

California Zephyr: The Tsakopoulos Hellenic Collection as a Cultural Repository and Research Destination

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Introduction

Comprising the holdings of the former Speros Basil Vryonis Center for the Study of Hellenism, the Tsakopoulos Hellenic Collection was donated to the university library at California State University, Sacramento ("Sacramento State") in the fall of 2002, opening to the public a year later. The Vryonis Center was initially established in 1985 in Los Angeles by the late Prof. Speros Vryonis Jr., a scholar of Byzantine and Ottoman Studies, in memory of his late son Speros Basil. Vryonis' private library of approximately 13,000 volumes formed the nucleus of the Center's library that would in 1989 come to reside in the Sacramento area. The Center's move was prompted by Vryonis' appointment as the founding director of the Alexander S. Onassis Center for Hellenic Studies at New York University in 1988. In its new home the Center's library was further enhanced under successive directors, growing to nearly 70,000 volumes by the time it closed in the summer of 2000. Following the closure of the Vryonis Center, the library was transferred to Sacramento State where it was renamed the Tsakopoulos Hellenic Collection in honor of its benefactor and alumnus Angelo Tsakopoulos, whose financial support of the Center had enabled the library to flourish.¹

Sacramento State is a four-year, regional comprehensive university (soon to be reclassified as an R2), providing an affordable, yet high-quality education in the capital of the Golden State. The university enrolls nearly 30,000 students and graduates more than 8,300 annually. Our mission is to "transform lives by preparing students to lead, serve, and succeed." The University Library is the hub of intellectual discovery for our students, faculty, and the broader community. Part of the Donald & Beverly Gerth Special Collections & University Archives, the Tsakopoulos Hellenic Collection (<https://library.csus.edu/tsakopoulos>) serves as the anchor of the Hellenic Studies Program within the Angelo K. Tsakopoulos Hellenic Studies Center on campus and as a research collection of international significance for scholars around the globe.

The university library's goals for the collection are "to support campus curricula and faculty research needs, particularly in the Hellenic Studies Program; to facilitate scholarly access to the Collection internationally via the Hellenic Research Fellowship Program (discussed in further detail below); to digitize rare, unique, and distinctive parts of the collection for online access; to work collaboratively with similar collections and institutions; to promote widespread visibility and use of the collection through public programming and engagement; and to establish an endowment that will provide a permanent base of funding for continued collection growth, research fellowship opportunities, digitization projects, and outreach."

The majority of the collection is located on the third floor in a separate, named area of the university library, facilitating browsing and the serendipity it often creates, while rare, archival, and media materials are housed separately. As part of a public academic library, the collection is widely accessible to the campus community in support of the Hellenic Studies Program and various interdisciplinary curricula, the broader Sacramento regional community, remotely via interlibrary loan, and since 2012 to our Hellenic Research Fellows.

Over the years, the Tsakopoulos Hellenic Collection has partnered with the Hellenic Studies Program in numerous cooperative outreach efforts to our constituents, supporting and co-hosting/co-organizing numerous international conferences, including hosting the Modern Greek Studies Association 2019 Biennial Symposium; dozens of live and virtual lectures; exhibits of art, costume, and rare collection materials; film screenings and musical performances.

Speros Vryonis deserves the credit for insisting that, as part of the terms of the gift agreement, the university create a full-time position to oversee the collection within the university library, lest it become a moribund relic simply warehoused in the building. I was fortunate enough to be hired to be the collection curator, beginning my position the same day as its public opening on September 2, 2003. As the tenured full-time curator of the collection, my energies are dedicated to the overall management and growth of this wealth of resources, including collection development of new and out-of-print resources in all formats, cataloging unprocessed materials, class orientations in the use of the collection, specialized research assistance to students, faculty, Hellenic Research Fellows and the regional community, and outreach. I am assisted by part-time student assistants in the Donald & Beverly Gerth Department of Special Collections and University Archives, whose main responsibilities are archival processing, bibliographical projects, and other tasks.

Collection Growth

Since its opening in the university library, over the past two decades the Tsakopoulos Hellenic Collection has grown by over 15,000 volumes and 175 linear feet of archival material. The collection's sustained growth has come through library purchases and especially gift materials from individuals, fellow academic institutions, the Greek government, grant funding, and the donation of scholars' libraries and other distinctive collections. What follows is a summary of some of the most important acquisitions of the collection since its opening at Sacramento State.

