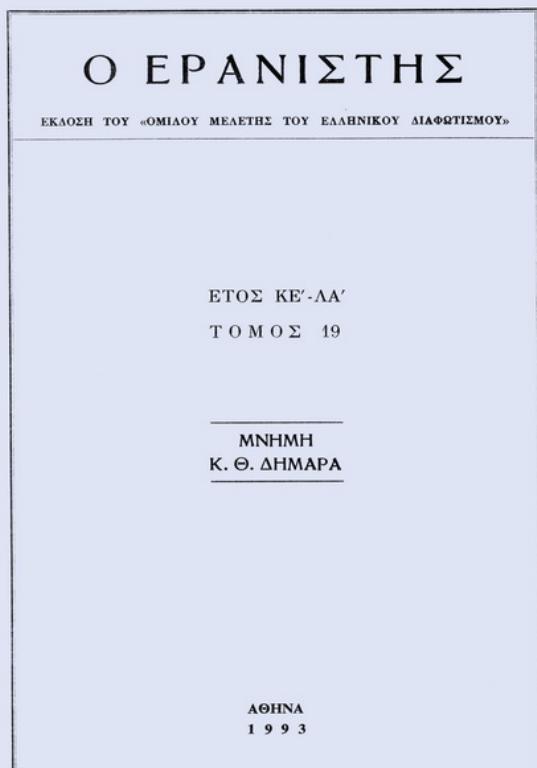


The Gleaner

Vol 19 (1993)

In Memoriam of C. Th. Dimaras



An unpublished letter of Korais

D. Koster

doi: [10.12681/er.266](https://doi.org/10.12681/er.266)

To cite this article:

Koster, D. (1993). An unpublished letter of Korais. *The Gleaner*, 19, 206–209. <https://doi.org/10.12681/er.266>

AN UNPUBLISHED LETTER OF KORAIS

IN SEARCH OF RELEVANT material for an exhibition of letters and documents related to the Balkans and Greece one particular item attracted my attention. In the catalogue of the Diederichs collection¹ in the University Library of Amsterdam I came upon a letter attributed to one K. M. Koimas.² Being shown the original I was surprised to notice that the letter proved to be an autograph of Adamantios Korais. I came to this conclusion by comparing the handwriting with other letters and because Koimas stated categorically that the letter was an “idiograph” of Korais. Meanwhile it had become clear to me that and why the collector and librarians had wrongly attributed the letter to Koimas. They had mistaken the ypsilon for an iota. The unknown Koimas was in fact the well-known scholar Koumas.³

On February 22nd, 1823 the letter was forwarded by Korais to the “Frères Ralli, negocians Grecs” in Vienna. From Korais using the singular in his letter I conclude he was probably addressing Theodoros Rallis.⁴ This unpublished letter is all about the subscription of Korais planned editions of Plutarch’s “Ethics” and “Politics”.⁵

1. H. M. Diederichs was a 19th century liberal newspaper owner and a passionate collector. After his death his son donated the collection to the Municipality of Amsterdam in 1878. Later it was transferred to the library of Amsterdam University.

2. Under nr. 136 Al at the Handschriftenafdeling van de Zaal Kostbare Werken in the Library of the University of Amsterdam.

3. It is unknown when and how Koumas got possession of the Korais letter.

4. As far as I know from the published correspondence Korais wrote his first letter to Th. Rallis on December 9th, 1820 and his second on February 20th, 1821. See *Ἀληλογραφία*, ed. O.M.E.Δ., v. 4, 1817-1822, Athens 1982, nr. 883 ριλ 890.

5. Korais separated from the “Ethics” five chapters which were purely political.

He urged Rallis and the other members of the Greek community in Vienna to put their names on the subscription list. He pointed out that two Russian officials in Paris had already ordered 40 and 20 copies respectively.⁶ Furthermore he requested Rallis to make 200 or 300 reprints of the announcement of this forthcoming publications and "sow them all over Germany". If the printing could not be done in Vienna, the Leipzig printers would do as an alternative.

In the letter under discussion he also stated that he had recently sent the same announcement to Pantoleon Vlastos,⁷ also in Vienna and Pantaleimon Maurogordatos⁸ in Triest. At the very same day he wrote a reminder about the same subject to Jacobus Rotas.⁹ From both letters we may deduce that he felt miserable, mentally and physically, because of the events in Greece, particularly those at Chios and by the stupendous amount of work related to his publications.¹⁰

¹[Θεόδωρος Ράλλης]

22 Φεβρ. 1823

²Φίλε συμπατριώτα,

³Πατρίδος, τῆς δοπίας αἱ ἀποσδόκητοι συμφοραὶ ἐφαρμάκευσαν τὰς τελευταίας ἡμέρας τῆς ζωῆς μον. Ἐδῶ κλεισμέν[ην] βλέπεις προνήρουξιν, τὴν δοπίαν ἐπενόησαν οἱ δύο μον φίλοι, δι μεταφραστῆς καὶ δι τυπογράφος, ἐλπίζοντες ἀπ' αὐτήν μικρῶν παρηγορί[α]ς¹¹ δι' ὅσους τῶν συμπατριωτῶν ἐστέρησεν ή σκληρὰ τύχη ὅχι μόνον τὴν πατρίδα, ἀλλὰ καὶ αὐτὰ τὰ πρός ζωὴν ἀναγκαῖα.

