# "The Archives of Politicians: the Greek Case"

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The University of British Columbia School of Library, Archival & Information Studies Vancouver, February 2011

# International Council on Archives (ICA)

- Section of Archives and Archivists of Parliaments and Political Parties (SPP)
- CITRA: Universal Declaration on Archives

# International Council on Archives (1/3)

 The ICA is a truly international organisation which works with decisionmakers at the highest level. The ICA cooperates closely with UNESCO and the Council of Europe.

http://www.ica.org/

# International Council on Archives (2/3)

 The ICA is a neutral, non-governmental organisation, funded by its membership, which operates through the activities of that diverse membership. For over sixty years ICA has united archival institutions and practitioners across the globe to advocate for good archival management and the physical protection of recorded heritage, to produce reputable standards and best practices, and to encourage dialogue, exchange, and transmission of this knowledge and expertise across national borders. With approximately 1500 members in 195 countries and territories the Council's ethos is to harness the cultural diversity of its membership to deliver effective solutions and a flexible, imaginative profession.

# International Council on Archives (3/3)

- The ICA is dedicated to the effective management of records and the preservation, care and use of the world's archival heritage through its representation of records and archive professionals across the globe. Archives are an incredible resource. They are the documentary by-product of human activity and as such are an irreplaceable witness to past events, underpinning democracy, the identity of individuals and communities, and human rights. But they are also fragile and vulnerable.
- The ICA strives to protect and ensure access to archives through advocacy, setting standards, professional development, and enabling dialogue between archivists, policy makers, creators and users of archives.

### ICA - mission and aim

### **Mission**

 The mission of the International Council on Archives (ICA) is to promote the preservation and use of archives around the world. In pursuing this mission, ICA works for the protection and enhancement of the memory of the world and to improve communication while respecting cultural diversity.

### Aim

 The aim of the ICA is to promote the management and use of records and archives, and the preservation of the archival heritage of humanity around the world, through the sharing of experiences, research and ideas on professional archival and records management matters, and on the management and organisation of archival institutions.

# ICA - Objectives

### The objectives of the ICA are to:

- Advocate: Encourage and support the development of archives in all countries, in co-operation with other organisations, including international agencies, governmental and non-governmental.
- Professionalise: Promote, organize and co-ordinate best practice, the development of standards and other activities in the field of records and archives management.
- Connect: Establish, maintain and strengthen relations between archivists of all countries and between all institutions, professional bodies and other organisations, public and private, wherever located, which are concerned with the administration or preservation of records and archives, or with the professional training of archivists, especially through the exchange of information.
- **Promote**: Facilitate the interpretation and use of archives by making their content more widely known and by encouraging greater access to them.
- Take action: Undertake any relevant activities which support its





- The Regional Branches are one of the most immediate benefits for ICA members. The 13 branches cover the globe and enable ICA members in the same region to come together on matters of mutual interest.
- The branches enable members to participate in professional debates while respecting the cultural diversity and traditions of their regions.

### ICA Professional Sections



- A core benefit of ICA membership is involvement with a Section. Each Section specialises in an area of professional practice and there are currently 13 Sections covering issues as diverse as archival education and business archives.
- The purpose of Sections is to encourage debate, stimulate research and develop solutions for key archive issues. Sections present papers and author numerous articles to disseminate their findings throughout the archival profession.





International Council on Archives Section of Archives and Archivists of Parliaments and Political Parties Conseil international des Archives Section des archives et archivistes des Parlements et Partis politiques

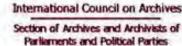


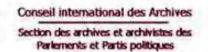
# Section of Archives and Archivists of Parliaments and Political Parties (SPP) (1/2)

- The ICA/SPP sees is an international forum of professionals who work at archives of parliaments, political parties and politicians.
- To perform such a task the SPP is mainly focussed on three activities drawing attention to promoting interest of its members in, and ensuring the preservation of traditions of parliaments and political parties in different states and countries in order to improve the understanding of their identity and history.