During the first phase of operations between 2003 and 2008 there were severable notable donations that strengthened the collection. Among these were books and journals on Cyprus donated by the Embassy of Cyprus in Washington, D.C.; publications on the Greek-Australian experience from the former National Centre for Hellenic Studies and Research at La Trobe University in Victoria, Australia; several hundred books on Greek literature and art donated by the Municipality of Athens Cultural Organization on behalf of the Constantine Mitsotakis Foundation; and over 450 reels of Greek microfilm from the Hellenic Parliament, including government document runs of the *Ephemeris tes Kyverneseos* and *Praktika Voules*, and several runs of Greek newspapers such as *Kathemerine*, *Hora*, and *Akropolis*. Zita Vlavianos Hosmer donated the most significant archival acquisition during this period, consisting of 75 boxes of additional manuscript material relating to the life of her late father, Dr. Basil Vlavianos, editor and publisher of the *National Herald* from 1940-1947, and one of the most important figures in Greek America of the 20th century. Vlavianos had originally donated his library and papers to the Vryonis Center in 1993, but had withheld materials of a more personal nature and those pertaining to his many business interests.

Additionally, there were noteworthy purchases of primary-source collections funded through grant monies during this period. The six-volume *Ethnic Minorities in the Balkan States, 1860-1971* is a compendium of documents drawn from the British Public Records Office illustrating the position of various populations and ethnic groups in the Balkan region for over a century. The massive 14-volume *He Genoktonia ton Hellenon tou Pontou* edited by Kostas Photiades compiles archival documents on the Pontian Greek genocide from various British, European, Soviet, and other sources. The most significant of these was the complete set of available U.S. State Department files pertaining to Greece, Crete, and Cyprus on microfilm, more than 350 reels in total. This treasure-trove of primary sources includes 19th- and early 20th-century dispatches from United States consuls stationed in various cities in Greece, Cyprus, and other locales in the former Ottoman Empire, records relating to the internal affairs of Greece spanning 1910-1963,

records relating to political relations between Greece and other states spanning 1910-1944, and the State Department's files on the Cyprus Crisis of 1967.

Collection growth began to accelerate in 2009 with the first donation of a scholar's library to the collection, that of the late journalist and author Pyrrhus J. Ruches. The collection was donated by Dr. Constantine Hatzidimitriou, Ruches' longtime friend, who inherited his collection in the hopes that it would find a permanent home in an institution where it would be accessible for study and research. As a journalist, Ruches worked in various editorial capacities at newspapers in several states, including, for most of his career, New York. Over the years he also published freelance articles in the Greek-American and Greek periodical press related to this interest in the Question of Northern Epirus and issues of the Greek minority in southern Albania, reflecting his family roots in the area. Ruches is the author of two books, *Albania's Captives* (1965) and *Albanian Historical Folksongs, 1716-1943: A Survey of Oral Epic Poetry from Southern Albania, with Original Texts* (1967), collected and translated by Ruches, both published by Argonaut. The addition of approximately 1,800 items to the collection in various formats and languages spanned Ruches' broad interests in the fields of history, ethnography, folklore, cultural anthropology, and religion, with particular emphasis on Greece (especially Epirus and Northern Epirus), the Balkans, and Turkey. This donation marked a pivotal turning point in the history of the collection and my approach to collection development going forward. I now realized that the Tsakopoulos Hellenic Collection could grow dramatically with the addition of similar scholarly collections from individuals and organizations. Going forward I would be attuned to similar opportunities and would begin actively seeking out further collections in need of a good home.

