

THE  
LONDON  
LIBRARY

# A guide to the Modern Greek collections

## Scope of the Collection

From its foundation the Library has collected books covering a wide range of subjects for those interested in the history, literature, art, culture, religion and topography of modern Greece, both in Greek and in translation.

In 2007, a large donation of modern Greek books was presented to the Library, greatly strengthening our holdings, particularly in 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century Greek literary works in the original language.

The member of staff in charge of the modern Greek collections is Dimitrios Fragkos; he can be contacted in the Cataloguing Room via Reader Services, or by email at: [dimitrios.fragkos@londonlibrary.co.uk](mailto:dimitrios.fragkos@londonlibrary.co.uk).

Suggestions for new purchases are welcome.

## Understanding shelfmarks

The collection is divided into broad subject areas (History, Literature, Topography, for example) and then into smaller areas, arranged alphabetically. Within each section, books are generally arranged by author name but edited titles are filed under the book title instead. Check the Catalyst record for the 'shelved under' information.

In order to make the most effective use of space, the collection is also shelved by size. Check the end of shelf marks for the notations 4to (quarto), Folio and Folio Extra Large that may indicate a different place to look for the books.



The screenshot shows a book record for "The social organisation of exile : Greek political detainees in the 1930s" by Margaret E. Kenna. The record includes a small image of the book cover, the word "BOOK", the title, the author's name, the year "c2001", and the shelving information "Shelved Under: Kenna, Margaret E.". At the bottom, it indicates the book is available at "London Library History (H. Greece (Modern))" with a right-pointing arrow. On the right side of the record, there are icons for quotation marks, an envelope, a pushpin, and a three-dot menu.

Above is an example of a book record from the catalogue. Here you can see that the book is shelved under the author's name and that it is available (i.e. on the shelf) in the history section (H.), in the sub-section for Greece (Modern) and then shelved under Kenna.

Books may be requested and put aside for ready for collection, but we would always encourage members to browse the shelves for themselves and discover the books they did not know they needed. Items from the Library's Special Collections that cannot be borrowed, can be consulted in the Library under supervised conditions with 72 hours' notice.

## 1. Literature & Literary Criticism

Works of literature in the Modern Greek collections are mainly shelved on the 4<sup>th</sup> Floor of the St James's building (take the lift to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, then the small staircases within the Literature stacks of the St James's building).

### L. Greek (Modern).

This covers all Greek literature written since the fall of the Byzantine Empire in 1453. (Any Greek works from the periods before that date, including all classical Greek literature, can be found at the neighbouring shelfmarks L. Greek & Latin Texts & Commentaries and L. Greek & Latin Lit., Translations.)

The collection comprises a growing range of works of modern Greek fiction, poetry, drama and literary criticism. The great majority are in the original language, but also included here are works of modern Greek poetry and drama translated into English, together with a smaller number translated into French. All translations into English of modern Greek fiction (novels and volumes of short stories) are shelved in the Library's general **Fiction** section, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, continuing on the Mezzanine, which is arranged in one alphabetical sequence by author.

Within the L. Greek (Modern) sequence, specific works of **literary criticism** on individual authors are included alongside volumes of their works. Wider-ranging works covering the history and criticism of modern Greek literature are also included at this shelfmark.

## 2. History & Topography

In the History section of the Library, located on Levels 2, 3 & 4 of the rear stacks, the history of modern Greece is differentiated from the history of ancient Greece by having its own shelf-mark:

### H. Greece (Modern)

Included here is a wide range of works on the social, political, economic and military history of Greece from the 18<sup>th</sup> century onwards, predominantly in English.

There are also several other shelfmarks in the History stacks covering the history of specific related regions:

H. Crete

H. Cyprus

H. Ionian Islands

H. Macedonia

Each can be found in its respective alphabetic position.

In addition, there is a separate shelfmark covering material on the 'Thirty Days' Greco-Turkish War of 1897: **H. Greco-Turkish War**. Again, this can be found in its alphabetic position (i.e. preceding H. Greece (Ancient)).

Works of travel literature and books on the topography and geography of Greece are shelved in the Topography section of the Library, located on Level 1 of the Back Stacks. Again, the great majority of works are in English. The main collection can be found at the shelfmark:

## T. Greece

There are also several separate shelfmarks, each in its alphabetic position within the Topography section, covering material on specific related regions:

T. Crete

T. Cyprus

T. Ionian Islands

T. Macedonia

T. Patmos

T. Rhodes

NB In both the History and Topography collections there are substantial separate sequences for larger-format books, eg:

H. Greece (Modern), 4to.

H. Greece (Modern), folio

T. Greece, 4to.

T. Greece, folio

The stack-boards at the end of each row will help you to locate these oversize sections.

## Guidebooks

A collection of historic and modern guidebooks to Greece can be found in the gallery above the Circulation Desk in the main Issue Hall.

