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Nikolaos Sophianos’s *Totius Graeciae Descriptio*: The Resources, Diffusion and Function of a Sixteenth-Century Antiquarian Map of Greece

GEORGE TOLIAS

ABSTRACT: Nikolaos Sophianos’s *Totius Graeciae Descriptio*, an early regional map of Greece, was a cartographical bestseller of the late sixteenth century. The first editions of the map (1540, 1544, 1545) were hitherto believed to be lost, and contemporary references are few. Such references as could be found were collected and published by Émile Legrand in 1885, and his data, enhanced by information derived from later reissues of the map (1552 and 1601), provided the foundation for recent bibliographical entries. This material has now been supplemented by recently rediscovered examples of the 1545 edition of Sophianos’s map. By combining the new evidence with the material accompanying the various editions of the map (geographical introductions, indexes and gazetteers), it has proved possible to reconstruct the map’s publishing history, to analyse its content and to investigate certain issues related to the methodology, uses and functions of early modern antiquarian cartography of Greece.

KEYWORDS: Sixteenth century, antiquarianism, printing, gazetteers, tables of ancient and modern place-names, Greece, Ptolemy, Pausanias, Antonio Blado, Johannes Oporin, Abraham Ortelius, Nicolaus Gerbel, Nikolaos Sophianos.

A number of studies in recent years have shown that learned humanistic and antiquarian motives underlay map-making activities and the way maps were used in the early modern era. The research has shed light on the growing interest of humanists in ancient geography and cartography and, especially, on their thorough efforts to visualize and tabulate the geographical reality of the past and to evaluate its relation to the modern world. A significant step in the context of sixteenth-century antiquarian geographical curiosity is the large map of Greece first published by Nikolaos Sophianos in Rome in 1540.

Sophianos’s large map of Greece was both a product and an agent of the revival of Greek studies in the early sixteenth century. Its creation seems to have been in part the fruit of the author’s patriotic and pedagogic concerns, but it was also an outcome of a universal spirit—fairly utopian in several aspects—that aimed to link the modern and the antique, Greece and Rome, Orthodoxy and Catholicism, even paganism and Christianity. The
map presented an historical cartographical panorama of the Greek world and would thus have been understood as a major repository of antiquarian information about Greece. As a result, the work was well received by Hellenists and antiquarian scholars alike. It was reissued frequently, being copied and plagiarized, for some forty years after its initial publication, until it was finally standardized by inclusion in Ortelius’s historical atlas, the *Parergon*, in 1579.

In the following pages we summarize Sophianos’s ambition to regenerate Greek as a literary, sacred and living language before we attempt, in the light of the available evidence, to trace the history of the successive editions of his map. We shall then examine its content and its uses as a literary and antiquarian reading aid. Finally, we shall conclude with an evaluation of the underlying meaning of the work and its resulting functions, adding, in the Appendix, an updated carto-bibliography.

*Nikolaos Sophianos (c.1500–after 1551)*

Nikolaos Sophianos was born into the local nobility of Corfu at the beginning of the sixteenth century. He was educated in Rome at the Quirinal College, an institution created by Pope Leo X—born Giovanni de’ Medici (1475–1521)—a humanist and great patron of art and letters, and Janus Laskaris (1445–1534), the Byzantine émigré scholar, diplomat and patriotic activist. At the Quirinal College Sophianos studied under Greek scholars who were teaching there, such as Laskaris, Markos Mousouros, Zacharias Kalliergis and Arsenios Apostolis.

The Quirinal College illustrates a particular climate, at once Christian and humanistic, which reached its apogee in the pontificate of Leo X. The evidence suggests that the college was a product of the ecumenical spirit that prevailed after the Council of Ferrara-Florence (1438–1439), at which it was agreed to reunite the Orthodox and Latin churches under the authority of the pope. The creation of the Vatican’s Greek College established a Greek humanistic centre in Rome similar to Aldus Manutius’s New Academy in Venice. At the same time the Quirinal College was intended to keep the Greek spirit alive in Ottoman-dominated Greece by educating young Greeks who would eventually return to their homeland, and to boost the morale of the subjugated Greeks on whom the Vatican was counting to resist the invaders. The scheme was not entirely utopian given the recurrent Venetian and Spanish wars against the Turks and the frequency of papal appeals for a new Crusade. Unsurprisingly, the activities of Greek scholars teaching in the college were stamped with patriotic fervour: all were well known for the petitions, laments and exhortations they addressed to one and all in their efforts to persuade the spiritual and political leaders of the West to liberate the Christian populations of the East from Ottoman rule.

More specifically, in relation to Sophianos’s map, we should note that the activities of the Greek scholars in the Quirinal College had an antiquarian tone. Two undertakings in particular serve to illustrate their interest in Greek historical geography and monumental topography: Markos Mousouros’s *editio princeps of Pausanias’s Description of Greece Ελλάδος Περιήγησις* with its ardent patriotic preface (Venice, Manutius, 1516), and Janus Laskaris’s correction of the commentaries on Homer by Eustathios of Thessaloniki (d. c.1194), a long compilation rich in philological elucidations of a multitude of obscure points related to the mythological background and the topographical setting of the Homeric poems. Mousouros and Laskaris were driven to compile their works as a way of restoring the cultural, material and geographical realities of Greek antiquity. Both works had a strong influence on Sophianos’s approach; he published Eustathios’s *Commentaries on Homer* (Rome, Blado, 1542), and Pausanias’s *Description* was one of the main sources of information for his map.

Sophianos did not return to live in Greece. With the exception of a journey there in 1543, he divided his time between Rome and Venice. After leaving the Quirinal College, he became a librarian in Rome. Between 1533 and 1540 he was settled in Venice where he worked as a copyist and a dealer in old Greek manuscripts. Of all the surviving manuscripts in Sophianos’s hand, one is of particular interest since it reveals his early attraction to empirical scepticism, a philosophical trend that would become widely diffused in the late sixteenth century and thereafter. This manuscript, dated Venice 1534, is a copy of the third-century *Pyrrhonian Sketches Πυρρώνικες Υποτυπώσεις* by Sextus Empiricus, which Sophianos presented to the French ambassador to Venice, Georges de Selve, Bishop of Lavau. It was while he was in Venice that Sophianos first showed his interest in the living forms of the Greek language by compiling a grammar of vernacular Greek and creating a project for a huge dictionary...
of modern Greek. The grammar, dedicated to Jean de Guise, Cardinal of Lorraine from 1518 to 1550, was published by Émile Legrand in 1870 (2nd edition 1874).

In 1540, Antonio Blado (1490–1567), the Vatican’s official printer, invited Sophianos, by now renowned as a copyist of Greek manuscripts and a calligrapher, to Rome to design a Greek font for the new Greek press established in the Vatican by Cardinal Marcello Cervini (1501–1555). Cervini, who was in charge of the Vatican Library, aspired to create printed editions of Greek Christian and secular manuscripts held in the library. The Greek typeface designed by Sophianos was used for the first books produced on the press, Theophylactos of Ochrida’s commentaries on the four Gospels and the first volume of the commentary on Homer by Eustathios, Archbishop of Thessaloniki. Sophianos’s typeface, however, was almost immediately supplanted by a font designed by Giovanni Onorio.

To demonstrate the new typeface to Pope Paul III for approval, Sophianos printed a sample leaflet and dedicated it to him. Paul III was notoriously superstitious and regularly consulted his favourite astrologer, Luca Gaurico, and this is probably why Sophianos chose a short essay in ancient Greek, which he had composed some years earlier, on the construction and use of the armillary astrolabe. He stressed that this instrument, which was widely used in astrology, navigation and cartography for the calculation of the positions of celestial bodies, was also ‘useful in horoscopy’. At some stage during his two years in Rome (1540–1542), Sophianos also printed his large map of Greece.

Sophianos left Rome in the middle of 1542, when his collaboration with the Vatican’s Greek printing and publishing venture had come to an unhappy end. He returned to Venice where he initiated legal proceedings in what became a long drawn out court case against Blado over the ownership of his typeface and payment due to him for his work for the press. In Venice he reverted to dealing in Greek manuscripts. Among other activities, he purchased and made copies of Greek manuscripts for the Spanish bibliophile, Don Diego Hurtado de Mendoza, Charles V’s ambassador to the Serenissima. From February to September 1543 he was in Greece as Mendoza’s agent, spending most of his time in the monasteries of Thessaly and Mt. Athos, where he acquired a substantial number of manuscripts for his patron. Aubrey Diller has identified a manuscript in the University of Cambridge Library (Gg. II. 33) as a copy made by Sophianos from a manuscript in the Vatopedi monastery. Sophianos’s copy includes mathematical and minor geographical treatises, such as Agathemerus’s *Diagnosis and Hypotyposis*, and the first lines of Dionysius Byzantius’s navigation of the Bosporus.

It is tempting to imagine that political and military motives underlay Sophianos’s mission to Greece, since most envoys sent to the Ottoman Empire by Western diplomats, and especially by the Spanish, were expected to report back on the mood of the people under Ottoman rule and on the military situation in those areas. No trace of any such report from Sophianos to Mendoza or to the Spanish administration in Naples has been found, however.

On his return from Greece, Sophianos, in collaboration with the Greek patriot Antonios Eparchos, tried to set up a Greek press in Venice under the patronage of Cardinal Cervini. The cardinal refused to finance the venture, however, and Sophianos decided to start a printing and publishing business of his own, together with Antonios Eparchos’s son, Nikolaos, and with financial backing from Markos Samariaris, a merchant from Zante. This short-lived venture (1544–1545) was addressed to Greek readers and inspired by a combination of commercial and patriotic motives, mainly, though, the latter.

That Sophianos was strongly patriotic is demonstrated in the foreword to his translation into modern Greek of the pseudo-Plutarch’s *On the Education of Children* (1545). In this essay, Sophianos explained that his aim was ‘to revitalize a pitiable nation and give it wings to fly from all its lack of education’. Sophianos was nothing if not a pragmatist, and he was aware that the desired ‘revitalization’ might not succeed. He went on to assure his readers that, should his efforts come to nothing, he would return ‘to philosophy itself, and to his beloved and familiar geometry.’ We may conclude that Sophianos had kept a set of the Greek typeface that he had designed for the Vatican’s Greek press, since he was using it for the books he printed in Venice in 1544 and 1545. Furthermore, the same font was used by other printers not only in Venice, but also in Florence and Rome right up to 1570, although it is unclear whether Sophianos himself was involved in any way in any of these ventures.

Sophianos’s publishing activities ceased after 1545. In April 1547, he was still in Venice, where he is recorded as having made a contribution to the Greek community. In 1551 his dispute with
Antonio Blado was resolved. According to the terms of the settlement, Sophianos was awarded 125 gold ducats for the design of the Greek font and supplied with two volumes of the edition of Eustathios as payment for Blado’s hire of his fonts, and a case containing Greek letters, punches and lead was to be returned to him in Venice through the Vatican’s notary.\(^{27}\) We have no information on either the date or the place of Sophianos’s death and can only assume that he died sometime after June 1551, before which date he had been corresponding with Philip Melanchthon, reformer and Hellenist.\(^{28}\)

**Sophianos’s Map of Greece (1540–1601)**

**Lost Editions, Rome 1540 and Basel 1544**

Sophianos’s ‘beloved and familiar geometry’ bore a variety of fruit. Not only were there his commentaries on Ptolemy, his copy of minor Greek geographical treatises and his short essay in ancient Greek on the armillary astrolabe, but also—and, in the present context, above all—his large map of Greece, drawn and published during his residence in Rome in the years 1540 to 1542.\(^{29}\) The first edition of Sophianos’s map has been lost, as was the case with many maps printed before it became common practice, in the last third of the sixteenth century, to bind the sheets together.\(^{30}\) Consequently, the map’s publishing history has to be based on indirect literary allusions and on evidence inferred from surviving copies of later editions, especially those reissued first in Basel (1545) and then in Rome (1552)\(^{31}\) (Fig. 1 and Appendix).

