**Acropolis Museum** 

A highlights report June 2016 – May 2017



year eight



# President's message

The hallmark of the Acropolis Museum was and remains, its openness. This underlies the brave decision to exhibit its sculptural masterpieces freestanding in the galleries removed from showcases and in full view from all sides. The same spirit informs the extensive program of digital reconstruction and representation of these works of art. resulting in successful interpretations presented in the galleries next to the original works. The redesign of the Museum's exhibition display is in a large part informed by this candor as is the practice of conserving its exhibits in public view and in the presence of museum visitors. And lastly, the now established practice of providing museum and cultural services to visitors through the innovation of placing archaeologist-hosts in the Museum galleries reflects the same intent.

Introduced two years ago, the objective of the Museum's temporary exhibitions was to present archaeological finds from regional Greece in their totality, including references to the archaeological excavations in which they were discovered, the reconstruction of sections of the ancient emblematic buildings associated with their historic locations and the natural environment in which these ancient sites are located. Hence, in the first exhibition about the famous Sanctuary of the Great Gods of Samothrace, its unique natural environs and the archaeological site was presented through two videos projected on large screens, while the exhibition setting comprised reconstructions on a scale of 1 to 1 of a section of the circular *Arsinoeion* and the Propylon of Ptolemy. In the second

exhibition about the Oracle of *Dodona*, similar videos informed visitors about the archaeological site and its impressive natural environment, while the stage setting for the exhibition included constructed impressions of the courtyard of the Oracle and the small sanctuary of Zeus Naios, and a contemporary presentation of the prophetic oak tree completing the picture of that sacred place.

A new kind of minimalist exhibition was presented with great success. Receiving visitors on the Museum's ground floor immediately after the ticket sales desk. a significant exhibit, usually selected from the Museum's own storerooms or another museum, is displayed in the most advantageous manner and is accompanied by a video projected on the mega-screen behind it. The videos are produced specifically for the particular exhibit and provide visitors with valuable information about the environment from which the exhibit originates. Four such vignette exhibitions were presented in the past year: three objects from a Scythian Royal Tomb loaned by Russia's Hermitage Museum, a bronze torso of a statue of a rider recovered from the sea of *Kalymnos* and loaned by the Ephorate of Underwater Antiquities in Athens, the masterpiece portrait of Emperor Hadrian which came to light on Syngrou Avenue and is part of the collections of the National Archaeological Museum and the bust of singular quality of Aristotle that was found during the excavation for the construction of the Acropolis Museum.

On 20 June 2017, the Acropolis Museum's opening anniversary, eight years of exemplary operation are completed during which it received over eleven million local and international visitors that passed through its doors and enjoyed its exhibits. The Museum publicly expresses its thanks to all of them. In all areas of its operation the Museum has been supported by the readily offered good service of its staff. The regularization of their employment status however remains pending.

In the year that passed the Board of Directors lost one of its outstanding members, Professor Charalambos Bouras. The distinguished historian of architecture and leading figure in the anastylosis of the Acropolis consistently defended the construction of the Museum and for seven years provided an essential contribution to its operation.

In March 2017 the Museum happily accepted the offer from E. Gilliéron of the donation of a historical copy of *Kore* 685 that had been painted by his famed and homonymous grandfather.

In the following month, the world known artist of light, Robert Wilson donated his work *La Traviata* to the Museum, where it is placed in the Museum atrium.