# Section of Archives and Archivists of Parliaments and Political Parties (SPP) (2/2)

- At present the SPP consists of approximately 93 members, representing 32 countries.
- Since 1992 the SPP has organised several conferences to discuss issues which are matter not only to archivists of parliaments, political parties and politicians but also to archivists and archival institutions in general.

# Universal Declaration on Archives (1/4) Oslo, September 2010

 Archives record decisions, actions and memories. Archives are a unique and irreplaceable heritage passed from one generation to another. Archives are managed from creation to preserve their value and meaning. They are authoritative sources of information underpinning accountable and transparent administrative actions.

# Universal Declaration on Archives (2/4) Oslo, September 2010

 Archives play an essential role in the development of societies by safeguarding and contributing to individual and community memory. Open access to archives enriches our knowledge of human society, promotes democracy, protects citizens' rights and enhances the quality of life.

# Universal Declaration on Archives (3/4) Oslo, September 2010

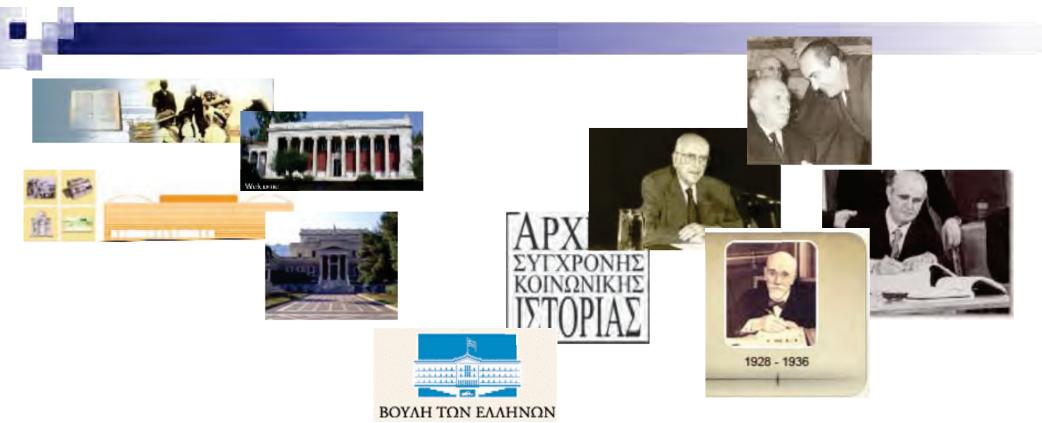
### To this effect, we recognize:

- the unique quality of archives as authentic evidence of administrative, cultural and intellectual activities and as a reflection of the evolution of societies;
- the vital necessity of archives for supporting business efficiency, accountability and transparency, for protecting citizens rights, for establishing individual and collective memory, for understanding the past, and for documenting the present to guide future actions;
- the diversity of archives in recording every area of human activity;
- the multiplicity of formats in which archives are created including paper, electronic, audio visual and other types;
- the role of archivists as trained professionals with initial and continuing education, serving their societies by supporting the creation of records and by selecting, maintaining and making these records available for use;
- the collective responsibility of all citizens, public administrators and decision-makers, owners or holders of public or private archives, and archivists and other information specialists - in the management of archives.

# Universal Declaration on Archives (4/4) Oslo, September 2010

### We therefore undertake to work together in order that:

- appropriate national archival policies and laws are adopted and enforced;
- the management of archives is valued and carried out competently by all bodies, private or public, which create and use archives in the course of conducting their business;
- adequate resources are allocated to support the proper management of archives, including the employment of trained professionals;
- archives are managed and preserved in ways that ensure their authenticity, reliability, integrity and usability;
- archives are made accessible to everyone, while respecting the pertinent laws and the rights of individuals, creators, owners and users;
- archives are used to contribute to the promotion of responsible citizenship.



