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**THE PAPERS OF PROCOPE S. COSTAS**

Accession #2010-001



**Dates** Inclusive dates: 1920s-1990s Bulk dates: 1940s-1970s

**Extent** 19 boxes / 9.5 cubic feet

**Creator** Procope S. Costas (1900-1974)

**Access/Use** The collection is open to researchers.

Copyright is retained by the Brooklyn College Library.

Files can be accessed at the Brooklyn College Library Archives & Special Collection, 2900 Bedford Ave., Brooklyn, New York, Main floor

**Languages** English, Greek

**Finding Aid** Guide is available in-house and online.

**Acquisition/Appraisal** Dr. Costas's daughter, Ms. Celia Costas, donated this collection to the Brooklyn College Library Archive in February 2010.

**Description Control** Finding aid content adheres to *Describing Archives: A Content Standard*.

**Preferred Citation** Item, folder title, box number, Papers of Procope Costas, Brooklyn

College Archives & Special Collections, Brooklyn College Library

**Subject Headings** Costas, Procope S., 1900-1974.

Greek language -- History.

Greek language, Hellenistic (300 B.C.-600 A.D.) -- History.

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

**Dr. Procope S. Costas** was born in Sparta, Greece, in 1900. He attended a number of schools including the Gymnasium of Sparta in Sparta, Greece; Ecole de Commerce de Neuchatel, in Neuchatel, Switzerland; Universite de Neuchatel, in Neuchatel, Switzerland; the University of Leipzig, in Leipzig, Germany; DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana (A.B. in Economics); University of Indiana, in Bloomington, Indiana; and the University of Chicago in Chicago in Illinois (where he received his A.M. and Ph.D. degrees). In addition to English, Procope Costas spoke, read and wrote Modern Greek, Italian, French, German and Russian.

Dr. Costas was a Fellow of the Department of Greek at the University of Chicago; an Instructor in Modern Greek, University of Chicago; Fellow of the American Council of Learned Societies; Assistant Professor of Classics and Lecturer in History at Whitman College, in Walla Walla, Washington; an Instructor in Italian, Whitman College; Monitor, interpreter, propaganda analyst and Intelligence Officer with the Psychological Warfare Branch (OWI) of AFHG in North Africa and Italy (1942-45); Instructor in Classics at Washington Square College, New York University, New York, where he taught modern Greek (1946-1950). Upon joining the staff at Brooklyn College in 1950, Dr. Costas became an Assistant Professor of Classical Languages and, in 1958, was made Associate Professor of Classics and Comparative Literature. Dr. Costas remained at Brooklyn College until his retirement in 1973.

Dr. Costas was highly regarded in his field and considered an exceptional scholar. His *Outline of the History of the Greek Language* is considered a highly scholarly work on the Greek Language. He translated technical material into demotic Greek which he delivered at science conferences. Dr. Costas also had the ability to transcribe materials into clear phonetics. In 1966, Dr. Costas received a grant to study in Calabria, Italy, " ... to pursue his ideas surrounding language origins ... the use of language, customs, dialects and other aspects of language use."

Dr. Costas died on Aug 26 1974 at Methodist Hospital in Brooklyn, New York. His survivors include his wife, the former Marie Michel, his daughter Celia Damaris, as well as his three brothers, Basil, Nicholas and Peter.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

*Listen and Learn Modern Greek.* Mineola: Dover Publications, 1961, 2006.

*Byzantine Contributions to the Renaissance.* New York, 1962.

*A Short History of the Greek Language with Particular Empphasis on the Koine and the Subsequent Periods.* Chicago: Ares, 1936, 1997.

Some of Dr. Costas' reviews have appeared in

Classical Philology,

Classical Review,

Classical World,

Latomas,

The Renaissance News,

Journal of American Folklore.

### **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

The Papers of Procope S. Costas consists primarily of Dr. Costas's writings, mainly the dictionary that he had prepared (although never fully finished) entitled *English Words Derived from the Greek*.

In addition to the six boxes that contain bound and unbound drafts of the dictionary Dr. Costas was working on, this collection is comprised of correspondence, personal information, miscellaneous items such as invoices and brochures, several citations, photographs of family and friends, as well as oversized materials including two LP's (with manuals) that Dr. Costas wrote.

## COLLECTION OUTLINE

### **Sub-Group I: Writings, 1920s-1970s**

Series 1: Unbound Drafts of Unfinished Dictionary / Other Writings

Series 2: Bound Drafts / Unfinished Dictionary

Series 3: Notebooks / Ledgers / Records

### **Sub-Group II: Correspondence, 1940s, 1970s**

Series 4: Correspondence

### **Sub-Group III: Personal Materials, 1940s-1970s**

Series 5: Personal / Title Company, Invoices, Life Insurance, Vitals, Will

### **Sub-Group IV: Miscellaneous, 1920s, 1960s**

Series 6: Miscellaneous / Invoices, Brochures, etc.

