

S U M M A R Y

Sources about libraries in ancient Greece are rare. Nevertheless there is evidence from ancient greek inscriptions, that there were a considerable number of libraries throughout Greece. An even greater number was in Athens. There is also some literary evidence for the existence of libraries in ancient Athens. There were libraries also in the greek cities of Asia Minor. In the Greek mainland outside of Athens there existed libraries in Sparta, Delphi, Epidaurus, Pella and Philippi.

In the inslands there were libraries in Samos, Cos, Rhodes, Crete, Cyprus, Délos and probably in Eretria of Euboea.

In addition to libraries there were also bookstalls which clients consulted as in the libraries.

Texts were written on various materials, including wooden cylinders, triangular bulletins, lead, geld and even iron slabs. Pottery, leather, seashells and bones were used also including wax boards.

Τῇ μητρὶ

*Καλλίον' οὔποτε τῆσδε θεός μοι ἔτευξεν εορτήν·
δός μοι χεῖρα, γύναι, σὺν τε χάρηθι χαράν,
τῆμερα γὰρ μητρὸς ῥέξω τὰ γενέθλι' Ἀθήναις
εὐθύμους αὐτῇ τήλοσ' ἰεὺς χάριτας.
Τίς φιλόφρων δὲ γονεῦσιν ἐμοῖς ὑπεθήκατο δαίμων
πιστεύειν ἐτόμῳ παῖδά με γυμνασίῳ,
Ἑλλάδος ὡς Πώμης τε μαθεῖν γλῶσσαν με καὶ ἦθος
ἀνθρώπειά τε πάντ' ὄμμασ' ἰδεῖν καθαροῖς;
Ἄλλὰ φέροιτ' ἄμφοῖν, ἄνεμοι, πρῶτιστα δὲ μητροί,
Ἄττικοί, ἀσπάσιον τοῦτο γενεθλιακόν.*