

# The Historical Library of the Aikaterini Laskaridis Foundation Piraeus | Greece

Housed in a beautiful historical building in the port city of Piraeus since 2013, the Aikaterini Laskaridis Foundation's Historical Library boasts an impressive collection of over 580,000 volumes, making it one of Greece's largest libraries. It collects and preserves the libraries of prominent figures in literature, arts, and sciences, with over 100 collections of books and archives.

The old and rare section features more than 10,000 early printed titles. These include incunabula and post-incunabula, early printed books predominantly focused on Greek and Byzantine literature, travellers' accounts, history, Roman and maritime law, and rare early modern Greek editions from the 17th to 19th centuries.

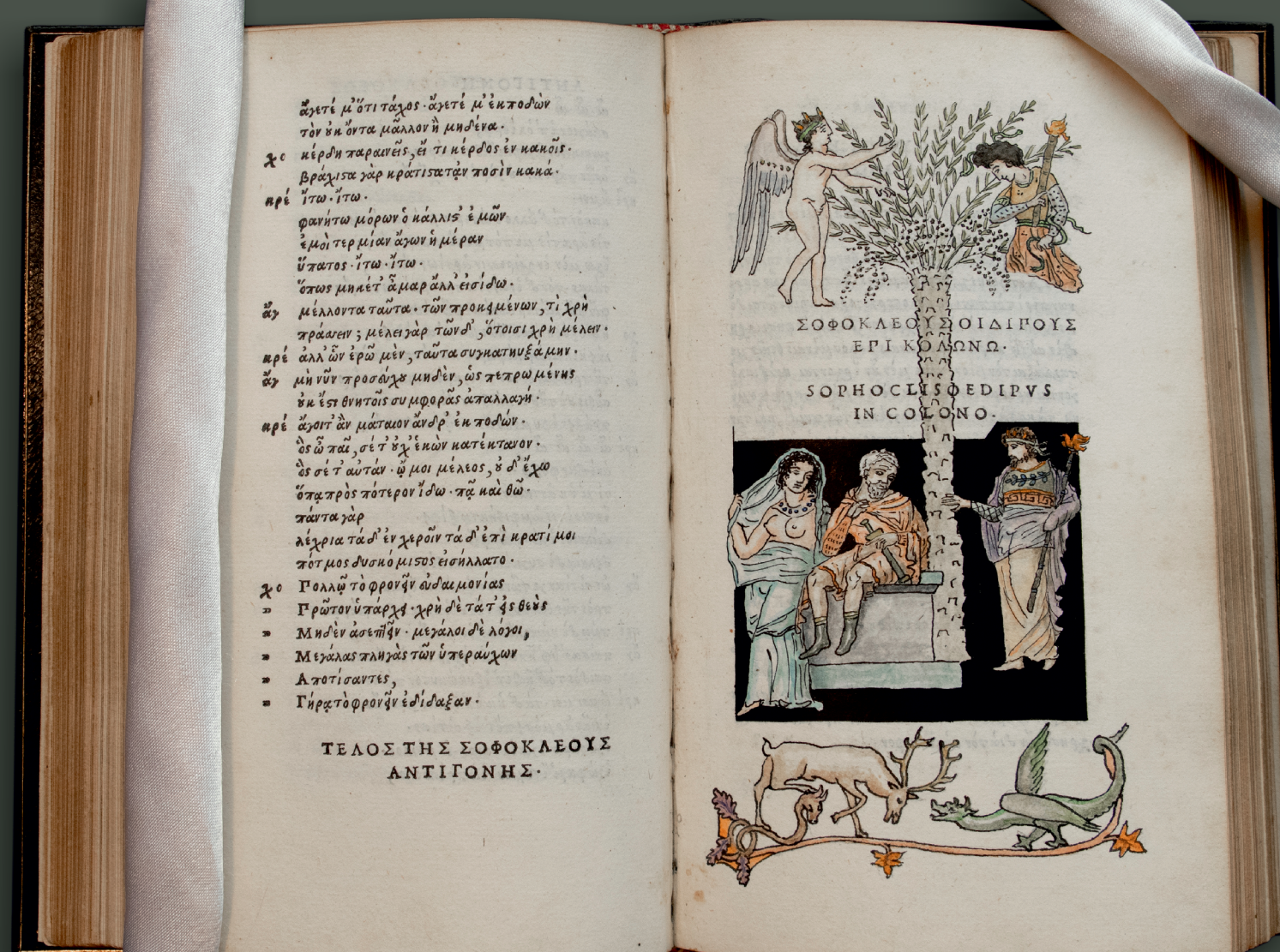
## Chronicling the history of the 'Greek book' through significant named collections

