



View of the restored temple of Athena Nike from the E. Photo T. Souvlakis, 2010

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New activities and publications of the Information and Education Department

The school year of 2010-2011 was very creative for our Department. Completed during this period were four new productions, which are described in the present article.

Acropolis and Restoration

Since architectural heritage is an inestimable cultural good that must be preserved and handed on to future generations, it is of major importance to approach it through education. With this in mind, in 2010 the Department of Information and Education of the Acropolis Restoration Service has created a new Teacher's Pack entitled "Acropolis and Restoration".

The pack is prepared for educators and for pupils, particularly of the Secondary level, who declare special interest in the works of restoration being carried out at present on the Acropolis, and are interested in the problems of the monuments and the reasons that have led to their restoration. It contains ten educational pamphlets that are divided into two groups:

In the first group of pamphlets, theoretical subjects are presented that are associated in a general way with the restoration of ancient monuments, particularly those of the Acropolis: the types of restorations, the problems of the monuments and the reasons for the intervention, the principles of the works of restoration on the Acropolis, the method of the interventions on the Acropolis monuments.

Presented analytically in the second group are the restoration programmes that are carried out on each individual monument under the titles: Parthenon, Propylaia, Erechtheion, Temple of Athena Nike, The Rock, the Walls and the Environment. A special pamphlet is dedicated to proposals for the educators. The contents of the Pack

as a whole offer an inter-thematic way of teaching and can provide a theme to be developed in many lessons of the school curriculum; moreover it can be incorporated in the teaching material of different grades. In particular, great possibilities exist for developing the theme in the framework of Environmental Education.

All the pamphlets of the Teacher's Pack are triptychs to facilitate their use in the classroom by smaller groups of pupils. On one face of the pamphlet the subject is de-



Teacher's Pack "Acropolis and Restoration"

veloped with the necessary informative text, while on the other side there is plentiful photographic material with views of the monument before and after restoration, accompanied by explanatory captions for easier comprehension of the subject.

The Teacher's Pack includes also the film "The Works on the Athenian Acropolis", (duration 60 minutes) comprising 5 thematic units: The Parthenon, the West side of the Parthenon, the Erechtheion, the Propylaia and the Temple of Athena Nike.

The film is a valuable audio-visual product for pupils studying the restoration works, since they can listen to the people who are carrying out the work talk about what they are doing; they can also see details of the work being done, which they would not be able to see otherwise.

With the opportunity of this publication, the Department is organising an open day programme on the Acropolis in the autumn of 2011, that will familiarise school children and the general public with the monuments of the Sacred Rock and with the restoration works.

www.acropolis-athena.gr

Another educational activity completed by the Department of Information and Education in 2010, is the on-line application "Athena, Goddess of the Acropolis" (www.acropolis-athena.gr). The application was created in collaboration with the Acropolis Museum, thanks to the generous funding from the Bodosaki Foundation, to which special thanks are due.

Athena, the goddess of wisdom, of culture and the arts was directly connected with the city to which she had given her name. Her presence as a name, as a tradition and as an artistic expression was predominant everywhere, especially in the most important sanctuary of the city, the Acropolis, where the goddess was worshipped in many different forms and capacities.

The purpose of the on-line application is to familiarise the user with the various natures of the divinity. By means of a virtual tour of the Acropolis Museum, the user, following a beam of light, looks for and observes the exhibits of the goddess Athena that have been chosen.

A number of these reflect the sacred cult

statues of the goddess that were once within the temples and of which today no trace remains, such as the clay statuette resembling the wooden statue of Athena

pediment, where only part of the statue has survived. Yet another category of statues that can be seen in the application comprises the various votives-dedications

named Meleso, as well as the famous Pen-sive Athena.

The application includes also a fragment of a Panathenaic amphora, the vase that was presented as a prize to victors in the Panathenaic games, on which there is a representation of the goddess Athena, fully armed as a goddess of war. For each of these exhibits the user can read a brief description, a relevant myth, information about the cult of Athena as well as the relevant ancient texts of Pausanias. In addition it is possible to see the exhibit from close-up and some of them all around, virtually restored.