The modern scholars Émile Legrand and, following him, Robert Karrow have both concluded from their examination of a letter addressed to Antonio Agustin by the antiquarian geographer Johannes Metellus, dated 8 February 1543, that Sophianos’s map was already in existence, either in manuscript or in print, by this date.\(^{32}\) We can go further and affirm that it had already been printed, because, when Konrad Gesner wrote to Joachim Vadianus on 7 April 1543, he clearly described the map as printed.\(^{33}\) Gesner, furthermore, confirms the early existence of a printed map that he describes in his *Bibliotheca universalis* (1545) as ‘first published in Rome’.\(^{34}\) Whether the Rome map was a woodcut, like the extant reissue in 1545 of Johannes Oporin’s Basel version, or a copperplate, like the edition printed in Rome in 1552, of which three exemplars survive, remains for the present, at least, uncertain.

Sophianos’s colleague, the Hellenist Arnoldus Arlenius, who was in Mendoza’s employ as librarian, had taken Sophianos’s map to Basel sometime before April 1543.\(^{35}\) According to the letter addressed by Gesner to Vadianus, dated 7 April 1543, the map was supposed to have been issued by the Basel printer Oporin by the summer of that year.\(^{36}\) In the event, it is evident that Oporin’s edition was not printed until 1544, since a copy of the newly printed map was sent by Oporin to Vadianus on 8 December 1544.\(^{37}\) The 1544 edition is furthermore confirmed by Gesner, who states in his *Bibliotheca universalis* that the map was printed in ‘the past year [that is, 1544] in Basel by Johannes Oporinus’.\(^{38}\) In the next year, 1545, Oporin reissued the map.

Hitherto, both Oporin’s issues of 1544 and 1545 were considered lost. However, in 1975 Ernst Meyer discovered an example of the 1545 issue of the map in the National Library of Greece.\(^{39}\) Unfortunately, the map vanished soon afterwards. There is, however, another, albeit much mutilated, exemplar of the same issue in the Library of Congress. Although this has been there since 1958 and was recorded by Clara E. LeGear and Walter W. Ristow, the fragment has been ignored by all writing on Sophianos’s map.\(^{40}\) Then, in 2004 a complete example of Oporin’s 1545 reissue of Sophianos’s map turned up for auction at Sotheby’s, London.\(^{41}\) This map is identical to the mutilated American version and thus confirms the date of the latter as 1545.

There is every reason to accept that the Basel issues of the map (1544 and 1545) followed the original Rome edition closely in the essentials. In the first place, the 1545 reissue carries a dedication from Oporin to Cosimo de’ Medici, which confirms that the map was first published in Rome: ‘edita est Romae ante paucos annos’ [published in Rome a few years before]. In the second place, Sophianos’s original address to the reader is dated ‘Rome at the temple of Bonus eventus, May 1540’ (Fig. 2). Until now this has been considered to be the address and date when the map was drawn, not printed, since no other publication was known with this imprint.\(^{42}\)

Nevertheless, the motto ‘Bonus eventus’, which refers to the minor Greek divinity Agathodaemon (‘Good Spirit’ or ‘Good Fortune’), was one of the marks used by Antonio Blado, the Vatican’s official printer. It is also found in the *editio princeps* of the Greek text of *Historical Miscellanies* (Ποικιλη Ιστορις) by Claudius Aelian, printed in Rome by Blado in 1545, where the motto appears both on the title page and in the colophon.\(^{43}\) The motto is
written in Latin and Greek (Bonus eventus / Αγεθός Αζίμων) and frames the effigy of an upright naked man who holds a bouquet of poppies while making a libation with a patera (a shallow dish) (Fig. 3).

We are thus led to conclude that the first edition of Sophianos’s map had been printed by Antonio Blado on the Vatican’s newly established Greek press in May 1540. In these circumstances, we may assume that the allusion to Ptolemy that Sophianos made in the dedication of his leaflet on the armillary astrolabe to Pope Paul III was also an allusion to his own map of Greece.44 We could go further and venture that the original edition of Sophianos’s map of Greece was also dedicated to the Pope Paul III, possibly even commissioned by him.

Blado was responsible for the printing of the map, but he would not have engraved it himself. Most probably he collaborated with a Roman engraver, as he later did for Leonardo Bufalini’s large plan of Rome (1551), for which he type-set only the short texts.45 The print run of the first edition of Sophianos’s map must have been small indeed given the scarcity even of contemporary references to it, let alone the absence of surviving exemplars. Such an important work would not have passed unnoticed, however. The dispute between Sophianos and Blado, and the long legal process that Sophianos set in train against the Vatican’s chief printer, may have meant that the printing equipment remained inactive in Rome, until the conclusion of the legal proceedings in 1551. The sequestration of the plates in Rome from 1542 to 1551 would explain the delay in the reissue of the first Roman edition of Sophianos’s map, which occurred in 1552.

Sophianos accompanied his map with a table of concordance of ancient and modern place-names. This document, a printed sheet without a date or place of publication, contains 276 ancient
place-names with their modern equivalents or variants (Fig. 4). The modern appellations are mainly from contemporary portolan charts and the variants are drawn from classical and medieval sources. Latin variants came from such authors as Virgil and Livy, and Greek variants mainly from the Byzantine scholars Eustathios of Thessaloniki and Stephanus of Byzantium.\(^46\) The concordance table also includes places with unaltered names. This means that, since Sophianos gave every name in the table a cardinal number corresponding to the number printed on the map adjacent to the relevant place sign, every place listed in the concordance table could be located on the map, and every place found on the map accompanied by a number could be checked for change of name in the concordance table.\(^47\) It is likely that the table accompanied the map from its first edition. For one reason, the use of portolan charts as a source of place-names is mentioned in Sophianos’s original address to the reader and, for another, the fact that both old and new names are included in

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*Fig. 2. Sophianos’s address to the reader from Rome ‘in templo Boni Eventus’, dated May 1540. Sophianos’s original text was included in the later Basel issue of the map by Johannes Oporin (1545, see Fig. 5). (Reproduced with permission from the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., G 2000 1545 G 45 Vault.)*
Sophianos’s work corresponds to Gesner’s description of it as bearing both ancient and modern place-names. 48

The concordance table exists in at least three different versions, two of them oblong and the other one more or less square. They are all printed and contain the same number of place-names (276), although there are slight differences in the title and the introductory note. Two exemplars of the oblong version survive, each folded and bound in Gerbel’s 1545 Praefatio.49 The unique extant example of the almost-square version (in which the text is in five columns) is in Paris, bound into a manuscript volume.50 One copy of the oblong version survives also contains four laudatory epigrams about Sophianos and his map composed by Leon Marsus, L. Faber Phan, Faustus Sabaeus and Faustinus Buturinus Veronensis.51 Since the four epigrams are also found on the later large editions of the map (Basel, Oporin, 1545; Rome, 1552), we may assume that the oblong version with the epigrams had originally accompanied the 1544 Basel edition. The oblong version without the epigrams was probably amended for the 1545 Basel edition, and the square version was prepared for the first or second Rome edition of the map (1540, 1552).

The First Basel Reissue (1545)
The map that Oporin reissued in Basel in 1545 is a woodcut measuring about 77 × 111.5 centimetres and printed on eight octavo sheets. It bears the title Descriptio Nova Totius Grœciœ per Nicolaum Sophianum (Fig. 5). Prominent in the bottom left-hand corner of the map, on sheet 5, is a large rectangular cartouche divided into two panels of text. The left panel contains Oporin’s dedication of the map to Cosimo de’ Medici; the right one contains a note from Sophianos to the reader (stulosis) in which, after some historical remarks concerning the ‘Chorography and Geography’ of Greece, Sophianos names his sources and explains the dotted boundary lines that indicate the provinces, regions and tribes—Punctis praetera unamquamque provinciam, regions que, et gentes universas dirimentes, annotatimus. He then gives a list of other geographical features shown on the map. As already noted, this text ends with Antonio Blado’s printer’s statement—place of publication, motto and date—Romæ, in templo Boni eventus. 1540, Mense Maio’.52

The 1545 reissue has Oporin’s printer’s mark—the figure of the legendary Corinthian musician Arion grasping his lyre as he rides on a dolphin—in the sea just above the cartouche, and the signature of the wood-block cutter—CHS—with the date 1544 is on the sail of a boat north of the island of Crete. CHS is thought to indicate Master Christoph, that is, Christoph Schweicker of Strasbourg. The Strasbourg artist Heinrich Vogther the elder was responsible for the rich ornamentation of the map.53 The elaborate decoration of the cartouche is composed of curving acanthus leaves, various figures and faces and, at the bottom, in the centre, a medallion with a portrait (presently unidentified). The cartouche is balanced by a long scale bar in four different units (stadia and German, Gallic and Italian miles), in the right-hand corner of the map. These units were worked out by the mathematician Christian Herlin of Strasbourg, who has signed the scale bar with his initials CH and given the date 1544 above the decoration (Fig. 6).54

For the reissue in 1545, Oporin commissioned a Praefatio, or Introduction, from Nicolaus Gerbel (1485–1560), a Hellenist who was a pupil of Erasmus and friend of Philip Melanchthon and Martin Luther (Fig. 7).55 The first few pages of this separate 90-page folio volume are devoted to Gerbel’s introductory remarks on the scholarly uses of the map. The substance of the booklet...
comprises a historical and geographical description of Greece, arranged in sections, each of which corresponds to an ancient Greek region or city. Most sections start with a woodcut view of the city or region in question, also cut by Master Christoph (Figs. 8 and 9). The views are imaginary, and some are reproductions or variants of older woodcuts of German towns here used for Greek towns; thus Thessaloniki (page 40) is represented by a view of Basel, Calydon (page 32) by a view of Munich, and Megalopolis (page 73) by a view of Zurich.

The Praefatio concludes with twelve unnumbered pages that contain a long alphabetical list of the approximately two thousand place-names given on the map, together with their geographical co-ordinates. At the very end of the volume come the same four laudatory epigrams that are on one of the oblong concordance tables. Although Gerbel acknowledged Sophianos's advisory role in the overall venture, it is not clear whether Sophianos had a hand in the writing of any such introduction to his map and, if so, to what extent he was involved.

The map seems to have been in great demand, and Oporin commissioned Master Christoph to cut a new set of views. Then in 1550 Oporin reissued the Praefatio in an expanded edition, now amounting to three hundred pages, with—possibly—another reprint of the map. Oporin's 1550 edition of Gerbel's introduction starts with an elegy composed by Abraham Loescherius, who was also responsible for the translation of Pausanias into Latin (Basel, Oporin, 1550). The rest of the text was a more analytical historical geography of Greece; the content of the 1545 edition was now supplemented with thematic chapters describing the physical geography of Greece (seas, gulls, mountains and rivers), and the tribes, languages, traditions and customs of ancient Greece.
Fig. 5. Nikolaos Sophianos, *Descriptio Nova Totius Grœciœ*. Reissue of the second edition, published in Basel by Johannes Oporin in 1545. Woodcut on 8 sheets, with an overall measurement of 77.3 × 111.4 cm. Oporin first issued the map in 1544. The example reproduced here surfaced in 2004 in London at a Sotheby’s auction. (Reproduced with permission from Sotheby’s.)
An interesting addition is Gerbel’s detailed instructions on how to colour the map. He directed that the boundaries of provinces and districts should be red or purple (subrubro, violaceo) according to their precedence in the administrative structure. The sea was to be in sky blue (caeruleo). The mountains should be left white, while the rivers were to be made blue (veneto). The forests were to be shown ‘as may be agreed’; the signs for towns and villages were to be coloured violet (ferrugineus color).

The expanded Praefatio, however, is unillustrated except for two mnemonic cartographic schemata, related to the shape of central Greece and Macedonia, on pages 25 and 38 respectively. We may infer, then, that Master Christoph’s new views were printed to form a border that was to be issued with yet another reprint of the map (that would, accordingly, be dated 1550) or that was to be added to any remaining copies of the 1545 edition.

