



Vovolinis

family archives

ARCHIVE

Reference code:
GR IATE A7

Dates:
1826-2013 (mostly 1920-1995)

Extent:
45 linear metres
1,756 files and books

Source of acquisition:
Donated by Alexandra Vovolini,
daughter of Konstantinos Vovolinis



Biographical note:
Vovolinis, Konstantinos A.
(1913-1970)

Konstantinos Vovolinis was born in Athens on 5 January 1913. He studied law at the University of Athens. During his studies, he began his career as journalist and contributor to the newspapers *Χρόνος του Πειραιά* [Time of Piraeus], *Νέον Κράτος* [New State], *Ελεύθερος Άνθρωπος* [Free Man], *Νέον Φως* [New Light] and the magazines *Εργασία* [Labour] and *Βιομηχανική Επιθεώρησης* [Industrial Review].

Apart from his work as a journalist, he was also actively involved in the Greek political scene. In 1938, he assumed the functions of Secretary-General of the Municipality of Piraeus, a post from which he was dismissed in 1941 by the Occupation government for disobedience to the regime. With the outbreak of the Greco-Italian War, he was recruited and served in the army, where he raised to the rank of lance corporal, until the German invasion in April 1941.

During the Axis Occupation, he joined the National Resistance. In May 1941, together with journalists Lazaros Piniatoglou and Ioannis Milios, he established the resistance group “*Ελληνικόν Αίμα*” [“Hellenic Blood”], which was placed under the spiritual leadership of the then Archbishop of Athens and all Greece Chrysanthos. In June 1942, the three partners established and directed the underground newspaper of the same name. In 1952, K. Vovolinis was elected as Member of Parliament for Alexan-

dros Papagos’s “*Ελληνικός Συναγεμμός*” [“Greek Rally”] party in the constituency of Piraeus and Islands and re-elected for Spyridon Markezinis’s “*Κόμμα Προοδευτικών*” [“Progressive Party”] in 1961. He served as Secretary-General of the Hellenic Parliament in 1952-1953, and as State Secretary to the Prime Minister’s Office from 1968 to 1970.

He was a member and special secretary of the Parnassos Literary Society; advisor to and dean of the United Nations Association of Greece and member of the Journalists’ Union of Athens Daily Newspapers (ESIEA), the Historical and Ethnological Society of Greece, the Athens Club, and several other associations.

He was also a prolific writer. Some of his works include: *Μυστικές εκδόσεις* [Secret Publications] (Athens 1945), *Το Χρονικόν του Παρνασσού* [The Chronicle of the Parnassos Literary Society] (Athens 1951, honourable mention from the Academy of Athens) and *Η Εκκλησία εις τον αγώνα της Ελευθερίας* [The Church in the struggle for Freedom] (Athens 1952, praise award from the Academy of Athens).

From the early 1950s, K. Vovolinis began gathering material to write the biographies of distinguished figures from the country’s public life and the economic and social history of Greece, starting with the first Governor, Ioannis Kapodistrias. In 1958, together with his brother Spyros, director and editor-in-chief of the magazine *Βιομηχανική Επιθεώρησης* [Industrial Review], he embarked on the project of compiling and publishing the dictionary *Μέγα Ελληνικόν Βιογραφικόν Λεξικόν* [Great Greek Biographical Dictionary] (1958-1962), for which the two brothers were awarded an Academy of Athens Prize in 1964.

In recognition of his lifetime achievement and overall contribution, K. Vovolinis was awarded, among other decorations, the Gold Cross of the Royal Order of the Phoenix the War Cross, the National

CREATORS

- ▶ Vovolinis, Konstantinos A. (1913-1970)
- ▶ Vovolinis, Spyros A. (1910-1995)
- ▶ Newspaper *Ελληνικόν Αίμα* (1942-1948)
- ▶ Εκδόσεις Εθνικών Αγώνων Α.Ε. (1948)
- ▶ Magazine *Βιομηχανική Επιθεώρησης* (1934-1990)

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Resistance Medal, the Gold Crosses of the Second and Third Orders of Saint Mark, the Gold Medal of the Sacred City of Missolonghi, the “Christos Kapsalis” medal and the Greco-Italian War Medal. He died on 10 March 1970.



Biographical note:
Vovolinis, Spyros A.
(1910-1995)

Spyros Vovolinis was born in Athens on 16 February 1910. He studied law at the University of Athens and from a young age he devoted himself to journalism. He initially worked as a civil servant and, in parallel, as a journalist to newspapers and magazines of the time.

In 1934, he launched the monthly economic magazine *Βιομηχανική Επιθεώρηση* [*Industrial Review*]. He took part in the Greco-Italian War (1940-1941) and later in the Resistance, and during the Occupation he co-directed the underground newspaper *Ελληνικόν Αίμα* [*Hellenic Blood*].

