Incunabula treasure hunt

Challenges and rewards of research in Greek libraries

AIKATERINI LASKARIDIS FOUNDATION

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Curators of Special Collections
Historical Library
Aikaterini Laskaridis Foundation



MEI Seminar, 2 March 2021



The Aikaterini Laskaridis Foundation Incunabula Collection

- *Bibliotheca Graeca*
  (Collection of Athanasios Oikonomopoulos)
- Panagiotis Laskaridis Collection

118 editions in 124 copies

- Many Greek and Greek-centred editions
- Prominent examples of Latin, medieval and later literature

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LASKARIDIS
FOUNDATION





Ammonius Hermiae, *Commentarii in quinque voces Porphyrii*, Venice : [Zacharias Callierges] for Nicolaus Blastus, 1500

CERL

Αναζήτηση Ξεφύλλισμα Ιστορικό Σελιδοδείκτες Περισσότερα...

Athens, Aikaterini Laskaridis Foundation (GR): INC050

ISTC No.	ia00565000
Συγγραφέας	Ammonius Hermiae
Τίτλος	Commentarii in quinque voces Porphyrii [Greek]
Τοποχρονολογία έκδοσης	Venice : [Zacharias Callierges] for Nicolaus Blastus, 23 May 1500
Μορφή	f°
Γλώσσα	Αρχαία ελληνικά
GW No.	GW 1618 (+ Accurti(1930) p.123)
	Πλήρης εγγραφή ISTC
Θέμα	Φιλοσοφία - Λογική
Περίοδος	classical

Περιγραφή αντιτύπου

Ταυτότητα αντιτύπου	02014946
Φορέας	Athens, Aikaterini Laskaridis Foundation (GR)
Συλλογή	Bibliotheca Graeca
Ταξιθετικός αριθμός	INC050
Διαστάσεις φύλλων	300 × 209 mm
Χαρακτηριστικά αντιτύπου	Πλήρης
Χαρακτηριστικά αντιτύπου - Σημείωση	One of the rare editions with the header decoration and first page initial printed in gold instead of red ink.
Υλικό (βιβλίο)	Χαρτί

Προέλευση 1850 - 1900

Χρονική περίοδος	1850 - 1900
Τύπος προέλευσης	Βιβλιοδεσία
Σημείωση βιβλιοδεσίας	Nineteenth century binding in red-brown morocco, slightly worn, with scratches on the back. Gold tooled borders in interiors of the boards. Gold tooled title on spine: "Ammo| nius| in| Porph.| com.| graece |Venet.| 1500". Gilt edges.
Ημερομηνία βιβλιοδεσίας	19ος αιώνας
Τύπος βιβλιοδεσίας	Καλύμματα
Υλικό καλύμματος	Χαρτί
Υλικό επένδυσης	Δέρμα
Κατάσταση βιβλιοδεσίας	Επαναβιβλιοδετημένο
Διαστάσεις βιβλιοδεσίας	303 × 219 × 11 mm
Τίτλος	Εμπίεστος
Διακόσμηση βιβλιοδεσίας	Χρύσωμα
Ακμές	Χρυσωμένες
Επιγραφές στις ακμές	Καμία
Ανάγλυφες ακμές	Όχι
Βεβαιότητα	Η καταγραφή αυτών των στοιχείων θεωρείται βέβαιη
Πηγή	Αυτοψία βιβλίου

