The Modern Greek Studies Yearbook is published by the Modern Greek Studies Program at the University of Minnesota. The price for this volume is $60.00. Checks should be made payable to the Modern Greek Studies Yearbook, and sent to:

Modern Greek Studies
325 Social Sciences Building
University of Minnesota
267-19th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55455
Telephone: (612) 624-4526
FAX: (612) 626-2242
E-mail: mgsp@umn.edu

The main objective of the Modern Greek Studies Yearbook is the dissemination of scholarly information in the field of modern Greek studies. The field is broadly defined to include the social sciences and the humanities, indeed any body of knowledge that touches on the modern Greek experience. Topics dealing with earlier periods, the Byzantine and even the Classical, will be considered provided they relate, in some way, to aspects of later Greek history and culture. Geographically, the field extends to any place where modern Hellenism flourished and made significant contributions, whether in the "Helladic space" proper or in the Diaspora. More importantly, in comparative and contextual terms, the Mediterranean basin and Europe fall within the province of the Yearbook's objectives. Special attention will be paid to subjects dealing with Greek-Slavic relations and Eastern Orthodox history and culture in general.

Manuscripts, books for review, bibliographical information, and correspondence should be sent to the above address. Manuscripts should be submitted in four double-spaced copies. For technical matters, contributors should consult the Chicago Manual of Style. Upon acceptance, the editors will forward comments and suggestions to the author(s) along with guidelines for the submission of corrected manuscripts on computer disk. A succinct biographical sketch indicating professional affiliation, field of interest, publications, and current research of contributors should accompany submitted material.

The publication of this issue of the Modern Greek Studies Yearbook has been made possible by subventions from the Modern Greek Studies Program, the Department of History, and the Institute for Global Studies at the University of Minnesota.

Copyright © 2005
Modern Greek Studies
University of Minnesota
All rights reserved
ISSN-0884-8432

The University of Minnesota is an equal-opportunity employer.
Printed in the United States of America on acid-free paper
ONE HUNDRED and forty years ago, on 24 June 1865, Michael, Spyridon, Konstantinos, and Dionysios, the four children of historian and numismatist Pavlos Lambros, decided despite their young age to found a society to promote letters and common welfare. The society, named after Mount Parnassos, the home of the Muses, had its first headquarters in the Lambros family home itself, on Parthenagogeiou Street (today I. Pesmazoglou), whence in 1868 it moved to premises on Sina Street and then to 38 Romvis Street.

In 1874, the society’s objectives were expressed in full detail as follows: “The society’s aim is the intellectual, moral, and social improvement of the people through the diffusion of letters.” These words illustrated the members’ effort to contribute with their actions to the intellectual but also social development of the country, at a time when the nascent Greek state strove in every way possible to follow the progressive course of European countries. A year later, on 17 March 1875, “Parnassos” was by royal decree recognized as a legal entity. The society’s regulations have naturally been modified several times since, but the objectives have not changed. Today’s regulations are those established in 1972.

One of the turning points in the history of the society was an event that contributed greatly to the further promotion and achievement of its aims: the foundation of a privately owned hall, in 1890, on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the society’s establishment. To that end, the land across from the Church of St. George Karitsi was purchased, and the military engineer Iphicratis Kokkidas was immediately called upon to design the plans for the new building which were approved during the meeting of 13 May 1890. On 28 May 1890, the heir to the throne, Konstantinos, in the presence of almost all ministers and other dignitaries, set the cornerstone of the new hall. The president of the society, Simos Balanos, in his address highlighted the fact that the new building was
the fulfillment of a burning desire of the members of Parnassos that would provide opportunities for further promotion of letters and continuation of its beneficial work for the nation. Indeed, since its inauguration in 1891, this building has provided the roof under which the activities of the society bore fruit and still remains one of the most beautiful nineteenth-century edifices in Athens.

The acquisition of a privately owned building and the achievement of Parnassos's objectives were in great part due to the sponsorships it secured, both from the public and private sectors. This is evidenced by the fact that in 1875, the year of the society's recognition as a legal entity, the subsidy from the Greek parliament was increased to GRD 5,000 following a proposal of Dimitrios Rallis. Four years later, in 1879, the parliament, in recognition of the social contribution of Parnassos, increased the subsidy from GRD 5,000 to 8,000, with the bipartisan agreement of Prime Minister Charilaos Trikoupis and the leader of the opposition, Alexandros Koumoundouros.

It should be acknowledged that the establishment of the society was greatly facilitated from the beginning by the financial contribution of public and legal entities such as the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Welfare, the city of Athens, the Bank of Greece, the National Bank, the Agricultural Bank, as well as prominent figures such as Eleftherios Venizelos, Emmanuil Benakis, Ioannis Kalifronas, and others. It is no coincidence that only two years after the society's foundation, the Academy of Athens considered it its duty to honor Parnassos for its contribution to Greek letters and society. In his address at the celebratory meeting of 26 December 1929, the secretary general of the academy, Simos Menardos, stated:

It is known that Parnassos in many cases replaced the non-existent academy and the most prestigious Greek and foreign speakers stood on the elegant podium of the society. Still, its social activity was by no means lesser. Especially the School for Deprived Children, the need for which was recognized by the astute eyes of the poet, author of Galatea, Spyridon Vassiliadis, and which was inaugurated on December 3, 1872, under the presidency of K. Paparrigopoulos, is unique both in its method and performance.