Fig. 6. Nikolaos Sophianos, Descriptio Nova Totius Graeciae, 1545 (see Fig. 5). Detail showing the scale bar. The units of measurement are Greek stadia and German, Gallic and Italian miles. Along the bottom, on either side of the motto the initials CH are those of the Strasbourg mathematician Christman Herlin who compiled the scales for Oporin in 1544 (the date is given above the decoration). (Reproduced with permission from Sotheby’s.)

Fig. 7. Title page of the illustrated commentary, Nicolaus Gerbel’s In descriptionem Graeciae Sophiani, praefatio (Basel, Johannes Oporin, 1545), which accompanied the reissue of Nikolaos Sophianos’s map of Greece. Folio. 90 pp. (Reproduced with permission from the Gennadius Library, The American School for Classical Studies, Athens, GT 11.)

Fig. 8. Nicolaus Gerbel’s In descriptionem Graeciae Sophiani, praefatio (Basel, Johannes Oporin, 1545) contains 21 imaginary woodcut views of places marked on Nikolaos Sophianos’s map of Greece. Although rather fanciful in their details, some of them bear some relation to reality. Thus Athens (on p. 19) is dominated by the Acropolis, Piraeus is shown with its double harbour, and the whole urban area is enclosed by the long walls. 8 × 12.5 cm. (Reproduced with permission from the Gennadius Library, The American School for Classical Studies, Athens, GT 11, p. 19.)
Venice 1545 and Rome 1552 Editions

In the same year (1545) that Oporin was reprinting his edition of Sophianos’s map, a new version was being published in Venice by Giovanni Andrea Vavassore. This much smaller two-sheet map, which measures no more than 41.5 × 62 centimetres overall, was engraved on copper. Its bilingual title, Totius Graeciae Descriptio / Απόστασες Ελλάδος Περιγραφή, is placed at the bottom of the right-hand sheet. Prominent in the lower part of the left-hand sheet, is a large rectangular cartouche in the form of a scroll. This contains Vavassore’s note to the reader (‘Ioannes Andreas Vavassorius Vadagninus Lectori S.’), in which he acknowledges that the edition is essentially based on Sophianos’s map. Next to the cartouche and near the margin of the map is a divider and a double scale bar in Greek stadia and Italian miles (140 Italian miles or 1,000 stadia = 6 cm.). To the right of the divider is an unidentified coat of arms. The geographical features of this edition are similar to Oporin’s 1545 woodcut, but, because this is a much smaller version than the original he was copying from, he had to omit the vignettes of Athens and Constantinople, as well as the smaller ones of ancient monuments.

It may be suggested that Sophianos himself initiated Vavassore’s edition in 1545 or, at the very least, that he was engaged in one way or another in this undertaking, since we know he was in Venice in that year managing his Greek publishing business. If Sophianos were to have been involved, Vavassore’s edition could have been based directly on an exemplar of the original Rome edition (1540). Two facts reinforce such a hypothesis. The more important is that his edition is the only known version of Sophianos’s map to have a bilingual (Greek and Latin) title. Secondly, Vavassore’s version does not incorporate Oporin’s cartographic improvements, especially the complex scale bar, although it does have a simple one, identical, it should be noted, to that on the copperplate edition of the map that was published seven years later (1552).

The 1552 edition is large—about 74 × 111 centimetres—and elegantly engraved. It is printed from four copper plates (Fig. 10). The large rectangular cartouche in the bottom left corner of the map is divided into two panels of text. It contains Sophianos’s original address to the reader, dated ‘Romae, in templo Boni Eventus, M.D.LII’ (in the left-hand panel), and the four laudatory epigrams (in the right-hand panel). A number of differences between Oporin’s 1545 woodcut and this new copperplate stand out. The title of the map, Totius Graeciae Descriptio, is at the bottom of the map, in the centre of the frame, and not at the top of the map, and the date is now styled in Roman numerals. The scale bar that Oporin added to the map is lacking, but a double scale bar is found in the border (bottom left). Although no indication is given of which units of measurement were used, we may presume that these are similar to those used by Vavassore, that is, Greek stadia for the left part of the scale bar and Italian miles for the right. The cartouche is no longer ornately decorated.

It is not too far-fetched to suggest that this Rome edition not only most faithfully reproduced Sophianos’s original draft (apart from the date), but also that it was actually printed from the original copper plates, those used for the now-lost first Rome edition of 1540, as was suggested by Hieronymus in 1984. Indeed, it would be tempting to suggest that the copper plates of the original edition had remained at Rome in the hands of Antonio Blado, together with the Greek typeface that Sophianos had designed for the Vatican’s Greek press. Nevertheless, the plates were apparently not part of the printing equipment returned to Sophianos in 1551 when his dispute with Antonio Blado was settled, and no mention is made of them in any related document. The more likely scenario is that the end of the case allowed Blado to reissue the map from the old plates that were still in his possession, a hypothesis supported...
Fig. 10. Nikolaos Sophianos, *Totius Graeciae Descriptio* (Rome, Antonio Blado, 1552). Copperplate. 4 sheets. 74 x 110 cm. The motto ‘Bonus Eventus’, here at the bottom of the left panel in the cartouche, was used by Antonio Blado (see Fig. 3), the Vatican’s official printer who had invited Sophianos to Rome. The plates used for this edition may have been engraved long before, possibly as early as 1540, which would mean this edition reproduces the lost first Rome edition. (Reproduced with permission from the British Library, Maps M.T. 5.g.2.(4).)
by the fact that in the 1552 issue his printer’s motto (‘in templo Boni eventus’) remains.

Another feature of the 1552 issue that appears to corroborate the suggestion that the plates used for this printing were indeed the old ones from 1540 are the obvious corrections that were made at some stage to the original engraving on the plate. The corrections concern the island of Zante (Zacinthus), to the west of the Peloponnese (Fig. 11). A new, correctly delineated, coastline has been placed farther out in the sea, enlarging the island, and new hill signs have been added, but neither the old coastline nor the stippling of the former area of sea has been erased. The two versions of the island are found only on the 1552 edition, which raises the question when the corrections were made. On both Oporin’s woodcut edition and Vavassore’s engraved copperplate edition (1545), the island is correctly shown. The failure to erase the old coastline and the sea stippling could be accounted for by the inexperience of whoever made the correction, but whether the correction was made in 1552 or had already been done in 1540 (which would explain why all subsequent editions show the island correctly), it is impossible to state. In either case, the person responsible could have been Blado.

Later Copies of Sophianos’s Map

Exactly when the Rome publisher Francesco Salamanca produced his own reduced edition of Sophianos’s map on two sheets (about 41 × 62 cm) is unclear, but it appears to have been before 1558.66 Most probably this edition was not based on Vavassore’s 1545 Venetian version on two sheets, but on the 1552 Rome reissue of the map by Antonio Blado, since it includes the vignettes of Athens and Constantinople, and the illustrations of the ancient monuments. Salamanca’s edition was copied in Rome by Vincenzo Luchini, in 1558.67 Subsequently it was reproduced in Venice by Paolo Forlani (1562), Ferrando Bertelli (1564, engraved on copper by Domenico Zenoi [Zenoni]), Giovanni Francesco Camocio (1566, engraved on copper by Paolo Forlani), and Donato Bertelli (1569).68 Francesco Salamanca’s edition was also reproduced in Rome by Antonio Lafreri (1570) and Claudio Duchetti (after 1570).69

Finally, in 1579 a new version of the map appeared, on one sheet (about 35 × 50 cm), as part of Abraham Ortelius’s Parergon, under the title Ellèa´ B Græca Sophiani (Fig. 12).70 Ortelius’s edition was evidently not based on the Italian two-sheet reduced editions of the map, but directly on the 1545 Basel Oporin edition, since it contains the scale bar in four different units (stadia and German, Gallic and Italian miles) worked out by Christman Herlin.

Much later, in 1601 in Basel, Johannes Schroeterus printed the last woodcut edition of Sophianos’s map of Greece from Oporin’s blocks. For this edition Oporin’s dedication to Cosimo de’ Medici was changed to Andreas Ryff (1550–1603), the influential Basel merchant, politician and historian, and Sophianos’s address to the reader was replaced by a new text composed by the antiquarian scholar, Iacobus Grasserus.71

The year 1699 saw a final flurry of activity: Gerbel’s 1545 Praefatio was reissued by Jacobus Gronovius in the fourth volume of his magisterial, thirteen-volume Thesaurus graecarum antiquitatum.72 Gronovius’s edition included Ortelius’s version of Sophianos’s map, Græcia, Sophiani, and twenty-one views by the Flemish artist Jan Goeree, also engraved, were printed three to a page. The views are rather loosely based elaborations of those in Gerbel’s original (1545) edition of the book. With Gronovius’s publication, the printing history
of Sophianos’s great cartographical work, the mapping of Greece, came to a close.

The Content of Sophianos’s Map

Ptolemy’s Geography provided the basis for Sophianos’s map. The outlines, the representation of the relief, the network of rivers, and the internal division of Greece into countries or tribes, whose boundaries and names he marked on his map, are all visibly Ptolemaic. Nevertheless, Sophianos revised many of the details, such as the outlines of Corfu, Cephalonia and Zante in the Ionian Sea, the southern coastline of the Peloponnese, and the size and the arrangement of the Cyclades in the Aegean Sea.

He also departed from the traditional model of Greece that Ptolemy, following the ancient Greek geographers, had used and proposed instead a new regional definition of Greece. Whereas Ptolemy’s Greece extended northwards as far as Epirus and Macedonia, on Sophianos’s map Greece embraced all of the Balkans south of the Danube as well as western Asia Minor. Thus, in seeking a base for his own map, Sophianos had first to join together two of Ptolemy’s maps of Europe, Tabulae Europae IX and X, which show the Balkans south of the Danube, and then to add the western part of Tabula Asiae I, which shows Asia Minor. To this he appended a small part of southern Italy from Tabula Europae VI. He retained the Ptolemaic graticule of latitude and longitude as well as the division of the latitudes into climates.

Although exceptional, Sophianos’s broad territorial definition of Greece was not unique. There were antecedents for his perception of a greater Greece. The tenth map of Europe in the first edition of Ptolemy’s Geography with maps (Bologna, D. de Lapis, 1477), one of the additional ‘modern’ maps in Martin Waldseemüller’s edition of Ptolemy (Strasbourg, Schott, 1513)—the ‘Tabula moderna Bossine, Servie, Greciae et Slavonie’—and the map of Greece in the second edition of Solinus’s Polyhistor (Basel, M. Isengrin and H. Petri, 1538), all show Greece extending into the Balkans, Asia Minor and southern Italy (Magna Graecia) as on Sophianos’s map. In contrast, Gerbel’s definition of Greece, as described in his Praefatio, covered...
only those regions included in Strabo’s and Ptolemy’s Greece, with the addition of Magna Grecia.

Another innovative feature of Sophianos’s map in comparison with his Ptolemaic model is the chronological range and wealth of the place-names. Ptolemy had only depicted the geographical realities of the second century AD, but Sophianos aimed to embrace the entire span of ancient Greek history. Where Ptolemy listed approximately a thousand places for the areas covered by the maps corresponding to Sophianos’s Greece, Sophianos, according to Gerbel’s list, had two thousand places, which he had drawn from a variety of sources, as acknowledged in his address to the reader. First, Sophianos had used the Greek historians and geographers—Herodotus, Thucydides, Strabo and Pausanias—then recent maps and charts, and finally Ptolemy’s Geography. For Ptolemy, Sophianos claimed to have consulted a large number of the early manuscripts.

It is interesting to find Pausanias’s antiquarian description, a source unexploited by earlier scholars, cited among Sophianos’s main references. Sophianos acknowledged his debt to Pausanias directly through his formal acknowledgement and indirectly through his adaptation of Pausanias’s title (Græciae Descriptio) as the title of his map (Totius Graeciae Descriptio). His debt to Pausonias is also evident in the distribution of the place-names on the map, which is much denser in the regions covered by the Description of Greece, such as Fokis, Attica and the Peloponnnesus.

