



Cyril's Lexicon:
**Through Time and Manuscripts
From Reading to Critical Edition**

Codex and Code:

Classical and Digital Approaches to Greek Palaeography

Erasmus+ BIP

Patmos · Friday, 18 September

Today's Activity: prepare a partial critical edition of the first 10 entries under the letter “ζ” of Cyril's Lexicon based on the following 5 manuscripts.

MS	Siglum	Date	Origin
228	D	13th c. (1263)	Leimonos Monastery, Mytilene
095	E	13th c.	Zavorda Monastery, Grevena
1082	I	15th c.	National Library of Greece
0320	J	15th c.	St John the Theologian, Patmos
086	O	16th c.	Olympiotissa Monastery, Ellassona

You will work directly with the prepared transcriptions of the entries for the letter ‘ζ’.

The aim is for you to **study** and **discuss the entries** as a group and, above all, **to approach them with a critical eye**.

1st Step

Take a close look at the list and check:

- the spelling and accentuation of the lemmata
- their corresponding interpretations

so that you can select those that **could be included in the critical edition**.

2nd Step

Search for the entries in the TLG and check whether they appear in later Greek lexica, such as Hesychius' Lexicon, the Συναγωγή, the Suda, Photius' Lexicon.

3rd Step

Prepare an apparatus criticus for **at least one of the entries** you select for the critical edition.

e.g.: the entry ζόφος in manuscripts D, J, I and O

- In manuscript O the entry is spelled with -ω-.
- The interpretations vary.

Lemma	Interpretation	Siglum
ζόφος	σκότ(ος)· συννεφία	D
ζόφος	σκότος· ἢ δύσις· ἢ συννέφια	J
ζόφος	ἢ σκότο(ς), ἢ συννεφία, ἢ δύσις	I
ζώφος	σκότος συννεφία	O

We choose **ζόφος | σκότος, συννεφία** as the entry for the critical edition. We also note the entry's serial number at the beginning.

We use the remaining variants in the apparatus criticus:

σκοτος η δυσις η συννεφια J, I; ζωφος O

-> We use the **semicolon** to separate variant interpretations from the lemma that we exclude.

3 Helpful Tips

1. Choose the shorter versions of the interpretations.

The phenomenon of addition is more common and easier than that of subtraction. Therefore, a longer interpretation is more likely to be secondary and further removed from the original reading.

Only delete brief interpretations when they are completely unrelated to the lemma.

2. For entries with different spellings or accentuation, keep the form that you consider to be correct. In this case, please note that the words you reject are normally included in the apparatus criticus.

3. Take into account the historical, intellectual, and religious context of the lexicon.

e.g.: ζυγός: βάρος - ζυγός: νόμος παρὰ τῇ θείᾳ γραφῇ

Given that we are working within a Christian context, the second interpretation should be considered the correct one.