УДК 090.1:378.4(477.74-21)

DOI: https://doi.org/10.18524/2707-3335.2024.1(31).305539

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BOOKS FROM THE LIBRARY OF KARL (SCARLATOS) SEVASTOPULO IN THE UNIVERSITY STOCKS: AN EPISODE FROM THE HISTORY OF DISPERSED BOOK COLLECTIONS OF ODESSA BIBLIOPHILES

The article provides information on the the part of the dispersed book collection of the Odessa magistrate, collector and bibliophile Karl (Scarlatos) Sevastopulo (1871–1923) which has been conserved in the Scientific library of the Odessa I. I. Mechnikov national University since 1920. The fragment of the book collection could have been reconstructed owing to the recordings in the library Inventory as well as to the ownership marks left in the books.

The attention is also paid to marks of book ownership of Greek origin left by K. M. Sevastopulo's relatives and contemporaries.

Key words: Odessa Greeks, the Sevastopulo family, dispersed book collections, provenance, bookplates, owners' inscriptions, University library.

Political and social disturbances in the Russian Empire in 1917 – early 1920s were followed by mass emigration and great losses of cultural heritage, which included dispersion of numerous private art and book collections. The article considers an episode of local culture and history involving Odessa bibliophiles of Greek origin.

Immigrants from Greece are known to have made a huge contribution to the economic, social and cultural progress of Odessa in the 19th and early 20th centuries [see 8; 9; 12]. Suffice it to mention that in 1866, ten of twenty Odessa trading houses controlling wheat export were founded by the Greeks [13, p. 110] including influential families coming from the island of Chios (Scio) in the Aegean Sea. Families of Mavrogordato, Rodokonaki, Petrokokkino, Ralli, Averino, Papa-Nicola, etc. not only controlled a considerable part of trade operations of the Black Sea and Azov ports of the Russian Empire but also played an increasingly significant role in the social and cultural life of the city being largely engaged in philanthropy activities [12; 13; 14].

On March 20th, 1920, while listing new acquisitions of the Novorossiyskiy University, a quite interesting entry was made in a "special remarks" column of the Library Inventory: «Из подвала» (From the basement). Similar entries «Из подвала»

ла биб[лиотеки] Севастопуло» (From the basement of Sevastopulo's lib[rary]), «Взяты из подвала» (Taken from the basement), «Библиотека Севастопуло» (Library of Sevastopulo) as well as notes in pencil «Сев.» (Sev.) accompanied lists of incoming books for several months, until June 9th, 1920 (ill. 1).

Obviously, these records were related to books from the library of a representative of the Sevastopulo family, another influential clan of Odessa Greeks coming from the island of Chios. It was necessary to identify which of the family members owned the books. The clue was ownership marks in the books recorded in the inventory: the copies were mostly marked with initials in pencil "CS" (that is, "Charles Sevastopoulo") and a supralibros in the form of the same initials, embossed in gold on book spines (on one copy there are initials in Russian – "K. C.") (ill. 2). Thus, we can conclude that the books used to belong to Karl (Scarlatos) Markovich Sevastopulo – Odessa banker, philanthropist, collector and bibliophile.

Karl (Scarlatos) Markovich Sevastopulo: family background

The Sevastopulos were among the most important families on the island Chios (Scio). In the early 18th century, some family members moved to Constantinople where they were active both in commerce and philanthropy¹. The first Sevastopulo to settle in Odessa was a Turkish subject Evstratiy Scarlatovich Sevastopulo (1785–1854). His trading company, primarily engaged in the export of southern Ukrainian wheat to European countries, began operating here in the early 1820s. In 1842, he was assigned to the 1st guild of Odessa merchants. At the end of the same year, Evstratiy Sevastopulo took the oath of citizenship of the Russian Empire. Seven years later, his request for the status of hereditary honorary nobility for him and his family members was granted.

One of his sons, Mark Evstratievich (1827–1903) was also a hereditary honorary citizen and merchant of the 1st guild [3, part 5, p. 246; 16, p. 124]. His reputation let him be repeatedly elected by Odessa merchant community to be a member of the Odessa Commercial Court (in 1856–1859, 1867–1871, 1872) [13, p. 113]. In 1879, Mark Evstratievich was elected to be a member of the Odessa Committee of Trade and Manufacture for four years, in 1881 he became a deputy of the Odessa City Duma for four years. One of the founders of the Odessa Greek charitable society, for almost twenty years (1867–1885) he was a trustee of the Odessa commercial school [13, p. 113–114]. He was repeatedly awarded for his service.