From 1958 through 1962, he and his brother Konstantinos published the dictionary *Μέγα Ελληνικόν Βιογραφικόν Λεξικόν* [*Great Greek Biographical Dictionary*]. For this work, they were awarded with the Academy of Athens Prize in 1964.

In 1962, he obtained exclusive copyright licence to re-publish articles from the Financial Times. He also worked closely with the publishers of the Greek encyclopaedias *Papyrus Larousse Britannica* and *Οικονομική και Λογιστική Εγκυκλοπαίδεια* [*Economic and Accounting Encyclopaedia*]. He served as chair of the Periodical

Press Owners' Union (EIPT) and the Greek Press Directors' Union (EDET), vice-chair of the Board of the International Federation of Periodical Press in Paris and of the Press Owners, Editors and Employees' Pension Fund (TAISYT), president of the Corps of Stout Greek Youths [Greek: *Σώμα Ελλήνων Αλκίμων*] and advisor to several organisations and companies.

He was also a member of the Panhellenic Liberal Youth [Greek: Πανελλήνιος Φιλελευθέρα Νεολαία], the Athens Consumer Defence Cooperative [Greek: Συνεταιρισμός Αμύνης Καταναλωτών Αθηνών], the Society for the Promotion of Education and Learning [Greek: Φιλεκπαιδευτική Εταιρεία], the Hellenic Red Cross, the Parnassos Literary Society, the Athens Club, the Rotary Club of Athens, as well as member of the board of the Panhellenic Committee for the Self-determination of Cyprus [Greek: Πανελλήνιος Επιτροπή Αυτοδιαθέσεως Κύπρου] and several other associations. For his life achievement as a publisher, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the magazine *Βιομηχανική Επιθεώρηση*, he received an award by the Academy of Athens.

He was also awarded the Medal for Exceptional Acts with swords; the Gold Cross of the Royal Order of George I; the Greco-Italian and Greco-German War Medals; the Gold Medal for Creativity; the Gold Medal of the Mother of Churches; the Holy Cross (first class) of the Apostle and Evangelist Mark; the Gold Cross of the Millennium of the Mount Athos; the Gold Medal of the Sacred City of Missolonghi; and the Gold Cross of the Greek Equestrian Order of Saint Dennis of Zante.

He died on 24 November 1995.

Newspaper *Ελληνικόν Αίμα*
(1942-1948)

In May 1941, about a month into the German Occupation, journalists Konstantinos Vovolinis, Lazaros Piniatoglou and Ioannis Miliotis founded the resistance group “*Ελληνικόν Αίμα*” [“Hellenic Blood”] to boost the national morale and fight against the German, Italian and Bulgarian invaders. From 1 June 1942 through 22 June 1948, the group published its namesake paper *Ελληνικόν Αίμα*, circulating underground during the Occupation, with Spyros Vovolinis as co-director.

As part of their fact-finding missions, the newspaper's founders and journalists travelled across Greece, gathering testimonies from insurgent groups, travellers and café customers. The newspaper also featured analyses and commentaries on domestic and foreign events, reports on war conflicts inside and outside Greece, lists of victims and enemy collaborators, news reports on enemy troop movements, etc.

In the post-war period, the paper backed Spyridon Markezinis's “New Party”, while its content was enriched with dispatches from regional and foreign correspondents, interviews and opinion columns. Its long list of contributors over time featured such distinguished figures as the statesmen Michael Pasmazoglou and Konstantinos Tsaldaris, the literary writers Kostas Athanatos, Stratis Myrivilis and M. Karagatsis, and the journalist and writer Panagiotis Katiforis.

During the Occupation, a total of 31 pamphlets were also issued under the imprint “E.E.A”, the Greek acronym for *Εκδόσεις Ελληνικού Αίματος* [*Hellenic Blood Publications*].

In 1948, a publishing company was set up as a société anonyme named “*Εκδόσεις Εθνικών Αγώνων Α.Ε.*” [*National Struggles Publications S.A.*], with its activity



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focusing on newspapers, magazines and other publications associated with Greece's national struggles, including the political and news daily *Ελληνικόν Αίμα* [*Hellenic Blood*].

Magazine *Βιομηχανική Επιθεώρηση* (1934-1990)

In response to strong demand for economic and financial publications during the interwar period, Spyros Vovolinis launched the magazine *Βιομηχανική Επιθεώρηση* [*Industrial Review*] in July 1934. In addition to being the founder and owner of the magazine, he was also its director from 1934 to 1990, except for the period between December 1940 and June 1941, when he was conscripted into the army and replaced by Lazaros Piniatoglou. In 1990, Alexandra K. Vovolini succeeded him at the helm of the magazine.

