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GEORGE SEFERIS

George Seferis was the pen name of Georgios Seferiades. He was one of the most important Greek poets of the 20th century. Seferis was born in Urla near Smyrna in Asia Minor. His father, Stelios Seferiadis, was a lawyer. In 1914 his family moved to Athens, where Seferis completed his secondary school education. He continued his studies in Paris from 1918 to 1925, studying law at the Sorbonne.

He returned to Athens in 1925 and was admitted to the Royal Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the following year. This was the beginning of a long and successful diplomatic career, during which he held posts in England and Albania. He married Maria Zannou on April 10, 1941.

Seferis received many honours and prizes, among them honorary doctoral degrees from the universities of Cambridge, Oxford, Thessaloniki, and Princeton. Seferis first visited Cyprus in November 1953. He immediately fell in love with the island, partly because of its resemblance, in its landscape, the mixture of populations, and in its traditions, to his childhood summer home in Skala. His book of poems *Imerologio Katastromatos III* was inspired by the island.

Generally, Seferis became famous, since 1963 when he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature "for his eminent lyrical writing, inspired by a deep feeling for the Hellenic world of culture." Seferis was the first Greek to receive such an award! Some of his popular poems are Strophe, The Cistern, Mythical narrative, Book of Exercises, Log Book I, Log Book II, The Thrush, Log Book III and Three Secret Poems.