### *Bibliotheca Graeca*

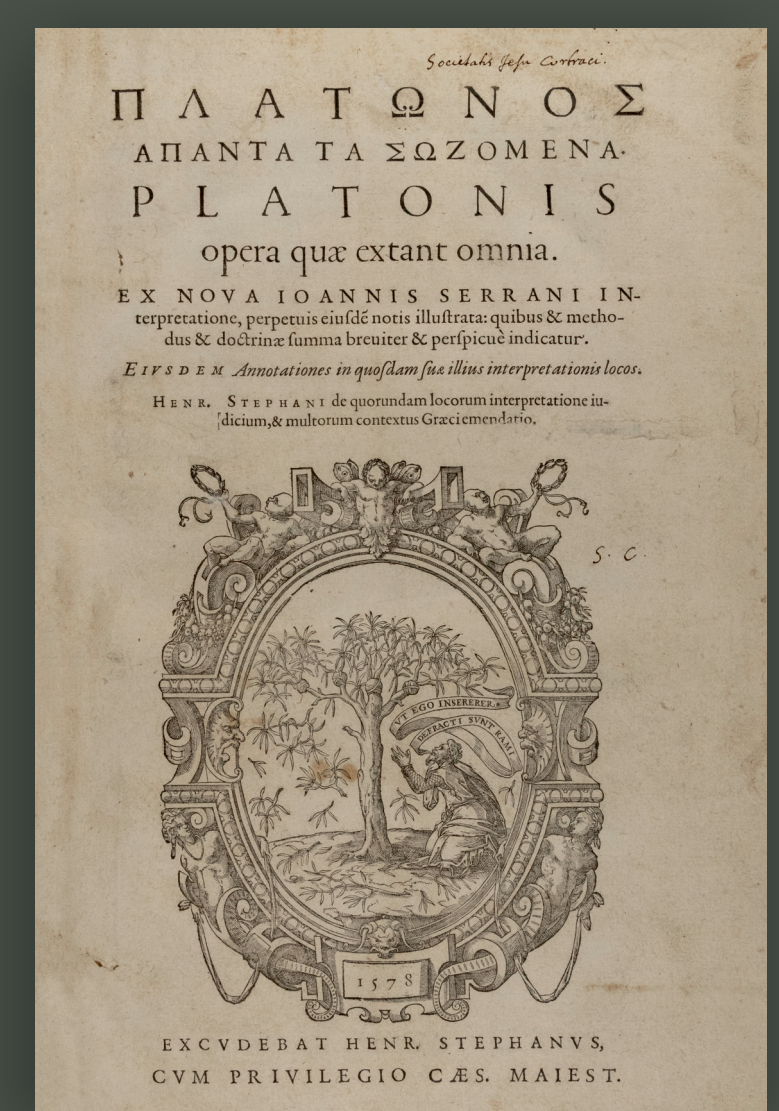
A prominent section comprising the entire corpus of Ancient Greek and Byzantine literature, mostly in first and early printed editions. This outstanding collection originates from the library of Sakos Ikononopoulos and has been enriched by regular acquisitions from the Foundation's president, Panos Laskaridis, as well as the recently acquired collection of Spyridon Loverdos.



The Works of Homer.  
Venice, Sessa c. 1547.



