



OBJECT ID	2008.37.72
OBJECT NAME	Block, Printing
OBJECT COLLECTION	Greek Art Printing Company Artifact Collection (is part of)
MATERIAL	Lead; Wood
OBJECT ENTITIES	Damianos, John (is related to) Damianos, Aristotle (is related to)
ACCESS POINTS	Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church eagle flag Greek Art Printing Company Plato Plutarch Plutarch School print Printing printing block Saint Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church Saint Spyridon Greek Orthodox Church School Certificate Solon Solon School St. Dimitrios Greek Orthodox Church St. Spyridon Church Wood

OBJECT DESCRIPTION

Square-shaped, wood, and cast lead printing block. The print image on the block consists of a torch and an open book at the top of the image. The book is in front of the torch and has four Greek words written on its open pages that translates to: "Holding a light to pass on to others." Below the image of the torch and book, is the image of an eagle with open wings. The eagle is looking to the left and has a United States flag clutched in his right claw and a Greek flag clutched in his left claw. Below the eagle is a circle, in which there is an image of a bearded man facing to the right. Below the circle and image of the man are two laurel branches that are situated as if cupping the man's image.

ORIGIN

Donated by John Damianos. The printing block was used in a linotype printing machine. Linotype presses allowed for the casting of entire lines to be printed at a time. Linotype printing was eventually succeeded by lithograph printing and computer typesetting during the 1960's and 1970's. This printing block was used by the Chicago-based, Greek Art Printing Company that was owned and operated by Aristotle Damianos. This printing block was used for the printing of school certificates for the Solon Greek School of both St. Demetrios and Annunciation Greek Orthodox Churches. In 1927, Annunciation Church bought land at 2727 W. Winona and opened the Solon School along with a chapel that was dedicated to St. Demetrios. The chapel eventually became



St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church that is still located at 2727 W. Winona, along with the Solon School. The print image is also used for the School Certificates for the Plutarch School of St. Spyridon Greek Orthodox Church. The Plutarch School was founded prior to the establishment of the St. Spyridon Church. When Greece went to war against Turkey in 1912 and Bulgaria in 1913, in what is commonly referred to as the Balkan Wars, many Greek men in went to fight. Many returned to Chicago in early 1914 with wives and settled in the Pullman neighborhood of Chicago to raise their families. The Plutarch School was founded so the children of the Greek neighborhood could be educated in Greek language and culture alongside their American curriculum. The saying that is written on the book is taken from Plato's Allegory of the Cave.

CITATION

Block, Printing, Greek Art Printing Company Artifact Collection, *National Hellenic Museum*, <https://hellenic.whirlihost.com/Detail/objects/>. Accessed 04/27/24.
