

as well as Advantage to this Kingdom, if these incomparable Originals were accompanied with a French Translation, which might be an exacter Copy of them, and might represent to us, with greater Proportion and Fidelity, their Figures; Elegancies, and Beauties.

XVI. *Conclusion of this Preface.*

**B**UT I perceive, though too late, that I have driven this Discourse out to too great a length by attempting to write, at the same Time, of Grammar, and of the Greek Authors; and together of the Method of studying and understanding properly this Language. However, I flatter myself, that some Things will occur herein, which may serve for some particular Person's Entertainment and Instruction. What remains now, *My Dear Reader*, is to intreat you to excuse the Faults you may possibly meet with in the Sequel of this Work, and to assist with your Prayers him, who has no other View in this Attempt, but to contribute in some Measure to your Ease by his own Fatigue and Labour. Which End, if it be; as it really is, particularly attainable in assisting Beginners, I dare persuade myself, that you will find some Ease from this Book, and the Abridgment thereof, which you shall have very shortly; where having inserted only what is most necessary for Beginners, you will be able to see, as in a contracted Model, the Design of this Enterprize, and what Advantage may be reasonably expected from this **NEW METHOD**.

August, 1655.

A New

---



---

A  
**NEW METHOD**

For learning with greater Facility

**The Greek Tongue.**

---

**BOOK I.**  
Of Letters and Syllables.

**CHAP. I.**

*The general Division of this Work.*

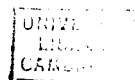
**T**HIS new Method containeth an easy Manner of Learning the Principles of the Greek Tongue and Grammar.

The Greek Grammar is the Art of Writing and speaking correctly the Greek Language.

This Language is either to be considered generally, according to the common practice of the various Nations that spoke it; which is called the Common Tongue: Or particularly, according to the manner of speaking peculiar

A

liar



liar to separate People, which manner we call DIALECTS.

Those Dialects are principally four; viz. the ATTIC, the IONIC, the DORIC, and the ÆOLIC, to which we may reduce some others less known, as the Bœotian, Cyprian, and the like, adding thereto the Poetical Licences, as we shall more particularly observe in the ninth Book.

Of these four the ATTIC Dialect is the most considerable, as the most elegant, and that which is most diffus'd thro' the common Tongue, which last makes no distinct Dialect, but is compounded principally of the Attic, with a mixture of the rest.

The Parts of the Greek Grammar, whether considered in general with regard to the common Tongue, or examined in particular according to its several Dialects, are two, viz. Etymology and Syntax. Etymology treats of separate Words; and Syntax considers the Connexion and Structure they form in Discourse.

Words are compounded of Letters and Syllables.

Letters are the smallest parts of Words. The Greeks call them στοιχεῖα, viz. *Elementa*, or γράμματα, *littera*, whence cometh the Word Grammar: As from *Littera* the Latins have sometimes also called it *Litteratura*, as may be seen in Quintilian, and even in St. Augustin in his second Book of Order, chap. 12.

In the Letters, we are to consider their Number, Figure, Name, Power, Pronunciation, and Division. At the same time we shall also treat of the Change that is made of one Letter into another, according to their mutual analogy.

CHAP.

CHAP. II.

Of Letters in general.

The Greeks have 24 Letters, whose Figure, Name, and Power are as followeth:

Figure,	Name,	Power,
1. Α α	ἄλφα Alpha	a.
2. Β β	βῆτα Beta	b.
3. Γ γ	γάμμα Gamma	g.
4. Δ δ	δέλτα Delta	d.
5. Ε ε	ἒψιλόν E parvum	e short.
6. Ζ ζ	ζῆτα Zêta	z ds.
7. Η η	ἦτα Eta	e long.
8. Θ θ	θῆτα Thêta	th.
9. Ι ι	ἰῶτα Iôta	i vowel.
10. Κ κ	κάππα Cappa	k, c.
11. Λ λ	λάμβδα Lambda	l.
12. Μ μ	μῦ Mu	m.
13. Ν ν	νῦ Nu	n.
14. Ξ ξ	ξῖ Xi	x.
15. Ο ο	ὀ μικρόν O parvum	o short.
16. Π π	πί Pi	p.
17. Ρ ρ	ῥῶ Rho	r.
18. Σ σ	σίγμα Sigma	s.
19. Τ τ	ταῦ Tau	t.
20. Υ υ	ὕψιλόν U parvum	u.
21. Φ φ	φῖ Phi	ph.
22. Χ χ	χῖ Chi	ch.
23. Ψ ψ	ψῖ Pfi	ps.
24. Ω ω	ὦ μέγα O magnum	o long.

A 2

ANNO-

## ANNOTATION.

Of these Letters Cadmus introduc'd 16, from Phœnicia into Greece, where he settled as early as the time of the first Judges of Israel; and these Letters are;

A, B, Γ, Δ, E, I, K, Λ, M, N, O, Π, P, Σ, T, Y.

which alone are sufficient to express all the different sounds of the Greek Language: the other eight were invented afterwards more for conveniency than necessity.

Of these eight Palamedes invented four at the siege of Troy, viz. in the Year of the World 2800, according to Petavius, and upwards of 250 Years after the arrival of Cadmus; and these Letters are Z, and the three Aspirates, Θ, Φ, X; tho' there are those who attribute Θ and X to Epicharmus.

Simonides, whom Eusebius placeth in the 61<sup>st</sup> Olympiad, which is near 650 years after the Trojan War, invented the remaining four, viz. Η, Ω, and Ζ, Ψ; but the addition of these Letters shall hereafter be better accounted for.

## CHAPTER III.

*Of the Division and Mutation of Letters.*

**L**ETTERS may be considered either Alphabetically or Arithmetically.

Letters taken Alphabetically are divided into Vowels and Consonants; into φωνήεντα (sup. γένηματα) and σύμφωνα: which is done by certain Ranks, according to which the Letters are easily changed, one for the other.

Vowels are those which form a complete sound of themselves: and those may be considered either separately, or conjunctively. Vowels taken separately are divided into long, short, and doubtful.

## RULE

## RULE I.

Of Vowels long, short, and doubtful.

The long Vowels are η, ω.

The short are ε, ο.

The doubtful α, ι, and υ.

## EXAMPLES.

The Greeks reckon seven Vowels, viz.

2 long, μακροὶ η ω } which are analogous, and  
2 short, βραχέα ε ο } are often changed one  
for the other.

3 common, κοινὰ α ι υ. These last are so called not only because they are long in some Words, and short in others, but because they can be sometimes either long or short in the same Word.

## ANNOTATION.

The Greeks formerly had but five Vowels as in English and Latin, viz. A, E, I, O, V. the η and ω were afterwards added to mark the difference in the Quantity.

This is easily proved from Plato in his Cratylus, where having said, that the ancients wrote ἡμίρα for ἠμίρα; he adds, οὐ γὰρ ἠ ἐρχόμεθα, ἀλλὰ ε ποταλαίων, For formerly we did not make use of η, but only of ε. The same is further evinced from Plutarch in his Book of Ἰ. And in the Farnesian Columns brought to Rome from the Via Appia we see E for η, ΔΕΜΕΤΡΟΣ for Δημήτρος, ΚΟΡΕΣ for Κόρης, and such like. As also ο for ω, ΛΟΙΟΝ for λώιον, ΘΕΟΝ for θῶν, and the like.

Terentian has very clearly expressed the Nature of these two Vowels η and ω in these Verses,

*Litteram namque E videmus esse ad ἦτα proximam,*

*Sicut ο εῶ ω videntur esse vicinæ sibi:*

*Temporum momenta distant, non sibi nativitas.*

He says that they differ only in the Quantity, and not in their natural and essential Sound, tho' the long ones have a fuller Pronunciation than the short.