The magazine initially focused on research into the industrialization process, to encourage the uptake of industrial and manufacturing products and to support private entrepreneurship. Later on, its scope was expanded to encompass the economy as a whole. In 1999, it was renamed *Βιομηχανική Οικονομική Επιθεώρηση* [*Industrial Economic Review*] under the imprint of Kerkyra publications, and again in 2004 *Οικονομική Επιθεώρηση* [*Economic Review*] by the Economía group.

A member of the European Business Press (EBP), it is the only economic magazine in Greece to have been uninterruptedly published since 1934. The magazine features translated articles from *The Economist*, under an exclusive republication licence for Greece since 1976; interviews with distinguished members of the business and academic communities; reports and features on topical issues in the fields of shipping, banking, energy, real estate and education; reviews of key business

developments, focusing on innovation; conference highlights; and new book presentations.

CONTENT

The Vovolinis family archives comprise records relating to the activities and publishing business of brothers Konstantinos and Spyros Vovolinis. The Konstantinos Vovolinis Archive covers the period from 1920 to 1973 and consists of 319 files. It contains documents relating to the production, promotion and sales of the *Μέγα Ελληνικόν Βιογραφικόν Λεξικόν* [*Great Greek Biographical Dictionary*] and related reviews; files with research material for the historical studies he wrote and records from his political career as Secretary-General of the Municipality of Piraeus, as member of the New Party, the Greek Rally party and the Progressives Party, and as State Secretary to the Prime Minister's Office. Also included are personal papers, diaries, notes, correspondence, school notebooks, financial documents, title deeds, tax returns, files pertaining to legal cases, records of honorary awards received, and press clippings.

The Spyros Vovolinis Archive covers the period from 1826 to 1995 and consists of 424 files and books. It contains records from his journalist work and involvement with the press owners and directors unions EIPT and EDET, the Panhellenic Liberal Youth] [Greek: Πανελλήνιος Φιλελευθέρα Νεολαία], the Athens Consumer Defence Cooperative [Greek: Συνεταιρισμός Αμύνης Καταναλωτών Αθηνών], the Corps of Stout Greek Youths [Greek: Σώμα Ελλήνων Αλκίμων], the Rotary Club of Athens, and other unions and associations. Also included are personal papers and correspondence, school notebooks,

diaries, jotters, files pertaining to legal cases and financial documents.

The Archive of the newspaper *Ελληνικόν Αίμα* covers the period 1941-1949 and consists of 386 files and books. It contains the director's official correspondence, letters to and from press distribution agencies, reporters and journalists; employee payrolls and social security contribution documents; documents relating to the procurement of paper, print run production, sales, promotion and advertisements; accounting books; payment orders; and customer account records. Also included are the Articles of Association, board meeting minutes and other documents of the company "Εκδόσεις Εθνικών Αγώνων Α.Ε.", all from the year 1948.

The Archive of the magazine *Βιομηχανική Επιθεώρηση* covers the period 1933-2013 and consists of 627 files and books. It contains the director's correspondence with individuals and organisations (ministries, industrial associations, chambers and banks); subscriber registers; correspondence with reporters and readers; records relating to shipping and returns and the following-up of unpaid subscription fees; business diaries and a collection of documents; press and journalist legislation; files of anniversary editions; press clippings with references to the brothers' publications; thematic background research files for published articles; typographical material, along with files of regular columns, advertisements and special features, and a collection of issues, covers, reprints and special editions; correspondence with advertising agencies, advertisement ledgers and orders; financial and accounting books and records; tax documents and legislation on the taxation and tax exemption of newsprint paper; republication contracts; and files relating to the magazine's staff and contributors.



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Added to the above were family memorabilia, dating back to 1826-1929, collected by Spyros Vovolinis, along with more recent material relating to anniversary editions and exhibitions of *Βιομηχανική Επιθεώρησης* (up to 2013).

ARRANGEMENT

The Vovolinis family archives comprise four individual archives: the Konstantinos Vovolinis Archive, the Spyros Vovolinis Archive, the *Ελληνικόν Αίμα* Archive, and the *Βιομηχανική Επιθεώρησης* Archive.

The Konstantinos Vovolinis Archive has been arranged into seven series: 1. Personal; 2. Professional activity; 3. Great Greek Biographical Dictionary; 4. Historical studies; 5. Political activity; 6. Other activities; and 7. Press reports.

The Spyros Vovolinis Archive has been arranged into three series: 1. Personal; 2. Professional activity; and 3. Other activities.

The Archive of the newspaper *Ελληνικόν Αίμα* has been arranged into five series: 1. Directorship; 2. Staff; 3. Production; 4. Finance Department; and 5. *Εκδόσεις Εθνικών Αγώνων*.