The next major donation came in 2011, when I acquired the Hellenic portion of a larger library of over 8,500 volumes owned by the late Dr. Steve A. Demakopoulos, a lifelong New Yorker who had worked for much of his career for the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey as an economist and computer scientist before retiring to suburban Boston. Demakopoulos had an abiding interest in Hellenic culture, particularly Greek language and literature (his interest in dictionaries garnered him the nickname "Lexikopoulos"), folklore, and music. Following Demakopoulos' death in 2006, a local bookseller purchased his entire library and was looking for a home for the Hellenic portion of roughly 3,400 volumes, which remained *in situ* in the study Demakopoulos had built above his garage. I had the opportunity to visit during the summer of 2010 after a conference in Washington, D.C. and was amazed not only at the size and depth of the collection, but also by the excellent condition of the materials. I learned that when Demakopoulos purchased items from Greek booksellers and publishers, he had the foresight to have the books with paper covers routed to a bookbinder, who would bind

them in cloth before shipping them to him in New York. Demakopoulos' collection was rich in various types of dictionaries of the Greek language of all periods such as bilingual dictionaries (including the only Greek-Esperanto/Esperanto-Greek dictionary ever published), reverse dictionaries, and thesauri, glossaries of Greek dialects, grammars, New Testament studies, works on demotic Greek, and other specialized linguistic materials, many of which are rare. Many literary works of major author, anthologies, theatrical works, etc. were part of the collection, as were numerous titles dealing with folklore on topics such as proverbs, songs, stories, and customs of Greeks in Greece, Asia Minor, Pontus, and elsewhere. In addition to books about Greek music, Demakopoulos amassed a sizable collection of over 2,000 Greek and Greek-American musical scores, described as the largest collection in the country², an archive on Greek music, and many albums of recorded Greek music on vinyl, cassette, and CD. Given the very reasonable asking price from the bookseller for this treasure-trove, in 2011 the Tsakopoulos Hellenic Foundation very generously acquired this Hellenic library and gifted it to the Tsakopoulos Hellenic Collection in response to my funding appeal.

Later, in 2017 I acquired the papers and nearly 1,000 select volumes from the library of the late Prof. John P. Anton, an acquisition that was over a decade in the making. What had begun as a conversation with Anton himself in 2004 about a prospective sale ended up as a donation by his widow Helen after he passed away in late 2014. Anton, a Distinguished Professor of Greek Philosophy and Culture at the University of South Florida from 1982 until his retirement, authored or edited over two dozen books and published over 125 articles in various journals. He also had a serious interest in Modern Greek literature and poetry. The philosophy books correspond with his interests in ancient philosophy, especially the philosophers Plato, Aristotle, and Plotinus; Neoplatonic philosophy; and works by and about the modern Greek philosopher, educator, and critic Evangelos Papanoutsos, a friend, correspondent, and scholarly subject of Anton's. Materials on Modern Greek literature include early (and some first) editions of major Greek writers such as Palamas, Sikelianos, Cavafy, and Kazantzakis, along with secondary works on these authors; poetry by other Greek and Greek-American authors; and conference proceedings, many in English. Anton's manuscript material is of unique value, documenting not only his years as a young man fighting alongside the guerillas in Greece during World War II, but also his voluminous correspondence over his professional career with leading scholars, writers, and cultural figures.

In 2017 I also received a donation of the papers of Theano Papazoglou-Margare from her daughter Vivian Kallen. Known as the "grande dame of Greek letters," Papazoglou-Margare published six books of short stories, all in Greek, and wrote for the Greek and Greek-American press as a newspaper columnist for decades. Included in the

collection are published and unpublished writings, reviews of her work, theatre ephemera, correspondence with religious leaders and family, and personal and biographical documents and photos. Among the published writings are files and scrapbooks of her newspaper columns, illuminating her progressive political orientation. Select correspondence from the collection appears in the critical biography of Papazoglou-Margare by Antonia Charta-Margare entitled *Apo ta Vatika tes Mikras Asias kai ten Polesto...Sikago*.

In early 2020, the Tsakopoulos Hellenic Collection acquired a small book collection and the papers of the late Robert J. Theodoratus, Professor of Anthropology at Colorado State University for many years, donated by his daughter Amelia Theodoratus. Theodoratus wrote his dissertation on the Greeks of Tacoma, Washington, and had an ongoing interest on the Greeks in Washington State. He was also interested in Greek cuisine and the foodways of Greek Americans as they adapted culinary practices to their new homeland. His larger research interest, however, concerned the pioneering yet controversial Greek Orthodox priest, Fr. Stephanos E. Phoutrides. The youngest of four illustrious Phoutrides brothers in America, Stephanos was the first Ivy League university graduate to be ordained a priest of the Greek Orthodox Church in America, and was one of only two priests in the Archdiocese at this time who was fluent in English.³ His innovations at St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church in Seattle (1924-1932), including the first Greek Orthodox Sunday School, religious instruction in English and/or Greek, mixed-gender choirs, and the use of English in sermons and certain services, were controversial in his time, though are now considered pioneering. Theodoratus' papers consist largely of research files, field notes, paper drafts, correspondence, and cassette tapes of interviews for a planned book on Phoutrides. The digitization of Theodoratus' recorded interviews will occur during the first half of 2025.

