2015

MUSEUMS
ACTIVITIES
EXHIBITIONS
COLLECTIONS
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ANNUAL
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AGORA
In 2015, the Bank of Cyprus Cultural Foundation celebrated 30 years of life and achievement. This newsletter presents a review of the Cultural Foundation’s activities for this year, a year marked by notable contribution and creativity.
Since its establishment in 1984, the Bank of Cyprus Cultural Foundation has developed a wealth of activities, in keeping with the objectives originally delineated for the Cultural Foundation by the Bank of Cyprus. The Foundation’s main strategic aims are to encourage research and study of Cypriot civilisation in the fields of archaeology, history, art and literature, as well as to preserve and disseminate the cultural and natural heritage of Cyprus.

The Cultural Foundation is housed at the old administrative building of the Bank of Cyprus, in the historical centre of Nicosia near Phaneromeni church. In addition to its other activities, the Foundation now keeps six Cyprological Collections: a. Coinage, b. Maps, c. Rare Books & Manuscripts, d. Engravings, Old Photographs & Watercolours, e. Contemporary Cypriot Art, f. Ethnography.

The Cultural Foundation Collections have been enriched over the years by a number of donations:
• in 2015 with the rest of the Archaeological Collection of George and Nefeli Giabra Pierides (donated by Clio and Solon Triantafylldides)
• in 2008 by the archive of photographs of Manuel Baud-Bovy and Aristea Tzanou Baud-Bovy
• in 1999 by the Archaeological Collection of George and Nefeli Giabra Pierides (donated by Clio and Solon Triantafylldides)
• in 1993 by the Map Collection of Antonakis and Laura Georgiades
• in 1988 by the Map Collection of Mikis and Agnes Michaelides
• in 1987 by 51 of Elektra Megaw’s watercolours under the general theme “Wildflowers of Cyprus”

The Cultural Foundation also manages the Historical Archive of the Bank of Cyprus, intended for the safekeeping and study of the Group’s archival material.
Further, the Cultural Foundation curates three museums:
• the Museum of the History of Cypriot Coinage, in Nicosia
• the Archaeological Museum of George and Nefeli Giabra Pierides (donated by Clio and Solon Triantafyllides), in Nicosia
• the Pierides Museum, in Larnaka, which hosts a Collection of Ancient and Medieval Cypriot Art, as well as a collection of maps of Cyprus

One manner by which the Cultural Foundation achieves its objectives is the publication of books and folios that pertain to archaeology, history, art, literature and the environment. This is precisely why the Foundation periodically organizes exhibitions, lectures and scientific conferences devoted to these areas. In addition to the above, the Cultural Foundation has expanded its activities overseas, collaborating closely with major organizations and museums, both in Cyprus and abroad. Since its inception, it has held more than 60 exhibitions in Cyprus, Greece and a number of European cities.

Both Cypriot and foreign institutions have recognised the incessant, multifaceted activities of the Cultural Foundation. Some of the awards garnered by the Foundation are:
• in 2008 the “Archaeology Award 2008” of the Republic of Cyprus
• in 2007 by the Benaki Museum, in Athens
• in 1991 by the Historical and Ethnological Society of Greece
• in 1990 by the International Map Collectors’ Society (IMCoS)
The Cultural Foundation curates three museums. The aim of their operation is to provide the public with unhindered access to three of its most significant Collections. The Museums are open on a daily basis. Educational programmes for primary and secondary education students are organized regularly with the approval of the Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republic of Cyprus.

The Museum of the History of Cypriot Coinage and the Museum of George and Nefeli Giabra Pierides Collection (donated by Clio and Solon Triantafyllides) are housed at the Cultural Foundation building, in a central, historical part of Nicosia, the Phaneromeni neighbourhood. The Pierides Museum is housed at the Pierides family residence in Larnaka.
Museum of the History of Cypriot Coinage

The Museum was established in 1995 and since then it is the only one of its kind in Cyprus. A large part of the Foundation’s Numismatic Collection is on display in this permanent exhibition, at the Cultural Foundation premises. The presentation of more than 500 coins, divided in nine chronological periods (23 showcases), trace Cyprus’ tumultuous history, from the first coins minted on the island in the 6th century B.C. to contemporary times.

Each showcase includes a brief introductory text enhanced by relevant illustrative material. Important coins from each historical period are illustrated in enlargement within the text while each coin is accompanied by a short explanation of measurements, weight and depicted icons.

Included in the initial collection is a bronze coin from the Roman period, of emperor Claudius (A.D. 41-54), donated to the Bank by a member of the Board of Directors of the Group. This coin bears on the reverse the inscription «ΚΟΙΝΟ(Ν) ΚΥΠΡΙΩΝ» (League of the Cypriots) within a laurel wreath; it was a symbol of unity among the peoples of the island; this particular coin has been the official logo of the Bank of Cyprus since 1963.

The Museum has been actively engaged in the organization of educational programmes and lectures, the production of mass media applications and the publication of special editions pertaining to the history of coinage. Its Collection has been linked to international online research programmes, which has rendered it accessible to the wider public through the Foundation’s website.
Museum of the George and Nefeli Giabra Pierides Collection 
(donated by Clio and Solon Triantafyllides)

The George and Nefeli Giabra Pierides Collection was donated to the Bank of Cyprus Cultural Foundation in 1999 by Clio and Solon Triantafyllides. In 2002, the Museum was inaugurated in the Phaneromeni building. The Collection covers a wide span of Cypriot history and archaeology, from the Early Bronze Age (2500 B.C.) to the Medieval period (16th century).

