

HELLENIC REPUBLIC
MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND SPORTS
GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF ANTIQUITIES AND CULTURAL HERITAGE
EPHORATE OF ANTIQUITIES OF THESPROTIA



ΑΡΧΑΙΟΛΟΓΙΚΟ ΜΟΥΣΕΙΟ ΗΓΟΥΜΕΝΙΤΣΑΣ
ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM OF IGOUMENITSA

“Following Edward Lear in Thesprotia”

Temporary exhibition



Archaeological Museum of Igoumenitsa
November 14th 2014 ~ January 11th 2015

PRESS RELEASE

Launching on **November 14th 2014** and until **January 11th 2015**, the temporary exhibition **“Following Edward Lear in Thesprotia”** will be hosted at the **Archaeological Museum of Igoumenitsa** under the auspices of the Ephorate of Antiquities of Thesprotia.

The exhibition aims at presenting the relatively unknown work of the English painter, poet and traveller Edward Lear regarding the wider area of Thesprotia, from Parga to Butrint and from Philiates to Dodona. Lear’s known oeuvre relating to the region, which he visited in 1849, 1856 and 1857, includes more than forty (40) drawings, watercolors, lithographs and oil paintings. Rendered with photographic detail and poetic spirit, those works almost bring to life the places which so much charmed the sensitive victorian artist. Unique depictions of Paramythia, Souli, Philiates, Margariti and Parga, of landscapes by the rivers Kalamas, Acheron and Pavla, as well as of their inhabitants in their local costumes take us back in time and offer, in the manner of a travelogue, valuable information for a long-gone Thespotia.

The exhibition at the Archaeological Museum of Igoumenitsa comprises original works of Edward Lear from the Gennadius Library/The American School of Classical Studies at Athens and the Centre of Historical Studies of Thesprotia archives, as well as reproductions from the originals held at Harvard University, Houghton Library, the Scottish National Gallery and in private collections, provided for that purpose.

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Together with extracts from his travel journals and additional informative material, the exhibition attempts to illuminate aspects of Edward Lear's life and multifaceted work and to illustrate his great affection for the area. Besides, there is no anthology of Edward Lear's work that does not include a view of Souli or Parga, two places that he personally loved. And it would not be an exaggeration to assume that his great admiration for the undisciplined Souliotes was the impetus for his travels in Epirus.

The opening of the exhibition "Following Edward Lear in Thesprotia" will take place on
Friday, November 14th 2014, at 20.00.

The exhibition "Following Edward Lear in Thesprotia" is a collaboration between the Ephorate of Antiquities of Thesprotia and the Centre of Historical Studies of Thesprotia archives and is organized with the courteous support by the Regional Unit of Thesprotia and the Municipality of Souli, with the contribution of The Gennadius Library/The American School of Classical Studies at Athens, the Byzantine and Christian Museum, the Aktia Nicopolis Foundation and Dr. Fani-Maria Tsigakou and with the communication support offered by archaeology & arts.

Admission Free

The Director of the Ephorate
Ioannis Chouliaras
Archaeologist

Opening Times of the Archaeological Museum of Igoumenitsa: *Tuesday to Sunday: 8.00-15.00 / Monday: closed*
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