The modern Greek collection in the library of Congress: A survey

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The Library’s Greek collections constitute a major corpus of literature. It is probably the best Greek collection in the United States, and certainly among the two or three best collections of Hellenica in the country.

The Library’s Ancient Greek, Byzantine, and Modern Greek collections comprise well over 150,000 volumes.

This survey of Hellenica in the entire Library is the first ever conducted in the 157-year history of the Library’s Greek collections. It focuses on the Modern Greek collection which covers the history and culture of Modern Greece from the fall of Constantinople in 1453 to the 20th century. The Modern Greek collection totals about 50,000 volumes with about half of the materials in Greek and the remainder in Western languages. Accessions to the Modern Greek collection, by purchase, exchange, gift, and copyright, have risen to over 1,000 volumes per year. The Library has over 1,000 Greek periodical and serial titles, including government publications, and about 100 newspapers.

The collection includes a large number of Greek incunabula, early prints, and rarities.

The Library’s holdings include important special collections on Modern Greece: maps and charts; manuscripts; music; prints, photographs, and motion pictures; and law.

The following Library of Congress publications, both of which are out of print, list relatively recent materials on Modern Greece, in Western languages and in Greek, available in this Library: *Greece: A Selected List of References* (Washington, D. C., 1943), and *War and Postwar Greece: an Analysis Based on Greek Writings* (Washington, D. C., 1952).


The Library’s Modern Greek collection offers a comprehensive and balanced coverage of all aspects of Modern Greek history and culture.

The Greek area specialist in the Library’s Slavic and Central European Division provides specialized reference and consultant services in person, by telephone, or by correspondence.

The National Union Catalog in the Library of Congress records the holdings in Greek of the Library of Congress and other major American research libraries.
history of the library's Greek collections

The Founding Fathers of this country had a deep respect for the Greek legacy. Thomas Jefferson, third President of the United States, recognized as the founder of the Library of Congress, and one of the earliest philhellenic Americans, was an ardent admirer of Hellenism. He considered Greek as the «most beautiful of all languages» and the «finest of human languages». He read, wrote, and spoke Ancient Greek and could read Modern Greek with the aid of a few words from a modern Greek dictionary, to quote one of his letters.

His interest in Modern Greece was intense. As early as 1787, almost three and a half decades before the Greek Revolution of 1821, he wrote: «I cannot help looking forward to the re-establishment of the Greeks as a people, and the language of Homer becoming again a living language, as among possible events».

Jefferson saw in the modern Greeks the descendants of the ancient Hellenes, heirs to the traditions of Pericles, Demosthenes, and Homer. During the course of the Greek War of Independence in 1823, Jefferson wrote to Adamantios Korais, the famous Greek patriot and scholar, that whatever service Americans might render the cause of revolutionary Greece must be considered a tribute to «the splendid constellation of sages and heroes, whose blood is still flowing in your veins».

Jefferson's library, the finest personal collection in the United States, assembled by him over a period of fifty years, became the nucleus of the Library of Congress, when it was purchased by Act of Congress in 1815 to replace the original library lost in the burning of the Capitol in 1814.

An analysis by this writer of Millicent Sowerby's five-volume Catalogue of the Library of Thomas Jefferson indicates that out of 4,931 entries listed, about 300 entries are works by Ancient Greek, Byzantine, and Modern Greek authors, or books about Greece, including Modern Greece. These 300 Greek titles in Jefferson's library amount collectively to over 500 volumes. It is an established fact that the entire Jefferson library, when acquired by the Library of Congress in 1815, comprised more than six thousand volumes. Thus, every twelfth volume in the Jefferson collection was a Greek book or a book about Greece. Unfortunately, almost two-thirds of Jefferson's library was destroyed in another fire in the Capitol in 1851. There are extant today only some 2,400 volumes, less than half of the original collection of 6,000 volumes. Jefferson's Greek books had a better fate. 138 Greek works in 304 volumes, or three-fifths of Jefferson's Greek books, survive. These are original Jefferson copies. In addition, the Library has replacement copies of 74 Greek works in 119 volumes, originally in Jefferson's library. 87 Greek works in 110 volumes are no longer extant.

Jefferson's Greek books were among the most valuable materials in the Jefferson collection. Over a third of these books were published in the 16th and 17th centuries, while almost two-thirds of Jefferson's Greek collection were 18th century imprints. They covered an extraordinary range of subjects. They included all the major Ancient Greek authors, but also such varied materials as the books of Byzantine historians and of the Eastern Church Fathers, Greek dictionaries, the Bible in Greek, and several works by Modern Greeks or about Modern Greece (individual titles will be cited in the section on rare books).

What emerges from the above findings is that the Library's Greek collections are as old as the Library itself. Greek books or books about Greece constituted a significant part of the Jefferson collection, but it should be noted here that even the original Library of Congress founded in 1800, which was destroyed in 1814, contained a significant number of Greek books or books about Greece. The very first catalog of the Library, entitled Catalogue of Books, Maps, and Charts belonging to the Library of the Two Houses of Congress, issued in April, 1802, contained a total of 215 titles in 964 volumes, and 9 maps. These included works of the following Greek historians: Xenophon, Herodotos, Polybios, Thucydides, Diodorus Siculus, Dionysius of Halicarnassus as well as Leland's Demosthenes, Leland's Life of Philip of Macedon, Langhorne's Plutarch, and Gillies' History of Greece.

In general, the growth of the Library's Greek collections parallels that of the rest of the Library; that is, a slow but steady increase in the 19th century, a quickened pace at the early part of the 20th century, and a rapid growth in the post World War II era.