In addition to the collection donated in 2002, a total of 104 items have been offered on loan. On 25 August 2015, the official delivery ceremony was held at the Cultural Foundation. The items were delivered by Polys Polyviou, on behalf of the donators, to the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Bank of Cyprus, Josef Ackermann.

SPYRA is an innovative digital programme also running in the Museum, the only one of its kind in Cyprus, which serves to bring archaeological exhibits from the Museum's showcases closer to the visitor with the use of a touch screen.
Established in 1974, the Pierides Museum curates one of the most important archaeological collections in Cyprus. It was named after the Pierides family, acclaimed collectors of antiquities who, headed by Demetrios Pierides (1811-1895) in the 19th century, went on to put together a significant collection, now on display at the museum.

In 2013, the Cultural Foundation incorporated all the operations of the Bank of Cyprus Cultural Centre, including the management of the Pierides Museum. The Museum is housed at the Pierides family residence in Larnaka, which was built in 1825, and covers major periods of Cypriot prehistory and history. Visitors to the museum may journey through centuries of Cypriot culture, across 9000 years of civilisation on the island, starting from the Neolithic period, the Bronze Age, to the Geometric, Archaic, Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine-Medieval eras. The museum also hosts a collection of old maps of Cyprus and the Eastern Mediterranean, as well as the Collection of Hellenistic and Roman glass vessels.

Since 2004, the Museum has begun hosting art exhibitions of well-known artists, as well as lectures on issues pertaining to its Collections and other matters of interest. In 2006, the Museum inaugurated a series of educational programmes and summer workshops for primary education students.
The Cultural Foundation oversees six Cyprological collections. Its strategic curatorship of these collections is designed to enrich, safeguard and maintain the collections, as well as make them available for study and research, and present them to the public.
The Numismatic Collection of the Bank of Cyprus Cultural Foundation has evolved into a notable collection of Cypriot coins, spanning every historical period of Cypriot coinage, from the 6th century B.C. to the coins of the Republic of Cyprus.

The Coin Collection has been enriched with a silver collector’s coin in honour of Aphrodite, goddess of Cyprus.

**Obverse:**

The emblem of the Central Bank of Cyprus and sea waves along the perimeter. The inscription: ΚΥΠΡΟΣ CYPRUS KIBRIS 2015.

**Reverse:**

A composition depicting the marble statue of the goddess Aphrodite against the map of Cyprus in the background and sea waves along the perimeter. The inscription: ΑΦΡΟΔΙΤΗ APHRODITE and nominal value €5.

The Maps Collection includes a series of maps decorated with mythological scenes that conjure up Aphrodite, goddess of Cyprus. One of the finest and best known maps pertaining to this particular topic is the one made by the Dutch Willem Blaeu and printed in Amsterdam in 1641.

**Willem Janszoon Blaeu, “CYPRUS INSVLA”.

From the publication entitled *Novus Atlas, das ist Abbildung und Beschreibung von allen Landern des Erdreics*, Amsterdam, 1641-42.

Dimensions: 35x50 cm.

The Collection counts more than 400 maps and includes the majority of the known printed maps of Cyprus dated between the 16th-20th centuries. It is an important series that provides a detailed picture of the development of Cypriot cartography, the course of which is intertwined with the island’s turbulent history.
Contemporary Cypriot Art

The Collection of Contemporary Cypriot Art includes paintings, engravings, video-art, sculptures and mixed-material constructions by acclaimed Cypriot artists. The ultimate purpose of the Cultural Foundation is to gradually put together a representative collection to serve as a retrospective of 20th century visual arts in Cyprus.

Angelos Makrides
"White Conspirators", 2004, mixed media, diameter: 110 cm.

Ethnographic Collection

The Ethnographic Collection comprises unique specimens of Cypriot folk art, including carved-wooden furniture, ceramics, embroideries and textiles, traditional costumes, paintings and jewellery. A large part of the Collection is housed at the Cultural Foundation in Phaneromeni, another part at the Pierides Museum, whilst selected exhibits are displayed on loan at the regional Ethnographic Museum in Avgorou.

Five carved wooden weaving spindles made of oak wood. The spindles were used by women to twist and wind wool. In terms of their form and decoration, they are similar to spindles from the Hellenic area. These particular spindles were made in Cyprus circa 1920 by a man from Epirus working as a guard at the Monastery of the Aghioi Anargyroi settlement, in Paphos. The map of Cyprus and the inscription ΑΚΑΜΑΣ [AKAMAS] are engraved on the back.

Dimensions: maximum height: 91 cm., maximum width: 20 cm.
Engravings, Old Photographs and Watercolours

Cyprus’ engravings included in the Collection depict landscapes and highlights from the island’s fauna and flora, as well as monuments, town views, scenes from everyday life and important historical figures. Also included is a series of watercolours entitled “Wildflowers of Cyprus” by Elektra Megaw, as well as old photographs and postcards of Cyprus.

Aquarelle by Edwin Whitefield. It depicts a vessel from the Cypriot collection of antiquities sold by Luigi Palma di Cesnola to the Metropolitan Museum of New York. The aquarelle had been included in a Catalogue of the Museum in 1885.


Postcard by Edwards Studio; traditional pottery in Cyprus, circa 1947.
Manuscripts and Rare Books

The Collection includes handwritten letters by Frankish and Venetian merchants (1407-1512), whereas the printed editions, mostly incunabula, include rare travel, historical and geographical editions dated between the 16th and 20th centuries.

Tankerville, Chamberlayne J. (Major), *Lacrime Nicossienses*, Recueil d’inscriptions funéraires la plupart françaises existant encore dans l’île de Chypre, Paris 1894.

