

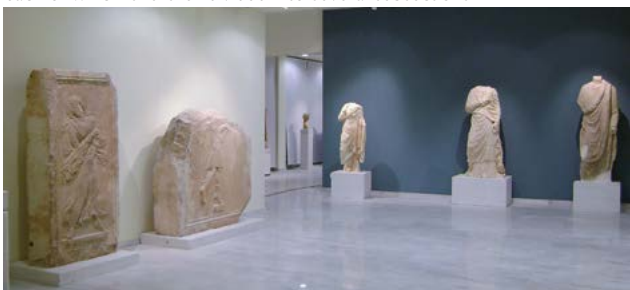
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
MUSEUM OF PHILIPPI

KAVALA



The Archaeological Museum of Philippi was built in the 1960s on the outskirts of the archaeological site of Philippi, in accordance with plans drawn up by architects I.D. Triantaphyllides and D. Fatouros. It was originally constructed as an archaeological “warehouse” to meet the need for storing and protecting finds from the excavations which the French Archaeological School at Athens had conducted at the site of the ancient city between 1914 and 1937, and from excavations by the Greek Archaeological Service, the Archaeological Society, and the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki from the end of World War II to the present. It actually functioned between 1963 and 1992 as a small archaeological museum. In 2006 the Ephorate included the project “Archaeological Museum of Philippi: building improvements and re-exhibition” in the INTERREG IIIA/ PHARE CBC Greece-Bulgaria program, realized between 2006 and 2009.

The building has two levels of exhibition spaces for permanent display of the finds from excavations of the ancient city: The first (380 m²) occupies the entire ground floor; the second (205 m²) occupies the building's upper floor. The exhibition of antiquities is divided into two chronological sections, each of which is further divided into several subsections.



FIRST SECTION

This section exhibits archaeological material from the city of Philippi and its environs from the Prehistoric period to the end of Roman antiquity.

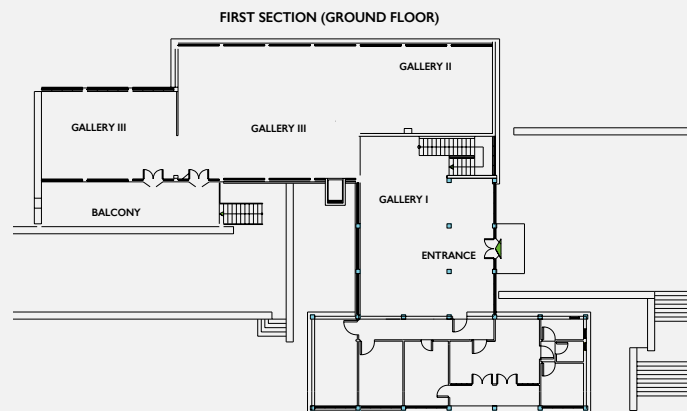
Entrance - Introduction to the Museum and its exhibition: A reception and orientation area for visitors (ground floor lobby). It includes the payment counter-ticket office and a sales shop for publications and cards.

Gallery I. Prehistoric period - Founding of Krenides

Rock art: In the greater area of the ancient city, to its northeast, rock cuttings with various schematically-rendered representations of men, animals, and others and dating from the Prehistoric period to the modern era have come to light.

Prehistoric settlement of Dikili-Tas: Here there is reference to the Prehistoric settlement at Dikili-Tas (Orthopetra), lying 2 km east of the ancient city. Life in this Prehistoric settlement began in the Late Neolithic (around 5500 BC) and continued without interruption until the Early Iron Age (1000-700 BC).

Krenides - “a Thasian colony”: This subsection offers a picture of the region during the historical period with its Thracian inhabitants and important gold and silver mines on Mt. Pangaion, the southern boundary of the plain of Philippi, and at various locations around the city. The city's wealth and its strategic location – the only road linking the hinterland of ancient Thrace with



the coastal area passed through it – attracted the first colonists from Thasos. Led by the exiled Athenian politician Kallistratos, they founded the colony of Krenides here in 360 BC. A group of inscribed marble funerary stelai belonging to the first Thasian colonists in the late 4th c. BC is on display.

