



GREEK POST OFFICE
SET OF TOURIST STAMPS

TECHNICAL DETAILS

SIZE: 26×36.5 mm. for all values.

METHOD OF PRINTING: Direct Plate Process.

THE SET WILL COME OUT IN SHEETS OF 50 PIECES

RATE OF EXCHANGE: \$ 1.00 = 29.85 drachmae.

DESIGNS: By the engraver A. Tassos.

PRINTED BY: "Aspioti-Elka" Graphic Arts Co. Ltd., Athens.

The set will be put on sale on February 15th, 1961 and will be available until the entire lot is sold out.

FIRST DAY COVERS

The Greek Post Office will not service First Day Covers with this set, nor will there be any special cancellation.

Q U A N T I T Y

	VALUE	PIECES
1)	10 lepta	6,000,000
2)	20 »	20,000,000
3)	50 »	20,000,000
4)	70 »	8,000,000
5)	80 »	2,000,000
6)	1.— drachma	15,000,000
7)	1.50 »	35,000,000
8)	2.50 drachmae	120,000,000
9)	3.50 »	2,000,000
10)	4.— »	8,000,000
11)	4.50 »	18,000,000
12)	5.— »	12,000,000
13)	6.— »	24,000,000
14)	7.50 »	2,000,000
15)	8.— »	3,000,000
16)	8.50 »	3,000,000
17)	12.50 »	2,000,000

VALUE OF COMPLETE SET: 66.80 drachmae

With its azure-blue sky and bright sunshine, its enchanting seashores and picturesque landscapes, its ancient monuments, its wonderful climate and traditional hospitality, Greece is the ideal place for the tourist who would combine the pleasures of a wonderful and healthful holiday resort with the benefits of a cultural pilgrimage to the country which gave birth to humanism and elevated art to heights of perfection.

To extol the beauty of the Greek landscape and the majesty of the ancient Greek monuments and to offer an invitation of hospitality to all those who long to know Greece, the General Direction of Greek Posts is issuing a set of 17 tourist stamps with choice designs depicting representative landscapes and ancient monuments. The set will be released on the 15th February, 1961.

A brief description of the designs will be found in this booklet.

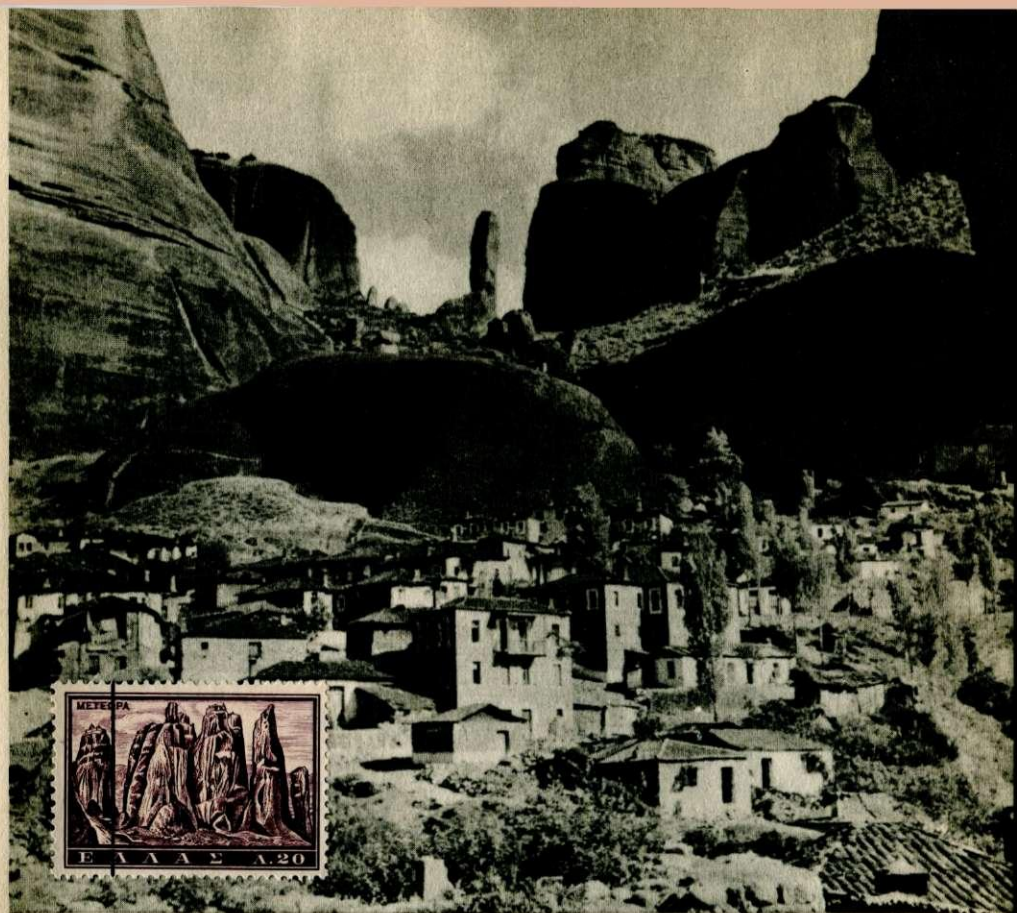


DENOMINATION LEPTA 10 — CASTORIA

Castoria is a beautiful town in Northern Greece, built on the ruins of the old town founded in the 6th cent. A.D. by the Byzantine emperor Justinian on a promontory in Lake Orestias. The lake, 30 square kilometres in area, is 4.5 kilometres long.

