



ΑΡΧΕΙΑ
ΣΥΓΧΡΟΝΗΣ
ΚΟΙΝΩΝΙΚΗΣ
ΙΣΤΟΡΙΑΣ

Contemporary Social History Archives (ASKI)

Contemporary Social History Archives

The Contemporary Social History Archives (ASKI) is the leading Greek archival institution for the history of political and social movements, with a particular emphasis on the history of the Greek Left. Founded in 1992 as a non-profit organization and located in the center of Athens, ASKI holds the most comprehensive collection of archives relating to Greek social history and related public history projects and activities (publications, workshops and conferences, radio programs, historical walking tours) that enrich historical awareness and the collective memory of social, political and ethnic groups.

The Institution is administered by a board of directors, which is elected annually by the general assembly of ASKI members.

ASKI's reading room (1 Eleftherias Square, Athens) is open and accessible to the public three days a week. In the last decade, more than 6,000 researchers have visited the reading room.

ASKI is a member of the International Council on Archives (ICA) and the International Association of Labor History Institutions (IALHI).

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The Greek
Delegation
to the peace
march from
Aldermaston
to London,
4/1963



Celebration of May 1, 1950s



Democratic Trade Union
Movement, peace march,
1960s



Strike of construction
workers, 1960s

Archival Collections

The preservation of printed material, oral testimonies, visual and archival collections is a pivotal activity of ASKI. These collections elucidate the historical trajectory of the Greek Left, the labor movement and progressive politics from the 19th century to the present day. The archival collections are kept at the ASKI repository, which is located in the center of Athens (1 Eleftherias Square), and are accessible to researchers, readers and the general public.

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The core archival collections (numbering more than 5 million documents) are organized along the following series:

Records of the Parties of the Greek Left

Greek Communist Party (KKE): 1943–1968
Greek Communist Party–Interior (KKE Esoterikou): 1968–1986
United Democratic Left (EDA): 1952–1967
Greek Left (EAR): 1986–1989
Records from various groups of the Radical Left: 1974–2014

World War II, Greek Civil War and Post-War Activities of the Greek Left

Axis Occupation and National Resistance in Greece (1941–1944): Resistance groups, collaboration, social and economic issues
Greek Civil War (1946–1949): Military activities, political developments, international relations.
Political refugees in Eastern European countries (1949–1978): living conditions and political activities, relations with respective host countries.
Political repression and political prisoners in Greece (1936–1974): international anti-communist networks, prisoners' living conditions, relations with

inmates, and correspondence with relatives.

Military dictatorship in Greece (1967–1974)

Anti-dictatorship movements in Greece and worldwide: underground organizations, solidarity committees and groups in Western Europe and the USA.
Cyprus: labor movement, invasion of the Turkish army (1974), relations of the Greek Communist Party with the Progressive Party of Working People (AKEL).

Civil rights, social movements, grassroots organizations (1950–2014)

Working-class movements and trade unions in Greece and abroad
Youth and student movement, protest culture and social dissent
Feminist, ecological and anti-nuclear movements and groups

Personal archives of Greek politicians, intellectuals and trade-unionists



Greek Civil War (1946-1949): fighters of the Democratic Army of Greece (DSE)

Battle of Athens, December 1944

Greek Civil War (1946-1949): women fighters of the Democratic Army of Greece (DSE)

Battle of Athens, December 1944

Image Collections

ASKI's collections of photographs and posters illustrate vividly the most significant moments of the 20th century in Greece and the history of radical and left social and political movements.

The graphic collections archive (10,000 photographs and 2,000 posters) spans from the interwar period to the present day, with a significant concentration of material relating to the Axis Occupation, the National Resistance movement, the Greek Civil War and the post-dictatorship period.

Oral History Collections

The oral history and audio collections include party meetings of the leading bodies of the parties of the Greek Left, oral testimonies of activists and political figures, oral testimonies of the inhabitants of the village of Ziakas regarding their experiences in the 1940s and of Cypriot citizens regarding the Cypriot crisis of 1974.

Library

The library specializes in the history of 20th century social and political movements, with a particular focus on the Greek and international socialist and communist movement. More specifically, it includes more than 20,000 books, newspapers and journals, underground and radical publications, pamphlets, brochures (1910–2014), leaflets and ephemera (1936–2014).

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Liberation from the German Occupation, Thessaloniki October 1944

