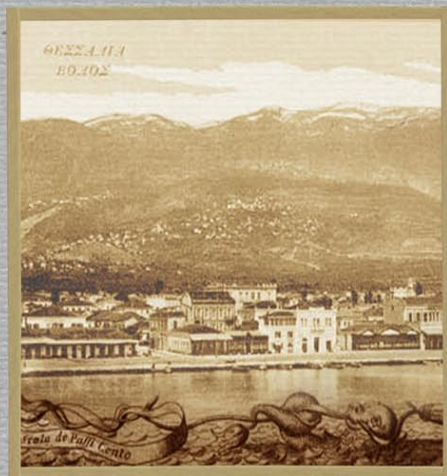


SECOND CHANCE SCHOOL OF VOLOS
Ministry of Education, IDEKE

Non official guide of Volos



*“Ways of attracting adults
to keep learning”*



2010



Contents

<i>Introduction</i>	(5)
<i>The years 1840 – 1880</i>	(13)
<i>The years 1880 – 1900</i>	(23)
<i>The years 1900 – 1920</i>	(47)
<i>The years 1920 – 1930</i>	(57)
<i>The years 1930 – 1950</i>	(63)
<i>The years 1950 – 1960</i>	(69)
<i>The years 1960 – 2010</i>	(73)



Volos by night

Volos is a coastal port city in Thessaly, capital of the Magnesia Prefecture, at the centre of the Greek mainland, built at the innermost point of the Pagasetic Gulf, near the site of ancient Iolkos, at the foot of Mount Pilio (or Pelion). The wider metropolitan area of Volos comprises the municipalities of Volos, Nea Ionia and Iolkos with a total population of 116.439 (2001 census). In terms of population, it is the sixth metropolitan area in Greece after Athens, Thessaloniki, Patras, Herakleio and Larissa.

The name of Volos

The origin of the name Volos is not fully documented. According to some researchers, the name Volos is an alteration of the ancient name Iolkos (in Greek: Ιωλκός > Τιωλκός > Τώλος > Βώλος or Βόλος). Some others claim that the name Volos derived from the name Folos (in Greek: Φόλος), a mythical landlord of the region. According to a third theory, the name 'Volos' comes from the Slavic word 'golo' meaning naked – bald. It is also probable that it derives from the Italian word 'golfo' which means: gulf. Whatever the origin, the place name Volos first appears in the 14th century as the name of the village that is situated at the foot of Mount Pilio and it is known today as Ano Volos (in Greek: Άνω Βόλος).

Mythology

In Greek mythology the reference to the region of Magnesia is fairly frequent. The name of the region comes from the son of Aeolus, Magnis, who settled down in Pilio. According to mythology the Centaurs, half-men and half-horses creatures lived in Pilio. The most known of the Centaurs was Chiron, who brokered the marriage between Pileas and Thetis that took place in Pilio. During the marriage, Eris, the goddess of Strife, felt offended for not being invited to the marriage and threw the apple of Discord that later caused the Trojan War. Also, Asclepius (the Father of Medicine) and Achilles, the hero, were Chiron's students. Magnesia is also closely related to the Argonaut Expedition, as it was Jason's homeland and his starting point when he and the Argonauts sailed towards the Black Sea in quest of the Golden Fleece, an event historically associated with the start of processing gold in Greece.



K. Volanakis, The return of the Argonauts (undated).

In the region around Volos, there are some of the most important Neolithic sites in the Balkan Peninsula. The Neolithic settlements of Dimini, with a ruined acropolis, walls, and two beehive tombs dating to between 4000-1200 BC and Sesklo, with the remains of the oldest acropolis in Greece (6000 BC) were discovered by the archeologist Chris Tsountas at the beginning of the 20th century. Excavations in the hill of Aghioi Theodoroi, in the district of Palea and in Pefkakia brought to light important Mycenaean sites. It was during that period that Iolkos, Iolcos or Iolcus, an important economic and cultural centre of the region, was founded. Iolkos was also the homeland of the mythological hero, Jason, who boarded the ship Argo accompanied by the Argonauts and sailed in quest of the Golden Fleece to Colchis. Modern Volos is built on the area of the ancient cities of Demetrias, Pagasae and Iolkos.

Demetrias was established by the King of Macedonia, Demetrius Poliorketes (besieger) who united the neighboring towns in 293 BC.

Early Christian - Post Byzantine period

Demetrias along with Fthiotida Thebes were the two most important coastal centers in Early Christian and Byzantine Thessaly. In 1204, after the fall and sack of Constantinople by the Franks, Demetrias was offered to the renowned Byzantine family of Melissinoi. In the 14th century, we first encounter the place-name of Volos. In 1423, the Turks occupied the castle of Palea. Gradually, the coastal towns were abandoned, and the last residents moved to mountain Pelion.