In 1856, Mark Sevastopulo got married to Erato Matveyevna Mavrogordato (1837–1925), the daughter of Matvey Panteleyevich (Panteleymonovich) Mavrogordato (ca 1780–1868) from the Lacanian branch of an influential family of immigrants from the island Chios.

Their elder son, an active state councilor (1913), chamberlain Matvey Markovich (1868–1943) had a rather successful career in the diplomatic corps holding responsible positions in various European countries; at the end of his career, he was appointed charge d'affaires in France.

The younger son of Mark Evstratievich Sevastopulo and Erato Matveyevna, Karl (Scarlatos) Sevastopulo was born in Odessa on January 13th, 1871 [3, part 3, p. 188]. Karl Markovich was listed in the department of the Ministry of Justice and rose to the rank of state councilor. He was an honorary magistrate, served in the 6th city real estate tax office, and also made part of the board of the Odessa Accounting Bank.

Karl (Scarlatos) Sevastopulo was known for his participation in city social life serving as a fellow chairman of the Society for the Protection of Homeless Children, director of the Prison Guardianship Committee, and trustee of the Odessa Sturdza Community of Compassionate Sisters (1916). Karl Markovich was a member of the Odessa Society of Fine Arts [2, p. 191, 197, 226, 415]. He was married to the daughter of the professor of Novorossiyskiy University V.N. Liguin, Maria Valerianovna (1874–1961). An amateur sculptor, she exhibited her works under the pseudonym *Sevasto*. Like her husband, Maria was involved in social activities and charity [2, p. 379, 384]. They both collected works of fine arts, organized parties for the Odessa intelligentsia, a prominent Russian painter Wassily Kandinsky, who graduated from Odessa Art school, happened to be at their house [11, p. 294]. The couple had three sons – Mark (1897–1980), Valerian (1898–1917)², Alexander (1901–1941) and daughter Elizabeth (1900–2001) [3, part 5, p. 246].

Karl Sevastopulo owned some real estate property in the city: houses along Knyazheskaya street. under numbers 7 and 13, the latter of which previously belonged to his cousin, a well-known philanthropist Matvey Fedorovich Mavrogordato (1848–1935), who had been living in Paris since about 1901 [12, p. 135].

On November 1st, 1901, Matvey Fedorovich also sold his cousin the mansion located on the corner of Catherine and Military Descents and Sabaneyev Bridge, where the family of Karl Markovich Sevastopulo resided until their emigration in 1919 (possibly in early 1920) to France (after Karl Sevastopulo's death in 1923, his widow and children moved to the USA). The family library in Odessa must have been located in the mentioned residence, and it was from that basement that books were delivered to the University library.

"Books from the basement"

Let us refer to the entries in the Inventory of the University Library allowing to get an idea of the composition of the book collection we are interested in. It is possible that notes on the acquisition source were not always made accurately, and therefore it is difficult to indicate an exact number of books delivered to the University library "from the basement". According to our calculations, this book acquisition contained at least 423 titles in 738 volumes. Pencil notes left on the flyleaves of most books lead us to assume that the library in total could have contained some thousand books.

Having examined all available copies *de visu*, one can come to the conclusion that it was a book collection of a Francophone and a Francophile: two-thirds of this book fragment were publications in French, the section of French literature, which included about 150 titles, being the most impressive.

French belles-lettres of the epoch of classicism and Enlightenment is represented by the oeuvres of Racine, La Fontaine, Crebillon fils, and Voltaire. But it was the selection of French 19th century literature that was particularly complete, including works by classical writers (P.-J. de Béranger, A. de Lamartine, P. Mérimée, A. de Vigny, E. Rostand, H. de Balzac, V.-M. Hugo, George Sand, A. Daudet, A. France), as well as lesser-known authors today, whose works enjoyed the success of their contemporaries: let us name L H. Boussenard, whose adventure novels were especially popular with Russian readers, woman of letters D. de Girardin, Sully Prudhomme, a poet and essayist who was awarded the first Nobel Prize for Literature in 1901.