Dimitrios Pandermalis President







# Our visitors

Total

visitors

1,475,022

visitors arriving independently

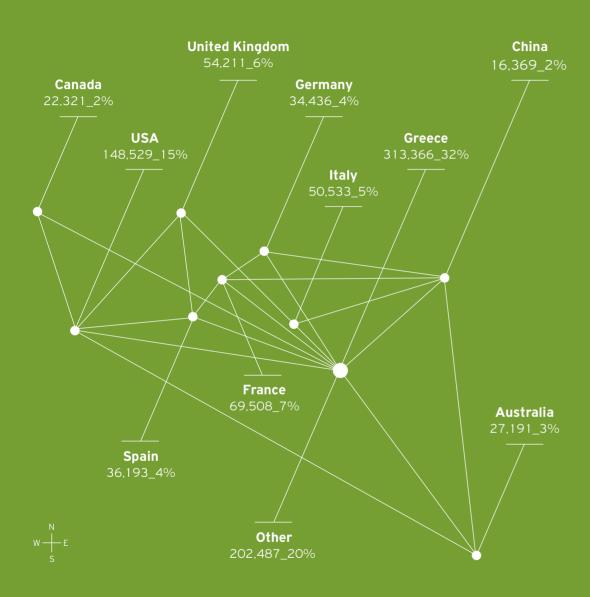
visitors arriving in organized groups

76%

1,117,610

24%

357,412



**Total** 

977,144

Greek	321,511	33%
English	260,610	27%
French	81,787	8%
Spanish	57,190	6%
Italian	50,498	5%
German	44,050	4%
Chinese	17,698	2%
Dutch	15,314	2%
Russian	14,730	2%
Portoguese	13,885	1%
Other languages	99,871	10%

<sup>\*</sup> excludes temporary exhibition and excludes special events, restaurant patrons and virtual reality theater entries

### School visitors

Total

visitors in groups

357,412

student groups

159,035

adult groups

56%

198,377

Free and discounted entry

total free tickets

619,260

42% of all tickets

total discounted tickets

126,767

9% of all tickets

Total

visitors in student groups

159,035

Greek student visits

64%

101,968

Foreign school children

36%

57,067

Primary school children

34%

53,643

Secondary school children

59%

93,849

Tertiary Students

Other childrens' groups

5%

7,493

2%

4,050

Visitor data is collected and analyzed by Museum Front Desk Staff

## Virtual visitors

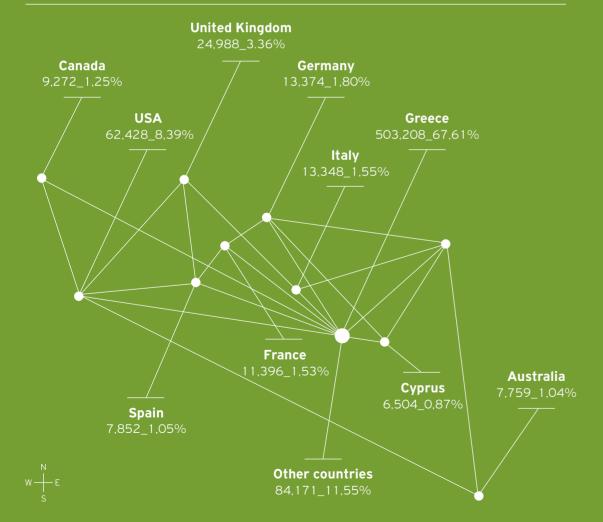
Total

number of visitors to Museum website

744,300

#### Main countries

of website visitors



#### Facebook

total number of friends

411,115

#### **Source countries**

for friends

Greece	303,682	73,87%
USA	16,224	3,95%
Germany	9,430	2,29%
Cyprus	9,158	2,23%
United Kingdom	8,667	2,10%
Italy	5,750	1,39%
Australia	4,338	1,06%
Serbia	2,899	0,71%
Canada	2,708	0,66%
France	2,670	0,65%
Other countries	45,589	11,09%

# Changes and improvements to the permanent exhibition

### **Age** of Friends

13-17	5,386
18-24	66,436
25-34 29,60%	121,690
35-44	107,712
45-54 15,45%	63,517
55+10,25%	42,139
Unknown 1,03%	4,235

The Museum Doctor continued to provide on-site medical attention to visitors and staff.

#### The permanent exhibition

The permanent collection is at the core of all Acropolis Museum activity as is the care, improvement and conservation of its exhibits. In the year that passed conservation works were undertaken by the Museum's Conservation Department on 265 antiquities. From the Museum's onsite excavation, 243 marble, ceramic and metal artefacts were conserved. The laser cleaning program continued on the votive bases of Acr.1326 and Acr.1328 and on the blocks of the north and south frieze of the Temple of Athena *Nike*.