# The Archives of Politicians



# The Archives of Politicians (1/3)

 It provides the researcher with the opportunity to explore whether an individual holding senior governmental offices is able to influence and shape the policy of a country in a decisive way. In the sphere of international relations, the basic reason why the individual level is researched is because "...the nations do not act, but rather their leaders and in any event the decision of those handling the situations is included. Whatever happens or will happen in a given situation is at least partially determined by the individual or individuals involved in it'.

# The Archives of Politicians (2/3)

 The question is whether the singularity of each personality is so significant that it is taken into account to explain all that has occurred. Focusing one's attention on the key-persons of every age, the intention is to underline their singular contribution to the evolution of events and to explain why they acted the way they did. The scholar of international relations could use them as 'case studies' or as examples of the specific behaviour of persons in international affairs.

# The Archives of Politicians (3/3)

 The archives of political figures and parties, resulting from their political activity, constitute an important part of a nation's historical heritage and core knowledge of its political history. They are directly related to the exercise of political power and the shaping of political ideas and situations, and hence their role in research of social and historical phenomena is primary.

# Related Foundations in Europe

- Fondation Jean Monnet pour l' Europe <a href="http://www.jean-monnet.ch/">http://www.jean-monnet.ch/</a>
- The Konrad Adenauer Stiftung <a href="http://www.kas.de/">http://www.kas.de/</a>
- Fundação Mário Soares <a href="http://www.fmsoares.pt/">http://www.fmsoares.pt/</a>
- Fondation Charles de Gaulle <a href="http://www.charles-de-gaulle.org/">http://www.charles-de-gaulle.org/</a>
- Fondazione Alcide de Gasperi

http://www.fondazionedegasperi.it/

### Presidential Libraries – USA

- The Eisenhower Foundation

  http://www.dwightdeisenhower.com/foundation.html
- The Truman Presidential Museum & Library www.trumanlibrary.org/
- The Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation <a href="http://www.jpkf.org/">http://www.jpkf.org/</a>

### The Archives of Politicians: The Greek Case

- The latest twenty years in Greece, in parallel with General State Archives of Greece, there is a number of Foundations which host the archives of political figures that left their mark on the historical course of the nation by virtue of their decisions and actions.
- If we take into consideration that the archival collections available to the scientific community are indeed very few compared with the number of persons who assumed the premiership of our country since the independence of the Greek state until today, we then come to realize that those Foundations possessing archival materials perform a remarkable role in learning about the events that transpired.

### Greek Foundations

- The National Research Foundation "Eleftherios K. Venizelos"
- The Konstantinos Karamanlis Foundation
- The Andreas G. Papandreou Foundation
- The Konstantinos Mitsotakis Foundation
- Contemporary Social History Archives (ASKI)

## Other Institutions in Greece

- The Library of the Hellenic Parliament http://voulibeu.parliament.gr/
- The National Historical Museum <a href="http://www.nhmuseum.gr/">http://www.nhmuseum.gr/</a>
- Benaki Museum <a href="http://www.benaki.gr/">http://www.benaki.gr/</a>
- The Hellenic Literary and Historical Archive http://www.elia.org.gr/
- The Gennadius Library

  The American School of Classical Studies at Athens

http://www.ascsa.edu.gr/index.php/gennadius/

# THE NATIONAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION "ELEFTHERIOS K. VENIZELOS"

http://www.venizelos-foundation.gr/

### Mission

- The National Research Foundation "Eleftherios K. Venizelos" was founded in Chania, in 2000.
- Its mission is to become a modern center for archive preservation and research. It has developed an important range of activities and has been established as an institution extending its activity in the fields of education and research.

