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Early modern Greek printed books in the library of the British School at Athens

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EARLY MODERN GREEK PRINTED BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY OF THE BRITISH SCHOOL AT ATHENS

Some forty years ago the historian and journalist William Miller pointed out the considerable resources for the study of the history of modern Greece available in the library of the British School at Athens¹. Most of this material originally formed part of the library of the Scottish philhellene and historian George Finlay, and has been in the possession of the British School since 1899. Miller's article provides an excellent survey of the available material, with an appendix listing Finlay's remarkable collection of early Greek newspapers, but as was to be expected in a survey of this sort he did not go into any great detail in discussing Finlay's remarkable collection of early Greek printed books and pamphlets². Recent years, however, have witnessed a growing interest in the bibliographical history of Greece during the crucial two decades before the outbreak of the Revolution in 1821, during the Revolutionary period itself, and during the early years of the independent Greek state. Fundamental to bibliographical studies of this period is Ghinis and Mexas' monumental 'Ελληνική Βιβλιογραφία 1800-1863. Several lists of additions to this work have been published in the «'Ο Έραμιστής» in the short time since it began publication³. While some of the British School's holdings in the period 1860-1863 are listed in Ghinis-Mexas, under the indication ΑΑΣ, by no means all its holdings are noted, and the purpose of this article is to give a fuller picture of the School's library and to list a small number

1. W. Miller, *The Finlay Library*, The Annual of the British School at Athens, XXVI, 1923-25, pp. 44-66. Cf. also the same author's *George Finlay as a Journalist* and *The Journals of Finlay and Jarvis*, English Historical Review, XXXIX, 1924,

pp. 552-567 and XLI, 1926, pp. 514-525.

2. W. Miller, *The Finlay Library*, pp. 48-49.

3. See 'Ο Έραμιστής, I, 1963, 51-55, 243-265, II, 1964, 127-134, 247-253, III, 1965, 12-26, 110-124, 199-214, 249-270, IV, 1966, 171-190.

of works which do not seem to have been recorded to date. Such an account as this must be highly selective, but may perhaps give a better idea of the richness of the library's holdings.

The basis of the Finlay library, in which most but not all of the works were originally in Finlay's possession, is a very rich collection of Levantine travels, together with many of the sources Finlay utilised for his pioneer historical researches. Also included are a number of bibliographical treasures such as a complete copy of the very rare *editio princeps* of Pausanias, edited by Markos Mousouros, and published by Aldus in Venice in 1516¹. But our concern here is with modern Greek printed books. Relatively few modern Greek books printed in the pre-Revolutionary period, that is before Finlay's arrival in Greece, are to be found in the library. Worth noting, however, are a fine copy of Korais' translation of the Italian jurist Beccaria's *Dei delitti e delle pene*, *Περὶ ἀμαρτημάτων καὶ ποινῶν, πολιτικῶς θεωρουμένων...* (Paris, 1802); the two volumes of the *Συλλογῆς τῶν ἐν ἐπιτομῇ τοῖς πάλαι γεωγραφηθέντων ...* (Vienna 1807-8); a fine set of Korais edition of Strabo's geographical works (*Στράβωνος γεωγραφικῶν βιβλία ἑπτακαίδεκα...* (4 vols., Paris 1815-19); the 1816 Vienna edition of Molière's *L'Avare*, 'Ο Φιλάργυρος, translated by Konstantinos Oikonomos, and in excellent condition, a set of four of Panayiotis Kodrikas' pamphlets, *Observations sur l'opinion de quelques hellénistes touchant le Grec moderne* (Paris An XII (1803)), *Mémoire explicatif sur un passage ancien conservé par Hygin...* (Paris 1812), *Remarques politiques sur la cause des Grecs* (Paris 1822), and *Lettre Messénienne sur l'intervention des puissances alliées dans les affaires de la Grèce* (Paris 1824)².