Old patrician houses with richly painted and carved woodwork ornamentation (17th-19th centuries) lend picturesqueness to the town. There are also 72 very old churches, wonderful examples of Byzantine architecture and painting, all of historical importance.

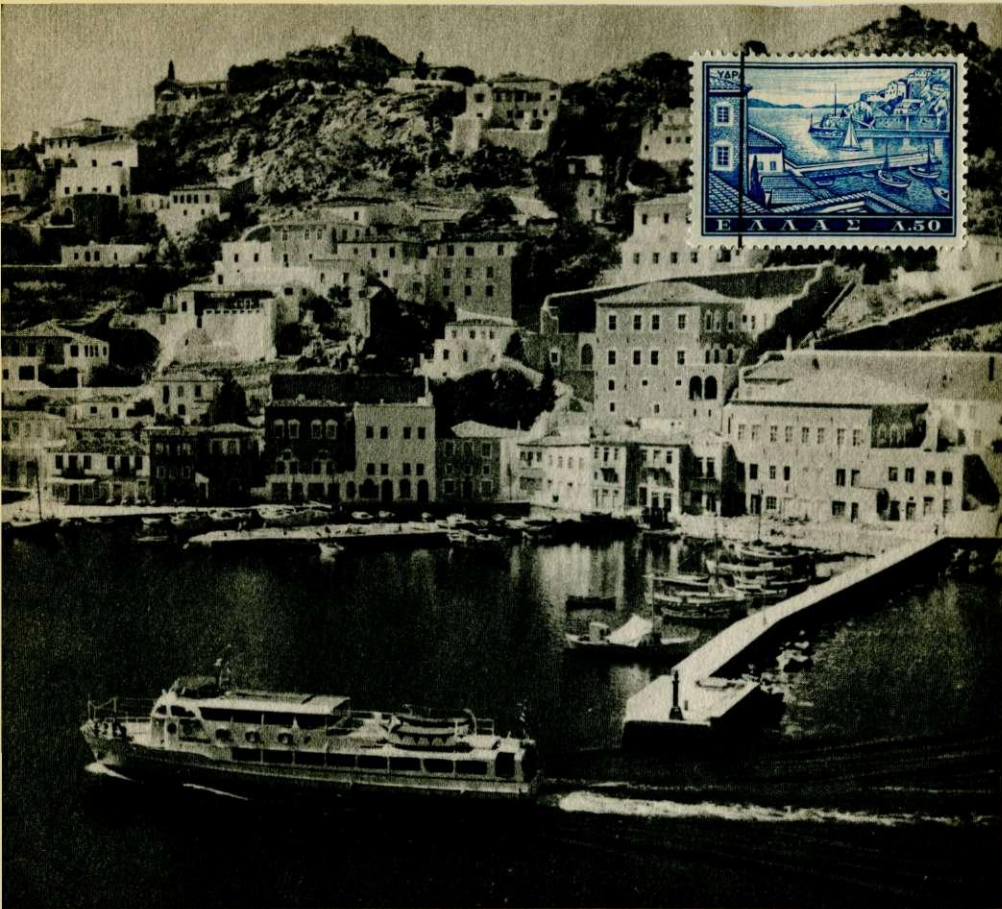
The town is 628 metres above sea level and has several hotels, among which is the National Tourist Organization's "Hotel du Lac". The surrounding hills abound in game and the lake is rich in fish. The inhabitants of the town, where a fur industry flourishes, are noted for their hospitality.



DENOMINATION LEPTA 20 — THE "METEORA"

Near the small town of Kalambaka in Thessaly a number of gigantic vertical rocks tower majestically over the plain. Their strange shapes and bare majesty make them one of the most beautiful and fantastic landscapes in Greece. On the tops of these rocks—average altitude 300 m.—pious monks set up monasteries in the 15th and 16th centuries A.D. and called them "Meteora", to imply (the Greek meaning of the word) "suspended between sky and earth". Of the 24 monasteries on the summits, only 4 are inhabited to-day, namely the Great Meteoron—the Varlaam monastery—Agios Stefanos monastery—Aghia Trias monastery.

Everyone who visits the "Meteora" leaves the place with an unforgettable impression of rare natural beauty. The visitor also has the opportunity of admiring the old artistic wall paintings, icons, and rare old manuscripts, all of which are of great historical significance as well as being gems of Byzantine art. There is a tourist hostelry in the "Great Meteoron" monastery; a number of small hotels and a motel are available in neighbouring Kalambaka.



DENOMINATION LEPTA 50 — HYDRA

The picturesque and historically interesting little island of Hydra is a long narrow rocky stretch of land towering over the deep blue waters of the Saronic gulf. In its capital, which is called after the island, there are many beautiful spots, such as a charming little port with stone steps leading to the upper quarters of the town, windmills, old churches, monasteries and rich patrician houses—the homes of its sea captains (18th-19th cent. A.D.)—wonderfully furnished and abounding in old heirlooms.

