

The “Aristarchus” Project on Line (<http://www.aristarchus.unige.it>) Electronic Tools for Classical Philology

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Abstract

“Aristarchus” is a website which includes a set of working tools for research and teaching in the subject area of Greek and Latin ancient world, available on line: www.aristarchus.unige.it. The contents of “Aristarchus” are at present: 1) LGG – *Lessico dei Grammatici Greci Antichi*. 2) PAWAG – *Poorly Attested Words in Ancient Greek*. 3) CPhCL – *Catalogus Philologorum Classicorum*. 4) CIAPH – *Centro Italiano dell'Année Philologique*. 5) *Mediaclassica*. In the next future it will be added: 6) *Scholia minora in Homerum*. The second part of the paper is devoted to a more detailed presentation of PAWAG, a supplement in progress on line of the main printed dictionaries of Ancient Greek: it has the aim of setting up a database that can be kept constantly increased and updated, taking in corrections and improvements concerning the entries of the greatest dictionaries (including the notice of ghost-words to be eliminated).

1 The “Aristarchus” project

The aim of this paper is to present the “Aristarchus” project on line, carried on by my research group in the Dipartimento di Archeologia e Filologia Classica (D.AR.FI.CL.ET.) of the University of Genova. The name comes from the name of the learned scholar Aristarchus of Samothracia, who lived in Alexandria from about the start till the middle of the second century B.C., the most important erudite scholar of the ancient world (not to get confused with the astronomer Aristarchus of Samos). The website is available on the server of the University of Genova at the address www.aristarchus.unige.it. It includes a set of working tools for research and teaching in the subject area of Greek and Latin ancient world. To access the free services of the site, users need only sign in with their e-mail address when the relevant window appears.

1.1 General survey of the contents of “Aristarchus”

1.1.1 LGG – *Lessico dei Grammatici Greci Antichi*

This is a lexicon of ancient Greek scholars and philologists, which aims to provide an on-line reference database designed particularly for studies on the history of ancient philology,

grammar and scholarship. The contents consist of files on the personalities who variously contributed to erudite and philological-grammatical research in ancient world, alphabetically ordered by Latin name. The number of indexed figures has now been increased up to a total of 542 (and some more are foreseen). The files are made available progressively (as soon as work on a file is completed) for download in pdf format. Meanwhile many files (except for some still marked as only planned) can be requested via e-mail: the file (in the temporary state of the moment) will be sent as a Word-file in rtf format.

1.1.2 PAWAG – Poorly Attested Words in Ancient Greek

A detailed presentation of this project will be given *infra* (see 1.2).

1.1.3 CPhCl – Catalogus Philologorum Classicorum

This provides another reference tool for scholars of Greek-Latin Antiquity, above all for studies on the history of classical philology in the modern age. The *Catalogus* started off by the University of Pisa:¹ now the project goes on and becomes available on line thanks to a cooperation between the Dipartimento di Filologia Classica of the University of Pisa and the D.AR.FI.CL.ET. of the University of Genova. The *Catalogus* is composed of files on the personalities who were active in the period from 1880 to 1980.² The objective of CPhCl is to collect the bio-bibliographical data concerning classical philologists born after 1850. A standard file records the main stages of the academic and scientific curriculum, the most significant papers, biographies, bibliography, *Nachlass* (if known), papers *in honorem* or *in memoriam* and other useful data. The work is in progress: a census of more than 5000 scholars was taken, whose list constitutes the basis of the CPhCl: some 800 items are ready to be made available on line.

1.1.4 CIAPh – Centro Italiano dell'Année Philologique

CIAPh is the Italian editorial office of the *Année Philologique*, the well known reference bibliography for scholars of Greek and Latin antiquity. Active since 1996 in the D.AR.FI.CL.ET. of Genova, CIAPh is in charge of the indexing of the entire classical bibliography produced in Italy and cooperates with the international staff of the *Année Philologique* by means of a computer network. This web page is a showcase for the Italian office: it includes all the relevant information concerning the Italian production in the field (list of journals as well as of other bibliographical items taken into consideration, status of indexing, etc.) and is linked to the overall site, allowing search operations to be performed on the international bibliographical database.

¹ On the initiative of Scevola Mariotti, following the International CNR Congress "La filologia classica nel secolo XX", held in Rome in 1984 (proceedings published in the volume Arrighetti et al. [eds.] [1989]).

² With a chronological connection to Pökel (1882).

1.1.5 *Mediaclassica*

This is a web site for didactics of the ancient Greek and Latin languages, carried out by a group of scholars and teachers working in my Department of the University of Genova in partnership with Loescher Editore in Torino.

1.1.6 *Scholia minora in Homerum*

This page will be in a few months a new entry of the site: it will contain a collection of editions and images of papyrus texts with *Scholia minora* on Homer.

1.2 *The PAWAG project*

For some time I have taken into my head that the possibilities of the electronic technology on line was extremely interesting for the future of scientific lexicography, in this case for Ancient Greek lexicography. This particular project (in partnership with Loescher Editore in Torino) has the aim of setting up a database in the form of a dictionary, to gather together words of Ancient Greek that are either only scantily attested (i.e. in a small number of occurrences), inadequately (i.e. characterized by some sort of uncertainty) or in any case problematically, both from a formal and semantic point of view. Moreover, we are well aware of the fact that new words are continually being discovered also for a language as Ancient Greek: for such words there is no repertory that can be kept constantly updated, nor can one exist unless the flexibility of electronic tools is exploited for this purpose. Finally, the practically unlimited possibilities of data warehousing in electronic format allow this container to receive also corrections and improvements of every kind concerning the entries of the greatest dictionaries.

The objective is to establish an archive of this type of material and of the related available information. Actually, the project is to build up a real supplement in progress, available free on line, of the main printed dictionaries of Ancient Greek. Its lexicographical structure and the set of reference authors and works are based on the second edition of my Greek-Italian dictionary (Montanari [2004]).

The items listed in this special lexicon should contain much more than what is to be found in a normal dictionary, if not at the beginning of the work, certainly as time goes by and the contents are increased by the results of on-going research. That is to say, it should contain (as far as possible) the available information concerning the meaning, the etymology, the forms, the passages, with the aspects on which doubts and discussion focus, and also the bibliographical references, so that users can find all the elements necessary in order to gain a good idea of the issues involved, or can at least trace all the necessary information to study the word in question. In other words, something like a half-way house between a dictionary in the strict sense and an encyclopaedic lexicon, albeit in a somewhat limited sense.

Being able to rely on a tool of this kind is therefore a valuable resource that can also be of great help for authors of dictionaries, new dictionaries or new editions and revised versions of existing dictionaries. Quite simply, it means being able to rely on a database that will save considerable time and improve the results. This can create a fruitful interconnection between genuine research work and the production of an essentially scientific tool, and can also bring

positive spin-offs for the production of a work of general value in education and research such as a dictionary of Ancient Greek.

A PowerPoint presentation will show the features and the practical aspects of the PAWAG database.

References

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