Gallery II. Philippi: a Hellenistic city

The city of Philip: Four years after Krenides' founding, the Thasian colonists, who were under threat from local Thracian tribes, were compelled to request support from the rising power of the age, the kingdom of Macedon. King Philip II, comprehending the privileged location of the city, occupied it in 356 BC. He immediately fortified it with a strong wall, settled Macedonian colonists in it, and gave it his own name: Philippi.

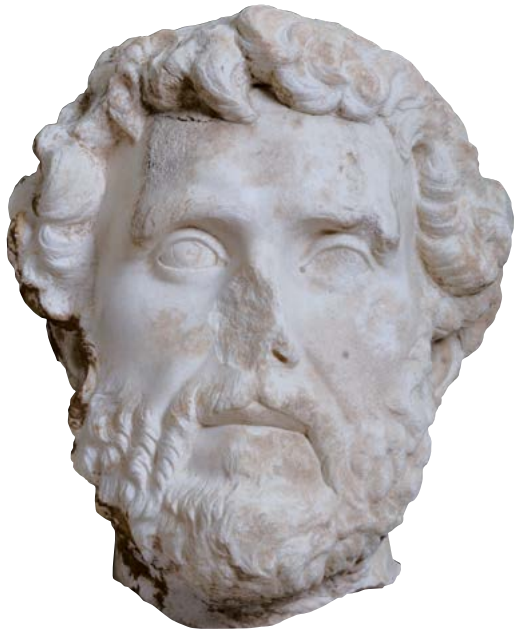
Unfortunately, the available information about the history and culture of the Macedonian city is still very limited, since excavations to date have revealed monuments belonging primarily to the city's later phases, viz. the Roman and Early Christian eras.

To allow visitors to form a picture of Philippi in the Late Classical period (356-300 BC), we have resorted to presentation of Philip's portrait, a display case with coins from Krenides of Philip II and Alexander, and epigraphic testimony referring to the cult of Philip II in the city of Philippi.

Philippi and Alexander the Great: The information available regarding the Hellenistic city is also very fragmentary. The exhibit presents Alexander's portrait and a fragmentary inscription referring to Alexander's order that the disputed boundaries of the “chora” of Philippi should be determined.

A “Macedonian” Tomb: Here there is a display of a model of the only “Macedonian” tomb that was uncovered in the center of the city, in the foundations of the Early Christian Octagon complex. Two small display cases present the funerary gifts (a group of gold jewelry, vases, and figurines) from the unlooted burial inside the tomb.

The “Via Egnatia”: Here is presented the most important road in antiquity in Macedonia and Thrace, the so-called “Via Egnatia”. In addition, there is a



copy of the decree from the Asclepieion of Kos for participation by representatives from Philippi in the celebrations in honor of the god.

Daily life and life after death: This subsection endeavors to present the daily life of the residents of the Hellenistic city through portable finds from its cemetery (vases, figurines, small objects). There is a discussion of burial customs and presentation of a cist grave with a great many funerary gifts just as it was found during excavation, a small stone sarcophagus of the 2nd c. BC, and, finally, a relief with the Thracian horseman-hero from the late 2nd-early 1st c. BC.

Gallery III. Philippi - Roman colony

This gallery takes up most of the ground floor and extends over two spaces that open onto one another, following the ground-plan of the building.