In the 1820's, with the Greek War of Independence raging, a wave of philhellenic enthusiasm swept over America reaching both the White House and Congress. Presidents James Monroe and John Quincy Adams in several of their annual messages to Congress, and Daniel Webster, among other legislators, in his speech of January 19, 1824, eloquently expressed America's deep sympathy for the cause of Modern Greece.

American missionaries, of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, contributed to the regeneration of the Greek nation in the 1820's and early 1830's by distributing in Greek areas, Greek bibles, grammars, and other textbooks in Modern Greek. They also prepared numerous reports on their work. One of the earliest
The Library’s strong collection of Greek government publications has been acquired mostly via exchange. The Librarian of Congress, A. R. Spofford, in his annual report for the year ending December 1, 1867 stated that the government of Greece was among the governments which have responded affirmatively to the circular proposing an exchange of government publications.

In the 20th century the exchange program was expanded to include publications of Greek institutions of higher learning and learned and scientific societies.

In 1901, Herbert Putnam, the Librarian of Congress, reported that in the field of literature the Library had 383 volumes by or relating to Homer alone. In the area of Greek History and geography (covering primarily Ancient Greece, but also Modern Greece) the Library’s collection totaled 704 volumes. This writer estimated that at the turn of the century, the Library’s Greek collections, including the Ancient Greek collection, totaled well over 10,000 volumes (of which no less than a third were books pertaining to Modern Greece). I reached this estimate as follows: I have personally examined hundreds of volumes of Hellenica, in various fields, received by the Library in the 19th century. The Library’s collections in the 19th century included the following categories of Greek materials for which no figures are given in the 1901 report: Greek language and literature, archaeology, Greek serials or serials about Greece, Greek government publications, and materials pertaining to Greece in the Library’s special collections (particularly maps, manuscripts, and law). The Library’s holdings for each one of these categories ranged from several hundred to several thousand volumes. One should also add at least 300 surviving Greek books in all fields of knowledge from the Jefferson collection, which up to the end of the 19th century was dispersed throughout the Library.

During the first four decades of the 20th century, the growth of the Greek collections continued at an accelerated pace, primarily through exchange arrangements, gifts and copyright deposits (an important means of receipt by the Library of English-language publications on Greece).

In recent years, a special effort has been made both to increase current receipts of Greek materials and to fill gaps in the Library’s retrospective holdings. Since 1965, over five thousand current and retrospective Greek books and periodical volumes have been acquired and added to the Modern Greek collection.

It should be stressed finally that the importance of the Library’s Greek collections is not merely quantitative, but also qualitative. They cover all fields of Greek thought and learning from ancient times to the present, and include the most outstanding and representative works.
Greek treasures in the Library of Congress

The Library of Congress has 44 Greek incunabula (books printed before 1501), of 86 such incunabula with definite dates listed in E. Legrand’s standard Bibliographie hellénique. I consider this the major find of the survey, since each one of these titles is a treasure. Among the Library’s incunabula is the first Greek printed book, Konstantinos Lascaris’ Epitome τοῦ οὐκ οὖν λογοῦ μερών (‘Επι­­­­­­­­­­τομή τῶν ὄκτω τῶν λόγων μερῶν’) (Milan, 1476).

The Library’s holdings of Greek early prints and rarities include over 30 titles printed in the 16th century, over 20 titles published in the 17th century, and 35 Lascaris published in the 18th century. These works were either written by modern Greeks or were concerned with modern Greece. The conclusion that emerges from the above findings is that the Library’s Greek collections are not confined to 19th and 20th century publications important as these may be. They include an outstanding collection of Greek incunabula, and a considerable number of Greek books printed in the 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries. Together these materials constitute the backbone of the Greek collections.

It should be noted that editions of ancient Greek authors considered only if edited by modern Greeks. The Library of Congress has many additional Greek editions edited by Westerners. One group of Greek incunabula in the Library consists of Greek grammars and dictionaries. Besides K. Laskaris’ Greek grammar, the first book printed entirely in Greek, cited above, this category includes: the Venice, 1495 edition of Theodorus Gaza’s Greek grammar, and Manuel Chrysoloras’ Erotemata (‘Ερωτήματα) (Florence, c. 1496), another grammar probably edited by Janus Lascaris; Suidas’ Lexicon (Milan, 1499) edited by Demetrios Chalkokondyles (Chalkondyles), and the magnificent Etymologikon Mega (‘Ετυμολογικόν Μέγα) (Venice, 1499), the largest of the existing medieval Greek dictionaries, edited by Marcus Musurus and printed by the Cretan Zacharias Callierges. Another group of Greek incunabula in the Library consists of editions principes of Greek authors, edited by Greek scholars. These include the superb edition of Homer’s works (Florence, 1488, 2 v.) edited by Demetrios Chalkokondyles; Musaeus’ Ta kath’ Hero kai Leandron (‘Πάντα καὶ Λέανδρον) (Venice, c. 1494-5) with a Latin translation by Marcus Musurus; the Anthologia Graeca (Florence, 1494) edited by Janus Lascaris; Euripides’ Medea, Hippolytos, Alcestis, Andromache (‘Μῆδα, Ἰππολύτως, Αλκεστίς, Ανδρόμαχη) (Florence, c. 1495) edited also by Janus Lascaris; Apollonius Rhodius’ Argonautica (‘Ἀργοναυτικά) (Florence, 1496) edited by Janus Lascaris; Aristophanes’ nine plays (Venice, 1498) edited by Marcus Musurus; Epistola diaphoron philosophon rhetoron sophiston (‘Επιστολὴ διαφόρων ϕιλοσόφων ρητορῶν σοφιστῶν) (Venice, 1499, 2 v.) also edited by Marcus Musurus; and Orpheus’ Argonautika (‘Ἀργοναυτικά) (Florence, 1500) generally thought to have been edited by Janus Lascaris.