### **Sub-Group V: Memorabilia, 1930s, 1990s**

Series 7: Memorabilia / Awards, Citations, "Remembrances of Procope Costas"

### **Sub-Group VI: Photographs, 1940s-1970s**

Series 8: Photographs / Slides - Family, friends

### **Sub-Group VII: Audio / Long Playing (LPs) 33 1/3RPM Records**

Series 9: Records 33 1/3 RPM / Other oversized items

## SUB-GROUP / SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

### **Sub-Group I: Writings, 1920s-1970s.**

**Series 1: Unbound Drafts of Unfinished Dictionary / Other Writings.** 7 boxes. This unbound dictionary is filed alphabetically (the bound copies are organized by volume number first and then organized alphabetically).

This series has Dr. Costas' long-planned English-Greek dictionary, *English Words Derived from the Greek*. There are folders, many handwritten, marked A through T with English words and their Greek derivation. Related to that, there are also miscellaneous materials such as commentaries on the dictionary, Greek combining forms, prefixes, suffixes, a bibliography, and handwritten notes. In addition, there are other writings by Dr. Costas, such as *Plato Treatise on the Laws* and *Nicetas Choniates History Beginning with the Reign of John Comnenus*.

**Series 2: Bound Drafts / Unfinished Dictionary.** 7 boxes. Files are organized by volumes numbered 1 through 7.

The seven boxes in this series contain the bound drafts of Dr. Costas' unfinished dictionary. They bound drafts run from A to Z with 3 copies in each box.

**Series 3: Notebooks / Ledgers / Records.** 1 box. Arrangement varies.

Series 3 contains Dr. Costas' school notebooks, specifically the time he spent in Switzerland's Ecole Superieure de Commerce de Neuchatel. There are also ledger records and bank records which were kept in meticulous handwritten detail; these records are dated 1921 and 1922.

### **Sub-Group II: Correspondence, 1940s, 1970s**

**Series 4: Correspondence.** 7 folders. Arrangement varies.

This series contains 7 folders of letters written mainly in the 1970s. There is correspondence with the Department of Health Education and Welfare, several university presses regarding the publishing of Dr. Costas' writings and quite a bit of correspondence by and to Prof. Ursula Schoenheim.

### **Sub-Group III: Personal Materials, 1940s-1970s**

**Series 5: Personal / Title Company, Invoices, Life Insurance, Vitals, Will.** 2 boxes. Arrangement varies.

Series 5 contains personal materials such as title and guaranty agreements, items from the Monarch Life Insurance Company, the last will and testament of Aphrodite Fotiades, tax returns, some personal information, Procope Costas' resume, and mention of Dr. Costas in "Who's Who in the East."

### **Sub-Group IV: Miscellaneous, 1920s, 1960s**

**Series 6: Miscellaneous / Invoices, Brochures, etc.** 4 folders. Arrangement varies.

Series 6 is comprised of 4 folders with old invoices, some copyright information, a staff bulletin (April 1965), and several brochures, cards and fliers.

### **Sub-Group V: Memorabilia, 1930s, 1990s**

**Series 7: Memorabilia / Awards, Citations, "Remembrances of Procope Costas."** 4 folders. Arrangement varies.

This series has some memorabilia, such as awards, citations, menus/postcards/photos from Michel's Restaurant on Flatbush Avenue in Brooklyn, and a memorial prepared in 1994 titled "Remembrances of Procope Sarantos Costas." In addition, Mary Michel's high school and college diplomas are here.

**Sub-Group VI: Photographs, 1940s-1970s**

**Series 8: Photographs / Slides - Family, friends.** 6 folders. Arrangement varies.

Series 8 bears contains photographs and slides. There are many different images of Dr. Costas, assorted family photographs, a class shot at the University of Pennsylvania (1947), a photo taken at the White House honoring Dr. Costas because he served in the armed forces. There are also some slides in this grouping as well.

**Sub-Group VII: Audio / Long Playing (LPs) 33 1/3 Records**

**Series 9: Records / Oversized items.** 1 oversize box. Arrangement varies.

The items in this grouping are oversized. There are two long playing records (33 1/3 RPM) titled Listen & Learn Modern Greek together with manuals which Dr. Costas wrote. There are also several large newspaper clippings as well as large photographs, one of Dr. Costas teaching a class. There is also a folder containing a number of fliers announcing the Annual Procope Costas Memorial Lecture by the Wolfe Institute at Brooklyn College; the fliers describe lectures already given which have showcased Greek topics, such as "Discourse on Thucydides," "Demagogues, Democracy, and Society in Ancient Greece," "The Panathenaic Festival."