In 1821 the heroic seamen of Hydra offered their ships and substantial funds for the Greek War of Independence.

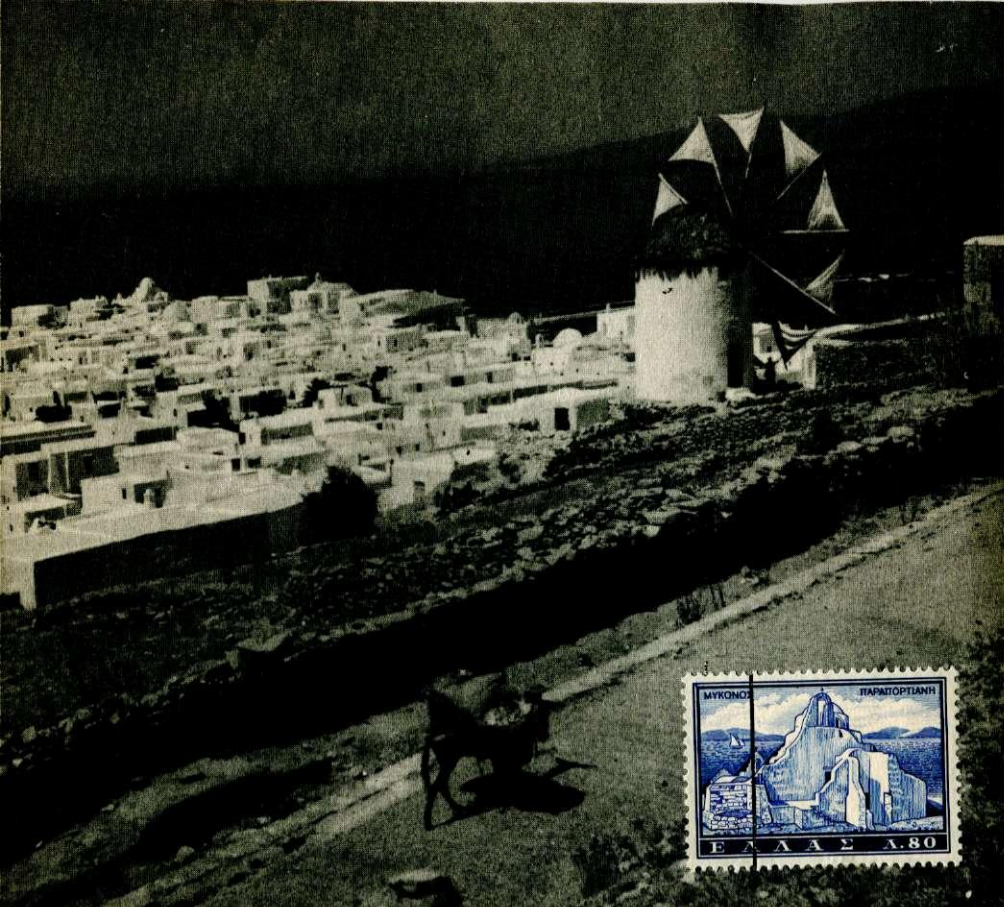
There is a branch of the Athens Higher School of Fine Arts at Hydra with guest rooms for foreign and Greek artists. Several small hotels are also available.



DENOMINATION LEPTA 70 — ATHENS

The Parthenon, built on the highest part of the Acropolis, is the most important creation of ancient Greek architecture and a symbol of the perfection that marked the classical spirit of the age of Pericles — 5th century B.C.—the "Golden Age" of Greek history. It was built during the period 447-438 B.C. by the architects Ictinus and Callicrates. The composition and sculpture of its ornamentations were the work of the great Phidias, who was also the co-ordinator of the whole plan.

An eternal symbol of aesthetic perfection, this temple was dedicated to the goddess Athena, the Patroness of Athens. Of Doric order, the temple was made of marble extracted from Mt. Pendeli. Its length is 69.51 m. and its width 30.87 m. Although partly ruined today — largely due to the bombardment by Morozini in 1687 — it still fills the visitor with admiration and awe.