Members

Although financial support was crucial for its development, the society gained its strength from the human capital that increased rapidly. Within just a few years after its foundation, the society acquired a respectable reputation. Pavlos Lambros's social position was a major contributing factor to this success. By 1869, the society had already developed into a nation-wide intellectual center, counting among its honorary members eminent individuals, especially university professors such as Alexandros Rizos Rangavis, Stefanos Koumanoudis, Dimitrios Semitelos, Dimitrios Vernardakis, and, the following year, Konstantinos Paparrigopoulos and Nikolas Saripolos. Moreover, the society's
affinity with the University of Athens, the oldest university of the country, is also evidenced in the fact that, at different times, the office of president of Parnassos was held by professors of the university such as Timoleon Arghiropoulos and Thrasyvoulos Vlissidis (of the School of Physics and Mathematics), Spyridon Lambros, Spyridon Sakellaropoulos, Nikolaos Politis, Ioannis Kalitsounakis, Georgios Kourmoulis, Ioannis Theodorakopoulos, Nikolaos Livadaras, and the current president, Ioannis Markandonis (of the School of Philosophy), and Gerasimos Konidaris (of the School of Theology). Theodoros Orfanidis and Konstantinos Paparrigopoulos, deans of the University of Athens, were also honorary presidents of the society, while this title has nowadays also been awarded to the ecumenical patriarch, Vartholomeos. Furthermore, during the celebration of the society's twenty-fifth anniversary on 11 April 1892, the dean of the University of Athens, Pavlos Ioannou, emphasized that from the beginning of its establishment Parnassos liaised closely with the university, where many of the society's members were professors. He concluded by highlighting that the society's and the university's efforts always aimed toward the same lofty goals: the university, by strengthening the valuable link and unbreakable ties of Greece with the Greeks abroad, and Parnassos, by striving with the few means at its disposal but with great willpower to provide for many urgent social needs, thereby extending its activities and associating its goals with that of the higher intellectual institution.

Hence, the ever increasing membership of the society consisted of people from the intellectual and scientific world whose participation and active contribution gradually spurred the "infantile effort" (to use the words of Spyridon Lambros) into a nationwide affair. In fact, because of the socially and nationally beneficial work of the society, many of the nation's major benefactors sought membership, such as Andreas Synogros (1872), Apostolos Arsakis (1872), Marinos Korgialenios (1890), Grigorios Maraslis (1890), Georgios Averoff (1890), Emmanouil Benakis (1900), and others. Among the older members of the society, one can distinguish great historic personalities of Greece. All members of the royal family from George I to Paul, presidents of the Hellenic Republic such as Alexandros Zaimis, Konstantinos Tsatsos, and Michail Stassinopoulos, as well as prime ministers such as Spyridon Lambros, Panaghis Tsalsaris, Konstantinos Demertzis, Ioannis Metaxas, Alexandros Koryzis, Themistoklis Sofoulis, Alexandros Diomidis, Sp. Markezinis, Georgios Rallis, and Xenofon Zolotas, were members and benefactors.

For statistical purposes, it is worth mentioning that in 1872, seven years after its foundation, Parnassos counted already more than 300 members which, by 1890, the twenty-fifth anniversary, had increased to 818. In 1951, active membership stood at 1,010, while 1,273 past members were already deceased. Today, Parnassos enjoys a membership of around 500.

**Literary Members**

Writers were among the most active members of Parnassos and determined its mark on society during the first century of its life. Of those to be
found in its midst, during the first twenty-five years, we bring to mind Dimitrios Paparrigopoulos (1869), Spyridon Vassiliadis (1869), Alexandros Rizos Rangavis (1869), Achilleas Paraschos (1870), Aristotelis Valaoritis (1871), Dimitrios Vikellas (1872), Angelos Vlachos (1872), Emmanouil Roidis (1872), and Andreas Laskaratos (1873). However, despite the fact that until 1880 writers of the archaic language of the romantic school predominated numerically, Kostis Palamas managed to be elected member (1884), albeit at the third attempt, while Drosinis had preceded (1883). In time, more writers of the 1880s generation, such as Souris (1884), Polemis (1884), Nirvanas (1892), and Stratigis (1901), were admitted into the society, as well as the advocates of the "modern" language (dimotiki), Giannis Psycharlis (1892) and Alexandros Pallis (1892). Many memories from this period come in a lyrical way by Drosinis in his work "At the steps of Parnassos," which faithfully illustrates the prevalent atmosphere and everyday life within the society at the time.

It is worth mentioning at this point the activities of Kostis Palamas in the society. It is characteristic that the relationship between the two was mutually beneficial. When the young poet became a member in 1884, his election was especially complimentary, since Parnassos was by then already a prestigious society in the world of Greek letters. Later, by the time the New Athenian School, whose undisputable leader was Palamas, had predominated and brought a renewal in modern Greek literature, the poet of Δωδεκάλογος του Γίφτου (Twelve Words of the Gypsy), through his presence, lectures, and readings at the forum of the society, enhanced Parnassos's prestige and facilitated its establishment as one of the most important intellectual institutions of modern Greece. For example, on 16 March 1889, Palamas gave his famous lecture "Kalvos the Zacynthian," through which he restored to light the forgotten and underestimated poetry of the great Zacynthian poet Andreas Kalvos and contributed to its revaluation by critics and to its appeal to the greater public. In all, Palamas gave eight lectures and seven poetry readings at the society, while not forgetting to mention its activities with complimentary words in his articles and letters. There also exists a poem, offered as a gift to the society for his honorary membership in 1939. It is entitled "In nature" and the subtitle reads "written for the Επετηρίδα [Annual] of Parnassos" where it was published. Palamas maintained a close relationship with Parnassos until his death in 1943, giving it ever-increasing prestige. In 1959, the society was instrumental in organizing the celebrations of the centennial of the poet's birth.