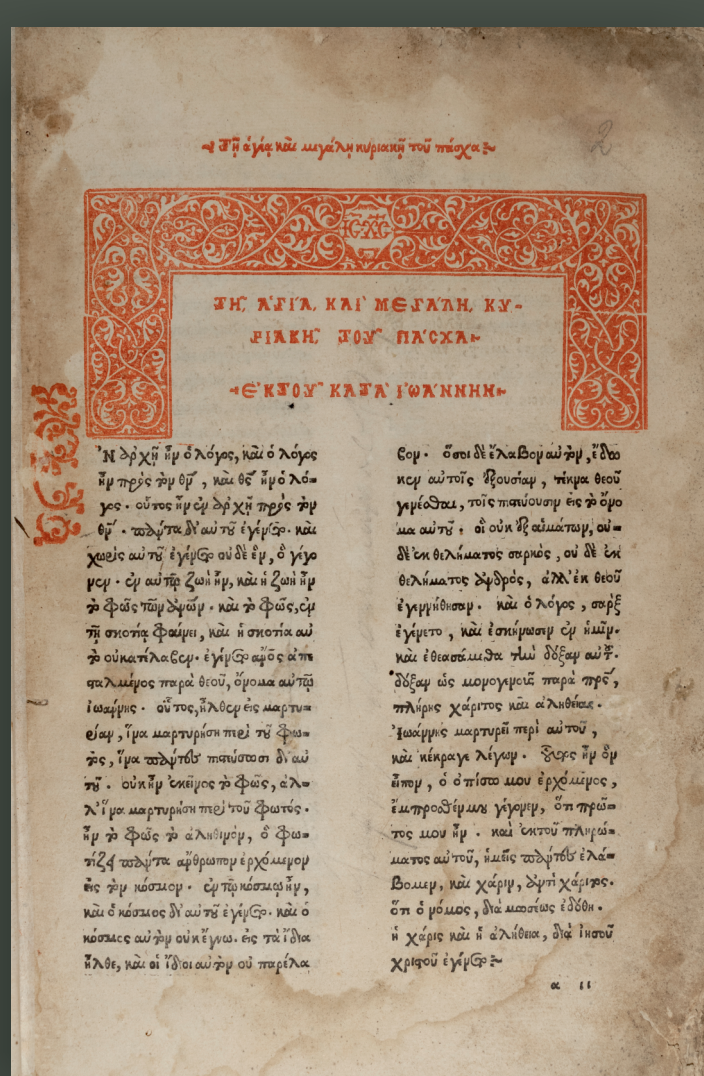
The Tragedies of Sophocles.  
Venice, Aldus Manutius 1502.



The Works of Plato.  
[Geneva], Henr. Stephanus 1578.

### *The Early Modern Greek book*

Early editions in vernacular Greek, religious and educational books, first editions of modern Greek literature, all prominent examples of the history of Greek printing and its evolution, some extremely rare, even sole surviving copies. They mostly appear in the collections of esteemed Greek scholars and collectors, such as C. Th. Dimaras, G. P. Savvidis, Philippos Iliou, Spyridon Loverdos and Georgios Dolianitis.



*Hieron Evangelion.*  
Venice, Nicolini da Sabbio 1539.

The first *Evangelistarion* ever printed in Greek, a liturgical book containing the sections of the four Gospels read in Mass.

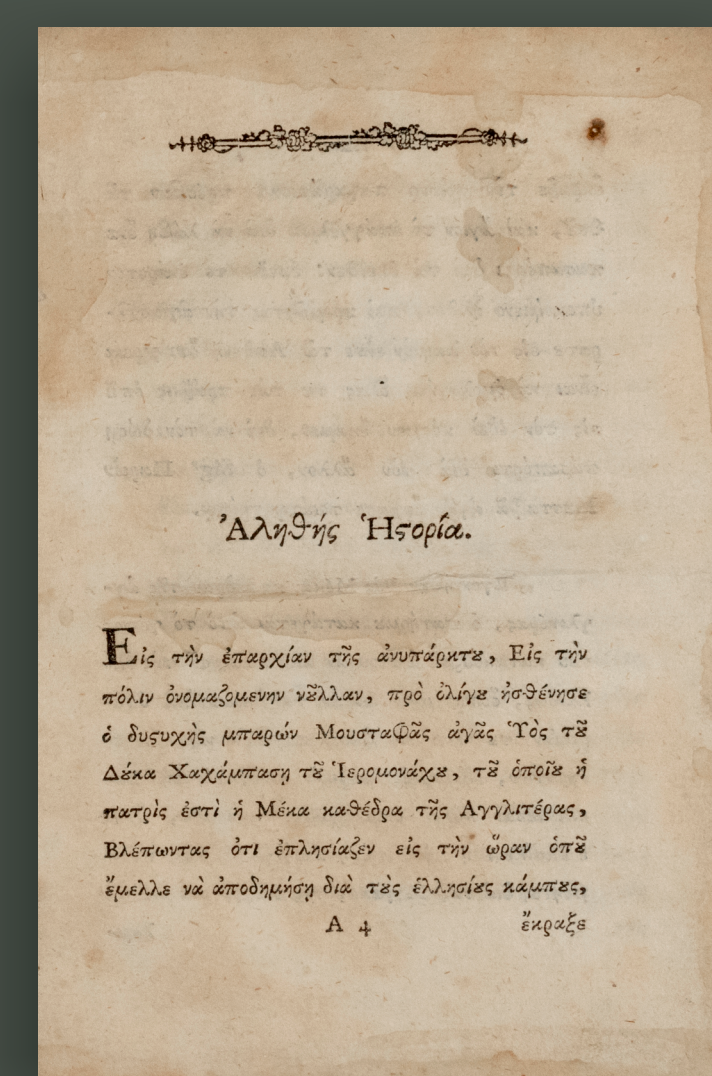
Part of the publishing program of the Nicolini da Sabbio family, aimed at members of the Greek Orthodox Church in sixteenth-century Venice.



