



Greek goddess of fortune found at Sussita

A wall painting of Tyche, the Greek goddess of fortune, was found during the 11th season of excavation at the Sussita site, on the east shore of the Sea of Galilee. Another female figure was found during this season, of a maenad, one of the companions of the wine god Dionysus.

“It is interesting to see that although the private residence in which two goddesses were found was in existence during the Byzantine period, when Christianity negated and eradicated idolatrous cults, one can still find clear evidence of earlier beliefs,” said Arthur Segal and Michael Eisenberg of the University of Haifa, who headed the excavation.

The city of Sussita is located within the Sussita National Park under the management of the Israel Nature and Parks Authority. During the excavations conducted by the team from the University of Concordia under the direction of Mark Schuler, in a residence that appeared, by the quality and complexity of its construction, to belong to one of the city notables, the excavators found a fresco of Tyche, who was apparently deified as the city’s goddess of fortune. Her head is crowned, her youthful gaze is focused, and she has abundant brown hair beneath her crown.

According to the researchers, artistic analysis has indicated that the wall painting may be dated to the end of the Roman period or the beginning of the Byzantine period (3rd-4th centuries C.E.).

Apart from goddess Tyche, researchers also found a wonderfully etched relief of a maenad, one of a group of female followers of Dionysus, the god of wine on a bone plate. The researchers believe that both manifestations of the cult of Graeco-Roman female goddesses can be dated to the end of the Roman period, but there is no doubt that the residence in which they were found continued to exist even after Christianity triumphed over idolatry.

(source: ani)

Greek Australian Writes Storybook: “Building the New Acropolis Museum”

The book “Building the New Acropolis Museum” is by Niki Dollis and illustrated and designed by Elena Zournatzi. The children’s book tells the story of the realization of a dream. As Niki Dollis mentions in her introduction, it is “a book about hope, expectation... but also hard work for the construction and preparation of the New Acropolis Museum”. The storybook is published by Livanis Publishing Organization. Dollis is the Director of Mr. Pantermalis’ office, who is the head of the New Acropolis Museum.

Through the 60 pages of her book Dollis familiarizes young and all readers, with the notion of a museum. It is a very interesting subject to begin with especially when it serves as an open window to the world of ancient Greece, such as the New Acropolis Museum.

The images are digitally processed. The texts, graphics and illustrations are dominated by bright colors. The book tells the story of the monument established 2,500 years ago up until the final stage of the construction of the New Museum. It invites the reader to an exciting experience of taking a “walk... in history!” as Niki Dollis writes.

Dollis wanted to share with everyone her unique experience since 2000, when she started her collaboration with Dimitris Pantermalis at the Organization for the Construction of the New Acropolis Museum. She is now in charge of public relations.

In order to get the message throughout the world, the book was also written in English.

“When I enter the museum, I feel, I believe, such as our visitors – as if I am entering another Greece – but also great satisfaction and pride. That is why I felt the need to speak out, especially to children, for a case that some may have considered given”, states Ms. Dollis to ANA – MPA. She wanted to pass on a specific message to the children; that when you really want something, it can become true.

“I believe it was worth for someone to speak on the great, collective work of many people, which was required to successfully reach the realization of the dream. People who loved what they did and cooperated really well, something which is not so common in Greece. The Head of the Museum, Dimitris Pantermalis, architects Bernard Tschumi and Michael Fotiadis and many others. I thought to myself now this is a good example for the children as I personally believe in collective work, through which you can learn a lot. I believe that this is what we need the most in Greece today”.

From Australia to Greece

Dollis was born and raised in Melbourne by Greek par-



ents with roots from Laconia and Lavrion. She never imagined that someday she would be working at the New Acropolis Museum, let alone to write her first book on it.

“For a Greek of the Diaspora, being so close to the Acropolis is something fantastic”, says Niki Dollis, who had a first “live” glimpse of the world monument – symbol at the age of twelve, when television programs started in Australia.

Having completed her studies as a social worker at the University of Melbourne, Niki Dollis actively participated in Australia in the development of employment programs for the unemployed, the operation of community centers, and the improvement of immigrant access to the healthcare system. She also served as the Director of the Greek-Australian Welfare. Dollis also served as president of an Australian NGO which represented the needs of global citizens with disabilities.

Since 1989 she worked at the Health Ministry in the State of Victoria as a consultant on improving immigrants’ access to the healthcare system services. She then became a Director of the relevant department. Meanwhile she was seconded to the Federal Ministry of Healthcare to prepare a national consultation document for immigrants’ access to Healthcare Services, while she was in charge of a program of the Federal Government and the seven States of Australia, aiming towards the amelioration of Public Healthcare. (National Public Health Partnership)

Along with her husband Dimitris Dollis, who was an MP at the time and Deputy Leader of the Labor Party in Victoria, took a very important decision to move permanently to Greece along with their two children, Nina and Giannis in 1999.

“Whatever I learned through my work in Australia, was as if I was preparing for work here” says Dollis, since the museum as she states “is a public service, with a historical and cultural character, but substantially serves as a public service which must be accessible to the public, in the best possible way, away from bureaucratic procedures”.

Personally she believes her collaboration with Professor Pantermalis is a great honor. She describes him as an: “an open-minded person, who has the gift to guide his colleagues, but also listen to their opinion, which is something rare nowadays”.

Along with Professor Pantermalis she edited the text of the edition “Acropolis Museum; A year in operation”.

Today as the director of the Museum’s Head Office she deals with issues related to the operation of the museum, staff training etc.

Something which gives her pleasure is seeing the pride of young people working in the museum and the efforts they make to give their best, responding to the rules governing its operation. And the dream lives on...

Survey Financially Ranks Worldwide Cities

According to a survey ranking the least and highest priced cities, the most expensive city providing goods and services is New York. The study was conducted over 73 worldwide cities. The best paid employees are in Zurich and Geneva followed by New York who comes in third and **the employees of Athens take 32nd place**. At the top of the list for the worst paid employees are the cities of Manila and Bombay. As far as renting is concerned, New York is in first place and Oslo, Geneva, and Zurich follow. Furthermore, the cities with the greatest purchasing power are Zurich, Sidney, and Miami. The most expensive cities to live in are Oslo followed by Zurich, Geneva, Tokyo, Copenhagen, New York, and Stockholm. Athens is in 39th place. The cheapest cities to live in are Bombay, Manila, and Kuala Lumpur.