More writers followed during the twentieth century such as Grigorios Xenopoulos (1917), Giorgios Athanas (1934), and Spyros Melas (1938). Subsequently, representatives of the 1930s generation gradually entered, such as Thanassis Petsalis-Diomidis (1936), Giorgos Theotokas (1951), Petros Charis (1951), Stratis Myrivilis (1955), Nikiforos Vrettakos (1958), and Tassos Athanasiadis (1986), without however demonstrating an active and collective work within the society like the older writers (of the Old and New Athenian Schools). A thank-you letter from a distinguished member of that generation, Giorgos Theotokas, dated 30 July 1951, survives:

Mr President, I have the honour to confirm reception of your document of 28-7-51, by which you announce my election as regular member of the Literary
Society “Parnassos.” Please accept my gratitude for this honorary election which I accept with great pleasure.

It is probably by no coincidence that in his novel _Argo_ (Argo), the father of the hero Theofilos Notaras is portrayed as a very important member of Athenian society, one who had also served as president of Parnassos. More extensive references to the society can be found in novels of two other representatives of the same generation, Thanassis Petsalis-Diomidis and Tassos Athanasiadis. Specifically, in Petsalis-Diomidis’s novel _Mapía Pávrn_ (Maria Parni) there is a detailed report, covering three pages, of the ball Parnassos gave in 1892:

It has not been long since the new building of Parnassos was constructed and its balls—once a year—were established. The King goes, the Princes go, all dignitaries and embassies go. Maria went too. Beautiful Mrs. Maria Foka. She always goes a little late, wherever she goes, just so that others can welcome her.

Athanasiadis, in the last chapter of the first part of his work _Oi Panthéoi_ (The Pantheoi family; 1948), chooses to unfold the actions of his hero within Parnassos, during the famous annual ball, the last given before the war of 1940.

Apart from poets, Parnassos was privileged to count among its members musicians as well, such as Manolis Kalomiris, Spyros Samaras, and Antiochos Evangelatos. During the last twenty years of the twentieth century, the society’s honorary members included distinguished clergymen, like the archbishop of America Iakovos (1982), the archbishop of Cyprus Chrysostomos (1993), the archbishop of America Dimitrios Trakatellis (1995), and the archbishop of Athens Christodoulos (1998), and prominent ladies such as Anna Synodinou, actress and former member of parliament (1995), Klairi Angelidou, former minister of education in Cyprus (1996), and Galatia Saranti, writer and member of the National Academy of Athens (2002).

**Foreign Members**

Parnassos always placed great emphasis on its relationship with foreigners and honored not only recognized international writers but also eminent individuals who actively proved their philhellenic spirit. By 1873, Romanian writer and feminist Dora d’Istria (1828-88) and the archaeologist Heinrich Schliemann (1822-90) had already become members of Parnassos. Three years later, his wife Sofia also became an honorary member, as did the French author and Hellenist, Queux de Saint Hilaire (1837-89). The Italian poets Giosuè Carducci (1835-1907) and Gabriele d’Annunzio (1863-1938) followed (1897-98), while 1909 was a year during which Parnassos honored French literature and politics in poet Frédéric Mistral (1830-1914), poet and playwright Edmond Rostand (1868-1918), and statesman Georges Clemenceau (1841-1929).
More specifically, on the fiftieth anniversary of the publication of Frédéric Mistral’s poem “Mirèio,” the society organized a celebration in honor of Mistral during which the famous stage actor Marika Kotopouli read works of the honored author. With this opportunity the society elected the French poet as honorary member. Mistral replied with a thank-you telegram: «Mes tres vifs remerciements au Syllogos Parnassos pour le tres grand honneur qu’il m’a rendu au pied du Parthenon! Que Minerve eternellement fasse fructifiere l’olivier d’Athenes». The lecture of Georges Bourdon on Rostand also became a celebratory event, attended by King George I. On this occasion, Rostand was named honorary member of Parnassos. In reply, the French poet wrote in his telegram: «Touche au fond du cœur pour le grand honneur que veut bien me faire Syllogue Parnassos je vous envoie mon salut le plus reconnaissant et l’expression de ma fidele et enthousiaste devotion a la Grece». Besides the above poets, Prime Minister Georges Clemenceau of France was also elected honorary member of the society during the same year. His election, announced to him by telegram, was a manifestation of the utmost gratitude for the friendly sentiments he had, so many times and in such a remarkable way, expressed for Greece. In reply to this telegram, the French prime minister ordered his ambassador to thank Parnassos for this great honor which touched him deeply.

