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The Anthimos Gazis world map in Kozani

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Summary

The rare large dimensions world map by the Greek scholar Anthimos Gazis (1758-1828) published in four sheets, Vienna 1800, was recently identified at the Municipal Library of the city of Kozani, Greece. The map in an advanced state of deterioration was carefully restored and will be part of the map collection of the newly established Municipal Map Library of Kozani. In this note a short description of the map is carried out in the context of its cartographic typology and its role to the case of Greek Enlightenment.

Introduction

Anthimos Gazis¹ (1758-1828) from Mēlies in Mount Pēlion, Thessaly, is a known scholar of the Greek Enlightenment² active in the late 18th and early 19th century. Among his early contributions, for the case of education and cultural revival of Greeks in the eve of the Greek War of Independence (1821-1828), the publication of his geography books and maps is worth mentioning. Gazis' editorial initiatives are developed during his servicing as parish priest at the Greek-Orthodox church of St George in Vienna, the city where his coetaneous Rigas Velestinlis, also from Thessaly, published his famous *Charta* in twelve sheets only three years before (1797)³. Actually, the Anthimos Gazis map of Greece⁴ in four sheets (Vienna 1800) is considered as inspired (even as derived) from Rigas *Charta*, both engraved by Franz Müller.

Of particular importance is the Gazis rare world map in Greek lettering printed in Vienna the same year (1800). This map was engraved by the esteemed Viennese artist and publisher Karl Robert Schindelmayer, under the long title *Atlas ē khartis periekhōn katholikous geōgrafikous pinakas tēs ydrogeiou sfairas kata te tēn orthēn parallēlon kai plagian autēs thesin ...* (Atlas or map containing entire geographic tables [maps] of the globe [earth sphere] according both to its normal parallel and oblique position ...). A very sim-

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¹ Or Ant(h)imos Gazes in some references. See, e.g., http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anthimos_Gazis for an offhand short reference.

² For an offhand reference see, e.g., http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greek_Enlightenment;

³ See, e.g., Jean-Yves Guiomar et Marie-Thérèse Lorain, "La carte de Grèce de Rigas et le nom de la Grèce", *Annales historiques de la Révolution française*, Numéro 319, [En ligne], mis en ligne le: 11 mai 2006. URL : <http://ahrf.revues.org/document106.html>. Consulté le 25 juin 2007.

⁴ *Pinax Geografikos tēs Ellados me ta palaia kai nea onomata* (Geographic map of Greece with the old and new names).

plified and reduced world map by Gazis, also in Greek lettering, engraved again by Schindelmayer, is included in the geography school manual *Stoikheia Geōgrafias* (Elements of Geography) compiled by Nikiforos Theotokis with comments and illustrations by Gazis, printed in Vienna⁵ few years later (1804). A second geography manual edited by Gazis was published in Venice (1807)⁶.

The Gazis world map, with the representation of the two hemispheres of the earth-globe in a pair of circles, belongs to the rich cartographic tradition of the double-circle *planisferi*⁷ maps introduced as a type of earth-globe map projection since the early 16th century⁸ and extensively used in 17th century. Part of this tradition is the few maps of the same typology in Greek lettering edited by Greek scholars, first appeared in 1700 by Chrysanthos Notaras who published two relevant maps in Padova⁹.

The Gazis world map

The Anthimos Gazis world map was published in Vienna in 1800, together with his map of Greece¹⁰. The two maps of almost the same dimensions (ca. 1X0.8 m and ca. 1X1 m respectively) printed in four sheets, engraved by different artists (F. Müller the first and K. R. Schindelmayer the second) are both part of Gazis' project to create a backlog of education material for the support of the Greek schools which, according to Gazis, should be the basis for a cultural and social regeneration of the Greek nation. This was the main ideological background of many scholars and activists belonging to the stream of the Greek Enlightenment in 18th and early 19th century in which geography and cartography played an important role. Considering the timing in which Gazis spent his editorial activity one could claim that maps and geography manuals enjoyed priority since they are of Gazis' first publishing care.

The Gazis world map in four sheets is of particular importance. The presumably only known copy today (Fig. 1) belongs to the map collection of the National Library of Australia (NLA) cut in 16 pieces for easy folding. The map is a wonderful, symmetric, aesthetically balanced and highly dense composition where the two hemispheres of the earth-globe are dominating the overall map space¹¹, twenty eight minor circular maps of various dimensions and thematic content (geographic, celestial etc.) are completing the composition together with two smaller world maps in cardiomorphic and in cylindrical projection and a map of Wallachia the semi-independent principality of the Ottoman Empire,

⁵ At the Viennese printing house of Georgios Ventotis. This Geography manual was published for free circulation in Greek schools at the expenses of Zosima brothers, the known early 19th century benefactors of Greece.

⁶ *Meletiou Geōgrafia Palaia kai Nea*, in four volumes, Venice 1807. An edition under the same title was published in Venice in 1728.