The founding of the Roman colony: One of the landmarks in the city's history was the great battle that occurred in 42 BC on two low hills that remain preserved today outside its western walls. The clash of two Roman armies, that of the democrats and assassins of Julius Caesar, Brutus and Cassius, on the one hand, and on the other those who represented a continuation of his policy, Octavian and Antony, was earth-shattering. Its outcome – the democrats' defeat – sealed the fate of the Roman Republic and paved the way for Octavian to become emperor. Following the battle, Roman colonists and veteran soldiers settled in the fertile plain of Philippi, and the city was transformed into a Roman colony (Colonia Augusta Julia Philippensis). All the above events are exhibited through visual material, the marble head of the personified Tyche of the city of Philippi, an inscribed stone funerary stele of the 1st c. BC, and three

marble portraits of the 1st c. AD.

The city in the 2nd and 3rd c. AD - Public life: The Roman colony of Philippi enjoyed particular prosperity in the 2nd c. AD, chiefly during the Antonine period, when it was adorned with large monumental buildings, statues, and other monuments, the ruins of which dominate the archaeological site today. Thus, in this subsection the large public structures (forum, commercial agora, and theater) are exhibited through three marble statues that adorned the porticos of the forum, six marble portraits, and a group of two reliefs that decorated the façade of the stoa of Philippi's theater, which was rebuilt to serve the needs of Roman spectacles in this era. With respect to the theater, there is a reconstruction drawing accompanied by explanatory texts concerning the form the theater acquired in the 2nd and 3rd c. AD.

Religion and society in the Roman city: In this area, visitors receive information about the gods worshipped in the Roman city of Philippi and the sanctuaries built there. The exhibit presents marble statues and small-scale reliefs of various deities (Artemis, Dionysus, Pan, Nemesis, Hecate) and heroes (Heracles, the Thracian horseman-hero) that form eloquent testimony to the rich religious life of Philippi's Roman residents. Finally, along the short wall of the gallery there are three marble acroteria from the pediment of the northwest temple of the forum, identified as the Bouleuterion (Curia). They include a statue of Athena (the central acroterion) and two fragmentary statues of Nike from the two ends of the pediment.

The society of the Roman city - Private life: This part of the gallery deals with the private life of Philippi's Roman inhabitants. Exhibits include two fragments of funerary reliefs with portraits, two marble portraits, a case containing objects of everyday use (clay and glass vases, figurines, small objects), and a case containing a display of Roman coins.

The end of the Roman age: The final section in this gallery, which also forms the transition to the exhibition on the upper floor, is devoted to St. Paul. His passing through Philippi in 49/50 AD and the founding here of the first Christian church in Europe were instrumental in altering the character of the city, which in time



was transformed from a flourishing Roman colony into a center for Christian worship. A Post-Byzantine icon of the Apostle to the Gentiles is on exhibit, as well as a passage from Acts concerning his progress towards Philippi.

SECOND SECTION

The second section of the exhibition occupies the Museum's upper floor. It presents the Christian city from the Early Christian period, when it was at its height, to when it began to shrink in the 7th c., down to its final abandonment following Turkish conquest in the late 14th c.

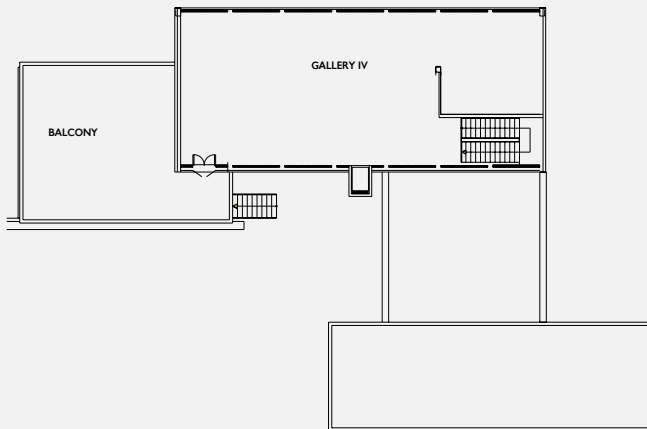
Gallery IV. Philippi in the Early Christian and Byzantine periods