In addition to the categories of grammars and dictionaries (5 titles) and editions principes (8 titles), the Library has a third major group of incunabula, consisting of 31 titles, which includes works by 15th century Greek scholars in Latin, works of ancient Greek authors in Latin edited or translated by Greek scholars, and other editions or translations by Greeks. The works in this category are too numerous to cite individually. The numbers assigned to these 31 incunabula in E. Legrand’s Bibliographie hellénique, or description raisonnée des ouvrages publiés par des Grecs aux XVe et XVIe siècles, v. 3 (Paris, 1903) are as follows (I also cite, in parentheses, the corresponding numbers in F. R. Goff’s Incunabula in American Libraries; A Third Census (New York, 1964): 1 (B-518), 3 (P-787), 4 (E-118), 10 (E-120), 15 (P-1081), 16 (V-201), 17 (A-973), 19 (A-1154), 20 (A-17), 22 (P-1083), 24 (A-960), 25 (E-118), 27 (P-1035), 28 (O-95), 29 (T-155), 30 (C-494), 32 (P-914), 34 (S-343), 37 (A-387), 38 (L-67), 41 (A-974), 46 (H-273), 47 (S-345), 48 (R-111), 49 (A-966), 51 (E-122), 52 (M-342), 53 (A-976), 54 (A-1428), 56 (E-126), and 57 (B-520).

The Library also has two undated incunabula listed as nos. 59 (A-98) and 100 (G-157) in the above works of Legrand and Goff. The first contains Maximos Planudes’ Greek version of Aesopus Vita et Fabulae (Milan, c. 1480). The second incunabulum is a work of the Greek scholar Georgius Tpezanzntius, Rhetorica (Venice, c. 1472).

Among the Library’s early prints and rarities, I identified 31 16th century titles (cited in Legrand’s Bibliographie hellénique), written, edited, or translated by Greeks who lived during that century or concerned with modern Greece.

The Greek incunabula were printed in cities of the Italian peninsula (where Greek scholars fled following the fall of Byzantium), and particularly in Venice which remained the center of Greek culture and learning throughout the period of Ottoman domination of Greece (Printing was introduced in Greece proper only at the beginning of the 19th century). In the 16th century when printing spread into other countries, Greek scholars printed their works in various parts of Europe. Thus, almost half of the titles listed below were published outside Italy, in France, Germany, Spain, Switzerland, the Netherlands and Belgium.
I shall cite first works or compilations by Greeks who lived in the 16th century. They include: Arsenios, Abp. of Monembasia, originally Aristoboulos Apostolios, ed., Gera... (Rome, c. 1519), his compilation Apophtegmata philosophon kai strategon, rhetoron te kai poieion ("Αποφθεγματα ϕιλοσοφου και στρατων, ρητου τε και ποιητων") (Rome, c. 1519), and his Scholia ton panu dokimou eis kepta tragodiais ton Eupiridou (Σχόλια τῶν πάνω δοκίμου εἰς ἑπτὰ τραγωδίας τοῦ Εὐπήρδου) (Venice, 1534); Nikolaos Sophianos' map of Greece and Nikolaus Gerbel's commentary, both published in Basel in 1545; the works of the scholar Simone Porzio (Simon Portius) born in Naples, but of Cretan origin: Se Phanuo devneta buona o cattivo volentariamente (Firenze, 1551), Trattato de colori de glocchi (Firenze, 1551), Modo di orare christianamente (Firenze, 1551), and his translation of Aristoteles' De coloribus libellus (Florence, 1548); the work of the Cypriot scholar Giasone de Nores (Iason Denores), Breve trattato del mondo (Venice, 1571).

A basic work, in Greek and Latin, on the literary and ecclesiastical history of Greece particularly in the second half of the 16th century is Martin Crusius' Turogracieca libri octo (Basel, 1584).

In the category of grammars and dictionaries, one should cite: the Ferrara, 1509 and the Strasbourg, 1516 editions of M. Chrysoloras' grammar Erotemata ("Ερωτήματα", and Robert Constantin's Lexicon graecolatinum, 2d ed. (Geneva, 1592, 2 v. in 1) authored in part by the famous 16th century Cretan philologist and critic Franciscus Portus.

Of unusual interest are: Laonikos Chalkokondyles' History in Corpus historiae byzantineae (Frankfurt am Main, 1568); and the philosophical work of the physician and monk Meletius De natura structurae hominis opus (Venice, 1552) as translated by the Corfiote Nicolaus Petreius.

The Library has the following editions principes of Greek authors: Euripides, Tragodiae heptakadêka ("Τραγῳδίαι ἑπτακάδηκα") (Venice, 1503); Pausanias (Venice, 1516) edited by Marcus Musurus, and the extremely rare work of the Byzantine philosopher and historian Michael Psellus Syntaxma euyynerton eis tas tessarás mathematikas epistemes ("Σύνταγμα εὐγνώμων εἰς τὰς τέσσερις μαθηματικὰς ἐπιστήμες,") Arithmetikê, Mousikê, Geometriân, kai Astronomion ("Ἀριθμητικὴ, Μουσική, Γεωμετρία καὶ Ἀστρονομία")... (Venice, 1532) edited by Arsenios, Abp. of Monembasia.