In this rare edition, Tankerville salvages hundreds of medieval funerary inscriptions, mostly of the 13th-14th centuries, which he had located either inside or in the surroundings of five churches in Nicosia. The inscriptions and, with them, the engraved funerary figures are illustrated across 29 pages, drawn by M.W. Williams.


Swedish doctor of medicine at the University of Uppsala and student of the great botanist Charles Linnaeus, young Hasselquist left Stockholm in 1749 to travel to Asia Minor, Egypt and the Holy Lands. In 1751 he arrived in Cyprus to take a ship back to his homeland. As he writes, he had no intention of conducting botanical research on account of the heat. He did, however, write a plethora of observations on the island’s fauna, flora and geology.


The code includes an essay on the “errors” [errores] of the various religious communities of Cyprus (Greeks, Latins, Copts, Armenians etc.) towards the end of Venetian rule. Also included in the code is information on the island’s economy, but also on the various aristocratic families of the Cypro-Venetian ruling class.
The Bank of Cyprus Historical Archive

The Bank of Cyprus Historical Archive includes documents and books published between 1899 (year of foundation of the “Nicosia” Savings Bank) to the present day, audiovisual material, as well as a newspaper archive. It also brings together a rich collection of office machines and other items of equipment that mainly trace the development of technology within the Group.

“If you add a little to a little, and then do it again, soon that little shall be much”

Hesiod

Bank of Cyprus piggy bank with British rule coins (mid 20th c.)

Advertisement of the Bank of Cyprus for its shops in and outside Cyprus, the Mortgage Bank of Cyprus Ltd and General Insurance Ltd.

*Times of Cyprus* magazine, 30 January 1958

Title of registered shares of the Famagusta Bank, of a capital of 30,000 pounds, signed in Famagusta on 20 August 1925.
The events and exhibitions presented in the halls of the Cultural Foundation are open to the public daily. The Cultural Foundation uses its agenda of events as a good opportunity to bring the Cyprus public in contact mainly with the history and civilization of the rest of Hellenism, as well as with world history and contemporary art sets and trends.
Cyprus Banknotes. Environment-History-Folk Art

The exhibition “Cyprus Banknotes. Environment-History-Folk Art. Their iconography through the Bank of Cyprus Cultural Foundation Collections” was inaugurated on 16 May 2014 and lasted until August 2015.

The exhibition displayed a selection of landmarks in the history of Cypriot Banknotes spanning a period from their first issue in 1914 by the British until 1955. It then explores the iconography of the Banknotes of the Republic of Cyprus in the series issued between 1961 and 1997 – the environment, history and folk art of Cyprus being the focal points.

These banknotes were in circulation until their replacement by Euro banknotes in 2008.

The aim of the exhibition was to open up routes connecting the iconography of the Banknotes of the Republic of Cyprus to items from the Collections of the Cultural Foundation.

The exhibition was organized by the Museum of the History of Cypriot Coinage and the Bank of Cyprus Historical Archive, and was supplemented by a homonymous catalogue and educational programme.
From Fruitopia to the Island of Fireworks.
An amazing journey to the magical worlds of Eugene Trivizas

On 21 November 2014, the Cultural Foundation inaugurated the exhibition “From Fruitopia to the Island of Fireworks. An amazing journey to the magical worlds of Eugene Trivizas” at the periodical exhibitions hall, in Phaneromeni.

The exhibition was first presented at the G. Gounaropoulos Museum in Athens, and was then enriched with works by Cypriot artists. It lasted until July 2015.

Supplementing the exhibition was an interactive educational programme for primary schools. Throughout the duration of the exhibition, “Relaxation Events” were hosted over the weekends in Phaneromeni, featuring well-known actors and actresses readings books by the popular storyteller. Fairy tales were read by: Stavros Louras, Electra Photiadou, Despina Bebedeli, Photos Photiades, Christiana Artemiou and Tasos Tryphonos, Christina Pavlidou, Prokopis Agathocleous, Thanasis Drakopoulos, Ioanna Lambropoulou, Marina Nicolaidou, Haris Kkolos, Christos Gregoriades, Polyxeni Savva, Kyriakos Pastides, Marina Maleni.
Parallel activities included two visual arts workshops, four theatrical performances and a collaboration with a tertiary education foundation.

**Visual arts workshops:** On 14 February, after actor Prokopis Agathocleous had read the book *Dorinda and Gudun: Seashells and Streamers*, the children learned how to make tails using carnival ribbons, masks of Gudun-eater and of other characters from Eugene Trivizas’ books.

On 18 April, fashion designer Marina Nicolaidou read the romantic story *Katy the Coquettish Hen who changed gowns every day*. After the reading, the Fashion Atelier invited children to create the “Spring-Summer 2015” collection.

**Theatrical performances:** On the 13, 14, 27 and 28 June, in collaboration with the “Join the Dots” theatre group, the Cultural Foundation presented the “Magic Pillows”, a story for the little ones and the older little ones, at its open-air theatre.

**Collaboration with Frederick University:** On 4 June, students of the Departments of Pre-primary Education and Applied Arts displayed their artworks based on fairy tales and unpublished lyrical texts by Eugene Trivizas.
The Environment and Sustainable Development

In continuation of the successful series of lectures on the Geology of Cyprus delivered in 2014, the Cultural Foundation went on in 2015 to host a new series of lectures pertaining to the island’s environment, entitled “The Environment and Sustainable Development”. The lectures looked at such topics as biodiversity, wetlands, blue growth, green professions, green building design and climate change. The aim of the lectures was to raise awareness among citizens in terms of approaching the aforementioned issues.