Ottoman Occupation

During the Turkish occupation, the financial and cultural activities took place in mountain Pelion, which was enjoying many privileges. Through the 18th century, Pelion evolved into one of the most significant centers of the Greek region, yet the entry of Christians inside the fort of Volos remained forbidden. With the onset of the Greek War of Independence in 1821, the villages of Pelion revolted, and the liberating ships from the Greek island of Spetses besieged the fortification of Volos unsuccessfully. A little later, in 1830, the new city of Volos was built, outside the fort, though. Due to its geographical position, and its great port, the city was thriving and it was where the financial heart of the whole of Thessaly started beating. By 1881, after the Constantinople Convention, Volos and the wider Magnesian territory joined the recently liberated Greek State.

Recent History

Two years after the liberation of Thessaly, the Municipality of Pagases was founded, predecessor of today's Municipality of Volos. The development of the new city was rapid. Craftsmen from Mt. Pelion, together with other inhabitants from the newly formed Greek state, the port, as well as the incoming capitals from the Greek Diaspora were some of the reasons that favored the economic growth of the new city, with increasing trade and manufacturing activity.

The expansion of the port, with the addition of new facilities, and the construction of the railway connecting Volos to the towns of the Thessalian hinterland, lent additional economic strength to the city. This economic development was accompanied by increased activity in the fields of construction and planning, including monuments and buildings in the characteristic neo-classical and "modern style" of the period. Famous architects embellished the city with grandiose churches like those of St. Nicholas, Metamorphosis and St. Constantine, which gave their names to their respective districts. The railway station, the large warehouses, the workshops and the newly constructed factories employed styles of industrial architecture current in cities of Central and Western Europe. The expansion of the new city proceeded rapidly and local manufacturing evolved into fully-fledged industry, mainly in the fields of metallurgy, textiles and tobacco.

Consequently, economic growth went hand in hand with cultural advancement. In 1894 the Municipal Theatre was founded, in 1896 the Gymnastic Club, and in 1908 the Municipal Maidens' School was established under the great pedagogue A. Delmouzos. Moreover, the first workers' guild in Greece was inaugurated. The economic growth of the new city attracted people from other ethnic or religious groups as well.

The famous Italian painter Giorgio De Chirico was born in Volos. In its 1920 census, Volos recorded 30,046 inhabitants, but by the 1928 census the figure had grown to 47,892. In fact, Volos had a total population of 41,706, with the refugees of the "Asia Minor Catastrophe" comprising 6,779 of these (16.25%). In the Nea Ionia district, the total population was 6,186, and the refugees 5,166 (83.51%). Overall, the total number of refugees in the Municipality of Pagasses (Volos and Nea Ionia) numbered 11,945, of which refugees accounted for 25%. World War II caused a temporary halt in all advancements. However, after the war, Volos, Nea Ionia and the neighboring districts developed a significant urban plan, but the disastrous earthquakes of 1955 permanently affected its initial aesthetic image.

The city today



Unfortunately, the second half of the 20th century was not characterized by the same industrial and economic growth, as many factories stopped their operation. The set of an industrial zone in 1969 gave a temporary boost to the local industry, but in mid 80s the deindustrialization was a fact.



Volos is home to the University of Thessaly that was founded in 1984 and added a new dimension to the cultural and scientific background of the city. During the 2004 Olympic Games, Volos was an “Olympic city” and hosted some football matches in the new Panthessalian Stadium. Together with the neighboring city of Larissa they are going to organize the Mediterranean games in 2013.



The "Castle" of Volos

A walled town situated on the site of the present-day neighborhood of Palea was built in the mid 6th century AD. It was here that a market square was created and trading of products began by the people of Pelion and the valley of Thessaly. To protect the market from raiders, a small fortress was built. This was known as the "Kastrin" (Little castle). The "Castro" came, in turn, under the jurisdiction of the late-Byzantine feudal lords, the Catalans and, finally, the Ottomans, when it ceased to be used as a fort. The Venetian fleet last attacked it in 1655. From the mid 19th century, with the building of the new city of Volos, the "Castro" declined. At the end of the century its south and north walls were demolished and the maze of winding streets within the old town gave way to a "modern" street layout.



The castle of Volos as it was painted by the 12 years old son of a captain of a Swedish ship that arrived in Volos in February 1779. Archive John Mougogiannis.



Lithograph where the port with the quay and the crenellations of the castle are shown. Σχέδιο Coronelli, παραλλαγή Dapper, archive DIKI.

The beginning of the new city

After 1830, a large number of villagers and craftsmen from the villages of Pelion and from the new state of Greece and other Hellenistic centers started building houses and workshops around the port and the new city of Volos gradually expands outside the castle. The building of Aghios Nicolaos Cathedral in 1856 is considered to be an important fact in the history of the city, as it signals the interest and will of the villagers and craftsmen to stay permanently along the coastal zone. This was the beginning of a large-scale trading in the area, which was continuously getting bigger and bigger. When Thessaly joined in with the Greek State, a large trading market started, and by the end of the century there was an explosion in trade and industry. This resulted in the port of Volos becoming the second biggest trade port in Greece after Piraeus.

