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The Greek Books in the University Library

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THE GREEK BOOKS IN THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

By DR. WILLIAM N. BATES

The Greek books in the Library of the University of Pennsylvania are, with a few exceptions, of no great interest to the bibliophile or the collector of rare books. On the other hand, they form an excellent working library for the scholar. As far back as 1890 the University acquired the books of Ernst Ludwig von Leutsch, for many years professor at the University of Göttingen. This library consisted of 20,000 volumes, and included almost all the important classical works of the first half of the nineteenth century.

With this foundation to build upon it has been the policy of the Greek department for more than thirty-five years to purchase important editions of the Greek authors and commentaries upon them as they appeared, and at the same time to fill gaps in the collection as they were discovered and as far as our finances would permit. The result has been that we now have a library which a student can use with satisfaction. Of course there are still gaps, and to make the collection better it would be advisable to have a competent man go through it and note what these are. Such a survey could probably be satisfactorily made by a trained man in three or four months.

But, perhaps, even more valuable than the collection of texts and commentaries is the Library's collection of classical periodicals. These contain the published researches of other men in other countries, and it is with them that the student must in a large measure work in carrying on his own research. We have complete collections of all the important classical journals of Europe and America. To give some idea of these I may note the following:

Philologus, 88 vols. and 24 supplementary vols.

Jahresbericht über Altertumswissenschaft, 230 vols.

Jahrbücher für classische Philologie, 28 vols.

Neue Jahrbücher für Philologie, 156 vols. and 19 supplementary vols.

Neue Jahrbücher für das klassische Altertum, etc. 54 vols.

Hermes, 68 vols.

Berliner philologische Wochenschrift, 52 vols.
Wochenschrift für klassische Philologie, 37 vols.
Rheinisches Museum, 90 vols.
Mnemosyne, 60 vols.
Wiener Studien, 37 vols.
Revue de philologie, 56 vols.
Revue des études grecques, 46 vols.
Rivista di Filologia e d'Istruzione Classica, 60 vols.
Classical Review, 46 vols.
Journal of Philology, 35 vols.
Hermathena, 22 vols.
American Journal of Philology, 53 vols.
Classical Philology, 27 vols.
Harvard Studies in Classical Philology, 42 vols.

So, too, on the archaeological side the University has complete series of all the important periodicals, such as,

Jahrbuch des deutschen archäologischen Instituts, 47 vols.

Mittheilungen des deutschen archäologischen Instituts zu Athen, 57 vols.

Jahreshefte des oesterreichischen Instituts in Wien, 27 vols.

Revue archéologique, 140 vols.

Bulletin de correspondance hellénique, 57 vols.

Monuments et Mémoires, Fondation Piot, 33 vols.

A complete set of the Journal of the Archaeological Society at Athens since 1837. The early numbers are very rare.

Journal of Hellenic Studies, 52 vols.

American Journal of Archaeology, 48 vols.

Annual of the British School in Athens, 31 vols.

This is but a partial list. There are in the Library many other periodicals and series, especially on the archaeological side of the subject. Archaeology has shed so much light on many problems in the classical field in recent times that the Greek student today cannot ignore that side in his studies. It will be seen from this that the material for research for the student of Greek to work with is at hand and, perhaps, that is one of the reasons why we have always had good graduate students carrying on their investigations in the Greek field.

There is one other group of works of which mention should not be omitted, and that is the publications of Greek papyri. The University Library is rich in this department. The papyri found in Egypt during the past generation are widely scattered in different museums, and they have often been published in unusual places and in very small editions. As a result these books very quickly get out of print. By buying them as they were published the Library owns practically everything in that field.

The collection of Greek books is not wholly lacking in rarities although they form no important part of it. Some years ago the late Professor John Williams White of Harvard wrote me to see if by any chance our Library had a copy of a monograph by Otto Schneider, published in 1838, on the sources of the *scholia* of Aristophanes. He was very eager to see a copy, but the Harvard University library did not possess one. Neither could he find a copy in any other library, and the efforts of several German booksellers had been unable to procure one. I went to the University Library and there it was, among the Leutsch books. I arranged for him to borrow it, and he kept it two years!

Perhaps it may be of interest to record that among the books acquired with the Leutsch Library were the professor's lecture notes in German. How wide his interests were may be seen from a list of them. Thus we have his lectures on the minor Greek Poets, on Aristophanes, on Pindar, on Thucydides, and on the history of Greek literature. There are also his lectures on Catullus, Livy, Tacitus, Terence, and the history of Latin literature.

There are a few incunabula among the Greek books. We have a good copy of Diogenes Laertius published at Venice in 1497; also a Latin translation of Plutarch's Lives dated June 8, 1496. In this the author thinks he must supplement Plutarch for he adds lives of Plato, Aristotle, and Charlemagne. There is also a copy of Walter Burley's commentary on the Categories of Aristotle published in Venice and bearing the date Jan. 21, 1492. It was printed by the Dalmatian Andreas de Paltasichis and is a very rare book. But the delight to the lover of old Greek books is the beautiful copy of the Aldine Aristophanes presented to the Library a few years ago by Dr. William Pepper. It was printed in Venice in 1498

and the leaves are almost as white and clean as when it was first issued. The book is so much in demand by collectors of early printing that it sells for a very high price and is rarely found in the possession of a lover of Greek.

It would not be proper to conclude this sketch of the Greek books in the Library without mentioning the interest of the late Provost Harrison in them. Some years ago there were bad gaps in our sets of archaeological periodicals, and, in some cases, these were totally lacking. I explained this situation to Mr. Harrison, who promptly raised a fund which he placed at my disposal. This fund enabled us to complete the defective sets and to acquire those that we did not have. It was one of Mr. Harrison's many benefactions to the University.

ARMINIUS UND THUSNELDA

By DR. DANIEL B. SHUMWAY

The Library has recently had the good fortune to acquire the first edition of one of the most curious and remarkable of the German novels of the seventeenth century, the baroque period of German literature. It is the *Arminius und Thusnelda* of Casper von Lohenstein, published in Leipzig, 1689-90. It consists of two large quarto volumes bound in stout vellum, and comprises 3208 pages, $9\frac{3}{8}$ by $7\frac{5}{8}$ inches in size, printed mostly in double columns. When one considers that the new Webster International Dictionary contains 2620 pages some idea of the tremendous size of the novel may be obtained. Because of its great length it has never been reprinted since the second edition in four quarto volumes, Leipzig, 1731. It contains three copper plate engravings, one the portrait of the author, the other two being allegorical title pages in the fashion of the time.

Like most works of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, the novel has a long-winded title, reading as follows: Daniel Caspers von Lohenstein/Grossmüthiger Feldherr/Arminius oder Herrman/als/Ein tapfferer Beschirmer der deutschen Freyheit/nebst seiner/Durchlauchtigen/Thusnelda/In einer sinnreichen/Staats-Liebes- und Helden-Geschichte/Dem Vaterlande zu Liebe/Dem deutschen Adel aber zu Ehren und rühmlichen Nachfolge/In zwey Theilen/vorges-