Contemporary French-language literary works were represented by a scandalous novel of the writer and playwright E.M. Prévost *Les Demi-Vierges* (Paris, 1894), several opuses by a Belgian French-speaking playwright, poet, and essayist M. Maeterlinck and poems by the latter's compatriot E. Verhaeren, poet and playwright reputed as one of the founders of symbolism.

Compared to French-language literature, English-language (W. Shakespeare, G.G. Byron, Ch. Dickens, E.A. Poe), German (J.W. Goethe, Fr. Schiller, G.E. Lessing, H. Heine), as well as Russian authors have a very modest presence in the collection. Among the works of Russian poets of the early 20th century oeuvres by I. Severyanin *The Cup of Thunder (Громокипящий кубок*), and *Victoria regia* as well as a drama of Grand Duke Konstantin Konstantinovich (K. R.) *King of Judea* (St. Petersburg, 1914; 2nd ed.) deserve mention.

Books on the history of France (33 titles) also prevailed among works on history, making up 40% of examined books on history. The presence of librettos of the operas by H. Berlioz, Ch. Fr. Gounod and J. Offenbach can be considered as another indication of interest in French culture.

Besides, the collection contained books on various fields of knowledge, writings by key figures of political economy A. Smith and J.-B. Say, works on geology, biology, volcanology, anthropology from series *Bibliothèque scientifique internationale*, *Bibliothèque des sciences contemporaines*, *Bibliothèque des merveilles*, as well as on physics, astronomy, mathematics in French and Russian can serve as proof. The half-title of *Traité de géometrie* bears an autograph inscription of the professor of the National Conservatory of Arts and Crafts (Conservatoire national des arts et métiers) Eugène Rouché, the author and editor of the book: "Hommage de l'Auteur et de l'Editeur".

Publications reflecting hobbies and personal preferences of the collection owner are of particular interest: these are about thirty books on gardening³, including practical guides on fruit conservation in four languages (ill. 3), as well as a dozen manuals and textbooks on the art of photography making a little library of an amateur photographer (ill. 4). It is appropriate to recall that Karl Markovich was a member of the Odessa branch of the Russian Technical Society as well as a fellow chairman of the Odessa department of the Imperial Russian Horticultural Society [2, p. 342].

The highlights of the collection were bibliophile editions published in the last third of the 19th and early 20th centuries. They include "luxury editions" such as *La princesse de Clèves* by Madame de Lafayette (Paris: A. Quantin, 1878) from a series *Petite bibliothèque de luxe*, illustrated publications in luxuriously decorated calico, leather and half-leather publishing bindings with gold, colourful or blind embossing and ornamental and decorative elements (ill. 5)⁴. *Mariage manqué* by J. Claretie, a popular French fiction writer and journalist of the «Belle Epoque» reproducing 17 cliches of monochrome phototypes of various colors (Paris: Mendel, 1894) is an example of numbered limited editions.

The design of elegant volumes in exquisite leather bindings, decorated with gold embossing, from the *Collections Edouard Guillaume* series, produced by the publisher, typographer and bibliophile Edouard Guillaume (1850–1897) is worth mentioning. Their binding covers decorated with a gold embossed design symbolized the name of the series: *Chardon Bleu, Lotus Bleu, Lotus Alba* (ill. 6) [7, p. 179.]⁵. Alphonse Daudet's famous *Tartarin de Tarascon* and *Arlesienne* are represented in this book collection with copies published respectively in 1887 in the *Collection artistique Guillaume et Cie* and in 1892 in the *Petite Collection Guillaume*. Title pages of the books of the listed series were illustrated by skilled artists of that time.

Thus, a fragment of the book collection moved from the basement of Karl (Scarlatos) Sevastopulo's residence to the University library, makes it possible to judge the bibliophile and artistic tastes and preferences of the owner who particularly appreciated French belles-lettres.

Ownership marks of other Odessa Greek community members in Karl (Scarlatos) Sevastopulo's collection

The studied fragment of Karl (Scarlatos) Sevastopulo's book collection contains copies with book ownership features of his relatives as well as other members of the Greek community in Odessa. Of most interest are handwritten inscriptions, heraldic bookplate and supralibros of the representative of the influential family of Greek-Chiosians in Odessa Matvey Mavrogordato.