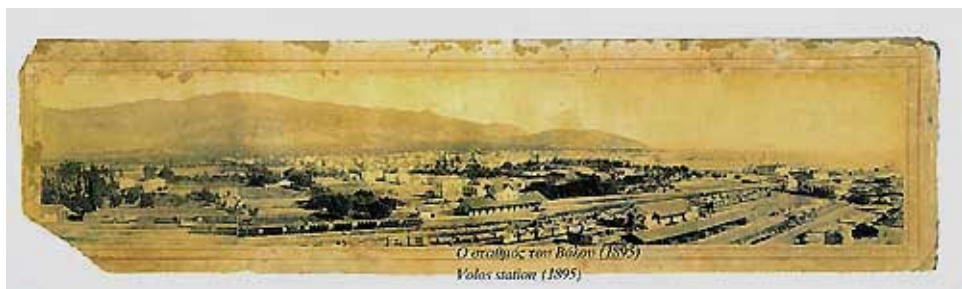


The Ottoman mosque in Palea, 1948. Archive Zimeri, DIKI.



The port of Volos, ca. 1900. Panoramic view of the west side of the city. Stefanos Stourmaras' card postale.

With the port continuously expanding, the rail operation developed to connect Volos with the rest of Greece. In 1858 there were around 80 houses, some warehouses and a few shops along the “Big street” (Dimitriados Ave.). In 1865 the city had 3.000 inhabitants, some streets had been flagged, small bridges had been constructed and there was a primary school.



Volos' station in 1895. Photograph, Town Hall.



The coastline of Volos, ca. 1900. View of the main quay. Stefanos Stournaras' card postale.



Volos, 1895. Panoramic view from the hill of ancient Demetrias Photograph by Stefanos Stournaras, Town Hall.

Dimitriados street

Dimitriados street is the first and oldest street of the city of Volos. At the beginning it was called “Big street” and it took the name Dimitriados street after the annexation of Thessaly to Greece in 1881. Since 1845 the houses and shops of the political and economic elite as well as the consulates were gathered here.



Daily life in Dimitriados street 1905. Photograph by Stef Stournaras, Town Hall.



Dimitriados street, parade, 1897. Photograph by Stef Stournaras, Town Hall.

Bookshop “Iolkos”

In 1879 the first bookshop opened in Volos by the monk Zosimas Esfigmenites. In “Iolkos” one could find mainly didactic books but also famous novels of that era. Zosimas Esfigmenites also published the annual almanac “Fimi” and the magazine “Prometheus”. Both publications covered various themes as well as the travel writing of the publisher himself.



The annexation of Thessaly to Greece

In 1881, after long and hard diplomatic efforts, Thessaly was annexed to Greece. The annexation was gradual and the Greek army entered the city of Volos on 2nd November 1881. Thus, Greece increased the extend of its territory and population with the fertile Thessalian plain.



The battle of Makrinitza in 1878. Engraving by A. Tassos, Town Hall.



The sea battle of Volos. Painting by I. Poulakas, Municipal gallery.

Education

The 1st Gymnasium of Volos was founded right after the annexation of Thessaly to the Greek State and it was the only Gymnasium in the city until 1921. According to a report by the inspector of the Ministry of Education, in 1882, there were a state primary school for boys, two municipal primary schools, one for boys and one for girls, a school for the ottoman community and a kindergarten. In 1904, the French school Saint Joseph was founded by nuns in Volos. The school was closely connected with the catholic community of Volos, it was organized according to the French system and provided education for the upper class girls of the city.



The 1st Gymnasium of Volos, ca. 1930. Card-Postale Rafanides-Zimeris, Batoudakis collection.



Kontogeorgiou School. Photographi Zimeris, Ev Bólw, 11.

Bank of Epirothessaly

The first bank that was founded in Volos was the Bank of Epirothessaly (1882). The bank was founded by Andreas Syngros, a Greek banker and philanthropist from Constantinople. Syngros founded the Privileged Bank of Epirus and Thessaly (alternatively Epirothessaly) in Volos to help the economy of the newly annexed Greek territories of Epiros and Thessaly. The annexation led to an influx of investment from expatriates who bought large estates previously belonging to Muslims who had made investments in the area. The "Privileged" in the bank's name refers to the bank receiving the right to issue banknotes in these territories. The National Bank of Greece acquired the bank after Syngros' death. The bank was housed in a magnificent neoclassic edifice. In 1969, the edifice came under the jurisdiction of the Municipality of Volos and today houses the Municipal Conservatory.



The bank of Epirothessaly (on the left) ca. 1920. Archive Stournaras, DIKI

Stamatopoulos engine-works

In 1883, the first factory in the city, Stamatopoulos engine-works, was founded. It was steam-powered and employed 40 people, a considerable number for that era. Its biggest work was the participation in the construction of the Thessaly railways. It also got a contract for the construction of a part of the port and in 1898 for the lamp-posts of the city of Larisa. Short before the World War II, it started producing army ammunition. The factory was shut down in 1961.