On 26 May 1938, two years before Greece’s involvement in World War II, the honorary certificate of membership was awarded to U.S. ambassador Lincoln MacVeagh. In his address, the president, Ippocratis Karavias, emphasized the long traditional friendship between the two peoples, reminding the audience that the United States was the first country to recognize the independence of Greece, at a time when the fight for freedom was still burning. He went on to sing the praise of the honored member to whom the country owed the restoration of the Lion of Amphipoli and the publication of a book entitled Greek Journey. The ambassador replied by emphasizing that his election as honorary member of a society with such an important history and so great a social contribution was a special privilege. On 21 April 1945, during the first postwar general meeting of the members of Parnassos, it was unanimously decided to award honorary membership to the prime minister of Great Britain, Winston Churchill, as well as to Ronald Scobie, chief of the British troops in Greece.

Regarding its literary connections with foreign countries, it should be noted that during an official ceremony on 10 February 1976, Parnassos formed an association with the literary academy Arcadia of Rome (established in 1690). Within this framework, each of the two societies included in its ranks, as honorary members, the president and the vice president of the other. Since 1980, distinguished international professors, mainly hellenists, have been proclaimed honorary or corresponding members of the society.⁶
Speeches, Lectures, and Events

The first charter of the society stated that “an essay by a regular active member will be read at every regular meeting,” a rule followed without exception during the first ten years. From 1875 on, readings took place only during special meetings and later only in special events, in the form of lectures which nonmembers could also attend. These events, especially lectures on poetry, created a lot of interest and attracted large audiences. The well-known debate between Angelos Vlachos and Emmanouil Roidis in 1877 is a case in point. The basic topic of the debate was the conditions under which poetry is created. Roidis, who had been asked to comment on the value of the works submitted for the creative contest of Parnassos, spoke of the nonexistence of the necessary “surrounding ambience” in contemporary Greece, which did not allow for the creation of valuable poetry. Vlachos replied a few days later, in a speech “about modern Greek poetry and especially about Georgios Zalokostas” endorsing the existence of very important poets in modern Greece.

Other speeches had similar impact, such as the lectures of Kostis Palamas—“Kalvos the Zacynthian” (1889), “What we mean by poetry” (1890), “Lectures on modern Greek poetry” (1897), and “Poetry and Science” (1899)—or the lecture on poetics given by Andreas Laskaratos on 10 March 1884, during his honorary membership ceremony. It must be mentioned that the forum of Parnassos welcomed not only Greeks but also foreign intellectuals or politicians visiting Greece. Baron Pierre de Coubertin, who envisaged the revival of the Olympic Games in modern times, lectured in 1895 in the Grand Hall of the society on “International Olympic Games.”

In order to better fulfill their aim for the intellectual advancement of the people, the members of Parnassos decided to set in motion the institution of “Public Classes,” a kind of public university, which started to operate in 1877 with lectures by Alexandros Rizos Rangavis, Spyridon Lambros, and other academics. It is worth noting that these classes seem to have had great appeal to Athenians, and the speakers tried to make them as interesting as possible for the broader public. In his “Principles of Experimental Physics” class, Timoleon Argyropoulos, for example, used slides for the first time, for which, as mentioned by President Emm. Benakis in his Λογοδοσία (Report), the society had to bring the necessary Molteni equipment from Paris! In 1892, the society introduced another novelty, the so-called “scientific evenings,” with a small entrance fee, where different classes were held with the aid of slides and experiments. Following an agreement with the Ladies’ Society, the institution of religious lectures every Saturday of Lent was introduced. These lectures were well attended. Among the regular attendees were Queen Olga and Princesses Sofia and Maria.

In 1915, on its fiftieth anniversary, the society organized fifteen lectures on the life and work of the main nineteenth-century Greek poets. Among these lectures were Nikolaos Politis on the authors of folk poetry, Grigoris Xenopoulos on Achilles and Georgios Paraschos, and Kostis Palamas on Costas Krystallis and Georgios Vizyenos (see appendix 1). The success of these lectures prompted the society to continue the following year with a new
A series of lectures on nineteenth-century prose writers. The new series was equally successful with the Athenian audience.

Apart from lectures, the literary members of Parnassos often read their own poems on the occasion of various anniversaries. There existed also toast-poems, written and read during celebrations and symposia, verses written for the twenty-fifth anniversary of the society, as well as those read, under the society's instructions, during the official celebration of 25 March. Evenings which attracted extraordinary audiences were those where Achilleas Paraschos and Kostis Palamas read their poems. The podium of Parnassos also served for readings of theatrical plays by members, especially during the older period of the society, the time of the romantic school. Theatrical plays were read by authors Timoleon Ambelas, Dimitrios Paparrigopoulos, Spyridon Vassiliadis, and Dimitrios Koromilas.

School for Deprived Children

The year 1872 witnessed a turning point in the history of the society, as it was then that Parnassos, following a proposal by the poet and member Spyridon Vassiliadis, established the School for Deprived Children, which characterized the society's broad social concerns. The main goal of the school was to protect but also instruct and educate poor, orphaned, or abandoned children, living in sordid conditions in the streets of Athens. For the school's operation, the society decided to request material aid from the state and private citizens, while members themselves would be responsible for instruction. Parnassos aimed not only at the education of deprived children, but at their moral instruction as well. This was stressed by its president Nikolaos Levidis in the meeting of 25 October 1872, where he presented to the other members the school's charter, drafted by a three-member committee including himself, Dimitrios Koromilas, and Spyridon Vassiliadis. With those few words, he illustrated the nature of the society's efforts, namely, that they had not only an educational but also a social dimension.