A heraldic bookplate signed «MATHIEU MAVROGORDATO» can be found on the verso of the upper cover of four volumes of F.-C.-H.-L. Pouqueville's *Histoire de la régénération de la Grèce* (Bruxelles, 1825) as well as sixteen volumes of Henri Martin's *Histoire de France*... (Paris, 1865). Initials «M. M. » are embossed on the spine of the volumes of the latter as well as of A. de Lamartine's *Histoire des Girondins* (Paris, 1860) and his other writings such as *Raphaël. Pages de la vingtième année* (Paris, 1849), *Les confidences et les nouvelle confidences* (Paris, 1866), *Harmonies poétiques et religieuses* (Paris, 1863), *Voyage en Orient* (Paris, 1855), V. Hugo's *Théâtre* (Paris, 1863) and a number of A. de Musset's oeuvres: *Contes* (Paris 1865), *Mélanges de littérature et de critique* (Paris, 1867), *Oeuvres posthumes* (Paris, 1867). A manuscript inscription «Mathieu Mavrogordato» was

left on the title page of *La petite comtesse* (Paris, 1861) by the 19th century French novelist and dramatist Octave Feuillet (ill. 7).

It seems natural to assume that those books used to belong to above-mentioned Karl (Scarlatos) Sevastopulo's cousin Matvey Fedorovich Mavrogordato (Mavrocordato). Before leaving Odessa, he took an active part in city social life being honorary trustee of the 2nd Odessa gymnasium, one of directors of the Odessa Committee of the Trusteeship of the Society of Prisons and gained great popularity for his charity [12, p. 128–132; 14, p. 77–80]. Moreover, he was the only representative of this clan who in the 19th century was confirmed in the rights of hereditary nobility [12, p. 132–134; 14, p. 81]. However, it should be noted that his coat of arms approved in 1889 had special features differing from the coat of arms of the Mavrogordato family depicted on the said bookplate [12, p. 134; 15, p. 83].

On the other hand, it can also be assumed that Karl (Scarlatos) Sevastopulo had got a part of books belonging to his maternal grandfather, Odessa negociant of the 1st guild Matvey Panteleyevich Mavrogordato who had the same initials. Both Matvey Mavrocordatos could use the coat of arms depicted on heraldic bookplate unofficially, without having the right to do so. Although both points of view are indeed possible, the first version seems more preferable taking into account the above-mentioned fact that Karl (Scarlatos) Sevastopulo was residing in a house that had previously belonged to his cousin⁶.

A framed label with an inscription «Alexandre Vucina d'Odessa» on the verso of the top cover of *Vie et opinions de M. Frédéric-Thomas Graindorge* (Paris, 1870) by H. Taine as well as initials «A.V.» embossed in gold on the spine of the binding indicate that initially the book belonged to Alexander Georgievich (Yurievich) Vuchina (ca 1831–1896). He was one of the sons of Georgy Emmanuilovich Vuchina who arrived from an island in the Mediterranean Sea and in 1830 founded a trading house in Odessa. After his death, his elder sons Alexander and Ivan headed the trading house under their father's name. An entrepreneur and property owner, Alexander Vuchina was a member of the Greek Charity Society, the Society of Fine Arts, and the Odessa Society of History and Antiquities (he is known to have donated a number of archaeological finds to the Society). He collected paintings and other art objects, participated in art exhibitions and was recognized as a patron of the artists [4, p. 38–39]⁷. Later the book went to Karl (Scarlatos) Sevastopulo, who crossed out the former owner's name on the book label leaving his own name: Ch. Sevastopoulo (ill. 8).

The flyleaf of the collection of plays by P. Corneille, J. Racine, Voltaire, and J.-B. Molière (Paris, 1879) bears a manuscript inscription of the former owner of the book «**Jean A. Zarifi**» (ill. 9) which was also left on other flyleaves including one in Greek on the half-title of Corneille's *Cid*. It is interesting to note that the book must have been bought in Constantinople and brought to Odessa as follows from an oval stamp on the endpaper «**S. H. Wess** | **libraire Constantinople**» E. Therefore the book previously belonged to Ivan Aleksandrovich Zarifi (ca 1867–1912), a

hereditary honorary citizen, the son of a major Greek businessman and homeowner, hereditary honorary citizen Alexander Ivanovich Zarifi (1812–1875) who was at the head of one of the largest trading and banking companies in Odessa «Zafeiropoulos and Zarifi» [8, p. 149]. Zarifi-younger was brought up in the house of the long-time mayor of Odessa (1878–1895) of Greek origin and a noted philanthropist Grigorios Maraslis and died in 1912 of "heart palsy" at the age of 45 [3, part 6, p. 92; 10, p. 9 notel.

