



Archive of Xenophon Zolotas

ARCHIVE

Reference code:

GR IATE A2

Dates:

[ca. 1900]-2004 (mostly 1926-2004)

Extent:

25.07 linear metres
1,744 document files
1,821 photographs
38 audiovisual records

Source of acquisition:

Donated by Xenophon Zolotas

CREATOR

Xenophon Zolotas (1904-2004)

Biographical note:

Xenophon Zolotas was born in Athens on 26 March 1904. From 1920 to 1927, he studied law at the University of Athens and economics and political science at the Handelshochschule (today, Graduate School of Management) of Leipzig, where he obtained a Doctorate Degree in economics in 1926. He also studied at the Paris Law Faculty (Faculté de droit de Paris) in France. In February 1928, he was elected assistant professor at the Athens Law School and, later in the same year, Full Professor of Political Economy at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, where he taught until 1930. In 1931, he was elected Full Professor to the chair of Political Economy at the Athens Law School, a position he held until his resignation in 1968. In 1932, he served as a member of the Supreme Economic Council. From 1934 to 1939, he led the Greek Delegation to the Economic Council of the Balkan Pact. Also, between 1936 and 1939, he was Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Agricultural Bank of Greece. By the Royal Decree of 1 October 1944, he was appointed Co-Governor of the Bank of Greece, a position he held until its abolition in 1945 by Law 82/8 January 1945. In 1946, he served as a member of the Board of Directors of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA). From 1946 to 1967, he represented Greece at the meetings of the International Monetary Fund. From 1948 to 1953, he was a member of the Greek Delegation to the United Nations and, from 1949 to 1953, Greece's delegate to the UN Economic Commission for Europe. Over the same period and until 1955, he was a member of the Greek Currency Committee. In 1952, he was elected member of the Academy of Athens. X. Zolotas served as Minister of Coordination

in the caretaker government of 1952 (October-December), and again in 1974 (July-November) in the Government of National Unity. He served twice as Governor of the Bank of Greece: from 5 February 1955 to 5 August 1967 and from 26 November 1974 to his resignation on 27 October 1981. He was one of the "Four Wise Men" charged with drawing up the preliminary plans for the transformation of the Organisation for European Economic Co-operation (OEEC) into the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), in 1960. On October 30, 1981, he was named honorary Governor of the Bank of Greece, following a proposal from the Bank's General Council. From November 1986 onwards, he was a member of the Committee for the Monetary Union of Europe, co-chaired by Valéry Giscard D'Estaing and Helmut Schmidt. He served as Prime Minister of Greece from 23 November 1989 to 11 April 1990. He died on 11 June 2004.

He was director and chief editor of the following scientific journals: *Επιθεώρηση Κοινωνικής και Δημόσιας Οικονομικής [Review of Social and Public Economics]* (1932-1942, jointly with Angelos Angelopoulos) and *Επιθεώρηση Οικονομικών και Πολιτικών Επιστημών [Review of Economic and Political Sciences]* (1946-1967). X. Zolotas has left a prolific research and academic work on topics ranging from economic and political theory to social, fiscal and monetary policy, while several of his studies have been translated into English, French and German. His works include: *Η Ελλάς εις το στάδιον της εκβιομηχανίσεως [Greece at the stage of industrialisation]* (1926), *Δημιουργικός Σοσιαλισμός [Creative Socialism]* (1944), *Monetary Equilibrium and Economic Development* (1965), *Toward a Reinforced Gold Exchange Standard* (1961),

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Economic Growth and Declining Social Welfare (1981).

He was awarded the Grand Cross of the Order of the Phoenix and the Grand Cross of the Order of Honour, as well as foreign decorations: the Grosses Verdienstkreuz mit Stern (Federal Republic of Germany); the Grande Ufficiale dell'Ordine "al Merito della Repubblica Italiana"; the Grand Cordon de l'Ordre de Mérite de 1er Grade de la République Arabe Unie; and the Grand-Croix de l'Ordre Nationale du Mérite and Grand Officier de la Legion d'Honneur de la République française.

CONTENT

The Archive contains records relating to Zolotas's multifaceted activity as Governor of the Bank of Greece, university professor, member of the Academy of Athens, government minister and prime minister. Specifically, it includes his correspondence with institutions, entities and individuals in Greece and abroad, memoranda to the Greek governments, recommendations on economic and monetary issues, the operation of the Bank of Greece, Greece's accession to the EEC, his participation in international organisations (International Monetary Fund, International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, OECD, the Group of Four on economic Organisation – commonly known as "The Four Wise Men", etc.) and in Greek governments, his nomination for the Nobel Prize, his articles in the Greek and international press, as well as personal papers and awards received.

The Archive comprises handwritten and typed documents, notes, articles in newspapers and journals, books, monographs, photographs, audiovisual mate-

rial and personal papers. Transcripts of the audiovisual material are available in digitised form.

ARRANGEMENT

The original order of the Archive has been maintained and restored where disrupted. The material has been arranged into six series corresponding to the main lines of activity X. Zolotas pursued during his lifetime, namely: A2S1: Bank of Greece; A2S2: International Organisations; A2S3: Participation in governments; A2S4: Research and academic work; A2S5: Information-Communication; and A2S6: Miscellaneous (awards and personal papers). The files have been arranged in thematic and chronological order. All records have been retained with the exception of duplicate copies of typed documents which have been destroyed.

CONDITIONS FOR ACCESS AND USE

This material is freely accessible, subject to the applicable legislation and the Terms of Use of the Historical Archives Section of the Bank of Greece (IATE).

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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 based on the second edition of the general International Standard Archival Description (ISAD[G]v2), complete with a subject and person name thesaurus.

- ▶ The entire Archive has been digitised.
- ▶ The originals of the files A2S4Y1F31-F34 concerning X. Zolotas in his capacity as a member of the Academy of Athens are held in the Academy's archives. Part of the audiovisual material from interviews and special broadcasts on X. Zolotas comes from the archives of the Hellenic Broadcasting Corporation (ERT).
- ▶ X. Zolotas's award certificates, medals and decorations are held in the Numismatic Collection of the Bank of Greece.
- ▶ The IATE has in its possession oral history accounts from persons associated with X. Zolotas or his activities.
- ▶ The book entitled *Ξενοφών Ζολώτας και η ελληνική οικονομία: μια ιστορική ανασυγκρότηση [Xenophon Zolotas and the Greek economy: a historical reconstruction]* (Athens 2008, in Greek) by M. Psalidopoulos features photographs from the X. Zolotas Archive.

Sources: The material in the Archive; Michail Psalidopoulos, *Ο Ξενοφών Ζολώτας και η ελληνική οικονομία: μια ιστορική ανασυγκρότηση [Xenophon Zolotas and the Greek economy: a historical reconstruction]*, Athens 2008 (in Greek); Academy of Athens, "Επιστημονικό μνημόσυνο του Ακαδημαϊκού Ξενοφώντος Ζολώτα, Δημόσια Συνεδρία της 10.11.2005" [In memoriam of Academician Xenophon Zolotas, Public Session of 10.11.2005], *Πρακτικά της Ακαδημίας Αθηνών [Proceedings of the Academy of Athens]*, Vol. 80, Issue 3, pp.145-160 (in Greek); and *Ξενοφών Ζολώτας. Εκδόλιψη μνήμης και τιμής [Xenophon Zolotas: in memoriam]*, Athens 2005 (in Greek).