The Archive of the magazine *Βιομηχανική Επιθεώρησης* has been arranged into seventeen series: 1. Director's correspondence; 2. Subscriptions; 3. Archive of the Secretariat; 4. Press and journalist legislation; 5. Anniversaries; 6. Press reviews; 7. Background research for articles; 8. Occupation-era censorship; 9. Printing materials; 10. Publication material; 11. Advertisements; 12. Financial books; 13. Taxation; 14. Tax exemption of newsprint paper; 15. Republication licences; 16. Staff; and 17. Various bureaucratic documents.

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- ▶ The Archive's finding aids are available in electronic format on the Bank of Greece website. At the IATE's reading room, researchers have access to an electronic inventory.
- ▶ The archive of the Office of the Minister of Culture and Sciences (formerly of the State Secretary to the Prime Minister's Office) is held at the Central Service of the General State Archives. Alexandra Vovolini and the *Economia* group preserve mementos and archives of the Vovolinis family members, as well as a press archive. The archive of the *Μέγα Ελληνικόν Βιογραφικόν Λεξικόν* is held at the Gennadius Library of the American School of Classical Studies.
- ▶ The following works draw on or include extensive references to the Vovolinis family Archives: K. Vovolinis, (1945), *Μυστικές εκδόσεις: γραμμένα και τυπωμένα "παράνομα" επί Κατοχής* [*Underground publications: written and printed illegally during the Occupation*], Athens 1945 (in Greek); Id., *Το χρονικόν του "Παρνασσού"*

(1865-1950): *Φιλολογικός Σύλλογος "Παρνασσός"* [*The Chronicle of the Parnassos Literary Society (1865-1950)*], Athens 1951 (in Greek); Id., *Αι στρατιωτικάί ευκολίαι προς τας Ηνωμένας Πολιτείας: εισήγησις εν τη Επιτροπή Εξουσιοδοτήσεως* [*Military facilities to the US: Recommendation at the Authorisation Committee*], Athens 1953 (in Greek); Id., *Η Εκκλησία εις τον αγώνα της ελευθερίας, 1453-1953* [*The Church in the struggle for freedom, 1453-1953*], Athens 1953 [reprint 2002] (in Greek); *Μέγα ελληνικόν βιογραφικόν λεξικόν* [*Great Greek Biographical Dictionary*], eds S. Vovolinis and K. Vovolinis, 5 vols, Athens 1958-1962 (in Greek); M. Dritsas and G. Panselina, *Το αρχείο Κωνσταντίνου Αντ. Βοβολίνη* [*Konstantinos Vovolinis Archive*], Athens 1997 (in Greek); *Η οικονομία της Βόρειας Ελλάδας μέσα από τις σελίδες της Βιομηχανικής Επιθεώρησης, 1934-1954* [*The economy of Northern Greece from the pages of the Industrial Review, 1934-1954*], eds E. Hekimoglou, E. Roupa and G. Panselina, Athens 2003 (in Greek); *Η οικονομία της Βόρειας Ελλάδας μέσα από τις σελίδες της Βιομηχανικής Επιθεώρησης, 1955-1984* [*The economy of Northern Greece from the pages of the Industrial Review, 1955-1984*], eds E. Hekimoglou, E. Roupa and G. Panselina, Athens 2004 (in Greek); *Ελληνικές επιχειρήσεις στον 20ό αιώνα: πρόσωπα και δραστηριότητες* [*Greek firms in the 20th century: persons and activities*], eds M. Dritsas, G. Panselina and N. Kapsi, Athens 2004 (in Greek); and G. Panselina, *Κωνσταντίνος Α. Βοβολίνης: τεκμήρια ζωής και δημιουργίας* [*Konstantinos Vovolinis: records of life and creation*], Athens 2013.

▶ The newspaper *Ελληνικόν Αίμα* is deposited at the National Library of

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Greece, the Library of the Hellenic Parliament, the Municipal Library of Piraeus, and several other repositories.

Sources: The material in the Archives; *Ελληνικόν who's who: βιογραφικόν λεξικόν προσωπικότητων* [The Greek who's who: biographical dictionary of notable Greeks], Athens 1965 (in Greek); *Βιογραφικό λεξικό προσωπικότητων "who's who"* ["Who's who" biographical dictionary of notable Greeks], Athens 1979 (in Greek); Institute for Neohellenic Research, *Εγκυκλοπαίδεια του ελληνικού τύπου, 1784-1974* [Encyclopaedia of Greek press, 1784-1974], eds L. Droulia and G. Koutsopanagou, Athens 2008 (in Greek); and *Βιογραφική εγκυκλοπαίδεια του νεώτερου Ελληνισμού, 1830-2010: αρχεία ελληνικής βιογραφίας* [Biographical encyclopaedia of Modern Hellenism: Greek biographical archives], Vol. 1, Athens 2011 (in Greek).

