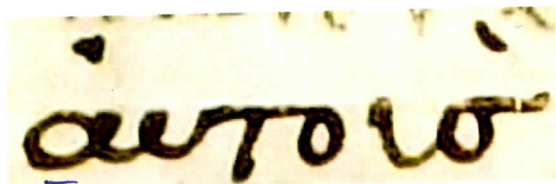


alpha

A α

alpha

see beginning of word αὐτοὺς in Iliad 1.3

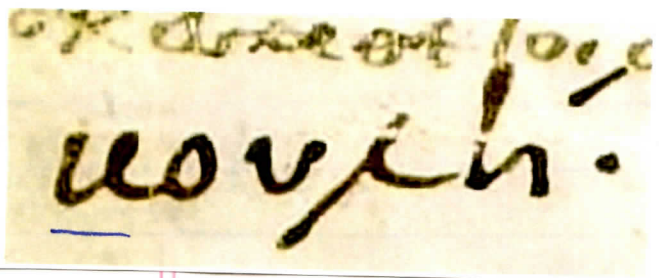


a) short vowel in "cup"

b) long like "a" in "father"

beta

one of the most different-looking letter forms. See beginning of word βουλή in Iliad 1.5. Contrast with this the much taller first stroke of kappa



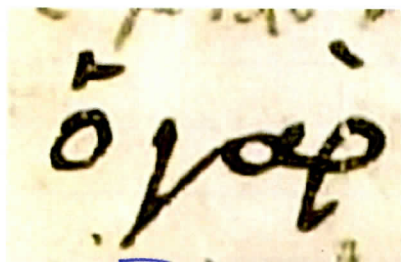
B β

like English "b"

gamma

Γ γ

gamma is happy to slide into a following letter, as in ó γὰρ in Iliad 1.9



like English hard "g"

before Y or K or P or B or X n in "ink" or "song"

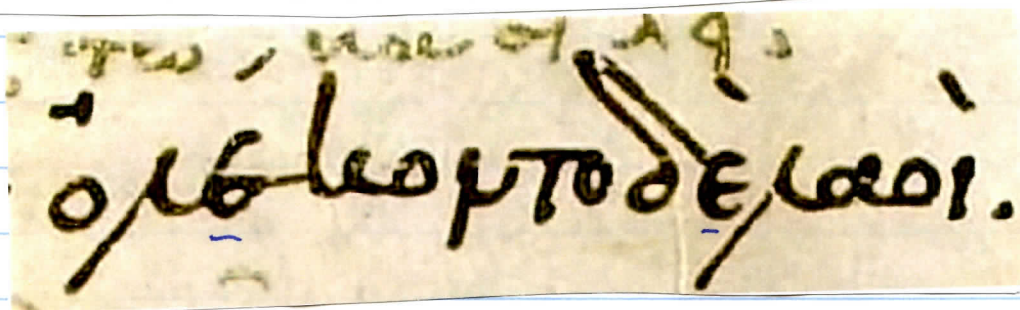
delta

Δ δ

like English "d"

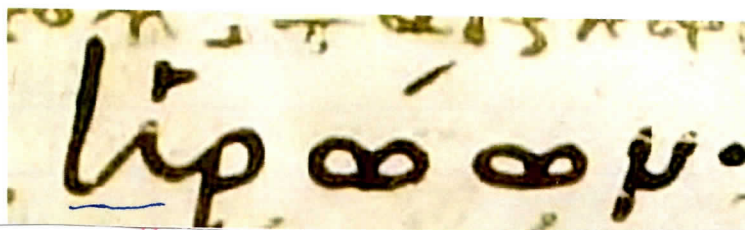
easy to recognize by itself, as in the δὲ in the phrase ὀλέκοντο δὲ λαοὶ in Iliad 1.10, but combines in complex ligatures more readily than any other letter. (Be sure to see the page of ligatures!)

epsilon
Ε ε
like "e" in "pet"



zeta
Ζ ζ "dz"

similar shape to kappa with a long downward stroke, but eta returns to a higher and sharper point. ἥρώων in Iliad 1.4 like vowel in "tête"



eta
Η η like vowel in French "tête"

theta
Θ θ "th" like "this" or like "t" in "top"

