



DET
DANSKE
INSTITUT
I ATHEN

ΙΝΣΤΙΤΟΥΤΟ ΤΗΣ ΔΑΝΙΑΣ ΣΤΗΝ ΑΘΗΝΑ
THE DANISH INSTITUTE AT ATHENS



NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2010

In our newsletter you can read about current and upcoming events at the Institute, and other useful information and news

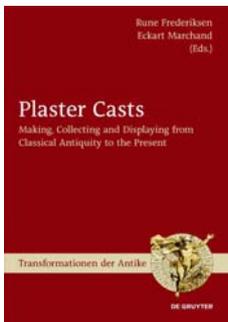
Upcoming events at DIA



Monday 8 November at 8 p.m.:

“The English Sculptor John Flaxman and the Antique”. Lecture in English by *Dr. Eckart Marchand*, The Warburg Institute, London.

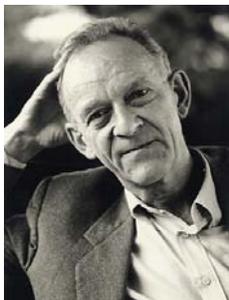
Organised in collaboration with the British School at Athens.



Tuesday 9 November at 8 p.m.:

Book launch: R. Frederiksen and E. Marchand (eds.), “Plaster Casts: Making, Collecting and Displaying from Classical Antiquity to the Present” (De Gruyter, Berlin, 2010). Introduction by the editors *Rune Frederiksen* and *Eckart Marchand*.

On the evening of the presentation, you will be able to obtain a discount-coupon for purchase of the book.

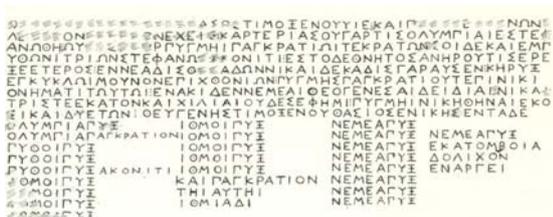


Friday 26 November at 8 p.m.

A presentation of an appendix to the Greek literature magazine “Dekata” concerning modern Danish literature.

The Danish poet, *Henrik Nordbrandt* will be reading his poems.

Organised by The Danish Embassy in collaboration with The Danish Institute.



Monday 8 December at 8 p.m.:

“The Extent and Significance of the Ancient Greek Athletic Culture”. Lecture in English by associate professor, PhD *Thomas Heine Nielsen*, The Saxo Institute, University of Copenhagen.

The Greek-Swedish-Danish Excavations (GSDE) of Minoan Kydonia, Khania

In the present year, the old Greek-Swedish Excavation at Kastelli, Khania has become attached to the Danish Institute at Athens as well. Director of the excavation is Dr. Yannis Tzedakis (former general director of Antiquities) with Dr. Ann-Louise Schallin (Swedish Institute) and Dr. Erik Hallager (Danish Institute) as co-directors. The site of Minoan Kydonia in the old excavations has revealed 5000 years of history of the modern town of Khania and shown that the site was continuously inhabited except for ca. 400 years from the end of the Bronze Age (ca. 1150) till the end of the Geometric period (ca. 725), when people returned to the site and re-inhabited the Minoan ruins. The most important discoveries were those from the end of the Bronze Age, the Late Minoan period (ca. 1500-1150 BC), where – uniquely for Crete – seven subsequent settlements could be documented. One of the most important discoveries from those settlements was the finds in 1990 of Linear B tablets, in Crete otherwise only discovered at the Palace at Knossos. The tablets were found in the final destruction layer of a large important building of the LM IIIA:2/IIIB:1 period (1350-1250 BC). The tablets found proved that Dionysos was a god already in the Bronze Age, and they were produced exactly like the Knossos tablets, the date of which is still uncertain.

The main purpose of the renewed GSDE is to explore, as fully as the modern habitation permits, the building where the Linear B tablets were found. The project hopes to find more Linear B tablets, but it is equally significant to understand in a broader pan-Minoan perspective the function of one of the most important buildings yet discovered in Western Crete. The project is a five-year project with three excavation seasons with continuous studies and two seasons for further studies and publication. The first excavation season in 2010 was conducted by Erik Hallager and Maria Andreadaki-Vlazaki. It produced impressive results in the form of architecture, pottery including imported Italian Handmade Burnished Ware and some important small finds among which may be mentioned the fragment of a Linear A tablet, seven seal stones, a unique amulet in rock crystal, a bronze knife, lumps of Egyptian blue colour pigment and extremely many animal bones, some of which could be from offerings. The sponsors for the first season were The Institute for Aegean Prehistory and Gunvor & Josef Anérs Stiftelse.

