

British Library posts Greek manuscripts to Web

By RAPHAEL G. SATTER

LONDON — One of the world's most important caches of Greek manuscripts is going online, part of a growing number of ancient documents to hit the Web in recent years.

The British Library said Monday that it was making more than a quarter of its 1,000 volume-strong collection of handwritten Greek texts available online free of charge, something curators there hope will be a boon to historians, biblical scholars and students of classical Greece alike.

Although the manuscripts — highlights of which include a famous collection of Aesopic fables discovered on Mount Athos in 1842 — have long been available to scholars who made the trip to the British Library's reading rooms, curator Scot McKendrick said their posting to the web was opening antiquity to the entire world.

McKendrick said that London could be an expensive place to spend time poring over the Greek texts' tiny, faded script or picking through hundreds of pages of parchment.

"Not every scholar can afford to come here weeks and months on end," he said. The big attraction of browsing the texts online "is the ability to do it at your own desk whenever you wish to do it — and do it for free as well."

Although millions of books have been made available online in recent years — notably through Google Books' mass scanning program — ancient texts have taken much longer to emerge from the archives.

They don't suffer from the copyright issues complicating efforts to post contemporary works to the Web, but their fragility makes them tough to handle. They have to be carefully cracked open and photographed one page at a time, a process the British Library said typically costs about 1 pound (\$1.50) per page.

John Franklin, an associate professor of classics at the University of Ver-



A late 12th century illuminated gospels manuscript in Greek, which has been digitized, is seen at the British Library in London, Friday, Sept. 24, 2010. British Library has digitized over a quarter of its Greek manuscripts (284 volumes) for the first time and made them freely available online. (AP Photo/Sang Tan)



In this photo taken Sept. 24, 2010, an early 10th century Greek manuscript 'Dialogues of Lucian' with marginal commentaries by the first owner of the manuscript, Arthas of Patre, Archbishop of Caesarea, which has been digitized, is seen at the British Library in London. British Library has digitized over a quarter of its Greek manuscripts (284 volumes) for the first time and made them freely available online. (AP Photo/Sang Tan)

mont, said that the British Library's efforts were "part of a quite general move to making manuscripts available online."

"Hundreds of institutions have done or are doing the same," he said, including his university.

Franklin said it was "wonderful that the general public can have an inti-

mate view of so many manuscripts," but stressed the material's academic applications, noting that it could serve as a teaching aid for students learning to unravel medieval Greek handwriting, for example.

The British Library has worked aggressively to put much of its collection on the Internet, from 19th-century newspapers to the jewels of its collection — The Lindisfarne Gospels, a selection of Leonardo da Vinci's sketches and the Codex Sinaiticus, the oldest surviving complete copy of the Christian Bible. The library's Greek manuscript project was funded by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, which supports Greek-related initiatives in arts and culture.



Another batch of about 250 documents is due to be published online in 2012.

Article from AP

The Raptis Group Ranked as 100 Wealthiest Companies



The assets of the Raptis family which originate from the Raptis Group, a company active in fishing and fish exporting around the world, reaches 172 million Australian dollars. This ranks them among the 100 wealthiest companies in Queensland and the 200 richest companies in Australia. As written in the "New World" recently, the Raptis Group and its owners George Costas and Jim Raptis are now considered the "kings of shrimp". The Raptis Group is the largest fishing company Australia.

The ethnic Greek family run company owns 100 fishing boats, fish farms, and offices in every major port in the country. Their exports include fresh and frozen fish and shrimp to every corner of the world, i.e. Southeast Asia, Europe, Africa and North America. In Greece the Group's seafood is found in many restaurants.

According to the list of the 100 richest businesses in Queensland published by the newspaper "The Sunday Mail", the Raptis Group place 61st on the list. The Raptis family has no affiliation to Jim Raptis, the Honorary Consul of Greece in Brisbane who operates in the construction sector.

The Raptis Group was founded by Arthur Raptis in the mid 1960's. Arthur Raptis was an immigrant fisherman who went to Australia in 1957 from Euboea, Greece. His professional life began when he later worked at a fishing company in Adelaide.

Article from GR

CASSIDY, 12 (VIC) - Cassidy's parents gave her her first cooking lesson when she was a baby. She likes to cook with fresh produce and regularly visits the markets with her family to find ingredients.

LUCY, 11 (VIC) - When she grows up Lucy wants to be a food technologist and invent new products for people to use in their kitchens. She began cooking at the age of three and her first dish was Milk Arrowroot biscuits with sprinkles.

ANTHONY, 10 (NSW) - Known as 'Little George' by his family, Anthony learned to cook Greek cuisine from his mum and grandmother. He likes to experiment with European dishes and if he doesn't grow up to become a chef, he wants to be an artist or a cartoonist.

PIERRE, 12 (NSW) - Pierre dis-



covered his love for food when watching his grandmother Josephine cook traditional Lebanese dishes. His favourite judge is Matt Preston and he is inspired by Callum Hann, the 2010 MasterChef runner-up.

SAM, 11 (QLD) - Sam learned to cook from a video game, quickly mastering a French Quarters cake with tempered chocolate, whipped cream, strawberries and raspberries. He wants to open his own restaurant serving French and Italian cuisine.

ALEX, 11 (NSW) - Despite his British background, Alex has a passion for cooking Australian food. He favours desserts and says creme brulee is the most difficult dish he's ever made. Alex's inspirations include Donna Hay, Jamie Oliver, Delia Smith and Callum Hann.

SOURCE: Network Ten