While conservation work was completed on 22 museum exhibits the most visible of these were the changes in the presentation of the *Korai* in the Archaic Gallery: specifically *Kore* Acr. 671, the *Kore with the Almond Eyes* (Acr. 674), the *Chios Kore* (Acr. 685) and the *Kore with the Pomegranate* (Acr. 593). After detailed research, new mounts and bases were installed to replace those of the decade 1950 to 1960 for each of these.

#### Digital data base

The Museum's Permanent Exhibition
Department continued its work on the
development of a digital record of the
Museum's permanent collection. Significant
progress was made with the transfer of
the finalized offline records to the digital
program, which will become the hub for

online access. Following on the final editing of 7,976 text entries, external consultants transferred the records to the program after which renewed editorial was undertaken to ensure that accuracy was not lost in the transfer process. In addition over 1,200 references and the data base's bibliography were checked and edited prior to transfer onto to the digital program and over 300 new references were added in the process. Additional tailoring of the program and enrichment of the Guidebook for the Collections Management System that is also under development was also made.

For the public access service of the Database that will be introduced in the future, 360 new summary entries were written, with work ongoing in this area.

The major project of transporting, classifying and cataloguing over 700 crates of finds from the excavation of the 'South Acropolis' held in the Attiko Metro storage to the museum's stores commenced. The contents of over 400 crates were recorded in 8,632 digital entries with work continuing on this project.

The digital catalogue of Museum collections was enriched with the digital recording of 300 sculptural exhibits in storage with their photography, identification, measurement and referencing.

#### **Exhibit loans**

The Museum continued its policy of supporting other institutions and promoting its collections with the loan of exhibits to other museums for their exhibitions.

In August 2016 the National Archaeological Museum of Athens celebrated its 150 year anniversary with the exhibition *Odysseys* that included the Acropolis Museum loan of the inscribed *Stele with decree about the Temple of Athena Nike* (EM 8116), the bronze *Boy on a Dolphin* (EAM X 6626) and the *Lamp in the Shape of a Warship* (EAM 7038).

The Museum exhibits Relief of *Pensive Athena* (Acr. 695), the Votive plaque with *Athena on a Chariot* (Acr. 12981), the votive *Statuette of Athena Promachos* with inscribed base (EAM X 6447) and the *Red figure Lid with Dionysiac scene* (NA 1956 NAK 232) were loaned to the State Historical Museum of Russia from November 2016 to February 2017 for the exhibition *Gods and Heroes of the Ancient Greece*.

Three exhibits, the archaic *Kore* Acr. 670, the Ceramic *antefix with a Gorgon Head* (Acr. 78) and the votive relief of *the Cart Driver* (EAM 1341) were loaned to the Onassis Foundation in New York for presentation in the temporary exhibition *A World of Emotions: Ancient Greece 700 BC - 200 AD* from March 2017 through to June 2017. A cast copy of the West Frieze of the Parthenon was loaned to the exhibition:

Greece in the Eighties that was presented at the Technopolis of the City of Athens from January to March 2017.

The Museum's emphasis on supporting other Greek museums was also realized through the services provided to them by Acropolis Museum Conservation and Permanent Collection Departments: in 2016 staff of the Museum assisted in the installation and deinstallation of the archaeological exhibits for the temporary exhibition *Gods and Mortals* at Olympus: Ancient Dion, City of Zeus at the Onassis Foundation, New York. In August 2016 two conservation staff completed a study for the redisplay of two *kouroi* at the Archaeological Museum of Chios. In April 2017 the Head of the Museum's Permanent Exhibition Department assisted in the deinstallation of the archaeological exhibits in the Kobe City Museum in Japan for the exhibition A Journey to the Land of Immortals - Treasures of Ancient Greece.

#### The on-site archaeological excavation

Preparation for the eventual opening to the public of the Museum's on-site archaeological excavation, pending availability of funds, continued. Conservation and restoration works were undertaken on the building remains, known as Building  $\Theta$ and the cataloguing of portable exhibits recovered during the excavation continued with new digital entries and photography of the finds. The Permanent Exhibition Department completed the preparation of the Report for the development of the exhibit display in the excavation area and the museological proposal for the display of the portable finds, which will be submitted to the Central Archaeological Council.

