
Finding aid prepared by Christopher Rockwell
California State University, Sacramento Special Collections & University Archives
University Library
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March 2016
Title: Costa G. Couvaras papers
Identifier/Call Number: MSS 2002/51
Contributing Institution: California State University, Sacramento Special Collections & University Archives
Language of Material: Multiple languages
Physical Description: 2.5 Linear feet (2 manuscript boxes, 1 flat box, 1 index card box)
Date (bulk): Bulk, 1943-1973
Date (inclusive): 1913-1987
Language of Materials note: Materials are in English and Greek.
Abstract: The Costa G. Couvaras papers (1913-1987) consist of biographical materials, correspondence, photos, newspaper and magazine articles pertaining to Costa Couvaras. In particular, it contains materials relating to his involvement in the OSS Mission Pericles, which took place in Greece during 1944-1945. It also includes information regarding the book in which Couvaras wrote about the mission.
Immediate Source of Acquisition note
The papers were created and assembled by Costa G. Couvaras. After his death, they were donated to the Speros Basil Vryonis Center for the Study of Hellenism. After the closure of the Vryonis Center in 2000, they arrived at the CSUS University Library in 2003 as part of the Vryonis Center's library, which was renamed the Tsakopoulos Hellenic Collection.
Preferred Citation note
[Identification of item including date], [Folder Title], MSS 2002/51, Costa G. Couvaras papers, Department of Special Collections and University Archives, University Library, California State University, Sacramento.
Biographical/Historical note
Costa G. Couvaras was a photographer, a spy, author, and an entrepreneur.
Couvaras was born in 1911, in Romania. When he was two, his family moved to Ithaca, Greece. While growing up in Greece he was able to attend the American school in Thessalonike. Through some of his contacts he made at this school, he was able to get a scholarship to Cornell University. In 1943 he became an American citizen, and soon he was serving his new country by returning to his former one. He joined the O.S.S., and was sent into occupied Greece as part of Operation Pericles. There he was the only allied operative to reach the headquarters of EAM.


Scope and Content
The Costa G. Couvaras papers contain biographical materials, correspondence, photos, newspaper and magazine articles. The materials are in both Greek and English. The collection is divided into four series: Biographical, Greek Politics, Pericles Mission and Photographs.

The Biographical series (Series 1) is made up of materials that relate to Couvaras' life in general. The series contains biographical materials, correspondence, obituaries, Couvaras' death certificate, last will and testament, and correspondence from his wife Maria regarding gifts bequeathed.

The Greek Politics series (Series 2) is made up of materials that relate to Couvaras' activities in Greek-American politics. Couvaras' activities consisted of the American Relief of Greek Democracy, which consists of materials about war relief efforts. It also contains articles on Greece and Cyprus, which Couvaras wrote about. In addition, it contains correspondence with Andreas Papandreou during 1967-1968, who was in exile at the time.

The Pericles Mission series (Series 3) is made up of four subseries. The first subseries is "Mission Reports and Notes", and it is made up of Couvaras' notes and correspondence from the Pericles Mission, and it is the largest group in the collection. The notes include mission reports and reports on German atrocities. (There is some redundancy in this group, as there are Couvaras' original notebooks, as well as transcriptions and photocopies of the original notes. There are some differences in the order, wording, and organization of the copies, so they have been kept.) The second subseries is "Books", and it is made up of materials concerning the two books that Couvaras wrote regarding his experiences. This includes reviews, correspondence and lists of books given away or sold. The third subseries is the "Stanford Collection". Before Couvaras' death, he sent some material to the Hoover Institution. Most of it consisted of photocopies of original material (e.g., Pericles Mission notebooks). Of the materials sent, only three items were not duplicates, and the photocopies of mission reports
(those sent by Couvaras to the Hoover Institution) are redacted versions of the originals.
The Photographs series (Series 4) is made up of photographs and scrapbooks pertaining to Couvaras' life and wartime experience. It includes biopics, professional pictures taken by Couvaras (touristic photos and photos of the Venizelos Revolution), War Relief organizations, and Greek Resistance fighters.