Happily, even the arrival of the pandemic in March 2020 and our university's closure for a year and a half did not derail the growth of the collection; in fact, as the remaining donation profiles indicate, significant donations have been occurring with greater frequency. In summer 2021, historian Prof. Alexander Kitroeff of Haverford College, donated nearly 1,000 select volumes from his library and his professional archive to the Tsakopoulos Hellenic Collection, which included a promised addendum of materials on the Greeks in Egypt he had in storage in Greece. Kitroeff's book and journal collection focuses on Modern Greek history since independence, mostly the reign of King Otto (1832-1862), Asia Minor, and the period of the 1930s-1974. Politics and government are also well represented, with thematic areas such as the Macedonian Question, communism and foreign policy during the 20th century, complemented by publications on literature, culture, and the Olympic Games. Notable among the journals is a run of approximately

40 issues of *Neos Kosmos*, a rare periodical published by Greek communists in exile in the 1960s-1970s. Kitroeff's manuscript material (ca. 15 linear feet) consists of research files on the Greek Orthodox Church in America, the Greeks in Egypt, the modern Olympics and sport, and correspondence with Greek and American scholars, including in his role on the editorial board of the *Journal of the Hellenic Diaspora*. After retiring and relocating to Greece, in late 2023 Kitroeff shipped the several hundred volumes and research files I had selected on the Greeks of Egypt, which reached Sacramento almost nine months later following a scare that they had gotten lost in transit.

Due to the circumstances involved, the next acquisition resembled more of a rescue of a piece of Greek culture than mere preservation. In May 2021 the Center for Greek Studies at San Francisco State University (originally Center for Modern Greek Studies), founded in 1981 by the late Prof. Thanasis Maskaleris, was shuttered by the campus administration. This left adrift the Center's significant collection of nearly 2,500 volumes of books, journals, magazines, and newspapers; archives/manuscripts and ephemera; oral histories and other audiovisual recordings; and several pieces of art and artifacts. With strengths in Modern Greek and Cypriot language, literature, history, and culture, and the Hellenic diaspora in California, the collection was enhanced over the years through notable donations from figures such as historian and folklorist Helen Zeese Papanikolas, poet Nanos Valaoritis, and journalist and author Nikos Rozakos, including many works of poetry inscribed to Valaorites, Rozakos, and Maskaleris. With the closure of the center, ownership of the collection was transferred to the Modern Greek Studies Foundation (MGSF), which had been a perennial supporter of the Center. In early 2022 MGSF in turn donated the collection to Sacramento State for the enhancement of the Tsakopoulos Hellenic Collection. The collection was renamed the Modern Greek Studies Foundation Collection in Memory of Kyriakos Tsakopoulos, after the father of Angelo K. Tsakopoulos in recognition of the latter's early support of the Center. To date, more than 30 of the oral histories from the collection have been digitized and are freely available online.

The spring of 2022 saw the donation of another important collection, the papers of Charles Maxton Schermerhorn. Schermerhorn (1901-1986), attended Princeton Theological Seminary in the early 1920s, after which he began a career as a social worker. In 1946 he accepted an appointment by the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) to go to Greece; shortly thereafter he was employed by the Near East Foundation in Thessaloniki and by UNICEF, where he was the only civilian (native Greek or foreigner) engaged in food distribution efforts during the Greek Civil War throughout 170 war-torn towns and villages in northern Greece. His interactions included associations with the renowned photographer David Seymour and important journalists such as George Polk, Dana Adams Schmidt, Maynard Owen Williams, and Mark Gayn.