## Library

- A specialized library is being established –containing recent and rare publications, series of official publications (collections of diplomatic documents, treaties), memoirs, monographs, conference proceedings and journals, already numbering approximately 5000 titles.
- The main library unit refers to the thematic category "Eleftherios Venizelos", consisting –apart from recent bibliography- of rare publications, including his parliamentary and other speeches, interviews, anniversary publications and also books, mostly in German, English and French that belonged to his personal library.
- Apart from the thematic category "History", relative to the international political, economic and social developments of the 10th and 20th century the thematic units "Crote"

### The archival collections of the Foundation (1/5)

 The archival collections of the Foundation pertain to the life and activity of Eleftherios Venizelos and cover the period extending from the mid-19th century until the Second World War.

## The archival collections of the Foundation (2/5)

- There are two categories of collections:
- 1.original archives (to which I will refer below) and
- 2.copies of archives; the latter category includes digitalized collections of documents, a collection of microfilms and audiovisual material.
- The microfilm archive of the British National Archives is a unit of particular importance. Our first acquisition consists of material concerning Crete during the period 1837-1905.

## The archival collections of the Foundation (3/5)

 The original archives of the Foundation's collection consist mostly of documents of the public domain (political) - and in this area there is un upcoming collaboration with the archives of political parties under the initiative of the Greek Parliament –also of letters received or sent by Venizelos, correspondence dispatched from and to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs under Venizelos' premiership- as well as private – personal correspondence of Venizelos, of his wife Elena and his son Sophocles-, and also documents relating to historical events of Crete and the political and social life of the island.

## The archival collections of the Foundation (4/5)

 The Foundation also disposes of an important collection of Cretan —of the period of the Cretan State and of the former period- and of Greek and foreign newspapers. The Greek newspapers are mainly of the period of the end of the 19th century (1884-1889) and of the beginning of the 20th (mostly 1905-1936), while the foreign papers cover late 19th century (especially the periods 1866-1867, 1897-1898).

## The archival collections of the Foundation (5/5)

 The pictorial and photographic material of the Foundation is also particularly rich, consisting of original paintings by important artists, series of lithographs, maps as well as photographic records, rare photos, cartes-postales, slides and negatives of photos. The main thematic units of this category are: "Eleftherios K. Venizelos", "Historical Portraits", "Historical events of Crete", "Landscapes of Crete", "Historical events of Greece", "The Expedition of Asia Minor" etc.

# The Foundation's role in the sector of information management

- The Foundation's role in the sector of information management is reinforced by the project "Scientific Documentation and Digitalization of Eleftherios Venizelos' Personal Archive" within the Operational Programme "Information Society", which was completed in December 2007.
- The project consists in the digitization, documentation, and presentation of the complete personal archive of Venizelos, or, to be precise, of the three parts that belong respectively to the Foundation, the Greek Literaly and Historical Archive's collection and the Benaki Museum which holds the largest and most important part. The archival material, which includes documents, photographic material, maps and lithographs covering the period of 1880-1936, is of great historical value. It is a virtual digital archive and will

## Museum

 Besides, one of the main priorities of the Foundation is the conversion of the family residence of Eleftherios Venizelos in the area Halepa in Hania, into a Museum, containing objects, pieces of art and tradition, relating to Venizelos himself and to the history of the period. The objects inside the residence are of particular historical, archival, museological and artistic value and give a full picture of the relationship of Eleftherios Venizelos with the house of Halepa.

# THE KONSTANTINOS G. KARAMANLIS FOUNDATION

http://www.ikk.gr/

### The chronicle of its establishment

- 1983 The year of its establishment
- It is the outcome of private initiative
- An important centre for the preservation of historical memory and facilitation of scientific research

Konstantinos Karamanlis responded positively to the proposal of three eminent Greek personalities of the world of letters and proceeded to the establishment of the Foundation, in the conviction that:

"History must not be forgotten, and that, the teachings of history are always opportune".

His decision to entrust his political archive to a non-profit Foundation to bear his name, was a pioneering act and contributed decisively to a scholarly approach of essence toward the problems of contemporary Greek history.

