

Spreading the book content all over the library: A book-based exhibition

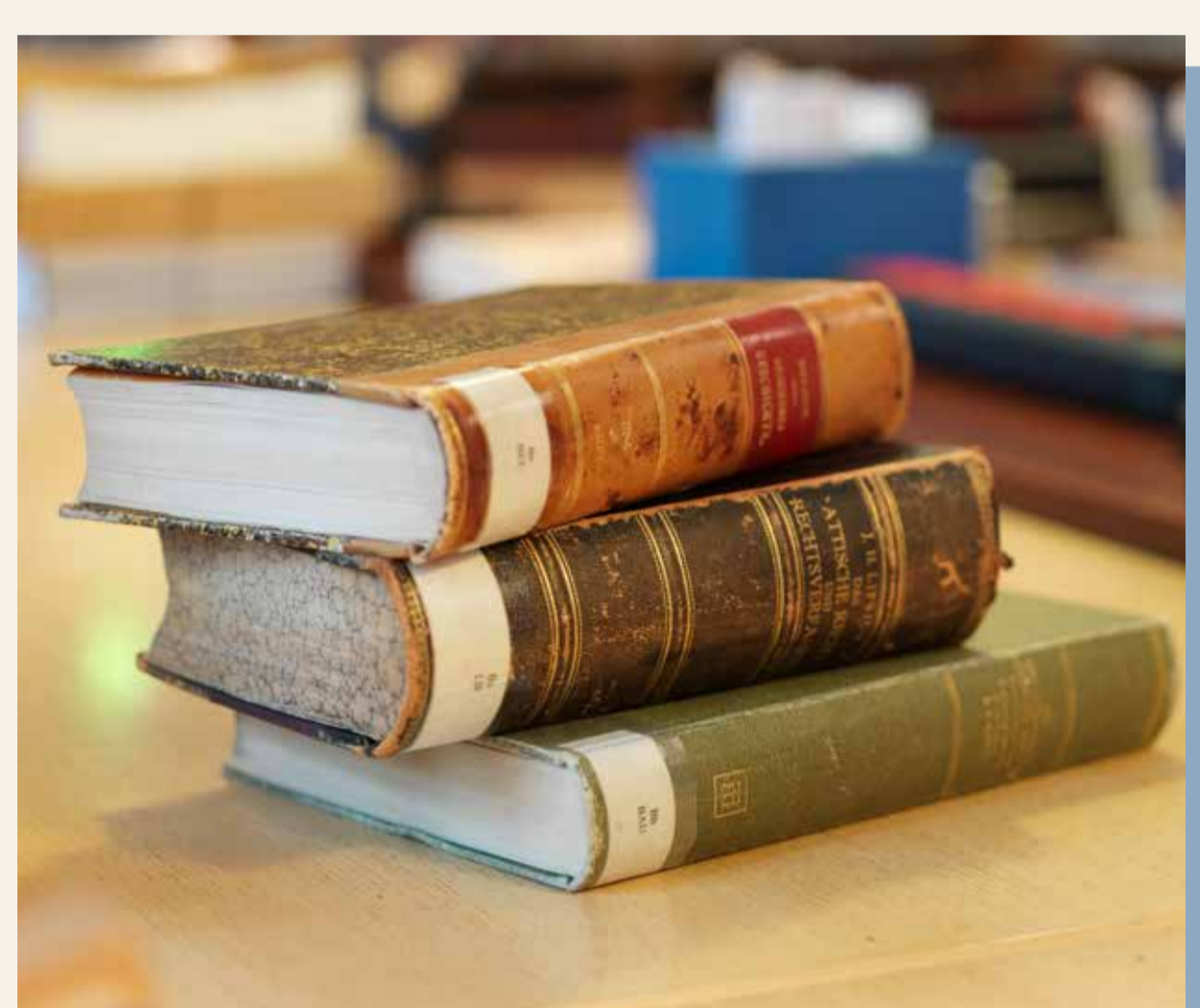


THE NORDIC
LIBRARY
AT ATHENS

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The Nordic Library at Athens

- Was founded in 1995.
- Is a joint venture of the four Nordic Archaeological Institutes in Athens.
- Has a collection of 40,000 volumes mainly within the fields of Archaeology and Classical Studies.



The exhibition

- Titled "Greece through the eyes of travelers from the North".
- Aimed to show visitors the impressions of early Nordic travelers to the Greek Region.
- Content was taken from literature on Nordic travelers included in the collection.
- Extracts from their writings and some visual works were displayed as copies on walls in the library.
- The books used for the exhibition were placed at a prominent spot for further reference.



Methodology

- The text extracts were part of visitors' published journals or correspondence.
- Included short stories that reflected the image of the country and its people as seen by the Nordics.
- The most humorous or intriguing parts were preferred.
- Some art work by the travelers (copies) was also put on display.
- The texts and images were grouped thematically to present different aspects of Greece and the Greeks.
- The exhibition was complemented with a series of lectures and a book-binding workshop.



Outcome

- A less known part of the collection gained visibility among regular users.
- Exhibiting a selection of books' content has been an alternative way to promote them.
- The public had the chance to be acquainted with Nordic travelers to Greece – a subject of historical interest not well known to Greeks.
- The exhibition highlighted historical relationships (informal or formal) between the Nordic Countries and Greece.
- The library itself became known to people who didn't know it existed.

Other facts

- The exhibition was part of the "Athens Book Capital 2018" program.
- Was part of the *Nordic Narrative at Athens*, a project led by the Embassies and the Institutes of Sweden, Finland, Norway and Denmark at Athens, the Consulate of Iceland at Athens and the Nordic Library at Athens.



Scandinavian and Greek,
Hand painted lithography.
Private collection

Curators of the exhibition:
Maria Martzoukou, Delia Tzortzaki, Evi Charitoudi

Collaborators:
Hans Lejdegård, Birgit Olsen, Marie Mauzy