Όλα τα αντίτυπα

Athens, Aikaterini Laskaridis Foundation (GR): INC050

Athens, National Library (GR): ΕΦ. 2240β

Athens, National Library (GR): ΕΦ. 2240α

Athens, National Library (GR): ΕΦ. 2240

Athens, Onassis Library (GR): ΛΟΓ 168

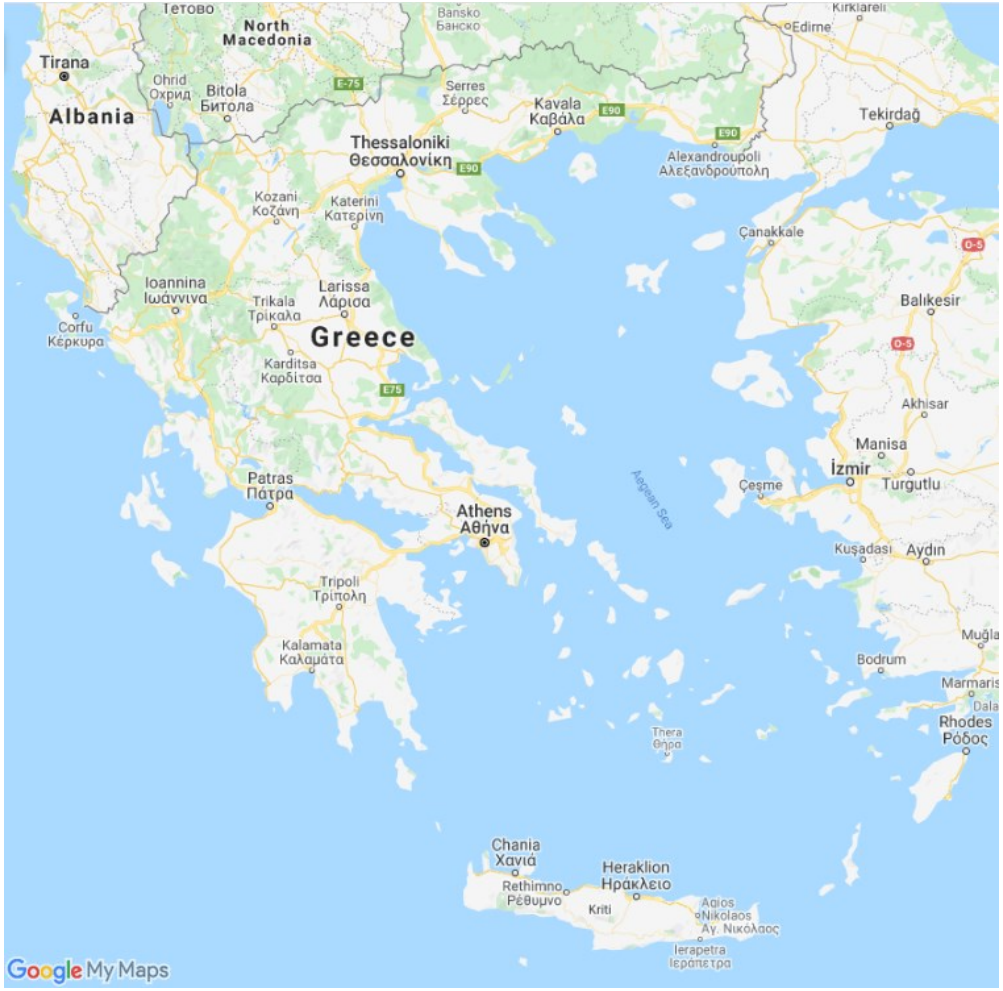
Bergamo, Archivio Storico Diocesano (IT): CAP 1071

Bergamo, Biblioteca Civica Angelo Mai (IT): Inc. 1.041.1

Bologna, Biblioteca Universitaria (IT): A.V.KK.X.9/1

Cambridge MA, Harvard Library, Houghton Library (US): Inc 5646

Cambridge, University Library (GB): Inc.2.B.3.146[1854]



Clues

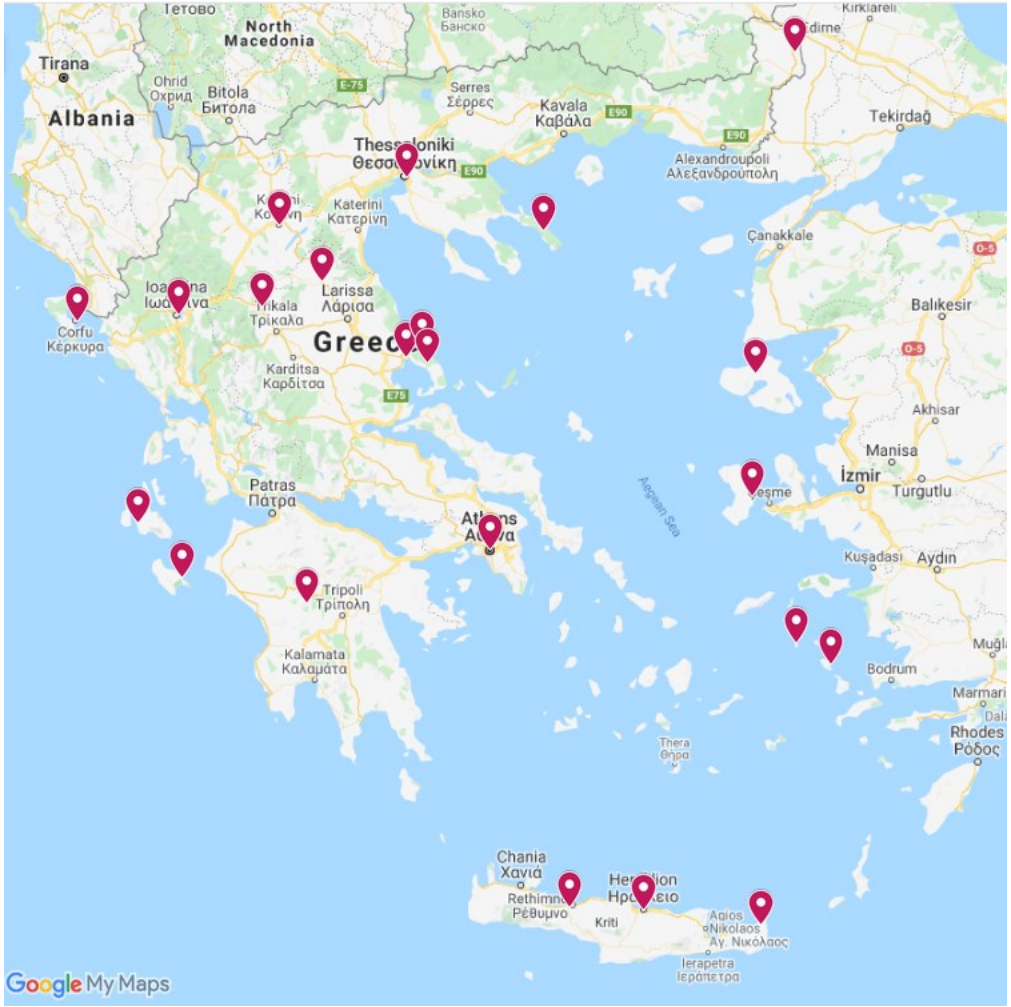
Dennis Rhodes
Incunabula in Greece: a first census (1980)