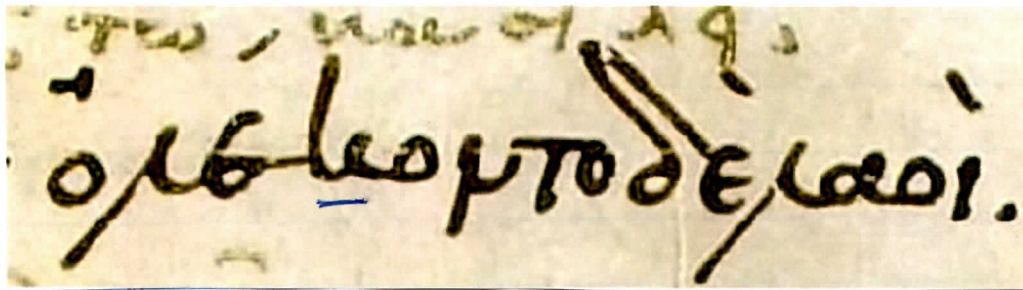
iota
Ι ι

Classical iota subscript written adscript: θυμῷ in Iliad 1.24



short-"i" in "bit"
long-vowel in "bead"

distinguished from the cursive beta by its taller starting point, see the kappa in the middle of ὀλέκοντο in the phrase ὀλέκοντο δὲ λαοὶ in Iliad 1.10

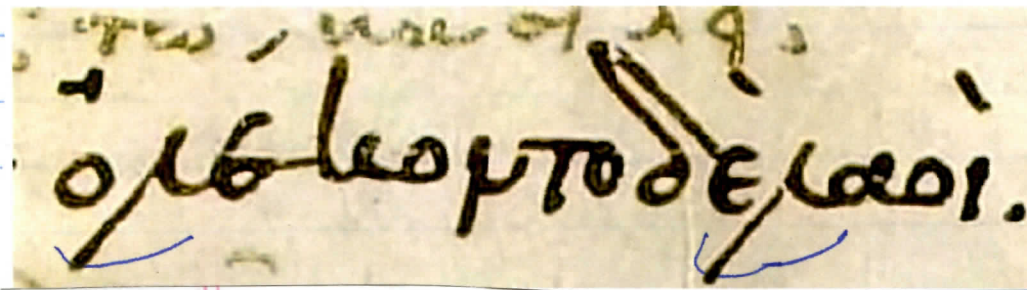


kappa

Κ κ

like "k" in "book"

the first part of the stroke sinks well below the line, normally at a steep diagonal, and the second part curves down to the base line, sometimes almost like a C. Compare the lambdas in the phrase ὀλέκοντο δὲ λαοὶ in Iliad 1.10 .

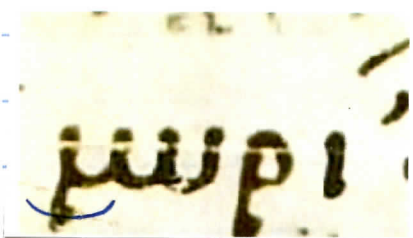


lambda

Λ λ

like "l" in "look"

the first downward stroke falls well below the line; in contrast to nu, the second downward stroke regularly comes back to the baseline. See the first letter of μῦσι in Iliad 1.2

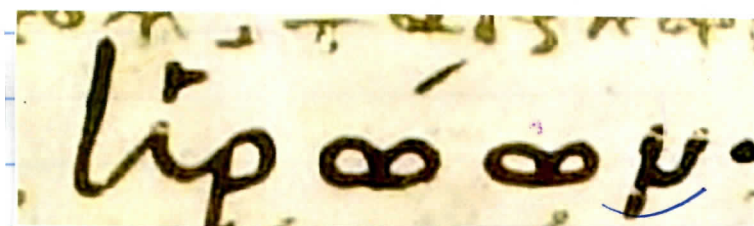


mu

Μ μ

like English "m"

looks a little like a modern mu, but note that while the first downward stroke normally comes down very low, there is no second downward stroke like that of mu. See the final nu of ἥρώων in Iliad 1.4



nu

Ν ν

like English "n"

xi
Ξ ξ

like "x" in "box"

