

Gallery of Idols



1st Primary School of Asvestohori

RESEARCHER TEAM:

Class: 5b

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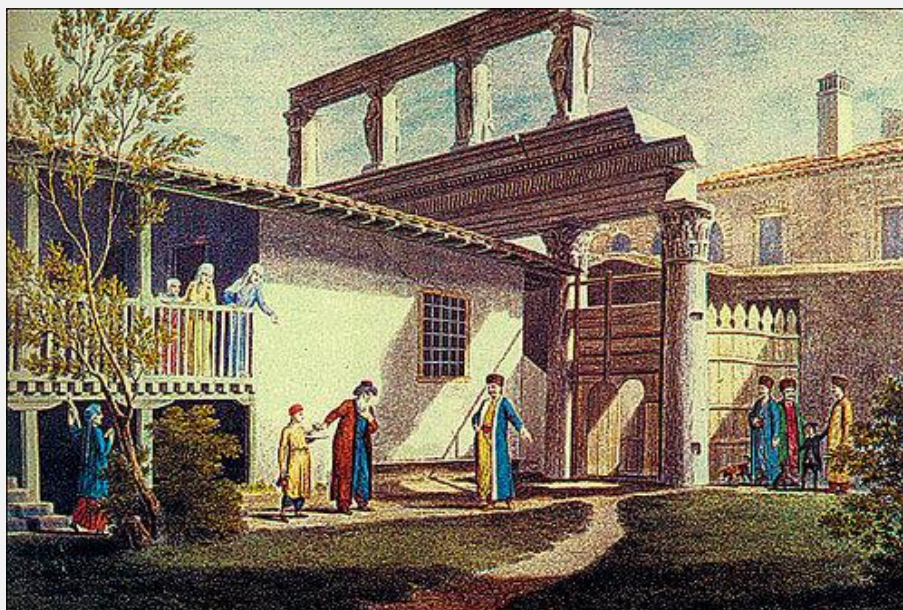
ROMAN AQUEDUCT OF HORTIATIS

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

This monument was called “Idols”, or Avatars, “Gallery of Idols” from the Greeks, Incantadas (Spellbound in spanishjewish) and suretler (Angels) in Turkish language. It was a two floor collonade, consisted of five columns made of Carystian marble; also the capitals and the pessaries were made of marble of Thasos Island. Those pessaries had in both sides’ mythological relief forms: Menada, Dionysus, Ariadne, Luda, Nicky, Avra, Dioskouros and Ganymede whom the eagle grabs.

HISTORICAL REFERENCES:

It is known in Thessaloniki the gallery of Idols or Spellbound of the early Hellenistic period. The name gallery of idols was given by the Christian citizens of Thessaloniki and the name spellbound by the Cepharad people, the Spanish-Jewish people who came to Thessaloniki from the region Cepharad of Spain. The gallery of Idols, and however what remained from the monument which the Romans had rebuilt to decorate the Southern entrance in the forum from the side of today’s Egnatia’s street, was found to be embodied in the house of the rich Jew Liatsi Ardith. Finally, they were stolen before the liberation of the city at 1864 by Emmanuel Miller, who did illicit trade in antiquities.



REASONS FOR THIS CHOICE:

The reasons for this choice are that after the liberation of Thessaloniki is time that the 8 statues must be returned to the city that they rightfully belong. We believe as students that it is our duty to fight for this cause.

SPECIAL LINK TO THE PEOPLE OF THE SURROUNDING REGION OR COUNTRY:

This monument for the people from that era was an integral part of their history. This is the reason that they protested for their theft from the people that illicit trade in antiquities but with no result. They were stolen at 1864 with the permit of the Turkish government. Nowadays, many citizens of Thessaloniki don't know that those statues exist and their history, but thankfully time didn't fade away their memory and some people seek the hints of lost beauty in this city.

