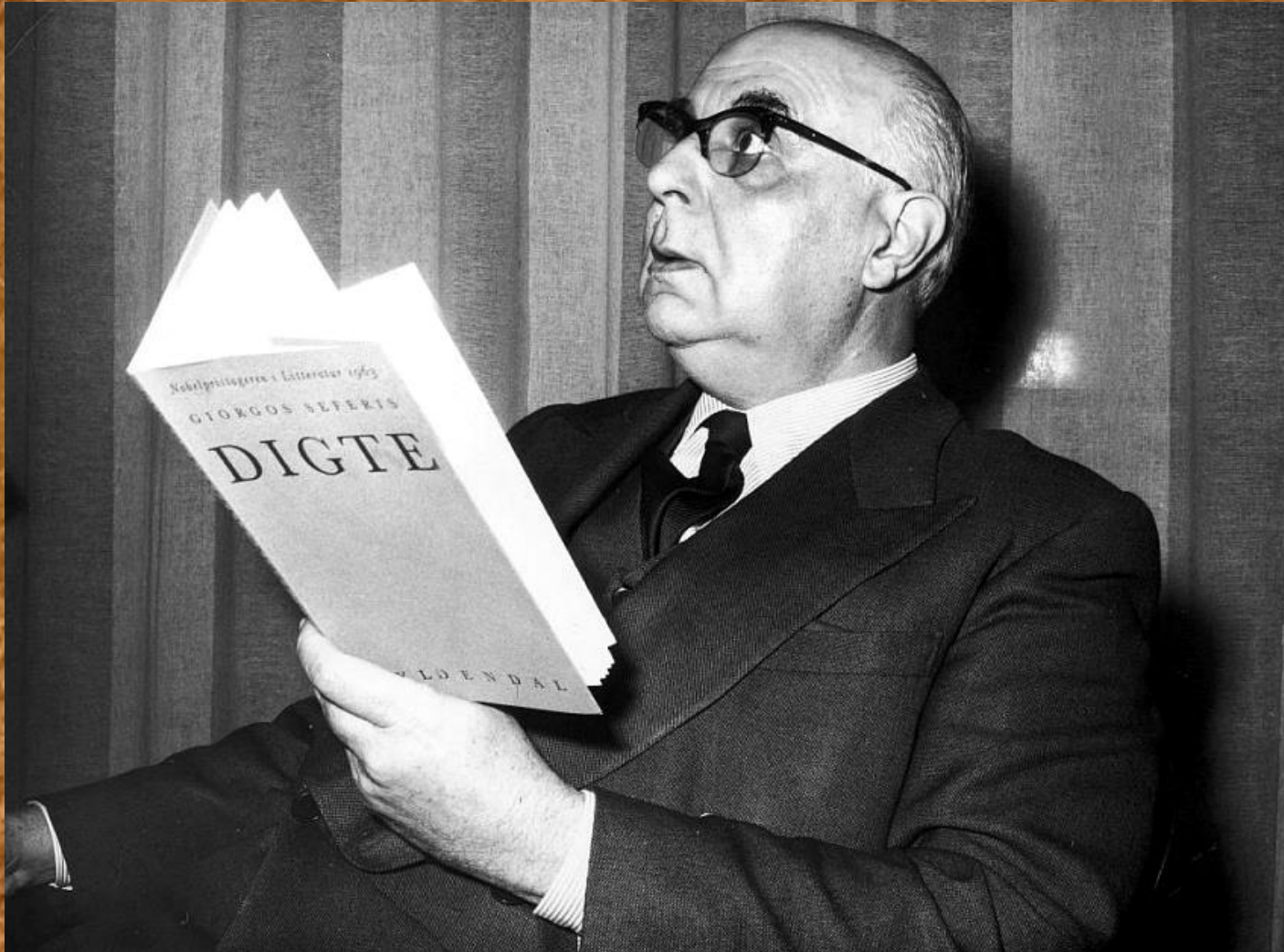


# Giorgos Seferis



# Factfile

- Jorgos Seferiadis
- Born: March 13th, 1900, Urla, Ottoman Empire
- Died: September 20th, 1971, Athens, Greece
- Nationality: Greek
- Occupation: Poet, diplomat
- Notable awards: Nobel Prize in Literature (1963)

