

ETA SIGMA PHI 64th Annual Greek Translation Contest (2013)
Koine Greek

To be written as an examination, under supervision, within a maximum of two hours. No lexicon or other help is permitted. Please write in ink on every other line of the paper provided. The only identification on the contest papers should be your pen name.

King Ptolemy aims to increase the holdings of the Library at Alexandria, with the help of his librarian Demetrius of Phaleron, who suggests acquiring an important collection.

Κατασταθείς ἐπὶ τῆς τοῦ βασιλέως βιβλιοθήκης Δημήτριος ὁ Φαληρεὺς ἐχρηματίσθη πολλὰ διάφορα πρὸς τὸ συναγαγεῖν, εἰ δυνατόν, ἅπαντα τὰ κατὰ τὴν οἰκουμένην βιβλία· καὶ ποιούμενος ἀγορασμοὺς καὶ μεταγραφὰς ἐπὶ τέλος ἤγαγεν, ὅσον ἐφ' ἑαυτῷ τὴν τοῦ βασιλέως πρόθεσιν.

παρόντων οὖν ἡμῶν ἐρωτηθεὶς “Πόσαι τινὲς μυριάδες τυγχάνουσι βιβλίων;” εἶπεν “Ὑπὲρ τὰς εἴκοσι, βασιλεῦ· σπουδάσω δ' ἐν ὀλίγῳ χρόνῳ πρὸς τὸ πληρωθῆναι πεντήκοντα μυριάδας τὰ λοιπά. προσήγγελται δέ μοι καὶ τῶν Ἰουδαίων νόμιμα μεταγραφῆς ἄξια καὶ τῆς παρὰ σοὶ βιβλιοθήκης εἶναι.”

“Τί τὸ κωλύον οὖν,” εἶπεν, “ἐστὶ σε τοῦτο ποιῆσαι; πάντα γὰρ ὑποτέτακται σοὶ τὰ πρὸς τὴν χρείαν.” ὁ δὲ Δημήτριος εἶπεν “Ἑρμηνείας προσδεῖται.”

Notes. Paragraph 1

καθίστημι ordain, appoint, name
χρηματίζω (pass.) be furnished with
διάφορον (neut.) expense
μεταγραφή, transcription
ὅσον ἐφ' ἑαυτῷ as much as in his own power
πρόθεσις purpose

Notes. Paragraph 2

ἐρωτηθεὶς... εἶπεν The subject is Demetrius, from the previous paragraph
νόμιμα (neut. pl.) usages, customs, laws

Notes. Paragraph 3

ὑποτάσσω make subject to, place at one's disposal
χρεία use, disposal, service
ἑρμηνεία translation
προσδέομαι (impers.) be in need of, need (+ gen.)