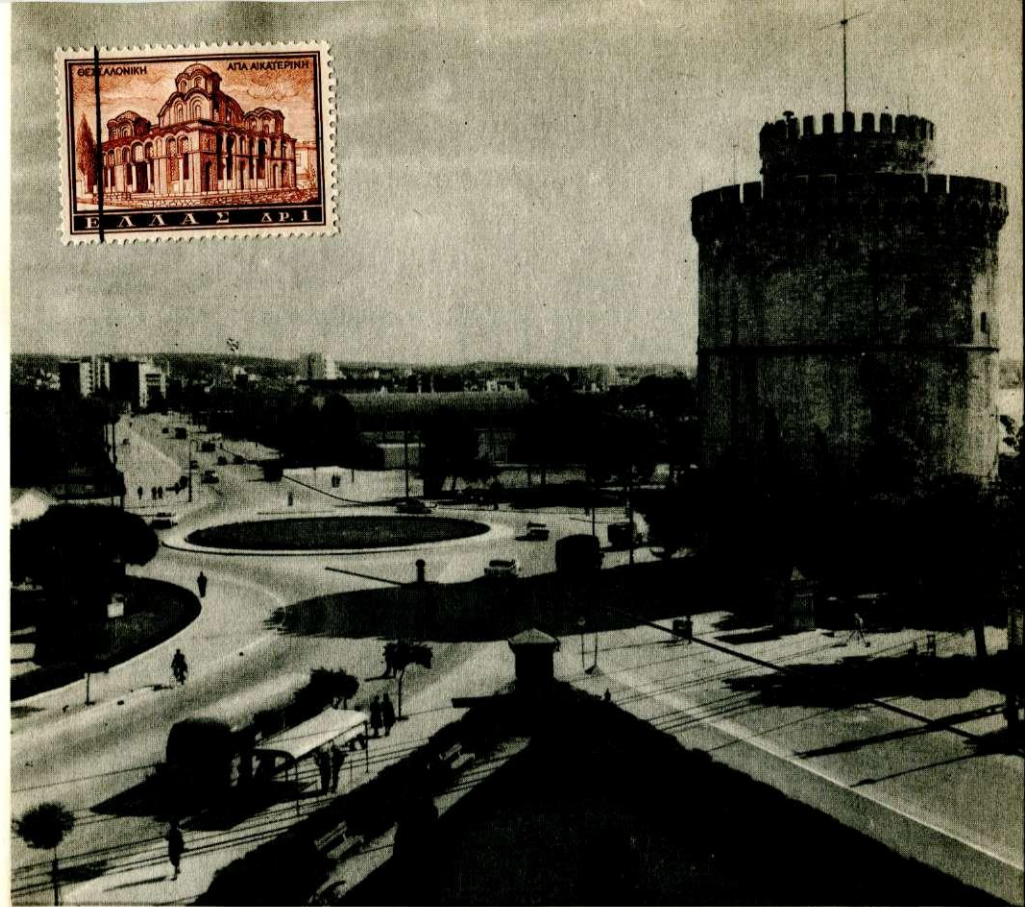
DENOMINATION LEPTA 80 — MYKONOS

Mykonos is one of the most picturesque of the Cyclades islands in the Aegean Sea. Its dry and healthy climate and its pleasant beaches have made the island a famed holiday resort.

Mykonos town (Hora), with its port, resembles a mythical town with a nautical character. The innumerable little Byzantine churches and its picturesque houses, snow-white and always freshly white-washed, with their external wooden staircases and flower-pots of basil (basilicum) on their window-sills, with their looms, by means of which the island girls weave wonderful brightly coloured textile fabrics, charm the visitor with their originality.

The famed wheat-grinding windmills of Mykonos on the heights of the town are real jewels.

There are two hotels of the National Tourist Organization and other minor hotels on the island.



DENOMINATION DRACHMA 1 — SALONICA

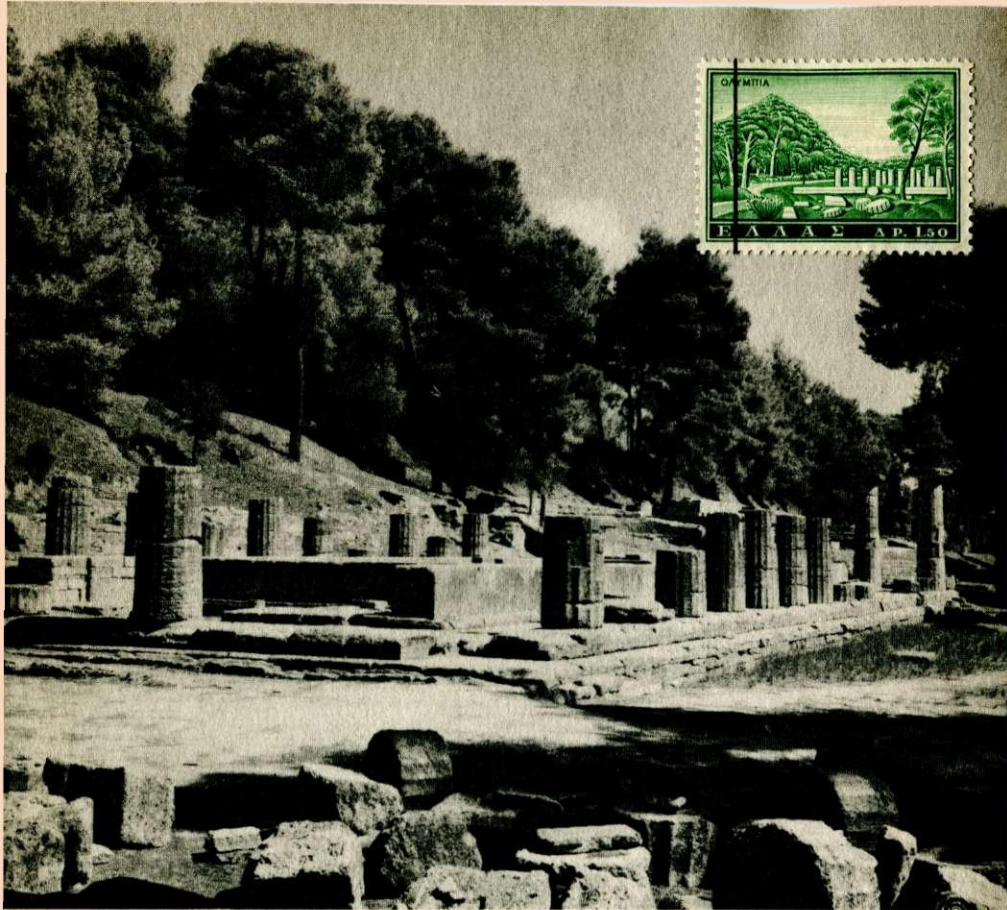
Salonica, the capital of Northern Greece, was founded in 316 B.C. by Cassander, who named the town after his wife, a sister of Alexander the Great.