⁷ The "plane sphere" in the traditional Italian cartographic terminology.

⁸ See, e.g., the Franciscus Monachus two hemisphere map (Antwerp, 1527) in R. W. Shirley 1984, *The mapping of the World. Early printed world maps 1472-1700*, Holland Press Ltd., p. 61.

⁹ Shirley 1984, p. 593 and 594.

¹⁰ This map appeared also in a second version dated 1810.

¹¹ In ca. 1:25.000.000 scale.

ruled at that time by the Phanariote Alexandros Mourouzis¹² whose portrait is depicted on the map.

The Gazis world map follows the rich tradition of the world maps representing in two circles the hemispheres of the earth-globe. This tradition goes back to 16th century and this type of maps becomes a main map-typology during 17th century widely representative in the French and Dutch cartography.

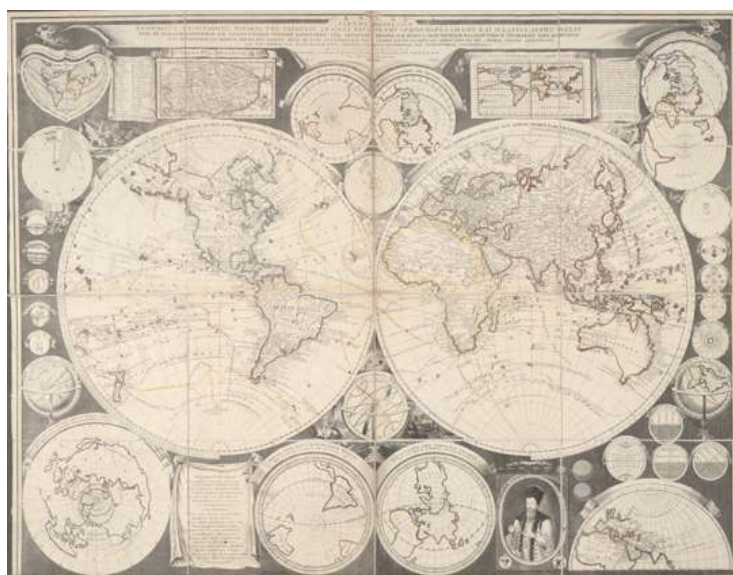


Figure 1: The Anthimos Gazi(e)s rare world map (Vienna 1800). The copy is from the National Library of Australia (NLA) map collection, an acquisition from 2000.

A map of this type is the first in Greek lettering published in Padova by the scholar Chrysanthos Notaras¹³ in 1700, an entire century before Anthimos Gazis' world map. The Notaras map *Pinax Geōgrafikos...* (*Geographic Map...*) with dimensions ca. 0.9X0.55 m., in two map sheets is imposingly decorated with a dedication to the important ruler of Wallachia *Iōannē Kōnstantino Vassarava*, the well known Constantin Brâncoveanu¹⁴ depicted on the map with his coat of arms. A smaller map of this type, with the same title but without decoration and dedication was also prepared by Notaras and published in Venice the same year (1700). It is included in his geography school manual published in Paris in 1716¹⁵. The map is an almost identical copy of the relevant map by Jan Luyts published in Utrecht in 1692¹⁶ which was also prepared for a geography school manual.

In the same cartographic typology belongs also a map, similar to Notaras' small version, by Hieromonk Ioassaf Iviritis from Mt Athos. This map printed in Vienna the same year Rigas was publishing his *Charta* (1797). Engraved by Ludwig Schmid it follows older

¹² For an offhand reference, see e.g., http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexandru_Moruzi.

¹³ Presbyter Notaras, a student of Cassini in Paris, was later appointed Patriarch of Jerusalem. According to Shirley 1984, an amended version of this map was published from Venice in 1751.

¹⁴ Saint of the Romanian Orthodox church since 1992.

¹⁵ *Khrysanthou Notara Eisagōgē eis ta Geōgrafika kai Sfairika*, Paris 1716.

¹⁶ Belonging to the Sanson school map-typology.

standards of map content whilst the Gazis world map follows contemporary cartographic standards in representing the world.

The Anthimos Gazis world map, which classified as “unusual and particularly rare” by NLA¹⁷, was sponsored “*in favour of the studios*” by *Geōrgio Goleskou* (Gheorghe Golescu) the Romanian scholar who received Greek education, known also as Iordache Golescu (1768-1848)¹⁸, son of the “*glorious great nobleman Vornikou Radoukanou Goleskou*”, as it is stated in the map-title, older brother of the well known illuminist Constantin Radovici (Dinicu) Golescu.