Speakers:
- Arabella Zachariou, “Questions of Sustainable Development: the role and responsibility of citizens in dealing with them”
- Thomas Hadjikyriakou, “Wetlands in Cyprus. Their significance for man and the wildlife”
- Marios Andreou, “Biodiversity of Cyprus: Value, threats and prospects for preservation”
- Panos Hadjinicolaou, “Climate changes: retrospective and prospects”
- Panayiotis Touliatos, “The bioclimatic factor in the architecture of the Eastern Mediterranean”
- Michalis Loizides, “Green Professions and Green Development”
- Xenia I. Loizidou, “Coastal Zone and Blue Growth”
Third One-Day Event & Fourth Workshop in Economic History by the Historical Archive

On 28 March, the Bank of Cyprus Historical Archive, in collaboration with the University of Cyprus and the European University Cyprus, organized a one-day event entitled “Cyprus in the 20th c.: State, society and economy” at the Andreas Patsalides Hall of the Cultural Foundation.

The case of Cyprus is of particular interest because of the island’s relatively rapid transition from preindustrial to post-industrial society and economy. Therefore, a series of questions are raised, such as the manner in which the Cypriot society adjusted to changes, as well as the extent of adjustment. The one-day event reviewed the developments and challenges that had accompanied these changes and investigated manners in which they have been dealt with, mainly during the course of the 20th century.

The one-day event was followed, on 7 November, by the Fourth Workshop in Economic History, entitled “The economy of Cyprus between 1914 and 1939”, based on evidence from the Bank of Cyprus Historical Archive.

The Workshop was aimed at bringing the public, mostly students, into contact with available sources of economic content, drawing examples from the Historical Archive.
The thirtieth anniversary of the Cultural Foundation

On 22 May, the Cultural Foundation celebrated its 30-year anniversary together with the Cyprus Symphony Orchestra in an open-air concert entitled “The orchestra is the city”. Before the start of the concert, Ms Vasiliki Kassianidou, Chairperson of the Cultural Foundation, welcomed the public with these words: “As is traditionally customary for celebrating hosts, allow me to welcome you tonight to our home. […] We open our doors and invite you to join the celebrations for the 30th anniversary of the Cultural Foundation. Thirty years of contribution and activities in the service of culture, creation, science, art, with a true concern for our land’s cultural and natural heritage. Instead of hosting a festive reception, we have opted to offer you a journey; a journey into a magical world, exclusively made of sounds”.

The Cyprus Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Alkis Baltas, performed songs from G. Hadjipieris’ “Lazy Dragon”, as well as songs by Manos Hatzidakis.

The orchestra was accompanied by singers Foivos Delivorias, Doros Demosthenous, Sofia Papazoglou and Mariastella Tzanoudaki.
Concerts at the Open-air Theatre

In the summer of 2015, the open-air theatre of the Cultural Foundation hosted a series of concerts aimed at supporting mostly young artists living in Cyprus. The concerts featured pop/rock, electro-funk, groove, gypsy jazz, swing and salsa music, both Greek and foreign.

Of the concerts, six were open to the public. Proceeds from the seventh concert went to charity.

Moon Indigo - 9 June
“Yard music”, with Marietta Mitsidou and Kaite Economidou - 18 June
Gadjo Dilo - 24 June
Lime & Sol - Cuban Music - 9 July
Tricoolore - 24 July
Sound of Thieves - 10 September
The Tease - 29 September
Conversations on Creativity

The Bank of Cyprus Cultural Foundation and the Embassy of Israel to Cyprus, in the framework of their collaboration on matters of culture, organized for the third consecutive year a series of events aimed at developing a cultural dialogue between the peoples of the two countries. Under the general title “Conversations on Creativity”, two internationally acclaimed artists and animation artists were invited to share their unique methods of creation. The first lecture, entitled “What can a banana teach us about creativity?” by Hanoch Piven, was delivered on 25 June, followed by the “Playful creative path” Workshop on 26 June.

Israeli Hanoch Piven is an artist and illustrator, known for his multi-coloured and playful illustrations that are based on his own collage techniques and promote creativity through the use of simple, daily objects.

On 5 November, Rony Oren, Israeli animator, claymator and professor at the Academy of Art and Design in Jerusalem, delivered the lecture entitled “Creativity through animation and stop-motion”. Oren has invented an internationally patented method for creating clay characters, dubbed “Clayground”. He is known for more than 500 short-length animation films, as well as for his illustration of 30 books for children and youth. The lecture was followed by the “Plasticine Characters” Design Workshop on the following day.
Theatre in Modern and Contemporary Cyprus

On Sunday, November 1st, the three-day Conference entitled “Theatre in modern and contemporary Cyprus” concluded at the “Panos Solomonides” Municipal Cultural Centre, Limassol. More than 100 registered participants attended its deliberations – featuring over 41 speakers from Cyprus and Greece – whilst others attended selected sessions.

The Conference was opened on Friday, the 30th of October, by the Minister of Education and Culture, Mr Costas Kadis. The opening session commemorated the founder of the study of theatre in Cyprus, Yiannis Katsouris, to whom the Conference was dedicated.

Keynote speakers, professors Walter Puchner and Savvas Patsalides, placed the theatre of Cyprus and its study on the international map. In the closing session, Walter Puchner, Emeritus Professor at the University of Athens and one of the founders of the first Department of Theatre Studies in Greece, said that “participants became witnesses of the founding act on Cypriot Theatre Studies”. 
A Journey to the Mediterranean Islands

The Cultural Foundation’s exhibition “A journey to the Mediterranean islands. From the Maps Collection of the Bank of Cyprus Cultural Foundation” was presented at the periodical exhibitions hall, in Phaneromeni, between 13 July and 31 October.