The Library has the following 16th century editions and translations of Greek authors as numbered in Legrand's 4-volume Bibliographie hellenique... XVe et XVIe siècles (Paris, 1885-1906): v. 1, no. 55; v. 2, nos. 223, 224; v. 3, nos. 121, 255, 310, 409; v. 4, nos. 540, 545, 554, 567, 793, and 838.

During the course of this survey I found in the Library's Greek collections approximately 50 17th and 18th century titles by Greeks or about Greece. Library of Congress holdings of Hellenica for this period are significant, of great research value and extremely rare.

Seventeenth century Greek books include the following dictionaries: Aemilius Portus, Lexikon Dorikon Hellenorthomanikon (Λεξικόν Δορικὸν Ἑλληνορθομανικόν) (Frankfurt, 1603), and his Lexikon Ionikon Hellenorthomanikon (Λεξικόν Ιωνικὸν Ἑλληνορθομανικόν) (Frankfurt, 1603); Simone Porzio (Simon Portius), Lexikon Latiniikon, Rhomaiikon kai Hellenikon (Λεξικόν Λατινικόν, Ρωμαϊκόν καὶ Ἑλλήνικόν)... (Paris, 1635-36/2 v. in 1); Ch. Du Fresne Du Cange, Glossarium ad scriptores mediæ et infimæ Graecitatis (Lyons, 1688, 2 v.); J. van Meurs, Glossarion Graeco-barbarum (Leiden, 1614).

A second category of materials in the Library's holdings consists of original works by Greeks who flourished in the 17th century. They include: the work of Archbishop of Ikonion Ioannes M. Karyphylles, entitled Antirresis pros Nelion ton Thesalonikês peri tes arches tou Papa ("Ἀντίρρησις πρὸς Νέλιον τοῦ Θεσαλονίκης περὶ τῆς αρχῆς τοῦ Πάπα") (Paris, 1626); four works by the prolific Roman Catholic, but Greek, theologian and scholar of the 17th century Leon Allatios (Leone Allacci), De erróribus magnorum vitorum in dicendo (Rome, 1635, Greek text: p. 188-200), De templis Graecorum recentioribus... (Cologne, 1645). De ecclesiae occidentalis atque orientalis perpetua consensione, libri tres (Cologne, 1648), and his Drammaturgia di Leone Allacci, divisa in sette indici (Rome, 1666; the Library also has several of his works published in the 18th century); Andreas Marmoras (Andrea Marmora), Dellâ historia di Corfu... libri otto... (Venice, 1672); Joseph Georgesirenes, Abp. of Samos, A description of the present state of Samos, Nicolas, Patmos, and Mount Athos (London, 1678). Unusual items include: a libretto by the Greek scholar Apostolos Zenos (born in Venice of Cretan parents), entitled Eumene: drama per musica (Venice, 1697; the Library also has five librettos by Ze­nos published in the 18th century); and an account in verse, in Greek and Italian, about the game of football (known as «Harpaston» in Ancient Gree­ce) by the Chiot scholar Georgios Koresios, in Me­morie del calcio fiorentino (Firenze, 1688, see p. 49-63, 75-76). An interesting 17th century title by a Westerner is: Richard Simon’s Histoire critique de la creance & des coutumes des nations du Levant (Frankfurt, 1684) and its English version, The Cri· tic history of the belief and customs of the Eastern Nations (London, 1685), both of which are in the
the modern Greek collection in the Library of Congress

Library; chapter 1 deals with «the Belief and Customs of the Modern Greeks» and the book contains excerpts from the manuscript writings of the 17th century Cretan churchman and scholar Meletios Syrigos.

Seventeenth century editions of Greek writers, mostly Byzantine and Post-Byzantine, include: Historiae byzantinae scriptores tres graeco-latini... (Coloniae Allobrogum, 1615) [Works of the Byzantine historians Nicephorus Gregoras, Laonikos Chalkokondyles, and Georgius Acropolita]; Proclus Diaidochus, Eius ten Platonos theologian biblia hex (Eis tis Platonos theologias biblia eis) (Hamburg, 1618), edited by Aemilius Portus; the first edition of the famous secret history by the Byzantine historian Procopius, of Caesarea, entitled Anekdota (Ανέκδοτα). Arcana historia (Lyons, 1623), discovered and edited by the Greek scholar Nikolaos Alamanos (Niccolò Alemanni); Laonikos Chalkokondyles, and Georgius Acropolita]; Proemium... in the custody of the Rare Book Division.

On the other hand, many rare Greek books or books about Greece of the 16th, 17th, and 18th century. These include: the following works by Euphranor, editor of Thomas Jefferson and has the Library of Congress bookplate, nos. 74, 86, 168, 170, 180, 408, 413, 451, 478, 484, 489, 790, 995, and 1195.

A few general comments on the treatment and location of Greek rare books in the Library are in order: Most of the Greek incunabula are not listed in the Library’s general card catalogs, but I was able to locate them by checking F. R. Goff’s Incunabula in American Libraries; A Third Census (New York, 1964). The Library’s Greek incunabula are in the custody of the Rare Book Division.