#### **Activities**

The Foundation develops activities on the following basic guidelines:

- Compilation of an Historical Archive Modernization of services
- Operation of a specialized library Enrichment of library collections -Modernization of services
- Collation of series of publications
- Conduct of conferences, seminars, lectures and exhibitions as well as of cultural events
- Collaboration with similar foundations abroad: the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, Charles De Gaulle Foundation and Mario Soares Foundation among others
- Establishment of the Konstantinos Karamanlis Centre for Hellenic Studies and Southeastern European Studies at Bostons Tufts University
- Participation in further training programmes

### The Historical Archive: holdings (1/2)

- The Historical Archive of the Foundation contains important primary sources that shed light on the political history of Greece mainly for the period after the Second World War.
- At the core of the Historical Archive is the Konstantinos Karamanlis archive, donated by Konstantinos Karamanlis (1907-1998) himself.

#### The Historical Archive: holdings (2/2)

The Foundation also hosts the papers of major political figures and close colleagues of Karamanlis, which shed light on their political work and add to the information contained in the main body of the archive.

Archive collections of:

- Evangelos Averoff-Tositsas
- Nikolaos Martis
- Konstantinos Papakonstantinou
- Panagis Tsaldaris
- Konstantinos Tsaldaris
- loannis Boutos
- Gerassimos Apostolatos
- Lina Tsaldari
- Georgios Spendzas
- Anastasios Kanellopoulos

#### Access to the archival material

This archival material is available for study by researchers in accordance with the terms of the special regulations. A basic condition for use of documents is that they must not fall under the confidentiality rules of the Greek state, which cover public papers of the last thirty years. Material belonging to the Historical Archive has already been used by a number of academics and young researchers to elaborate their work.



Depository



#### Audiovisual material

- The Historical Archive also contains valuable audiovisual records, which are digitized in 371 DVDs.
- These focus on the political achievements of Konstantinos Karamanlis, and also highlight the major events of the period during which he played a leading role on the political stage.
- These documentaries provide a more complete picture of post-war Greece, and give a fascinating insight into international events. The aforementioned material is being constantly enriched by donations and by the activities of the foundation.
- A rich collection of photographic material, comprising around 20,000 images, has also been amassed. These refer to the political life and work of Konstantinos Karamanlis and mainly cover the period between 1955

## Karamanlis political profile His achievements

Konstantinos Karamanlis was an active member of the Parliament for five decades, a Minister for eight years, fourteen years as Prime Minister and ten as the President of the Republic. While he was politically active, he offered both a varied and invaluable service, starting with:

- the economic development of Greece
- and culminating
- in the reinstatement of Democracy in 1974
- and its inclusion within the European Community

#### K. Karamanlis founded two conservative parties:

- the National Radical Union in 1956
- and the New Democracy Party in 1974



## Brief presentation of the Karamanlis archive

- The primary material of the Karamanlis archive mainly covers the following wider period October 1955 - March 1995.
- In particular, through these primary sources, the significant historical developments that left their mark on Greece's history are shown:
  - the country's economic growth during the 1950s
  - the restoration of democracy
  - the resumption of institutions in 1974 as well as its gradual incorporation into the main body of United Europe.
- This important archival material shed light on the most significant aspect of Greek foreign policy in contemporary Greece: its equally privileged incorporation onto the path of European integration.
- At the same time, the European dimension of the archive's contents highlights many aspects of Greek domestic policy, thus shedding light on the functioning of political institutions – Parliament, political parties, public administration, the Greek economy, etc.

#### Digitization-Documentation

Besides its digitization, each separate item is classified and electronically processed according to the General International Standard Archival Description (ISAD) of the International Council on Archives (ICA), treated as an integral unit as well as an integral archival part of the whole. To be more specific, the entries have been keyed into the Foundation's central computer system and general descriptive catalogues have been printed and incorporated into its website.

### Library

- The Foundation also operates a specialized Library which includes over 40,000 books and periodicals.
- It principally focuses on contemporary Greek history from the Second World War until the present, in connection with international developments, and particularly from a European perspective.
- Its material that comes from acquisitions and gifts from friends of the Foundation has been catalogued and classified in accordance with international standards.