Cyprus, at the crossroads of the sea routes of the Eastern Mediterranean, has been a maritime nexus between the commercial harbours of the Middle East and the major harbours of the West, such as Venice and Genova and, later on, Marseilles and Southwest Europe. A special category of maps emerged during the 13th and 14th centuries, namely navigational maps (portolans) that provided sailing directions between harbours, the numerous islands of the Mediterranean, and the neighbouring seas. Harbours, coasts and sailing routes are charted based on the empirical knowledge of seamen.

On a group of maps from the Foundation’s Maps Collection, Cyprus is depicted as part of the wider Hellenic world together with other Greek islands, as well as various islands of the Mediterranean. The exhibition featured large scale reproductions of an indicative series of maps dating from the 16th to the 19th centuries.
Nights in Nicosia became special, replete with colours and scents, romanticism and nostalgia. For the third consecutive year, the Bank of Cyprus Cultural Foundation, in collaboration with the Lefkosiazo network of volunteers and the Municipality of Nicosia, presented the “Retro” Outdoor Cinema under the starry sky. Award-winning movies from the Greek and world cinema took us on a journey into cinematic magic, turning these summer gatherings into a favourite habit.

The following movies were shown for free on Wednesday nights at the Foundation’s open-air theatre:

- Cinema Paradiso, 1988 (Giuseppe Tornatore) – 1 July
- La dolce vita, 1960 (Federico Fellini) – 8 July
- Small time crooks (Woody Allen) – 22 July
- The Counterfeit Coin [Η κάλπικη λίρα] 1955 (Giorgos Tzavellas) – 29 July
- Breakfast at Tiffany’s, 1961 (Blake Edwards) – 5 August
- The pianist, 2002 (Roman Polanski) – 26 August
- Tis Kakomoiras [Bakalogatos], 1963 (Dinos Katsouridis) – 2 September
- Casablanca, 1942 (Michael Curtiz) – 9 September
Pop Up Festival

Between 13 November and 31 December, in the context of the Pop Up Festival, the Cultural Foundation ran a Concept Store on the ground floor of City Plaza, Makarios Avenue, Nicosia. In collaboration with Yiannis Toumazis, Director of the Municipal Arts Centre, and his associates, Eleni Ioannou and Chryso Mina, a strongly theatrical setting took shape, akin to a “garden”. It was a garden of entertainment, learning and acquisition for both children and adults: an inviting area that lent itself to exploration, featuring works of art from the Cultural Foundation’s Collection, collector’s items from its Shop, as well as various BOCCF publications.

The focal point of the setting was the stage where, over the weekends, Cypriot authors and actors read stories. The reading programme was organized in collaboration with the Cypriot Association for Children and Young Adult Books and featured fairy tales written by the following Cypriot authors: Marina Michaelidou-Kadi, Aigli Hadjidemetriou, Yiorgos Nikolopoulos, Demetra Charalambous, Sandra Eleftheriou and Fytoula Vakana, Maria Kanther, Theodosia Argyraki-Asargiotaki, Elena Pericleous, Anna Kouppanou, Athos Hadjimathaios, Eleni Artemiou-Fotiadou, Panayiota Plisi, Dick King-Smith (trans. Mariannina Kriezi), Toulla Kakoulli, Andreas Hadjiathanasiou, Androula Empedocleous, Frixos Michaelides.
On 11 December, the Cultural Foundation launched a new publication entitled “Valentinos Charalambous” in parallel with the opening of the “Valentinos Charalambous: Of clay and glaze, of fire, affection and love” Exhibition. The event included a brief introduction to the book by its author, art historian Marina Schiza. Visual artist Savvas Christodoulides, Assistant Professor at Frederick University, presented the book. Education and Culture Minister, Costas Kadis, opened the Exhibition that brings together all the axes around which Valentinos’ work has revolved in the span of a sixty-year career, showing representative artworks.

A brief documentary, featuring the book author conversing with the artist on his modus operandi and the way in which he collects raw material for his work, supplements the exhibition. It is directed by David Hands.
Events hosted in the Foundation’s premises

Since its inception, the Cultural Foundation has hosted both cultural and scientific events by individuals, organized groups and entities, free of charge. The events took place at the Andreas Patsalides Hall and the Open-Air Theatre, in Phaneromeni. More than 60 events were hosted in the Foundation’s premises in the course of 2015.

In a new effort to support the island’s youth groups, the Bank of Cyprus addressed an open invitation through “Open Stage” to young artists, musicians, actors, dancers, street artists and music groups to avail themselves of the Foundation’s premises. The initiative struck a chord with the young, which led to various music events being hosted at the Open-Air Theatre.
On 10 March 2015, the Exhibition “Cyprus at the turn of the century” was presented by the Cultural Foundation at the Pierides Museum. The Exhibition was initially shown on October 2014 at the Foundation’s periodical exhibitions hall in Phaneromeni. On display at the Pierides Museum were some of the photographs donated to the Foundation by the Historical and Ethnological Society of Greece and the National Historical Museum on the occasion of the first Exhibition. These are in fact reprints of the photographs presented in 1901 at the large “Cypriot Exhibition” hosted in Zappeion, depicting the people of Cyprus, its landscapes and monuments. In the framework of the Exhibition, Euphrosyne Rizopoulou Egoumenidou, Professor Emerita at the Department of History and Archaeology of the University of Cyprus, delivered the lecture “The exhibition of Cypriot costumes in Athens, 1901. National identity and local character”.