Products of Stamatopoulos engine-works, Archive Zimeris, DIKI.



Venizelos' visit to the factory, 1931. Archive Zimeris, DIKI.

The railway Volos - Larissa

In 1881, after the annexation of Thessaly to the Greek State, the construction of the railway between Volos and Larissa began. That was a very important project, as it would link the fertile plain of Thessaly with the biggest port of that time. The company Thessaly Railways constructed the railway in a relatively short period and the line was inaugurated in 1884. The rest of the Thessaly network was completed before 1886. The train was the basic means of transportation in Thessaly until the 1930s. The development of the road network and the commercial and industrial decline of the city of Volos were the main reasons for the decrease in the numbers of passengers and goods transported by train. As a result, the company went bankrupt in 1852 and it was finally absorbed by the Hellenic State Railways in 1955.



Volos Railway Station, ca. 1910. Archive Stournaras, DIKI.



Panoramic view of the railway station, ca. 1940. Archive Zimeris, DIKI.

Matsangos Tobacco Warehouse

In 1890, Nicolaos Matsangos founded a family tobacco business and in 1910 he brought the first tobacco cutting machine. After 1918, when Matsangos' sons took over, the business grew fast and in 1947-48 the company surpassed all the other Greek tobacco industries. In 1918, John and Costas Matsangos, with the help of Demosthenes Gatzopoulos extended the factory, bought new machines and increased the production. In 1925, a new four-floor tobacco factory was built next to the old one. During that time, the Matsangos Tobacco Factory produced 500.000 cigarettes annually and employed 350 workers, whereas in 1940 the workers were 1050.



Workers during a fitness break on the roof of the factory, ca. 1930. Archive Zimeris, DIKI.



Loading of a lorry with tobacco, ca. 1930. Archive Zimeris, DIKI.

The port

After the annexation of Thessaly to the Greek State in 1881, the port of Volos gained special importance, as the northernmost port of the Greek territory and contributed to the development of the city of Volos. It provided an outlet for the goods of the fertile plain of Thessaly and became an export trade centre.



Wooden quay in the port of Volos, 1894. Photograph by Stournaras, Town Hall.



Quay Kefaloskalo, 1899. The first stone quays in the port of Volos. Photograph Stournaras, Town Hall.



Constructions in the port, ca. 1900. Archive Tzamtzi.



The sea front, Volos, ca. 1950. Photograph Stourmaras, Batoudakis collection.

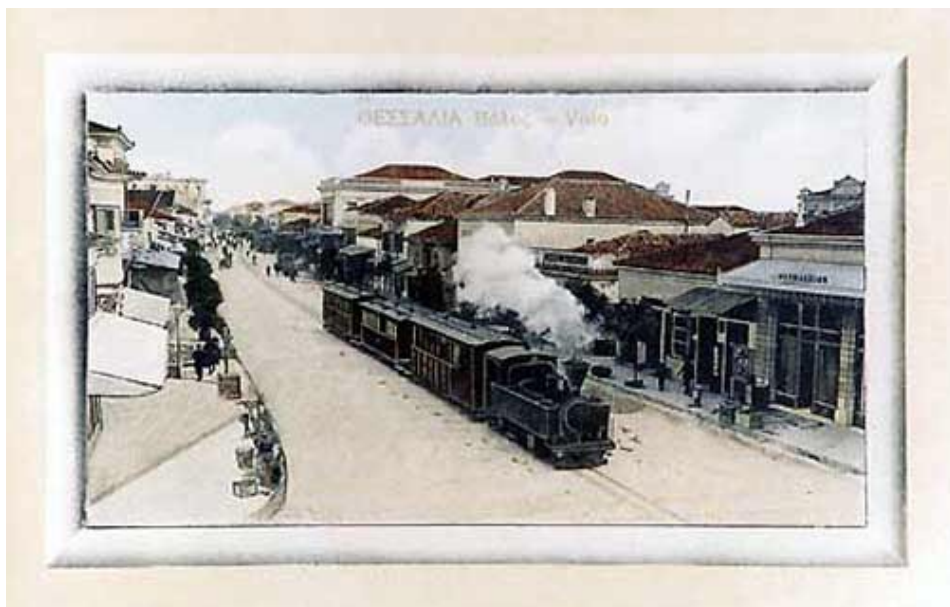
The Little Steam train of Pelion

The Pelion miniature railway was a dynamic element of cultural development during the first half of the twentieth century and it greatly influenced the history and environment of Pelion and Magnesia in general. For 76 years (1895-1971), people and goods traveled on the train, considerably changing the economical and cultural status of the city of Volos and the region as a whole. Inspirational designer and builder of the Pelion railway, under the management of Thessalian Railways, was the Italian engineer Evaristo de Chirico, father of the great artist Giorgio de Chirico. Using both his knowledge and a great deal of imagination, Evaristo de Chirico designed and, with the help of local craftsmen, constructed one of the most beautiful railway lines in the world. Only 60 cm wide, climbing the slopes of Pelion, mountain of the Centaurs, passing olive groves, deep gullies and gorges, it is a work of art, admired for its sensitivity, morphological harmony

