



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; the Archive's main mission remains the promotion of Cavafy's work and the showcasing of 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 very moment the Archive was acquired by the Onassis Foundation, every effort has been made (even when it was undergoing conservation and restoration), to facilitate all researchers who wished to consult the material assets of the Archive. No researcher has ever been excluded, and no one has ever had privileged or exclusive access to the Archive and its assets.

The Cavafy Archive is currently in a stage of transition from an open physical archive to an open digital archive. The Cavafy Archive 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 to a great extent in a way that may seem counterintuitive; however, this modus operandi constitutes a regular practice in the area of open knowledge, thus adhering to and preserving intellectual property rights. Open access also means protecting the archive from uses and procedures that perpetuate past practices of exclusive access whose express purpose would be to 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 fall precisely within 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, the Onassis Library 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 initiatives have included the following: awarding more than 7.000 scholarships; supporting over 100 universities in 40 countries

placing particular emphasis on the promotion and dissemination of Greek studies and Greek culture; the work of the Onassis Cultural Centre USA over the last 18 years with 20 exhibitions on ancient and modern Greek culture, which have attracted over 900.000 visitors confirms this directive. At the same time, through the academic programme of the Onassis Foundation in New York, more than 1.740 lectures and courses on Greek culture have been organised, in which 210 visiting professors, 500 university departments have participated and an estimated 95.000 people in North, Central, and South America have attended.

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, the International Cavafy Summer School is solely dedicated to the poet and the impact of the Alexandrian poet's work. The International Cavafy Summer School takes place on an annual basis, during the second week of July, seeking to establish new avenues in Cavafy research.

Along these lines, six research seminars have been organized by the Cavafy Archive (2016/17), 31 educational events for adults, with more than 3.000 participants (Cycle of Open Lessons of the Cavafy Archive, Performance Lecture Series, the 'Talks and Thoughts' series at the Onassis Cultural Centre, and the symposium "Cavafy and Image" at Panteion University). In addition, 36 workshops in the 'Cavafy Goes to School' series for students in secondary education have taken place, in which more than 600 students have participated.

Finally, in the context of its overall mission statement in the sectors of education, science and cultural heritage, the Onassis Foundation has made provisions in its Scholarship Programme for Hellenes and Foreigners for the academic year 2018/19 towards awarding up to two scholarships in the field of Cavafy studies. These scholarships shall be awarded to successful applicants falling under the two following categories: a) scholarship towards the undertaking of a doctoral thesis in a Greek university, b) scholarship towards a postgraduate degree or the undertaking of a doctoral thesis in a university outside Greece and c) scholarship awarded to a non-Greek researcher in order to facilitate research relevant to the Cavafy Archive in Greece.

In the context of safeguarding the archival material, the Foundation has already made provisions for the conservation and preservation of 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 undergone the process of conservation 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 metadata enrichment. The protection of the Archive itself is made possible by its open access policy to the scientific and educational communities, as well as the general public.

In light of the above, the Onassis Foundation trusts the curation of the design of the Archive's initiatives to an Academic Committee consisting of nine members. The core role of the Committee is the design of academic and research initiatives that are related to the Archive, the efficient management of the academic resources and capabilities of the Archive, the study of the Archive's appeal to multiple audiences (both specialised and wider), the submission of proposals for educational and cultural initiatives related to the Archive, the promotion of Cavafy research and the creation of a prototype paradigm in archival management, the networking and collaboration with other educational and cultural organisations (universities, research programmes, archives, etc), the assessment of candidates applying for doctoral and postdoctoral scholarships in Cavafy studies.

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.