All the geographical material recorded on Sophianos’s map refers to antiquity. The place-names are those relevant for the period from the Argonauts and the Trojan War (supposedly twelfth century BC) to the late Roman period (fourth century AD). With the exception of ‘Byzantion-Constantinopolis’, no Byzantine, Frankish or Ottoman names appear. Such Byzantine fortified cities as Didymoteikhon and Mistra in Greece are absent, as are Bodonitza (Mendenitsa in Lokris) and Vostitza (Aigion in northern Peloponnnesus), Slavic settlements dating from the sixth and ninth centuries respectively, and built on ancient sites that became seats of important Frankish baronies. Scutari (Üsküdar), the Ottoman’s Asiatic harbour for Constantinople, and Tripolitza (Tripolis), the Ottoman capital of Morea, are ignored. The names of mountains, rivers, lakes and seas are likewise those of ancient times.

The sixteenth-century reader of Sophianos’s map was expected to locate medieval and modern places by using the separately provided concordance of 276 names and to match the numbers by the places on that list with those on the map. On the map, place-names are in their Hellenized Latin form, with Roman letters spelling the Greek names. An interesting feature is the parallel use of both Greek and Latin letters and names for some countries, regions, tribes and seas (Fig. 13). In 1545 Vavassore followed this practice for the title of his map.

It is appropriate that Troy (called Ilium on the map) is the sole settlement to be depicted as a ruin, since the site of the ancient city marks the oldest level of Greek history represented on the map. For Herodotus, as for all the Greek historians, the Trojan War marked the starting point of history. An alternative explanation for the depiction of Troy as a ruin could be that it is an allusion to the mythical origins of Rome, celebrated by the Roman poet Virgil in The Aeneid, which was believed to have been founded by Aeneas after his flight from...
Troy. The other end of the timescale represented on the map would seem to be marked by ‘Byzantion-Constantinopolis’—the only city to be given both its ancient and its modern name—to which the capital of the Roman Empire was moved at the beginning of the fourth century AD.

The woodcut and the copperplate versions of Sophianos’s map present very different images. The woodcut 1545 Basel edition is strongly pictorial. The rich and varied iconography used for physical features such as relief and vegetation, and for human features such as cities, fortresses and the smaller settlements, adds a degree of realism to the representation. The shading suggests the third dimension. The seas are embellished with ships, sea monsters and mythological scenes that add to the theatricality of the enterprise.

In contrast, the engraved lines of the 1552 Rome copperplate version create a more delicate image, further lightened by less elaborate ornamentation. The map signs tend to be smaller and more homogeneous. There is less variation in the size and shape of hill and tree signs. Instead of the apparently random differences in the styling and sizes of the settlement signs on Oporin’s woodcut, on the copperplate we can easily discern distinct categories of settlement, each represented by a sign of different style and size to denote villages, fortresses, smaller towns and larger towns. There is no absolute consistency, however; whereas the smaller towns are indicated by a single tower, the sign for the larger towns may include two, three or four towers, with walls added for the largest towns of all.

Two cities alone have been singled out for special representation on both versions. Large pictorial vignettes stand for the two major cultural and political centres of classical and late antiquity, Byzantium and Athens. These schematic vignettes nonetheless portray something of the ancient aspect of the towns. Byzantium is represented as a walled town with the cathedral of Saint Sophia in the centre (see Fig. 13). Athens, the principal city on the map, is depicted with the Acropolis in the centre, its harbour at Piraeus and the long walls enclosing both city and harbour (Fig. 14). This impressive vignette covers a large part of Attica.

Ancient Greek and Roman monuments, taken from Strabo, Pliny and, above all, Pausanias are also discernible. The signs used for these buildings reflect Roman rather than Greek architecture. As might be expected, the sacred centres of the Greek world, Delos and Delphi, are marked, the latter with two temples, one labelled ‘Delphi’ and the other ‘Pythia’ (see Fig. 14). So are, more surprisingly, the three sanctuaries dedicated to Diana: one just north of Byzantium at the Asiatic end of the Bosporus, another on the island of Euboea and the third east of Athens at Vravron in Attica. Four other sanctuaries are marked by smaller signs: the temple of Juno Acraea–Limenia near Corinth; Neptune’s at Rhion; Apollo’s Nymphaeum near Apollonia in Illyria; and Apollo’s temple in Actium, Epirus, western Greece. The sanctuary of the Actian Apollo is shown together with the hill and the woods referred to by Strabo (see Fig. 11). Not far from this sanctuary is the burning altar that celebrated the Roman emperor Octavian’s victory.
over the combined forces of Anthony, Cleopatra and the Greeks in 31 BC and symbolized the final unification of the Greek East under Roman rule.

Using Sophianos’s Map

Although no documentary evidence has yet come to light to explain what inspired Sophianos to make his map, the political factor can almost certainly be excluded. By the time the map was printed in 1540, the war of 1538–1540 between the Holy League and the Sultan had already reached its inglorious close, and the map would have served no military function.78 Rather, we should seek Sophianos’s motives in the intellectual priorities of the humanistic and antiquarian environment within which his career had evolved, and where his map and its reader aids were received with enthusiasm by his contemporaries.

As already noted, the woodcut version of the map was republished at least twice in the decade following the original Rome edition of 1540, once by the humanist publisher Johannes Oporin and once, as a copy on copper, by Vavassore. It was praised by the scholar Konrad Gesner and appreciated by antiquarians and geographers such as Antonio Augustin, Johannes Metellus and Joachim Vadianus, and Hellenist humanists such as Arlenius Peraxylus and Philaenus Lunardus. Nicolaus Gerbel, author of the commentary that accompanied Oporin’s woodcut edition, compared the map’s creator to the great Byzantine philosopher and humanist George Gemistos Plethon (c.1355–c.1450).

The enthusiastic interest of the humanists in Sophianos’s map led to its widespread diffusion. From 1545 onwards, the map was copied and reproduced by some of the major map publishers of the time—Giovanni Andrea Vavassore, Francesco Salamanca, Paolo Forlani, Giovanni Francesco Camocio, Donato Bertelli, Abraham Ortelius—and became a cartographical bestseller for the remainder of the century. In one version or another, indeed, Sophianos’s map was commonly found in sixteenth-century map collections, in public and private libraries, in composite atlases, even redrawn by hand for a manuscript atlas; it was listed in Frankfort book fair catalogues.79

The acclaim given to the work by contemporary scholars has to be explained by the fact that the map and its accessories supplied answers to a number of basic and long-standing problems relating to the geography of ancient Greece. In the eyes of his contemporaries, Sophianos’s map was superior to the Ptolemaic tabulae of Greece—both ‘ancient’ and ‘modern’—by virtue of its larger size, the more-detailed representation of physical features and the wealth of information portrayed. The last reflects the variety of Sophianos’s sources, the wide timespan covered (which permitted the recording of data already out of date by Ptolemy’s time) and, finally, the map’s accompanying list of ancient and modern place-names.

For any sixteenth-century scholar, a project involving analysis of the physical and human landscape over a thousand years of ancient Greek history was a challenging endeavour. All sorts of sources had to be searched for the relevant information, contradictions had to be resolved, and the selected data had to be correctly positioned on the map. The map Sophianos produced was a valuable antiquarian tool. It allowed him to display his own classical learning, which he was able to improve on as he checked what were considered to be the most reliable geographical records of his day—Ptolemy’s Geography and portolan charts. It also allowed him to go further than his sources to produce a supplementary concordance of the ancient and modern place-names of Greece.

A major problem for anyone wanting to know the location and present-day name of a place mentioned in an ancient text was that of subsequent changes in toponymy. Byzantine scholars, who were well aware that place-names were liable to change over time and that many ancient settlements were remembered only by their names, were the first to compile lists of former and current names.80 In the Latin West, however, scholars paid attention to the question only from the fourteenth century onwards. As Petrarch made clear in his comments on Virgil, the need was to discover the correct position and spelling of ancient localities that had disappeared or whose names had become corrupted or been replaced over the centuries.

Lists of ancient and modern place-names were added to maps early in the Renaissance. Some of the fifteenth-century manuscript copies and printed editions of Ptolemy’s Geography contain lists of modern equivalents for use with the maps.81 Later on, towards the end of the sixteenth century, it became a relatively common practice to provide such lists to accompany separately printed maps or to be included in atlases as well as in antiquarian geographical description.82

For Renaissance humanists in western Europe, the problem of identifying ancient Greek locations was complicated. Greece was far away, and the recent Ottoman invasion of eastern Europe had
brought about abrupt corrosion in the country, adding to the slow corrosion of toponyms over time.85 Sophianos's alphabetical concordance table of ancient and modern place-names was the first such aid for Greece. Despite Sophianos's clear intention, his list was in fact of little real help when it comes to finding a modern place on the map, since the numbers follow no coherent pattern. The problem was corrected only much later, in Lafreri's reissue of Sophianos's concordance in 1570, in which geographical co-ordinates replaced the arbitrarily numbered names of the original.86

The list of place-names compiled by Gerbel and published as an appendix to his Praefatio was also intended as an aid to the reader of works about ancient Greece and to facilitate finding a place mentioned therein.87 Like Sophianos, Gerbel listed the names in alphabetical order, but unlike the mapmaker, he keyed them to the map by means of geographical co-ordinates. Gerbel evidently did not anticipate a high level of map literacy among his readers, for he took the trouble to explain the system of parallels and meridians and the way they were to be used to define a place's geographical position, thus ensuring the successful use of the gazetteer.88

Interest in different ways of visualizing and tabulating knowledge was characteristic of sixteenth-century humanism, as was the humanists' preoccupation with history and its pedagogical applications.89 Sophianos's map offered scholars and students a composite visual medium, a sort of antiquarian geographical compendium that summarized the totality of ancient geographical knowledge as it related to Greece. As Oporin, addressing Cosimo de' Medici, noted in his dedication of the 1545 edition of Sophianos's map, it was useful and necessary for understanding Greek historians and poets.88

Gerbel's Praefatio is even more fulsome in its praise of the usefulness of Sophianos's map: the map clarifies the narratives of the Iliad, the Odyssey, the account of the Argonauts' expedition and Virgil's poems, and it serves as a guide to the histories of Thucydides, Xenophon and Livy. More than that, Gerbel pointed out, the map 'enlightens the reader and makes his reading more enjoyable': with the help of the map, the reader can see at a glance how, for example, the Greeks sailed from Aulis and how they reached Troy, how Helle was drowned in the Hellespont, why Virgil described Aeneas's voyage as a periplus, and why Xerxes had to cut a canal across the Athos peninsula.89 Finally, Gerbel concluded, 'With the picture of the whole of Greece before your eyes, history and literature are no longer unintelligible, no longer shrouded in Cimmerian darkness'.90

The enthusiasm that greeted Sophianos's map testifies to the character of sixteenth-century antiquarian interests and the growing trend of giving the past a visual dimension.91 Abraham Ortelius expressed the common belief in the instrumental character of maps when he observed in the preface to his Theatrum Orbis Terrarum, quoted here from the 1607 English edition, 'The reading of histories doeth both seeme to be much more pleasant, and indeed so it is, when the Mappe being layed before our eyes, we may behold things done, or places where they were done, as if they were at this time present and in doing'.92

**Functions of Sophianos's Map**

Sophianos's map should be seen in the context of the new textualism of Renaissance humanism and in the light of the humanists' emphasis on a critical approach to ancient texts.93 Although the map was promoted—and eventually employed—as an aid in the elucidation of ancient historical and literary works, it cannot be defined as a historical map in the current sense of the term, nor was it understood as such by its users.94 In no contemporary source is it defined as a map of ancient Greece; Gesner for example, described it as a work with both ancient and modern place-names.95

According to the early sixteenth-century humanist's sense of antiquity, time was a cyclical and repetitive process, and history, following Cicero's definition, was conceived as the tutor of life (Historia magistra vitae).96 Since both classical and Christian antiquity provided the paradigm for modern society, Renaissance humanists wavered between a past that was at one and the same time already accomplished and yet was expected to be reborn.97 Humanists were aware of the differences between the present and the past, however, and early sixteenth century antiquarian cartographers offered a variety of solutions to the problem of depicting past and present on maps, such as presenting ancient and modern maps of the same area side by side (as in editions of Ptolemy's Geography from 1513—Schott's Strasbourg edition—onwards), as in the use of different types of font on the same map,98 or, as in Sophianos's case, cross-referencing between the map and a
Sophianos’s map has to be defined as an antiquarian map. In it, Greek antiquity is displayed as a palimpsest on which is registered, without distinction, historical and mythological elements drawn from the whole sequence of the ancient Greek legacy. Totius Graeciae Descriptio, in short, displays the successive periods of Greece’s history and mythology as a static unit. The map covers a huge span of time. It ranges from mythical and Homeric times (represented by places such as Iolkos, the Argonauts harbour, Nestor’s Pylus, and Homeric Assine or Mycene), to those of the late Roman and early Byzantine empires (represented by places such as Nicopolis that recall valiant Roman deeds or, as in the cases of Traianopolis, Adrianopolis and Constantinopolis, the emperors who founded them). It does, however, set out a clear demarcation between the ‘modern’ and the ‘antique’. Indeed, we may deduce that the differentiation between ‘past’ and ‘present’ was clear to Sophianos from the fact that he included places that were still known by their ancient names, such as Argos, Cassandra and Megara in his concordance table of ancient and modern place-names.

