

The following scheme shows the signatures of Adams above the line, the signatures of the Greek and the Latin text below it. Each quire of the Greek text has one additional inserted leaf. "in" in the column marks the inserted leaf; signatures not printed are in (). Greek (1, 2, 3 ...) & Latin (i, ii, iii ...) leaves alternate.

The detailed description for quire A (Adams: A¹⁷) is:

A⁸ (+4 *A₅) A^{viii}. This means: the quire A of the Greek text has 8 leaves plus one inserted leaf after A₄ with the printed signature A₅; the quire A of the Latin has eight leaves. Quire B (Adams: B¹⁹) can be described as B^x B⁸ (+4 *B₅) etc.

The inserted leaves with a stub as conjugate are A₅, B₅, C₅, D₃, E₅, F₅, G₅, H₃, I₃, and K₃.

Quires D, H, I, and K are printed on half-sheets (or two half-sheets of octavo worked together).

Catchwords are on A^{viii}, A₉, B₉, E^{viii}, E₉, F_x, G^{viii}, G₉, H₅, H_{vi}, I₅ only.

| Gr | Lat | Lat | Gr | Gr | Lat | Lat | Gr | Gr | Lat |
|------------------|--|-----------------|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------|---|--|------|--------|
| (*) ² | A ¹⁷ | B ¹⁹ | C ¹⁷ | D ¹¹ | E ¹⁷ | | | | |
| | A ⁹ (+4 *A ₅) A ^{viii} | B ^x | B ⁹ (+4 *B ₅) | C ⁹ (+4 *C ₅) C ^{viii} | D ^{vi} | D ⁵ (+3 [=2] *D ₃) | E ⁹ (+4 *E ₅) E ^{viii} | | |
| | 1 | i | 1 | 1 | i | i | 2 (=1) | 1 | i |
| | 2 | ij | 2 | 2 | ij | ij | 3 (=2) | 2 | ij |
| | 3 | iii | 3 | 3 | iii | iii | in3 | 3 | iii |
| | 4 | iiii | 4 | 4 | iiii | iiii | 5 (=4) | 4 | iiii |
| | in 5 | (v) | in 5 | in 5 | (v) | (v) | (6) (=5) | in 5 | v |
| | (6) | (vi) | (6) | (6) | (vi) | (vi) | | (6) | (vi) |
| | (7) | (vij) | (7) | (7) | (vij) | | | (7) | (vij) |
| | (8) | (viii) | (8) | (8) | (viii) | | | (8) | (viii) |
| | (9) | (ix) | (9) | (9) | (ix) | | | (9) | (ix) |
| | | (x) | | | | | | | |

| Lat | Gr | Gr | Lat | Lat | Gr | Gr | Lat | Lat | Gr |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| F ¹⁹ | F ⁹ (+4 *F ₅) | G ⁹ (+4 *G ₅) | G ^{viii} | H ¹¹ | H ⁵ (+2 *H ₃) | I ⁹ | I ^v | K ¹¹ | K ⁵ (+2 *K ₃) |
| | 1 | 1 | i | H ^v | 1 | 1 | i | K ^{vi} | 1 |
| | ij | 2 | ij | ij | 2 | 2 | ij | i | 2 |
| | iii | 3 | iii | iii | in 3 | in 3 | iii | ij | in 3 |
| | iiii | 4 | iiii | iiii | 4 | 4 | iiii | iii | 4 |
| | v | in 5 | (v) | (v) | (5) | (5) | (v) | (v) | (5) |
| | (vi) | (6) | (vi) | (vj) | | | (vj) | | |
| | (vij) | (7) | (vij) | | | | | | |
| | (viii) | (8) | (viii) | | | | | | |
| | (ix) | (9) | (ix) | | | | | | |
| | (x) | | | | | | | | |

As shown above the edition has two title-pages: the Latin *Ex comicorum ...* and the Greek *Τὰ ἐκ τῶν Μενάνδρου ...* which is uncommon for Morel's early productions. Also uncommon is the collation given by Adams: A¹⁷ B¹⁹ C¹⁷ etc. And, again uncommon, Greek and Latin leaves alternate, whereas Morel's early bilingual editions usually have the complete Greek text followed by the Latin (for example Basilius Magnus 1550/51, *De formulis colloquiorum* 1550, Demosthenes 1552, Gregorius Palamos 1553, *Hermes Trismegistus* and *Anacreon* 1554).