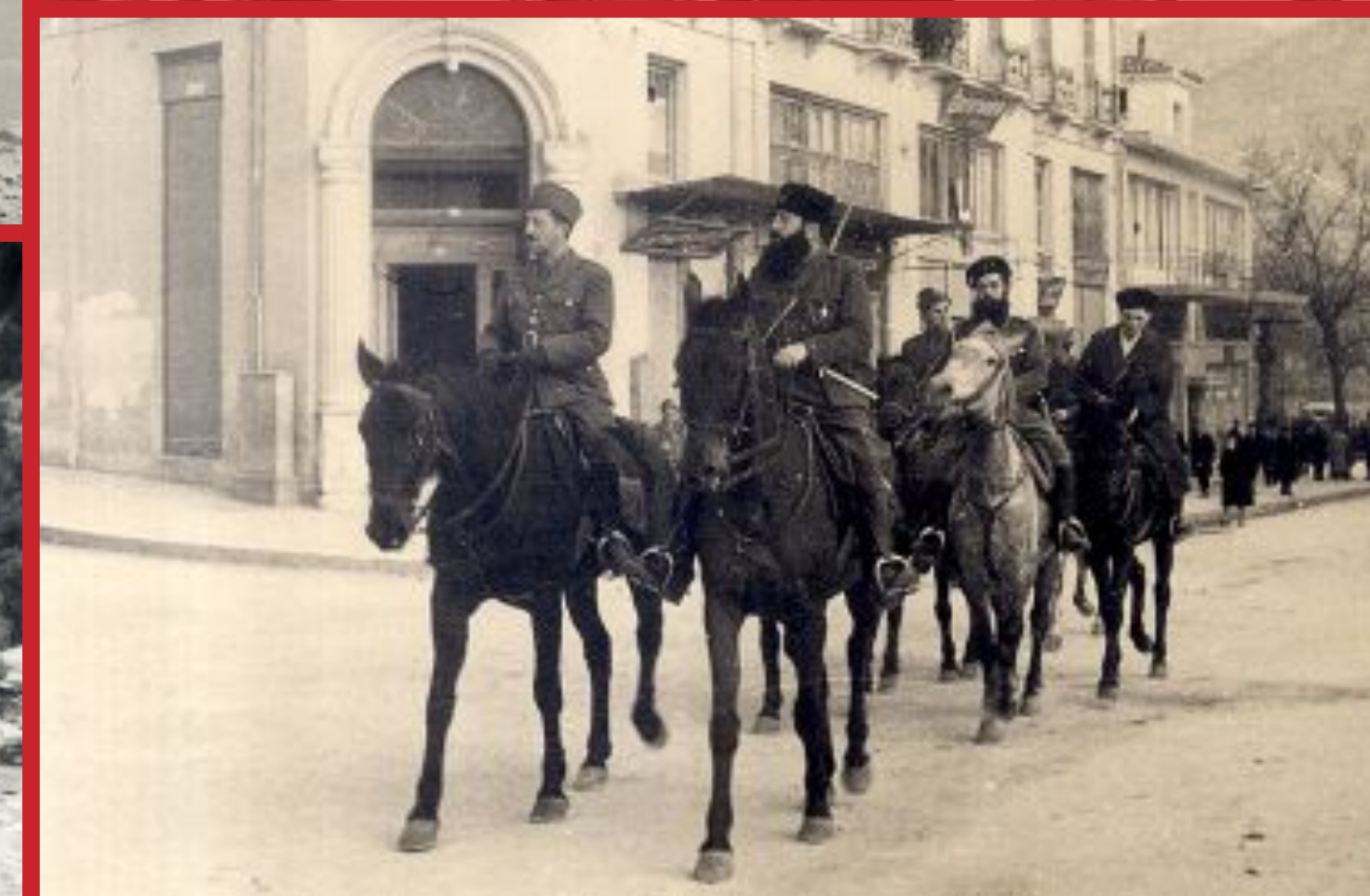


WWII: Partisans of the Greek Liberation Army (ELAS), Western Greece



Liberation from the German Occupation, Athens October 1944

General Stefanos Sarafis and Aris Velouchiotis entering the city of Ioannina, December 1944



Activities and Outreach

Since its foundation in 1992, ASKI has initiated activities that promote historical awareness and serve the documentation of the history of the Greek Left. These activities have transformed ASKI into a main point of academic reference and have contributed to the creation of an open space for scholarly and public dialogue. During the recent period of economic crisis, ASKI has launched an ambitious project that links themes of social history with the questions of public memory and the practices of the digital humanities. In this context, ASKI wishes to participate in interdisciplinary and transnational projects that will highlight the international networks of social and political movements and address contemporary challenges in the public sphere.

ASKI's currently coordinates the following initiatives and activities:

- ▶ The ongoing project of providing digital access to its collections, which offers researchers and the general public a panorama of Greek social and political history. More than 200,000 pages have been digitised and are accessible on its website (www.askiweb.eu) including archival material, books, newspapers, journals, photographs and posters.
- ▶ The journal *Archeiotaxio*, which reflects its research activities and scholarly interests. Published annually, it has a significant impact on the Greek-speaking academic world.
- ▶ A publication program, which includes a series of memoirs from activists and figures of the Greek Left; catalogues and editions relating to its archival collections; co-sponsored editions with academic institutions on issues relating to social history.

▶ A weekly radio program on themes of Greek social history, which is broadcast on the nationwide radio station Sto Kokkino 105.5.

▶ Historical walking tours in Athens and Piraeus neighborhoods for the general public, in cooperation with grassroots movements, local community groups and municipal authorities.

▶ Conferences, workshop meetings and book launches. Along with the National Hellenic Research Foundation and the Panteion University in Athens, it hosts an annual MA seminar for graduate students under the general title ASKI Workshops. It also participates in academic research programs and projects for the digitalization of its archival collections and it hosts an internship program for students from leading Greek universities.



Spanish Civil War (1936-1939): Greek volunteers in the International Brigades



The journal *Archeiotaxio* and editions

ASKI's archival collections underscore the international history of the social and political movements of the 19th and 20th centuries, the pivotal position of Greek developments in the European setting and the transnational networks of working-class solidarity and social activism. In the coming years, ASKI aims to emphasize these transnational aspects, while promoting public history programs which will address the complex relation of historical memory in time of crisis and uncertainty.

You can keep in touch with us by subscribing to our bimonthly news bulletin or visiting our website:
www.askiweb.eu

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Anti-dictatorship
movement:
Demonstrations in
the U.S.A., 1974



Anti-dictatorship
movement:
Demonstrations in
the Netherlands,
1973