15cBOOKTRADE
Geri Della Rocca de Candal & collaborators (2016-2018)

Library catalogues

Bibliographical sources

Colleagues



22 locations

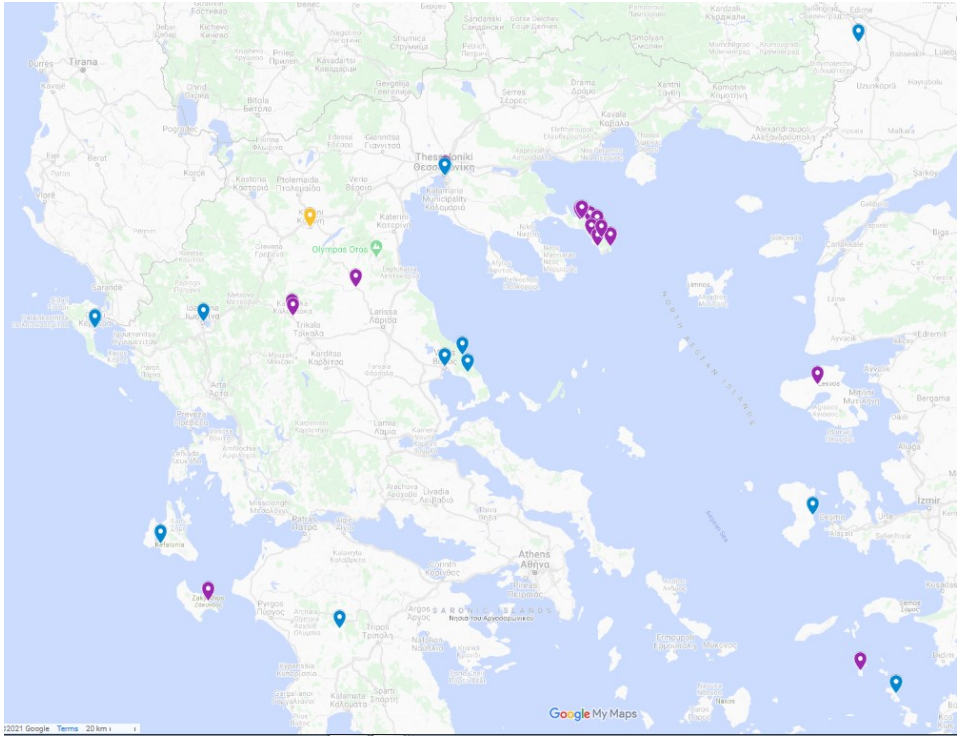
56 libraries

- 21 in Athens
- 35 in the rest of Greece

550 copies

- 443 in Athens
- 107 in the rest of Greece

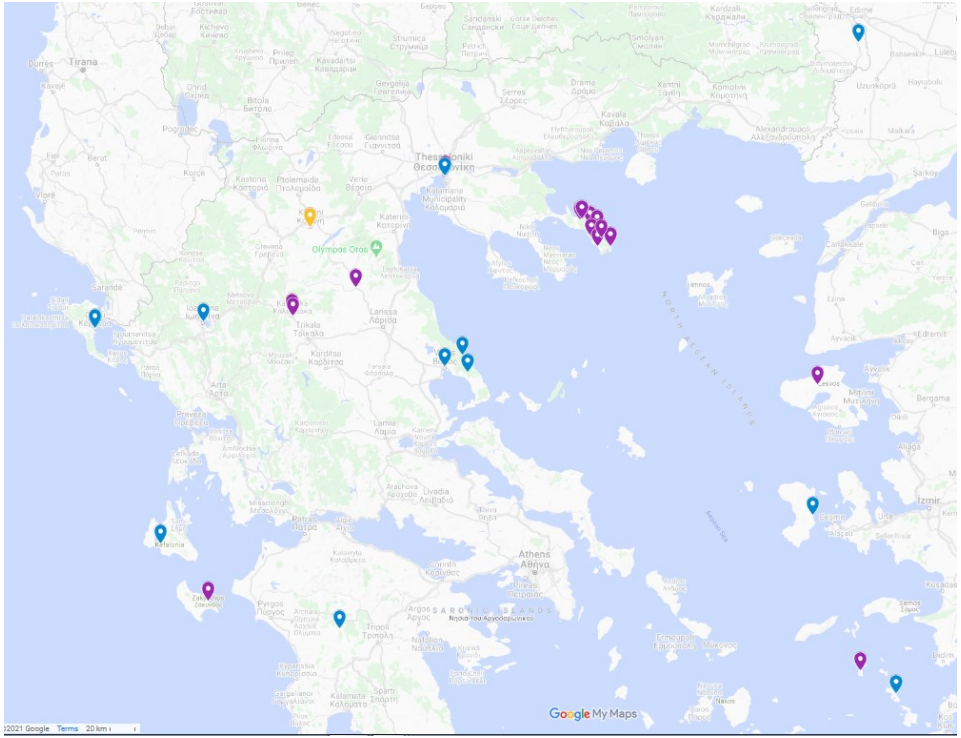
- Mostly Greek incunabula
- Non-Greek mostly in Athens