The Apostle Paul preached Christianity in Salonica; hence the town is considered the gateway through which Christianity spread over Europe. The city is a vast museum of Byzantine architecture packed with Christian monuments, built mostly during the 14th century.

At the bend of the seaside avenue stands the mediaeval "White Tower", which has come to be the symbol of the town.

Its modern street-plan, picturesque seaside resorts, Museums and other sights make Salonica one of the most beautiful cities in Europe.

In September each year an International Fair is held at Salonica, at which a number of countries officially participate and exhibit their industrial products. Hundreds of exhibitors and hundreds of thousands of foreigners visit the town.



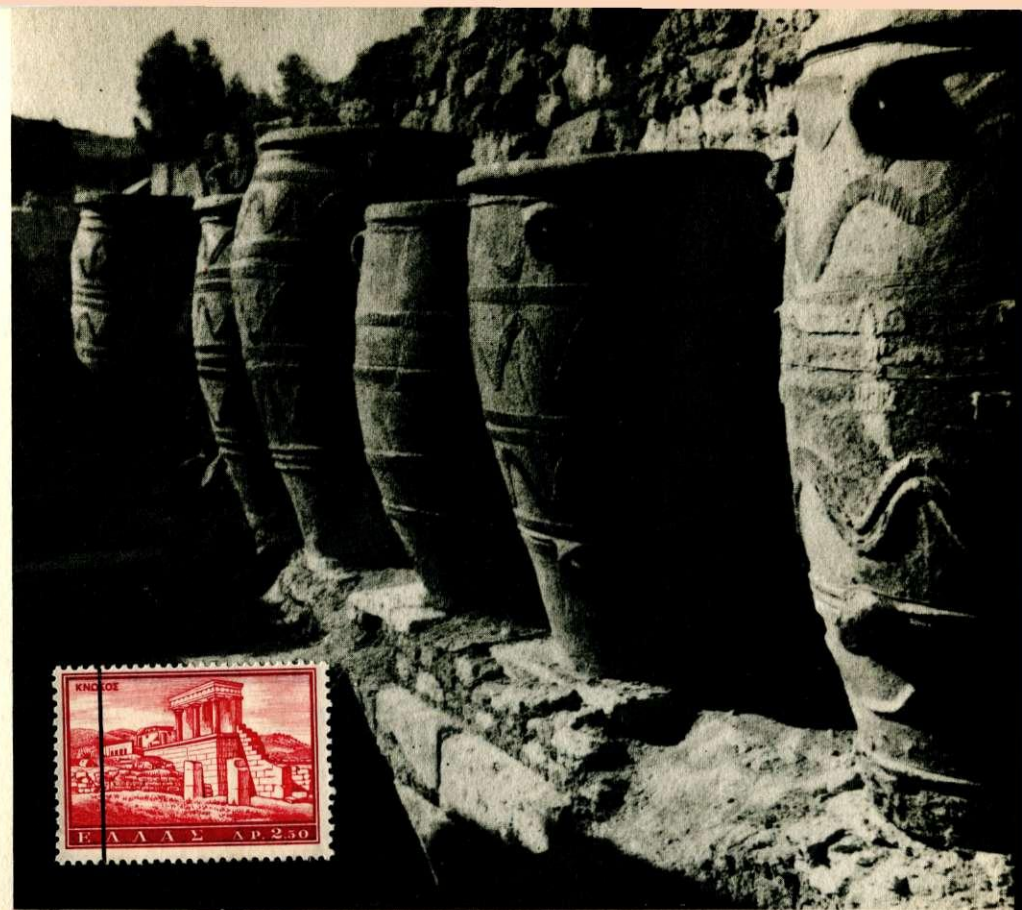
DENOMINATION DRACHMAE 1.50 — OLYMPIA

Olympia was one of the brightest jewels of the miracle that was Ancient Greece. Situated in the Peloponnese, it lies in a peaceful valley thickly wooded with pines and intersected by the rivers Alfios and Cladeos.

Olympia was not a town but a great sanctuary where Olympian Zeus and the goddess Hera were worshipped.

A number of huge pillars of Doric order, the ruins of Hera's temple, bear witness to its former grandeur.

Apart from the exquisite landscape with its two rivers and verdant Cronus Hill, the visitor will find today the ruins of a considerable number of shrines, gymnasiums, sculptors' workshops. He will visit the Museum to admire unique sculptural masterpieces, such as Praxiteles' Hermes, Paeoneus' Victory, Apollo and many other art treasures. He will also see the Stadium where the well-known Olympic Games of the ancient Greeks took place to make the ideals of conciliation and peace a reality. These ancient games are the prototype of our modern Olympic Games, the opening of which is preceded by the ceremony of a torch-bearer racing into the stadium carrying the sacred flame kindled at the ancient altar of Olympia.