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centuries are not in the Rare Book Division, but in the Library’s General collections.

modern Greek history

The Library of Congress has a magnificent collection of over 30,000 volumes illustrating Greek history and civilization from ancient times to our own. About 10,000 volumes deal with the history of modern Greece from the fall of Byzantium to the present. The modern section is particularly strong in published accounts of travellers who visited Greece and the Near East from the 15th century onwards, general works as well as source and documentary materials on the Greek War of Independence, 1821-1829, the rule of Kapodistrias, 1827-1831, the life and reign of King Otho I, 1833-1862 and King George I, 1863-1913. The Library has an outstanding collection of works, particularly in Western languages, on the history of Greece in the 20th century, with particularly rich materials on the Greek statesman Eleutherios Venizelos, and the controversy between him and King Constantine I over the policy to be followed by Greece during World War I; the interwar period of the Republic, 1924-1935; the rule of General Ioannes Metaxas, 1936-1941; the epic struggle of Greece against the Axis powers in 1940-1941, and her trials and tribulations during the occupation and the communist insurrection in the immediate post-World War II era.

America’s increasing interest in Greece, following the enunciation of the Truman Doctrine in 1947, is reflected in the Library’s excellent collections of materials on Greek contemporary history and politics from the 1950’s to the present: to illustrate the wealth of this material, I mention that the Library has over forty monographic titles, in various European languages, analyzing the genesis, development, and policies of the present Greek government.

Greeks have had an attachment to their special place of birth. In the 19th century and especially in the 20th century, research in local and regional Greek history has been assiduously pursued by the Greeks. The Library has thus a rich collection of monographs and Greek scholarly journals dealing with the history of Greek regions and localities, such as the Ionian Islands, Crete, the Cyclades, Peloponnese, Sterea Hellas, Thrace, Macedonia and Epeiros, and their subdivisions.

Recent acquisitions in the field of modern Greek history include complete sets of all series published by the Society for Macedonian Studies in Salonika, including over one hundred publications of the Institute for Balkan Studies; the latest historical publications of the Academy of Athens; the series Bibliothek Genikon Archeion tou Krataou (Biblioth-

The Library’s modern Greek law collection is one of the best in the United States. It numbers approximately 2,500 volumes and has expanded at the rate of 50-100 items per year. About 95% of the material is in Greek and the remainder in Western languages. It includes numerous editions of Greek constitutions and codes, collections of laws and statutes, court decision reports, over 600 treatises, including many multi-volume works, by leading Greek law scholars, on all branches of the law, and an excellent collection of Greek legal periodicals and serials.

The collection is particularly strong in legal publications issued during the last fifty years; however, it also contains many important and rare 19th century imprints. The following are representative examples: The Law Library has all four codes prepared by King Otho’s legal adviser Georg Maurer, and published in Greek and in German: Poikikos nomos tou Vasileiou tes Hellados (Ποινικός νόμος του Βασιλείου της Ελλάδος) (Nauplion, 1834), Poineik dikkonomia (Ποινική δικονομία) (Nauplion, 1834), Politike dikkonomia (Πολιτική δικονομία) (Nauplion, 1834), Organismos ton dikasterion kai symvolaiographon (Οργανισμός των δικαστηρίων και συμβολαγράφων) (Nauplion, 1834). Its holdings also include the basic collection of Greek constitutions, laws, and other official acts from 1821 through the end of 1832, compiled and edited by Andreas Z. Mamoukas, Ta kata ton anagennesin tes Hellados (Τὰ κατὰ τὴν αναγέννησιν τῆς Ελλάδος) (Piraeus, 1839-52).

The Library’s Greek law treatises cover all fields of the law, constitutional and administrative law, criminal law and criminal procedure, civil law, before and after the coming into force of the civil code of 1940, civil procedure, commercial law, private international law, public international law, ecclesiastical law, labor law, and legal theory. All important modern Greek legal scholars are representi-
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The Library has rich materials on modern Greek government and politics. Its collection of official Greek government documents and publications, amounting to several thousand volumes, is unique in this country. It includes a complete set of the first Greek government gazette, Εφημερίς τον εμπορικό δικαίου (Greek "Ephemeris τον εμπορικό δικαίου") (October 7, 1825-March 23, 1832) and an almost complete set of the present government gazette Ephemeris τον εμπορικός και κανονικός δικαίου (Greek "Ephemeris τον εμπορικός και κανονικός δικαίου") (1930-1973). The Library has an imposing collection of over 45,000 volumes on Greek philology and language, and Greek literature. Works are grouped under Classical, Medieval, and Modern section, with the classical and modern materials being the richest and most comprehensive.

Some of the early Greek grammars and dictionaries and first editions of Greek authors have been

Greek language and literature

The Library has an imposing collection of over 45,000 volumes on Greek philology and language, and Greek literature. Works are grouped under Classical, Medieval, and Modern section, with the classical and modern materials being the richest and most comprehensive.

For students of Greek politics and contemporary Greek history the Library offers an extensive collection of Greek newspapers. Only a selected number of titles can be cited here. The Library has long runs of the following newspapers: Akropolis ("Ακρόπολις"), Eleutheria ("Ελευθερία"), Ethnos ("Εθνός"), He-stia ("Ηστία"), Kathemerine ("Καθημερινή"), Le Messager d'ATHÉNES, To Vema ("Το Βήμα"), H Vradyne ("Η Βραδυνή"), Hellenikos Vorras ("Ελληνικός Βορράς"), and Makedonia ("Μακεδονία"). The Library's holdings for Greek newspaper titles usually start with the early or middle 1940's, although the Library also has substantial sets (with some years missing) of Akropolis ("Ακρόπολις") for the first two decades of the 20th century, and of Le Messager d'ATHÉNES for the 1920's and 1930's. In addition, the Library receives the following Greek newspapers which have started publication in recent years: Eleutheros Kosmos ("Ελευθέρος Κόσμος"), Nea Politia ("Νέα Πολιτεία"), and Tu Semerina ("Το Σημερινά").
cited in the section on rare books. The Modern Greek language section includes several hundred important Greek grammars and dictionaries published in the 19th and 20th centuries as well as many works on the language question in Greece, and on Greek dialects.