It is, however, in the collection of works printed in towns such as Mesolonghi, Nafplion and Aigina during the Greek War of Independence that the Finlay collection excels. These works were among the first to be printed on Greek soil, and are consequently for the most part extremely rare. The library unfortunately does not appear to contain any hitherto unrecorded im-

1. Venetiis in aedibus Aldi, et Andreae soceri mense iulio. M.D. XVI.

2. The library of the British School contains two copies of this last work.

prints of the revolutionary period, but it does contain several items whose existence is recorded in only one or two other copies, while it is noteworthy that they are almost all in excellent condition having remained in the same collection from within a very short time of publication. The earliest of these Greek imprints of the revolutionary period in the library appears to be the tract written by Lord Byron's doctor, Francesco Bruno, *Cenni sui mezzi piu atti a mantenere sani i Soldati in Campagna ed in Guernigione...* Περί τῶν μέσων τῶν προσφουεστέρων εἰς τὴν διατήρησιν τῆς υγείας τῶν στρατιωτῶν, κατὰ τὰ στρατόπεδα καὶ τὰς φρουράς... printed in Mesolonghi in 1824.¹ Another very rare Mesolonghi imprint of the same period is Athanasios Polyzoidis' *Θεωρία γενικὴ περὶ τῶν διαφόρων διοικητικῶν συστημάτων...* (1825), printed at the same press as Bruno's tract, that of Dimitrios Mestheneos. Also from the same press is a good copy of the rather less rare edition by G. Grasseti of Solomos' *Ὕμνος εἰς τὴν ἐλευθερίαν... Inno alla liberta...* (1825). Rather later we find a copy of the extremely rare pamphlet *Ἑπτὰ πληγαὶ σῆτ (sic) Ἑλλάδος. Εἰς ἑπτὰ διαλόγους δίχως Ρῶ* written by S(pyridon) B(alettas) and printed in 1827, with no indication of the place of publication. Pencilled on the title page of the British School copy, however, is the manuscript note, *ἐτυπώθη ἐν Ναυπλίῳ ὑπὸ Ἑμμ. Ἀντωνιάδου*. This is a plausible place of publication and printer, although I know of no other examples from the press of Emmanuel Antoniadis at Nafplion from so early a date. Antoniadis was certainly printing in Nafplion by 1830, among his output being the periodical *Ἡ Ἥως, P.S. Omiridis' Συνοπτικὴ ἱστορία τῶν τριῶν ναυτικῶν νήσων Ὑδρας Πετσῶν καὶ Ψαρῶν...* (1831),² and the Greek translation of M.A. Lagrange's *Ἀριθμητικὴ στοιχειώδης ἐπηυξήμενη μὲ προβλήματα...* (1834). By 1835 Antoniadis seems to have moved his press to Athens, for it was at his press there that M. Chourmouzis' play *Ὁ λεπρέντης* was printed in 1835.³ Whether or not

1. Cf. W. Miller, *The Finlay Library*, p. 48.

2. Of which a copy exists in the British School.

3. Ghinis-Mexas note the British School's copy of this work

(no. 2537), and also its copy of the *Ὁ ὑπάλληλος* published in Athens a year later in 1836 (no. 2694). They did not note the School's copy of the same author's *Ὁ τυχοδιώκτης* published in Athens in 1835. These

this note gives us the correct place of publication and printer, it should be noted that this copy of the rather crudely printed 'Ἐπτὰ πληγαὶ τῆς Ἑλλάδος is in excellent condition, certainly better preserved than what is apparently the only other known copy, that now in the Gennadeion. The work is of great historical interest, and Miller himself took note of this curious dialogue of 1827 on the «The Seven Plagues of Greece»: «The Hodjabashis», the «Wallachian Dukes» (the Roumanian Phanariotes), «the flatterers», «the mania for titles», «the guineas», «the ambitions», and the «still chained press».¹ Two examples of Aigina imprints, both dated 1828, will perhaps suffice to round off our sketch of the library's holdings in this important field of Greek printing of the revolutionary era. These are an excellent copy of Georgios Athanasiou's *Περὶ ὀφελείας καὶ ἐκτάσεως τῶν πολιτικῶν ἐπιστημῶν...* and a copy of the rare edition of Georgios Serouios' *Τῆ σепτῆ σκιᾶ τοῦ μεγαλωνύμου καὶ μεγαλοδόξου Μεσσολογγίου*.