Collection materials include reports, correspondence, photographs, maps, and a lengthy manuscript he wrote about his experiences in Greece. Prof. Gonda Van Steen edited Schermerhorn's memoir, which was published early in 2024 with the title *The Battle for Bodies, Hearts and Minds in Postwar Greece: Social Worker Charles Schermerhorn in Thessaloniki, 1946-1951*. As a complement to this publication, a proposal to digitize Schermerhorn's more than 750 photos documenting his relief efforts in northern Greece is in preparation.

Later in 2022 the MGSF donated the private library of the Thanasis Maskaleris, acquired from his son Dion, to the Tsakopoulos Hellenic Collection. Maskaleris had studied philosophy and English at the University of Oklahoma, and comparative literature at Indiana University. He taught comparative literature, classics and creative writing at San Francisco State University for many years; as noted above, he was also founding director of the Center for Modern Greek Studies and led the effort to establish the Nikos Kazantzakis Chair. Maskaleris published on Palamas and Kazantzakis, and co-edited with Nanos Valaoritis an anthology of Modern Greek poetry. He also wrote and translated poetry in both Greek and English. The collection features nearly 3,000 volumes of books, journals, and magazines focused on Modern Greek literature and poetry, with many signed editions; audiovisual recordings; and approximately nine linear feet of Maskaleris' writings, notes, and related materials.

The final donation from a busy 2022 came in the form of a small, but significant collection documenting aspects of the remarkable life of Vassilios G. Spanos, donated by his son George V. Spanos. The collection consists of an annotated 50-page typescript in Greek with accompanying hand-drawn map written by Spanos telling the story about his and a handful of fellow political prisoners' escape from exile on the Greek island of Folegandros during the Metaxas dictatorship of the late 1930s. Also included are seven audio-cassette-recorded family interviews with Spanos about his life more broadly, including his description of a second imprisonment and torture on the island of Corfu. The typescript will be edited and translated by the end of 2024.

The most recent major donation came in May 2024, with the acquisition of nearly 600 select volumes and 12 linear feet of papers from the library of the late writer and scholar Thomas Doulis. The author of six novels and various studies on Modern Greek literature, Doulis was a professor of English at Portland State University from 1972-1999, where he taught courses in fiction, film, and Modern Greek literature and poetry. The book collection aligns closely with Doulis' work as a writer and scholar of Modern Greek literature, while the manuscripts consist of correspondence, research files, and unpublished writings. Among the many writers represented in the book collection are Giorgos Theotokas, Gregorios Xenopoulos, Kostis Palamas, Kosmas Politis, Apostolos

Sachines, Galatea Kazantzakis, Stratis Tsirkas, Giannis Skarimpas, and Fotos Polites, including signed editions dedicated to Doulis. Also included are audio recordings of interviews Doulis conducted with literary figures such as Stratis Tsirkas, Markos Augeris, Elli Alexiou, and others. The collection was generously donated by Doulis' widow, Nancy Ritter Doulis, who also provided generous financial support with the collection.

As of this writing, several important prospective donations are currently in the works, extending the momentum of growth of the past 15 years. It should be noted, however, that the donations featured above are in addition those of hundreds of individual donors who have ensured the continued enhancement of the Tsakopoulos Hellenic Collection since its inception with their generous gifts of funding and materials.

The Hellenic Research Fellowship Program

For many years I wanted to find ways to open up the Tsakopoulos Hellenic Collection to scholarly researchers outside the Sacramento area who could benefit from access to our resources. I came to understand that while graduate students and faculty engaged in the field of Hellenic studies and related areas can be found in many parts of the country and abroad, most often their home institutions do not have adequate research libraries to support their scholarship. Independent scholars are even more deprived of access to research materials. Furthermore, few funded research opportunities exist for these scholars to advance their work. Ultimately, the scarcity of research collections and limited research funding each hinder the advancement of knowledge that encourages an understanding of the complex legacy and contemporary context of Hellenism, to the detriment of the broader humanities.