# Life

- He wrote love poems since the age of thirteen.
- He spent his childhood in Turkey.
- He made his debut in 1914.
- He moved with his family to Greece when World War I broke.
- In 1917 he graduated from the school in Athens and moved to France, where his father worked as a lawyer.
- In 1924 he went to England.
- In 1925 he returned to Athens.
- In 1927 he started working at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Greece.
- In 1933, the father of the poet, Stelios, was elected the dean of the University of Athens.
- In April 1941, George Seferis married Maria Zanu, and in May of the same year, after the German invasion, he went along with the Greek government to emigrate to Egypt. In August, he got to Luxembourg and then to Pretoria in South Africa, where he worked at the Embassy of the Republic of Greece until 1942.
- He spent almost all his life travelling.



# Family

His father was a lawyer, poet, translator, independence activist and a close associate of Prime Minister of Greece.



Patriotism was a very important thing.

# Poetry



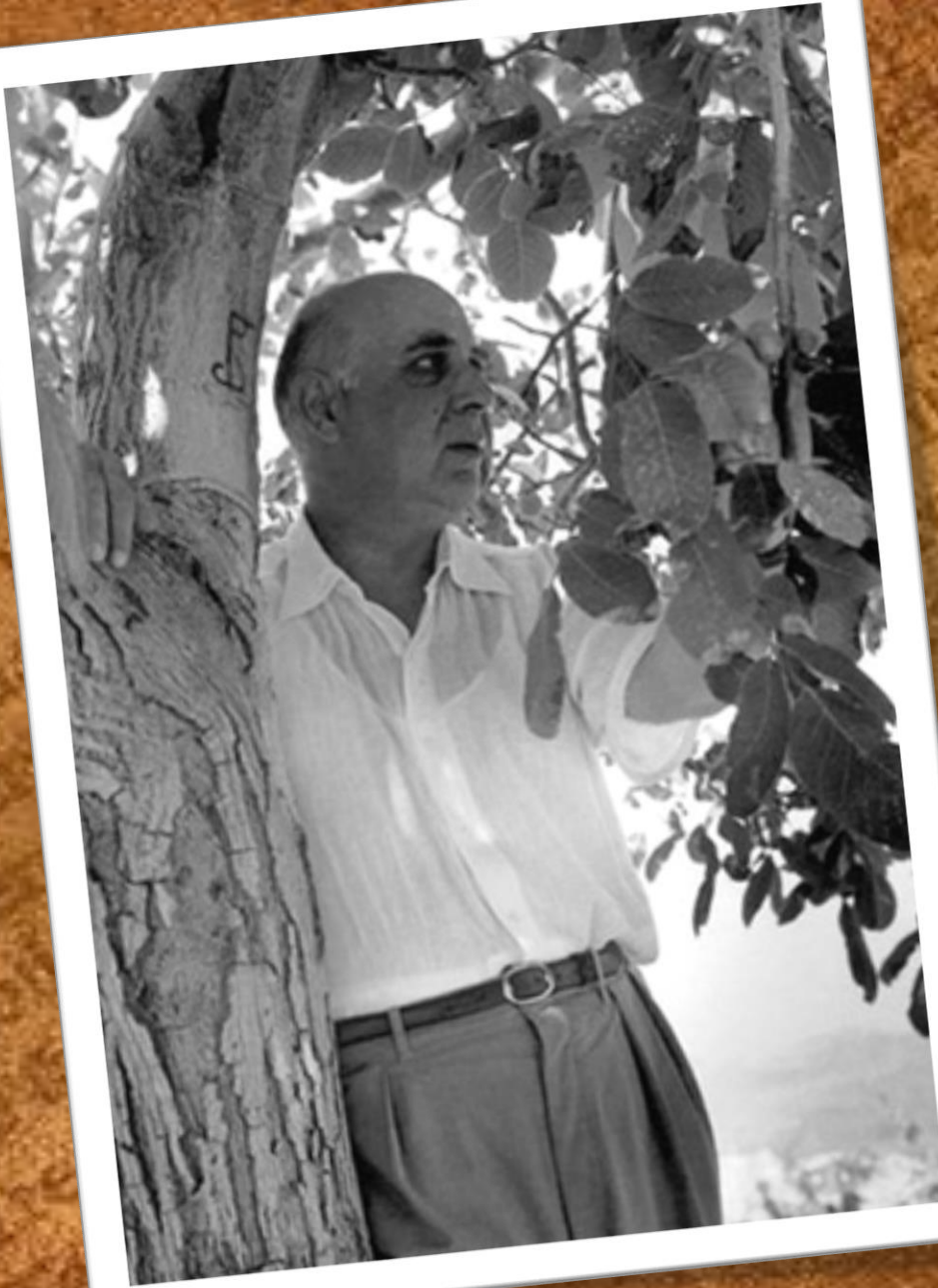
Poetry by Seferis is referred to as melancholic and pessimistic. It is difficult to read poetry, full of symbols, designed for an elite audience.