#### Research and digital documentation

The color of sculptures in antiquity remains a focus of research for the Museum. The Conservation Department continued to investigate the existence of traces of color on the exhibits of the Archaic Period using UV-IR photography.

Three dimensional scanning and model development is now commonly used as both a research and development tool in the Conservation Department. Two Korai, Acr. 670 and the Kore with the Almond Eyes (Acr. 674) and the Head of a Goddess (EAM 177) were scanned to support the development of educational video productions for Museum use and for exhibitions abroad. Modeling based on

earlier scans was reworked for the West Frieze Block V and 3D scanning of *The Owl* (Acr. 1347) of the Museum entrance for the purposes of reproducing accurate cast copy reproductions was completed. *The Kore of Lyon* (Acr. 269) and the *E. Gilliéron* painted cast copy of *Kore* Acr. 685 were scanned both for conservation and exhibition purposes using photogrammetric scanning methods provided by an external consultant.

Exploratory work on the virtual reconstruction of the south metopes of the Parthenon was undertaken by the Permanent Exhibition Department based on the drawings of the 18th and 19th century and available literature of that period.

# Communicating the exhibits

#### Gallery talks and presentations

Beyond the Museum guide books and printed interpretation material, the permanent collection is communicated to visitors through the program of gallery talks presented by the Museum's archaeologisthosts. This year regular weekly talks in the galleries included A walk through time at the Acropolis Museum (April – May 2017), A Walk through the Museum with an archaeologist (July 2016 – May 2017), Four historical eras at the Acropolis Museum (April – May 2017), as well as a presentation in the temporary exhibition *Dodona: the oracle of Sounds* (July 2016 – March 2017). A rolling program of discussion with visitors ran weekly each Saturday, with topics such as *The Ancients* and the Future, (July 2016-March 2017), Temples of Antiquity (July 2016 – March 2017) and Zeus of the Ancients (July – March 2017).

The Museum's Reading Lounge was the venue for archaeologist-hosts to provide the opportunity to interested visitors to ask questions, discuss issues and receive support with reading lists on Acropolisrelated topics. Available each Saturday, archaeologist-hosts support their dialogue with visitors with a wealth of visual materials and this year introduced resource 'cases' containing materials that visitors could see, touch and smell as new aids to discussion

#### In gallery Museum archaeologist-hosts

In addition to activities for group of visitors, Museum archaeologist–hosts continue to be available daily to individual visitors at their post in the Archaic Gallery, answering questions about the exhibition and using visual and audiovisual materials to supplement conversation with visitors. The past year saw an increasing trend towards Hosts providing support to school groups that were unaccompanied by guides, by answering questions and providing direction on the Museum collections.

### Production and sale of cast copy reproductions of <u>Museum exhibits</u>

What better way to communicate an exhibit than to give visitors the opportunity to buy a high quality reproduction of an original Museum exhibit? The Conservation Department now regularly produces over twenty different marble and bronze exhibits in precise and high quality acrylic resin, plaster or bronze cast copy reproductions for sale in the Museum Shops producing over 2,940 individual copies this year.

Cast using the Department's own hand made moulds, this year saw the introduction of four additional exhibits being reproduced as cast copies including the *Pensive Athena* (Acr.695) on a scale of 1:5 and *The Owl* 

(Acr. 1347) of the Museum entrance on a scale of 1:10 and 1:20. In cooperation with an external foundry, the Department was also able to reproduce the bronze *Boy on a Dolphin* (EAM X 6626) for sale. To maintain the fine detailed quality of cast copies, 15 new moulds were produced, 4 of which were made using 3D printing. The Conservation Department continued research on the use of new materials that can be used in mould and cast copy production.

Seven cast copies of *Kore* Acr.675 were colored to reproduce the patina of the exhibit in its current condition and on special order, a cast copy of *Kore* Acr. 675 was hand painted to reproduce the original colors as in antiquity.