# Preservation and management of the archival material in the digital era (1/5)

- One of the Foundation's primary concerns is the proper preservation, conservation and management of the archive material.
- At the same time, every effort is made to exploit modern developments in technology in order to protect it.
- It is worth emphasizing that as early as the second half of the 1980s, the decision was taken to take microphotographs of the archive with the aim of securely protecting it.
- During this period, the electronic recording of the documents also began, alongside their detailed documentation.
- These projects were completed in 1992, and after this a computer network was installed in the Foundation, into which all the processed details were entered.
- The software enabled users to locate any information entered into the various fields of the electronic form of documentation, since any word can be used as a key-word.

# Preservation and management of the archival material in the digital era (2/5)

In 2004, it was decided that the services provided by the Historical Archive should be further modernized, in order to provide easier access for researchers and to exploit the potential of technological developments in archiving and retrieving information.

In the context of the "Digitization, documentation and Display of the archives in the Konstantinos G. Karamanlis Foundation", project, which formed part of the "Information Society" Business Program, co-funded by the European Union and the Greek State, and lasting from July 2004 to December 2007:

- The documentation and digitization was completed of documents from the K. Karamanlis archive (230,000 pages of documents and printed materials), of the audio-visual collection (20,000 photographs, 250 hours of video) and of the rich collection of K. Karamanlis's personal heirlooms.
- A comprehensive system of data management of digital collections
  was designed and implemented, which makes it easy to follow the full
  life cycle of digital records and makes it easy to search for them, both
  for the Foundation personnel, and for visitors to the Foundation

# Preservation and management of the archival material in the digital era (3/5)

- Special care is envisaged for the management of access to the digital material at the level of meta-data and digital records. The digital collections management system has been implemented through the special program PAPYROS.
- The technical equipment was upgraded (installation of new computer systems, scanners, printers, storage media, network equipment) both for the Foundation personnel and for visitors to the Foundation.
- A website was designed on the basis of the specifications required for disseminating the content of digital collections to the general public. The Foundation has had a website (<a href="http://www.karamanlis-foundation.gr">http://www.karamanlis-foundation.gr</a>) since 1998.

## Preservation and management of the archival material in the digital era (4/5)

With the completion of this highly important project, the Historical archive has made a decisive contribution to the preservation, exploitation and dissemination of the content of the historical sources in its possession:

- 1. The collections that have been digitized are of very great cultural and historical value.
- 2. After the digitization and the electronic management of the archive material, access to the archive proper is not necessary, which means that the valuable primary archive material can be more securely preserved.
- The value of the historical material in the Foundation makes it a very interesting primary source for the creation of digital and other forms of cultural products.

## Preservation and management of the archival material in the digital era (5/5)

After completion of the "Digitization, Documentation and Display of the archives in the Konstantinos G. Karamanlis Foundation" project, the Historical Archive of the Konstantinos G. Karamanlis Foundation is embarking on the following stage:

- it is digitizing three more archives of important Greek politicians
- Panagis Tsaldaris
- Konstantinos Tsaldaris
- Lina Tsaldaris
- and the wealth of photographic material contained in the Collection of Historical Heirlooms of Anastasios Kanellopoulos, which has reference to Panayiotis Kanellopoulos.

At the same time it is creating multi-media applications aimed at disseminating historical information to the general public and more generally at the development of suitable conditions for the creation of a cultural reserve and the promotion of Modern Greek History.



