

# THERIAKA & ALEXIPHARMAKA

*"Unique and unrepeatable first edition, strictly limited to 987  
numbered and authenticated copies"*







The elegant human figures accompanying the zoological and botanical images endow this small book with its characteristic charm and originality.

*Theriaka and Alexipharmaka* is the only extant, illustrated example of Nicander's work.



# THERIAKA & ALEXIPHARMAKA BY NICANDER

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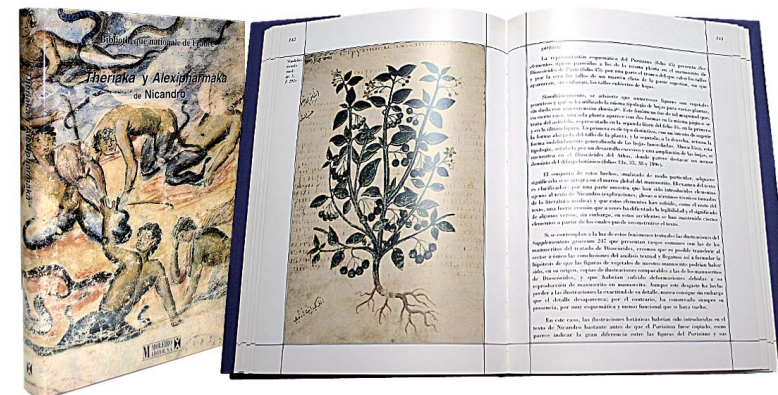
«First, unique and unrepeatable edition strictly limited to 987 copies»



- Size: 125 x 160 mm.
- Date: 10th C.
- Supplément grec 247.
- 96 pages, 41 miniatures.
- Bound in marbled design, brown leather with red spine.
- Leather case.
- Commentary volume (372 p.) by Alain Towaide (CSIC), Christian Förstel (Bibliothèque nationale de France) and Grégoire Aslanoff (Université de Paris I - Panthéon - Sorbonne).

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The physician, poet and grammarian, Nicander of Colophon, lived in the 2nd century BCE, in the court of Attalus III, king of Pergamum. His *Theriaka* concerns the bites of poisonous insects, snakes and wild animals, and his *Alexipharmaka*, other poisons of plant and mineral origin along with the necessary precautions and appropriate antidotes. His mag-



Full-colour commentary volume.

ic formulae consisting of 50 - 60 substances were increased by Mithridates, above all with the addition of opium and aromatic herbs, and by Crito, Trajanus's physician, and particularly Andromache, Nero's physician.

The extant writings in this Parisian manuscript are two poems belonging to what is known as the didactic genre characterised by having a scientific content made more understandable (or at least easier to remember) by being in verse. The *Theriaka* are useful information about dealing with poisoning caused by snakes, scorpions and other sea, air and land animals with a poisonous bite or sting. This information can be divided into three main categories: the physical and eth-

ological description of the poisonous animals, the symptoms of their bites and stings, and finally remedies for poisoning.

The *Alexipharmaka* consist of 630 verses about twenty-one oral poisons (unlike those in the *Theriaka* absorbed through the skin) of all types: animal, vegetable and mineral. They are studied on the basis of the specificity of their toxic effects and, therefore, of their remedies. The *Alexipharmaka* are well structured, there being a systematic, three-part entry on each poison: the physical description of the solution in which the poison was mixed, the symptoms arising from the poisoning and a list of the specific remedies.







"The miniatures have contributed greatly to the fame of this manuscript. It is the only extant, illustrated example of Nicander's work and, furthermore, the elegant human figures accompanying the zoological and botanical images endow this small book with its characteristic charm and originality. Forty of the forty-eight folios in the codex feature miniatures that illustrate the treatises about poisons and their antidotes. As

was usual in ancient times, the images, without frames or decorative surrounds, interrupt the texts. They are quite faithful to the general structure of the poem containing a mixture of descriptions of animals, antidote formulae based on plants or minerals and digressions evoking mythological tales."

GRÉGOIRE ASLANOFF, Université de Paris I - Panthéon - Sorbonne.





[illegible]

ΓΕΩΡΓΟΣ  
ΤΡΙΒΩΝ  
ΒΟΤΑΝΟΣ.

[illegible]









**Yo, Arturo Pérez Morente,**  
Notario de Barcelona y de su Ilustre Colegio

DOY FE: De que al presente ejemplar, facsímil del

## **Theriaka y Alexipharmaka**

cuyo original se conserva en la Bibliothèque nationale de France, en París, bajo la referencia *Suppl. grec* 247, le corresponde el número — **A** — de la edición única, numerada en arábigo y limitada a 987 ejemplares, realizada bajo la dirección de Manuel Moleiro y editada por:

**M. MOLEIRO EDITOR, S.A.**

Forman parte de esta misma edición 13 ejemplares con numeración romana, destinados al Depósito Legal y al editor.

Todo ello según el acta autorizada por mí el diez de junio de mil novecientos noventa y siete, número 547 de mi protocolo.

Barcelona, 10 de junio de 1997



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