To bridge this access and funding gap, beginning in 2012 I secured grant funding from the Elios Charitable Foundation to create our Hellenic (originally Library) Research Fellowship Program, the only residential fellowship program in Hellenic studies west of the Mississippi. Additional funding over the years has followed from the Tsakopoulos Hellenic Foundation, The Tarbell Family Foundation, the Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation, and the Endowment Fund of the Greek Orthodox Church of the Annunciation of Sacramento. The HRF was designed to enable visiting scholars to conduct research using the Tsakopoulos Hellenic Collection, free from teaching and other obligations, while in residence. Our program provides opportunities for budding and advanced scholars from anywhere in the world outside a 75-mile radius of Sacramento to enjoy sustained access to the wealth of materials in our collection in support of their academic endeavors. Fellowships are available to researchers at the graduate through senior scholar level,

including independent scholars, working in fields encompassed by the collection's strengths for short-term stays ranging from two weeks to three months.

Our program fosters the creation of interdisciplinary knowledge in Hellenic studies and its dissemination through scholarly venues, furthering our goal for the Tsakopoulos Hellenic Collection to facilitate original research as an international resource. Since the inception of our inclusive program, forty fellows from 12 countries, including 13 doctoral students, eight independent scholars, and 20 women, have received funding to conduct research using the collection. Thus far, these research stays have directly contributed to the fruition of at least two monographs, three completed doctoral dissertations, 11 journal articles, 13 book chapters, 18 conference presentations, and various other outputs.

Research topics over the years have been wide ranging, from Byzantine history and philosophy, to Greek-American music and literature, to the Venetian book trade in the early modern Greek diaspora, to international resistance to the Greek Junta, and more. The range of research topics speaks to the depth and breadth of the Tsakopoulos Hellenic Collection and its ability to support original research in a variety of subject areas.

This year we have inaugurated writer-in-residence fellowships as an addition to the HRFP. These fellowships provide opportunities for novelists, poets, playwrights, screenwriters, journalists, translators, and others whose work is animated by or engages with Hellenic culture, and who show significant promise or have a record of publication, to spend time in residence researching and crafting their creative works while enjoying access to the Tsakopoulos Hellenic Collection. The HRFP Webpage (<https://library.csus.edu/tsakopoulos-hellenic-collection/hrfp>) contains links to profiles of all past fellows, information on their published research, and archived presentations they have recorded, as well as information about other visiting scholars outside the HRFP over the years and their projects.

Current Overview

Today the collection consists of over 83,000 volumes including circulating books, journal holdings, nearly 500 linear feet of personal papers and institutional archives, electronic resources, non-print media materials, rare books, art and artifacts. It remains the premier Hellenic collection west of the Mississippi and one of the largest of its kind in the country. While the entire arc of Hellenism is represented in the collection, its principal strengths and distinctive features lie in post-Classical Hellenism from Byzantium to the present, including the Greek diaspora worldwide, as well as Greece's neighboring countries and the surrounding region. The more than 20 languages represented in the

collection are indicative of the exceptional linguistic abilities Vryonis brought to his own research and his recognition that an ecumenical approach to the study of Hellenism necessitates the inclusion of a multitude of languages of scholarship and cultural contact.

History is by far the greatest strength of the collection. The history of the Byzantine Empire through the *Turkokratia* to Modern Greece and Cyprus of today is the principal strength of the collection. Holdings on Byzantine history include books, periodicals, and a large array of primary sources in Greek and translation spanning all eras, but are strongest in the period from 1057-1453. This includes works on historiography, imperial histories, biography, intellectual life, military history, foreign relations, individual states and empires, and the fall of Constantinople. The history of Modern Greece since before independence is the chief strength of the collection overall, with sizeable holdings in most formats on the Greek War of Independence and philhellenism, Asia Minor and the aftermath of the Smyrna Catastrophe, and especially from World War II to the present. The primary manuscript collection on Cyprus held by the collection is the Records of the Panhellenic Emergency Committee, originally donated by Sergios Hadji-Mihaloglou (Serge B. Hadji), Esq., to the Vryonis Center in 1996.⁴ There are also numerous local histories of Greece and Cyprus, reflecting the enduring regional character of each country and the observation of Rae Else-Mitchell that "...the history of a country is not truly written if the history of its localities is ignored."⁵

Materials on the Greek diaspora provide an overall conspectus of Greek immigration and emigration on six continents. Our collection on Greeks in English-speaking countries is the strongest of these, with Greek America a longstanding highlight and among the finest institutional collections in the country. In fact, nearly a dozen Hellenic Research Fellows' research has focused on aspects of the Greek-American experience. Included here are many historic Greek-American newspapers from New York and San Francisco on microfilm. We also hold a set of the Office of Strategic Services Foreign Nationalities Branch files on Greek Americans, providing many revealing details about the activities and sympathies of the Greek-American community during World War II. In addition, there are over 60 oral histories in the collection, presenting firsthand testimonies of Greek American lives in Sacramento and the San Francisco Bay Area, many of which have been digitized and are available on the Greek-American Oral History Project page (<https://library.csus.edu/tsakopoulos-hellenic-collection/greek-american-oral-history>).

