

GOINGS ON ABOUT TOWN

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Join the ArtExchange this October 4

Worth noting:

- The Atticó Metro stations showcase finds from the excavations as well as murals and photographs – be sure to see the new Syntagma and University stations
- The Benaki Museum finally re-opened after a ten year closure for renovations
- The next issue of the ArtExchange News will feature Greek wines – another of Greece’s best kept secrets!

ATHENS METRO...FINALLY

The **Atticó Metro** is not only a reality – with two new lines, a dozen new stations, and more lines under construction – the stations in the heart of the city are veritable musea, mirrors to the city’s lengthy and glorious past.

2000 is shaping up to be an exceptionally fortunate year for Athens - a city full of hidden gems availing themselves only to those curious and patient enough to take the time that their discovery demands. While Athens is mov-

ing by leaps and bounds to claim its rightful place along the other “modern” European capitals, it has been doing so at a pace and tempera-

Syntagma Station

ment that becomes its greatness. It is true that Athens is the last of

Europe’s capitals to acquire an underground metro. It is also true that for so many years

the boarded up construction sites all over the city that heralded

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Photo: Fred Smith. Atticó Metro Syntagma Station © 2000

THE CITY BENEATH THE CITY: FINDS FROM METRO EXCAVATIONS

For those of you who always expect more—of Athens, of its Metro, yourself—then your next stop should be the

current exhibit “The City Beneath The City: Finds From The Metro Excavations” at the newly refurbished and expanded Cycladic Art

Museum, on display until December 2001. This magnificent exhibit will silence all those who ever

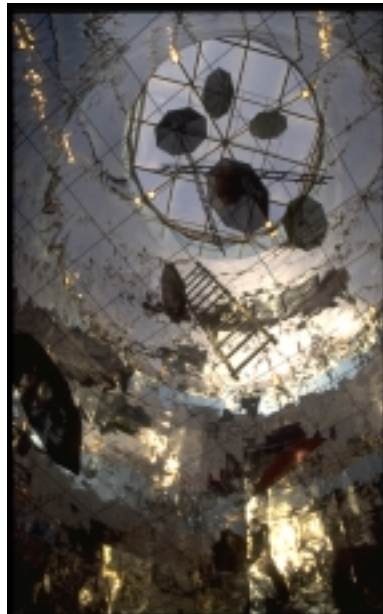
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ATHENS METRO: A WORK OF ART

(Continued from page 1)
 the never materializing “metro stations” marked both the Metro’s future and kept “count” of its delayed completion. But to those of us who have the city bred in our bones, we *knew* that the wait was well worth it. And right we were!

In the first two days of its opening, the Atticó Metro attracted more than 2 million visitors, as Athenians

Photo: Fred Smith. Atticó Metro Syntagma Skylight © 2000



viewed the sleek stations, rode the new underground rail cars, and admired the many displays of art works, photos, murals, and artifacts on display.

“Metro Art” at ventilation shaft

During the first three months of its operation, more than 18 million people used the new Athens Metro

METRO EXCAVATIONS — AND TREASURES

(Continued from page 1)
 doubted Athens on any level. The accompanying catalogue (available also in English) is a must have for artists and scholars alike, Athenians or not.

The exhibits present a record of the many layers of culture and history unearthed by the underground drilling. Artifacts, photographs of Athens' first steps as capital of Modern Greece, as well as contemporary pieces of art works adorn

the main stations. Next time you are in Athens, take the metro and discover another side of this multifaceted city.

Artifacts from the Attica Metro excavation on display at the Syntagma Station – a taste of the exhibit at the Cycladic Art Museum



Photo: Fred Smith. Atticó Metro Syntagma Station © 2000

BENAKI MUSEUM RE-OPENS AFTER TEN YEARS

Another long awaited project, the expansion and renovation of the Benaki Museum, is finally completed. More than ten years have gone by since it closed its doors for renovation – much too long to keep this unique place away from public eyes. The Benaki was always the best of Athens' many musea.

Where else can one see exhibits that span from pre-history to today? Where else can one see

vases from the Bronze Age and paintings by Yiannis Tsarouchis? Nowhere else than the Benaki Museum.

Even the building itself

the habit of wealthy Greek families of the 19th century Diaspora.

Its architect was Anastasios Metaxas, the



Embroidery from Epirus, 18th century. The Benaki Museum. Photo reproduction courtesy of Melissa Publishing, *Ceramics of Greece*, by Katerina Korre-Zografou, 1995. Page 105.

is an integral part of the history of the Greek nation. Its founder and benefactor was Antonis Benakis, the son of Emanuel Benakis, heir to wealth amassed in Egypt, wealth that was shared with the newly established nation – as was

same architect who worked on the restoration of the Panathenian Stadium for the 1896 Olympics. And Antonis Benakis was immortalized in his sister's book "O Trelantonis" (The

(Continued on page 4)

PLAKA BECKONS!

Looking for a Fall getaway? Does strolling through ancient cobblestoned streets appeal to you? Perhaps you enjoy people-watching from a sidewalk café under the shadow of the Parthenon?

Then join the ArtExchange this October and get caught up in the excitement of the 2004 Olympic Games. Just like the

years preceding the Olympic Games of 1896, Athens is once again getting ready for 2004 and is undergoing fantastic changes to its landmarks and historic neighborhoods.

Take for example Plaka – the refurbishing of its neoclassical buildings, the closing of its streets to vehicular traffic, have made this place once again a desired destination – to stroll, eat, and to have a drink in Anafiotica overlooking the city.



photo: Caterina Pizanias. Plaka, Athens. © 2000.

A glimpse of the Parthenon from the terrace of the Goulandris-Horn Foundation building in Plaka

the artexchange news

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C. Pizanias, Editor

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There is much ado about everything in Greece in the fall! Join the ArtExchange this October 6 – 24 for an unforgettable adventure and see the "new Athens" for yourself.

Katerina Korre-Zographou's book **Ceramics of Greece** is another one of the meticulously researched and visually stunning books published by *Melissa* over the last twenty years. The book examines the years between the Byzantine period and the mid-fifties of the last century. Its material covers all relevant areas such as techniques, soil use, firing, aesthetic and social aspects affecting the production, distribution, collection and exhibition of Greek ceramics. A "must have" book - unfortunately only available in Greek for the time being. For more of the exciting publications at *Melissa*, check their website: www.melissabooks.com

Museum Information

Benaki Museum
1 Koumbari Street
Tel: 301-367-1000

New exhibit area: 7,000 sm
Objects on exhibit: 20,000+

Cycladic Art Museum
Vasilissis Sofias & Irodotou
Tel: 301-722-8231

**BENAKI ARTWORKS
ON DISPLAY AGAIN**

(Continued from page 3)
Crazy Antonis); his sister of course was none other than Penelope Delta – the J.K Rowling of her time!

If a visitor to Athens could only see one museum, unequivocally I will say GO to the Benaki. The museum is now bigger, but also better; it gained both in space and focus. The long wait



(just like the wait for the Metro) was well worth it. Kudos to its director and overseer of the changes Dr. Angelos Delivorrias!

Pear-shaped vessel, 1837. The Benaki Museum. Photo reproduction courtesy of Melissa Publishing, *Ceramics of Greece*, by Katerina Korre-Zografou, 1995. Page 103.