Sophianos’s map can also be seen as conveying symbolical values that reflected the cultural and political preoccupations of the time. In the context of the 1540s, the map could have served to promote Greek patriotism by celebrating a cultural (historical and religious) definition of Greece through the portrayal of the allegedly devastated Christian territories of the former Byzantine Empire as richly endowed by their Greek and Roman ancestry. Nevertheless, the map was mainly addressed to Western readers. The intention was to restore the cartographical image of ancient Greece and thus to stipulate that Greece was a historical, geographical and, thanks to the names of regions and seas lettered in Greek, linguistic reality, not just a scholarly and artistic idea regained through Latin reminiscences. It is precisely the restoration of Greece that was being celebrated by Gerbel and Oporin, and by the laudatory epigrams, especially that composed by Faustinus Buturinus Veronensis:

As everything changes, so did Greece the ingenious
Whose aspect, Sophianos, you have restored.
Now its true figure, neither Jupiter’s fury nor any calamity
Could ever again abolish.  

It is worth questioning what exactly this Greece that the map had restored and regained was. In fact, Sophianos’s broad regional definition of Greece does not correspond to any territory described by the ancient historians and geographers. Although nothing on the map makes explicit to which layer or layers of Greek history the definition applies, Sophianos’s main sources (Strabo, Pausanias and Ptolemy) were all concerned with the realities of the imperial period. Consequently, the emphasis in the map is on the Roman era, from the subjugation of the Greek territories by the Roman Empire (which were thus unified for the first time in their history) to the transfer of the empire’s capital from Rome to Constantinople, the map’s final temporal boundary. The same period was also that of the spread—through Saint Paul’s peregrinations and the founding of the earliest Christian communities—and consolidation of the Christian faith through the activities of the Church Fathers and the first Ecumenical Councils, such as those of Nicaea, Constantinople, Ephesus and Chalcedon.

Sophianos’s definition of, and perspective on, Greek antiquity were linked to a specific perception of Greece as part of the unified and Christianized Roman world and, to some extent, to the survival of this world as the Eastern Roman Empire. Sophianos’s map has to be understood as an expression of the spirit of universal Christian humanism that prevailed in Rome under the humanist popes before the Council of Trent (1545–1564). This spirit of the universality of Christianity produced the Quirinal College, the Vatican’s Greek press, the Alcala polyglot edition of the Bible and the magnificent illustrations in the cycle of frescoes painted by Raphael for the Vatican’s Stanza della Segnatura (particularly the legendary ‘School of Athens’ fresco, an allegory of the fusion of ancient philosophy and Christian theology).

Sophianos’s map can be seen as an outcome of the Vatican’s spirit of universality and the expansionist implications of that spirit. Its success, however, lay in its association with the intellectual climate of the Reformation, which turned towards Greek as the language of the early Church and, more incidentally, to the use of maps in explanation and support of the sacred texts. It is thus no coincidence that Joachim Vadianus was one of the first humanists to be interested in Sophianos’s map, that Nicolaus Gerbel, the Hellenist who undertook to ‘explain’ and promote the map to the public, was a militant Protestant, the editor of a new
edition of the Bible in Greek and an intimate of Philip Melanchthon and Martin Luther, and that the map had a definite impact on Sebastian Münster’s cartography of Greece.102

There are indeed quite a few parallels and even connections between the map’s publishing history and the context of the ‘Battle of Greek’ in the first half of the sixteenth century.103 Although the map was not connected to the doctrinal quarrels related to the status of Greek as a literary, sacred and living tongue, its diffusion was inevitably affected by the issue. The first edition of the map, that from the Vatican Greek press, dropped out of sight during the period when the Catholic Church looked upon the Greek language as a dangerous tool in the hands of the Reformation, and Hellenists and their publishers risked being placed on the Index librorum Prohibitorum. In contrast, the map was widely disseminated in Switzerland, where the Reformation was flourishing. Later on, through its inclusion in Ortelius’s Parergon (1579), it was distributed throughout the Low Countries, another Reformation stronghold, especially among adherents of the Family of Love, whose universalistic mysticism was evolving on the fringe of the Counter-Reformation.104 In the final analysis, it has to be said, the survival and success of Sophianos’s map over the following two centuries owed much to Oporin and, then, to Ortelius. The very title he gave to his version of the map—Ελλάς Graecia, Sophiani (Ελλάς Sophianos’s Greece)—endowed it with an archetypal lustre: this was a distinction he conferred upon no other cartographer represented in his atlases.

Sophianos’s map of Greece lay at the heart of the Parergon. For Ortelius the map represented a decisive step in his exposition of the providential design of the world, which he went on to develop further in successive editions of the Parergon. The exposition started with the ancient peregrinations, from Abraham and the Argonauts to Ulysses and Aeneas, and was followed first by the establishment of the Greek states and the political unification of the ancient world under the Roman Empire and then by the spread of the Christian faith. After this were presented the actual instruments of Providence: the Lords of the Holy Roman Empire and the Escorial—the emperor’s residence with its vast library, said to contain the entire memory of the world.105 In addition, the Parergon contains two pictures of mythical paradises, places of poetic reflection: one is of Apollo’s temple in Daphne and the other—inspired by Master Christoph’s woodcut in Gerbel’s Praefatio (1545)—of the valley of Tempe in Thessaly (Figs. 15 and 16).106

By including Sophianos’s Greece in the Parergon, Ortelius ensured its longevity. Its endurance came with a price, however, for although the map continued to be regarded as authoritative, its original function was lost. From being a useful tool in antiquarian research, it gradually became an antiquarian object itself. Christos Zacharakis records the publication of dozens of versions of Ortelius’s Ελλάς Graecia, Sophiani in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries in atlases, treatises...
on ancient geography and books on Greek history.\textsuperscript{107}

There is little point in questioning whether Nikolaos Sophianos was Orthodox or Catholic. He had been brought up in the spirit of Christian universalism that prevailed in Rome at the time. Similarly, it is pointless to wonder whether he was attracted by the Reformation or influenced by Christian neo-Stoic ideas, or whether he tended instead towards empirical scepticism, as could be presumed from his early interest in Pyrrhonism.\textsuperscript{108} Sophianos was not a theorist. On the contrary, as Legrand points out, he had an ‘eminently practical mind’.\textsuperscript{109} As a mapmaker he was called upon to find empirical solutions to abstract and fluid issues relating to the character of Greek antiquity, its relation to the present and its bearing on the thinking of the Renaissance intelligentsia.

Sophianos’s project of publishing a comprehensive map, large enough to be displayed on the wall and to show the Greek territories from mythical times to the founding of the Eastern Roman Empire and the establishment of Christianity, had been aimed at promoting the idea that Greece was an active and still present component of the Christian and humanist legacy. Furthermore, the project was in line with antiquarian commitment to the artefactual, geographical and topographical evidence of the past. For the scholarly elites of western Europe in the early sixteenth century, \textit{Tottius Graccaeae Descriptio} functioned as a visual digest of Greece. It demonstrated and tabulated the geographical setting of the Greek and Latin classics, both literary and historical. Thanks to Sophianos’s concordance and Gerbel’s commentary with its gazetteer, ancient place-names could be verified and changes in their names over time traced. At the same time, the vibrant iconography of the map signs, together with Master Christoph’s book illustrations, provided the map user with a rich, albeit imaginary, topographical and architectural testimony to the landscape of ancient Greece.

The welcome accorded to the map and its wide dissemination ensured that the emphasis on ancient as well as modern Greece became an integral element in sixteenth-century humanism. Nikolaos Sophianos’s remarkable work rapidly acquired authority and was soon established as the standard reference work that deepened the objectives of comparative geography. The antiquarian discipline of studying the ancient and modern in parallel as promoted by Sophianus was destined to have a conspicuous career throughout the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.\textsuperscript{110}

Acknowledgements: Thanks are due to Christos Zacharakis and Constantine Staikos for their aid in locating Sophianos’s maps, to Catherine Delano Smith for her constant advice, and to the anonymous \textit{Imago Mundi} referee for helping me to avoid mistakes and misjudgements.


NOTES AND REFERENCES


5. Sophianos attended the Greek College on the Quirinal Hill (ad Caballinum Montem) in 1515 or 1516. The college had been founded by Pope Leo X in 1513–1514 but soon closed, most probably on the pope’s death in 1521. Sophianos’s fellow pupils were young Greeks who were in Rome as students, boys of mixed social origins who came from various parts of the Levante Veneto and the Peloponnese. See Vittorio Fanelli, ‘Il ginnasio greco di Leone X a Roma’, Studi romani 9 (1961): 379–93; Saladin, La bataille du Grec à la Renaissance (see note 2), 101–22.

6. The Orthodox authorities in Constantinople did not approve the Council’s decisions and anathema was pronounced against the pope. The bibliography on the Council of Ferrara–Florence is extensive. For a succinct overview, see Joseph Gill, Le Concile de Florence (Paris, Descée de Brouwer, 1964).


8. See M. Petrocchi, La politica della Santa Sede di fronte all’ invasione ottomana (1444–1718) (Naples, Libreria Scientifica Editrice, 1955); also Kenneth M. Setton, The Papacy and the Levant (1204–1571). For the publication date, see Layton, The Sixteenth Century Greek Book in Italy (see note 4), 105–6).


10. Sophianos appears to have treated the Sceptic philosopher’s empirical materialism and subversive aphorisms as relief from his strenuous mental exertions. In his dedicatory verses addressed to Georges de Selve he remarked: ‘Do not look for beautiful writing, O excellent ambassador of the Celts and glory of wise men, my own good and noble benefactor; for this book is full of humorous sallies and was written extempore, at great speed, by a hand tired out by hard labour. Those who tire themselves out by writing ought to be paid’. Quoted in Legrand, Bibliographie Hellenique (see note 4), 1: clxxix. Sophianos’s copy of the Pyrrhonian Sketches is now in the Bibliothèque Nationale de France (MS Parisinus 1963 (anc. Fond grec)). On the impact of Pyrrhonism in Renaissance thought, see Pierre-François Moreau, ed., Le scepticisme au XVIe et au XVIIe siècle (Paris: A. Michel, 2001). On the other surviving manuscripts copied by Sophianos, see Legrand, Bibliographie Hellenique (note 4), 1: clxxix–ccl. Konrad Gesner mentioned others that he saw in Sophianos’s libra. Bibliothea universalis, sive Catalogus omnium scriptorum locupletissimum, in tribus linguis, latina, graeca et hebraica (Zurich, C. Froshauer, 1545), entries on Nicolaus alias Laonicius, Philon, Apollonius Dyscolus, Dionysius Byzantinius, Eustathios).