#### Granting of Research and Photo rights

Each year the Museum manages a formal process of granting permission to students who wish to study Museum exhibits for research purposes with 19 such applications being granted this year. The Museum's Photo Archive staff managed both these applications and worked to grant 35 authorities to photograph or provide Museum photographs to applicants for research or publication purposes.

#### Activities for children and families

#### Family backpacks and family trails

The range of resources available to young children and their families for self directed activities in the Museum was further enriched in October 2016, with the introduction of the third family backpack *The Sculptures of the Parthenon* produced by the Education Team of the Acropolis Restoration Service. Targeted to families with children aged 8 years and over, the new pack introduces children to the stories associated with the Parthenon frieze in a fun way. This year the families that enjoyed this backpack and the existing *Archaic* Colors and In Search of the Goddess Athena backpacks this year numbered 2.502 Greek speaking families and 1.640 English speaking families.

Family trails (activity sheets with a exhibition based activity) also produced by the Acropolis Restoration Service Education Team, target children aged 5-8 and 8-10 years, and provide free and fun learning activity for families.

In addition to providing active learning and knowledge acquisition in an enjoyable manner these activities support intra-family communication and positive associations with the Museum visit.

# Communicating the museum

#### Festive season program

Each year during the festive season the Museum hosts a range of family activities.

In the year that passed the Museum celebrated with children's workshops and activities. LEGO workshops on the *Temples and other Buildings inspired by the Acropolis* were popular as were the range of other craft activities conducted in the galleries including The *Trees of the Gods, The Panathenaic Boat in the Acropolis Museum* and the *Flying Creations in the Illuminated Museum* gave children the opportunity to experiment with ideas about plants, the sea, and the celebratory practices of the ancient Greeks.

On these days the Athens Municipality Big Band entertained visitors and harp music was played in the Parthenon Gallery by the talented musician Theodoris Matoulas.

#### School visits and programs

Throughout the year the Museum is a steady destination for pre-booked school groups of all year levels from Greece and abroad, with 57.067 children from foreign schools visiting and approximately 101.968 Greek school children coming on school excursions to the Museum.

Educational programs offered by the Museum in a total of fourteen exhibition related themes are modified to be age appropriate for students ranging from preschool age to upper high school. All programs center on the Museum exhibits and are interactive. in order to ensure maximum engagement with students. Approximately 5% of all school groups are able to enjoy these programs with approximately 7.232 children participating in the programs this past year. Resources enabling teachers to prepare their classes for before and after Museum visits are available on the Museum website and are also sent to teachers following their booking of a class.

#### Teacher training

Training seminars for teachers interested in better preparing themselves for Museum visits with their students are organized annually by the Acropolis Restoration Service Education Team. This year 860 teachers participated in these programs selecting to attend either the generalist seminar, Educational Programs at the Acropolis Museum, or seminars preparing teachers to undertake theme-based visits with their students on the Parthenon and its Sculptures, the Monuments of the Acropolis in the Acropolis Museum or the Gods of Olympus at the Acropolis Museum.

### Temporary Exhibition Dodona: the oracle of sounds

The temporary exhibition *Dodona: the oracle* of sounds presented the oldest of the Greek oracles in cooperation with the Ephorate of *loannina*. The Prefecture of *Epirus* and the municipalities of Ioannina and Dodoni also supported the exhibition. Over 240 exhibits presented material evidence of the practices and beliefs of people in antiquity and in particular the establishment of the Zeus cult in the Sanctuary of Dodona. The prophetic oak tree that would answer the pilgrim's questions as to what lay ahead with the rustle of its leaves was shown in the exhibition with the display of a stylized oak tree with hundreds of artificial oak tree leaves. The exhibition illustrated the functioning of the Oracle, its role and importance in the ancient world and with the aid of tens of small lead plates with the original engraved questions of pilgrims, poignantly showcased the human need to know the future.

The exhibition was complemented by a range of related activities including the release of an exhibition catalogue, the academic symposium *Dodona. The questions of the oracle: new approaches to the oracular tablets* held at the Museum in September 2016, gallery talks by Museum archaeologist-hosts, educational programs for school children and a range of products inspired by the exhibition for sale in the Museum shops.