DENOMINATION DRACHMAE 2.50 — KNOSSOS

Knossos is a picturesque spot near Heraklion, Crete. A town flourished there in very ancient times (3rd-1st millennium B.C.), and it was the kingdom of Minos, the prehistoric ruler of the seas. It was the first spark of European civilization, the Minoan.

Today the visitor will see the restored ruins of Minos' palace, unearthed in 1900 by the British archaeologist Evans.

The many-storied palace was the centre of a big tree-surrounded town without protective walls. Built in the 19th Century B.C. it was destroyed by earthquake and rebuilt in the 17th Century B.C.

Its complex architecture, its lordly chambers and staircases, its perfect baths with their drainage system, its masterly wall paintings, statuettes, precious jewels and carved vases, all compel the visitor's admiration.

The monuments of Knossos and other parts of Crete (Phaestos, Gortys, etc.) show that the civilization which flourished on the isle "of valiant men" could vie with ancient Egyptian civilization.

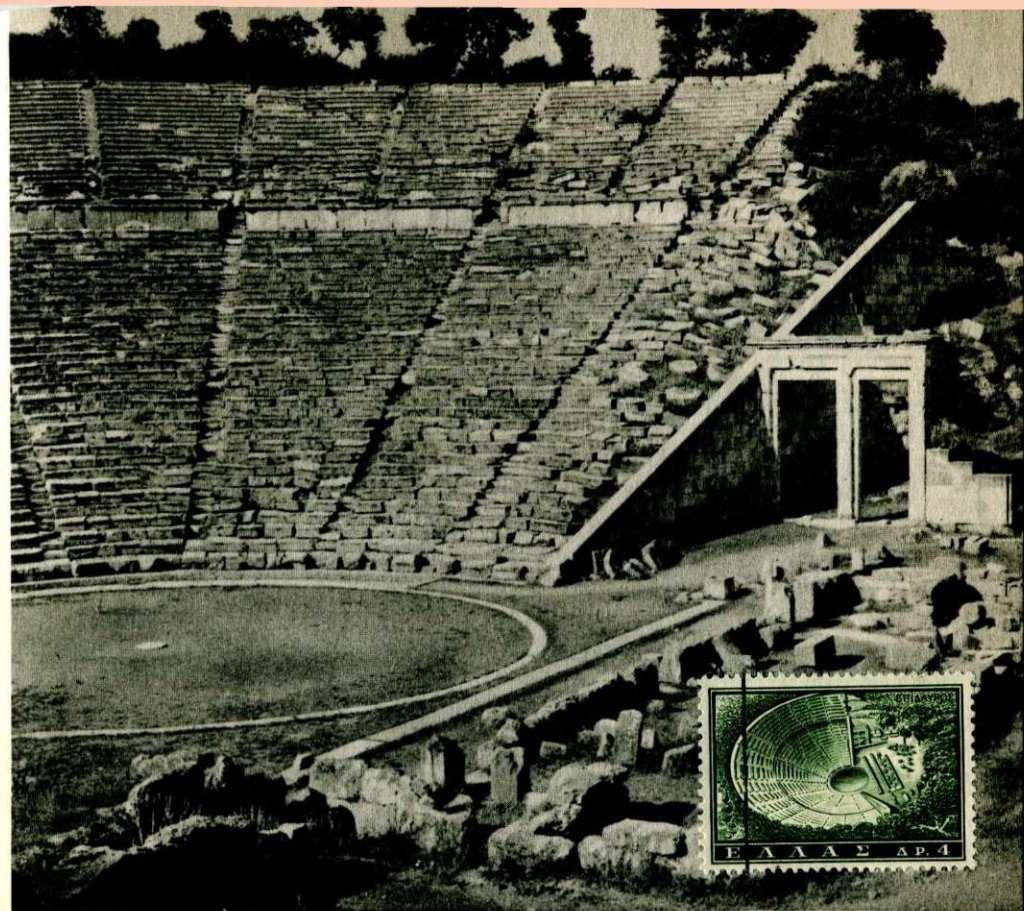


DENOMINATION DRACHMAE 3.50 — RHODES

Rhodes, the largest of the Dodecanese Islands and one of the most enchanting in Greece, is also important for its antiquities.

The town of Rhodes comprises the old town, encompassed by the imposing mediaeval fortress, unique of its kind, and the new town outside the fortress, with its big hotels and public buildings, beautiful beach, and rich flower-beds. It attracts thousands of tourists from all parts of the world.

Of special interest on Rhodes—the evergreen “Emerald Isle” with its cool climate and beautiful villages—are the ancient Greek towns of Lindos and Camiros; Filerimos with its mediaeval fortress; Callithea with its healing springs; the picturesque hill of Prophet Elias with its beautiful hotels; the “Valley of Butterflies”; the big museum in the romantic street of the Knights—the edifices built by the Knights of St. John (14th-16th cent. A.D.) in a late-Gothic style, etc.