In 2015, in the framework of the series “Larnaka, 4000 years of History and Culture” a total of five lectures were given by distinguished speakers, namely: Sabine Fourrier, Giorgos Georgiou, Peter Fisher, Anna Satraki, Stella Demestichia.

Finally, the “Iconolatry” exhibition by visual artist Dimitris Alithinos was hosted from 5 June to 15 December.
Aspiring to bring youth closer to the art, literature and culture of Cyprus, the Cultural Foundation has launched a ground-breaking initiative in the form of specialized programmes. By means of such purposely designed educational programmes, more than 95000 students have had the opportunity to learn more about the civilization and history of Cyprus, and about other nations.
Three different educational programmes were implemented in 2015 with the aim of enabling students to experience their visit to the respective exhibitions / museums in a unique way.

Cyprus Banknotes. Images and Symbols
[for the 5th and 6th grades of Primary Schools]
In 2015, the educational programme that was organized within the context of the periodical exhibition “Cyprus Banknotes. Environment-History-Folk Art. Their iconography through the Bank of Cyprus Cultural Foundation Collections”, continued. The programme aimed at introducing the pupils to the rich iconography of the banknotes of the Republic of Cyprus, reflecting the island's long history, rich natural beauty and its folk art. The children discovered the history of the banknotes and learned to observe their basic characteristics and understand their importance. An educational notebook with informative text accompanied the programme.

From Fruitopia to the Island of Fireworks.
An amazing journey to the magical worlds of Eugene Trivizas
[for primary school pupils of all grades]
The programme was implemented in the framework of the homonymous exhibition hosted at the Cultural Foundation, inspired from the books and heroes of author Eugene Trivizas. The educational programme was based on the book The magic pillows. Through it, the children were invited to travel to the magical world of the storyteller, a world of imagination, humour and many messages. The primary goal was to encourage interaction and collaboration between the children through narration, role play, dramatized dialogues, sound effects and drawing.

Wanted. Over
[for children aged 8-10]
To mark the opening of the period of special offers in the Cultural Foundation's publications and collector's items, the interactive narration entitled "Wanted. Over" was presented at the George and Nefeli Giabra Pierides Museum. Led by animator-actress Marilena Kyriakou and Elena Efthyvoulou, the children, after the example of Inspector Gadget, were called upon to solve a mystery pertaining to the Great Goddess of Cyprus.
ANNUAL EVENTS

LECTURES–PRESENTATION OF PUBLICATIONS–EXHIBITIONS
The Cultural Foundation has set up a series of lectures on topics such as “History and Archaeology”, “Numismatics” and the “Environment”. Also, presentations are held of all new book releases in combination with pertinent lectures and exhibitions.

SPONSORSHIPS–COMPETITIONS
The Cultural Foundation sponsors the annual literary competition of the Cypriot Association of Children’s and Young Adults’ Books and announces an annual Illustration Competition for the awarded book. It also sponsors the Pancyprian School Theatre Competition organized by the Ministry of Education and Culture and the Cyprus Theatre Organization.

DONATIONS
As part of its overall contribution to education, the Cultural Foundation donates each year part of its publications and digital productions to schools, libraries and foundations.
Lectures–Book Launches–Exhibitions

Book Presentation

*The Ancient Theatre and Cyprus*
With the support of the Cultural Services of the Ministry of Education and Culture, the book entitled *The Ancient Theatre and Cyprus* (2013), edited by Andri H. Constantinou and Ioanna Hadjicosti, was launched at the “House of Cyprus” in Athens on 2 March 2015. Walter Puchner, Professor at the Faculty of Theatre Studies of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, and Professor Platon Mavromoustakos, President of the Faculty of Theatre Studies at the aforementioned University, spoke about the book.

Presentation of new publication in the series “Guides to Byzantine Monuments of Cyprus” and Exhibition of portable icons and manuscripts
The Bank of Cyprus Cultural Foundation, the Holy Bishopric of Morphou and the Department of Antiquities jointly organized on 8 June 2015 an event that included the presentation of the latest additions to the series and the supplementing exhibition “Icons by Minas of Myrianthousa and manuscripts from Pedoulas (15th and 17th c.)” which lasted until 15 June. Maria Parani, Associate Professor at the University of Cyprus, launched *The church of Our Lady in Moutoullas* guide whilst educator-archaeologist Christos Argyrou spoke about *The Church of the Archangel Michael in Pedoulas*. Both guides were authored by archaeologist Stylianos Perdikis.

Book launch of the latest addition to the series “Lectures on the history of coinage” and Workshop

*Coinage and History. The Case of Cyprus during the Archaic and Classical Periods*
In celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Museum of Cypriot Coinage, the new publication under the title *Coinage and History. The Case of Cyprus during the Archaic and Classical Periods* by numismatist Evangeline Markou, was presented to the public on 8 October. The publication is an enriched version of the lecture given on 8 October 2013 at the Cultural Foundation by Evangeline Markou. Despo Pilidou, Curator of Antiquities at the Department of Antiquities, spoke about the book. On 9 October, a Workshop on ancient coins was held especially for Archaeology students from the French School at Athens, visiting Cyprus in the context of a scientific seminar. The Workshop was based on the Coin Collection of the Cultural Foundation.

