



GrECI  
Greek Heritage in European  
Culture and Identity

The *GrECI* project  
organises the Research Meeting  
**'Greek Books and Europe's Common Culture'**  
University of Cyprus, Nicosia (1-2 June 2022)

Greek heritage became a main point of reference in almost every important realm of thought and branch of knowledge during the early modern period; understanding how early modern Europeans engaged with the ancient Greek language and ancient Greek texts is critical in assessing the process through which this took place. This meeting will consider the dissemination and reception of the Greek textual heritage through book historical approaches.

It is a commonplace to refer to the wide availability of Greek texts during the sixteenth century, with printers and publishers (such as Aldus Manutius in Venice, or the Estiennes in Paris and Geneva) producing 'the classics' in the original language in printed form for the very first time. While this is true, we still lack a broader frame for understanding the place of Greek books in early modern book history and culture, since answers to several questions still elude scholars. How many editions of Greek books were printed and where? Who was involved in this process and why? Which editions were the most popular? Were they printed only in the original language or in bilingual editions (i.e., together with a Latin translation or commentary)? Were these editions intended for a scholarly audience, or was the majority of them, instead, used as textbooks for the teaching and learning of the language?

The printing, circulation and use of Greek books crossed borders and had international resonance: editions printed in one place circulated in other geographical areas; others were pirated and reproduced in different milieus; scholars and editors were aware of editions through their communication networks and worked towards augmenting editions on the basis of previous ones. Despite these international features of Greek printing, however, we can also identify efforts by editors and publishers to assimilate editions for their own particular ('national', 'regional') public. We should be mindful, therefore, of the specific contexts for their production, dissemination and use alongside the more general background and purposes: whether this was a geographical or confessional context, or a linguistic context (vernacular, but above all, Latin). The research day organised in Nicosia in 1-2 June 2023 aims to address some of the above issues as a way of contextualising and sharpening our understanding of the role of Greek books in disseminating Greek heritage and culture in Europe in the early modern period.

We invite the participants to reflect upon some of the following issues:

- The circulation of Greek books in different geographical (and cultural) areas as indicated e.g. by collections or inventories (including circulation of books printed elsewhere)
- Greek books in a Latin context (whether this is production, dissemination, or use)
- Greek books in vernacular contexts
- The specific uses of Greek books (as indicated by material or other evidence)
- The activities of specific printers or publishers and how these relate to printing context or book use