DENOMINATION DRACHMAE 4 — EPIDAVROS

The ancient town of Epidavros lies near the east coast of the Peloponnese, which borders the Saronic gulf, and was famed as the most important centre of worship of Aesculapius, god of Medicine and wonder-working patron of the sick.

A theatre, where performances were given to honour Aesculapius, was also within the sacred precincts of Epidavros. Having survived the lapse of centuries the theatre is in a fairly good condition today. It was built of local stone in the 4th century B.C. by the Argive architect Polyclitus; its seating capacity is approximately 15000 and it has a circular orchestra. It is considered to be the most perfect ancient theatre by reason of its excellent acoustics and its situation amid the wonderful landscape that surrounds it.

Thousands of tourists flock there to witness performances of Ancient Greek Tragedy and Attic Comedy by the Royal Theatre Company every summer on the occasion of the Epidavros Festival held under the auspices of the National Tourist Organization and the Greek Touring Club.

The spectator attends those performances with wonder and awe while he feels that he lives in the times of classical Greece.



DENOMINATION DRACHMAE 4.50 — SOUNION

Sounion is a steep cape at the south-eastern end of Attica. Its imposing beauty has inspired the poets of all times, including Lord Byron.

Athena was worshipped here as the Patroness of Attica; while Neptune—the god who could subdue or stir up the seas with his trident—was worshipped as their patron by navigators, who sailed on the constantly stormy waters off Cape Sounion.

The marble temple dedicated to Poseidon (5th cent. B.C.), solitary and imposing, set up high on the top of the cliff towering above the sea, overlooks the Saronic gulf with the Cyclades and Aegean sea in the background.

Two highways lead to Sounion, one inland and the other—recently constructed—along the coast (65 kilometres). Tourist pavilions and hotels are available. The place is famed for its game and fish.



DENOMINATION DRACHMAE 5 — ATHENS

This temple, dedicated to the father of all gods of Greek mythology, Olympian Zeus (Jupiter), was the most important of ancient temples in Athens and one of the most majestic in Greece. It was originally built in the Doric order in 530 B.C. in the reign of Peisistratus by the architects Antistates, Calaischus, Antimachides and Porinus, and completions in the Corinthian order were made in the 2nd Century A.D. by the Roman Emperor Hadrian, the great admirer of Greece. The main temple, 107.75 metres long and 41 metres wide, stood on 104 pillars 17.25 metres high. Within the temple was a huge gold and ivory statue of Zeus, the cost of which was borne by Hadrian.



DENOMINATION DRACHMAE 6 — DELPHI

This renowned archaeological site is at a distance of 20 kilometres (inland) from the small port of Itea (Gulf of Corinth), at 650 metres above sea level and, with its bare mountains and craggy rocks (the Phaedriades Rocks) towering up into the sky, it is one of the most imposing landscapes in the world. The ancient Greeks chose this unique spot for their most sacred and famed Oracle, that of Apollo, which influenced the fate of states and individuals alike for about 1000 years (7th cent. B.C. to 4th cent. A.D.), and was the greatest sanctuary and spiritual centre of the world of that time. The crystalline waters of the sacred Castalia spring flow at the foot of the Phaedriades Rocks.

On the highest level of the temple, the Doric pillars of Apollo's temple tower up imposingly. The well known aphorism regarding self-knowledge, "Man Know Thyself" which was the basis of Socratic philosophy, was carved on the propylaea of the temple.

The sacred area also comprises an ancient theatre (3rd cent. B.C.), a Stadium and a Museum with numerous statues, among which is the masterly bronze statue of the Charioteer.

There are several hotels at Delphi, providing excellent service for tourists.



DENOMINATION DRACHMAE 7.50 — IOANNINA

Ioannina, the capital of Epiros in north western Greece, is one of the most attractive tourist places in Greece. The visitor is particularly charmed by its legendary lake and old narrow lanes; the imposing rock topped by the Castro (Citadel) and the Mosques; the wonderful little isle of fishermen in the middle of the lake with its Byzantine churches. The neighbouring wonderful cave of Perama with its stalactites, the beautiful mountain landscapes around the town, the villages of Metsovo and Zitsa, the Vikos gorge and ancient Dodoni add to the impression. During the years under the Turkish yoke Ioannina was the cultural centre of Greece. At that time famed goldsmiths' and gold-embroidery workshops flourished there. Silverwork continues to be produced even today.

The lake, which reflects the lofty citadel and Aslan's Mosque in its calm waters, is connected with the story of the well-known liaison between the attractive Greek lady Kyra-Frosini and Ali-Pasha. The lake is 11 kilometres long and 3 kilometres wide. A new highway joins Ioannina with the coastal town of Hegoumenitsa. The latter is connected with Corfu and Italy by a fast car ferry. Other highways lead to Salonica and to Athens.

Several hotels are available in the town including a new luxury National Tourist Organization hotel.