“Forbidden Fruit” Exhibition
For the period between 18 to 25 November, the Department of Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies in collaboration with the Library of the University of Cyprus and the Bank of Cyprus Cultural Foundation presented the exhibition entitled “Forbidden Fruit – Old prints from the Library of the University of Cyprus and the Bank of Cyprus Cultural Foundation”. The exhibition was hosted in the framework of a conference on censorship.
Sponsorships–Competitions

Children’s and Young Adult Literature Competition

The Cultural Foundation since its establishment in 1984 sponsors the annual literary competition of the Cyprus Association on Books for Young People. More than 60 works have garnered awards and appraisals. Since 2000, the Cultural Foundation undertakes the editing and publishing of the awarded book (with 12 books published by 2014), while since 2002 the Foundation announces an annual Illustration Competition for the awarded book.

Children’s and Young Adult Literature Annual Competition
Award Ceremony

The Cypriot Association of Children and Young Adult Books, jointly with the Bank of Cyprus Cultural Foundation, hosted on 27 May the award ceremony for the Annual Children’s Books Contest, announced by the Association and sponsored by the Cultural Foundation. The event included the announcement of the winners and reading of the award rationale, the presentation of prizes for the 2014 contest, acceptance speeches, and launch of the book Η απίστευτη αποκάλυψη του Σεμπάστιαν Μοντεφιόρε [The incredible discovery of Sebastian Montefiore] by Anna Kouppanou (awarded first prize in the 2013 Contest). The book was presented by Elena Ioannidou, Assistant Professor at the Department of Education of the University of Cyprus, and Elena Xeni, Special Teaching Staff, Department of Education of the same University.

Children’s and Young Adult Literature Competition 2014
Results

The Committee awarded first prize to Fytoula Vakana, for her play Αποστολή: Άγιος Βασίλης [Mission: Santa Claus] and second prize to Costas Papaioannou for his short stories Τα κόκκινα συννεφάκια [Little red clouds].

Children’s and Young Adult Literature: First-time Author Competition 2014
Results

The Committee awarded first prize to Maria Pieri-Stasinou, for her youth novel Ζει το Ντόντο; [Is the Dodo alive?] and an honourable mention to Kypros Kyprianou for his short stories Ποδάττε του ζού [On this side of the scale].
Pancyprian School Competition of Contemporary Theatre and Ancient Drama in memory of Panayiotis Serghis

Panayiotis Serghis was a founding member of the Board of Directors of the Bank of Cyprus Cultural Foundation. The Cultural Foundation has been the sponsor of the Competition for the past 19 years, thus bringing its own contribution to education. The competition is co-organized with the Ministry of Education and Culture and the Cyprus Theatre Organization. The 26th Pancyprian Competition was organized between February 25 and March 31, 2014. The following schools and performances excelled:

In the Contemporary Theatre category, High Schools & Lyceums:

**Nicosia District**
- Kykkos I Lyceum, “Ψυχώ-θεραπεία” [Psycho-therapy] by Artemis Stylianou
- Latsia High School, “La guerre de Troi n’ aura pas lieu” by Jean Giraudoux

**Larnaka and Free Famagusta District**
- Paralimni High School, “Αμοίρου Οδύσσεια” “The Fateless’ Odyssey” by Dinos Spyropoulos

**Limassol and Paphos District**
- Y. Taliotis Lyceum, Yeroskipou, “Μια κωμωδία” [A comedy] by Iacovos Kampanellis
- The Apostle Paul High School, Paphos, “Οι γαλήνες του Νικόλα” [Nicholas’ turkeys] by Andreas Koukkides

In the Ancient Drama category (Cyprus-wide):
Aghios Georgios Lyceum, Larnaka, “Plutus” by Aristophanes

**Donations**

Following a decision of its Board of Directors, the Cultural Foundation will proceed to a large donation of its publications, equivalent to a total value of €1.000.000, to organized groups and entities. The programme will be completed within one year.

The year 2015 saw the completion of the first phase, which was associated with the Ministry of Education and Culture. More than 10.500 books, of a total value of €370.000, were delivered to the Ministry’s Storehouse, intended to be distributed amongst primary and secondary education schools in Cyprus.

From these books, 20 will be awarded to Grades 1-3 of each primary school, 20 to Grades 4-6, and 25 to each high school or lyceum. The books either belong to the Foundation’s publishing series or are joint publications.
PUBLISHING PROGRAMME

The Cultural Foundation has developed a significant publishing programme, numbering to date more than 200 publications, each serving to enrich the bibliography of Cyprus and further research in the fields of Cypriot cartography, numismatics, history and archaeology, art and literature, including literature for children and young adults. The Cultural Foundation also publishes exhibition catalogues, guides to archeological sites and Byzantine monuments, literature pertaining to the environment and audiovisual material devoted to a variety of other topics.
Anna Kouppanou’s book *The incredible discovery of Sebastian Montefiore* was awarded first prize at the 2013 edition of the Children’s and Young Adult Literature Annual Competition, announced by the Cypriot Association for Children and Young Adult Books and sponsored by the Bank of Cyprus Cultural Foundation. The book was illustrated by Despina Manolarou, awarded first prize at the Annual Competition for Children’s Book Illustration in 2014.

According to Elena Ioannidou, Assistant Professor at the Department of Education of the University of Cyprus, who launched the book on 27 May: “This is a children’s book that converses with such classics as Orwell’s *Animal Farm* and Trivizas’ *The last black cat* and *Fruitopia*. In all three cases, the world of the humans is featured to hold power and authority over the oppressed others, whoever they might be. Also, all three books display the diversity of the oppressed both in terms of resources but also in terms of their thoughts and minds, whilst the issue of revolution also comes to the fore.