- He revolutionized contemporary Greek poetry.
- His first poems were published in Paris writing *Altar*.
- He collaborated with the Greek journal *New Literary Review*.



*Ο Γιώργος Σεφέρης παραλαμβάνει  
το Νόμπελ Λογοτεχνίας τον Δεκέμβριο του 1963*

In 1963 he received the Nobel Prize for "outstanding lyrical, reflecting the worship of the ancient Hellenes the world."



In the sea caves  
there's a thirst there's a love  
there's an ecstasy  
all hard like shells  
you can hold them in your palm.

In the sea caves  
for whole days I gazed into your  
eyes  
and I didn't know you nor did you  
know me.





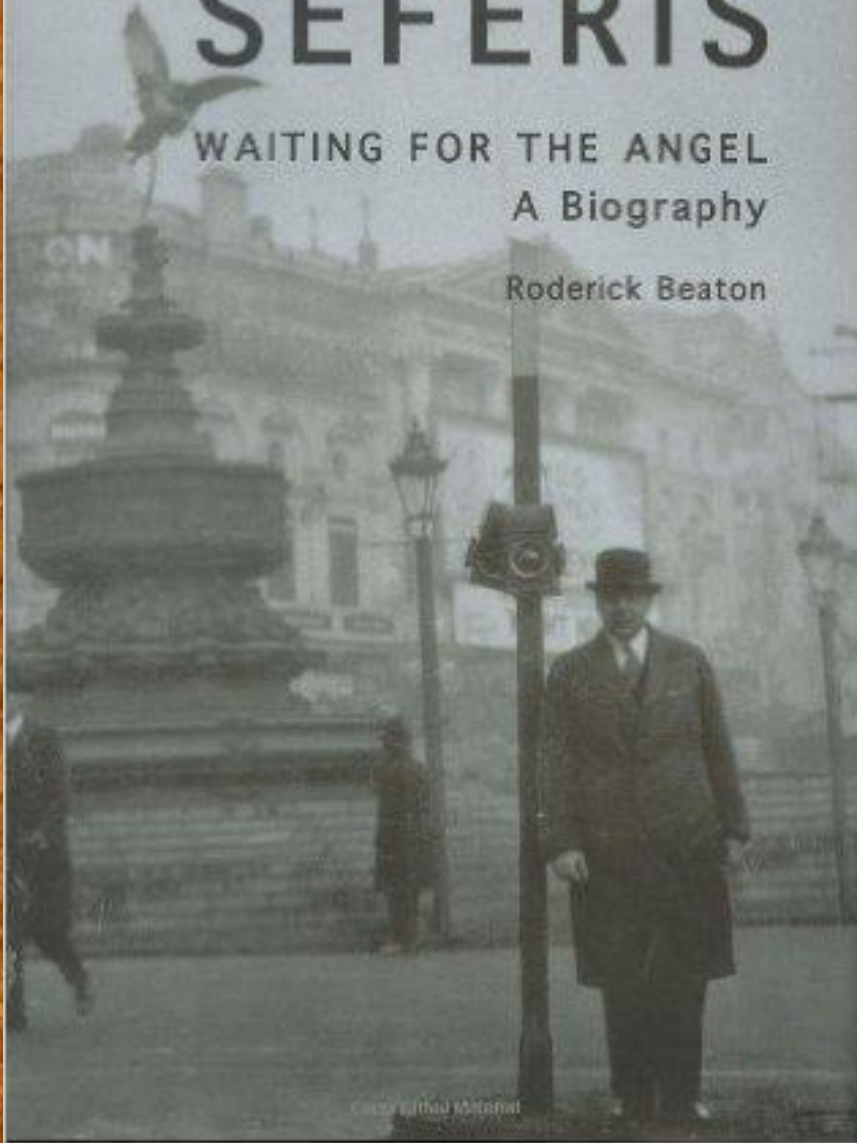
**George and his wife Maria**

Copyrighted Material

# GEORGE SEFERIS

WAITING FOR THE ANGEL  
A Biography

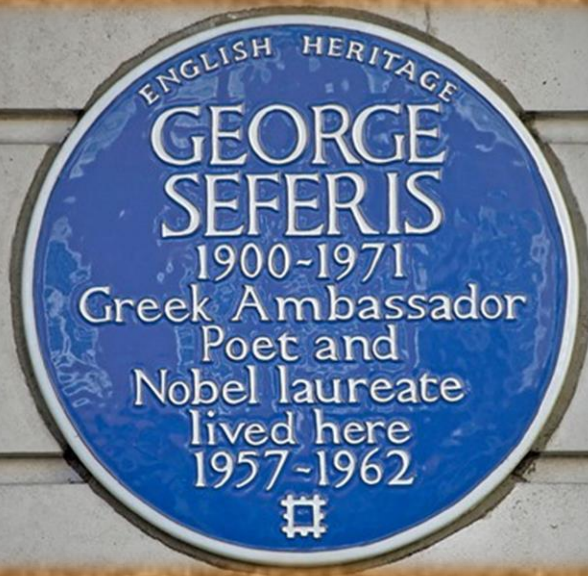
Roderick Beaton



Copyrighted Material

## George's biography

# London



51 Upper Brook Street



Sloane Avenue

# Interesting Facts

- In 1936, Seferis published a translation of T. S. Eliot's *The Waste Land*
- In 1999, there was a dispute over the naming of a street in İzmir *Yorgos Seferis Sokagi* due to continuing ill-feeling over the Greco-Turkish War in the early 1920s.
- In 2004, the band Sigmatropic released "16 Haiku & Other Stories," an album dedicated to and lyrically derived from Seferis' work.
- Vocalists included recording artists Laetitia Sadier, Alejandro Escovedo, Cat Power, and Robert Wyatt. Seferis' famous stanza from *Mythistorema* was featured in the Opening Ceremony of the 2004 Athens Olympic Games:  
*I woke with this marble head in my hands;  
It exhausts my elbows and I don't know where to put it down.  
It was falling into the dream as I was coming out of the dream.  
So our life became one and it will be very difficult for it to separate again.*
- He was buried at the First Cemetery of Athens.



*Thank you ☺*

*Now let's watch  
our video in which we  
recite Seferis' poems*