11. On Sophianos’s dictionary of modern Greek, see Legrand, Bibliographie Hellenique (note 4), 1: ccxiv. Sophianos also promoted living forms of the Greek language by making a copy of a vernacular literary text, the Chronicle of the Palatine Counts Tocco (G. Schirò, ‘Un apogrofa della Cronaca dei Tocco prodotto da Nicola Sofianio’, Revue des Études Sud-Est Européennes 7 (1969): 209–19). He also collaborated in the writing of the Commedia dei Tre Tiranni by A. Ricchi, created for Luigi Gritti, a prominent politician who was a natural son of the Doge Andrea Gritti and a Greek lady from Constantinople. The play relates the adventures of Byzantine refugees in Italy. Sophianos’s contribution consisted of passages of dialogue in Grechesco, a Greek–Venetian dialect of the late 15th and early 16th centuries which was current in Venice thanks to the mass influx of Greek-speaking refugees after the fall of Constantinople. See Mario Vitti, Nicola Sofianio e la commedia dei tre tiranni di A. Ricchi (Napoli, Istituto Universitario Orientale. Seminario di Grecho Moderno, 1966).


14. Theophylaktos, Archbishop of Ochrida, Εγκυκλία εις τα τέσσερα Ευαγγέλια [In quattuor Evangelia enarraciones] (Rome, Antonio Blado, 1542); Eustathios, Archbishop of Thessaloniki, Παρακλήσεις εις την τον Ωρθον Εριθα (Rome, Antonio Blado, 1542). A letter from Donado Giannotti (1492–1573), a Florentine scholar at the court of Cardinal Ridolfi, addressed to Piero Vettori (1499–1585) and dated 22 January 1542, states that ‘The Greeks [namely, Matthias Devaris and Nikolaos Sophianos] . . . have started work on Eustathios’s commentary on Homer, the one edited by Laskaris which was in the possession of Cardinal Ridolfi’ (Donato Giannotti, Lettere a Piero Vettori, ed. Roberto Ridolfi and Cecil Roth (Florence, A. Vallecchi, 1932), 105–6).

15. Theophylaktos, Archbishop of Ochrida, Εγκυκλία εις τα τέσσερα Ευαγγέλια [In quattuor Evangelia enarraciones] (Rome, Antonio Blado, 1542); Eustathios, Archbishop of Thessaloniki, Παρακλήσεις εις την τον Ωρθον Εριθα (Rome, Antonio Blado, 1542). A letter from Donado Giannotti (1492–1573), a Florentine scholar at the court of Cardinal Ridolfi, addressed to Piero Vettori (1499–1585) and dated 22 January 1542, states that ‘The Greeks [namely, Matthias Devaris and Nikolaos Sophianos] . . . have started work on Eustathios’s commentary on Homer, the one edited by Laskaris which was in the possession of Cardinal Ridolfi’ (Donato Giannotti, Lettere a Piero Vettori, ed. Roberto Ridolfi and Cecil Roth (Florence, A. Vallecchi, 1932), 105–6).

16. The typeface was designed by Sophianos and cut by Stefano Nicolini da Sabbio (see Layton, The Sixteenth Century Greek Book in Italy (note 4), 463–64). Giovanni Onorio designed another, smaller typeface which was used for the remaining volumes of Eustathios and all the other editions of the Vatican press (see Layton, ibid., 31–33).

17. N. Sophianos, Παρά κατασκευως και χρήσεως κριτερίων απεικόνισισ ([Concerning the Construction and Use of the Armilliary Astrolobe]) (Rome, Antonio Blado, 1540–1542). For the publication date, see Layton, The Sixteenth Century Greek Book in Italy (note 4), 463. The dedication is reproduced in Legrand, Bibliographie Hellenique (see note 4), 1: 266.


On Mendoza, see David H. Darst, Diego Hurtado de Mendoza (Boston, Twayne, 1987).

21. Aubrey Diller, ‘The Vatopedi manuscript of Ptolemy and Strabo’, American Journal of Philology 58:9 (1937): 174–84, reprinted in his Studies in Greek Manuscript Tradition (Amsterdam, Hakkert, 1980), 7–17, especially 15–17. Archival evidence confirms Sophianos’s presence in Venice on 31 January and on 19 September 1543 (Layton, The Sixteenth Century Greek Book in Italy (see note 4), 464). A letter from Johannes Metellus, the geographer and antiquary, to Antonio Augustini, dated Venice, 8 February 1543, informs us that Sophianos was already in Greece. His return in September is confirmed by Konrad Gesner. G. B. Amalteo, in a letter to Paolo Manuzio (27 February 1561), states that Sophianos made two journeys to Greece and that he brought back 300 Greek manuscripts (Paolo Manuzio, Lettere di Paolo Manuzio copiate sugli autografi conservati nella Bibliotheca ambrosiana (Paris, G. Renouard, 1834), 359). The number given for all the Greek manuscripts brought back from Greece may be no exaggeration; for besides those he bought for Mendoza, he must have acquired a considerable number of his own. Gesner makes frequent references to manuscripts that he had seen in Sophianos’s library (Gesner, Bibliotheca universalis (see note 11)).


23. It was based initially in Bartolomeo Zanetti’s printing house and later in Sophianos, Eparchos and Samariaris’s own printworks (‘printed in the house of Sophianos, dated after 29 May 1551), and fol. 601 (Melanchthon’s letter to Sophianos, dated September 1551). For a detailed catalogue of Sophianos’s editions, see Layton, The Sixteenth Century Greek Book in Italy (see note 4), 468–69.


25. Layton, The Sixteenth Century Greek Book in Italy (see note 4), 468.

26. Ibid., 467.

27. The notarial act is dated Rome, 1 June 1551. See Tinto, ‘Nuovo contributo alla storia della tipografia greca’ (note 18), 172; Petras, ‘Nikolaos Sophianos and Greek printing in Rome’ (note 19); and also Denis E. Rhodes, ‘The printing of a group of Greek books in Rome’, The Library, 5th ser., 31 (1976): 242–44.


29. On Sophianos’s copy of minor Greek geographers, see Diller, ‘The Vatopedi manuscript of Ptolemy and Strabo’ (note 21), Sophianos made handwritten annotations on Erasmus’s Greek edition of Ptolemy’s Geography (Basel, Froben, 1533). See Moustoxidis, ‘Νικόλαος Σοφινάκος’ (note 4), 241; Legrand, Bibliographie hellénique (note 4), 1: 266. A number of scholars and present authors to Sophianos a geography published at Basel (see Jacopo Morelli, Bibliotheca Pinelliana: A Catalogue of the Magnificent and Celebrated Library of Maffei Pinelli, Late of Venice (London, 1789), 1: 7; Juan Andrés, Antonii Augustini, archiepiscopi Tarraconensis, epistolae latineae et italicae (Parma, 1804), introduction, 138; Roberto Almagià, Carte geografiche a stampa di particolare pregio . . . dei sec. XVI e XVII (Città del Vaticano, Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana, 1948), 2: 75; Moustoxidis and Legrand consider that this is a mistake caused by Andrés’s misreading of Morelli. For more about the armillary sphere see note 17.


31. Legrand, Bibliographie hellénique (see note 4), 1: clxxxvi–cxcvi; Karrow, Mapmakers of the Sixteenth Century (see note 4), 495.

32. Andrés, Antonii Augustini (see note 29), 167. This letter informs us that the Hellenist Philaenus Lunardus had recently praised the map. See Legrand, Bibliographie hellénique (note 4), 1: cxc; and Karrow, Mapmakers of the Sixteenth Century (note 4), 495.


34. Gesner, Bibliotheca universalis (see note 11), 523.

35. Arnout van Eythoutus, known as Arnoldus Arlenius, was acting as a scout for Oporino and other Basel publishers (Jenny, ‘Arlenius in Basel’ (note 33), 16–17).

36. In his letter to Vadianus, 7 April 1543, also reported ‘que omnia hac estate ab Oporino Basiliae excudentur’ (Arbenz, Vadianische Briefsammlung (note 33), letter no 1285).

37. See Arbenz, Vadianische Briefsammlung (note 33), letter no. 1373, and Jenny, ‘Arlenius in Basel’ (note 33), 17, n.34. See also Gesner’s confirmation (Bibliotheca universalis (note 11)).

38. Gesner, Bibliotheca universalis (see note 11), 523.

39. When Ernst Meyer saw Sophianos’s map in Athens, it was bound in Nikolaus Gerbel’s In descriptionem Graeciae Sophiani, praealato (1545), which was part of the Constantine Sathas Library (Sathas 982) that had been purchased by the National Library of Greece in 1909 (see note 54 below for the full title). This explains why Sathas gave the correct date for the first Rome edition of Sophianos’s map in his Νανόπλου της Φιλολογίας Μορφή και Πηγή των Συγγραφέων Καρτων (Modern Greek Literature) (Athens, 1868), 142. Let it be noted here that Moustoxidis too gave the correct date of the first edition (‘Νικόλαος Σοφινάκος’ (note 4), 242). See also Frank Hieronymus, Basler Buchillustration 1500 bis 1545 (Basel, Universitätsbibliothek Basel, 1984), 541–47; Frank Hieronymus, ed., Griechischer Geist aus Basler Pressen, Katalog der frühen griechischen Drucke aus Basel in Text und Bild (Basel, Öffentliche Bibliothek der Universität Basel, 1992), entry GG 292; Peter H. Meurer, Fontes Cartographici Orteliani: Das ‘Theatrum Orbis Terrarum’ von Abraham Ortelius und seine Kartographen (Weinheim, VCH, Acta Humaniora, 1991), 241–42.


42. See Sotheby’s, Natural History, Travel, Atlases and Maps catalogue (London, 18 November 2004), lot. 219. The present location of the map has not been disclosed.

43. ‘Αλεξάνδρου Ποικίλου Ιστορίας, Βιβλία ΙΔ’ . . . Bonus Eventus/Ἀγαθὸς Δαίμων, ἐν Ρώμῃ, 1545’ (Aelianii variae Historiae libri, XIII . . .) (Romae, [Antonius Blado,] 1545). The mark ‘Bonus Eventus’ was first used by Blado in the 1540 Rome edition of Sophianos’s map. The choice of Bonus Eventus (Agathos Daimon or Agathodaimon), could have been originally inspired by the cartogapher Agathodaimon, the mysterious Alexandrian engineer of the 6th century, mentioned in the early Ptolemaic manuscripts as the one who drew the world map following Ptolemy’s instructions (see J. Lennart Berggren and Alexander Jones, Ptolemy’s Geography: An Annotated Translation of the Theoretical Chapters (Princeton, New Jersey, Princeton University Press, 2000), 4).

44. ‘ latinae scriptores calamo delineatus territoriorum, insularum, urbium, locorumque omnium quaerentur, statim post nuncupatoriam epistolam ad clarissimos clarissimosque, ut inde eis non minimus utilitatis, ac voluptatis, quam ex descriptione iam aedita, accedere possit. Atque hic recenti vocabulo interpretata nomina, numero simili quo etiam quae sunt in descriptionis tabula annotauimus: ut sine negotio et hac, et ibi inueniri queant’. [Antique and modern names of the towns of Greece, for Sophianos’s published map. This page contains the names of the towns and places of Greece as they were called by the ancients and as they are called now, that we verified with care and diligence for the reader. It is indeed very useful since it allows the reader. It is indeed very useful since it allows the access to the published map. We have marked the modern equivalents of the [antique] names with the same number, here and on the map, so that it is easy to find them here and there.]

45. ‘. . . cum nominibus locorum antiqui et recentioribus . . . ’ (Gesner, Bibliotheca universalis (see note 11), 523.

46. Eustathios of Thessaloniki occupied a prominent place among Sophianos’s sources. Although his contribution is not mentioned in Sophianos’s address to the reader, Sophianos was thoroughly familiar with his writings, since he had worked on the Vatican Press edition of Eustathios at about the same time (see note 15). Sophianos could have used Stephanus of Byzantium’s geographical dictionary, On Cities (c.6 cent. AD), which had been first printed by Aldus Manutius in Venice, 1502.

