

EXHIBITION
«RUSSIAN TRANSLATIONS
OF NEOHELLENIC LITERATURE»

Opening Day: May 17th 2011 at 3 p.m.

The exhibition “Russian Translations of Neohellenic Literature” dedicated to Neohellenic fiction publications in selected books, anthologies, journals and newspapers starting with the Soviet period till present days opens in Russian State Library in participation with Embassy of the Hellenic Republic.

Such Russian translations appear after the First Congress of Soviet Writers in 1934, however they will be systematized only in 1957 with the publication of the “Greek Folk Songs”. Since then and till today 10 items on average are published almost annually. In the beginning, under the recommendation of the Greek Communist Party leading figures but also because of the general condition of literary process in the USSR these publications reflected, as a rule, strong ideological orientation (poets like K.Varnalis, Y.Ritsos, N.Vrettakos). The publication of several Cavafy’s poems for the first time by Sonya Ilinskaya in 1967 was a true revolution. It is interesting to note that a major role in Russian-speaking readers familiarity with the works of Cavafy played close attention to his work by Joseph Brodsky, who wrote about him a number of essays and translated some of his poems. After that other classics of Modern Greek Literature were gradually translated into Russian, for example G. Seferis (1969) and Elytis (1977).

Opening of the exhibition will be accompanied by a small concert. Actress Yulia Peresild will recite Elytis’s poem “Monogram” and reciter Valeriy Petrov will read several Cavafy’s poems. Young pianist Irina Chistyakova will play piano pieces by St. Petersburg composer of the Greek origin Vasiliy Calafaty (1869-1942) who took lessons from Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov and gave classes to Igor Stravinsky.

Address: Vozdvizhenka st. 3/5, 3rd entrance, 3rd floor