

GREEK LIBRARY

The Library accumulates books representing the intellectual activity of the Greeks, whether of the secular world or of the Church, from the period of the Italian Renaissance until the late years of Neo-Hellenic Enlightenment, that is to say the period from the outset of the fifteenth to the first decades of the nineteenth centuries. These publications are not confined to purely spiritual quests and the composition of manuals for educational purposes, nor only to issue the books necessary for the conduct of the liturgy in Orthodox churches and matters of dogma, they also comprise texts, bulls, patents and every sort of document legitimizing the privileges of Greeks active in the West and the Orient.

Greeks exercised the art of typography and were occupied in book publishing whether as authors, in literary editing, correctors as well as sponsors at a time when the capital of the empire, Constantinople, had fallen (1453). They were thus initially staffing the Italian publishing and printing centres mainly, in this way contributing to Westerners' learning of the Greek language as well as the dissemination of the editions principes of Ancient Greek writings, in the framework of the spirit of Humanism. Subsequently, already in 1499 they set up printing works under Greek ownership that continued in operation until the early decades of the nineteenth century in Venice. The orientation of their publications altered radically from the beginning of the sixteenth century when Greek printers, publishers and intellectuals set to work to support the scattered Hellenism of the diaspora, printing the books indispensable for maintaining its unity: language, the Orthodox faith and spiritual tradition.

The Library contains more than 1,400 titles, copies of which extend to about 2000 volumes, classed in five basic entities.

RENAISSANCE – HUMANISM

Ancient Greek authors, Humanist works, grammars, encyclopaedias, dictionaries, philosophical treatises and literary essays.

NEO-HELLENIC LITERATURE

Literary works, poetry and folklore, historical treatises, grammars for educational purposes, literary essays, grammar-dictionaries and every sort of school text book.

LITURGICAL BOOKS

Gospels, Books of Months (Menaia), Psalters, Books of Hours, Pentekostaria, Prayer books et al.

TREATISES OF THEOLOGY

Patristic works by Greek Church Fathers, treatises concerning the Schism between the two Churches, texts on the history of the Orthodox Church, lengthy studies regarding the Orthodox dogma and the Pope's Infallibility *et al.*

NEO-HELLENIC ENLIGHTENMENT

Original works written for the intellectual elevation of the Greek people, Greek translations of works of prose of the world and poetry and examples of the literary and linguistic dispute in the framework of European Enlightenment and the ideas arising from the French Revolution.

The total of titles in Greek classed in the Hellenic Bibliography representing publications serving the purposes mentioned above as well as the books published in Latin or other European languages dealing with the works and days of the Greeks amount to some 7.000. The majority of these books were published mainly by Greek printing houses in Venice or at printers issuing Greek books for the Greek-speaking public. Printers with similar publishing orientation were set up in Venice, Florence, Rome, Paris, Geneva, Alcalá, Kefalonia, London, Constantinople, Vienna, Leipzig, Jassy, Bucharest, Moschopolis, Buda, Pest, St. Petersburg, Moscow, Mount Athos, Smyrna, Odessa and Jerusalem.



'Etymologicum Magnum', Venice, Zacharias Kalliergis for Nikolaos Vlastos, 1499.

RENAISSANCE – HUMANISM

This section comprises representative books marking the outset of Greek printing, being the grammar manuals composed by Byzantine scholars to enable Westerners to study the Greek language, such as Emm. Chrysoloras's *Erotimata* (Ἐρωτήματα), K. Laskaris's *Grammatiki*, Th. Gazis's *Grammatiki Eisagogi* (Γραμματικὴ Εἰσαγωγή) *et al.*

The pioneers of Greek printing. Of primary significance are the achievements in publishing-printing of the pioneers of the art of printing in Greek such as Demetrios Damilas, Ianos Laskaris and Zacharias Kalliergis. Damilas was also to issue the first Greek book in Florence, the monumental edition of Homer's *Complete Works* (Ἀπαντα) (1486); Laskaris the first and unique *Anthologia* by Maximos Planoudes (1494), a book referring to the ancient tradition, printed as it was with capital letter-fount only, while Zacharias Kalliergis cut the most calligraphic set of Greek characters of greatest artistry until the mid-sixteenth century. This fount was used in the first press under Greek ownership and its first product was printed using them: the *Etymologicum Magnum* (Venice 1499).

