

PRESS RELEASE

"Chieftains to Lord Cochrane": The Aikaterini Laskaridis Foundation presents for the first time the Greek section of the Lord Cochrane archive

On Sunday, December 14, 2025, at the Floating Naval Museum of the Battleship "Georgios Averoff", moored in Faliron bay, Greece, the Aikaterini Laskaridis Foundation presented the digitized Greek part of Admiral Thomas Cochrane's archive. Under the title of "Chieftains to Lord Cochran: The Admiral's unpublished correspondence during the years of the Revolution".

The event opened to the public for the first time a body of evidence of exceptional historical importance, which sheds light on the action and contacts of Lord Cochran during his stay in Greece, during the years of the Greek Revolution. Through the correspondence with his associates, Greek chieftains and political figures of the day, a perspective emerges that complements, in some cases even differentiates the picture we had until today.

The event was opened by the Chief of the **Hellenic Navy General Staff, Vice Admiral Kataras** and was followed by a short greeting by the **British Ambassador to Greece, Matthew Lodge**. **Professor of Maritime History at the University of Piraeus, Katerina Galani**, offered a thorough introduction to Lord Cochran, setting the necessary historical context.

The event was honored with the presence of Lord Cochrane's descendants, **Lord Douglas Dundonald** and **Rear Admiral Michael Cochrane**, as well as descendants of the Codrington family, along with distinguished representatives of the academic and diplomatic community.

About the Cochrane Archive

The archive of Admiral Thomas Cochrane is kept in the national archives of Scotland. The part of the archive of Greek interest, i.e. 1,270 letters, was digitized in Edinburgh, by Dr. Alan Borthwick, and sent to the Aikaterini Laskaridis Foundation, following consultation between the owner of the archive, Lord Cochrane's descendant Lord Douglas Dundonald, and the Foundation's president, Mr. Panagiotis Laskaridis. Recognizing the importance of this archive for a better understanding of a critical phase of the Greek Revolution, the Aikaterini Laskaridis Foundation proceeded with the processing and opening of the letters it contains for free access.

Initially, the letters were transcribed from English, French, Italian, Greek and Spanish and translated to Greek and English. As the authors of the letters had different handwritings, paleography methods had to be used to identify some letters and often to identify words. Subsequently, the transcription, summary and metadata of the letters were entered into an information system compatible with Europeana, while following modern practices users have the opportunity to listen to the letters but also to “converse” with Thomas Cochrane, retrieving information about the organization and execution of military operations, the fight against pirates, his contacts with Greek and foreign politicians, military and philhellenes and his attempt to overturn his conviction and restore him to the British Navy.

Discover the archive on <https://laskaridisfoundationarchives.org/archives/cochrane>

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