## CONTAINER LIST

### **Sub-Group I: Writings**

#### **Series 1: Unbound Drafts of Unfinished Dictionary / Other writings**

##### **Box 1**

File #1 Writings / "English Words Derived from the Greek" -Letter A  
File #2 Writings / "English Words Derived from the Greek" -Letter A  
File #3 Writings / "English Words Derived from the Greek" -Letter B  
File #4 Writings / "English Words Derived from the Greek" -Letter CH-X  
File #5 Writings / "English Words Derived from the Greek" -Letter D  
File #6 Writings / "English Words Derived from the Greek" -Letter E  
File #7 Writings / "English Words Derived from the Greek" -Letter E

##### **Box 2**

File #8 Writings / English Words Derived from the Greek -Letter G  
File #9 Writings / English Words Derived from the Greek -Letter H  
File #10 Writings / English Words Derived from the Greek -Letter I  
File #11 Writings / English Words Derived from the Greek -Letter K-C  
File #12 Writings / English Words Derived from the Greek -Letter L

##### **Box 3**

File #13 Writings / English Words Derived from the Greek –Letter M  
File #14 Writings / English Words Derived from the Greek –Letter M  
File #15 Writings / English Words Derived from the Greek –Letter N  
File #16 Writings / English Words Derived from the Greek –Letter N (Incomplete)  
File #17 Writings / English Words Derived from the Greek –Letter O  
File #18 Writings / English Words Derived from the Greek –Letter P

##### **Box 4**

File #18A Writings / English Words Derived from the Greek –Letter P  
File #19 Writings / English Words Derived from the Greek –Letter P  
File #20 Writings / English Words Derived from the Greek –Letter R-P



File #21 Writings / English Words Derived from the Greek –Letter S

File #22 Writings / English Words Derived from the Greek –Letter T

File #23 Writings / English Words Derived from the Greek –Letter T

File #23A Writings / English Words Derived from the Greek – Letter X

File #23B Writings / English Words Derived from the Greek – Letter Z

#### **Box 5**

File #24 Writings / Misc. Materials (Commentary on Manuscript) re Dictionary

File #25 Writings / Misc. Materials on “English Words Derived from the Greek”

File #26 Writings / Greek Combining Forms; Prefixes; Suffixes; Bibliography

File #27 Writings / English Words Derived from the Greek-Greek Combining Forms

File #28 Writings / Overview for *English Words Derived from the Greek*

File #29 Writings / *A Dictionary of Modern Greek Slang & Colloquialisms* (tentative title)

File #30 Writings / *A Dictionary of Engl. Words Derived from the Greek* (overview, etc.)

File #31 Writings / Dictionary in typed and manuscript formats (not labeled)

File #32 Writings / Dictionary -manuscript materials (not labeled)

File #33 Writings / Dictionary –typescript form (not labeled)

File #34 Writings / Bibliography –Secondary Sources (incomplete)

File #35 Writings / Index of Greek Words

#### **Box 6**

File #36 Writings / Index of English Words (hand-and type-written)

File #37 Writings / Prefixes; Suffixes

File #38 Writings / Notes on Bibliography; Secondary sources

File #39 Writings / Translation ? - “1582 January ...” (typescript)

File #40 Writings / about Byzantine civilization

File #41 Writings / Handwritten notes, 1950s?

File #42 Writings / Handwritten notes, 1940s

File #43 Writings / Handwritten notes

File #44 Writings / Extensively corrected handwritten notes, “Battle of the Images”

File #45 Writings / Typescript, by P. Costas, 1933 (no title)

**Box 7**

File #46 Writings / Thesis – *An Outline of the History of the Greek Language* (1933) [typescript]

File #47 Writings / *An Outline of the History of the Greek Language with a Particular Emphasis on the Koine and the Subsequent Stages*

File #48 Writings / *Pletho Treatise on the Laws* (handwritten)

File #49 Writings / *Pletho Treatise on the Law* (2 copies) [typescript]

File #50 Writings / *Pletho* (partial) [typescript]

File #51 Writings / *Nicetas Choniates History Beginning with the Reign of John Comnenus*, translated from the Greek by Prof. P. Costas

File #52 Writings / *The Tyrant's Number* by E. McClain, 1971 (student)

Book / *Hidden Treasures*, compiled by George E. Tsimbidaros, printed in Greece 1974

