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Education Through the Athenian Acropolis

Cornelia Hadziaslani of The Acropolis Education Department describes her Teachers' Packs which can be used by everyone

The Centre for Acropolis Studies

The Education Department of the Acropolis was created in order to provide the wider public with an opportunity to enhance its understanding of Classical civilisation, as well as of the scientific work currently in progress for the conservation and restoration of these unique monuments. It was created in 1987, together with the inauguration of the Centre for the Acropolis Studies and is based on the belief that:

- a) An intimate knowledge of the art and history of the Acropolis monuments, and a familiarity with the essence of Classical architecture, should be the prerogative of all people today and not that of a select circle of experts.
- b) The first step towards ensuring the respect and continuing preservation of a monument is through education that should begin at an earlier age.

These principles constitute the framework within which the Education Department is seeking to effect positive changes in educational practices today.

Pupils visit the Acropolis and the Centre for Acropolis Studies following especially

designed itineraries. These are based on a specific theme which present the pupils with integrated knowledge about the art and architecture of the Classical period. Each itinerary is accompanied by a booklet.

The Acropolis is a difficult archaeological site for persons with special needs to access. By contrast the Centre is a Neo-Classical building that has been renovated to contemporary standards: it has ramps, special lifts and toilets. The sculptures on exhibition are casts which can be touched. The auditorium has chairs that can move, so it can accommodate wheelchairs.

The Acropolis is an integral part of the Greek school curriculum, as well as of many schools all over the world. However, the demand for the services of the Education Department far exceeds its capacity. So the Department very early focused its efforts on the training of teachers of every specialisation as well as special teachers. Today one of the Education Department's main purposes is to enable the teacher, through intensive seminars and specially made resource material and specialised Symposia, to take initiatives and work on their own with the children.

The Material for Teaching

The pedagogic material consists of fliers and trails, Teachers' Packs and Museum Kits to be implemented by teachers at their own discretion in courses on Classical civilisation. The packs contain a range of relevant materials that can be used by each teacher; they have proved very helpful for teachers of children with special needs. The most comprehensive teaching material we provide are the Museum Kits which are described below.

The Acropolis Sanctuary: the kit consists of a 1: 500 scaled model of the Acropolis rock depicting the 5th century levels, models of the several buildings and the Teachers' Pack. Children position the temples on the rock so that they see the orientation, use and form of each building. Altars, pilgrims and cattle for sacrifices help the pupil recreate and imagine the glamorous sanctuary where faithful Athenians worshipped their patron goddess.

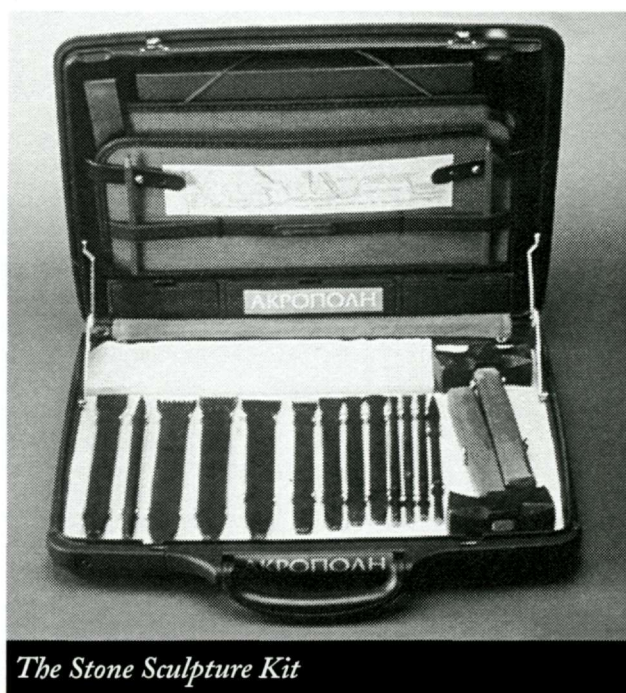
Stone sculpture: the kit contains hammers, tools, a piece of marble with the tooling marks, protective glasses and the Teachers' Pack. The pupils observe the tooling marks and practise their skills on given marble. They realise the difficulties of working with marble and learn to distinguish and recognise the marks of the several tools on contemporary and ancient blocks.

Ancient Greek Temples: the kit contains sets of rubber stamps with which the pupils can compose the Doric, Ionian and Corinthian Order. The Teachers' Pack contains information with drawings,

diagrams and photographs of selected monuments. Three models of columns of the different orders help the pupil. A frontal photograph of the temple of Athena Nike was especially made and cut to make a puzzle which the pupils solved by making a composition of the Ionian architectural elements.