Early Christian period - basilicas: With the transfer of the seat of the Eastern Roman Empire to Constantinople (330 AD), the dominance of Christianity (4th c. AD), and the graduation Hellenizing of the Eastern Roman state, the Roman colony of Philippi regained its character as a Greek city. With the change of religion, the large public buildings, which had been destroyed by earthquakes or other causes, were succeeded by monumental Christian churches, and the city was transformed into a center of Christian worship. In the city center, excavation has brought to light the complex of the Octagon, three large Early Christian basilicas (5th and 6th c. AD); a fourth, cemetery basilica (4th c. AD) has been found in the eastern cemetery outside the city. In this subsection, there is an informational chart with explanatory texts, topographic plans, a reconstruction, and floor plans of the basilicas.

A Christian paradise: This area displays a group of inscribed stone funerary stelai belonging to the first Christians, and discusses the typical funerary monuments and customs we find at Philippi during the Early Christian period. A special place is reserved for a large mosaic funerary inscription.



SECOND SECTION (UPPER FLOOR)



Symbolic scenes in the decoration of Early Christian buildings: Reference is made to symbolic representations in the Early Christian churches of Philippi, chiefly through the exhibiting of parapets from basilica C and part of a marble ambo from the basilica outside the walls.

Functional constructions / furniture: Fragments of an ambo from basilica B recall the form and decoration of ambos during the Early Christian era.

Architecture - Sculpture: This subsection occupies the center of the gallery. Here there is an effort to reconstruct the main aisle of an Early Christian basilica through the exhibiting of four marble column capitals of conventional style, and two bifacial parapets.

The Octagon complex: According to the mosaic inscription on its floor, the first Christian house of worship in Philippi was dedicated to St. Paul (313-342/3 AD). On its site, a large octagonal church that included a baptistery and other outbuildings was built later (late 4th-early 5th c. AD). This was the city's cathedral church. Visitors draw information about this extremely significant building complex from the information panel with explanatory texts and a reconstruction drawing, as well as the mosaic containing the votive inscription from the floor of the house of worship.

Middle and Late Byzantine Philippi: This subsection refers to the collapse of the Early Christian buildings from an earthquake and Slavic incursions, and to the city's decline in the late 6th-early 7th c. AD, when residents began abandoning it. It was not entirely deserted, however, and displayed some growth in the Middle Byzantine period (10th c. AD) with the repair of its walls. It survived into the Late Byzantine period (11th-14th c. AD) as a fortress around the gate leading to the marshlands, only to be entirely deserted with the Turkish conquest in the late 14th c. Exhibits here include part of a marble



parapet with relief decoration (10th-12th c. AD) and part of an inscribed marble block with an inscription dating to the age of the Byzantine Emperor Nikephoros II Phokas (963-969 AD), connected with repairs to the fortifications on Philippi's acropolis.

Public - daily life: This subsection, the last one in the gallery, unfolds in its own space, with a lower ceiling than the rest of the hall. It is devoted to a presentation of Byzantine coins found in Philippi, as well as to the daily life of its humble inhabitants. Exhibits include a display case containing coins and lead bulls, a case with clay vases for daily use, a case with glass objects, a case with metal objects, a bronze counterweight for a balance (steelyard), in the shape of an empress, and a bronze timepiece of the early 4th c. AD, a rare type of Late Antique astronomical technology.





ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM OF PHILIPPI

KAVALA



i T: 2510 516251

TEXT: MARIA NIKOLAIDOU-PATERA

TRANSLATION: D. BROWN-KAZAZIS

GENERAL SUPERVISION: ARF, PUBLICATIONS DEPARTMENT



MNHMEIA KAI MOYSEIA THΣ EΛΛAΔAΣ
MONUMENTS AND MUSEUMS OF GREECE
e-Ticketing system



HELLENIC REPUBLIC
Ministry of Culture and Sports



Archaeological Resources Fund
www.tap.gr