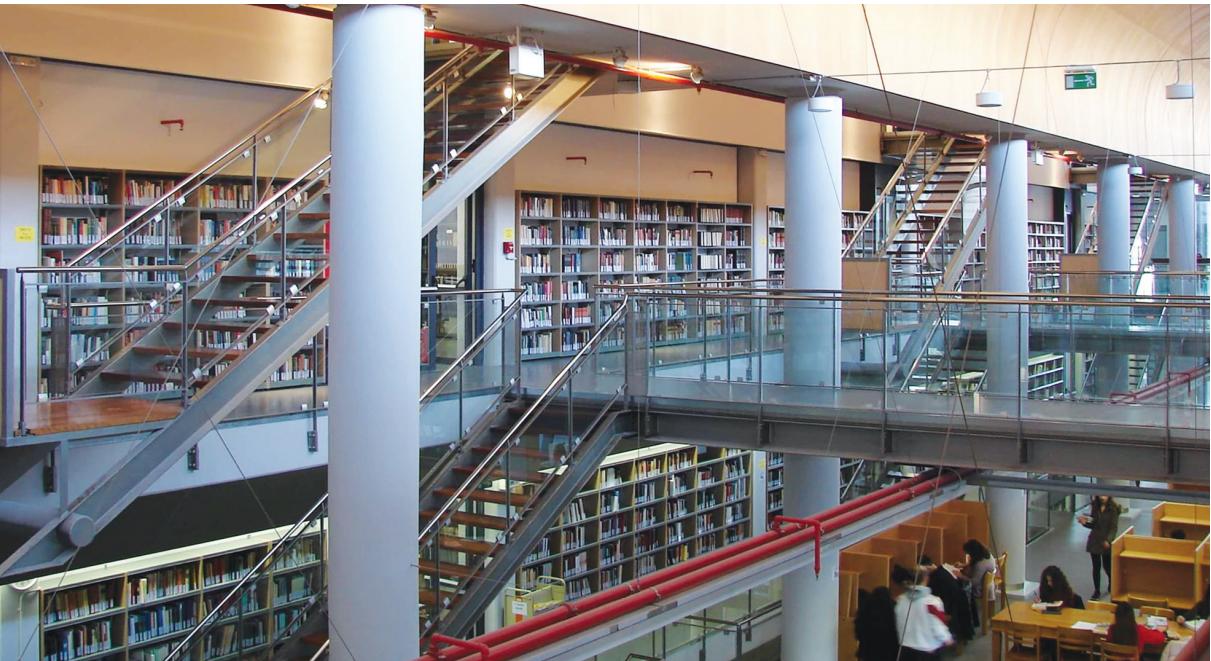
LIBRARY OF THE SCHOOL OF PHILOSOPHY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS

ards, that of Experimental Psychology, founded in 1922, and that of Experimental Pedagogy, founded in 1932. The first was directly connected to Philosophical Tuition Hall, with first-year and second-year students from the School of Philosophy as well as third-year students of the School of Theology practising in the methods of scientific research on mental phenomena and in the use of psychometric instruments. The second focused on research on the physical, psychological and moral development of students as well as on the study and dissemination of the science of Pedagogy in Greece. Finally, in 1929, following the actions of the professor of Philosophy N. Exarchopoulos (1874-1960), the School of Experimental Pedagogy in Athens was founded under the supervision of the University of Athens, with the objectives of theoretical and practical training of future Secondary Education professors and of scientific research for the development of the pedagogical science.



The founder of the Laboratory, Professor N. Exarchopoulos (bottom row, 4th from the left), with collaborators.

ABOUT LIBRARIES



*View from the inside
of the Library.*



*One of the
Library's reading
rooms.*

LIBRARY OF THE SCHOOL OF PHILOSOPHY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS

THE UNIFIED LIBRARY OF THE SCHOOL OF PHILOSOPHY

The School of Philosophy did not have a unified library to include all the books from its individual “appendices”, only the independent libraries of its tuition or study halls. During the academic year 1987-1988, the School of Philosophy was relocated to the University Campus of Zografou with 12 study halls and libraries, which, according to the framework law on the structure and operation of higher education institutions (Law 1268.1982), was now separated into departments and sectors.

The Library of the School of Philosophy as a single administrative unit was instituted for the first time in 2005, following a decision of the Rector’s Council and is under the Library Management of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. Until September 2018, 16 study halls and libraries were operating under its coordination, which served the needs of the School of Philosophy’s 13 academic departments. They were the following:

- Study Hall of Classical Philology
- Study Hall of Byzantine and Modern Greek Philology
- Study Hall of Linguistics
- Study Hall of Folklore
- Study Hall of History
- Study Hall of Archaeology and Art History
- Study Hall of Philosophy
- Study Hall of Pedagogy
- Study Hall of Psychology
- Library of the Department of English Language and Literature
- Library of the Departments of Italian and Spanish Language and Literature
- Library of the Department of French Language and Literature
- Library of the Department of German Language and Literature
- Library of the Department of Russian Language and Literature and Slavic Studies
- Library of the Department of Theatrical Studies
- Library of the Department of Music Studies



The computer area, where visitors can locate through the OPAC catalogue the books and other documents that the Library treasures.

LIBRARY OF THE SCHOOL OF PHILOSOPHY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS

The arrival of 2019 also marked the beginning of a new era for the School of Philosophy, as after about 13 years of work, a new unified Library was created, including all the individual study halls and libraries of the School.

The three-storey building of the Library, with a total area of 7,500 square metres, is located next to the building of the School of Philosophy on the university campus and is divided into seven levels. It has an amphitheatre for conferences and other events and its reading rooms number 400 seats.

In terms of its content, the Library treasures publications dating from the 16th century to the present day. In detail, the collections of the Library of the School of Philosophy cover a wide range of fields related to the study of humanities in various languages. The Greek language, literature, philosophy, history, archaeology, and art form the main pillars of the collection and are supplemented by Latin literature, European languages and literatures (English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Russian), pedagogical science, psychology, as well as music and theatre.

Among the 500,000 documents, there are about 20,000 rare and valuable editions, as well as manuscripts. In addition to books, the Library also carries a significant collection of scientific journals (3,800 titles), as well as 4,000 documents of audiovisual and photographic content. This material has come from purchases, donations and exchanges over time in the context of collaborations mainly with academic institutions in Greece and abroad.

OTHER THEMATIC SECTIONS DEVELOPED ON THE WEBSITE

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