Three months after the uploading of the on-line application www.acropolis-athena.gr, there have been 3,844 visits, a number that corresponds to 3,145 individual visitors. Six hundred of these visitors come from 49 foreign countries. It is interesting that a third (33%) of the visits are direct visits. The other sources of "traffic" are the reference websites (62%) and search engines (5%).

The photographs, the artistic design and the editing of the application were done by Professor K. Antoniadis and the application design and development by Y. Koutsoukos.

A Day in the Acropolis Museum with the Goddess Athena

The next educational activity of the Department combines the on-line search for the goddess Athena with an actual search for the goddess inside the Acropolis Museum. The programme has been organised by the Acropolis Museum and in its context a special Family Pack has been created. The Pack contains a series of games that help the child recognize the goddess Athena from her attributes and search for her in the Museum. The purpose of the Pack is to attract families and to facilitate their visit inside the Museum. As an introduction to the programme "A Day in the



On-line application "Athena, Goddess of the Acropolis"

Polias, the patron goddess of the city, that was kept inside the Erechtheion, as well as the marble statue of Athena Parthenos, a Roman copy of the chryselephantine masterpiece by Pheidias, that stood within the Parthenon.

Included likewise in the application are some of the most important architectural sculptures of the Acropolis with themes taken from the goddess's mythology, such as the impressive statue of Athena in the Gigantomachy where she is shown fighting with the Giant of earthquakes, Engelados, from the pediment of the "Archaio Naos" (the Old Temple), as well as the representations in relief of Athena from the Parthenon frieze and from the parapet of the Athena Nike temple. In this same category of architectural sculptures are the statues of Athena from the two pediments of the Parthenon. The birth of the goddess was shown in the east pediment, from which her statue has disappeared but the user can recreate her in his imagination with the help of a virtual reconstruction of the statue. So too, the struggle of Athena with Poseidon in the west

to the goddess that represent the goddess herself, such as the Athena that was carved by the famous sculptor Endoios, the little bronze Athena Promachos, goddess of battle, dedicated by a woman



Digital reconstruction of the chryselephantine statue of Athena Parthenos

Acropolis Museum with the Goddess Athena”, a bilingual 3-minute film was made by K. Arvanitakis, explaining the contents of the Family Pack as well as the on-line application (www.acropolis-athena.gr), which everybody can visit afterwards at home.

The family also receives a specially designed childrens’ plan of the Museum and stickers with the representations of the goddess Athena. In the quest for the goddess in the Museum, the children can use

home, the child can repeat and also continue his/her game with the goddess Athena on the internet.

Another activity the parents can enjoy with their children in the Museum, in the course of the programme, is based on the game “A day in the Acropolis Museum playing with the Symbols of the Goddess Athena”, which is accompanied by a series of magnets with the attributes of the goddess. First the children learn the goddess’s symbols, the spear, the shield, the helmet,

other cases, the figures are black but the face of the goddess is painted white, as was the practice so as to distinguish the female from the male figure. The children search for these representations of Athena in the gallery of archaic exhibits, in the east and west Museum cases and match the pairs of cards, exercising their memory and their observation skills!

For a period of around 3 months beginning on 16 April 2011, when the programme began to work, 1,004 families have participated. Of these, 821 families borrowed the Greek Pack and 67 families the English version. Up to 5 May, when the English Pack began to circulate, 160 childrens’ maps had been offered with stickers in the English language. The average time spent in the Museum by the visiting families was around two hours.

In the context of evaluating this activity, a questionnaire was drawn up, which the parents filled in when they returned the Pack. A total of 189 questionnaires were gathered, 42 from foreign families and the rest from Greek families.

Acropolis and Education

For the Information and Education Department, the school year 2010-2011 closed with the completion and publication of the book “Acropolis and Education”, which was made possible with the very generous funding of the Panayotis and Effie Michelis Foundation, to which special thanks are due. The book has 192 pages and it constitutes a guide for a teacher to carry out educational programmes about the Acropolis and the classical antiquity.