The presence of books that previously belonged to some representatives of the Greek commercial and financial elite settled in Odessa in the studied fragment of the Sevastopulo library allows to add some details to intellectual and artistic interests and demands of this group. In particular, their commitment to European culture and especially to French belles-lettres seems obvious.

The fate of the Sevastopulo library

Book collections of bibliophiles of Greek origin, who settled in Odessa, made an important part of pre-revolutionary bookinist Odessa. Unfortunately, none of them have maintained their integrity [6]. A splendid Grigorios Maraslis's library being the subject of articles and monographic studies is no exception to the rule.

After Karl (Scarlatos) Sevastopulo emigrated, his collections of paintings and books replenished the funds of Odessa museums, but were subsequently dispersed [11, p. 294]. According to the data provided by an archive document dated July 27, 1923, numerous volumes from collections of Odessa bibliophiles and collectors entered the Museum of Fine Arts of Novorossiyskiy University forming a number of "funds" including the "Sevastopulo Fund" which contained 204 books [1, fol. 503; 5, p. 111]. However, a complete list of the books donated to the Museum of Fine Arts is not available, making it so far unlikely that their whereabouts can be determined.

The collections of the Museum of Fine Arts of Novorossiyskiy University are known to have been, in turn, dispersed, some of the books could have gone to the library of the Odessa College of Fine Arts (nowadays the Odessa Art School).

A fragment of Karl (Scarlatos) Sevastopulo's book collection stored in the University library, which had been recorded in the spring of 1920 in the University Inventory as an acquisition "from the basement of Sevastopulo", made it possible to try to reconstruct an approximate image of this book collection thus complementing our competence about the cultural and intellectual life of the Greek community of Odessa.

Notes

¹ Information about the family of Karl (Scarlatos) Sevastopulo are mainly based on the works of the Kyiv researcher V. V. Tomazov [12, p. 212–228; 13]. The author of the article also expresses gratitude for the materials provided by the Odessa genealogist S. G. Reshetov.

² The son of the Sevastopulo couple, Valerian, died at the front in September 1917 during the World War I:

³ It is likely that Karl Sevastopulo had been interested in gardening since his youth, as evidenced by the dedicatory inscription in French on the flyleaf of the book "Die modern Teppich gärtnerei" by W. Hampel (Berlin, 1887): "A mon grand ami courageux Charles de Sevastopulos au souvenir de notre sejour a l'etranger. 1887 Juillet-Aout" signed A.Morably (?).

⁴Here are examples of similar publications from the last third of the 19thcentury: *Lacroix P.* Le Dixhuitième siècle. Institutions, usages et costumes. France 1700–1789. – Paris, Firmin-Didot, 1885; Le Dix-neuvième siècle. Les moeurs, les arts, les idées. – [Paris]: Hachette, 1901; *Gautier H.* L'an 1789. Evénements. Moeurs. Idées. Oeuvres et Caractères. – Paris: Charles Delagrave, 1889; *Levasseur É.* La France et ses colonies (géographie et statistique): le climat, le sol, la politique, l'agriculture, l'industrie, le commerce, les grandes villes, les colonies, l'administration, la population. – Paris: C. Delagrave, 1868; *Viollet-le-Duc E. E.* Histoire de l'habitation humaine depuis les temps préhistoriques jusqu'à nos jours. – Paris: J. Hetzel et Cie, 1875; *Le Bon G.* Les premieres civilisations. – Paris: Flammarion, 1889; *Hertz Ch.* La conquête du globe. – Paris: Tolmer et Cie, 1880.

- ⁵ The collection of the prominent Odessa bibliophile M. M. Tolstoy contained at least 30 copies from this series [7, p. 179].
- ⁶ This opinion is shared by the famous expert on the genealogy of Odessa Greeks S. G. Reshetov, to whom the author of the article expresses gratitude for his consultations.
- ⁷ Several copies from A. Vuchina's home library were acquired by the Odessa Public Library (his book marks are described by Larissa Izhik [4, p. 38]).
- ⁸ It was one of the first (dating from early 19th century) and one of the most popular bookstores in Istanbul: in the library of Sultan Abdulmecid, known for his interest in books, many books were purchased from Weiss. On another bookstore label represented in the Internet site it is specified that the store was located opposite the Russian consulate.

