

Review of the Celebration of the International Archives Day 2018



Within the context of the celebration of the International Archives Day, the General State Archives organized a series of events at the Central Service and the Regional Branches.

The Central Service of G.S.A., the Historical Archive of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens and the Historical Archive of the Municipality of Athens celebrated along with the Municipality of Philothei – Psychico the International Archives Day by organizing the event entitled “*Bring your drugs, Art..., they numb the wound at least for a little while*”¹: *medical archives telling stories* on Monday the 18th of June 2018, at the G.S.A. Central Service in Psychico. The event included relevant speeches and an exhibition of archival material, both original and digital, of the participating organizations. This year’s theme focuses on personal, human stories seen through medical archives.

Mr. Kostas Gavroglou, Minister of Education, Research and Religious Affairs, Ms. Meropi Tzoufi, Deputy Minister, and Mr. Giorgos Aggelopoulos, Secretary General, honoured the

¹ C. P. Cavafy, *Melancholy of Jason Cleander, Poet in Kommagini, A.D. 595* (Translated by Edmund Keeley/Philip Sherrard)

event by their presence. In their addresses they mentioned the important role of the G.S.A. in the preservation of the archival heritage and the need to reinforce the national archival organization while modernizing its organizational structure and strengthening its extrovert activity. The legislative initiatives of the Ministry of Education are moving towards this direction to renew the legislative framework of G.S.A., with a law draft that will soon be put to public consultation

Next, the event was addressed by Mr. Pantelis Xyridakis, Mayor of Philothei – Psychico, Ms. Zetta Antonopoulou, representing the Historical Archive of the City of Athens, Mr. Vangelis Karamanolakis, representing the Historical Archive of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, the President of the G.S.A. Supervisory Council, Mr. Nikos Karapidakis and the Director of the G.S.A. Central Service, Ms. Marietta Minotos.

A representative of His Beatitude Hieronymos, Archbishop of Athens and All Greece, representatives of political parties, archival and cultural institutions, artists and personalities of the political world honoured the event with their presence as well. The Municipality of Philothei – Psychico once again proved to be a valuable assistant and supporter of the activities of the G.S.A.

The event was accompanied by an exhibition entitled: *“...there be hope still ...”: archival documents about health.*



The opening of the exhibition took place during the conference *Archives of Healthcare Institutions: History and Documentation*, which was held at the G.S.A. Central Service on 25-27 April 2018.

Through the rich collection of the archival material and the speeches of the event, coordinated by the reputable journalist, Mr. Makis Provatas, the history of Health in our country was highlighted, with its occasionally adventurous courses, through personal cases of medical professionals and intellectuals as well as simple people, as they are imprinted on archival sources.

All the speeches of the event will soon become available by the Bodossaki Foundation –a constant sponsor and supporter of the work of the G.S.A.– on the website Bodossaki Lectures on Demand (www.blod.gr)

The exhibition will remain accessible to the public until September 2018 by appointment. More information can be found on the organizers' websites (www.gak.gr – www.archive.uoa.gr – www.cityofathens.gr – www.okapa.gr).

The International Archives Day was celebrated in all parts of Greece, giving archival services the opportunity to promote their material and activities by organizing various cultural events such as exhibitions of archival material, speeches and guided tours in Archives. Indicatively we mention the Regional Branches of G.S.A. that participated in the celebration of the International Archives Day: Archives of the Prefecture of Aetoloakarnania, Evritania, the Historical Archive of Epirus, the Archives of the Prefecture of Zakyntos, Corfu, Cyclades, Lakonia, Magnesia, Fthiotida, Chios, Local Archives of Aghia, and of Limni.