## CONTEMPORARY SOCIAL HISTORY ARCHIVES (ASKI)

http://askiweb.eu/

### ASKI (1/5)

- The scientific, non-profit Society "Contemporary Social History Archives" (ASKI) was founded in 1992 primarily by historians and political scientists; the aim was to manage archives which were highly important and critical for the Greek history in the 20th century.
- The archives were given by the Communist Party of Greece-Interior (KKE-Interior), a party that had emerged from a split in the Communist Party of Greece (CPG) in 1968.
- These collections included a substantial part of the archive of the CPG in the period from 1945 to 1968 and the Archive of the Radio Station "Free Greece-Voice of Truth"; with regard to its broadcasting range, the Radio Station has functioned abroad as the unique authentic expression of the policies of the Communist Party in the years of civil war and clandestine existence, namely, from 1948 and

### ASKI (2/5)

- Furthermore, the collections included the archive of KKE-Interior from 1968 to 1986 and the archive of the "Greek Left" party (1986-1989) which was an evolution of the former. Some years later, the archive of the Unified Democratic Left (EDA) party (1952-1967) was added to their collections; EDA was the legal expression of the Left, at a time when the Communist Party was illegal in Greece.
- They were parties with an important political presence in the national and, since the 1980s, in the European parliament. The total number of papers included in the archival collections is over two million.

## ASKI (3/5)

 Unique documents have been rescued in these archives pertaining to the Greek political and social life: early translations of socialist works in the Greek language; original papers from the resistance and the civil war; documents from the life of political prisoners in exiles and prisons and from the activities of political refugees and their organisations in Eastern European countries; collections of the antidictatorial press; information regarding social organisations and political initiatives in the post-junta era.

## ASKI (4/5)

- In addition to preserving, indexing and scientifically utilising the archives in its possession, ASKI has set as an aim to collect, preserve and utilise archival and printed material which refers to the history of contemporary political and social movements in Greece.
- And, in fact, from 1992 and until this time, many archives were added to its collections; archives of parties and organisations which played an important role in Greek political life: archives of socialdemocratic, trotskyist parties; archives of trade-union and social organisations; archives of youth organisations, peace movements etc.

### ASKI (5/5)

- A large number of personal archives and collections owned by persons who were protagonists in public life: leaders of political parties, ministers, members of parliament, cadres of the Left. At the same time, documents are collected and archives are constituted pertaining to major political events of the contemporary times, e.g. national elections and European parliament elections.
- The documents of these archives have been added to other archives offered by ordinary individuals, by eponymous but not well-known persons: letter cards, old newspapers, photographs found their places in the relevant collections, which at present are over five million documents and which in their majority have been compiled and classified, so as to be available to researchers.

### ASKI – Library

In addition to the archives collections, ASKI houses a library with more than 40,000 titles, where emphasis is laid on the political and social history in the 20th century. ASKI library includes one of the most important collections of clandestine resistance press as well as publications produced during the civil war years from almost all parts of Greece. Unique are the series of publications by the political refugees who have taken refuge in Eastern European countries after the defeat in the civil war. There are thousands of valuable publications pertaining to social movements in Greece, whilst numerous autobiographical texts, memories and testimonies by fighters of the Greek Left can also be found here. Particularly rich are the collections of printed material and periodic publications regarding early socialist movements as well as works of Marxist literature. Furthermore, there is a collection of daily and weekly newspapers of the Left and a collection of antidictatorial publications: newspapers, magazines and bulletins from clandestine activities inside the country and numerous titles in

### ASKI – Archive of photographs

 In ASKI's archive of photographs, photographs have been organised from the interwar period until the present time. Of particular importance is the collection pertaining to the period of the German Occupation, the resistance and the civil war; also, to the prisons and exiles extending from the period of the 4th of August dictatorship (1936) to the fall of the seven-year dictatorship in 1974. Recently, a systematic effort is made to organise the Society's exceptionally rich collections of leaflets and posters. The collection of leaflets includes unique specimens from the early years of the 20th century until and including 1990; whilst, the number of posters has increased especially in the last three decades.