⁴Πρὸς διλύγον ἡμερῶν τὴν ἔστειλα καὶ αὐτοῦ πρὸς τὸν Βι(αστὸν) καὶ εἰς

6. The Russian officials were Prince Labadoff and Count Orloff. See *Αλληλογραφία*, v. 5, 1823-1826, Athens 1983, nr. 968.

7. Korais wrote many letters to members of the Vlastos family, who originated from Chios like himself. In this case it was certainly Pantoleon Vlastos.

8. I deduced this surname and Christian name from other letters in the *Αλληλογραφία*. In the published correspondence letters to Maurogordatos are absent.

9. The learned merchant with whom Korais corresponded frequently. See *Αλληλογραφία*, ... nr. 968.

10. The phrase Πολλῶν λόγων ἐγγαστρωμένος εἶμαι refers most probably to the dialogue Περὶ τῶν ἐλληνικῶν συμφερόντων printed as a preface in the publication of Plutarch's "Politics".

Τεργέστην πρὸς τὸν Π. Μανδογ(οοδάτον). Τώρα τὴν κοινοποιῶ εἰς ὅλους σας, διὰ⁷ ἡνὶ φροντίσετε πρῶτον νὰ πέμψετε πρὸς τὸν τυπογράφον τὰ ὄνόματά σας καθεῖς κἄν δι' ἐν σῶμα τῶν Ἡθικ(ῶν) καὶ ἐν τῶν Πολιτ(ικῶν). Ἐπειδὴ μέλλον⁸ νὰ τυπωθῶσι τὰ ὄνόματα τῶν συνδρομητῶν, ἄποτον εἶναι νὰ μὴ φανᾶσι τὰ ἴδια σας. Ἐδῶ συνάγονται καθημέριαν ὑπογραφαί. Διὰ 40 σώ⁹ματα ἐπλήρωσεν ἥδη ἔνας ἀπὸ τοὺς ἐπισήμους ἐδῶ ενδικομένους Ρώσονς, καὶ ἄλλος διὰ 20. Λεύτερον νὰ τὴν κοινοποιή¹⁰σετε καὶ πρὸς τοὺς ἀλλογενεῖς φίλους σας. Τοῦτο διὰ νὰ γενῇ γρήγορα, ἐσύμφερε νὰ τυπώσετε ἀπαράλλακτα 200 ἢ 300 παρόμοια,¹¹ νὰ τὰ σπείρετε εἰς ὅλην τὴν Γεωμανίαν. Ἀν αὐτοῦ δὲν συγχωρῆται ὁ τύπος, εἴκολον εἶναι νὰ βαλθῇ τὸνομα τῆς Λειψίας, ἢ καὶ νὰ τυπω¹²θῶσιν εἰς αὐτὴν τὴν Λειψίαν.

22 Oct 1987

Φίλη συμπαθία

436 Al

Παρόλος τούτοις είναι απόρρητα συγγραφέας εργασίας της τελείωτης ομορφιάς της Σούτης που - Εδώ γιατρεύεται η πραγματικότητα - ταύτισε την ανθρώπινη σύνη που πάσια, η μεταγενετική παν-ελληνική προσπορεία από την οποία το έργο της ανθρωπότητας στην Ελλάδα λέγεται να γένεση της πολιτιστικής, ιδεολογικής και καλλιτεχνικής ανάπτυξης της Ελλάδας.

¶ Els darrers anys s'han produït moltes crítiques i debats sobre la seva utilitat i els resultats. Tots s'han fet així com els que s'han fet sobre els altres tipus d'informació. Els darrers anys s'han fet moltes crítiques i debats sobre la seva utilitat i els resultats. Tots s'han fet així com els que s'han fet sobre els altres tipus d'informació.

Изображение со Корана

K. M. Koeper.

6

R. M. Koimay

^{nas}
Koinds

$$1132 - 1.4 \overline{0}$$

3 6 00
J. B.
54

$$\frac{e_0 + e}{e_0 + e_1}$$

Facsimile of Korai's letter-

|¹³Πολλῶν λόγων ἐγγαστρωμένος εἶμαι, ἀλλ' ἡ ἀδυτραμία μον δὲν μὲ συγχωρεῖν τὰ τοὺς γεννήσω. Τὸ ἔλαιον τοῦ λύχνου τῆς ζωῆς¹⁴μον ἐφύρασε καὶ ἄλλο νέον τὰ χύσω εἰς αὐτὸν δὲν ἔχω. Εἴθε ἡ ζωή σου τὰ ἥραι καὶ μακρὰ καὶ εὐτυχία! Εἰς τὰς πο(οσταγάς). ὁ Κ.

|9 In front of ζωῆς deleted ο. || 10 In front of 300 deleted 2.

In the handwriting of K. M. Koumas: Ιδιόγραφον τοῦ Κοραῆ, K. M. Κούμας.

In other handwriting: K. M. Koimas.

On the frontside the addressees: "Messieurs, Messieurs Frères Ralli, négocians Grecs, à Vienne en Autriche", different calculations and different stamps of the French postal service.

D. KOSTER