

Introduction to Learning Greek. A Textbook for the 4th and 5th grade of classical gymnasia of the old and new type, adapted to the Program of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Public Education.



(1926, 2ed. 1929, re-edition 1952)

TAGS:

General information	
<i>Title of the work</i>	Wstępna nauka języka greckiego. Podręcznik dla czwartej i piątej klasy gimnazjów klasycznych dawnego i nowego typu, przystosowany do programu Ministerstwa Wyznań Religijnych i Oświecenia Publicznego.
<i>Title of the work in english</i>	Introduction to Learning Greek. A Textbook for the 4th and 5th grade of classical gymnasia of the old and new type, adapted to the Program of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Public Education.
<i>Year of publication</i>	1926, 2ed. 1929, re-edition 1952
<i>Publisher</i>	K. S. Jakubowski we Lwowie; Państwowe Wydawnictwo Naukowe
<i>Original language</i>	Polish
<i>Target and Age Group</i>	Originally (1926) for 4-5th grade of classical secondary school/ca. 15-19 years old (secondary school system was not connected to the elementary school system). After WW2, the Greek language practically disappeared from secondary schools (classic profile classes were just an exception); the re-edition published in 1952 was aimed at students of classical philology. The edition from 1954 was reprinted multiple times and used for teaching also in classical profile classes and within some of the humanities programs at the university.

Additional information

Contents & Purpose

The book was created as a textbook for middle school students, adjusted to comply with the secondary education reform of 1926. It was meant to be the first after WW1 ancient Greek textbook for beginners already familiar with Latin and its grammatical terminology. After its refinement and another adjustment to the needs of contemporary schools, the second edition was published in 1929 and became the prevalent textbook for teaching ancient Greek in Poland for nearly a century. It is still in use, although other textbooks have gradually emerged; Golias' book has become dated (no exercises, Latin grammatical terminology that might be unclear for some, texts that might seem childish to more mature students, old-fashioned phrases and vocabulary) and maladjusted to the needs of contemporary students.

The course is divided into two volumes. The first contains texts to be translated, the second explores grammar and vocabulary referring to each of the texts.

The text volume, in the repeatedly reprinted 1954 edition, features 136 short texts, which, apart from a few exceptions (Menander's sentences, Tyrtaeus's elegies or a quatrain from Hesiod) are all adaptations or paraphrases of the classical texts adjusted to the intellectual and cognitive level of the students of the pre-war high school. The texts are usually inspired by Aesop's fables, myths, or historical accounts of great ancient chiefs and famous battles. Some texts are illustrated with drawings or photographs of ancient statues and vases or other artefacts.

The mythological stories constitute the core of the themes. They briefly introduce the gods (such as Zeus, Hermes, the Muses, Thanatos), mythical creatures (Sphinx), as well as mythical heroes and short stories about them. In the texts one can find Heracles at the crossroads, Achilles on Skyros, Perseus, Prometheus, Daedalus, Tantalus, Arion, the Argonauts, the Danaïdes, Phrixus and Helle, Odysseus, as well as Cadmus and the mythical foundation of Thebes. Each text is written relatively simply and is very short - none of them exceeds 8 or 9 lines. Any longer texts are divided into 2 or 3 passages. The texts do not include any historical or cultural commentaries, only in the second volume, there are remarks concerning the grammar.



, "Entry on: Introduction to Learning Greek. A Textbook for the 4th and 5th grade of classical gymnasia of the old and new type, adapted to the Program of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Public Education. by ", peer-reviewed by , . *Our Mythical Childhood Education* (Warsaw: University of Warsaw, 2026). Link: <http://omc.obta.al.uw.edu.pl/education-survey/item/22>.



This Project has received funding from the European Research Council (ERC) under the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme under grant agreement No 681202, *Our Mythical Childhood... The Reception of Classical Antiquity in Children's and Young Adults' Culture in Response to Regional and Global Challenges*, ERC Consolidator Grant (2016-2021), led by Prof. Katarzyna Marciniak, Faculty of "Artes Liberales" of the University of Warsaw.