Municipal Gallery of Athens relocate to building by Danish architect



Photo: www.athenscityculture.gr

The Municipal Gallery of Athens is in the process of relocating to the building “Metaxourgio“, one of the oldest neo-classical buildings in Athens.

The official opening took place on 27 October. On display are 160 works (paintings and sculptures) dating to the late 19th century, from the collections of Modern art of the Municipal Gallery. Many of the works in the collection are shown for the first time. The exhibition is curated by Nelly Kyriazi, director of the Gallery and the Museum of the City of Athens.

As for the interesting history of the building, it was built in 1834 designed by Danish architect Christian Hansen, on a plot that Prince George Kantakouzinou, a businessman from Romania, had bought. The plan to set up shops on the ground floor and traders’ residences on the first floor did not materialize.

In 1855, the building was used as a silk factory (which gave name to the area, Metaxourgio). It continued until 1875, whereafter attempts to re-establish the factory were unsuccessful. The building was then converted into a residential complex, occasionally worked as a hotel of Piraeus refugees, and was used as garrison headquarters of ELAS in 1944.

In 1993 the building was donated to the Municipality of Athens, and the restoration began in 2007. On 27 October 2010, the first part of the museum opened to the public.

*Municipal Gallery of Athens, Leonidou & Millerou, Plateia Audi, Metaxourgio. Tel:210 3231841
Opening hours: Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Admission free.*

Applications for residency at the Danish Institute



The Danish Institute has received a record-breaking number of residency applications for the coming Spring/Summer term. The board will grant stays and additional grants to as many qualified applicants as possible.

The deadline for applications for the Autumn/Winter term 2011-2012 will be in March 2011. For more information, please check our website www.diathens.com.

Cultural calendar and announcements

◆ From 1 November 2010, the opening hours of museums and archaeological sites in Greece changed. Do call in advance to check if the museum or site you want to visit is open.

◆ **The British Library** has digitised over a quarter of its Greek manuscripts (284 volumes) for the first time and made them freely available online at www.bl.uk/manuscripts thanks to a generous grant from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation. The website provides researchers with access to high quality digital images of a major part of the British Library's Greek manuscripts collection, supported by enhanced metadata which enables users to search using key words.

The British Library holds over 1000 Greek manuscripts, over 3000 Greek papyri and a comprehensive collection of early Greek printing. These collections make the Library one of the largest and most important centres outside Greece for the study of over 2000 years of Hellenic culture. The Greek manuscripts contain unique and outstandingly rich information for researchers working on the literature, history, science, religion, philosophy and art of the whole of the Eastern Mediterranean in the Classical and Byzantine periods.

◆ At the **Athens Concert Hall** (Megaron Mousikis), the world renowned Greek composer, *Eleni Karaindrou*, will perform on 19-21 November. *Vas. Sofias & Kokkali*. Tel: 210 7282333. *More information and on-line ticket sale: www.megaron.gr*

◆ In connection with the 2,500 years celebration of the Battle of the Marathon, **the Acropolis Museum** unveiled the restored Nike monument of Callimachus at the end of October. The preserved fragments of the monument have been reassembled, and a reconstruction made to resemble the possible original appearance of the statue is also on display. The original monument, which was erected in Antiquity in honour of the military commander Callimachus after the Battle of Marathon, can now be seen at the museum along with the reconstruction.

The Acropolis Museum, Dionysiou Areopagitou 15, tel: 210 9000900, Opening hours: Tuesday-Sunday 8 a.m.-8 p.m.

◆ **For daily updates on cultural events in Athens in English**, we recommend the website: www.xpatathens.com

◆ **The Museum of Cycladic Art** shows the exhibition "The lost world of old Europe The Danube Valley, 5000-3500 BC", featuring more than 200 Neolithic objects from Romania, Bulgaria and Moldova. Among the exhibits are impressive models of the human form, stunning painted pottery and metalwork, including the earliest known assemblage of gold artifacts from the cemetery of Varna.

Museum of Cycladic Art, Vas. Sofias & Irodotou. Tel: 210 7228321. www.cycladic.gr

On display until 10 January 2011. Opening hours: Mon-wed-Fri-Sat: 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Thurs. 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday closed.