47. ‘Nomina antiqua et recentia urbiun Graeciae descriptionis, a N. Sophiano iam acedita. Hanc quocumque paginam, quae Graeciae urbiun ac locorum nominatio, quibus olim apud antiquos nuncupabantur, et quibus nunc appellantur, diligenti cura perquisita, continet, studiosum obnoxii, imprimi curauimus: ut inde eis non minus utilitates, ac voluptates, quae ex descriptione iam acedita, accedere possit, atque hic recenti vocabulo interpretata nomina, numero simili quae etiam quae sunt in descriptionis tabula annotauimus: ut sine negotio et hic, et ibi inueniri queant’. [Antique and modern names of the towns of Greece, for Sophianos’s published map. This page contains the names of the towns and places of Greece as they were called by the ancients and as they are called now, that we verified with care and diligence for the reader. It is indeed very useful since it allows the access to the published map. We have marked the modern equivalents of the [antique] names with the same number, here and on the map, so that it is easy to find them here and there.]

48. . . . cum nominibus locorum antiqui et recentioribus . . . ’ (Gesner, Bibliotheca universalis (see note 11), 523.

49. One copy is in the National Library of Greece (Sathas 982), and the other is in the Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division (G 2000 1545 G 45 Vault).

50. Paris, Bibliothèque nationale de France, Département des Manuscrits, Collection Dupuy, vol. 728, fol. 183. The copy with the four lunatory epigrams is in the National Library of Greece (Sathas 982). Sophianos probably met Fausto Sabeo (c.1475–1559) during his time at the Quirinal College, when Sabeo was working at the Vatican Library. I have not been able to establish Sophianos’s connection with the other three. Moustoxydís (‘Νικόλαος Σοφιάνος’ (see note 42), 242) states that the idea of publishing the epigrams came from Gerbel. The verses represent Sophianos as an exiled Greek and refer to his country’s sad fate.


52. See Sotheby’s, Natural History, Travel, Atlases and Maps catalogue (London, 18 November 2004), lot. 219. The present location of the map has not been disclosed.

60. Gerbel, Pro declaratione pictura sive descriptionis Graeciae Sophiani (see note 59), 8–9.

61. No surviving copy of Sophianos’s map carries the date 1530, but Oporin could have used copies of the 1545 reissue to accompany the 1550 edition of Gerbel’s Praefatio. What seems to have been intended as an upper border strip has been attached to the bottom of both the 1545 Basel edition map that is now in the Library of Congress and the exemplar sold at Sotheby’s in 2004. The strip could have been part of a full frame containing the new set of views.


64. The full title is Totius Graeciae descriptio. N. Sophianus studiosis S. Tabella ipsa ostendere poterit, si longe impensori cura, atque exactiori diligentia quam hac teneatur, eam pro chorographia[e] et geographia[e], ratione et ordine, conati sumus describere: ut opera quoque nostra studiosis ipsis (quibus chorographia[e] et geographia[e], ratione et ordine, conati sumus describere: ut opera quoque nostra studiosis ipsis (quibus

65. ‘Die Römische Karte von 1552 von Stock von 1540 gedruckt ist’ (Hieronymus, Bader Buchillustration (see note 39), 545).

66. Karrow, Mapmakers of the Sixteenth Century (see note 4), 71/1.5; Zacharakis, A Catalogue of Printed Maps of Greece (see note 63), no. 2046.

67. Karrow, ibid., 71/1.6; Zacharakis, ibid., no. 1387.

68. Karrow, ibid., 71/1.7 (Ferrando Bertelli), 71/1.8 (Giovanni Francesco Camocio); Zacharakis, ibid., no. 226 (Ferrando Bertelli), no. 534 (Giovanni Francesco Camocio). Donato Bertelli, Totius Graeciae descriptio [. . ] D. Bertelli aereis formis [. . ] 1569 (Zacharakis, ibid., no. 193).


70. Karrow, Mapmakers of the Sixteenth Century (see note 4), 71/1.10; Zacharakis, A Catalogue of Printed Maps of Greece (see note 63), no. 1616.

71. Descriptio nova totius Graeciae per Nicolaum Sophianum (Basel, Johannes Schroeterus, 1 January 1601). Karrow, Mapmakers of the Sixteenth Century (see note 4), 71/1.11; Zacharakis, A Catalogue of Printed Maps of Greece (see note 63), no. 2242 note; Hieronymus, Grieschischer Geist (see note 39), GG 292.


74. ‘Nam ex Herodoto et Thucidide, Pausania, Strabone, et recentioribus tam maritimis quam terrestribus tabulis diligenter pro viribus conferentes ac non pauc a addentes corrigentesque, eo praeertim ducet’.


76. The vignette of Athens is similar to the illustration included on page 19 of the first (1545) edition of Gerbel’s Praefatio and identical to the one included in Sebastian Münster’s Cosmographia universalis (Basel, H. Petri, 1544). This could be owing to Master Christoph’s collaboration on both editions.

77. Strabo, Geography, Bk 7, 7. 6 (Loeb edition).

78. The Crusader-type alliance between the Venetians, Charles V, Ferdinand of Austria and Pope Paul III was formed in February 1538 and disbanded in autumn 1540, having failed to achieve any of its objectives. In early 1540, the year when Sophianos drew his map, armies from the Holy League were still active in the Greek peninsula.


81. For an example of Ptolomy’s Geography with such lists, see the manuscript copy belonging to Guillaume Fillastre, which is accompanied by lists of ancient and modern regional names as well as lists of the spoken languages. On Fillastre’s manuscript (now in the Bibliothèque Municipale de Nancy, MS 441), see Patrick Gautier Dalché, ‘L’œuvre géographique de Guillaume Fillastre (†1428). Représentation du monde et perception de la carte à l’aube des découvertes’, in Humanisme et culture géographique à l’époque du concile de Constance. Autour de Guillaume Fillastre. Actes du Colloque de l’Université de Reims, 18–19 novembre 1999 (Reims, D. Marcello, N. Brepols, 2002), 293–355, esp. 345–55. See also the list

82. Some examples are the concordance of ancient and modern place-names for Giacomo Gastaldi’s map of Italy (1543); the list of ancient and modern place-names in the British Isles included in Paolo Giovo’s Descriptio Britanniae, Scotiae, Hiberniae (1548); and in the book by Orazio Toscanella, I nomi antichi e moderni delle province, regioni, città, castelli, monti, laghi, fiumi, mari, golfi, porti et isole dell’Europa, dell’Africa et dell’Asia (1567). Mention should also be made of the concordance of place-names by Arnold Mylius, published separately as an appendix to the Theatrum Orbis Terrarum of Abraham Ortelius (c.1578). It was expanded in subsequent editions of the Theatrum with the title of Synonymia Geographica sive populorum, regionum, insularum, urbium . . . appellaciones et nominata and published as an independent volume under the title The Thesaurus Geographicus (Antwerp, C. Plantin, 1587). We should note here that Ortelius made ample use of Sophianos’s concordances in the Thesaurus Geographicus. For an overview of the antiquarian investigations during the 15th, 16th and 17th centuries, see Arnaldo Momigliano, ‘Ancient history and the antiquarian’, Journal of the Warburg and Courtauld Institutes 13 (1950): 285–315; and Alain Schnapp, The Discovery of the Past, transl. I. Kinnes and G. Varneddell (New York, Abrams, 1997).

83. Westerners believed the country to have been totally devastated. Aenea Sylvio Piccolomini (1405–1464, Pope Pius II) expressed the widely shared belief that Greece was definitively ruined: ‘Alas! How many totality devastated. Aenea Sylvio Piccolomini (1405–1464, Pope Pius II) expressed the widely shared belief that Greece was definitively ruined: ‘Alas! How many


85. On the title page of the Praefatio (see note 54), Gerbel describes the gazetteer as an index: ‘Regiounum, montium, fluviorum, insularum, urbium, locorumque omnium in Pictura nominatorium index’.

86. ‘Secuitur locorum in Pictura Sophiani inventendorum Canon’, Praefatio (see note 54), 79–80.


90. ‘Sed per Musas, Lect, liturum aique histrioe invententiores, obestor, nomine obscura, nomine cimmeritis tenebris haec simillima erunt’ (Gerbel, Praefatio (see note 54), 4).


93. See Black, Maps and History (note 1), 7.

94. To become history, the past needs to be recognized as a sequence, that is a chronological succession; see Krzysztof Pomian, L’ordre du temps (Paris, Gallimard, 1984), 37. On the map ‘ terse’ in early cartography and whether it refers to the past, the present or both at the same time, see David Woodward, ‘The image of the map in the Renaissance’, in Approaches and Challenges in a Worldwide History of Cartography, ed. David Woodward, Catherine Delano Smith and Cordell D. K. Yee (Barcelona, Institut Cartografic de Catalunya, 2001), 151. Gesner, Bibliotheca universalis (see note 11), 523.


99. On the impact of Sophianos’s map on the cartography of Greece, see George Tollaos, Totius Graeciae: Nicholas Sophianos’s map of Greece and the

100. ‘Omnia mutantur, mutata est Graecia solers’, in faciem redigis quam, Sophiane, suam/nunc vera effigies, quam nec Jovis ira, nec aestus, / nec poterit posthac ulla abolere dies’.


102. Early in 1544, Sebastian Münster included in his *Cosmographia universalis* (see note 76) a map of modern Greece which closely follows Sophianos’s map in a simplified, schematic version. The same map was included in Münster’s third and fourth editions of Ptolemy’s Geography (Basel, H. Petri, 1545 and 1552), and continued to be included in all the subsequent editions of Münster’s *Cosmographia* up to 1578. The map was followed by a succinct concordance table of 57 ancient and modern place-names mentioned on the map and based mainly on Sophianos’s concordance of place-names (‘Graeciae modernae facies cum succindo indice nominum que mutationem temporis successu accepterunt’). See H. L. Ruland, ‘A survey of the double-page maps in 35 editions of Münster’s *Cosmographia universalis*, 1544–1628, and his edition of Ptolemy’s *Geographia*, 1540–1552’, *Imago Mundi* 16 (1962): 84–97.

103. The first half of the sixteenth century witnessed the fierce religious controversy between Catholic and reformed humanists over the acceptance or abandonment of Greek as the original sacred language. The general decline in the study of Greek was set in train at the start of the Council of Trent (1545–1564), where the decision was taken in 1545 to sanction only the Latin Vulgate as the authoritative text. See Saladin, *La bataille du Grec à la Renaissance* (note 2), 104. See Giorgio Mangani, *Il ‘mondo’ di Abramo Ortelio: Misticismo, geografia e collezionismo nel Rinascimento dei Paesi Bassi* (Modena, Franco Cosimo Panini, 1998); R. Boumans, ‘The religious views of Abraham Ortelius’, *Journal of the Walters Art Gallery* 57 (1999): 49–72. See also Cosgrove, ‘Globalism and tolerance’ (note 3).


106. See Cosgrove, ‘Globalism and tolerance’ (note 3), 857. Gerbel’s main source for the description of Tempe was Claudius Aelian’s text (*Varia historia*, III, 1), which Gerbel gives in Greek and Latin (*Praefatio* (1543), 42–44). Ortelius used the Latin translation of Aelian’s text, naming Gerbel as his source.


108. See note 11.


APPENDIX: An Updating of Nikolaos Sophianos’s Cartobibliography

Based on R. W. Karrow, Jr., Mapmakers of the Sixteenth Century and Their Maps, no. 71. References comprised of numbers only refer to maps. References including the alphabetic letters (A, B, C) indicate text. Entries with a ? before the first square bracket indicate an undocumented edition whose existence is uncertain.

REFERENCES: Gesner 1548 (Bibliotheca universalis . . . Secundus . . . tomus . . ., 95, dates it Rome before 1543); Legrand 1885 (1: no. 111, dates it Venice 1544); Karrow 1993, 71.C (dates it Venice 1544); Layton 1994 (dates it Rome c.1542).
LOCATIONS: British Library, Royal MS 16.CXII; Vatican Library, Lat. 3686.