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КНИГИ З БІБЛІОТЕКИ КАРЛА (СКАРЛАТА) СЕВАСТОПУЛО В УНІВЕРСИТЕТСЬКИХ ФОНДАХ: ДО ІСТОРІЇ РОЗПОРОШЕНИХ КНИГОЗБІРЕНЬ ОДЕСЬКИХ БІБЛІОФІЛІВ

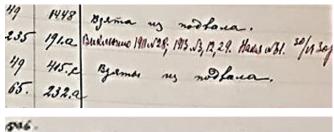
Масова еміграція та великі втрати культурної спадщини в 1917— на початку 1920-х рр. супроводжувалися розпорошенням приватних художніх колекцій та бібліотек, у тому числі— одеських колекціонерів і бібліофілів грецького походження. У статті розглядається епізод із історії бібліофільства в Одесі, пов'язаний із представником одного з впливових кланів греків-вихідців із острова Хіос.

Навесні 1920 р. до Інвентарної книги бібліотеки Новоросійського університету були внесені записи про надходження «З підвалу будинку Севастопуло». Завдяки власницьким знакам на переглянутих de visu примірниках вдалося ідентифікувати ім'я колишнього власника книг – одеського почесного мирового судді, колекціонера та бібліофіла Карла (Скарлата) Марковича Севастопуло (1871–1923). На основі даних Інвентарної книги Новоросійського університету вдалося реконструювати вигляд фрагмента книгозбірні. За приблизними підрахунками це надходження становило не менше 423 назви книг у 738 томах. Зважаючи на книги, що опинилися в університетській бібліотеці, це була насамперед бібліотека франкофона та франкофіла: дві третини даного книжкового фрагмента складали видання французькою мовою, а найбільшим був розділ французької літератури. Цікавою є присутність видань, що відображають захоплення та особисті пристрасті власника, а саме книги з садівництва (чотирма мовами) та з мистецтва фотографії. Окрасою колекції були бібліофільські видання останньої третини XIX - початку XX ст. Серед них - розкішні видання, лімітовані випуски бібліофільських видань; ілюстровані видання в чудово декорованих коленкорових, шкіряних та напівшкіряних видавничих палітурках. Таким чином, перенесений до бібліотеки університету з підвалу будинку К. М. Севастопуло фрагмент його книгозбірні дозволяє судити про бібліофільські та художні смаки та пристрасті власника, який особливо цінував французьку красну словесність.

У статті приділено увагу власницьким знакам грецького походження, залишеним на книгах родичами та сучасниками К. М. Севастопуло.

Ключові слова: одеські греки, родина Севастопуло, розпорошені книгозбірні, провенієнції, власницькі написи, екслібриси, університетська бібліотека.

Ілюстрації



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Ill. 1. Records in the Inventory of the Novorossiyskiy University Library about the books from Karl (Scarlatos) Sevastopulo's house.







Ill. 2. Book ownership marks of Karl (Scarlatos) Sevastopulo.

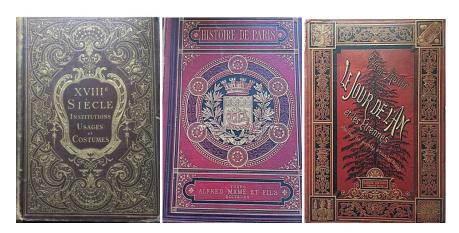


Ill. 3. Books on gardening from Karl (Scarlatos) Sevastopulo's library.



Ill. 4. Books on the art of photography from Karl (Scarlatos) Sevastopulo's library.

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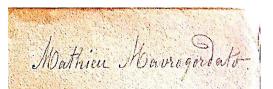


Ill. 5. Bibliophile editions from K. M. Sevastopulo's library.



Ill. 6. Books from Collections Edouard Guillaume series in K. M. Sevastopulo's library.





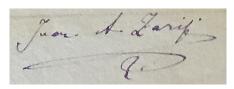


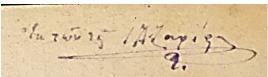
Ill. 7. Book ownership marks of M. Mavrogordato.





Ill. 8. Book ownership marks of A. G. Vucina.





Ill. 9. Owner's inscriptions of J. A. Zarifi.