Modern Greece is the creation of its literary men and poets. Greece’s ancient scribes sowed the seed of philhellenism in Europe and America; but it was the poetry of Rhetas Phereias in the late 18th century and of Dionysios Solomos in the early 19th century as well as Adamantios Korais’ commentaries to the classic Greek authors illustrating to the modern Greeks their glorious past, that inspired the Greeks in their War of Independence of the 1820’s.

The Library’s collection on modern Greek literature—individual works, anthologies, translations into English and other European languages, literary history and criticism—is comprehensive and strong. Some of the works of Greek writers who flourished between 1453 and the end of the 18th century, mostly outside of Greece, were mentioned in the section on Greek treasures in the Library. The Library has several recent editions of 17th century Cretan literature and almost all the standard collections of Greek folk literature which reached its height of development during the period of Ottoman occupation, and particularly in the 17th and 18th centuries.

The Library’s collections include the works of all major Greek writers of the 19th and 20th centuries. The various literary forms, tendencies, and schools are well represented in the Library: Solomos and Kalvos, the Phanariots and the Athenian School, Greek romanticism, the Heptanesian School, Palamas and the generation of 1880, prose at the end of the 19th century, Kavaphes, Sikelianos, Kazantzakes and poetry until 1930, George Seferis and the generation of 1930, and the post-World War II writers.

In recent years the Library has made systematic efforts to strengthen its holdings of modern Greek literature; recent acquisitions in this field include the collected works of various modern Greek authors issued by the «Hetaireia Hellenikon Ekdoseon», over 150 publications of the important Greek publishing company «Ikaros», complete sets of the Greek Cypriot literary periodicals Κυπριακά γράμματα (Κυπριακά γράμματα) (1934-1956, 21 volumes) and Φιλολογική Κύριος (Φιλολογική Κύριος) (1960-1967/68+), and a long run of the general periodical Κυπριακή Σφωτότης (Κυπριακή Σφωτότης) (v. 7-33, 1943-1969) which contains significant contributions on Greek Cypriot literature, history, and culture.

A special relationship between Greece and the United States has existed ever since the founding of the American Republic. The spirit of '76 was, at least in part, the spirit of Greece. During the period that preceded the American War of Independence, at the Continental Congress of 1776, and at the Constitutional Convention in 1789, as well as in the Federalist Papers, the writings of the Ancient Greeks and the lessons of ancient Greek history guide and inspire Americans. The large proportion of Greek books in Jefferson’s library as well as Jefferson's papers reveal the influence of Greek thought on one of the giants of early American history. With the establishment of the modern Greek state in the early part of the 19th century, Greek-American relations enter an era of friendship and cooperation which has lasted to this day.

The collections of the Library’s Manuscript Division which relate principally to American history and civilization, constitute, thus, an extensive store of information for the study of relations between America and Greece in the last 200 years. I shall attempt to illustrate the variety of this material and its importance for Greek-American studies, by citing some of the collections and papers bearing upon Greece, in the custody of the Library’s Manuscript Division.

The Thomas Jefferson papers contain the famous Jefferson-Koraes correspondence (consisting of four letters from Koraes to Jefferson and one letter from Jefferson to Koraes). In 1823, Adamantios Koraes, the renowned Hellenist and patriot, wrote to his friend Thomas Jefferson (whom he had met in Paris in the 1780’s) for guidance in drawing up the most desirable constitution for liberated Greece. Jefferson responded with a long letter «on the subject of national government», pointing out, inter alia, that the limited geographical boundaries of independent Greece made it imperative that, unlike the United States, she adopts a centralized government with wide executive authority equipped to cope with the warring powers of Europe.

The papers of President Martin Van Buren include a 250-page autograph draft of his Second Annual Message to Congress of December 3, 1838. A copy of the first Greek-American treaty (which is in the custody of the National Archives), the Treaty of Commerce and Navigation between the United States and the King of Greece, concluded in 1837, the ratifications of which had been recently exchanged, accompanied Van Buren’s Second Annual Message, «for the information of Congress and for such legislative enactments as may be found necessary or expedient».
An unusual 19th century item, found in the Gandais collection, is a letter in French, dated June 4/16 1842, by Othon, King of Greece, in reply to a letter from Augustin Gandais of Paris, sending him a copy of his translation of Jared Sparks’ work on Gouverneur Morris and calling his attention to the writings of the American statesman Gouverneur Morris on the French Revolution and Morris’ support of the Monarchy as the only possible government in France. King Othon expresses his admiration for the prescience and impartiality of G. Morris in analyzing the causes and foreseeing the consequences of the French Revolution, thereby becoming a critic of a people, misled by inapplicable theories, and making vain efforts to establish in France a form of government, so little adapted to its customs, habits, and natural vivacity.

Other 19th century collections of interest to students of Greek-American affairs are: the papers of the financier Nicholas Biddle (1786-1844), whose journal (located in the Historical Society of Pennsylvania) and letters contain the earliest surviving account of extensive travel in Greece by an American: he journeyed to Greece in 1806; and the papers of Daniel Webster who played a leading role in the Philhellenic movement in the United States during the Greek War of Independence (some of Webster’s papers are to be found in the New Hampshire Historical Society and Dartmouth College).

