



Paros Ancient Marble Quarries Park AMKE

Newsletter No 2 – June 2023

The Cycladic Identity initiative supports our efforts to protect and promote the ancient quarries

The stability of the underground galleries is a matter of utmost importance, especially in the case of the Nymphs' quarry, in some parts of which geotechnical instabilities have been identified, raising concerns about the stability of the galleries and the safety of visitors.

An important step in this direction was taken with the AMKE's new project entitled "ANCIENT QUARRIES OF PAROS - STABILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY OF THE UNDERGROUND GALLERIES", which is implemented with funding from the new initiative of the Museum of Cycladic Art, CYCLADIC IDENTITY.



On Wednesday 31.5.2023, the CYCLADIC IDENTITY team led by the President of the Museum of Cycladic Art, Mrs Sandra Marinopoulou and the initiative's project manager, Mrs Yuki Krontira, visited the ancient quarries in Marathi.

The representatives of CYCLADIC IDENTITY discussed the progress of the project with members of the Board of the AMKE and the Geotechnical Engineer, Dr Dimitris Englezos, who is the head of the scientific project team under the general supervision of the Ephorate of Antiquities of Cyclades.

The project is expected to be completed by September 2023 and follows on from the 3-d digital topographic survey and geological investigation of the Nymphs' and Pan's quarries which was carried out by the Geotechnical Engineering Department of Athens Polytechnic (NTUA) with funding from the Ministry of Culture and which has been presented by Prof. Vassilis Marinou on 27.11.2022 at an AMKE event in Parikia.

We are pressing ahead ...

The AMKE "Paros Ancient Marble Quarries Park" continues its efforts to protect the ancient marble quarries and to create an archaeological and cultural park in Marathi in close cooperation with the relevant agencies. On 17.3.2023, an inspection took place by experts of the New Monuments service of the Ministry of Culture regarding the stability and future restoration of the industrial buildings of the 19th century. They also discussed with representatives of the AMKE to preparation of the master plan for the park.

The ownership issue has not yet been resolved. The underground quarries belong to the Greek State but the surface area of the archaeological area is owned by various private individuals. The expropriation of the main parcels of land by the Ministry of Culture is proceeding at a very slow pace. At the same time, however, the AMKE is in contact with all sides – Ministry, Municipality, and private individuals – and offers practical support to find a solution. We hope to present the first tangible results in the next newsletter.

Action programme of AMKE in schools

AMKE has launched a series of actions for the local community of Paros to get to know better the cultural heritage of the island's ancient marble quarries and to be able to contribute to its protection and promotion.

In this context, three presentations were made at the Parikia Gymnasium on 10/5/2023 and two at the Naoussa Gymnasium on 18/5/2013. The archaeologist-guide Mrs. Georgia Papadopoulou presented the history and importance of the underground quarries of the famous Parian marble (lychnites). Members of the Board of Directors of the AMKE explained the initiative of the local associations, working through the AMKE, to create an archaeological and cultural park in the archaeological area of the quarries in Marathi. – More information [HERE](#).

New publications

- **The Ancient Quarries of Paros: Glory, Neglect and Hope** – This article in Bulletin 25 of the Friends of Paros and Antiparos, presents the historical and cultural importance of the ancient quarries and the efforts to protect and promote this unique cultural heritage led by the "Park of Ancient Marble Quarries of Paros AMKE". See [HERE](#).
- **Practices for the Underground Built Heritage Valorisation: The Case of Paros** - The "Ancient White Marble Quarries of Paros" were selected as a case study by the European programme Underground4Value. The programme handbook, entitled **Practices for the Underground Built Heritage Valorisation**, includes a chapter by Tommasina Pianese on the ancient marble quarries in Paros entitled **"Putting Underground Built Heritage at the Heart of Cultural Tourism"**. See [HERE](#).
- **Even more light in the Cyclades** - An article in KATHIMERINI of 28.5.2023 presents the new initiative, **CYCLADIC IDENTITY**, of the Museum of Cycladic Art and the projects it finances, such as the action **"Stability and Accessibility of the Underground Galleries"** of the quarries in Marathi. See [HERE](#).

Summer programme of visits to the ancient quarries

Organised group visits are scheduled for **Saturday 17.6.2023 at 9:30** and **Friday 14.7.2023 at 17:30**.

For more information and other opportunities to visit the archaeological area in Marathi, see [HERE](#).

How you can help

Everyone is welcome to help in the efforts for the protection and promotion of the ancient quarries with their enthusiasm, knowledge or financial support:

- You can become a "Friend" or "Regular Member" of AMKE - Register [HERE](#)
- Financial contributions can be made to the AMKE bank account - [HERE](#).



PAROS ANCIENT MARBLE QUARRIES PARK

Non-profit Organisation

The associations that created the Non-profit Organisation and actively contribute to the protection and promotion of the ancient marble quarries of Paros are:

Friends of Paros and Antiparos

“Archilochos” Cultural Association

Cultural Association of Marathi and Vounia “Ag. Minas”

Institute for Archaeology of Paros and the Cyclades

Paros-Antiparos Hoteliers Association

Federation of Parian Associations

The organisation acts in close consultation with the founding associations and with the relevant public authorities, notably the Ministry of Culture and the Municipality of Paros.

For more information visit the website of Paros Ancient Marble Quarries Park:

ABOUT – HISTORY – CULTURE – THE PARK – CONTACT – NEWS – etc.

<https://parianmarble.com/>