Challenges

- Scarcity and dispersion of information
- Geographic dispersion
- Conditions - Public and municipal libraries
- Accessibility - Monastic Libraries
- Travel restrictions





107 copies in **35** libraries

76 copies in monastic libraries

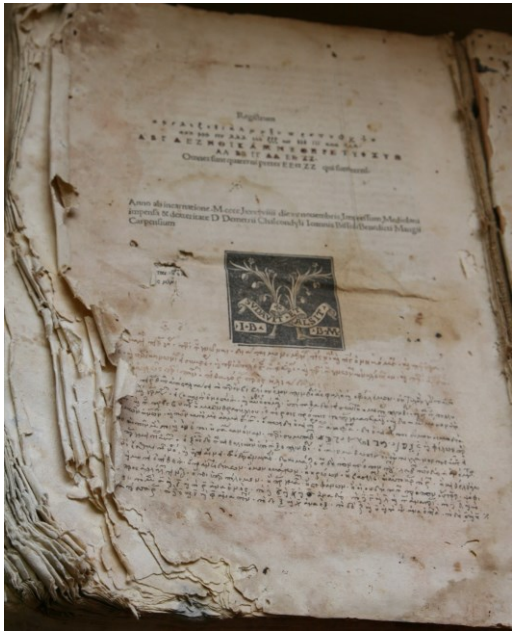
36 titles

27 Greek

4 libraries visited so far

Suidas, *Lexicon graecum*

14 copies



Milan : Johannes Bissolus and Benedictus Mangius, for Demetrius Chalcondylas, 1499

Photo: Koventareios Library copy (Kozani)

Epistolae diversorum philosophorum, oratorum, rhetorum

12 copies

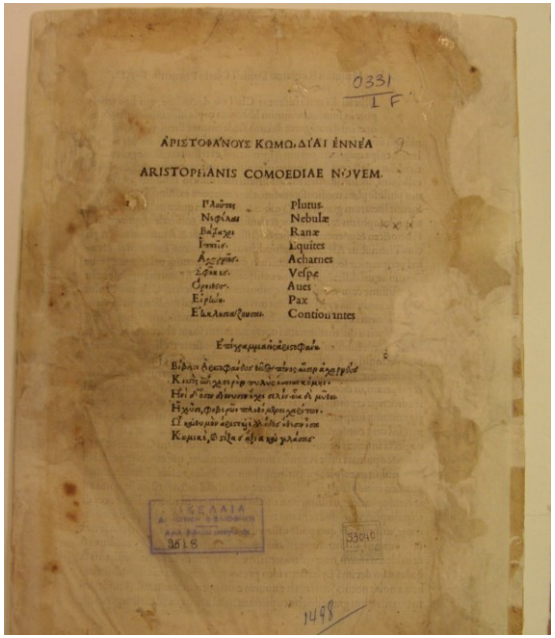


Venice : Aldus Manutius, Romanus, 1499

Photo: Koventareios Library copy (Kozani)

Aristophanes, *Comoediae novem*

12 copies



Venice : Aldus Manutius, Romanus, 1498

Photo: Vikelaia Library copy (Heraklion)

27 Greek titles

Printers of Greek

- Aldus Manutius (10)
- Zacharias Callierges (3)
- Francesco di Alopa (3)

