



Cavafy Archive: Goals, Context, Positions

The Onassis Foundation acquired the Cavafy Archive at the end of 2012. In this manner, a potential fragmentation and dispersal of the Cavafy Archive was avoided and the Archive remains in Greece. Our mission is the protection of the physical archive, the creation of the necessary conditions to ensure its openness and accessibility to researchers and to the wider public; furthermore, our mission is to promote Cavafy's work and the international appeal of Cavafy's poetry.

The Cavafy Archive consists of more than 4.500 manuscripts and personal items of the poet. These include the original manuscripts of poems, translations, notes, essays, and correspondence, the archive of *Alexandrini Techni*, part of the Singopoulos Archive, as well as works of art related to Cavafy. From the moment of the Archive's acquisition, every effort has been made (even during conservation), to facilitate all researchers who wished to examine it. No researcher has ever been excluded, and no one has privileged access.

The Cavafy Archive is currently in a stage of transition from an open physical archive to an open digital archive. Its policy will be one of complete open access for the digitized material in its entirety, according to specific, internationally accepted, and clearly defined terms. Open access is practiced internationally in a way that may seem to a great extent counterintuitive. However, it constitutes a regular practice in the area of open knowledge, in order to adhere to and reserve intellectual property rights. Open access also means protecting the archive from uses and practices that perpetuate past practices of exclusive access, which indirectly restrict the archive's open access strategy.

Safeguarding and promoting cultural inheritance, is one of the Onassis Foundation's primary commitments, being reflected in the Foundation's more general policy in the fields of culture, the arts and sciences as well as its public benefit mission. The acquisition and management of the Cavafy Archive falls precisely in this context.

The Cavafy Archive is part of the Onassis Library, whose main collection represents the entire range of intellectual activities of Greek diaspora from the period of early Italian Renaissance to the late years of Modern-Greek Enlightenment in the nineteenth century. The Onassis Library opened in 2016 with a wide range of events, including visits, educational programmes and lectures for academics, students, researchers, associations, students, families, as well as book lovers who wish to get to know the library. At the same time, the digitization of the Library's collections is ongoing. When completed, it will offer open access to more than 100.000 documents.

The most important points of focus for the Onassis Foundation are education, science, and cultural inheritance. To this end, the Foundation's actions have included the following: more than 7.000 scholarships; support to over 400 universities in Greece and abroad, focusing on supporting and promoting Greek studies and culture; the work of the Onassis Cultural Centre USA in the last 18 years with 20 exhibitions on ancient and modern Greek culture, and with more than 900.000 visitors. At the same time, through the academic programme

of the Onassis Foundation in New York, there have been more than 1.740 lectures and courses on Greek culture, with the participation of 210 visiting professors, 500 university departments and estimated visits of 95.000 people in north, central, and south America.

This is the institutional context in which the Cavafy Archive has operated and will continue to do so. The organization of the International Cavafy Summer School in 2017 is an example of the Archive's multi-layered and multifaceted activities. The first international event of its kind, it will be solely dedicated to the poet and the impact of the Alexandrian poet's work. Indeed the Foundation plans to establish the International Cavafy Summer School on an annual basis, every July. The Foundation also plans to announce two annual postdoctoral fellowships revolving around Cavafy research.

Until now, six research seminars have been organized by the Cavafy Archive (2016/17), 21 educational events for adults, with more than 2.000 participants (nine events at the 'Talks and Thoughts' series at the Onassis Cultural Centre, and a symposium at Panteion University); and 36 workshops for students of secondary education ('Cavafy Goes to School'), in which more than 600 students have participated. Two educational series 'Seven Poems, Seven Lessons', and 'Four Performance Lectures' continue in April and May 2017.

In the context of safeguarding the archival material, the Foundation has already conserved a great number of manuscripts from different folders, in order to ensure their physical integrity. These documents are exceptionally fragile and seem to have never been conserved before. Their conservation is a continuing process during which the specific needs of the material stored in the Archive are being assessed.

The Archive's conservation and maintenance not only presupposes its material safeguarding, but also its continuous documentation and constant enrichment with metadata. The protection of the Archive itself is achieved by its open access policy to the scientific and educational communities, as well as the general public.

These are the goals towards which we have been working. We are open to dialogue with those who wish to develop a productive relationship with our ongoing project, contributing with questions, comments, observations, and suggestions.