and structural perfection. Construction of this railway line began in December 1894 and one year later, on October 12th, the first section, Volos - Lechonia, covering a distance of 13 km, was officially opened. Also completed were the bridge in Anavros and the one spanning Vrichona River, not far from Lechonia, which was the first to be built with fortified cement. In 1900, the railway line was extended up to Milies and by 1903 this section had been completed. The line from Lechonia to Milies is 16 km long, with 28/1000 being the sharpest inclining slope. Technically, the work was extremely difficult because of the many bridges (6 stone bridges with two, three, four and five arches and one Iron Bridge), protective walls, tunnels, aerial pedestrian bridges, all masterpieces of engineering, representing the aesthetic power of the period, when engineering was sensitive to and in perfect harmony with the environment.



The little train of Pelio crossing the Goritsa hill, 1895. Photograph Stourmaras, Archive DIKI.



The little train on Dimitriadou street, ca. 1900. Photograph Stourmaras, Archive DIKI.

Volos Gymnastic Club

The Volos Gymnastic Club was founded in 1896 by G. Tsolakīs, Cl. Koutsaggelis and D. Saratsis in order to promote gymnastic and sport activities.

The municipal authorities supported the Club from the very beginning and in 1908 they offered a ground for the training facilities of the Club.

Initially, the Club ran only one athletic team, but gradually it founded other teams, too, like football, wrestling, swimming, rowing, volleyball, basketball, cycling etc. From its foundation until today, the Volos Gymnastic Club promotes sports and the spirit of emulation with considerable success.



*The athlete Georgios Economou, known with the nickname Dias
He participated in the first Olympic Games. Archive T.Σ.Β..*

Municipal Theatre of Volos

On Demetriados street, the main street of the city of Volos and next to some other important buildings of the city, the Municipal Theatre began its operation in 1897. The Municipal Theatre soon established itself as one of the most important theatres of its day together with those of Smyrna, Constantinople and SaIonica and was capable of attracting the best theatre companies. During the 43 years of its operation, until the earthquakes of 1955, it was host to the most famous performers of the Greek theatre and the success of a performance in Volos ensured its favorable reception throughout the rest of Greece. The new Municipal Theatre of Volos, with approximately one thousand seats and the largest stage in the Balkans, is a continuation of a theatrical tradition stretching back over the century,



The Municipal Theatre, 1936, Photograph Zimeris.

The newspaper “Thessalia”

The newspaper “Thessalia” came out on the 25th May 1898, the day that the Turkish army left the city of Volos. Since then, it comes out constantly and it is the longest-lived regional newspaper. It turned out to be one of the most important regional newspapers with many correspondents and associates in Greece and abroad. In 1914 Takis Economakis, journalist, fervent patriot and in favor of the modern vernacular language (Demotic) took over the edition of the newspaper and gave it a liberal orientation. Also, “Thessalia” played an important role during the German Occupation in World War II, as the acerbic articles raised the morale of the local community and made the enemies furious.



The Museum of the newspaper "Thessalia"

1900 - 1920

Achillopouleion Hospital

The Achillopouleion Municipal Hospital of Volos was inaugurated in 1903 and it was the second biggest hospital in Greece after the Evangelismos Hospital of Athens. The story had begun some years earlier, in 1874, when the “Fileleimon Adelfotis Volou”, a charitable club, was formed with the aim to operate a hospital for indigent people. The construction of the hospital began in 1900 and it was finished within a short period of time thanks to the charitable supports of the Achillopoulos Brothers from Tsagarada village and the offers of affluent citizens.



Achillopouleion Hospital, card-postale. Photograph Stournaras.



Hospital ward, 1930.

Papageorgiou Textile Workshop - Mourtzoukos' 'Leviathan' Textile Factory

In 1905, the Papageorgiou textile workshop was founded. It was the first factory producing woolen textiles. The textile workshop initially employed 60 workers but within seven years it managed to double both its production and personnel. The second big textile factory in Volos was the Mourtzoukos' 'Leviathan' textile factory which provided first quality men and women's garments. It began to operate under the name "Leviathan-Mourtzoukos-Sigaras-Levis and Cia" in 1908 with the participation of the entrepreneur Kalamaras. The operational buildings of the factory grew steadily over the years, when the factory passed into the ownership of Zachariah Mourtzoukos and Zachariah Levi. According to records of 1922, about 900 employees worked there, many of them poor refugees from Asia Minor who had been forced out due to the exchange of populations.

