

Historical Industrial Archives. The Greek Case

* Young researcher/archivist Institute for Neohellenic Research/National Research Foundation, Athens, Greece. Candidate doctor of cultural technology and communication University of Aegean, faculty of cultural technology and communication

ARATHYMOU, Spyridoula, Historical Industrial Archives. The Greek Case. *Atlanti*, Vol. 17, N. 1-2, Trieste 2007, pp. 247-259.

Original in English, abstract in English, Italian and Slovenian.

Key words: *Industrial heritage, Industrial archives, Business archives, Private archives, Business history, Archives' management, Archives' policy, Encoded Archival Description, Greece*

The program "PENED 2001" - Development of Technologies for the museological interpretation and development of the industrial heritage - is funded by the Greek General Secretariat of Research and Technology and is carried out by the Greek National Research Foundation/ Institute of Neohellenic Research. It offers full scholarship to five PhD students, who will show, through their theses, the way technology can be used on the benefit of industrial heritage. The one of them is: "Recording of the Greek historical industrial archives and a proposal for their electronic cataloguing". It will be presented at the Department of Cultural Technology and Communication of Aegean University in the first semester of 2007. The research for this thesis started in 2003 and after almost three years of research trips all around Greece, there is a full recording of the Greek historical industrial archives, which are kept in public, private services and enterprises. Their content will be presented in electronic environment using EAD. The aim of the project is the first collective recording of the country's industrial archives, as they represent a very important source of information for the economic and social history of Greece. The recording shows all the kinds of documents to be found in an industrial archive and the context of each archive. Also, there are a number of recordings for archives that are still in repositories. The Greek historical industrial archives started being created before 150 years, since the country's industrialization until its recent de-industrialization. The development of heavy industry in Greece is relatively small. The archives that have been saved come from industries that include tobacco, chemical, food and wine, textile, ceramics and machinery. They are available to the general

A country's industrial heritage is part of its cultural heritage. Greece is one of the countries, in which industrialization took place in the middle of the 19th century. In nowadays, de-industrialization is a fact in Greece so, the preservation of this heritage is of great importance and priority.

The Greek General Secretariat of Research and Technology has funded the program "PENED 2001" - Development of Technologies for the museological interpretation and development of the industrial heritage - which is carried out by the Greek National Research Foundation/ Institute for Neohellenic Research.

It offers full scholarship to five PhD students, who will show, through their theses, the way technology can be used on the benefit of industrial heritage. The one of them is: "Recording of the Greek historical industrial archives and a proposal for their electronic cataloguing". One of the aims of the project is the first collective recording of the country's industrial archives, as they represent a very important source of information for the economic and social history of Greece.

The research for this thesis started in 2003, aiming to record all the Greek historical industrial archives which are kept in public, private services and enterprises, which have preserved their historical archives. The recording lasted almost three years through research trips all around Greece and usually under very difficult circumstances. The goal has been completed and now there is a total recording of these archives.

The recording shows all the kinds of documents to be found in an industrial archive and the contents of each archive. Also, there are a number of recordings for archives that have not been recorded and classified by the services or the enterprises, in which they are deposited.

The Greek historical industrial archives started being created before 150 years, since the country's industrialization until its recent de-industrialization. The development of heavy industry in Greece is relatively small. The archives, which have been saved, come from industries, which include tobacco, chemicals, food and wine, textile, ceramics and machinery. According to the Greek archival law (1946/1991), the industrial archives, which were created by private

companies, are private archives. Although, they are private property, the State Archives can have a control on their situation, as their owners are obliged to send a report about them to the State Archives. This stands for the case of industrial archives in companies, which still function. But, there are a few cases of good public relations between the State Archives and the industries and as a result, a lot of archives have been lost or they were saved, just after the industries' closure or after their demolition. Also, the industry owners, who have preserved their company's archives, are not very willing to open them to the public or at least to the researchers. A lot of them allow access to their archives only to people they have chosen, in order to write their company's history. The archival law suggests that the owners of private archives should allow access to researchers for their archives. But this stands only theoretically. Although the law gives the right to the State Archives to take the archives of an industry, which has closed down, if their owner has not made an agreement with another service, the archives usually are neglected by the State Archives or are taken by collectors or other institutions, which care more for the industrial heritage. Also, after an industry has bankrupted and its belongings are confiscated by the authorities, its archives are confiscated, too, without anyone to interfere and stop it. After such a situation, their usual place is between other confiscated things, like guns and drugs, in the basements of court houses.