With the gaining of Greek independence and the consequent need for the setting up of the machinery of government after the troubled years of the war of independence, the activities of Greek printers of course proliferated. It is not possible here to give more than a brief sketch, indicating some of the highlights of the material available in the library for the political, social and cultural history of the first two or three decades of the newly independent Greek state. Not included in Miller's list of the library's holdings of early Greek newspapers are five numbers of the very interesting weekly periodical, 'Ἡ Ἡώς. Σύγγραμμα περιοδικὸν ἐκδομένον ἄπαξ τῆς ἐβδομάδος, whose existence was apparently very brief.² The library's copies are numbered No. 9, 23 August 1830 to No. 14, 27 September 1830 and, curiously, their pages are numbered continuously from 1 to 48. Among the more outstanding examples of the library's holdings during this period are fine copies of Antonios Miaoulis' *Συνοπτικὴ ἱστορία τῶν ὑπὲρ τῆς ἐλευθερίας τῆς ἀναγεννηθείσης Ἑλλάδος γενομένων ναυμαχιῶν διὰ τῶν*

three examples of Chourmouzis' work, p. 49.

bound together in one volume, are noteworthy for their particularly fine condition.

1. W. Miller, *The Finlay Library*,

2. Cf. D.S. Ghinis, *Κατάλογος ἑλληνικῶν ἐφημερίδων καὶ περιοδικῶν 1811-1863*, 2nd ed. 1967, p. 9 no. 228.

πλοίων τῶν τριῶν νήσων Ὑδρας, Πετσῶν καὶ Ψαρῶν..... printed at the press of Constantine Tombras of Kydonies in Nafplion in 1833,¹ and the same author's Ὑπόμνημα περὶ τῆς νήσου Ὑδρας. Ἀπὸ τὸν καιρὸν καθ' ὃν ἐκατοικήθη ἕως περὶ τὰ 1821 (Munich 1834). The official publications of the newly created state are represented in good copies of the Ὁργανισμὸς τῶν δικαστηρίων καὶ συμβολαιογράφων, *Gerichts- und Notariats-Ordnung* (Beilage zu Nro. 13 des Regierungsblattes); the Ποινικὴ δικονομία (Παράρτημα τοῦ 16 ἀριθμοῦ τῆς Ἐφημερίδος), *Gesetzbuch ueber das Straf-Verfahren* (Beilage zu Nro. 16 des Regieru(n)gsblattes) and the Πολιτικὴ δικονομία (Παράρτημα τοῦ 22 ἀριθμοῦ τῆς Ἐφημερίδος), *Gezetsbuch ueber das Civil-Verfahren* (Beilage zu Nr. 22 des Regierungsblattes), all printed in Nafplion in 1834. An almost random search of the shelves reveals good copies of G. Psyllas' Ἐπιτομὴ λεξικοῦ τῆς παλαιᾶς ἑλληνικῆς γλώσσης... (Athens 1836), A.A., Συλλογὴ ἑλληνικῶν μαθημάτων.... πρὸς χρῆσιν τῶν σπουδαζόντων τὴν ἀρχαίαν ἑλληνικὴν γλῶσσαν νεανίδων (Athens 1840) and a really fine copy of the very rare Ἡ νήσος τῶν Πετσῶν by Π.Κ. and printed in 1850. Another very interesting work of this period is a copy of the pamphlet listed in Ghinis-Mexas as Περὶ τοῦ ὅτι ὁ Δ. Χρηστίδης δὲν ἔχει τὰ γεροισιαστικὰ προσόντα, which they had not seen. This has recently been identified by E. Moschonas as the Ἀπάντησις (1845)² written in answer to the pamphlet Περὶ τοῦ Γενικοῦ Γραμματέως τοῦ Ἐκτελεστικοῦ. I also list here two titles now in the British School library which have not been included in Ghinis-Mexas' bibliography or in the various supplements to it:

★ A659.-**Συμφορὰ καὶ Αἰχμαλωσία Μωρέως** στιχολογηθεῖσα παρὰ **Μάνθου Ἰωάννου** τοῦ ἐξ Ἰωαννίνων μὲ προσθήκην ἄλλων ἀξιολόγων ὑποθέσεων καὶ ἀφιερωθεῖσα τῷ ἐντιμωτάτῳ καὶ εὐγενεῖ κυρίῳ Ἰωάννῃ Δημητρίου. Ἐν Βενετία. Παρὰ Νικολάῳ Γλυκεῖ τῷ ἐξ Ἰωαννίνων. 1829.