Among other social sciences, the collection is rich in books and journals on cultural anthropology, folklore of Greece and Cyprus, costume, arts and crafts, culinaria, and the history of education. The economic history of Greece has been strengthened in recent years since the 2008 financial crisis and Greece's near exit from the Eurozone. Holdings

on Modern Greek politics and government are also robust, bolstered by the government document sets on microfilm noted above and other primary sources. Areas of particular strength are internal affairs, foreign relations, the *Megale Idea*, communism, and migrants and refugees in Greece.

In the humanities, our collection on religion is strongest on Orthodoxy in Greece and other countries, interfaith relations, and the Greek Orthodox Church in Greece, Cyprus, and America, with many publications from parishes around the U.S. Books on Greek music, musical scores, and recorded Greek music, most from the Demakopoulos collection, are very extensive and have been the focus of several Hellenic Research Fellows. Among the fine arts, works on Greek painting and print media predominate, with secondary strengths in vernacular and religious architecture and church decoration. Finally, the collection contains a wide variety of works within the field of bibliography such as books on printing, book history, the book trade, and libraries in the Greek world; national bibliography and bibliographies of individual authors.

With several of the major donations noted above, our collection on Greek philology and literature has become very extensive. In addition to the many dictionaries noted above, there are works of prose, poetry, and secondary literature by and about most major Greek authors represented, anthologies, translations, theatre, and memoir. Recent donations have increased our holdings on diasporic authors from Australia, while the works of Greek-American writers have always been a primary area of focus. The collection features over 400 inscribed editions of literature and poetry, the most notable of which is a first edition of Kazantzakis' *Odyseia* inscribed to Kimon Friar.

Beyond the Hellenic world, the collection's foremost strength concerns the Ottoman Empire and Turkey. By subject area, history is by far the best represented, including a wide assortment of primary and secondary works on areas such as pre-Ottoman Turkic peoples, Ottoman politics, foreign relations, provincial histories, diplomacy, the Eastern Question, and World War I, among others. The collection also holds a set of Ottoman Turkish law codes (*Düstur*) published in the 1870s. For modern Turkey there are abundant materials concerning Atatürk, Islam and the state, Turkish foreign relations with Greece, the Balkans, and the U.S., women, orientalism, minorities (ethnic and religious), the Armenian Genocide, the Pontian Genocide, Smyrna, and Turkey's contemporary geopolitical situation and prospects for admission into the EU.

Works on language and literature are fairly well represented. These include Turkish, Arabic, and to a lesser extent, Persian philology. There are dictionaries and grammars for all these languages and histories of their literatures, though not predominantly in English.

Works of poetry appear more than prose, again mostly in their original languages with the exception of some anthologies.

Future Direction

Future goals of the collection fall under five core areas: collection development; preservation/digitization; fellowships; outreach; and special projects. Ongoing collection growth in areas of existing strength and the development of new strengths is the foremost priority. The infusion of new materials and retrospectively filling in gaps in our holdings is vital for the collection to stay current and relevant as a research-level collection in support of evolving curricular and scholarly needs.

Preservation and digitization are a necessary corollary to collection development. Many older materials already on the shelves are fragile or damaged and in need of repair and/or binding; some others need more intensive preservation treatment. Digitization is indisputably essential to broaden the accessibility of rare, unique, and distinctive materials in the collection online for students, scholars, and philhellenes around the world and for future generations. Candidates for digitization range from manuscript materials, photos, and pamphlets to rare journals and newspapers, and from additional oral histories to rare annotated editions, among others.