Significant works

Homer, Aesop, Isocrates

Dictionaries, grammars

9 non-Greek titles

6 religious

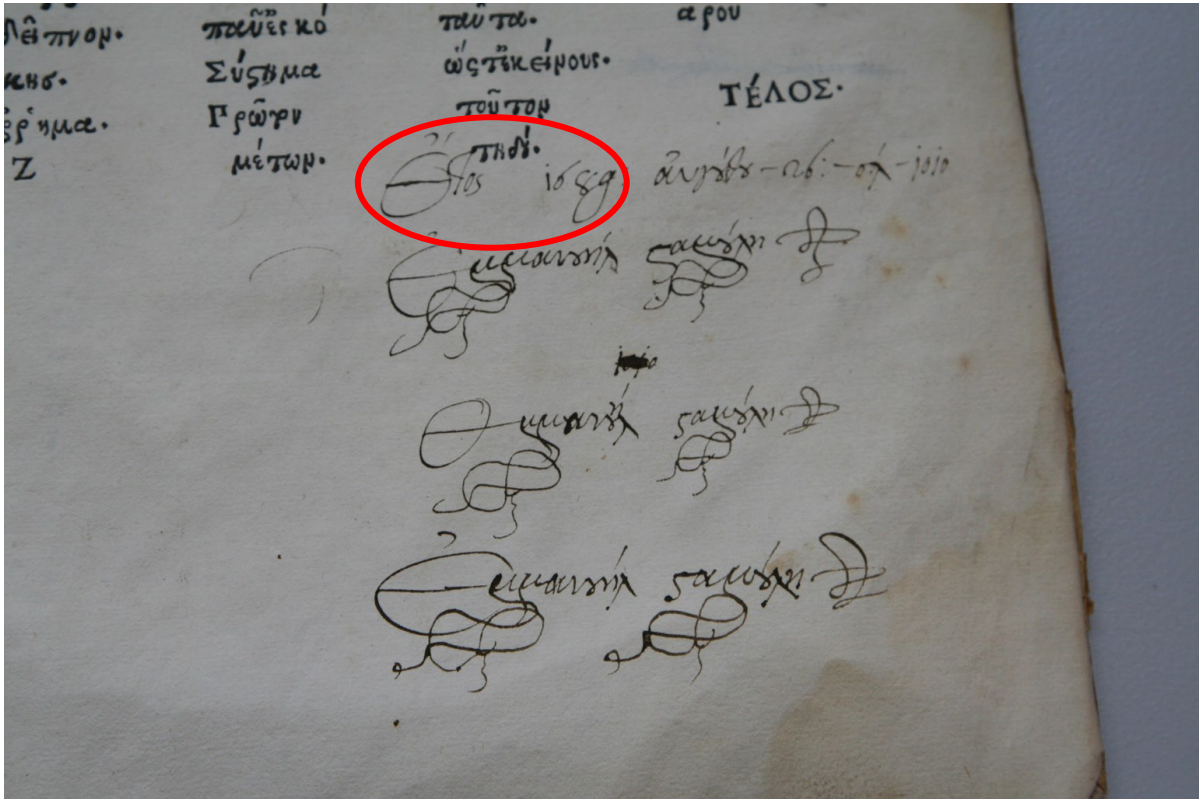
52 copies in MEI

9 from our project



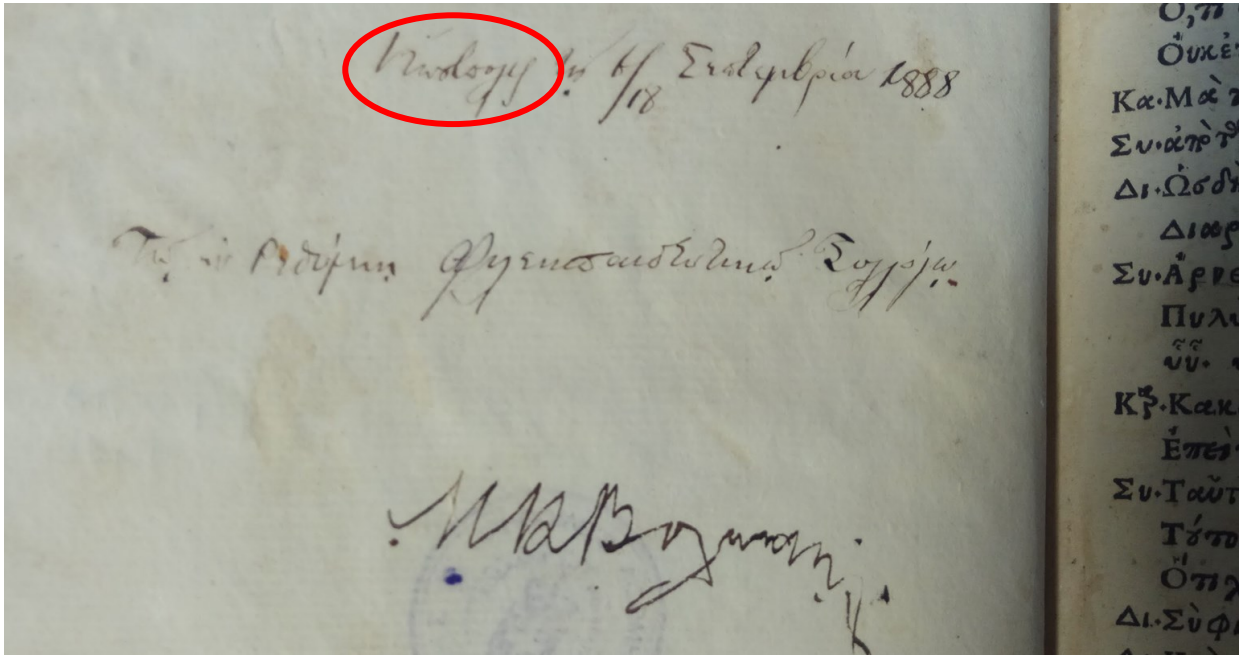
Etymologicum Magnum Graecum
Venice : Zacharias Callierges for Nicolaus Blastus and Anna Notaras, 1499