The book has two parts. Described in the first part are the activities of the Department as they were developed over the past 25 years, in an effort to make knowledge about the life and art of antiquity more compelling and comprehensible to school children and to educators. Described and analysed in particular are:



Family Pack. Photo Acropolis Museum Archive

as a basis the game “A Day in the Acropolis Museum Searching for the Goddess Athena”, which includes cards with information about the goddess, graphic or digital representations of her and suggested activities. Of help also may be the specially designed childrens’ labels that have been set next to the chosen exhibits. Each time the children recognise a representation of the goddess Athena, they place the corresponding sticker on the plan which they later take home.

The representations of Athena chosen for this searching game comprise some of the exhibits of the goddess that are included also in the on-line application (www.acropolis-athena.gr). Thus, on returning

the peplos, the owl, the olive tree and the aegis with the goddess's gorgoneion. They then place the symbol-magnets on a drawing-magnet of Athena. In this way each child makes his/her own individual composition.

The children finish their tour of the Museum playing a memory game entitled “A day in the Acropolis Museum Playing with the Images of the Goddess Athena”. The game includes nine pairs of cards showing Athena’s faces painted on clay vases. Some are painted in the black-figure technique, that is, a black figure on a red ground, and others in the red-figure technique, with a red figure on a black ground. Some are painted on a white ground, while in two

- The educational programmes that are organised for school groups.
- The seminars conducted for educators and pupils on classical greek art and architecture as well as on the restoration of classical monuments.
- The educational resources, printed and digital, that have been published by the Department about classical art and architecture, and the restoration works on the Acropolis.
- The special symposia for educators as well as exhibitions of educational material.

The chapters have been arranged so as to make it easy for the reader to find and use the programme or educational material that interests him.

The book includes also educational programmes that were carried out in the old Acropolis Museum and which can now be pursued in the new Museum. They have been supplemented with new photographs of the exhibits and their new display in the Museum. The educational activities presented in the first part of the book constitute the one side of the Museum-School collaboration.



Celebrating the Panathenaia at school

Presented in the second part of the book are a number of chosen projects that were carried out by educators and pupils of various schools in Greece, with which we have collaborated from 1991 to the present. These reports of the educators present the way in which they used and incorporated into their teaching the experiences and knowledge they gained from participating in the Department's educational activities. This is a very significant aggregate of rich in ideas teachers' projects that have already been applied by educators of all grades and all specialisations. In the course of studying these reports, it was decided that their publication would be easier for the reader to comprehend, if they were arranged by subject: in a first level on the basis of the place where the programmes took place (applications at School, at Special Schools, at Libraries, at other Monuments or Museums); in a second level on the basis of the teaching unit in which they were carried out (through the lessons in History, Applied Art, Language, Natural Sciences etc). Since most of the applications can be entered in many categories, their classification is not absolute and it was finally de-



Cover page of the book "Acropolis & Education"

termined according to the subject that was predominant in each project.

In each of these programmes the way in which the educator approached the Acropolis and its monuments is made clear, always depending on his specialty, his class and the specific aims he had set. Thus the educator who is interested can study many different programmes concerning the Acropolis and its epoch, that incorporates ideas, methods and applications created by colleagues with the same background, the same possibilities and the same goals.

Special thanks for her contribution to all the above, as well as for her assistance to all the activities of the Department are due to the archaeologist Sylia Paraschou.

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*Preparations for dismantling a cornice block from the north entablature of the Parthenon.
Photo V. Eleftheriou, 2011*



*Dismantling the second from the west metope of the Parthenon north entablature.
Photo V. Eleftheriou, 2011*

News Letter of the Acropolis
Restoration Service of the Hellenic
Ministry of Culture and Tourism

Editor:
Acropolis Restoration Service

Editing and Production:
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Layout:
Intraway LTD

English Translation:
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The restoration and conservation works
of the Acropolis Monuments as well as
the present issue are jointly financed by
the European Union



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