Vassiliadis, the initiator of the whole project, wrote two announcements that were posted on every wall in the streets of central Athens. The first was addressed to fathers, mothers, relatives, priests, custodians, neighbors, shop-owners, and all concerned citizens, asking them to direct to the school all children who, for whatever reason, did not have the opportunity to receive a proper education. The second announcement appealed to all financially able and benevolent Greeks to help promote the school's work, stressing, in a discourse progressive for its time, that

today, with the social freedom that has prevailed, there are no slaves. We are all equal, but the abandoned child, if forgotten destitute in the dark, could become an outlaw, whereas if we gently guide it within society, it is certain that one day it will not only become a moral and honest worker, but also our associate and brother, and possibly our savior.8
The school was inaugurated on 3 December 1872, with all formality, and the attendance of young pupils was beyond every expectation. The same held true for the eager response of citizens to the plea of Parnassos for financial contributions. During the very first days of the school’s operation, GRD 10,000 was collected through donations by public bodies such as the Ministry of Education and associations like the “Association for the dissemination of Greek Letters,” but also by citizens such as the Negrepontis brothers and Andreas Syngros. The number of the school’s pupils quickly exceeded 140, and the founders did what they could to ensure employment prospects for older students as well as provide health care by creating a small hospital with four beds. Furthermore, thanks to Andreas Syngros’s generous donation of GRD 6,000, the society realized another ambitious project: the creation of a dormitory for deprived children, which opened on 2 December 1879.

In the 1930s, one of the older objectives and desires of the society was achieved: on 6 April 1930, the cornerstone of the new hall of the School for Deprived Children was set (at the corner of Themistokleous and Kantakouzinoi Streets). As that year coincided with the hundred-year anniversary of the establishment of the new Greek state, the central committee of the centennial included Parnassos’s ceremony in the series of celebrations marking the national celebration. Consequently, the building was founded with all grandeur, in the presence of the president of the republic, Alexandras Zaimis, Prime Minister Eleftherios Venizelos, Archbishop Chrisostomos of Athens, members of the government, and other officials. In his speech, the archbishop praised the decision to include the specific ceremony among the centennial festivities, since the foundation of the society was an honor to, and a reflection on, Greece’s intellectual life. He specially mentioned the daughters of General Makriyannis, Erasmia Douzina and Vassiliki Papazisi, who donated large sums of money for the construction of the school. It is worth quoting part of the speech given at the founding ceremony by the minister of education, Georgios Papandreou:

It was fair to connect the foundation of Parnassos’s new institution with the prestige of the centennial celebrations. Because Parnassos also represents a glory of the century of Freedom. Resulting from a poet’s inspiration, it has established itself in the common conscience and has achieved over long decades to offer twofold, constant and valuable services to Greek society, both intellectual and moral.

It is worth noting that the above speech, as well as those by Archbishop Chrisostomos and president of Parnassos Timoleon Iliopoulos, were published in the commemorative issue entitled The ceremonial foundation of the new building of the School for Deprived Children.

Two years later, on 22 May 1932, the new hall of the school and the dormitories for deprived children were inaugurated with every formality. The cost reached GRD 5,000,000, a great part of which was covered by the legacy of the daughters of General Makriyannis. The new hall was built according to the latest guidelines concerning school architecture and hygiene and included large classrooms, a reading room, and dormitories.
In 1901, 2,149 pupils enrolled, but by 1925 the number of students decreased to 1,316. This number is still high if one takes into account that the state had by then already created similar establishments. Today, the School for Deprived Children has been transformed into a foreign language and computer school, maintaining at the same time the elementary school for instruction of the Greek language and civilization, where 150 expatriates and foreign students from approximately fifty countries study, gratis. The school serves approximately 1,000 students per year.

The Ball

The Parnassos Ball, originally held every year in order to raise funds for the operation of the School for Deprived Children, always enjoyed great success and was a social event for Athenian society. Established in 1878, the ball first took place in the homes of wealthy Athenians (1878 and 1879), then at the City Hall (1880), later at the temporary home base of the society across from the Ministry of the Navy, and, from 1891 on, at the Hall on Karytsi Square. Until 1912, the ball was held on New Year's Day. From 1912 until 1934, the ball was not held, at first because of the Balkan Wars and then due to various national upheavals. The ball was resumed in 1934 and held until the outbreak of World War II and again in the postwar period, but only for about a decade. The new postwar social conditions were not conducive to the promotion of such institutions.

The most interesting period regarding the ball was probably from 1885 until 1912, during which period the poet G. Souris satirized it almost yearly in his newspaper Romios under such characteristic titles as: “We write superfluously of the Parnassos Ball” (19 January 1885), “Two superfluous words on the Parnassos Ball” (31 January 1887), “Fasoulis and Perikletos, each pure and simple” (20 January 1896), “The Parnassos Ball, totally vivid” (15 January 1900), “The Parnassos Ball and loads of knights” (13 January 1901), and others. Also, as mentioned above, a literary treatment of the ambiance of a Parnassos Ball was offered by Tassos Athanasiadis in the first part of his trilogy Όι Πανθεοί.