Photo: University of Crete Central Library copy



Aristophanes,
Comoediae novem,
Venice : Aldus Manutius, Romanus, 1498

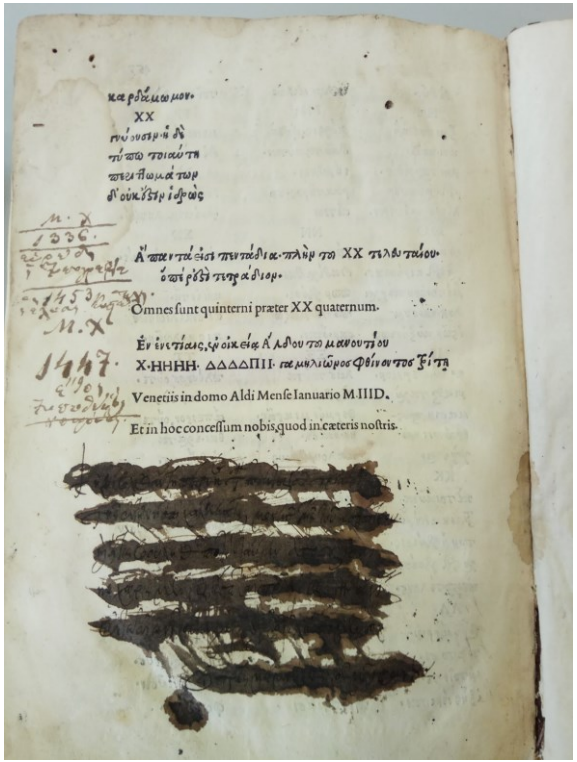
Photo: Koventareios Library copy (Kozani)



Aristophanes, *Comoediae novem*,
Venice : Aldus Manutius, Romanus, 1498

Inscription of donation on front flyleaf

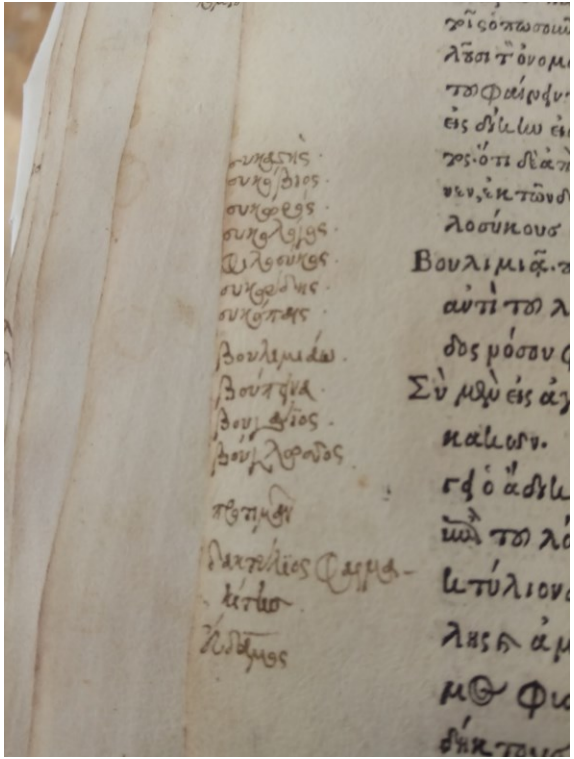
Photo: Public Central Library copy (Rethymno)



Aristoteles, *Opera*, Part III,
Venice : Aldus Manutius, Romanus, 1497

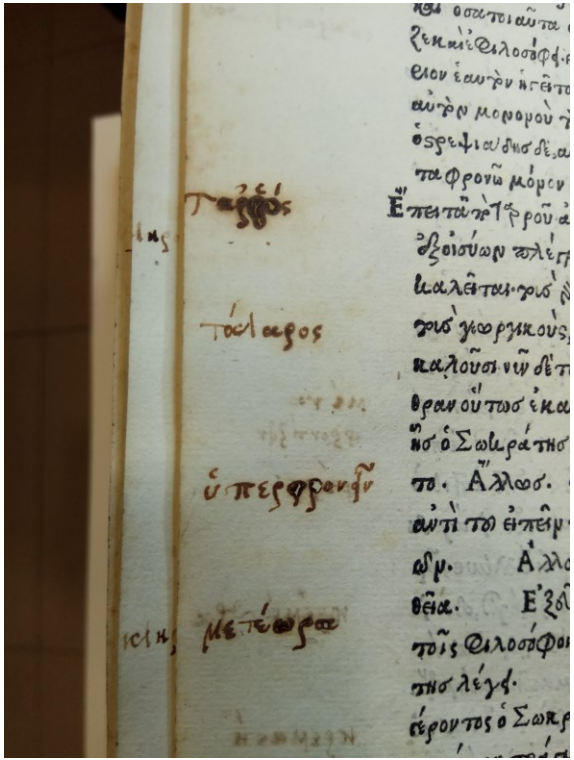
Ownership inscription / book curse of the Chalke Monastery blotted out on XX7v, below the colophon

Photo: Koventareios Library copy (Kozani)