*Cyril Lucaris, Kata Ioudaion.*  
Constantinople, Nicodemus Metaxas 1627.

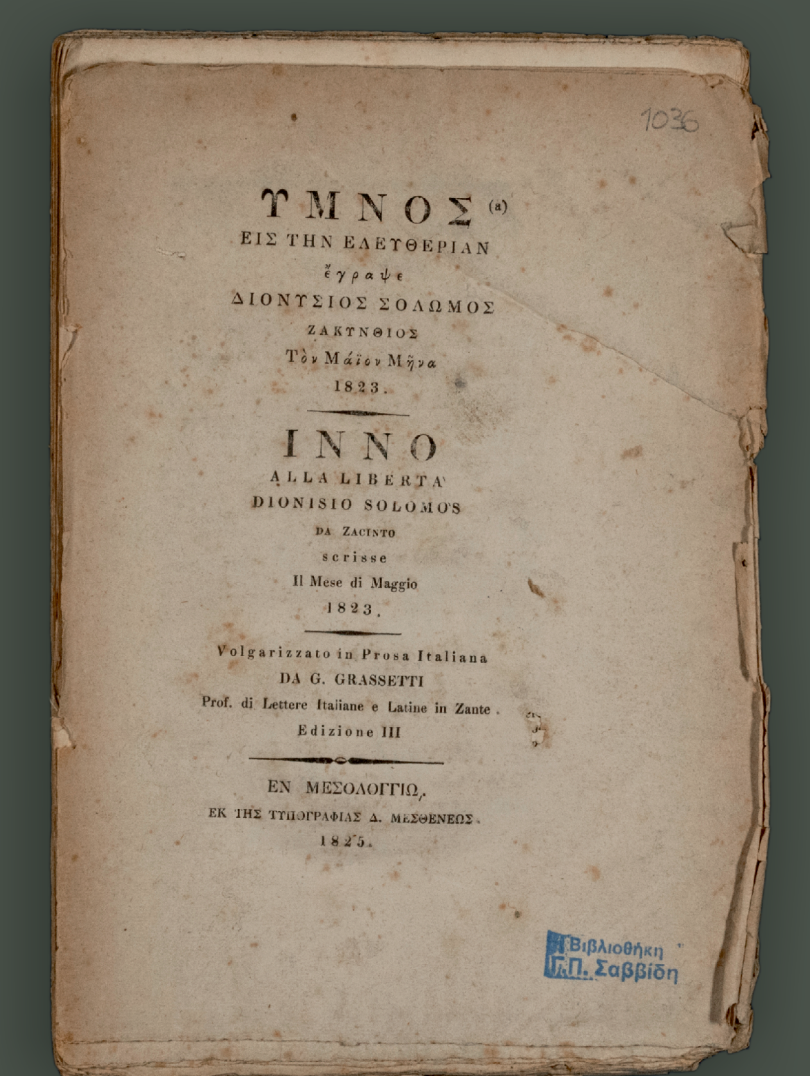
This work of polemics against Judaism comes from the first attempt to set up a printing press in Constantinople by Patriarch Cyril Lucaris and printer Nicodemus Metaxas.

It was the first of three titles printed under Lucaris' religious publications program. One of the rarest Greek books from the 17th century, with only five known surviving copies.



*Anonymous, Alethes Historia.*  
[s.l.], [s.n.] [c. 1789-94].

An exemplar from the Modern Greek Enlightenment, this book represents the first Modern Greek literary work in prose. An anonymous Menippean satire, it reflects the intellectual spirit of the era. Remarkably, it survives in the Historical Library as the sole existing copy, though it is missing its title page and publication details.



*Dionysios Solomos, Hymnos eis ten eleutherian = Inno alla liberta.*  
Messolonghi, D. Mestheneus 1825.

The poem that became Greece's national anthem, the 'Hymn to Liberty', was written in 1823, during the Greek War of Independence (1821-1830). This edition, a prominent example of our 19th-century rare pamphlets, was printed in the besieged city of Messolonghi shortly after, in 1825.