The Journal

At an early stage, the founders of Parnassos decided on the publication of a journal with philological, historical, and archaeological essays, without excluding naturalistic, theological, legal, or even purely literary texts. The journal Parnassos first appeared in 1877, and by 1895, seventeen volumes had been issued, with a wide appeal not only to the Greek but also to the foreign public. It was subsequently replaced by the Ἑπετηρίδα, which counts seventeen volumes from 1896 to 1939. For the next twenty years or so, the society did not publish any journal, until 1951, when, at a proposal by Georgios Zoras, the journal was reissued under the title Parnassos. Forty-six volumes have thus far
appeared (1959-2004). The society acquired its reputation in publishing, in Greece and abroad, not only because of the journal but also on the basis of other publications, especially over twenty volumes dealing with philology and history.

Contests

During the first years of its operation, Parnassos organized literary contests in an effort to further promote Greek letters. The older but shorter-lived was the Drama Contest (1874-77), whose primary ambition was the establishment of a national theater in Greece. The Literary Contest of poetry, prose, and essay is still held today, and so is the historic Kalokairinios Theatrical Contest, whose first fifty years (1921-1970) were presented in a special volume in 1971. In addition, in 1981 the Pan-Hellenic Visual Arts Contest, which contributes to a great extend to the development of visual arts in Greece, was established.

Library and Gallery

The core of Parnassos's prestigious library began to form through donations. The first to contribute books, with works of their own or others, were members of the society. Originally, the books were spread out in different rooms without a systematic arrangement or catalogue. This came about later, when the library occupied the entire ground floor of the privately owned hall. Today, the library comprises approximately 70,000 volumes. The Painting and Sculpture Gallery of the society, inaugurated in 1947, has a valuable collection of approximately 200 items by various Greek artists of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

National Action: Cyprus

In 1900, an important event took place in honor of Cypriot intellectuals who had visited Athens on the occasion of the Cypriot Exhibition. The event attracted a large crowd; the keynote speaker was Spyridon Lambros, while Kostis Palamas read a poem. The Cypriot response was given by N. Lanitis. The philological and archaeological departments of the society organized a special symposium on Cypriot civilization. During this event, Nikolaos Politis spoke of Cypriot traditions and their relation to ancient Greek ones, while the Cypriot professor (and later dean) of the University of Athens, Simos Menardos, referred to medieval Cypriot traditions. Finally, Spyridon Lambros spoke of extant Cypriot manuscripts on Mount Athos.

On 2 November 1931, a special meeting was held in support of Cyprus, which was fighting for independence. The minutes of this meeting show that the full membership of Parnassos, under the presidency of Timoleon
Iliopoulos, signed a resolution in support of the Cypriot people's fight for freedom and union with Greece. It is worth quoting part of the resolution, which appealed to the international intellectual community to actively support the Cypriot issue:

The Greek soul, having always considered Cyprus as an indispensable part of the Greek family, observes the tragedy of the Cypriot people with enthusiasm, deep sympathy, and emotion. And Parnassos hopes that intellectuals worldwide, feeling for the unfairness bearing upon a small and suffering people, obliged to succumb to material violence, will wish to assume its strengthening while it is fighting for the great cause of its freedom.

In 1946, on the occasion of a reception given by the Cypriot embassy to honor a delegation of Cypriot clergy and politicians, the president of the society once more expressed the members' support for the struggle of the occupied Greeks, while on 14 December 1949, the society resumed the issue of Cyprus's union with Greece by signing in its general session a relevant resolution to the government of Great Britain.

Fifteen years later, on 11 February 1964, Parnassos again demonstrated its members' love of Cyprus and its vigilant concern about the fate of the island by issuing a further resolution stating:

Parnassos Literary Society
1) Expresses and declares to the fighting President of Cyprus Archbishop Makarios and to the Greek Cypriot people its full support and moral assistance during the tough fight they have been forced to give in Cyprus which, since the very ancient years has always been and still is a Greek island.
2) Declares to the civilized world that peace can return to Cyprus and remain there only through application of the United Nations' fundamental principle of self-determination, which is what the Cypriot people has been fighting for years. We also corroborate in favor of safeguarding the rights of the minority. The people of Cyprus are demanding self-determination, as has been recently given and still is to various underdeveloped and uncivilized peoples.
3) Expresses the steady conviction that any other artificial solution, with whatever advantages you might consider it having, will only lead to a temporary and short-lived peace and will foster unavoidable unrests and outbursts on the island, to the detriment of its tranquility and the peace of Europe.
4) The Board of the Society is authorized by the Presidency to publish this resolution and announce it to Archbishop Makarios, the Greek government, and the United Nations, as well as the relevant embassies.
National Action: World War II

During World War II and the occupation years, Parnassos, despite the unfavorable conditions and the requisition of its building, continued its charitable work as much as was feasible. The society decided to accommodate orphaned girls aged four to ten, children of war victims, on the first floor of the building of the school with the support of the archbishopric of Athens and of individuals. The year 1943, however, proved to be the beginning of a very difficult period for Parnassos, since the Germans demanded requisition of the hall, indeed, threatened President Ippokratis Karavias with imprisonment should he refuse to comply. Thus, the occupation army entered the historical building of the society and even removed many paintings and valuable carpets. Even worse, they transformed the Ceremony Hall into a German military court, thereby profaning a hall that had been connected to intellectual creation and the national life of the Greek people. (To commemorate this incident, a plaque has been walled-in outside the building of Parnassos, to the left of its main entrance.)