#### Vignette exhibitions

The Museum has introduced a series of 'vignette' exhibitions in its lobby area in which individual or small numbers of exhibits on loan from local and international museums are presented. Aided by Museum produced video projections, these small exhibitions provide brief but rich insights into the world of the particular exhibit(s).

The display Scythian Heralds from the Hermitage to the Acropolis Museum, presented two Scythian gold vessels and a necklace on loan from the State Hermitage Museum. This 'vignette' from the Hermitage closed in early October 2016 and comprised part of the celebrations for the Greece in Russia and Russia in Greece Year of 2016.

In October 2016 and in cooperation with the Ephorate of Underwater Antiquities, the Museum displayed the finely dressed torso of a bronze statue of a rider of the 2nd cent. BC. that was caught in fishing nets in the sea near the island of Kalymnos. A video presentation of the underwater explorations of diver archaeologists provided a background to the exhibit helping to celebrate the 40 year anniversary of the founding of the Ephorate of Underwater Antiquities in 1976 and providing visitors with insights into their work and wonderful discoveries drawn from the Greek seas.

Another anniversary, that of the 1.900 years since the ascent to the throne of Emperor Hadrian, friend and benefactor of Athens, was honored by the Museum with the presentation of an exquisite portrait of the Emperor Hadrian. Originally found in *Syngrou* Avenue the remarkable portrait was loaned to the Museum by the National Archaeological Museum of Athens from January to March 2017. A documentary video produced by the Acropolis Museum showcased the Emperor's immense building program in the city of Athens in the 2nd cent. AD and presented the historical context for this vignette presentation.

### Shanghai and Acropolis Museum Memorandum of Cooperation

In December 2016 a small delegation of the Acropolis Museum led by Museum President, Dimitrios Pandermalis visited the Shanghai Museum and commenced negotiations for the first exchange of exhibit related activities for late 2017.

#### Music at the Museum

Amongst Museum's activities, there is always an emphasis on music.

In the summer of 2016 two memorable evenings were held in the light of the full August moon. On 18 August the band *Swinging Cats* entertained visitors who had the opportunity to visit the Museum until midnight with free entry from 8.00 pm onwards. On the evening of 19 August, the harpist Theodoris Matoulas played for guests

on the Museum's second floor balcony, with entrance to the Museum once again free for visitors from 8.00 to 10.00 pm.

On 9 December 2016 the Museum hosted a concert of classical music with a performance by the distinguished solo pianist Sabine Weyer. The evening was organized in cooperation with the Embassy of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. On the National Day of 25th March 2017, video projections from the musical composition of the composer Yiorgos Kouroupos 'Voice of the Oak' was presented in the temporary exhibition Dodona: The oracle of sounds.

On 20 May, 2017 the European Night of Museums, visitors were treated to a piano performance of compositions and improvisations of well-known Greek classical and traditional music by the distinguished pianist Thodoris Economou in the Parthenon Gallery. The *Acropolis Museum at Sunset* commenced with the sunset and continued almost to the close of the Museum at midnight. The Museum provided free entry to all visitors from 8.00 pm to midnight.

#### Special events

The Museum hosted a range of other 'happenings' and events in the course of the year.

In September 2016 the annual European Days of Cultural Heritage were celebrated with free entry for all visitors from 5.00 to 8.00 pm on each of the evenings of 23 to 25 September 2016. A presentation of a series of original sculptures that had suffered the violent effects of thermal damage during the 480 BC destruction of the Acropolis by the Persians were displayed, and Museum archaeologisthosts presented gallery talks for visitors on this topic.

The National Day of 28 October was celebrated this year with the release of the Museums' latest family backpack *The Sculptures of the Parthenon*. The number of visitors taking advantage of the full day free entry reached over 20,000.

On 31 October 2016 and as part of the *Greece in Russia and Russia in Greece* year of 2016, the Museum hosted a public lecture entitled *Conservatism and Innovation at the Hermitage museum* by Director of the Hermitage Museum Dr. Mikhail Borisovich Piotrovsky.