A bibliophile king. A substantial number of books demonstrate the intellectual pursuits of the king of France François I as well as his aesthetic sensibilities: a Greek, a superior calligrapher, Angelos Vergikios, designed a Greek fount for him, christened *Grecs du Roi* (*Greeks of the King*) by the monarch himself. Using these characters, the renowned printer Robertus Stephanus printed monumental editions based on manuscripts kept in the royal library, such as Eusebius's *Ecclesiasticae Historiae* (Ἐκκλησιαστικὴ Ἱστορία, 1544) and the *Antiquitatum Romanorum* (Ῥωμαϊκὴ Ἀρχαιολογία) by Dionysius Halicarnasseus (1546).

This section of the Library contains first and unique editions from the most famous presses of the Renaissance, both in Italy and the North. Incunables by Aldus Manutius; the *Souda* dictionary (1499), the first Greek book to be printed in Rome; Pindar's *Odes* (1515) and further examples of the printer's art of Johann Amerbach and Johann Froben in Basel; of the Stephanoses in Geneva; of Guillaume Morel and Simon de Colines in Paris; Christian Wechel in Frankfurt; Elzevir in Amsterdam; Theatro Sheldoniano in Oxford *et al.*



Homer, 'Opera', editing by D. Chalkondyles, Florence, D. Damilas, 1488/89.



Marullus Tarchaniotis, 'Epigrammatum libri IV. Hymni', Florence, Societas de Colubris, 1497.



Pindar, 'Olympian, Pythian, Nemean, Isthmian Odes', Rome, Zacharias Kalliergis, 1515.



'Etymologicum Magnum', Venice, Federico Torresano, 1549.

NEO-HELLENIC LITERATURE

The books of this section were published and printed almost exclusively in Venice, as early as 1509, as a consequence of the establishment there of a substantial Greek community, mainly following upon the fall of Constantinople in 1453. The objective of this publishing activity was to preserve and maintain consciousness of Hellenism, both in the members of the Community and the dispersed nuclei of Hellenism under Venetian and Genoese occupation such as in Crete. The first place in this publishing venture was taken by the grammatical compositions by Gazis and Chrysoloras. In parallel, if not at the same time, poetical works also found means of expression in the Venetian printing houses, the characteristic of what is known as the Cretan Renaissance: works based on Greek tradition as well as the Greek-Italian element such as the *Rimada of King Alexander the Great*; the rendition of the *Iliad* in the common language by N. Loukanis; the *The Story of Tagiapiera*, the *Apokopos* by Bergadis; the *The story of Sossanis* and others. With the passage of time and the concretization of Greek books as well as the creation of a mechanism permitting their promotion in markets of the Orient through merchants, the map of publications was extended. Encyclopaedias began to be composed, bi-lingual dictionaries in Ancient and modern *koine* Greek as well as multi-lingual, practical manuals for commercial transactions as well as in more compact form for use in schools.

Greek printers in Venice. Of particular significance for Greek Literature were the editions printed by Nikolaos Glykys, Demetrios and Panos Theodosiou and Nikolaos Saros operating in Venice from the late seventeenth century to the early nineteenth, such as *The Bee* (Glykys, 1680); the *Verse narrative of the terrible war on the island of Crete* by Marinos Tzane Bounialis (Andrea Giuliano, 1681); the *Stachyologia* by Bessarion Makris (Glykys, 1686); the *Introduction to Geography* by Chrysanthos Notaras (Paris 1716).

Greek education. Editions with pride of place for advanced studies in the various schools of Italy and Greece such as the Flaggineio Frontistirio and the School of Agios Athanasios were *Hypomnema to the Organon of Aristotle* by Theophilos Korydalleas (Glykys, 1729); the Greek Grammar composed by Antonios Katiforos (Vortolis, 1734); the *The Way of Mathematics* by Kosmas Balanos (Vortolis, 1749), the *Philoligike Encyclopaedia* by Ioannis Patousas (Saros, 1710); the *Four Language Dictionary* by Georgios Konstantinou (Vortolis, 1757) *et al.*



Gerasimos Vlachos, 'Harmonia', Venice, Andreas Ioulianos, 1661.



Bergadis, 'Apokopos', Venice, Orsino Albritzi, 1667.



Markos Depharanas, 'The story of Sossanis', Venice, Orsino Albritzi, 1667.



'Chronikon of the Byzantine History', Venice, D. Theodosiou, 1767.