A closer look at the signatures shows that the quires consist of two sheets each, one printed in Greek, one in Latin. Their signatures use different numbers: the Greek has Arabic, the Latin Roman numbers. Since Greek and Latin alternate the sequence in a quire is: 1 i 2 ii 3 iii 4 iiij etc.

The Latin text has a pagination, the Greek leaves have signatures only.

In the later bilingual editions, for instance the *Nicanter* of 1557, alternating Greek and Latin leaves have continuous numbering for leaves or pages. Since Greek and Latin leaves are conjugate pairs in the *Nicanter* the Greek and Latin text is printed from one forme on one sheet.

In the *Menander* however conjugates of Greek leaves are Greek only, Latin likewise. The book was printed from two formes, one for the Greek, one for the Latin, on two sheets.

The 10 inserted leaves (plus 10 blanks, becoming a stub) are printed on two sheets and a half - one for A₅ to D₅, the second for E₅ to H₃, the half sheet for I₃ and K₃. The size of the sheet for E₅ to H₃ is a bit smaller than the size of the other sheets: the untrimmed outer margin of E₅ and F₅ is 18 mm less in size.

It seems that Morel had planned to print the book in his until then usual pattern: first Greek, then Latin. But something has changed his plan.

The second title-page (*Τὰ ἐκ τῶν Μενάνδρου σοφώμενα. Ex comoedijs Menandri quae supersunt. — Parisiis, M. D LIII. Apud Guil. Morelium*) may indicate that the *sententiae* of *Menander* only should have been printed, which would have been a small book of 53 leaves.

But material expanded to 41 additional authors of *sententiae* noted in alphabetical order - *Alexis* to *Xenarchus* - on the leaf after the new title: *Ex veterum comicorum fabulis ... Parisiis, M.D.LIII. Apud Guil. Morelium*.

The unusual note on the penultimate leaf - *Parisii colligebat Guil. Morelius. M.D.LIII* - and the difference between the publishing date on the two title-pages: 1553, and the last leaf: 1554 may show, that Morel collected the additional texts to be printed during 1553 until autumn or even later, and that publishing the book could happen only in early 1554.

To print the Greek and Latin text on different sheets but at the same time produce a book with alternate Greek and Latin pages made it necessary to print an extra leaf of Greek text, which was to be placed between the Latin leaves Aiiii and Av, Biiii and Bv etc.

The result of the printing process were three different heaps of sheets. Ten heaps (quires A-K) of the Greek text, ten heaps (quires A-K) of the Latin, and three heaps of the sheets with leaves to be inserted (A-D; E-H; I-K).

The usual way of gathering a copy was to place the sheets on a long table, take off a copy of the last sheet of a book, walk along the table and take off a copy of each sheet (in our case: start with K and move to A) until a complete copy of a book was gathered in sheets.

But there were still heaps on the table: ten heaps of Latin text, three heaps of sheets with leaves to be inserted. When the same process of gathering was finished, a complete copy of the *Menander* existed of three parts: ten Greek sheets, ten Latin, three sheets of leaves to be inserted. Just to remember the *Nicander* of 1557: since Greek and Latin was imposed in one forme and printed on the same sheet, and no leaves had to be inserted, gathering the sheets happened in one go only.

When the warehouseman gathered the sheets of the *Nicander* they were in the right order. However when he got the *Menander* they were not, since Morel wanted the Greek and Latin text, printed on different sheets, alternate.

To produce a complete copy of the *Menander* the gatherer could not just take one sheet after the other. Instead he had to cut them to get the alternating order of Greek and Latin. He had to cut the sheets into conjugate pairs of leaves: A1 & A8, A2 & A7 ... and Latin: Ai & Aviii, Aii & Avii etc. Only after cutting the sheet into conjugate leaves, he could make the right order of alternating Greek and Latin leaves. And of course he had to cut the three sheets with the leaves to be inserted into conjugate pairs, of which the right leaf was the blank becoming a stub only.

This laboriousness makes it easy to understand why Morel later changed to print the Greek and Latin on one sheet, if he wanted a book with Greek and Latin pages alternate.