During the height of its operation, the factory supplied shops throughout Greece, producing products from British wool woven on 87 looms manufactured in Germany. The demand for goods was so great that the factory worked on three shifts. Visitors to the factory were impressed by the cleanliness, the modern equipment, the pleasant nature of the workers and the social welfare programs provided by the Directorship. For the excellence of the products produced by the firm, the factory was honored with the Gold Medal at the International Exposition in Paris in 1930.



Workers in Papageorgiou textile workshop, Archive Zimeris, DIKI.



Venizelos' visit to Papageorgiou textile workshop, 1931. Archive Zimeris, DIKI.

The Volos

PARTHENAGOGEIO

(maidens' school)

The Parthenagogeio of Volos was founded in 1908 on initiative of the doctor and city councillor Demetrius Saratsis along with the unanimous decision of the City Council. His objective was to provide the girls of the middle class who had finished Primary School with Higher Education. Director and spirit of the Parthenagogeio was Alexandros Delmouzos who attempted to introduce the progressive educational approaches of the time in the Educational System. The Parthenagogeio did not wish to impart fruitless or unnecessary knowledge; on the contrary, it attempted to nurture the character of the young girls as well as to initiate them to the useful knowledge of the time. However, it only succeeded in functioning for three years as it had to confront the reaction of the local society which failed to see the introduction of either the demotic (popular)

Greek language or of the liberal principles in the Education positively - particularly for the maidens. The reaction of the local society reached a climax with the organisation of a big rally requesting the annulment of the Parthenagogeio.



Schoolgirls. Delmouzos is the last one on the left, Archive Haritou.

Να' εσται παιδι'!
A. H. Delmouzos.
5/11/09.

Delmouzos' note, 1909, Koutsaggelis' album.

ATHANASAKEIO

Archaeological Museum

In 1909 the Athanasakeio Archaeological Museum was inaugurated in Volos - one of the oldest museums in the Hellenic territory - which was built thanks to the donation of Alexandros Athanasakis, a Greek - Egyptian whose descent was from the Portaria village on Mountain Pelion.



Athanasakeio Archeological Museum of Volos, 1931, Archive Zimeris, DIKI.

The 'POSTMAN'

Since 1916 the 'Postman' newspaper - edited by Alexandros Meros - began to be published in Volos. The newspaper fought for the expropriation of the tsiflikia (big estates) and the distribution of that property to landless peasantry. In the course of time, the 'Postman' turned out to be an enterprising newspaper of a big circulation which until its closure in 1996 formed, along with the 'Thessalia' newspaper, the two powerful newspapers of Volos.

Foundation of the PROSFYGIKA (the refugees') settlement

After the tragic termination of the Greek Expedition in Asia Minor, influxes of refugees arrived in the harbour of Volos. The imperative need for direct accommodation of the 13.773 refugees led to the creation of a new suburb of Volos: the settlement of Nea Ionia. The foundation of the settlement took place in the uncultivated land of Xerokampos on 23rd August 1923 when the construction of the first prosfygika houses began getting built forming blocks. During the following years and until 1938 2.071 houses were gradually built thus completing the Residence Supply Program for the refugees. Shortly, the settlement developed to become a small town of popular character and ample working hands that gave a boost to the industry of Volos. The region

was officially named Nea Ionia in 1947 when it was modified into a Municipality and a distinct city. During the previous decades it was named 'Prosfygikos settlement' or simply 'Settlement'.



Easter in Prosfygika, 1927. Archive Konstantara-Stathara



Refugees in the warehouses, Archive Cultural Club "Egglezonisi"

The 'OLYMPUS' Cements Factory

The 'Olympus' Cements Factory was created in 1924 with a £80.000 initial share - capital. The Factory, operating along the Volos - Agria Road, was and remains up to this day one of the biggest industries in Greece. Four years later, in 1928, the Factory went bankrupt and was incorporated with the Anonymous General Company of Cements (AGET) that had been founded in 1911 by Andreas N. Hatzikyriakos and which owned one factory in Drapetsona, Piraeus under the name IRAKLIS (Hercules). The new company used raw materials from the Goritsa hill for many decades whereas its production reached 50.000 tons annually.



Olympus cements factory, general view.