The Parthenon Frieze: the Parthenon Frieze, a very low-relief continuous strip, 160 metres long and one metre high, illustrates the great Panathenaic procession. Participants in the composition are 360 human figures and more than 200 animals, primarily horses. The kit contains copies of individual frieze blocks only from the West Frieze. Plastic covered photographs make up the remaining part of the Frieze.

The students can join the entire Frieze, putting together the copies and the photographs. The raw materials, marble and tools, a painted block, a cast of a



The Stone Sculpture Kit

youth's head, give the pupil the information needed to analyse the Frieze.

There are two more kits: one on Ancient Greek Dress, which contains copies of the most characteristic ancient clothes. The children get dressed and find the types of dress on a vase or on a sculpture inside a Museum or on a photograph. The other is about Ancient Greek Musical Instruments which contains copies of the original instruments. With the help of slides, books and taped music, the pupils can study the instruments and look for them on vases and sculptures. The basic aim is to develop critical observation and interest the pupils in the instruments and clothes of antiquity. Through this procedure they can increase their understanding

of the vases, the sculpture and in general the art and everyday life of ancient Greeks.

These museum kits have, since 1991, travelled to nearly 2000 schools all around Greece and abroad as well. According to our statistics approximately 110,000 pupils have used them.

As the greatest achievement of the Classical world, the Athenian Acropolis represents an architectural, artistic and cultural prototype for Western Civilisation. Our goal is to make sure that the Acropolis provides educational programmes that can be applied to learning about humanity through the brilliant spectrum of the Classical world.

KITS

INFORMATION LEAFLETS The teachers:

1. The construction of an ancient Greek temple.
2. The construction of the Acropolis.
3. The construction of the Parthenon.
4. The construction of the Erechtheion.
5. The construction of the Propylaea.
6. The construction of the Temple of Athena Nike.
7. The construction of the Temple of Apollo.
8. The construction of the Temple of Concordia.
9. The construction of the Temple of Mars.
10. The construction of the Temple of Venus.
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TEACHER'S FACTS

1. The history of the Acropolis.
2. The history of the Parthenon.
3. The history of the Erechtheion.
4. The history of the Propylaea.
5. The history of the Temple of Athena Nike.
6. The history of the Temple of Apollo.
7. The history of the Temple of Concordia.
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TRAILS For pupils:

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2. The history of the Parthenon.
3. The history of the Erechtheion.
4. The history of the Propylaea.
5. The history of the Temple of Athena Nike.
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THE ACROPOLIS SANCTUARY

The kit consists of a 1:500 scale model of the Acropolis, including the Propylaea, the Temple of Athena Nike, the Erechtheion, the Parthenon, and the Temple of Apollo. The model is made of plastic and is very detailed. It is suitable for use in the classroom or at home. The kit also includes a set of instructions and a set of questions for the pupils to answer.

THE PARTHENON FRIEZE

The Parthenon Frieze is a series of 1600 figures, each about 1.5m high. It is the most important work of art on the Acropolis. The figures are arranged in a continuous band around the upper part of the temple. The figures are of various types, including men, women, and children. The figures are shown in various poses, some standing, some sitting, and some lying down. The figures are very detailed and are very well preserved. The kit includes a set of instructions and a set of questions for the pupils to answer.

THE ORDERS OF CLASSICAL ARCHITECTURE

The kit consists of a set of models of the four orders of classical architecture: Doric, Ionic, Corinthian, and Composite. The models are made of plastic and are very detailed. They are suitable for use in the classroom or at home. The kit also includes a set of instructions and a set of questions for the pupils to answer.

ANCIENT GREEK DRESS

The kit consists of a set of models of ancient Greek dress. The models are made of plastic and are very detailed. They are suitable for use in the classroom or at home. The kit also includes a set of instructions and a set of questions for the pupils to answer.

ANCIENT GREEK MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

The kit consists of a set of models of ancient Greek musical instruments. The models are made of plastic and are very detailed. They are suitable for use in the classroom or at home. The kit also includes a set of instructions and a set of questions for the pupils to answer.

STONE-CUTTING

The kit consists of a set of models of stone-cutting tools. The models are made of plastic and are very detailed. They are suitable for use in the classroom or at home. The kit also includes a set of instructions and a set of questions for the pupils to answer.

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