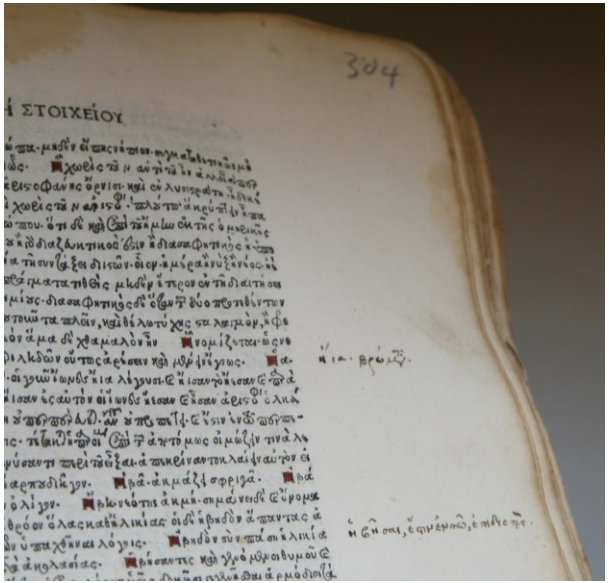
Aristophanes, *Comoediae novem*, Venice : Aldus Manutius, Romanus, 1498

Photo: Koventareios Library copy (Kozani)



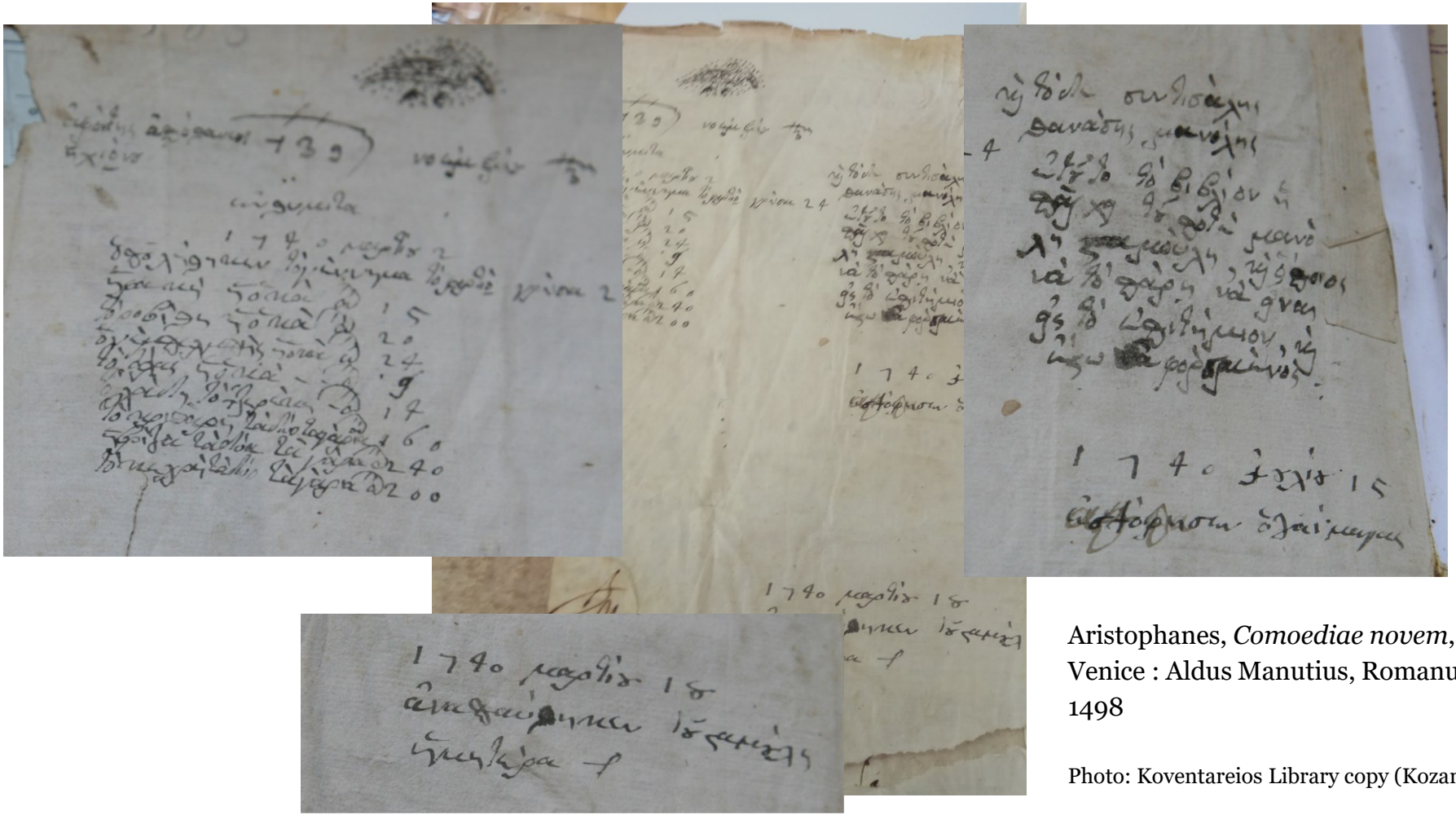
Aristophanes, *Comoediae novem*, Venice : Aldus Manutius, Romanus, 1498

Photo: Vikelaia Library copy (Heraklion)



