

Two new Greek font faces: the Lipsiakos and the Roman

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Abstract

Two new Greek font faces belonging to the CB font set are described and samples shown. Some macros are also introduced so as to make use of such fonts.

After version 3.7 of the `babel` package has been released, the CB fonts have become the official default Greek fonts for both the Greek and the Hellenist communities of \LaTeX users.

As you know, with `babel v.3.7` the specification of the Greek language is done by means of the usual `\usepackage[greek]{babel}` command if you want to use the monotoniko spelling, while if you need to write in polutoniko, or if you are an Hellenist who is writing about ancient Greek, you now need to set a language attribute by means of `\languageattribute{greek}{polutoniko}`.

Some Greek friends involved in humanities and many Hellenists around Europe and North America, who were used to typeset in polutoniko, and who frequently used the italic shape, asked me to design another shape for the italic Greek typeface, different from the one normally selected under `babel` with the `\textit` command; they preferred a typeface similar as much as possible to the Greek typeface used in the past century for classical editions and for the works on the classical Greek literature, especially those published by the Teubner printing company in Lipsia; the font is so well known in Greece that it is normally referred to with the name of “Lipsiakos”.

An Hellenist friend sent me a critical edition of the *Alcestis* printed by Teubner [1] and containing a complete usage of the typeface so that it was sort of easy to imitate the typefaces by means of `METAFONT`. Dimitri Filippou revised every single glyph, giving me extremely valuable information for corrections; Paolo Ciacchi was one of the first ones effectively using the font, and

he suggested many important improvements in kerning and in the shape and position of accents, especially the circumflex, that did not meet the Teubnerian standard. I thank a lot both of them for their help that I appreciated very much; the result is a very readable typeface that I hope will be appreciated by other Greek and Hellenist users of T_EX.

Τούτου χάριν ἀπέλιπόν σε ἐν Κρήτῃ, ἵνα τὰ λείποντα ἐπιδιορθώσῃ καὶ καταστήσῃς κατὰ πόλιν πρεσβιτέρους, ὡς ἐγὼ σοὶ διαταξάμεν, εἴ τις ἔστιν ἀνέγκλητος, μιᾶς γυναικὸς ἀνὴρ, τέκνα ἔχων πιστά, μὴ ἐν κατηγορίᾳ ἀσωτίας ἢ ἀνυπότακτα. δεῖ γὰρ τὸν ἐπίσκοπον ἀνέγκλητον εἶναι ὡς Θεοῦ οἰκονόμον, μὴ αὐθάδη, μὴ ὀργίλον, μὴ πάροινον, μὴ πλήκτην, μὴ αἰσχροκερδῆ, ἀλλὰ φιλόξενον, φιλάγαθον. σώφρονα, δίκαιον, ὄσιον, ἐνκρατῆ, ἀντεχόμενον τοῦ κατὰ τὴν διδαχὴν πιστοῦ λόγου, ἵνα δυνατὸς ᾦ καὶ παρακαλεῖν ἐν τῇ διδασκαλίᾳ τῇ ὑγιαίνουσῃ καὶ τοὺς ἀντιλέγοντας ἐλέγχειν.

T. 1.5-9

Shortly before accomplishing this task on the Lipsiakos font, I had just finished generating a “pseudoroman” Greek typeface; I had just received from Greece an issue of the magazine *Nemesis*, where most articles were typeset with a modern Greek face where most if not all lowercase letters had serifs as well as the Latin roman ones do. I thought it was a good idea to have an alternative “roman” font to be selected when the command `\textrm` is issued. I know this is a drastic change according to the *απλά* typeface, but in any case the user has another choice and is free to chose, according to the particular document to be typeset. Here is a sample.

Τούτου χάριν ἀπέλιπόν σε ἐν Κρήτῃ, ἵνα τὰ λείποντα ἐπιδιορθώσῃ καὶ καταστήσῃς κατὰ πόλιν πρεσβιτέρους, ὡς ἐγὼ σοὶ διαταξάμεν, εἴ τις ἔστιν ἀνέγκλητος, μιᾶς γυναικὸς ἀνὴρ, τέκνα ἔχων πιστά, μὴ ἐν κατηγορίᾳ ἀσωτίας ἢ ἀνυπότακτα. δεῖ γὰρ τὸν ἐπίσκοπον ἀνέγκλητον εἶναι ὡς Θεοῦ οἰκονόμον, μὴ αὐθάδη, μὴ ὀργίλον, μὴ πάροινον, μὴ πλήκτην, μὴ αἰσχροκερδῆ, ἀλλὰ φιλόξενον, φιλάγαθον. σώφρονα, δίκαιον, ὄσιον, ἐνκρατῆ, ἀντεχόμενον τοῦ κατὰ τὴν διδαχὴν πιστοῦ λόγου, ἵνα δυνατὸς ᾦ καὶ παρακαλεῖν ἐν τῇ διδασκαλίᾳ τῇ ὑγιαίνουσῃ καὶ τοὺς ἀντιλέγοντας ἐλέγχειν.

T. 1.5-9

If you want to replace the default italic shape with the Lipsiakos one you need insert in your document preamble or in a personal extension package the following commands

```
\makeatletter
\def\GREncoding@name{LGR}
```

```

\input{lgrcmr.fd}
\expandafter\EC@family
  \expandafter{\GREncoding@name}{cmr}{m}{it} {grml}
\expandafter\EC@family
  \expandafter{\GREncoding@name}{cmr}{bx}{it} {grxl}

```

Likewise if you want to replace the normal upright shape with the pseudoroman one you need insert the following commands

```

\makeatletter
\def\GREncoding@name{LGR}
\input{lgrcmr.fd}
\expandafter\EC@family
  \expandafter{\GREncoding@name}{cmr}{m}{n} {gmmn}
\expandafter\EC@family
  \expandafter{\GREncoding@name}{cmr}{bx}{n} {gmxn}

```

You don't need `\makeatletter` if you use a personal extension file to be input with `\usepackage`. You don't need to duplicate the input command for file `lgrcmr.fd` if you use both replacements. Notice that the association of the Greek encoding LGR with a control sequence makes it easier to change it in just one place when eventually it will receive a definitive name.

You may even define yourself some commands for switching back and forth between the two sorts of italic and/or upright shapes within the same document.

The METAFONT files for these new fonts are already part of the CB bundle and are downloadable from CTAN.

I hope these fonts please your aesthetic taste; well, anybody who designs fonts would like to produce fonts that please the users' aesthetic taste, and I am no exception. But for your convenience if you notice any glitches in these fonts, please report them to me and I try to provide for upgrades.

Bibliography

- [1] Euripides, *Alcestis*, ed. A. Garzya, in "Bibliotheca Scriptorum Graecorum et Romanorum Teubneriana", BSB B.G. Teubner Verlagsgesellschaft, Leipzig, 1980 and 1983.