On 6 March 2017, Melina Mercouri Day, the Museum honored the memory of the late Ms. Mercouri with the production and projection of a 23 minute video using material made available by the Melina

Mercouri Foundation. Focusing on the former Minister for Culture's life and her efforts for the return of the Parthenon Marbles, the video was projected in the Museum's Auditorium throughout the day for visitors. All day free entry to the Museum was also provided for visitors.

On the National Day of 25 March 2017, the Museum presented visitors with the cast copy of *Kore* 685 which, some 100 years ago, was painted by the Swiss painter *E. E. Gilliéron* in the same ancient colors as the copy of a work originally done by his artist father *L.E Gilliéron* in 1888, immediately after the exhibit was found southwest of the Parthenon. Another free entry day, Museum visitors reached over 20,000 with the Museum remaining open from 9.00 am to 8.00 pm.

Documenta 14 was celebrated at the Acropolis Museum with the installation of an electric light sculpture designed by artist Robert Wilson. La Traviata was suspended in the Museum atrium where it will remain on display until 31 October 2017. La Traviata also inspired an evening discussion about light with Museum President, Professor Dimitrios Pandermalis and Robert Wilson in the Parthenon Gallery on the evening of 6 April.

On 18 May 2017 International Museums Day was celebrated with the first time display of the fragments and the head of the *Polos Kore*. The *Kore* was displayed to enable visitors to appreciate the likely form of the statue prior to its destruction by the Persians and will be returned to the Museum's storerooms shortly after for further study.

As in previous years, the Museum worked cooperatively with the National Mint to release the annual Museum commemorative medal on International Museums Day. This year the coin was illustrated with a boar inspired by the museum exhibit of a small bronze votive (EAM 6699).

On 19 and 20 May 2017 the Acropolis Museum and the Faculty of Archaeology and Art History of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens organized the international conference *From Hippias* to Kallias Greek Art from 527 to 449 B.C in the Museum's auditorium focusing on the transition in artistic expression from the Archaic to the Classical Period of

#### Museum presentations locally and abroad

Professor Dimitrios Pandermalis. President of the Acropolis Museum represented and presented the Museum at a number of international meetings and forums. In October 2016 he participated in the Mediterranean Exchange of Archaeological Tourism Conference Archaeoloav for intercultural dialogue at the Archaeological Park of the ancient city of Paestum in Salerno, Italy, In November 2016 he spoke on the *Acropolis Museum and the* on-site excavation at the UNESCO and Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage Conference on World Heritage Sites and Museums in Paris. A presentation at the Shanghai Museum in the context of a Memorandum of Cooperation between the two museums was made by Professor Pandermalis in December 2016 entitled *The Acropolis Museum in Athens:* technology, conservation and interpretation of the collections.

The Permanent Collection Department represented the Museum at the Conference Byzantine Athens in October 2016 with the Head of the Permanent Collection Stamatia Eleftheratou and archaeologists A. Kouveli and E. Manoli presenting finds from the Museum's on-site excavation.

#### Museum E Shop

In May 2017 the Museum commenced working with specialists that will design the new website for the Museum's proposed Electronic Shop. The agreement has been preceded by detailed work exploring the viability of operating an E Shop for the Museum by the Museum's Shop and Communication Departments

#### Museum Library development

This year initial steps to consolidate existing Museum book holdings into a Museum library, as well as the management travelled to Berlin to the Prussian Cultural of the donation of a major book collection was supported by the Museum's Permanent visit of that organization's Human Services Exhibition Department. The G. and K. Despini collection was donated by Mrs. Katerina Despini and over 4500 titles were transported to the museum and digitally catalogued. An electronic cataloguing system was developed to manage the book collection both now and in the future.

#### Staff development

Three separate staff induction programs were conducted for temporary seasonal staff recruited in 2016 and 2017 in the reported period. Museum Secretariat staff attended a training program on the management of public correspondence and archiving with the Hellenic National School of Public Administration.