Going forward my goal is to elevate and transform the Hellenic Research Fellowship Program through the provision of more available fellowships and fellowships of longer duration. Experience over the past 11 years has made clear that there is a strong demand internationally for access to research collections like ours, and that fellows are frequently surprised at how much more material the collection contains that is relevant to their research topic than they realized, creating an immediate sense of urgency to consult a greater quantity of materials during their stays than they had anticipated. Likewise, longer writer-in-residence fellowships would enable writers of fiction and poetry, long-form journalism, and narrative nonfiction to flourish in a working environment conducive to their craft.

Outreach involves the various forms of public programming and engagement that promote greater visibility and use of the collection, one of the university library's overarching goals. Traditionally, this has come in the form of scholarly lectures, film screenings, musical performances, and exhibits, often in partnership with the Hellenic Studies Program. Future prospects will involve greater emphasis on additional types of engagement at the micro level using social media, for example, to feature individual items or new acquisitions of particular interest, behind-the-scenes activities in the collection, etc.; and more macro-level programming that brings greater exposure to the field of Hellenic studies and its ongoing relevance to the academy and the community.

Special projects are meant to address identified needs outside the other four areas above in which the collection has a central role to play. These fall under occasional but recurring undertakings and single discrete activities. In the former instance are translation projects of Greek primary sources, especially handwritten ones, and older published sources of enduring interest in the public domain, some written in *Katharevousa*. Translating these types of sources would fill an acute need to create greater access to such materials for students and non-specialist researchers who may not read Greek or who cannot otherwise access handwritten documents or rare works available only in the library. Select correspondence of Basil Vlavianos, Theano Papazoglou-Margare, and Thomas Doulis, for example, would make very worthwhile translation projects, as would John Anton's handwritten diaries from World War II, while a full, published translation of Maria Sarantopoulou Oikonomidou's 1916 book *Hoi Hellenes tes Amerikes Hopos Tous Eida* would bring greater exposure to a little-known—and rare—work documenting the working conditions of Greeks across the country during the early 20th century. A commissioned full-length biography of Basil Vlavianos based on his papers in the collection would be an example of a much-needed discrete project, one that would fill in a significant gap in the literature of Greek-American history.

Given the scope of the collection and our future goals for it, my long-term objective is to raise significant additional funds, ideally through the creation of one or more endowments, that will put in place a permanent base of funding for the collection's varied ongoing needs in fulfillment of its mission.

Conclusion

This brief overview has attempted to introduce the Tsakopoulos Hellenic Collection to readers who may be unfamiliar with its resources and status as a research collection of international significance in the west. The major donations profiled demonstrate a trajectory of long-term growth, while the Hellenic Research Fellowship Program bridges the access and funding gaps to scholarly research in Hellenic studies. For the past two decades, these successes have enhanced the reputation of the collection as a research destination and repository of Hellenic culture, and positioned it as an attractive home for gifts of materials and funding going forward. Future goals for the collection aim to augment core activities with a greater focus on outreach and special projects.

¹ For more on the history of the Vryonis Center and an early in-depth profile of the Tsakopoulos Hellenic Collection, see George I. Paganelis, "The Tsakopoulos Hellenic Collection at California State University, Sacramento: A Beacon

of Hellenism in the Western United States," *Journal of Modern Greek Studies* 26, 1 (2008): 19-27. Note on p. 21, however, that I incorrectly wrote at the time that the collection had been sold to Tsakopoulos, who donated it to the university, which is how its transfer had been reported to me within the library. Vryonis himself later told me that, in fact, the Vryonis Center, as a non-profit entity, was the donor of the collection as it wound down operations.

² Steve Frangos, "A Way with Words," *Greek American Review* December (1996): 20.

³ William H. Samonides, "Fr. Stephanos Phoutrides and His Remarkable Family," *Orthodox Observer* December (2014): 17.

⁴ For more on the committee and its lobbying efforts, see Alexander Kitroeff, "Diaspora-Homeland Relations and Greek-American Lobbying: The Panhellenic Emergency Committee, 1974-1978," *Journal of Modern Hellenism* 11 (1994): 19-40.

⁵ Rae Else-Mitchell, "Preserving Local History: The Importance of Local History Collections and Historical Societies," *Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society* 67, 2 (1981): 153-154.

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