### ASKI (1/3)

- From the outset, the preservation, classification and indexing of all these documents aimed at common use, at providing free access to them. For this purpose, a reading-room is open to the public three times a week. Here, one is able to study and reproduce the documents in accordance with the archival rules. Last year, the Archives received about 1,000 visits from historians, researchers, post-graduate students, but also from citizens who simply study recent history.
- ASKI collaborates with universities regarding post-graduate seminars and practice by their students. In the framework of the European programme "Information Society", ASKI has digitised 70,000 pages, which can be seen at their website (www.askiweb.eu) under the theme "Culture and the Left in the Twentieth Century"; moreover, 90,000 pages from the archives of Greek political youth organisations that were active in Greece from World War II until the fall of the dictatorship. In the framework of the same programme, an important project is under way pertaining to the digitisation of documents (20,000 pages) of the Democratic Army of Greece (1946-1949).
- At the same time, the entire archive (30,000 pages) of former European
  Parliament Member Michalis Papayannakis can be found in a digitised form in
  the ASKI website; whilst, in a few months, the archive of Alecos Alavanos from
  his term in the European Parliament will be added.

### ASKI (2/3)

 Indexing and classification of the Society's collections have enabled the publication of catalogues of archives, bibliographies, sources about the history of the civil war. Finally, particular emphasis should be laid on the publication of the Society's annual journal "Archeiotaxio"; in its ten issues, a lot of studies have been published on modern Greek history mainly based on ASKI's collections.

### ASKI (3/3)

- ASKI is the first research institution in Greece whose aim was and is to provide free access to party archives of the communist left, which until that time were inaccessible to the public and to experts, thus overcoming decades-long mentalities. In its theory and practice, the prevalent feature was always the logic of open archives, as it was expressed by the Society's primary inspirer and first chairman Philippos Iliou. In fact, it was for this purpose that it has maintained and always maintains a strict archival practice allowing full access to its documents.
- At the same time, it attempted to shape a climate of reliable scientific approaches regarding a theme and an epoch which were exceptionally critical and charged. The problems are many and pertain to issues of ethics, personal data, scientific methodology etc. In attempting to deal with them, ASKI continues on its course, its basic concern being to ensure and strengthen the right of citizens to know their past.

### Legal framework

## Legal framework for the administration and management of records and archives (1/4)

- In Greece, the main legislation concerning the archives of the State was for a long time the law 380 of 1914 which established the service of the General State Archives. This law was modified by the law 2027 of 1939, and replaced by the law 1946 of 1991; this last one establishing the legal and statutory context which today governs archives.
- This law introduced the main modifications into the archival landscape by taking into account the evolutions of the archival discipline and introducing them into the Hellenic realities.

## Legal framework for the administration and management of records and archives (3/4)

 They are private records as defined by law (1946/1991 article 4), because they have been produced within the framework of political processes of taking power, as well as during its exercise. That is why the characteristics that define the content and meaning of the archive of a political party are certainly more specific than the ones that define the archive of a political personality, in which documents of various kind and content are interposed making its meaning more ambiguous and vague.

## Legal framework for the administration and management of records and archives (4/4)

 The predominant spirit at the foundations/institutions in Greece is that of free circulation of information always within the framework of legal interest protection. According to the regulation of their Historical Archives, the policy followed from their institution until today concerning public documents goes along with the one of the General State Archives as provided by relevant law (article 42 on tricennial and article 16/1599 on right to knowledge of administrative documents, while paragraph 3 of the same law protects the confidentiality of certain categories). It is taken for granted that documents should not be made available for study that are considered harmful to public and national interests, even though they are out of the tricennial. Finally, research into personal records of living persons takes place after communicating and taking the

## Legal framework for the administration and management of records and archives (2/4)

 According to the law 2846 of 2000 was created a specific service of the "archives of Prime Minister, Ministers," deputy ministers, and of the General Secretary of the government", competent in receiving and protecting archival documents created by these organs and in ensuring the access in the legal framework defined by the text. With a later legislative modification, the law 3391 of 2005, this service stopped being independent and became integrated into the central service of the General State Archives named "special service of the archives of Prime Minister, Ministers, under Ministers, and General Secretary of the government".

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