Despite the building's requisition, the board of the society collectively, and members individually, continued to help in any way they could to alleviate the suffering of the Greek people. Following the bomb raid on Piraeus, the society housed and fed over one thousand people. On a different occasion, it accommodated 150 Spanish-Jewish refugee families. At the same time, some of the school's rooms had been given to the School of Coast Guard Officers, which in effect covered the needs of the School of Naval Officers.

In 1945, during the first postwar celebration of October 28th, a ceremony in honor of victorious Commander-in-Chief Alexandros Papagos took place at Parnassos. It was organized by a broad public committee, with representatives from all associations and organizations, under the presidency of Ippokratis Karavias. In the presence of many dignitaries, the president addressed the general and awarded him a diploma with a commemorative plaque. Alexandros Papagos in reply expressed his thanks and spoke of the victory. A handwritten letter by Alexandros Papagos to the president of Parnassos survives in the society's archives:

Honorable Mr. President, I have the privilege to warmly thank you as well as the other honorable members of Parnassos for the great honor bestowed upon me of being declared an honorary member of the Parnassos Literary Society. With infinite gratitude and respect, A. Papagos.

Anniversaries

During its long history, Parnassos never failed to celebrate its anniversaries with splendor and the participation of the political and intellectual world of Greece. Thus, the grand event of 1892 was the celebration of the society's first twenty-five years, which had been suspended in 1890 because of construction work on the new hall. As President Simos Balanos wrote in his
\textit{Λογοδοσία}, the three-day festivities (10-12 April) were particularly splendid and attended by representatives of the country’s political, religious, and intellectual elite. The first night, the opening speech by Spyridon Lambros was followed by music and poetry-reading by Achilleas Paraschos, Aristomenis Proveleggios, Kostis Palamas, Ioannis Polemis, Georgios Vizyenos, and Georgios Souris.

The eighty-fifth anniversary of the society in 1950 was equally festive. The honorary presidency of the three-day celebration (17-19 December) was offered to, and accepted by, King Paul I. The opening ceremonies were attended by Prime Minister Sofoklis Venizelos, former prime ministers Nikolaos Plastiras and Stylianos Gonatas, the presidents of the Council of State Panayiotis Poulitsas, of the Supreme Court Ilias Papailiou, and of the Academy of Athens Anastasios Orlandos, the deans of the University of Athens G. Sotiriou and of the Polytechnic G. Koronaios, representatives of the University of Thessaloniki, the French Academy of Letters, the University of Sorbonne, and the University of Perugia, academics and professors, and representatives of associations and communities, local and foreign. Several of those attending made remarks suitable to the occasion, including Prime Minister Venizelos:

The Parnassos Literary Society, born only three decades after the liberation of the Greek Nation and in an era where everything remained without guidance and direction, did not limit itself merely to the achievement of its philological mission—as is implied by its title—but beyond this it endorsed and served everything Greek. As prime minister, I am obliged to congratulate this, as well as the fact that the society celebrating today remained, throughout its century-long history and despite all adversity, far from any political involvement, dedicating all its powers, without any deviation, to the ministration of the Nation.

With this opportunity, Konstantinos Vovolitis undertook the compilation of a detailed chronicle of Parnassos’s activities from its foundation to 1950 which was completed and published the following year. The book constitutes a valuable source on many aspects of the society’s work and was used extensively for this essay.\textsuperscript{10}

The centennial of the society was celebrated with special splendor on 15 March 1966. King Constantine declared open the three-day festivities, followed by a speech by President Ioannis Kalitsounakis. On the second day, Secretary General Gerasimos Konidaris presented a detailed overview of the historical path and work of Parnassos. On the last day, a musical event took place, organized by the artistic department of the society under the presidency of Antiochos Evangelatos. All speeches delivered during the celebrations were later included in a special 56-page issue.

The 125\textsuperscript{th} anniversary was celebrated with a special soiree on 22 October 1989. The program included a blessing from Archbishop Serafim of Athens, an address by President Nikolaos Livadaras, salutations by Minister of Culture Tzannis Tzannetakis and other officials, as well as recollections by the member of the Academy of Athens and author Petros Charis and former minister Leonidas Bournias. Included in the program were also the presenta-
tion of an extract of the speech by Spyridon Lambros on the society's twenty-fifth anniversary, a speech by Gerasimos Zoras entitled "Parnassos and Modern Greek Writers," and a concert by conductor and director of the Conservatory of Athens Aris Garoufalis, with works by Manolis Kalomirris, who had also been a member of the society.

In addition to these anniversaries, the society also celebrated with according splendor the centennial of the foundation of the School for Deprived Children. The three-day festivities (4-6 November 1973) included speeches about the history and the hundred-year contribution of the school to Greek society. The president of the society, member of the Academy of Athens and professor, Ioannis Theodorakopoulos, concluded his speech with the following words:

No other institution’s name has achieved such prestige during these past hundred years as Parnassos’s. Parnassos has been teaching Greek letters to deprived children for one hundred years, and the fruits of this teaching have been very rich and beneficial for Greek Society.\footnote{11}

Indeed, the Parnassos Literary Society’s contribution to the cultivation of letters and social progress has been great. The society developed activities in various fields and not only in the literary. Its social contribution has also been great, especially through the creation and operation of the School for Deprived Children, but also through various other initiatives. However, from the second half of the twentieth century onward, the social activity of the society was limited, as expected, mainly because the state organization was then in the position to fulfill many of the social activities Parnassos was previously offering.