Twentieth century manuscript collections in the Library of Congress, pertinent to Greece, include the following: the Woodrow Wilson papers, with numerous documents on Greece for the period from 1913 to 1920; the papers of Robert Lansing, Wilson’s Secretary of State from June 23, 1915 to February 12, 1920, and in particular the 1919 papers on Greek claims in Eastern Thrace; the papers of Charles Evans Hughes, who was Secretary of State from 1921 to 1925 (the Library does not have the papers of President Warren G. Harding); the papers of Mark L. Bristol, U.S. High Commissioner to Turkey (1919-1927), and particularly the documents on the Greeks in Asia Minor; the papers of Henry Morgenthau, Sr., Vice Chairman of Near East Relief, Inc. from 1919 to 1921 and Chairman of the Greek Refugee Settlement Commission in 1923, describing his achievement in expediting the transfer of almost 1,500,000 Greek refugees from Asia Minor and Eastern Thrace to Greece; the papers of Arthur Sweetser, League of Nations and United Nations official; the papers of President Calvin Coolidge which contain several documents on Greece for the period 1923 to 1929; and the papers of Cordell Hull, Secretary of State from March 4, 1933, to November 30, 1944, with many memoranda on Greece for the twelve-year period, 1933-1944.

Two unusual collections should be cited: The papers of Overseas Writers, containing some 600 items, correspondence and documents, pertaining to the investigation of the murder of foreign correspondent George Polk, in Salonika, Greece, in May, 1948; and the collection of Captured German documents in the Library of Congress, some of which deal with Greece in the interwar and World War II periods.

maps and atlases

The Library’s Geography and Map Division has an outstanding cartographic collection on Greece. It includes a map which is seemingly the earliest extant map of Greece, exclusive of those in Ptolemy’s Geographia (Γεωγραφία). Prior to 1543, Nikolaos Sophianos, a Greek man of letters, born in Corfu about the beginning of the 16th century, published a map of Greece entitled Hellados perigraphe ("Ελλάδος Περιγραφή) (Description of Greece). There are no known copies of the original map. In 1545, Iohannis Oporinus issued at Basel, an edition of the Sophianios map, accompanied by a table, prepared by Sophianios, giving ancient and corresponding modern names for places on the map, as well as a descriptive commentary in Latin by Nikolaus Gerbel. There existed prior to Sophianios’ work no separate map of Greece. The Sophianos map was copied or used as the source for maps of Greece by cartographers for the succeeding two centuries. This Sophianos-Gerbel work was donated to the Library in 1958 as part of the Melville Eastham presentation which was then described as «the most noteworthy gift of rarities ever received by the Map Divisions».

Greek materials are found in each of the three principal segments of the map collection, and include approximately 2,000 single-sheet maps, some 100 multi-sheet map series, and about 200 nautical charts. The first category contains rare maps of mainland Greece and the Greek islands published in the 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries, modern maps of the entire country as well as maps of Greek regions and provinces, the Greek islands, and Greek cities, thematic, or subject, maps relating to agriculture, climate, forests, geology, history, housing, mines and minerals, population, public works, soil, telecommunications, water supply and waterways, to cite only a few of the subjects covered.

Following the formation of the modern Greek state in the 19th century, and particularly in the early part of the 20th century, official map surveys of Greece were undertaken. This official mapmaking activity is reflected in the Library’s multi-sheet map collection. These sheets of large—and medium—
scale official sets provide full or partial coverage of the Greek mainland and islands (Crete, Dodecanese, etc.). LC holding include series executed by the Greek Army Geographical Service, the U.S. Army Map Service, the German Army General Staff (during World War II) and the Geographical Section of the British General Staff (also during World War II). Most of these declassified series date from World War II or earlier periods.

The nautical or hydrographic charts embrace all major Greek harbors (Piraeus, Salonika, Patras, etc.), Greek coastal charts, charts of Greek gulfs, bays, straits, and canals. In addition to charts prepared by the Greek Hydrographic Service, the Library has a complete set of British Admiralty charts, many of which cover Greek coasts and harbors.

The Library also has a significant collection of modern Greek atlases, such as the two-volume Atlas of municipalities, and communities of Greece (Athens, 1951), the Industrial atlas of Greece (Athens, 1966), the Kayser-Thompson Economic and Social Atlas of Greece (Athens, 1964).

An excellent Greek atlas, prepared under the direction of the well-known Greek architect Konstantinos Doxiades, is entitled The Sacrifices of Greece in the Second World War (Athens, 1946).

An interesting 19th century item is an atlas entitled A Trigonometrical Survey of the Island of Cyprus (London, 1885), executed under the direction of the Captain, but later British field marshal and statesman, Horatio Herbert Kitchener.

prints, photographs, and motion pictures

The collection of fine prints in the Library’s Prints and Photographs Division includes several works by Greek artists who worked with distinction abroad. Demetrios Galanis, an important painter and engraver who lived in Paris, is represented by a mezzotint still life. George Constant is a significant American artist of Greek origin; the Library has six of his works, including his drypoint Portrait of John Sloan. An unusual item is a lithograph by Nicholas Panus depicting George Washington Carver, the Black American chemurgist and agricultural experimenter.

The monasteries of Meteora and the temples of Greece are the subjects of a collection of 27 lithographs and 11 etchings by Joseph Pennell, the American etcher, lithographer, illustrator, and writer.

The Library’s holdings include also an extensive collection of modern Greek posters published over a period of four decades, from the 1930’s to the 1960’s, and reflecting the work of such well known Greek artists as Spyros Vassileiou and Professor Ioannes Morales among others.

