A Map of the World that does not include Utopia is not worth even glancing at, for it leaves out the one country at which Humanity is always landing.

Oscar Wilde, 1895
The Archive for Cartographic Heritage was instituted in 2013 (Law 4109/2013), it is affiliated to the Historical Archives of Macedonia and it constitutes an organizational unit at the level of Department of the General State Archives (GSA).

Since its institution, it exercises the authorities of the abolished National Centre for Maps and Cartographic Heritage – National Map Library, which was founded in 1997 by law passed unanimously by the Greek Parliament.

The Archive for Cartographic Heritage contributes to the development and the dissemination of the cultural, educational, social, artistic, scientific and technological dimension of the Cartography and the Maps in a society based on knowledge, information and communication.

The Archive for Cartographic Heritage has as a main purpose the development and the dissemination of cartography and maps in Culture, Education, Daily Life and Administration, making use of new technologies and digital approaches to national and universal Cartographic Heritage. Means to accomplish these goals are exhibitions, publications in printed and digital form, seminars and related national and international activities and collaborations.

The Archive for Cartographic Heritage founded a map archive keeping and developing it at two distinct but interconnected levels: The classical printed map archive and the electronic/digital archive.

An essential activity is the drafting of a digital map archive, the development of new digital information and communication technologies and the providing of expertise.

In the Archive for Cartographic Heritage maps of every kind are being collected, of Greek and international interest, covering various periods and stages of the history of maps.

Their archiving and the documentation are being realized digitally, while maps are being archived exclusively in digital form.

In the Archive, the most important maps in the History of Cartography are being documented electronically into digital archives, so that their immediate locating by interested scholars and researchers becomes possible.

The Archive for Cartographic Heritage collaborates with maps’ collectors and bodies that have collections at their disposal. In this context, it digitizes and documents maps of big or smaller collections of particular cartographic interest in its digital map library.
In the Archive for Cartographic Heritage a basic and applied cartographic research is being conducted in fields such as: geometric and thematic content of historical maps, names of locations, comparison of maps, specifications and optimization of maps’ digitization, maps and art etc.

The Archive for Cartographic Heritage has set as a fundamental purpose its contribution to the introduction of cartographic literacy and practice into the educational and cultural system, providing specialized expertise to organizations of primary and secondary education, organizing courses and seminars for educators, introducing new technologies (electronic teaching, multimedia, etc) of specialized cartographic character into the educational process.

Within this framework, the Centre offers a series of educative programmes for students, educators or adults aiming at getting to know the world of maps.

The historical and cultural dimension of maps and their promotion is systematically being developed by the Archive for Cartographic Heritage through the organization of cartographic exhibitions in collaboration with important national and international institutions. Furthermore, the Archive for Cartographic Heritage edits and publishes albums and monographs that accompany maps’ exhibitions or constitute independent cartographic studies.