Suidas, *Lexicon graecum*, Milan : Johannes Bissolus and Benedictus Mangius, for Demetrius Chalcondylas, 1499

Photo: Koventareios Library copy (Kozani)



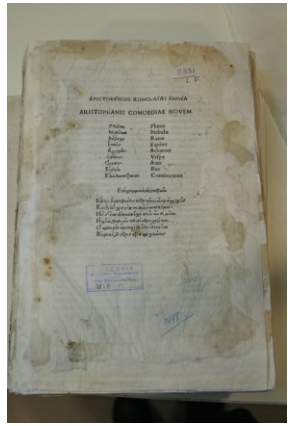
Aristophanes, *Comoediae novem*, Venice : Aldus Manutius, Romanus, 1498

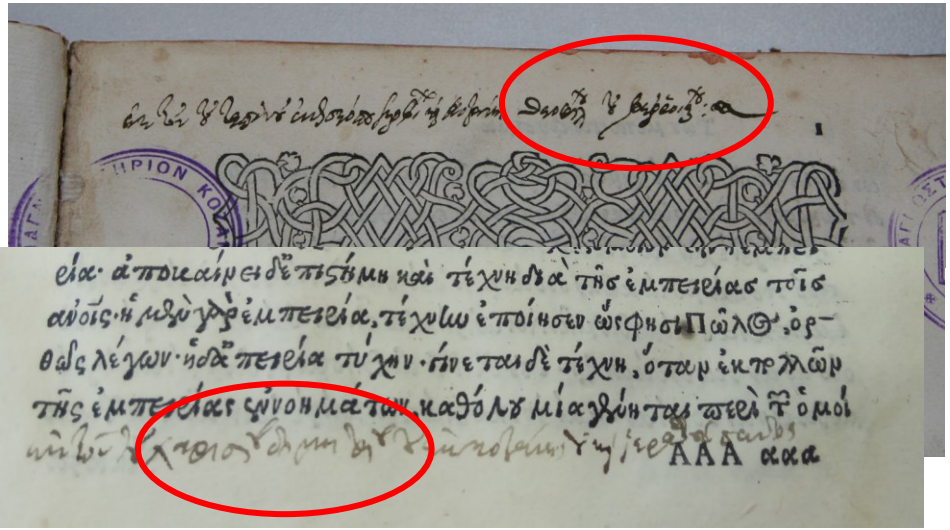
Photo: Koventareios Library copy (Kozani)



Vikelas, Demetrios

Owner Id	00027771
Type	Person
Gender	Male
Biographical dates - Period of existence	1835-1908
Other Information	Greek businessman and writer; the first President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), from 1894 to 1896. He made a bequest of his book collection to the municipality of Heraklion, and the Municipal Library was subsequently named after him (Vikelaia).
Variant Names	Vikelas, Demetrius Vikelas, Dimitrios Βικέλας, Δημήτριος
Other Identifier	https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Q297024





Theophilus of Veroia, Bishop of Servia and Kozani

Owner Id	00026744
Type	Person
Gender	Male
Biographical dates - Period of existence	-1811
Other Information	Learned scribe and bibliophile from Veroia, Greece. A deacon and later bishop of Servia and Kozani. Part of his manuscripts and printed books collection survives in the Koventarios Municipal Library of Kozani.
Variant Names	Θεόφιλος, επίσκοπος Σερβίων και Κοζάνης Θεόφιλος ο Βερροιαίος

Megdanis, Charisios

Owner Id	00026745
Type	Person
Gender	Male
Biographical dates - Period of existence	1768 - 1823
Other Information	Greek priest, doctor and author from Kozani.
Variant Names	Megdanis, Charisius Μεγδάνης, Χαρίσιος

Public Central Library of Rethymno





Vikelaia Municipal Library of Heraklion

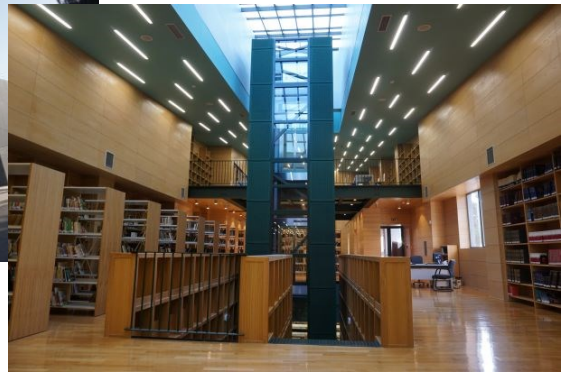












University of Crete Central Library, Rethymno

Koventareios Municipal Library of Kozani



https://incunabulagreece.laskaridisfoundation.org

Thank you!

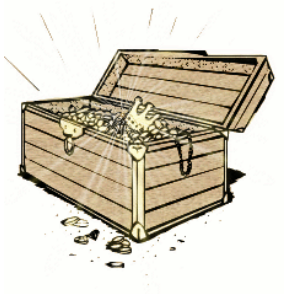


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- Koventareios Municipal Library of Kozani building: provided by the Library
- Maps: created with Google Maps
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