



INSTITUTE FOR NEOHELLENIC RESEARCH
NATIONAL HELLENIC RESEARCH FOUNDATION



Λουκία Δρούλια - Γιούλα Κουτσοπανάγου (επιμ.)

Εγκυκλοπαίδεια του Ελληνικού Τύπου, 1784-1974

Loukia Droulia - Gioula Koutsopanagou (eds),

[Encyclopaedia of the Greek Press 1784-1974],

Vol. I, 542 pp, vol. II, 699 pp, vol. III, 597 pp, vol. IV, 583 pp,

INR/NHRF - 103, Athens 2008.

The fruit of a lengthy cooperation with numerous collaborators, the *Encyclopaedia of the Greek Press, 1784-1974* in four volumes has reached completion. The programme, setting out in 1995, co-sponsored with the General Secretariat for Research & Technology and of 30 months' duration, was enabled to continue thanks to donations from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation – which covered the entire publication project of the Encyclopaedia – as well as grants from state and other agencies and is part of the research work of the Institute of Neo-Hellenic Research and the National Hellenic Research Foundation. As it was the first time that in Greece the execution of such a project was ventured, the coordinating research team thought it advisable to organize a conference in advance, providing the occasion amongst specialists of the material, as well as representatives of the scholarly community and of militant journalism to exchange views. Their proposals were published in the Proceedings under the title 'The Greek Press, 1784 to this day. Historical and theoretical approaches, INR/NHRF, Athens 2005'.

The aim of the Encyclopaedia is to give a sample as representative as possible of the Greek Press in the Greek state and in the Greek communities abroad, from its earliest appearance in Vienna in the last decades of the 18th century up to the political changeover of 1974 – which constitutes a watershed for the history of the Press, the daily Press especially. The border expansion of the Greek state led to the inclusion of foreign-language newspapers in the corpus of Greek press, which also includes the bilingual newspapers of Greeks of the Diaspora as well as the Greek Press of Cyprus. The coverage is representative, both at the level of the political spectrum and ideological expression and of social life. As the significance of the Press strengthened, its function became specialized and, by stages, autonomous, expressing a variety of different groups in their equivalent publications (sports pages, financial, literary, religious, women's, pedagogical, professional, etc.)

The choice of the titles to be included as entries in the Encyclopaedia, a difficult task entailing much responsibility, was based on the following criteria: 1. Importance in the political / cultural life of the community where the paper is issued. 2. Longevity. 3. Substantial circulation. 4. Geographic extent of circulation. 5. Innovation. It was natural that the choice of the persons featured should on principle be according to the selected publications. In general, however, it was also based on the significance, the historicity and the effectiveness of the various prime movers and functionaries of the Press. It must be stressed that selection was based on the relation between availability, of the necessary

information of contributions of the texts of the entries. It is well known that the written Press – by nature a fragile medium – and on the other hand beset by the aura of something ‘ephemeral’, in the long course of its existence in hard-copy form was not the object of respect and preservation. It was indeed on the contrary put to a number of uses other than its initial aim, with the result that in this day, when it has the position due to it in a cultural history, as intellectual-historiographical – indeed literary medium – entire series should mostly not have survived or even any issues thereof could not be traced at all. It is evident that in our day and from now on, the unremitting efforts for locating and digitalizing the Press will lead to positive results.

The Encyclopaedia consists of three parts. It begins with the introductory texts on the history – genesis and evolution – and the role of the Greek Press in political and cultural life in the first two centuries of its existence; they are followed by the body of entries – numbering more than 2.300 – illustrated with 1.600 photographs. Each entry for a newspaper or periodical is in three parts wherein are recorded: a) the logo and other elements of identity of the publication; b) the goals, the contributors and general historical course. Special prominence was given to the data constituting basic comparative material useful for a history of the Press; c) the libraries or in some cases the private collections in which the numbers were preserved, followed, where extant, by the relevant bibliography. Indicative biographies are also included of about 700 persons who were involved in the publication of the material and who had added their endeavours to the evolution of the Press.

Appendices constitute the third part of the work, including: a) texts relating to the establishment and goals of the unions, trade unions or other associations of journalism, Press agencies for circulation of the Press, etc., shown in chronological order, whereby the organization and consolidation of the rights of the branch of journalism is shown, together with the other employments in the Press; b) the ‘Diagram of bibliography’ in the form of a commented general bibliography, presenting the Press as the object of research, constituting a valuable aid for future students of the subject; c) presentation of the legal status of the Press through its frequently thorny course, already from the date of establishment of the modern Greek State and d) photographic insets of the ‘life’ of the newspaper, from its production and vending up to its readership. The contents of the Encyclopaedia’s Appendix are in the spirit of providing a handy tool for anyone interested in delving deeper into studies of the Greek Press.

The complete work entailed the cooperation of numerous collaborators next to the Programme’s team of researchers: 340 contributors (university professors, historians and other social scientists, journalists, students of local history, archivists, librarians, collectors) deposited their fund of knowledge and the results of their research on the leaves of this work.