**Series 2: Bound Drafts of Unfinished Dictionary**

**Box 8** File #53 / Bound copy of Dictionary, Volume 1, A-B (3 copies)

**Box 9** File #54 / Bound copy of Dictionary, Volume 2, D – E – G (3 copies)

**Box 10** File #54 / Bound copy of Dictionary, Volume 3, H – I – L (3 copies)

**Box 11** File #54 / Bound copy of Dictionary, Volume 4, K=C – X=CH (3 copies)

**Box 12** File #55 / Bound copy of Dictionary, Volume 5, M – N – O (3 copies)

**Box 13** File #56 / Bound copy of Dictionary, Volume 6, P – R (3 copies)

**Box 14** File #57 / Bound copy of Dictionary, Volume 7, S – T – X - Z (3 copies)

**Series 3: Notebooks / Ledgers / Records**

**Box 15**

File #58 / School Notebooks- Ecole Superieure de Commerce de Neuchatel (8)

File #59 / Notebook - Ecole Superieure de Commerce de Neuchatel – Correspondence

File #60 / Notebook – Marchandises

File #61 / Notebook – Algebra

File #62 / Notebook – Composition

File #63 / Ledger – Daily Records, 1921

File #64 / Ledger – Daily Records, 1922

File #65 / Ledger – Records, Bank Journal (Merchandise purchases)

File #66 / Ledgers – Bank Records (handwritten)

**Sub-Group II: Correspondence**

**Series 4: Correspondence**

**Box 16**

File #67 Correspondence / Dept of HEW, 1970s

File #68 Correspondence / George A. Michel, 1970s

File #69 Correspondence / Misc. –received from others

File #70 Correspondence / NYU – Appointments & reappointments, 1940s

File #71 Correspondence / Prof. Ursula Schoenheim, 1970s

File #72 Correspondence / Ungar Publishing re Dictionary, 1970

File #73 Correspondence / Ltrs received from various university presses, 1970s

**Sub-Group III: Personal Materials**

**Series 5: Personal / Title Company, Invoices, Life Insurance, Vitals, Will**

**Box 16 (continued)**

File #74 Personal / Title – Guaranty - Agreement, 1920s, 1940

File #74A Personal / Title Guarantee & Trust Co.

File #75 Personal / Monarch Life Insurance Co., 1970s

File #76 Personal / Vitals – Birth, Death, Baptismal Certificates

File #77 Personal / Last Will & Testament, Aphrodite M. Fotiades

**Box 17**

File #78 Personal / Tax Returns; Last Will & Testament (Maria Costas)

File #79 Personal / Tax bills, Death Certificate; etc (Maria Costas)

File #80 Personal / Mortgage agreement, 1940s, 1960s, 1970s

File #81 Personal / Shareholder info

File #82 Personal / Blue Cross, Blue Shield, 1991 (Celia Costas)

File #83 Personal / Apartment in Athens (Celia Costas)

File #84 Personal / Brownstone policy, 1990s

File #85 Personal / Resume, C.V. (P. Costas)

File #86 Personal / Armed Services (allowance, clothing), 1945

File #87 Personal / P. Costas in "Who's Who in the East"

**Sub-Group IV: Miscellaneous**

**Series 6: Miscellaneous / Invoices, Brochures, etc.**

**Box 18**

File #88 Miscellaneous / Old invoices (Painters-Decorators), 1920

File #89 Miscellaneous / Copyright information

File #90 Miscellaneous / BC Staff bulletin, 4/1/65

File #91 Miscellaneous / Brochures, cards, fliers, etc.

File #91A Miscellaneous / Bills, receipts, etc.

**Sub-Group V: Memorabilia**

**Series 7: Memorabilia / Awards, Citations, "Remembrances of Procope Costas"**

**Box 18 (continued)**

File #92 Memorabilia / Awards, Citations, 1930s

File #92A Memorabilia / Michel's Restaurant (menus, postcards, photos, etc.) on Flatbush Avenue

File #93 Memorabilia / "Remembrances of Procope Costas" by family, friends, students, 1994

File #94 Memorabilia / Mary Michel High School (1933) and College (1937) Diplomas

File #94A Memorabilia / Coins

**Sub-Group VI: Photographs**

**Series 8: Photographs / Slides - Family, friends**

**Box 18 (continued)**

File #95 Photographs / of Dr. Procope Costas

File #96 Photographs / Early photos of Costas

File #97 Photographs / White House photos honoring P. Costas for his service in the US Armed Forces, 1970s

File #98 Photographs / Assorted family photos

File #99 Photographs / Class shot at Univ of Pennsylvania, 1947

File #100 Photographs / Assorted Slides, Photos

**Sub-Group VII: Audio / Long Playing (LPs) 33 1/3 RPM Records**

**Series 9: Records / Other oversized items**

**Box 19 / Oversized Box**

- Two 33 1/3 long playing (LPs) records Listen & Learn Modern Greek (with book) by P. Costas
- News Clippings
- Photographs / oversize
- Fliers (different years) / Annual Procope Costas Memorial Lecture given by the Wolfe Institute at Brooklyn College

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