There are several causes for this situation. One of them is that the State Archives do not have sufficient personnel and most of these personnel do not have an archival academic education. The Law of Archives suggests that 170 archivists of university education should be appointed at the offices of the State Archives all through the country. Unfortunately, until now there have been appointed about 70 people, from whom the majority has not studied archives' science. That happened as the Greek State had neglected the field of archives for several decades. It can be said that this attitude changed, quite late, at the beginning of 90's, when the first university faculty of Archive and Library Sciences started to function. Until that time, there were no professional archivists working at the State Archives' services¹, the buildings of these services were inadequate and there were no sufficient funds for the about 60 state archival services all over the country. Today, the scenery has not completely changed. There is a lot to be done but there is hope for the near future.

Greece has a vast cultural heritage and the Greek education system has always been focused in the glorious ancient and Byzantine past. Modern history has not been thoroughly taught in Greek schools. Only in history university departments this part of Greek history is taught in a proper way. So, the average Greek, scientist or not, has a limited sense of what his cultural heritage is consisted of. The modern heritage, a part of which is industrial heritage, is not considered to be very important, although there is the law for the protection of Cultural Heritage of the Ministry of Culture (3028/2002) which recognizes the pre-industrial and industrial heritage as part of the Greek cultural heritage and demands its protection and valorisation. As a result, the Greek industrial archives are the last ones to be preserved and evaluated.

Focusing in industrial heritage, it can be said that it has been neglected for a very long time. Only about twenty years ago, several

public, not just to scholars or researchers, and they contain records from a broad range of fields, from labour history to accounting systems. The encoding of the recordings with EAD, which enables their presentation in Internet, will give to community a very important finding aid, easy to access. The project will propose ways for the use and development of the historical industrial archives and hopes to contribute to the salvation and development of the industrial heritage

ARATHYMOU, Spyridoula, Archivi storici d'impresa. Il caso della Grecia. Atlanti, Vol. 17, N. 1-2, Trieste 2007, pp. 247-259.

Il programma "PENED 2001 – Sviluppo delle tecnologie per l'interpretazione museale e lo sviluppo del patrimonio industriale" è finanziato dal "Segretariato Greco per la ricerca e la tecnologia" ed è portato avanti dalla "Fondazione greca di ricerca nazionale / Istituto neocellenico di ricerca". Esso offre formazione completa a cinque laureati in scienze umanistiche che discuteranno nelle proprie tesi il modo in cui la tecnologia può essere usata a beneficio del patrimonio industriale. Una di esse parla di "Catalogazione degli archivi storici d'impresa greci e proposta per una loro catalogazione elettronica". Verrà dibattuta presso il Dipartimento di cultura tecnologica e comunicazione dell'Università dell'Egeo nel primo semestre del 2007. Il lavoro di ricerca per questa tesi è iniziato nel 2003, e dopo tre anni di viaggi di ricerca attraverso la Grecia ora esiste un completo catalogo degli archivi storici d'impresa greci conservati presso enti pubblici, privati e società. Il loro contenuto verrà presentato in un contesto elettronico utilizzando EAD. Scopo del progetto è la prima catalogazione generale degli archivi d'impresa della nazione, che rappresentano un'importantissima fonte di informazione per la storia economica e sociale della Grecia. Il catalogo mostra tutte le tipologie documentali che possono venir trovate in un archivio d'impresa ed il contesto di ciascun archivio. Inoltre, vi sono un certo numero di catalogazioni relativi ad archivi ancora giacenti nei depositi. Gli archivi storici d'impresa greci iniziarono a venir creati oltre 150 anni addietro, dall'inizio dell'industrializzazione del paese fino alla sua recente de-industrializzazione. Lo sviluppo dell'indu-