*The Pronunciation of ἦτα.*

ἦτα being a long E ought to be pronounced full and open, as *e* in the French Words *bête, fête*, &c. whereas ἦλον should be short and close as *e* final in the French Word, *net-teté*. The sound therefore of ἦτα ought to be middling betwixt the *e* and the *a*, as there is a mutual analogy between it and the other two Vowels, as we shall often have occasion to observe.

Thus Eustathius, who lived towards the close of the twelfth Century, says that βῆ, βῆ; is a sound made in imitation of the bleating of Sheep, and quotes to this purpose this Verse of an ancient Writer called Cratinus;

Ὁ δ' ἦλιθιος, ὡσπερ πρόβατον, βῆ, βῆ, λέγων βαδίξει:  
*Is fatuus perinde ac ovium bē, bē, dicens incedit.*

And the same is attested by Varro.

St. Augustin in his second Book of the Christian Doctrine says that ΒΕΤΑ, under the same sound and same Pronunciation signifieth a Letter amongst the Greeks, and an Herb among the Latins.

And it is thus also that Juvenal hath called this Letter:

*Hoc discunt omnes ante ALPHA & BETA puellæ.*

This is still further demonstrated by the term Alphabet, which is used to this very Day in almost all vulgar Languages. And these Arguments are sufficient to ascertain not only the Pronunciation of η, but also that of β. And they are both yet further proved from Antiquity by the word *Beel*, which is the same as Βῆλος, *Belus*, father of Ninus King of the Assyrians, who had divine Honours paid him by the Babylonians.

*The Pronunciation of ω.*

ὠμῆτα ought also to be distinguished from ὠμπεδόν in the Pronunciation: this last being pronounced on the extremity of the Lips, and the other in the hollow of the mouth, as being of a fuller Sound. Caninius and Sylburgius are both of this opinion: And Terentian, who lived before St. Augustin, teacheth expressly the same in these Verses:

Ω Grajugenūm longior, altera est figura,  
Alter sonus, atque temporum nota variata.  
Igitur sonitum reddere, cum voles, minori,  
Retrorius adactam modicè teneto linguam:  
Rictu neque magno sat erit patere labra.

*At*

*At longior alto tragicum sub oris antro  
Molita rotundis acuit sonum labellis.*

This difference of *o* long and short is also found in the French Tongue, where *il saute*, (*saltat*) is pronounced differently from *une sotté* (*stulta*): *coffe* (*costa*) from *une cotte*, &c.

*The Pronunciation of υ.*

Υψιλόν was heretofore pronounced like a French *u*, whereas the Latin *U* was founded like the French *ou*, as has been shewn in the new Method of the Latin Tongue. For the Greek *Υ* according to Capella, Terentian, and Priscian had a middle Sound betwixt *ou* and *iota*. Whence Capella saith that it ought to be pronounced by blowing softly and at the same time closing the Lips. And Aristophanes in his *Plutus* designing to express the Sound a man makes at the Smell of any thing, while at the same time he draws his breath very fast, puts *υ, υ, υ, υ, υ, υ, &c.*

By this it appears that the Pronunciation of this Letter was different from that of *i*. And those who pronounce it in that manner, and who also give one Sound to five or six other Vowels or Diphthongs, viz. *i, u, η, oi, ai, ui*, introduce a strange confusion into the Greek Tongue; as there are a vast many different Words, which it would be then impossible to distinguish in the Pronunciation.

## CHAPTER IV.

*Of Diphthongs.*

**D**iphthongs are formed from Vowels joined together: the Name is entirely Greek, διφθόγαι, *double sounding*. These are generally reckon'd twelve; six proper and six improper.

## RULE II.

*Of Diphthongs proper and improper.*

1. Diphthongs proper are *αι, αυ, ει, ου, οι, υι*.
2. Improper *αη, ηυ, ωυ, ηυ, ωυ, υι*.
3. These Diphthongs are often changed, resolved, or cut off.