

National Archaeological Museum of Athens



It is the most important archaeological museum in Greece and one of the richest in the world concerning ancient Greek art. Its collections are representative of all the cultures that flourished in Greece.

The construction of the museum was begun in 1866 and completed in 1889 with the gradual addition of the west wing in 1874, of the north in 1881, of the south in 1885 and finally, of the east wing. The building was erected in a large plot donated by Helen Tositsa, with the financial support of Demetrios and Nicolaos Vernardakis, the Archaeological Society and the Greek state.



The building of the museum was originally designed by the architect Ludwig Lange but his plans were partially modified by Panages Kalkos and later, by Harmodios Vlachos and Ernst Ziller, who completely rearranged the facade and changed the plan of the east wing and the central hall. Two additions were made on the east side of the building; a new wing was constructed in the early 20th century based on the plans of Anastasios Metaxas and a two-storeyed building, designed by G. Nomikos, was erected in 1932-39.

The museum contains collections of :

- Prehistoric items
- Sculpture
- Pottery and Minor art
- Bronzes
- Egyptian Art

Other important activities:

- **Temporary exhibitions**

The National Archaeological Museum organizes and presents temporary exhibitions, as well as participates in the presentation of temporary exhibitions abroad

"AGON" from 15th of July until the 31st of October 2004



- **Lectures on archaeological topics**

- Organized by the National Archaeological Museum and sponsored by the Hellenic Ministry of Culture-ICOM and the Society of the Friends of the National Museum.

- **Shop of the Archaeological Receipts Fund**

- Guide-books, post-cards, slides, archaeological publications, posters, casts, copies, maps, videotapes and toys are sold.

- **Project TOMBA**

The National Museum participates in the project TOMBA, an Internet image data base, supported by the European Commission, with special reference to burials of the Mycenaean period.

- **Educational Programmes**

Educational programmes for students of Primary schools take place in the halls of the museum, as part of the "Melina" Project, a joint project of the Hellenic Ministries of Culture and Education.