1. Most of the people, who have been working at the State Archives were and are school teachers (historians or linguists mostly), other public servants or in very rare cases, librarians of technical education. Of course, these people have followed archival seminars but there is a doubt if these seminars are enough to cover four or five years of academic education and that is something that a lot of them acknowledge and ask for more archival training

stria pesante in Grecia è relativamente piccolo. Gli archivi salvati provengono da imprese operanti nei settori della lavorazione del tabacco, chimico, vino-colo-alimentare, ceramistico e dei macchinari. Sono aperti al pubblico, non solo agli studiosi o ai ricerchatori, e contengono documenti provenienti da svariatisimi campi, dalla storia del lavoro alla contabilità. La codifica di questi documenti con EAD, che consente la loro messa in rete fornirà alla comunità un importantissimo strumento di ricerca, di facile accesso. Il progetto proporrà modi per l'utilizzo e lo sviluppo degli archivi storici d'impresa con la speranza di contribuire alla salvaguardia ed allo sviluppo del patrimonio industriale.

ARATHYMOU, Spyridoula, Industrijski arhivi v nacionalni zgodovini – kako grški arhivist gledajo na to vprašanje. Atlanti, Zv. 17, Št. 1-2, Trst 2007, str. 247-259.

Grški sekretariat za raziskave in tehnologijo je v programu PENEĐ 2001, ki opredeljuje strokovno terminologijo, osnova naslednji raziskovalni program: "Razvoj tehnologij za muzeološke interpretacije in razvoj industrijske dediščine, ki ga je potem izpeljala grška nacionalna raziskovalna fundacija / Inštitut za novogrške raziskave.

Eden izmed ciljev tega projekta je v prvi vrsti beležiti in registrirati zgodovinske nacionalne industrijske arhive, ki nesporno predstavljajo zelo pomemben vir informacij v ekonomski in socialni zgodovini Grčije.

V tem procesu poteka kodiranje dokumentacije s programom EAD (kodiranje arhivskih popisov), ki omogoča tudi predstavitev v omrežju, kjer obenem ponuja za iskanje zelo pomembno iskalno orodje, da je pristop do podatkov zelo poenostavljen in labek.

Tako projekt omogoča nekaj načinov iskanja in zato pripomore k spoznavanju zgodovinskih industrijskih arhivov oz. dokumentacije, po drugi strani pa je to prispevek k varovanju, zaščiti in obranjanju industrijske dediščine.

efforts started by researchers, who were interested in business history. The cradle of these efforts was and still is the Institute for Neo-hellenic Research of the Greek National Research Foundation. Through several research programs, the industrial heritage was brought to light. There have been several publications for business history and the documentation of historical industrial equipment. Also, the Institute saved and preserved some of the most important Greek historical industrial archives. In 1995 it organized the first seminar for historical industrial archives in Greece and in 2000, it inaugurated the first Greek industrial museum at the island of Syros, the capital of Cyclades Islands. In the same year it organized there the first congress on the preservation and management of historical industrial archives. The Institute inspired other cultural institutions to work on industrial heritage. The most important are the Cultural Foundation of Piraeus Group and the Municipal Centre of History and Documentation of Volos Municipality in the region of Thessaly. The Cultural Foundation of Piraeus Group has several publications on industrial and pre-industrial cultural heritage and has created three thematic industrial museums in three Greek regions. The Foundation has organized its historical archive, which functions as a separate service and a lot of historical industrial archives are deposited there. The Municipal Centre of History and Documentation of the city of Volos is a unique case for Greece. It is the first Greek municipal cultural institution, which has been so active in the preservation of the local heritage. It has many publications on local history, it has a very well organized library and historical archive, and it creates museums, cultural events and conferences. The cultural heritage of the city of Volos is identified with industrial heritage, as Volos was one of the most important Greek industrial centres.

