

THE MELANCHOLY ACCORDING TO ARISTOTLE IN THE MAGIC SQUARE ON DUERER'S MELENCOLIA I

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In the numbers of Duerer's *MELENCOLIA* magic square is hidden the Aristotle's wonder: "How come, that all the people, excelling in philosophy or in politics or in poetry or in arts, are evidently melancholical..."¹

The numbers on the diagonal starting on the upper right corner of the magic square are 13, 11 and 67.² Their product is number 9581:

$$13 \times 11 \times 67 = 9581.$$

16	3	2	13
5	10	11	8
9	6	7	12
4	15	14	1

			13
		11	
67			

$$= 9581$$

The number 9581 equals to the sum of the number 9401, which is the gematrical equivalent to the Aristotle's question in Greek, and of the number 180, which is gematricaly equal to signatures of ΑΡΙΣΤΟΤΕΛΗΣ, C. AGRIPPA and ALBRECHT D.³

¹ Aristotle, *Problemata* 30,1.

² The adjacent numbers 6 and 7 combine in the same way as the numbers 15 and 14 make the year 1514. See my article Die Gematrie von Duerers "MELENCOLIA I". - *Acta neophilologica*, 1992.

³ In the deciphering of the Aristotle's Greek name zeros do not count, in the same way as in the case of ΜΕΛΕΓΧΟΑΙΑ I. See my article Die Gematrie von Duerers "MELENCOLIA I".

Heinrich Cornelius Agrippa von Nettesheim, the most famous magus in his time, is obviously the spiritual co-author of Duerer's MELENCOLIA I.

Διὰ τί πάντες ὅσοι περιττοὶ
γεγόνασιν ἄνδρες, ἢ κατὰ
φιλοσοφίαν, ἢ πολιτικὴν, ἢ
ποίησιν, ἢ τέχνας, φαίνονται
μελαγχολικοὶ ὄντες . . .

The quotation in Greek is gematrically equal to 9401:

15+310+636+350+875	=2186
392+360+8+322	=1082
1441+8+578+8	=2035
428+8+1156+992	=2584
889+625	<u>=1514</u>
	9401

The question is signed by the three wise men:

ΑΡΙΣΤΟΤΕΛΗΣ	36
C. AGRIPPA	73
ALBRECHT D.	<u>71</u>
	180

(The detailed translation of the quotation and of the three signatures into numbers see in the TABLE I and TABLE II.)

"... it was only Humanists, and most likely even only some of them and with great difficulty, who were able to fathom the many layers of meaning, allusions and associations in works like *MELENCOLIA I*."⁴

⁴ Bialostocki J., Myth and Allegory on Duerer's Etchings and Engravings. - *The Messages in Images*. IRSA, Vienna, 1988.

Δ	4	Γ	3	Φ	500	Π	80	Μ	40
I	10	E	5	I	10	O	70	E	5
A	1	Γ	3	Λ	30	I	10	Λ	30
T	300	O	70	O	70	H	8	A	1
I	10	N	50	Σ	200	Σ	200	Γ	3
Π	80	A	1	O	70	I	10	X	600
A	1	Σ	200	Φ	500	N	50	O	70
N	50	I	10	I	10	H	8	Λ	30
T	300	N	50	Λ	1	T	300	I	10
E	5	A	1	N	50	E	5	K	20
Σ	200	N	50	H	8	X	600	O	70
O	70	Δ	4	Π	80	N	50	I	10
Σ	200	P	100	O	70	A	1	O	70
O	70	E	5	Λ	30	Σ	200	N	50
I	10	Σ	200	I	10	Φ	500	T	300
Π	80	H	8	T	300	A	1	E	5
E	5	K	20	I	10	I	10	Σ	200
P	100	A	1	K	20	N	50		
I	10	T	300	H	8	O	70		9401
T	300	A	1	N	50	N	50		
T	300			H	8	T	300		
O	70					A	1		
I	10					I	10		
		TABELA I							

ΑΡΙΣΤΟΤΕΛΗΣ	= 36	
C. AGRIPPA	= 73	9401
ALBRECHT D.	= 71	180
TABELA II	180	9581