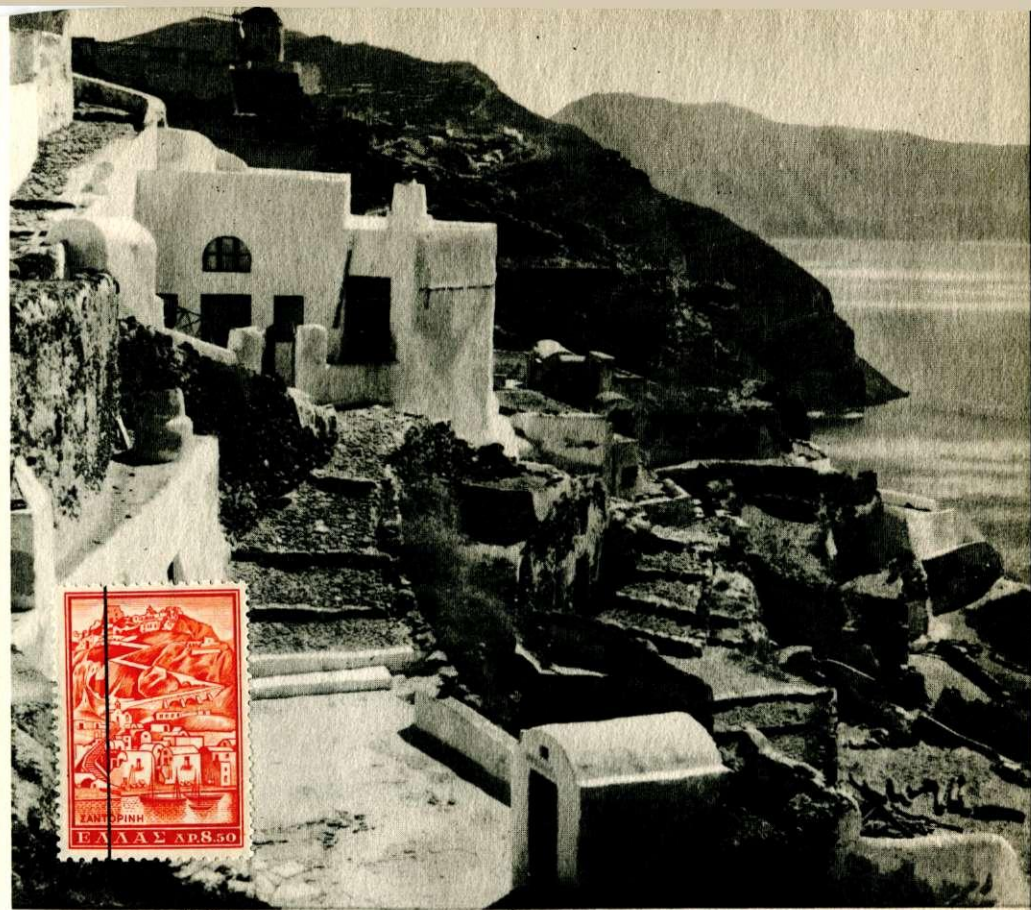
DENOMINATION DRACHMAE 8—MOUNT ATHOS

On the abrupt and picturesque part of the eastern peninsula of Chalkidiki towers the "Holy Mountain" with its ancient community of monks founded in the 10th century. In this place of fascinating natural beauty and thick vegetation with its 20 huge fortress-like monasteries, numerous hermitages, cells and quiet abodes, spread amidst the ridges of Mt. Athos, the monks have preserved the traditional way of ascetic living since Byzantine times.

Each monastery is a wonderful combination of buildings and an invaluable museum of Byzantine art and rare manuscript books.

St. Denys' Monastery (14th century) which is pictured on the stamp is built on a high steep rock overlooking the sea. Inside the monastery there are remarkable 16th century wall paintings.

Entrance to Mt. Athos, the administrative centre of which is the little town of Karyae (Protaton), is forbidden to women and children.



DENOMINATION DRACHMAE 8.50—SANTORINI

Santorini (or Thira) is one of the most interesting islands of the Cyclades. It is visited by numberless foreigners and Greeks every summer, who flock there to admire the extraordinary landscapes that have been created by its volcano and by earthquakes.

On the island—which in the Middle Ages was called St. Irene—there flourished a local civilization dating back to prehistoric times. The ruins of that civilization are buried under thick blankets of lava. Excavations have unearthed quite a few of those ruins, which reveal an unusually high artistic standard.

One enjoys an enchanting view from the heights on which the town stands, looking towards the volcano on the dark little isle of Cammeni, with the Aegean sea and other islands in the background.

Santorini has well-known products, such as the famed wine "Vino Santo" and its pumice stone, called "Thiraiki ghi".



DENOMINATION DRACHMAE 12.50 — DELOS

Close to the graceful island of Mykonos, in the Aegean sea, lies the small island of Delos. According to Greek mythology Delos is the birthplace of the twin gods Apollo and Artemis (Diana), the children of Zeus and Leto. Therefore, in ancient times, the times of the Olympian Gods, "Sacred Delos" attracted crowds of worshippers and became a wealthy and much frequented place.

But when Christianity spread and the Twelve Gods were forgotten, Delos sank into decay and ruin and solitude. In our day it reminds the visitor of Pompeii, the dead town. Yet the wonderful monuments and famed mosaics in the courtyards of its old patrician houses, the statues and marble lions in the sacred shrine—masterpieces of Naxos sculptors—are as impressive as they are unforgettable.

There is a Museum of very great interest and a pavilion of the National Tourist Organisation on the island.