The Archival law obliges the State Archives to compose a register of all the Greek archives, public and private. Until now, the register has not been completed and so, there is no official information about the whole of historical industrial archives. The industrial archives, which are saved and preserved are deposited, in their majority, at the regional offices of the State Archives, at bank institutions, which have organized a separate office for their historical archives, at municipal or research institutions and very few of them still exist in the industries, which created them. All the archives, except for the ones, which are deposited at industries, are available to the general public, not just to scholars or researchers, according to the regulations for consultancy of the archives. They contain records concerning a broad range of fields such as, labour history and accounting systems.

Unfortunately, there are areas of Greece, where industrialization was very intense but there are very few archives to document it. They are the cases of Macedonia and Thrace, Peloponnesus and the island of Evoia. As de-industrialization took place very fast, a lot of archives were lost because of the reasons, which were mentioned. Also, a lot of archives still exist in the industrial buildings but their owners do not donate them to any archival institution because they want to present their companies as functioning to the State, although they have stopped actually functioning. That happens because their scope is to gain the land, where the industry was built, when this land is public property.

Also, one of the topics of the thesis is the proposal of a classification tree just for the industrial archives. There has been created a theoretical model of a complete industrial archive: its structure and all the types of books and documents that can be found in it. Also, there is a comparison between the industrial archives of different origin, e.g. the archives of textile and the archives of machinery, in combination with their mutual characteristics.

All this information had to become public not only on paper format but also, by using the new technologies. Encoded Archival Description (EAD) enables the creation of electronic finding aids for archival collections. It was used to create a huge finding aid for all the recorded industrial archives, which can be presented in Internet and gives the opportunity to all possible users to be thoroughly informed about the historical industrial archives of Greece.

One of the conclusions of this project is that, in general, the historical industrial archives can become a very useful tool to make people more interested in their past. The content of the industrial archives can be “user friendly”. That is because it concerns a great number of people, who themselves or their ancestors, worked in the industry. They cover the recent past, the individual’s past or that of his/her family. Also, the documents found in an industrial archive can be consulted by most people. They do not require special knowledge or scholar abilities. These characteristics of the industrial archives can be used from the archives’ institutions to bring people to the archives and inspire them to study history in general. As in nowadays, history is still misused, taught by the mass media and has become a boring school topic, the archival institutions should try to bring people close to their past, by using all their means. The archivist’s work is not only to classify and catalogue files and documents but to have a vivid connection with the local society, so as to promote the preservation of memory. One of the roles of an archives’ institution is the educational one, which stands also for museums and libraries and it should never be forgotten by their officers.

In conclusion, I would like to present a list of the Greek historical industrial archives which exist in public, private archives’ services and institutions and in industrial enterprises.

ATHENS

❖ National Research Foundation - <http://www.eie.gr>

- Retsinas textile industry archive
- Kouppas machinery industry archive
- Part of “IRIS” paint industry archive

❖ Central Service of the General State Archives - <http://gak.att.sch.gr>

- Mineral, Industrial and Shipping Company archive

❖ Historical Archive of the National Bank of Greece - <http://www.nbg.gr/dp/hanbg/>

- “ASPIOTI- ELKA” - industry of graphic arts - archive
- Greek Brick Industry archive
- “IRIS” paint industry archive
- “Efthymios Douzenis” wine and spirit industry archive
- “AKEL” pottery industry of Lavrion archive
- “ Karavasilis” Bank and tobacco industry archive

❖ Historical Archive of the Cultural Foundation of Piraeus Group - <http://www.piop.gr>

- “VELEKTRA” - Electronic Industrial Company archive
- Samua Leather Industry archive
- International Exporting Knitting Industry archive
- Greek Car Industry archive
- Greek Textile Industry archive
- “HFAISTOS” Mineral and Industrial Company archive
- Archive of Mineral, Industrial and Shipping Company - Mines of bauxite of Elefsina
- “CANDIA” shoe industry archive
- “FIMISCO”- mineral, industrial and shipping company archive
- “TRIANTAFYLLOPOULOS” - industry of electrical goods archive
 - Mineral and Chemical Industry archiveba
 - Mineral, Commercial and Industrial Company archive
 - “Dim. & Greg. Papastratis” mining company archive
 - “Peiraiki- Patraiki” textile industry archive
 - Part of “Matsaggos” tobacco industry archive
 - “Moutalaskis” textile industry archive
 - Mines of chromate in Eretria of Farsala archive