Thus, the society assumed a more literary and cultural character. Today, its scope of activities includes music concerts, painting exhibitions, conferences, and other events. The school continue their work in a new form, offering foreign language and computer lessons to young Greeks and foreigners.

The society seems to undergo a period of reconstruction and revival. The plans for the future include: (1) The maintenance and renovation of the historic building, which was done before the 2004 Olympic Games exteriorly, while now the Great Hall is renovated partially financed by the Niarchos Institute; (2) the expansion of the society’s activities, with more events every year and with the future establishment of a school for actors; (3) the organization and digitization of the Gallery and subsequently of the Library, which includes 70,000 titles, rare editions, and priceless archival material; (4) the promotion and reinforcement of the society’s work, especially by the new generation of researchers; and (5) the continuance of the journal \textit{Parnassos}, which includes scientific studies focused mainly in humanitarian studies, and its mailing to the largest libraries throughout the world.

It is obvious that a part of the modern Greek history was written with the contribution of various intellectual, scientific, and cultural societies and associations. Among those, Parnassos possesses a leading position. Now, it must meet the challenges and needs of our times, moving into the future without forgetting its past.
Appendix I

Lectures on Greek Poets of the Nineteenth Century

1. Nikolaos Politis, “Known Poets of Folksongs”
2. Spyridon Lambros, “Rigas Feraios, Vilaras, Christopoulos”
3. Antonios Matesis, “Solomos and Zante”
4. Georgios Sotiriadis, “Andreas Kalvos”
5. Georgios Tsokopoulos, “Alexandros and Panayiotis Soutsos and the Political Poetry in the Days of King Otto”
6. Evgenios Zalokostas, “Alexandros Rizos Rangavis”
7. Ioannis Zervos, “Andreas Laskaratos”
8. Timoleon Ambelas, “Theodoros Orphanidis”
10. Dionysios Stefanou, “Georgios Tertsetis”
11. Pavlos Nirvanas, “Aristotelis Valaoritis”
13. Theodoros Vellianitis, “Gerasimos Markaras, Iakovos Polylas and the School of Corfu”
Appendix II

Presidents of the Parnassos Literary Society

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>President</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1865</td>
<td>Michael P. Lambros</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1866</td>
<td>Spyridon P. Lambros</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1867</td>
<td>Michael P. Lambros</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1868</td>
<td>Spyridon Sakellaropoulos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1868</td>
<td>Aristidis Tatarakis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1868</td>
<td>Georgios Ethivoulis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1869</td>
<td>Panteleimon Chrysanthos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1869</td>
<td>Thalis Antoniades</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1870</td>
<td>Pavlos Nikolaras</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1870</td>
<td>Ioannis Kambouroglous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1871</td>
<td>Christos Londos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1871-72</td>
<td>Nikolaos Levidis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1872-73</td>
<td>Eleftherios Rafail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1873-74</td>
<td>Michael P. Lambros</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1874-75</td>
<td>Emmanouil Lykoudis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1875-78</td>
<td>Thrasyvoulos Athanatos-Angelopoulos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1878-80</td>
<td>Emmanouil Dragoumis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1880-86</td>
<td>Timoleon Argyropoulos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1886-92</td>
<td>Simos Balanos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1892-97</td>
<td>Nikolaos Politis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1897-1912</td>
<td>Timoleon Argyropoulos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1912-1919</td>
<td>Spyridon Sakellaropoulos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1919-21</td>
<td>Nikolaos Politis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1921-32</td>
<td>Timoleon Iliopoulos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1932-53</td>
<td>Ippokratis Karavias</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1953-64</td>
<td>Thrasyvoulos Vlissidis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1964-66</td>
<td>Ioannis Kallitsounakis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1967</td>
<td>Georgios Kourmoulis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1969-79</td>
<td>Ioannis Theodorakopoulos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980-87</td>
<td>Gerassimos Konidaris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1987-99</td>
<td>Nikolaos Livadaris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999-</td>
<td>Ioannis Markandonis</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix III

Ekdoseis Parnassos

1. Maria Mandouvalou, Τα ἐν Ελλάδι Πολιτικά Γεγονότα του 1862 καὶ τὰ ἐν τῷ Παρνασσῷ Κατάλοιπα τοῦ Βούλγαρ (1971).
Fig. 1. Founding members of Parnassos Literary Society:
(left to right): Spyridon Lambros, Emmanouil Dragoumis,
Michael Lambros, Spyridon Vassiliadis;
(seated): Dimitrios Paparrigopoulos, Nikolaos Politis
Fig. 2. Spyridon Lambros, one of the founding members and president of Parnassos (1866), professor of history at the University of Athens (1890–1916), and prime minister of Greece (1916–17); the portrait is signed by Georgios Roilos
Fig. 3. The Parnassos Building
Fig. 4. Georgios Roilos's painting The Poets in Parnassos (left to right): Georgios Stratigis, Georgios Drossinis, Ioannis Polemis, Kostis Palamas, Georgios Souris, Aristomenis Provelengios (Parnassos Gallery)