The Gazis world map in Kozani

In May 2008, a two-year research project agreement was signed between the Municipality of Kozani¹⁹, its important Municipal Library and the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki²⁰ aiming at the development of a new Municipal Map Library housed in the Georgios Lassanis²¹ mansion at the centre of the city. The historic Municipal Library of Kozani, with roots in 17th century, keeps a small but important collection of maps, atlases and geography books, mainly from 18th century, referred to the period of Greek Enlightenment. One copy of Rigas Velesinlis *Charta* is kept in this Municipal Library among other maps and atlases which were never before put in evidence. The basic intend of the project is to document this material, to preserve it and to make it easily accessible for study and exhibition.

From the very first study-visits at the Municipal Library of Kozani in order to obtain a first assessment of its cartographic backlog, in May 2008, the author of this note and head of the project “discovered” the Anthimos Gazis world map, the identity of which was not known before among the cartography experts in Greece or elsewhere (Fig. 2, *Left*), even if it was listed in a small catalogue printed privately in the mid-fifties²², but evidently never identified in the course of the years. The joy from this important finding was unfortunately decreased because of the maps’ advanced state of deterioration (Fig. 2, *Right*).

The map, in integer four sheets, without any cutting for folding, was urgently sent for restoration and conservation at the Museum of Byzantine Culture of Thessaloniki (MBC)²³ where Dr. Anastasia Tourta, the museum director, generously ordered priority

¹⁷ NLA acquired the Gazi(e)s world map in 2000 from Roderick M. Barron, Sevenoaks, Kent, UK. According to the NLA records “...This map is regarded as particularly rare and not known to be held by the Library of Congress or British Library”; see also *NLA-Gateways*, no. 48, December 2000, ISSN 1039-3498.

¹⁸ George Tolia communicated the reference about a laudation written by Golescu in favor of Rigas Velesinlis at that period.

¹⁹ Kozani is the capital city of the Region of West Macedonia in the NW part of Greece. For a brief description see <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kozani>.

²⁰ The project is under the scientific direction of the author of this note. The agreement was unanimously rectified by the Municipal Council of Kozani in its plenary in 12 May 2008.

²¹ See e.g. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Georgios_Lassanis.

²² See N. P. Delialis, 1955, *Syllogē palaiokhristianikōn kai metagenesterōn mnēmeiōn tēs dēmotikēs bivliothēkēs Kozanēs*, Thessaloniki (a private publication).

²³ Museum of Byzantine Culture, Thessaloniki, the Council of Europe Museum Prize 2005. <http://www.mbp.gr/html/en/index.htm>.

conservation under her auspices. A team of skilful and experienced paper conservators under Dr. George Boudalis, head of the MBC paper and parchment workshop undertook the heavy conservation task²⁴ (Fig. 3).



Figure 2: *Left*: The Anthimos Gazi(e)s rare world map found in the Municipal Library of Kozani, May 2008. *Right*: The Kozani Gazis world map in an advanced state of deterioration (detail).



Figure 3: *Left*: The map in the state it was found. *Right*: The map in the course of its restoration and conservation.

²⁴ The Museum of Byzantine Culture of Thessaloniki Paper and parchment workshop team: Dr. G. Boudalis, A. Tsouka, N. Malakozis.

After four months of intense work the MBC paper conservation team concluded the conservation of the map, which is now ready to be a prestigious member of the Kozani Map Library.

From the up to day data, it is not yet known the history of the provenance of this map at the Municipal Library of Kozani. It is not, e.g., known if this map was part of the donation to the Library in 1853 by the Kozani-born scholar Eufronios Rafail Popovits (1774-1853)²⁵, as it was Rigas Velestinlis *Charta* when Popovits bequeathed his personal library to Kozani. But it is sure that this map, together with Rigas *Charta*, the precious books on geography by the top scholars of Greek Enlightenment and other 18th century cartographic items, will be of principal importance for the newly born Municipal Map Library of Kozani.

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Thanks are due to the Major of Kozani, Dipl. Eng. *Paris Koukoulopoulos*; the President of the Municipal Library of Kozani, Dipl. Eng. *Theodoros Vasdaris* and especially the Head Librarian Mrs. *Ioanna Stergiopoulou* for their encouragement and support.

Dr. *Anastasia Tourta*, the Director of the Thessaloniki Museum of Byzantine Culture took from the very beginning under her aegis the conservation of the Anthimos Gazis world map. Her generosity and support are deeply appreciated. The heavy conservation load was carried out at the Museum's paper and parchment workshop by Dr. *George Boudalis* and his cooperators *Aneta Tsouka* and *Nikos Malakozis*. Their patience, care, skill and dedication are kindly acknowledged.

²⁵ Son of Dionysios Papagiannousis-Popovits, a Kozani raised hierach who lived for forty years in Buda and Belgrade. Eufronios Rafail studied in Hungary rhetoric, philosophy, physics, political science and economics, completing his studies in Vienna. He taught at Greek schools in Pest, Vienna, Bucharest, Belgrade-Zemun and also was engaged in journalistic activity in Vienna (1811). Died in Iași (Jassy) at the age of 79.