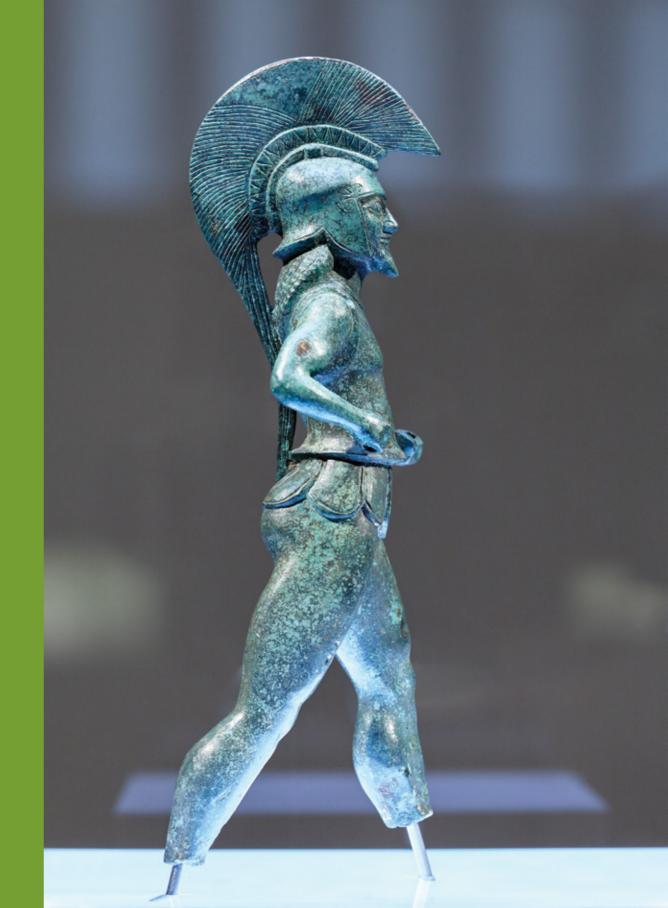
The Manager Front Desk participated in the British Museum's International Training Program in August 2016. and in May 2017 the Manager, Human Resources, Heritage Foundation for an observation Department operations.

# International recognition

2016
Traveler's Choice Award, TripAdvisor

2017
Expert's Choice Award, TripExpert

2017
Best of Athens Award, TripExpert







### Board members

#### President

#### **Dimitrios Pandermalis**

Archaeologist, Professor Emeritus of Archaeology Aristotle University of Athens

**Members** (alphabetically)

#### Eleni Banou

Ephor, Ephorate of Antiquites of Athens Ministry of Culture

#### **Haralambos Bouras**

Emeritus Professor of Architecture President of the Acropolis Restoration Service Until 27/7/17

#### **Nikolaos Damalitis**

Civil Engineer

#### **Giorgos Kaminis**

Mayor of Athens

#### **Kathy Paraschi**

Architect Engineer

#### **Nikolaos Stambolidis**

Archaeologist, Professor of Archaeology

#### Konstantinos – Augustos Rizos

Lawyer

#### Text

Niki Dollis

#### Coordination

Danae Zaoussis

#### **Photos**

Giorgos Vitsaropoulos Socrates Mavromatis

Photos from the temporary exhibition: *Dodona: the oracle of sound* 

Outside cover: Bronze votive of a Young Boy with a Pigeon. Early 3rd cent. BC. Archaeological Museum of Ioannina, 1371. (GV)

Bronze votive of a deer. 5th cent BC. National Archaeological Museum, Kar.52. (GV)

Bronze votive statuette of *Zeus Kerauneios*, Pan-Hellenic Sanctuary of Dodona. 470-460 BC. National Archaeological Museum, X 16546. (SM)

Inscribed votive bronze plaque, a dedication by Agathon, Ambassador of Zakynthos to the Molossians. 325-275 BC or 334-330 BC. National Archaeological Museum, Kar. 803. (GV)

Bronze votive of a hoplite. 530-520 BC. Archaeological Museum of Ioannina, 1411. (GV)

View of main area of the exhibition with the contemporary presentation of the sacred oak tree. (GV)

View of Bronze votive statuette of *Zeus Kerauneios* in showcase. (GV)

#### Annual report design

G Design Studio

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