Small 8vo. p. 120 B.S.A. P.7.80. For earlier editions of this work, see Ghinis-Mexas, nos, 38,233,433,830 and 1277.

1. Unfortunately I have been unable to find within the library any copies of the very rare editions which Tombras printed at his newly-established press in Kydonies (Ayva-

lik) in 1820-21.

2. E. Moschonas, Ἑλληνικὴ Βιβλιογραφία 1800-1863. Διορθώσεις καὶ συμπληρώσεις, «Ὁ Ἐραμιστής», III, 1965, 16.

★ A660.-**Αὐτοσχέδιος Λόγος**, ἐκφωνηθεὶς εἰς τὴν κηδεῖαν τοῦ μακαρίτου Δημητρίου Μαυροκορδάτου Ἱατροῦ, καὶ τακτικοῦ καθηγητοῦ τῆς ἱατρικῆς σχολῆς ἐν τῷ Πανεπιστημίῳ Ὀθωνος, ὑπὸ τοῦ Καθηγητοῦ τῆς Θεολογίας, Ἀρχιμ. **Μισαήλ Ἀποστολίδου**.

8vo. p. 9 B.S.A. P. 6.22

Such then is a brief outline of the library's holdings in the field of early Greek printed books, although it should be stressed once more that the picture presented is only a very small part of the library's actual resources in this field. It is perhaps worth noting very briefly in passing, again as a sign-post, a number of rare tracts and books on the revolutionary period which may not be widely known. Among these are *Die Türken und Griechen wie sie gegenwärtig sind. Historisch-statistisch beschreiben von einem Augenzeugen* (Leipzig 1821); Sereno Edwards Dwight's *The Greek Revolution. An address, delivered in Park Street Church, Boston, on Thursday, April 1, and repeated at the request of the Greek Committee, in the Old South Church, on the evening of April 14, 1824* (2nd. ed., Boston 1824); three issues of the *Weekly Register* of the English radical, William Cobbett, for November 11 and 18 and December 2 1826, containing three interesting articles entitled *The Greek Pie*; Count Alerino Palma's *A Summary Account of the Steam Boats for Lord Cochrane's Expedition; with some words upon the two frigates ordered at New York for the service of Greece* (London 1826); E. Blaquiére, *Greece and her claims* (London 1826); the Rev. Gregory T. Bedell's *The Cause of the Greeks. A Discourse, delivered in St. Paul's Church, on the evening of February 26, 1827, at the request of the Committee for the Relief of the Greeks* (Philadelphia 1827); *Darstellung der Seeschlacht von Navarin und der unmittelbar vorhergegangenen Begebenheiten* (2nd. ed., Karlsruhe 1828); a pamphlet entitled *A voice from Greece, in appeal to the sympathies and charities of America, published by order of the New-York Greek Committee* (1828); Friedrich Müller's *Denkwürdigkeiten aus Griechenland in den Jahren 1827 und 1828, besonders in militärischer Beziehung...* (Paris 1833) and George Finlay's annotated copy of Georg Ludwig von Maurer's *Das griechische Volk in öffentlicher, kirchlicher und privatrechtlicher Beziehung vor*

und nach dem Freiheitskampfe bis zum 31. Juli 1834 (Heidelberg 1835).

The above brief account has indicated, it is hoped, something of the nature of the British School library's holdings of printed material in Greek bearing on the history of Greece in the early modern period. Of course in a brief article of this kind only a fraction of the library's holdings can be mentioned, but those titles that have been listed will perhaps whet the appetite of those concerned with the bibliographical and general history of this period.

Richard Clogg