❖ Hellenic Literary and Historical Archive - <http://www.elia.org.gr>

- “ASPIOTI-ELKA” industry of graphic arts archive
- Part of the archive of the Public Gas Industry of Athens
- Part of the Archive of Lavrion Mines
- “Mottis” pasta industry archive
- Part of the archive of the Spirits’ Industry
- “Pavlidis” chocolate industry archive
- “Chrysallis” silk industry archive
- “HROPEI” paint industry archive
- “Karathanasis” tobacco industry archive
- The archive of Antonios Georgiou: part of the archive of the Greek Company of Chemicals and Fertilizers, part of the archive of the Chemical Industry of North Greece and part of the archive of the Greek Glass Industry of Elefsina
 - “Argyropoulos” glass industry archive
 - Construction Company archive
 - Part of the archive of “Georgantellis” oil and soap industry
 - Greek Company of wine and spirits archive
 - “Amvurger- Alexopoulos” wine and currant industries archive

❖ Public Electricity Company - <http://www.dei.gr>

- The company’s historical archive

❖ S& B Group- Industrial minerals - <http://www.s.andb.gr>

- The group’s historical archive

❖ ELAIS Industry - <http://www.elais.gr>

- The company’s historical archive

❖ Institute for the Study of Local and Business History - <http://www.opencontent.gr/cms/>

- “ELEFADOS” textile industry archive

MACEDONIA

Thessalonica:

- ❖ Historical Archive of Macedonia - <http://gak.thes.sch.gr>

- Markou Brothers Mills archive
- Part of the archive of Allatini industry
- “Karolos Fix” industry of beer, malt, ice and carbonate acid archive
 - “Kontos” enterprises archive
 - “Nestle” industry- plant of Volos archive
 - “Modiano” enterprises archive
 - Macedonian Mines archive
 - Shares of Ep. Harilaos Company
 - Part of the archive of “YFANET” textile industry
 - Part of the archive of Litohoron Enterprises
 - Part of the archive of Konstantinos and Alexandros Mavrou (tannery)

- ❖ Centre of History of Thessalonica -<http://www.thessalonikicity.gr/Ypiresies/Libraries/kentro-istorias.htm>

- Part of the archive of “Karolos Fix” industry of beer, malt, ice and carbonate acid
- Part of the archive of Konstantinos and Alexandros Mavrou (tannery)
- Shares of various industries of Thessalonica

- ❖ Hellenic Literary and Historical Archive - <http://www.elia.org.gr>

- Part of the archive of Konstantinos and Alexandros Mavrou (tannery)
- Part of the archive of “D. Polat & Co.” construction com-

pany

❖ ALLATINI Group - <http://www.allatini.gr>

- The company's historical archive

❖ Kyr - Yianni (Boutaris) wine industry - www.kiryianni.gr

- The company's historical archive

Kavala:

❖ General State Archive Service of Kavala Region - <http://gak.kav.sch.gr>

- “Lahouvaris” salted preserves industry archive
- Part of the archive of “Maroulis Lysandros” cigarette industry
- Part of the archive of “Koukidis” winery
- Kavala Tobacco Industry archive

Drama:

❖ General State Archive Service of Drama Region - <http://gak.dra.sch.gr>

- Part of the archive of “SEKOVE”- Cooperative Canning Industries of North Greece

Serres:

❖ General State Archive Service of Serres Region - <http://gak.ser.sch.gr>

- Petrakoglou Brothers flour industry archive

- Leonida's Papantoniou lignite mines archive
- “SEKE” - Cooperative Union of Tobacco Producers of Greece archive
- “Kamaras & Co.” tobacco trading company archive

Florina:

- ❖ General State Archive Service of Florina Region - <http://gak.flo.sch.gr>
- “S. Siafarikas - N. Giannakis” cheese-dairy archive

THESSALY

Volos:

- ❖ General State Archive Service of Magnisia Region - <http://gak.mag.sch.gr>
- “Scarimvas” pasta industry archive
- “Glavanis” iron and machinery industry archive
- “Papageorgiou” textile industry archive
- “Paparigas” metallurgy archive
- “P. Valsamakis” ice industry archive
- Part of the archive of “Matsaggos” lithographer’s workshop and tobacco industry
- ❖ Municipal centre of history and documentation - <http://diki.gr>
- “Electrical Company” and Public Electricity Company - agency of Volos archive
- “A. Adamopoulos” textile industry archive
- “Railways of Thessaly” company archive
- “Tsalapatas” brick and pottery industry archive
- “Tzima” textile industry archive

- Strychnositos industry archive
- “Anastasiou” pastry industry archive
- “Georgoudis” olive industry archive
- Part of the archive of “Kokoslis” silk industry
- “Apostolakis Brothers” distillery archive
- Labels of “Koutsikos” wine industry
- Labels of “Psiota” distillery
- Photos of “SIMI” pasta industry
- Collection of designs of “Glavanis” iron and machinery industry
- Oral documentation for “Matsaggos” tobacco industry

❖ University of Thessaly - <http://www.uth.gr>

- “Matsaggos” tobacco industry archive

IONIAN SEA ISLANDS

Corfu:

❖ Patounis Soap Industry

PELOPONNESUS

Aigion:

❖ Local Archive of Aigion

- Aigion paper industry archive
- Currant industry archive

Kalamata:

❖ General State Archive Service of Messinia Region -

<http://gak.mes.sch.gr>

- “Gonos” silk industry archive
- “Linardakis” industry archive
- “Hrysos” tannery archive
- “Sykiki” - fig elaboration industry archive
- “Kassimatis” food industry archive

Leonidio:

❖ Local Archive of Leonidio - <http://gak-leonid.ark.sch.gr>

- Oil production credit association of Leonidio archive
- Electrical and oil production company of Leonidio archive

CYCLADES ISLANDS

Syros Island:

❖ General State Archive Service of Cyclades Region

- “E. Barbetas” textile industry archive
- “Konstantinopoulos & Sons” face towel industry archive
- “Ladopoulos” textile industry archive
- “Karellas” textile industry archive
- “Drakoulakis” machinery industry archive
- “Vardakas” spinning mill archive
- Serifos island mines archive
- “Maoutsos” machinery industry archive

DODECANESE

Rhodes:

❖ General State Archive Service of Dodecanese Region - <http://gak.dod.sch.gr>

- I.C.A.R.O. - Artistic pottery industry archive
- T.E.M.I. - Italian Tobacco Industry of the Aegean archive

Leros:

❖ Local Archive of Leros - <http://gak-lerou.dod.sch.gr>

• Part of the archive of the Anonymous Italian Industry of Electricity of Rhodes (SIER) - annexe of the island of Leros

- Public Electricity Company archive - agency of Leros island

NORTH AEGEAN ISLANDS

Samos:

❖ General State Archive Service of Samos Region - <http://gak.sam.sch.gr>

- “Karakoudas” tannery archive
- “Paneris” cigarette industry archive
- “Thanos Brothers” electricity industry archive
- Part of the archive of the Cooperative Union of Winemakers of Samos

❖ Cooperative Union of Winemakers of Samos

- The union’s historical archive

Lesvos:

❖ General State Archive Service of Lesvos Region - <http://gak.les.sch.gr>

- “Vasileiou” oil and soap industry archive
- “A. K. Kantartzis” graphic arts industry archive
- “LESVE” - Lesvian oil industry archive
- “Georgantellis” oil and soap industrial and commercial company archive
- “Georgantellis - Voulalas - Papageorgiou” trust of oil industries archive
- “Homer Klouras & Co.” commercial and industrial company archive

