

THE CYPRUS LIBRARY
(KYPRIAKE VIVLIOTHEKE)

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN NATIONAL LIBRARIANS
2003

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Librarian

Dr. Antonis Maratheftis

Address

Cyprus Library
Eleftherias Square
1011 Nicosia
Cyprus

Telephone Numbers

+357 22 303180

+357 22 676118

Fax

+357 22 304532

E-mail

cypruslibrary@cytanet.com.cy

amaratheftis@hotmail.com

Management of the Library

A draft plan for a change to a semi-governmental status has been prepared by the Library Board and forwarded to the Ministry of Education and Culture. This would give the Library more independence to accomplish its mission free from the constraints of civil service rules and regulations.

Funding

Due to cuts in the overall government spending, the book budget in 2003 remained the same as the previous year. All the funds came from the government.

Buildings

The installation of a new government in February led to a drastic change concerning the housing of the Cyprus Library. It decided to abandon the idea of renovating the former Philoxenia Hotel which was to house the Cyprus Library and the Open University of Cyprus, and to build a new building by the end of the decade. The new building would be part of a multi-function cultural center which would include a music hall, adjacent to the new State Gallery. In the meantime, an older building is in the process of being renovated in order to be used jointly by the State Gallery and the Cyprus Library. It would serve as temporary housing for some of the Library's services and function as a storage area for older books.

Staffing matters

The staff increased by 4 temporary employees (1 librarian and 3 assistant librarians), representing an 80% increase from the previous year. Another assistant librarian was added by the end of the year whose main task was to cooperate with the State Archives staff in the job of preserving the Library's rare books.

Acquisitions

In 2003 our collections grew by more than 6846 books, out of which 426 were donations, 1216 were deposited to the ISBN collection and 705 were UN documents. An additional collection of more than 5000 books has been pledged to the Library as a donation, once its owner passes away.

Cultural events, exhibitions and publishing

The *Bulletin of the Bibliography of Cyprus (2002)* was published.

The Cyprus Library coordinated Cyprus' contribution to the Poster Exhibit entitled “**Focal points : Contemporary Posters from Central and Eastern Europe, Malta and Cyprus,**” organized by the Stadt und Staatliches Bibliothek in Vienna to celebrate the accession to the European Union of the 10 countries in May 1, 2004. After a successful opening in Vienna, the Exhibition, which was intended to travel to the other European Union members, closed down due to the failure of the organizers to gain financial support from the European Commission.

Library cooperation

The Library initiated cooperation with the State Archives Preservation Unit on the preservation of old books. Cooperation with the University of Cyprus Library led to the hosting of the Library's catalog on the University's home page. See also above on the cooperation with the Stadt und Staatliches Bibliothek in Vienna on the Poster Exhibit.