71.1.1 [Rome, Antonio Blado, 1540.] [Totius Graeciae Descriptio, Romæ, in templo Boni eventus, 1540]
[? Copper engraving, 735 × 1110 mm, on four sheets.]
REFERENCES: André’s 1804, 167 (Metellus’s letter to Augustin, 8 February 1543); Arbenz 1881–1913, letter 1285 (Gesner’s letter to Vadianius, 7 April 1543); Moustoxydis 1843, 242 (dates it 1540); Sathas 1868, 142 (dates it 1540); Legrand 1885 (1: cxxi, dates it before 1543); Hieronymus 1984, 541–47 (dates it 1540); Hieronymus 1992, entry GG 292 (dates it 1540); Meurer 1991, 241 (dates it 1540); Zacharakis 1992, no. 2242 (dates it 1536); Karrow 1993, 71.1.1 (dates it 1543); Layton 1994, 412 (dates it before 1543).
LOCATION: no surviving copy known.

71.1.2. [Basel, Johannes Oporin, 1544.] [Descr iptio nova totius Graeciae per Nicolaum Sophianum, Basiliae, Johannes Oporin, 1544.]
[Woodcut, 773 × 1114 mm., on eight sheets.]
REFERENCES: Arbenz 1881–1913, letter 1373 (Oporin’s letter to Vadianius, 8 December 1544.) Gesner 1545, 523; Schoell 1825, 332. LOCATION: no surviving copy known.

71.1.3. [Basel, Johannes Oporin, 1545.] Descriptio nova totius Graeciae per Nicolaum Sophianum, (cartouche, left panel:) Illustriss. Principi Cosmo Medici Tuscorum Duci, Joan. Oporinus S. Edita est Romae ante paucos annos, Illustriss. Princeps, nova totius Graeciae descriptio, per D. Nicolaum Sophianum, cuius quum amicus quidam nobis
N. Sophianus studiosis S[alutem]. Tabella ipsa ostendere poterit, si longe impensiori cura, atque exactiori diligentia quam haec tenus, eam pro chorographiae et geographiae, ratione et ordine in atum sumus describere . . . Romae, in templo Boni eventus. 1540. Mense Maio.

Woodcut, 773 × 1114 mm, on eight sheets. Reissue of 71.1.2.

REFERENCES: Moustoxydis 1843, 242; Sathas 1868, 142 n1; Ristow 1972, 51; Meurer 1991, 241–42; Hieronymus, 1984, 547; Hieronymus, 1992, entry GG 292; Karrow 1993, 71.2; Sotheby 2004, lot 219.

LOCATIONS: Athens, National Library, bound in Sathas 982 (missing); Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division, G 2000 1545 G 45 Vault (five of the eight sheets); Private collection (through Sotheby’s sale 2004).


Letterpress broadside gazetteer, 310 × 420 mm (reissue of 71.B.1).


For references and locations, see Karrow 1993, 71/A.

71.1.4 [Venice, Giovanni Andrea Vavassore, 1545.] Totius Graeciae Descriptio / Απασης Ελληδος Περιγραφη, Ioannes Andreas Vavassorius Vadagninus Lectori s. . . Venetiae, Giovanni Andrea Vavasore, M.DXXXX V.

Copper engraving, 410 × 565 mm, on two sheets.

REFERENCES: Bagrow 1939; Zacharakis 1992, no. 2348.


For references and locations, see Karrow 1993, 71/A.

71.1.5. [Basel, Johannes Oporin, 1550.] [Descriptio nova totius Graeciae per Nicolaum Sophianum, Basiliae, Johannes Oporin, 1550.]

REFERENCES: Hieronymus 1984, 542; Karrow 1993, 71/1.3.

LOCATION: no surviving copy known.

71.1.6. [Rome, Antonio Blado, 1552.] Totius Graeciae descriptioni. (Cartouche, left panel:) N. Sophianus studiōsis S[alutem]. Tabella ipsa ostendere poterit, si longe impensiori cura, atque exactiori diligentia quam haec tenus, eam pro chorographiae et geographiae, ratione et ordine in atum sumus describere . . . Romae in templo Boni Eventus. M.D.LII. (Right panel:) Leon Marsus / En quanta pars orbis, donum spectabile, lucet/Hic, ut in aethero menstrua luna polo. / Si totum ut partem, Sophiane, effinxeris orbeam, / Pars modo lunae instar lucida, solis erit. . . . Faustus Buturinus Veronensis: Omnia mutantur, mutata est Graecia solers, / in faciem redigis quam, Sophiane, suam; / nunc vera effigies, quam nec Jovis ira, nec aeternus, / nec poterit posthac uilla aboleredies.
Copper engraving, 735 × 1110 mm, on four sheets. A reissue, presumably, of 71.1.1.
REFERENCES: Legrand 1885, 2: no. 246; Beans 1935, no. 11; Tooley 1939, no. 278; Meurer 1991, 241; Hieronymus 1984, 544–45; Karrow 1993, 71/1.4; Layton 1994, 462, 469.
LOCATIONS: Bibliothèque nationale de France, Cartes et Plans Ge 20179 (damaged); British Library, Maps M.T. 6.g.2.(4) (Reproduced in Fig. 11 above). Newberry Library, Novacco 6F 036 (the two lower sheets only).

71.1.7. [Basel, Johannes Oporin, 1554.] [Descrip. nova totius Graeciae per Nicolaum Sophianum, Basiliae, Johannes Oporin, 1554.]
REFERENCES: Lasor 1723; Karrow 1993, note on 71/1.5.
LOCATION: no surviving copy known.

71.1.8. [Rome, Francesco Salamanca, before 1558.] Graeciae choraphinia. Franciscus Salamanca Lectori ... praecipu ex Sophiano, cui totum quicquod hoc est, acceptum referendum est ... Sebastianus a Regibus Cladiensis incidebat.
Copper engraving, 410 × 620 mm, on two sheets.
REFERENCES: Tooley 1939, no. 284; Zacharakis 1992, no. 2046; Karrow 1993, 71/1.5.
LOCATIONS: Bibliothèque nationale de France, Cartes et Plans, Ge DD 655 (67) Rés., Ge DD 2988 (473), Ge CC 1380 (63) Res., and Ge D 10190; British Library, Maps C.7.e.1 (128); Newberry Library, Novacco 4F 357, 4F 358 (two copies).

71.1.9. [Rome, Vincenzo Luchini, 1558.] Totius Graeciae description. Candido lectori. S. Qua diligentia nouae huius Graeciae choraphinia ... Romae Vincentij Luchini aereis formis. ad Peregrinum, 1558. Petri de Nobilibus formis.
Copper engraving, 426 × 624 mm, on two sheets.
REFERENCES: Tooley 1939, no. 279; Zacharakis 1992, no. 1387; Karrow 1993, 71/1.6.
LOCATIONS: Bibliothèque nationale de France, Cartes et Plans, Ge AF Pf 36 (61), and Ge DD 2988 (91); British Library, Maps C.7.e.2 (29).

71.1.10. [Venice, Paolo Forlani, 1562.] Graeciae choraphia Franciscus philoso. mathematio ... Guardianno grande della Scola de S. Marco il signor Thomasso Ravenna ... Da Venetia il di 9 di Maggio 1562 ... Paulo Forlani Veronese.
Copper engraving, 438 × 592 mm, on two sheets. Reissue of 71.1.8.

71.1.11. [Venice, Ferrando Bertelli, 1564.] Totius Graeciae description, Candidi Lectori. S. Qua diligentia nouae huius Graeciae choraphia ... descripta sit ... Venetiis, 1564 Ferdinando Bertelli aereis formis. Dominicus Zenoi Venetus exudebat.
Copper engraving, 395 × 625 mm, on two sheets.
REFERENCES: Bagrow 1948; Tooley 1939, no. 286; Zacharakis 1992, no. 226, plate 35; Karrow 1993, 71/1.7.
LOCATIONS: Bibliothèque nationale de France, Cartes et Plans, Ge DD 2987 (9998) B; British Library, Maps K.Top.2.60 and Maps C.7.e.1 (129).

71.1.12. [Venice, Giovanni Francesco Camocio, 1566.] Totius Graeciae description. Venetiis I. F. Camotii aereis formis ad signum Pyramidis MDLVII.
Copper engraving, 400 × 630 mm, on two sheets. On some copies have P.[aolo] Forlani Veroniensis as engraver (Zacharakis 1992, no. 1030).
For locations, see Karrow 1993, 71/1.8.


71.1.16. [Antwerp, Abraham Ortelius, 1579.] Ellæc Graecia Sophiani. Abrahamo Ortelio descriptore. Copper engraving, 350 × 498 mm, one sheet. For references and locations, see Karrow 1993, 71/1.9. Reissues of 71.1.16 by Iodocus Hondius, published by Petrus Bertius (1618, 1619); Philipp Cluver (1624); John Speed (1627, 1646); Henri Le Roy (1640, 1646, 1660); Jean Boisseau (1643); Johannes Janssonius (1651); Georg Hornius (1654); Claude Jollain (1668); Petrus Van der Aa (1699—see 71.C.1); Herman Moll, (1716).


For references and locations see Karrow 1993, 71/C.1

Note: Karrow mentions two additional works composed by Sophianos and related to cosmography: 71/D, the Heroligion (Venice, 1545) and 71/E, the Librum de re militari, a manuscript work on military engineering. The Heroligion, however, is not a book on time keeping, but a breviary including the orthodox liturgy and prayers; the Librum de re militari was composed not by Nikolaos Sophianos, but by the 15th century Greek scholar Ioannis Sophianos (Moustoxyzis 1843, 259–61).

REFERENCES
Nikolaos Sophianos Totius Graeciae Descriptio: Quellen, Verbreitung und Funktion einer Geschichtskarte zum antiken Griechenland aus dem 16. Jahrhundert


Totius Graeciae Descriptio de Nikolaos Sophiano: fuentes, difusión y función de un mapa del siglo XVI de la antigua Grecia

Totius Graeciae Descriptio de Nikolaos Sophiano, un mapa regional de la Grecia antigua fue un bestseller cartográfico de finales del siglo XVI. Las primeras ediciones del mapa (1540, 1544, 1545) se consideraban hasta ahora perdidas, siendo pocas las referencias contemporáneas. Esas referencias fueron recogidas y publicadas por Émile Legrand en 1885 y, aumentadas por la información derivada de reediciones tardías del mapa (1552 y 1601), proporcionaron fundamento para recientes entradas bibliográficas. Este material ha sido ahora completado por el redescubrimiento reciente de ejemplares de la edición de 1545 del mapa de Sophiano. La combinación de estas nuevas evidencias con el material que acompañaba a varias ediciones (introducciones geográficas, índices y gacetas) ha hecho posible la reconstrucción de la historia de la publicación del mapa, analizar su contenido e investigar ciertas cuestiones relacionadas con la metodología, usos y funciones de la cartografía histórica de Grecia.

The International Coronelli Society Prize for the Encouragement of Globe Studies

From 2006, the International Coronelli Society for the Study of Globes will be offering a prize of 500 euros for the encouragement of globe studies. The prize is open to any author, under 35 years of age, of a scientific study on a globe or on the cartography of globes in the widest sense. Submitted papers should not be more than two years old. Two bound copies of the paper, in either German or English, should reach the International Coronelli Society secretariat (Mr Jan Mokre, Globe Museum, c/o Austrian National Library, Josefplatz no. 1, 1015 Vienna, Austria) not later than 1 November each year. These copies will remain with the Coronelli Society.

Members of the International Coronelli Society Board are excluded from participation. The prize selection committee will consist of the International Coronelli Society’s President (or his statutory deputy) and two other persons nominated by the Board. Referees of diploma theses or dissertations submitted for the prize may not serve on the committee, which will decide on the winner, by simple majority, within six months of the closing date.

Funds for the prize come from the International Coronelli Society budget, and the prize will be formally awarded at a ceremony organized by the Coronelli Society, during which the winner will give a presentation on the prize-winning study.