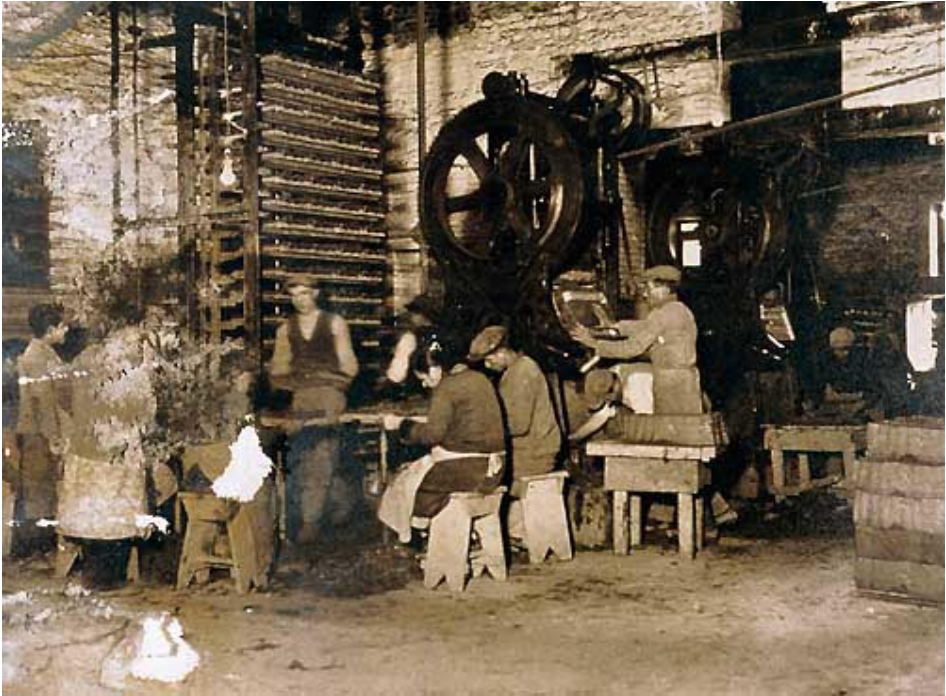


Olympus cements factory, Archive Zimeris, DIKI.

TSALAPATA Brick-and tile-works

Steam-driven, owned by Spyridon and Nikoletos Brothers, it was built in 1925 following the Family Pottery operating since 1917. Its planning and construction complied with instructions by engineers from Belgium - hence its technological equipment. The factory products consisted of various types of bricks and tiles which were channelled in the Greek Market, whereas since 1934 exportation began. During the first years of its operation, the factory employed 125-150 people and could afford HP 200 machinery. In 1929 there was an extension of the factory and its personnel reached 250. The damages the factory went through during the Second World War added up to the ones created during the earthquakes which were critical and created far-reaching repercussions on its post-war prospects. Eventually, the European antagonism and the accumulated financial problems led to the shut-down of the factory in 1975. In 1995 the cluster of buildings

was devolved to the Volos Municipality Property and today it is used for commercial and cultural displays whereas in a big part of the factory a museum under the same name operates.