Kouppanou’s book strikes a balance between fiction, imagination and allegory in negotiating timely political issues – those of equality, justice, allocation of resources and representation – whilst remaining throughout a book about children or for the young at heart. The writer brilliantly demonstrates how one can touch on social issues whilst providing children with room to develop critical thinking and critical discourse – enjoying every minute of it.”
The Church of the Archangel Michael in Pedoulas
Stylianos Perdikis, archaeologist
Translation to English: Despina Pirketti

The church of the Archangel Michael in Pedoulas came out as part of the “Guide to Byzantine Monuments” series, following its original Greek version (2013). The book is published by the Bank of Cyprus Cultural Foundation in collaboration with the Holy Bishopric of Morphou and the Department of Antiquities. In addition to the Byzantine monuments of Cyprus that belong to the World Cultural Heritage List (UNESCO), the Guide series covers other Byzantine and post-Byzantine monuments of significance. Net proceeds of the sales will be ceded to special funds at Holy Bishoprics and Monasteries intended for the monuments’ restoration needs. The guide provides a retrospective of the history and location of the village of Pedoulas and its ecclesiastical monuments, followed by a chapter on the architecture of the church. The roof, floor, doors, holy Altar, pews and iconostasis are presented in separate sections.

Coinage and History.
The Case of Cyprus during the Archaic and Classical Periods
Evangeline Markou, numismatist
English translation: Evangeline Markou
Editing of English text: Despina Pirketti

The sixth, bilingual (Greek and English) addition to the series “Lectures on the history of coinage” came out as an enriched version of the lecture delivered by Evangeline Markou at the Cultural Foundation on 8 October 2013. The study aims to succinctly help researchers, students and others interested in its topic to gain a better understanding of Cypriot coinage, acquire familiarity with the iconography and metrology of Cypriot coins and, mainly, to present recent developments in identifying and dating numismatic issues of the Archaic and Classical periods. The book includes a list of coins, a coloured map and selected bibliography.
The eighth volume in the Cultural Foundation’s “Cypriot Artists” series, the book presents the life and work of Valentinos Charalambous, one of the most significant Cypriot ceramists of international acclaim.

Born in Varosi in 1929, to a family of traditional potters, Valentinos went on to study in London before being invited to organize the Ceramics Department at Baghdad’s Academy of Fine Arts, where he would work for a total of 30 years.

Drawing fascinating information from the artist’s archives and other sources, as well as a wealth of photographic material from his first exhibitions to his latest works, the book is a token of the most comprehensive research carried out in relation to the artist, illuminating unknown aspects of a prolific creative path.

The book begins with an introduction to the ceramic art of Cyprus, covering a long span from the ancient years to the present day. Chapters on the life and work of Valentinos make up the body of the book, which closes with a chapter on conclusions the ceramist drew from research, as well as recipes for glazing. Critical notes, a chronology and bibliography are included in the appendix.
Agora is the Bank of Cyprus Cultural Foundation’s shop, on the ground floor of the building. In offer here, are the Foundation’s publications and audiovisual productions as well as replicas of exhibits from its Collections.

Also on sale are unique collector’s and rare items, such as replicas of maps, engravings and watercolours of Cyprus, as well as authentic collector’s coins. 

Agora also offers an array of jewellery, decorative items and gifts inspired by the Cultural Foundation’s Collections and Museums.
From the 18th to the 30th of November, the Cultural Foundation’s annual bazaar took place in Phaneromeni, featuring publications and collector’s items. More than 200 books were put up for sale at 60% discount, with 30% for collector’s items. The offers were available until the end of the year.

The themes of the publications make up a significant part of Cypriot bibliography and research and cover a wide range of categories, such as cartography, coinage, history-archaeology, Cypriot art, Cypriot literature and literature for children and young people. Also available are Exhibition Catalogues, Guides to Archaeological sites and Byzantine monuments, books on the environment and audiovisual productions on relevant topics.

In the context of the three-day bazaar, the interactive narration “Wanted. Over” was performed for children on Saturday and Sunday at the Archaeological Museum of the Collection of George and Nefeli Giabra Pierides (donated by Clio and Solon Triantafyllides).
Products and Jewellery

Agora features a new collection of office objects, bags and ornaments. Various sets of jewellery inspired by the Cultural Foundation’s Collections are also available. There follows a selection of representative items:

Necklace from the series *Rhythm.*

**Artistic and production supervision:** Katia’s Treasures

Inspired by the *Archaeological Collection of George and Nefeli Giabra Pierides.*

Liberal rendering, lotus flower; detail from a large amphora of Bichrome IV ware.

Cypro-Archaic period, 6th century B.C.

Necklace

Inspired by the golden octadrachm of Ptolemy VIII Euergetes II (170-116 B.C.) from Kition. Belongs to the *Coin Collection.*

Bracelet from the series *Toy.*

**Artistic and production supervision:** Katia’s Treasures

Inspired by the *Archaeological Collection of George and Nefeli Giabra Pierides.*

Liberal rendering of the decoration on the flat sides of the gold “reel” (spool or rattles).

Cypro-Archaic period, 6th c. B.C.
Collector’s coin case No. 7

Now available for sale in the series of numbered cases with silver Cypriot coins from the era of British rule. In 1879, the British Administration established in Cyprus a new currency system based on a new bronze piastra. A single gold English pound equalled 180 piastres. In 1901, silver coins were issued of 3, 4½, 9 and 18 piastres. In 1955, a decimal currency system with 1000 mils to a pound replaced the existing one. The coin case contains seven silver coins of nine piastres previously circulated, covering all the years of issue:
Queen Victoria (1901)
King Edward (1907)
King George V (1913, 1919, 1921)
King George VI (1938, 1940)

Christmas ornament

Inspired by the Maps Collection.
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