Among the Library’s numerous photographic collections dealing entirely or in part with Greece, the following are of special interest: the Holland collection of Views of Greece, 1919-21, by Leicester B. Holland, former Chief of the Fine Arts Division in the Library; the Riggs collection, geographical and art-historical in character, with a large section on Greece; and the Carpenter collection of photographs concerning human geography, with a strong Greek representation.

The Library’s rich portrait collection includes pictures of Greeks prominent in various fields of human endeavor from ancient times to the present.

A unique category of materials in the Library’s Prints and Photographs Division is its collection of stereographs; that is, pictures composed of two superposed stereoscopic images prepared so as to give a three-dimensional effect when viewed with a stereoscope. The Library has about 600 stereographs on Greece; they were produced mostly at the turn of the century and they are characterized by a striking photographic detail. They depict a wide range of subjects, such as public buildings, archaeological sites, churches and monasteries, and scenes in Athens and various other localities and areas of Greece.

Greeks have been prominent in the art of cinematography, in its various aspects, during the last thirty years, particularly in the United States. Their achievements can be studied in the Library’s Motion Picture Section. Spyros P. Skouras excelled as motion picture executive; he was president of Twentieth Century-Fox Film Corporation from 1942 to 1962, and its board chairman from 1962 until his retirement in 1968. The Library has a fairly high percentage of motion pictures released by that company while Skouras was its guiding light.

Elia Kazan won two Academy Awards for best direction of the feature films Gentleman’s Agreement (1947) and On the Waterfront (1954) both of which are in the Library’s collections along with over a dozen other films directed by him. In America, America (1964) written, produced, and directed by Elia Kazan, from his novel of the same title, he deals with the theme of emigration, so crucial for Greeks.

The Greek actress Katina Paxinou won an Academy Award for best performance by a supporting actress, in For Whom the Bell Tolls (1943), while the Greek-American actor George Chakiris was awarded an «Oscar» for best performance by a supporting actor, in West Side Story (1961). John Cassavetes is another important Greek-American actor and director.

Other feature films in the Library’s motion pic-
The modern Greek collection in the Library of Congress

The Library’s Music Division has a rich collection of the works of modern Greek composers, ranging from those of the 19th century Ionian school to the post-World War II Greek avant-garde school.

The first important representative of the Ionian school, Nikolaos Mantzaros, set to music Solomos’ Hymnos eis ten eleutherian (’Ευροο ἔις τὴν Ἐλευθε­ρίαν), which was adopted in 1861 as the Greek national anthem. The Library also has music scores by the Corfiote composers Napoleon Lambelet and Georges Lambelet.

Among early 20th century Greek composers, the Library has works by Manoles Kalomoirises, the founder of the so-called national schools, George Sklavos, including a hologram score of his symphonic poem entitled Aigle, Marioy Varvogles, Aimilios Riades, Dem. Levidi, Petros Petridis, Giorgos Poneridhis, and Antiochos Evangelatos.

Greek composers of the post-World War II era are particularly well represented. A student of Arnold Schoenberg, Nikos Skalkotas, now recognized as one of the important composers of our century, whose imposing work did not become known until after his death in 1949, is represented by over two dozen of his major works, including photographs of holograph scores of several of his Greek dances. The Library also has works by other Greek modernists, such as Anestis Logothetis, Theodor Antoniou, and Iannis Xenakis, including a hologram score of his composition Akrata, commissioned by the Serge Koussevitzky Music Foundation in the Library of Congress.

The Music Division’s holdings on Greece include a noteworthy rarity: a group of 12 letters by Dimitri Mitropoulos to Arnold Schoenberg.

The Music Division has a varied collection of modern Greek popular music. There are hundreds of Greek songs in the sheet music collection. In this category the compositions of Manos Hadjidakis and Mikis Theodorakis stand out (both of whom, however, are also known for their serious music).

The Music Division holds a wealth of modern Greek folk music, which flourished during the period of the Ottoman occupation of Greece (second half of the 15th century-early part of the 19th century), but also on modern times.

The Archive of Folk Song has many recordings (tapes and discs) of Greek folk music. Its best field collection on Greece, is that of the late Professor James A. Notopoulos. It includes 645 songs recorded in 1952-53 by Notopoulos on field trips to Greece and Cyprus. They fall into the following classification: 149 traditional heroic oral poems (Akritan, Klephtika (Κλέφτικα), etc.); 63 songs and short epic poems on events of the Second World War; 433 non-heroic folk songs, dances, instrumental music, folktales, Byzantine church music. In addition, this collection contains tape recording of 393 songs from the Folklore Archives of the Academy of Athens and 15 recordings from the Archives of the Radio Station of Athens. Thus, the Notopoulos Collection totalling about 1,000 songs constitutes a definitive collection.

The Archive of Folk Song houses voluminous manuscript material by the Federal Writers’ Project, WPA, in the fields of folklore and ethnic studies. Some of it covers the Greek communities in the various states and deserves to be studied by those interested in Greek-American folklore specifically, but also in the social history of the Greeks in the United States in general.

Most of the musical and non-musical recordings pertaining to modern Greece in any way (recordings by Greek composers or performed by Greek artists or dealing with Greece) that have been published in the United States over the past 25 years, are included in the collections of the Recorded Sound Section. To illustrate the wealth of this material, I note that this Section has 200 to 300 commercial recordings of Mitropoulos conducting various orchestras, to which should be added many more non-commercial broadcast recordings of Mitropoulos conducting the New York Philharmonic Orchestra, the Metropolitan Opera, and the Boston Symphony Orchestra.