**Conditions Governing Use note**
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**Conditions Governing Access note**
Collection is open for research. Some restrictions may apply.

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**
Couvaras, Costa G., 1911-
Papandreou, Andreas George
Tsakopoulos Hellenic Collection.
Correspondence
Cyprus
Espionage.
Greek Americans -- 20th century
Photographs
United States. Office of Strategic Services.
World War II

**Series 1: Biographical, 1913-1987**

- Box 1, Folder 1: Biographical Materials, 1913-1987
- Box 1, Folder 2: Correspondence, 1940-1979
- Box 1, Folder 3: Obituaries, 1979
- Box 1, Folder 4: Postmortem, 1979-1987
- Box 1, Folder 5: Letters of Condolence, 1979

**Series 2: Greek Politics, 1945-1978**

- Box 1, Folder 6: American Relief of Greek Democracy, 1946
- Box 1, Folder 7: Articles on Greece, 1945-1978
- Box 1, Folder 8: Articles on Cyprus, 1945-1978
- Box 1, Folder 9: Andreas Papandreou, 1967-1968, 1978

**Series 3: Pericles Mission, 1943-1973**

**Subseries 1: Mission Reports & Notes,**

- Box 1, Folder 10: Original Notebooks (1 of 2), circa 1944-1945
- Box 1, Folder 11: Original Notebooks (2 of 2), circa 1944-1945
- Box 1, Folder 12: Correspondence with Base, 1944-1945
- Box 1, Folder 13: Pericles Mission Letters, 1944-1945
- Box 1, Folder 14: Cables from Pericles, 1944
- Box 1, Folder 15: Cablegrams - CC to Cairo, 1944
- Box 1, Folder 16: Cablegrams - Cairo to CC, 1944
- Box 1, Folder 17: Military Position Reports, 6-9, 1944
- Box 1, Folder 18: Reports, January 1945
Subseries 1: Mission Reports & Notes,

| Box 1, Folder 19 | Reports, January 1945 |
| Box 1, Folder 20 | Reports, April - May, 1945 |
| Box 2, Folder 1 | Reports, June - July 1945 |
| Box 2, Folder 2 | Reports, November - December, 1944-1946 |
| Box 2, Folder 3 | EAM - ELAS Appeals, December 1944 |
| Box 2, Folder 4 | EAM - ELAS Reports, 1944 |
| Box 2, Folder 5 | Reports on German Atrocities, June 1944 |
| Box 2, Folder 6 | Quisling Government Reports, June 1944 |
| Box 2, Folder 7 | Extra Copies - Original Reports, 1945, 1973 |
| Box 2, Folder 8 | Extra Copies - Miscellaneous, 1943-1945, 1973 |

Subseries 2: Books, 1946-1980

| Box 2, Folder 9 | Book Sales, 1977-1980 |
| Box 2, Folder 10 | Book Correspondence, 1976-1980 |
| Box 2, Folder 11 | Writings & Speeches on WWII, 1946-1978 |
| Box 2, Folder 12 | CIA Correspondence, 1947, 1976 |

Subseries 3: Stanford Collection, 1944

| Box 2, Folder 13 | Most Complete Roster of Cablegrams sent by Radio to O.S.S. HQ in Cairo by Lt. Costa G. Couvaras, May - October, 1944 |
| Box 2, Folder 14 | Radiograms from Cairo O.S.S. to Lt. Costa G. Couvaras, 1944 |
| Box 2, Folder 15 | EAM - ELAS Appeals, 1944 |
| Box 2, Folder 16 | EAM - ELAS Reports, 1944 |
| Box 2, Folder 17 | Situation Report, 7-8-1944 |
| Box 2, Folder 18 | Quisling Government Reports, June 1944 |
| Box 3-4 | Series 4: Photographs, circa 1940s |