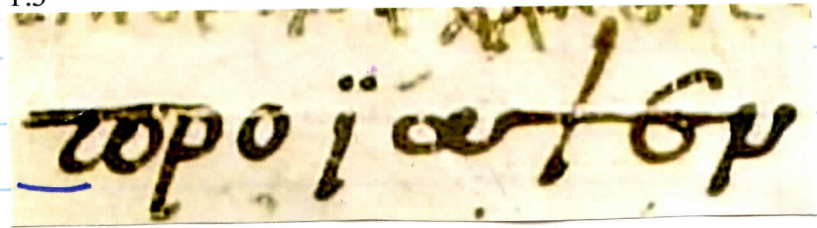
omicron
Ο ο

like "o" in "pot"

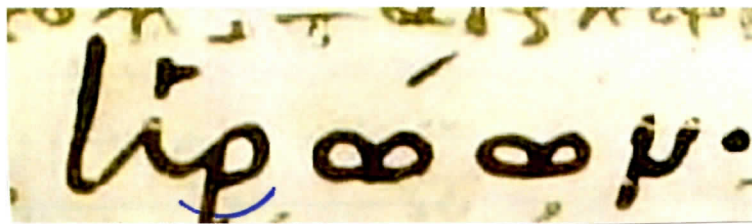
like modern Greek cursive form, the bottom section is written in one motion, so that the two legs of the pi become a pair of loops, like the first letter of προΐαψεν in Iliad 1.3

pi
Π π

like "p" in "pot"



readily combines with preceding letter, normally a clear break between rho and following letter, see ῥῶων in Iliad 1.4



rho
Ρ ρ

like Scottish rolled "r"

sigma
Σ σ, ς, c

like "s" in "sing"

before β or γ or δ or μ like English "z"

tau
Τ τ

like "t" in "stud"

Upsilon

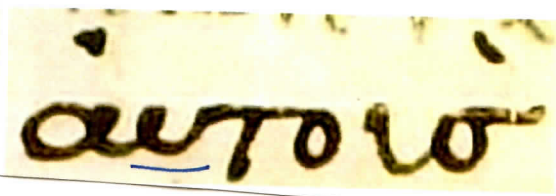
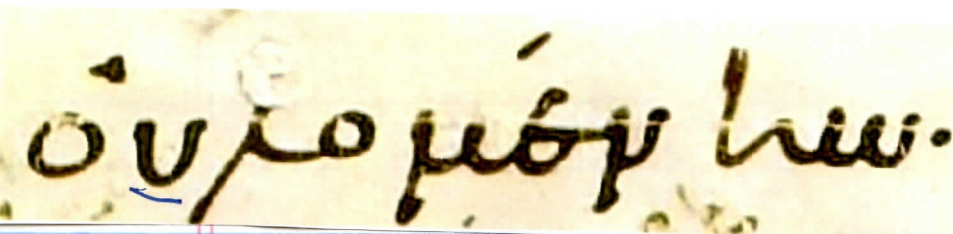
Υ υ

long - like French "lune"

short - like French "ruse"

when unconnected to following letter, the form is familiar as in οὐλομένην in Iliad 1.2, but see following example.

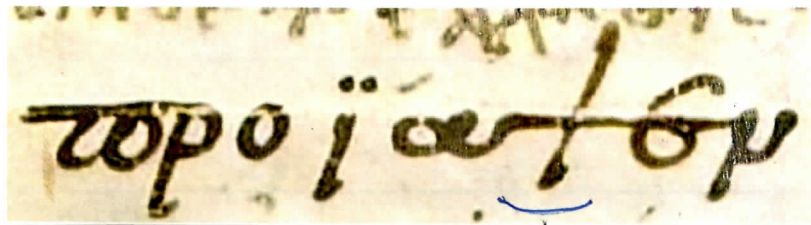
when joined to a following letter, the upward stroke of the upsilon does not necessarily come much above the line, as in αὐτοῦς in Iliad 1.3



Phi

Φ φ

very flat, almost like a crossed T, see προΐαψεν in Iliad 1.3



like "f" in "foot"

Khi

Χ χ

like "ch" in Scottish "loch"

Psi

Ψ ψ

This illustrates a ψ, not a φ
like "ps" in "lapse"

Omega

Ω ω

normally has a closed, "hour-glass" form, as in the two omegas of ἡρώων in Iliad 1.4