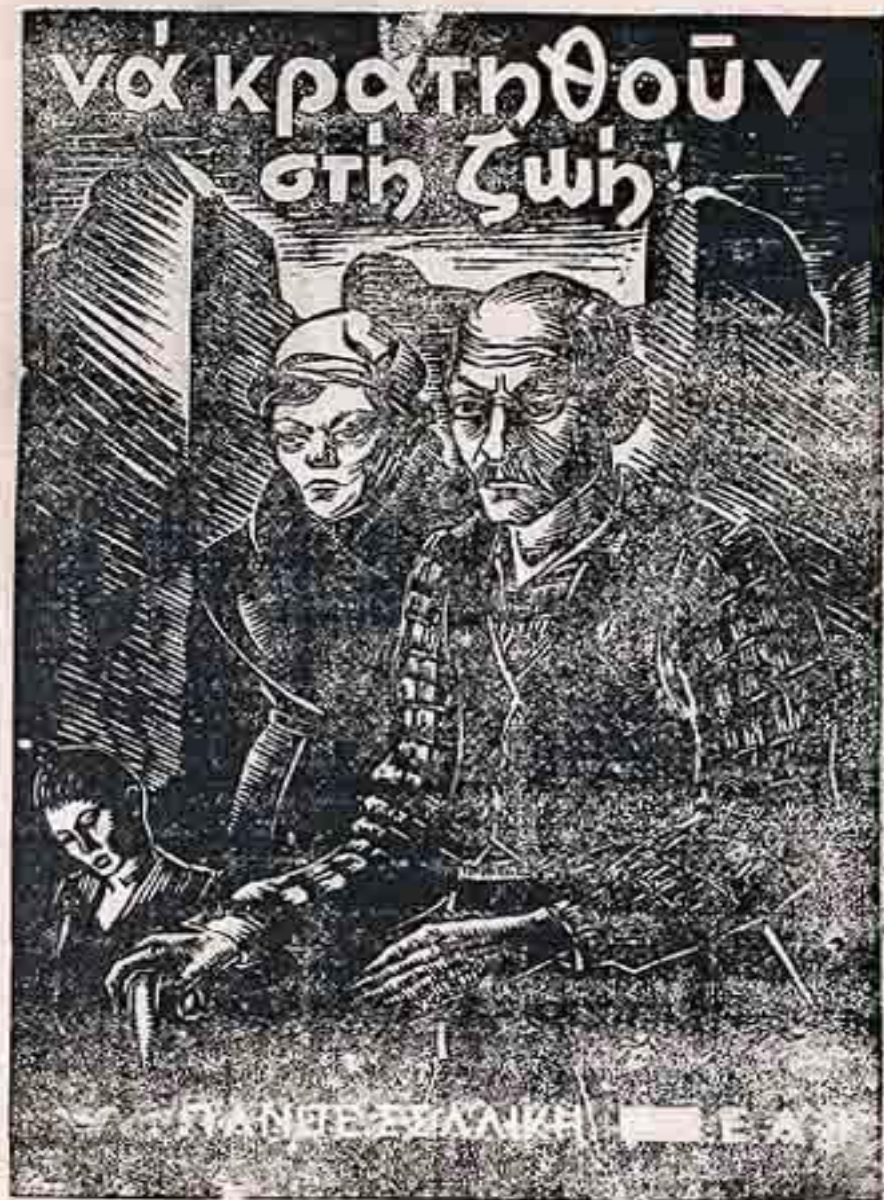


Workers in the factory

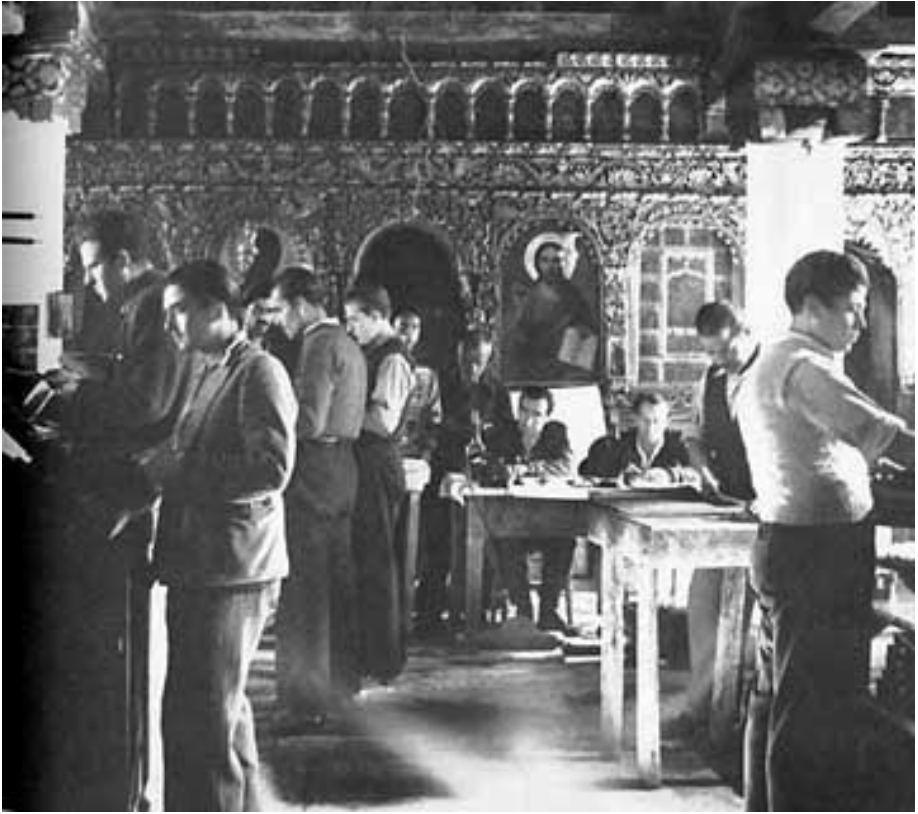
German OCCUPATION and National RESISTANCE

On 21st April 1941 the occupation of Volos by the German troops followed the continuous bombardment of the city. In the next months, Volos will follow the course of the other Greek cities, that is Hunger, Messing, Black Market, Censorship – in a word, Occupation. The Kapnapotheke (Tobacco Warehouse) owned by the American Tobacco Company, known as Yellow Depot, was used by the Germans as a place of detention and tortures whereas executions were taking place in public spaces as well - very often in today's Freedom Square. During the German Occupation, Resistance in Thessaly was massive and characterized by the joining the underground organisation of the EAM (partisan warfare). Both in Volos and the wider region of the Mountain

Pelion the leading role in the Resistance was played by the 54th Constitution of ELAS (Greek Liberation Army) whose headquarters were situated in the Ano Kerasia village on the Mountain Pelion, along with the seat of the illegal printing-house where the ANAGENNESIS (Rebirth) newspaper of Pan-Hellenic scope was published.



Proclamation by the Pan-Thessalian Committee of the Greek National Liberation Front, Archive Zontopoulou, Zioutou, DIKI.



The printing office of the Resistance in the Sourvia monastery



Partisans of the 54th Regiment, Archive Zimeris, DIKJ.

The LIBERATION

Few days before their departure, the Germans move on to blowing up - and thus destroying - the harbour along with the breakwater, the Custom-House, the sea-front and the Telephone Exchange of the city. Additionally, a series of fierce battles resulting in numerous casualties takes place. The withdrawal from Volos of the remaining Germans took place on 19th October 1944 - after three and a half years of occupation. The entire city of Volos participated in the following Celebration for the Release from the German Occupation. Rebels were streaming into the Freedom Square while the civilians received them with loud cheers. Songs, slogans and bells sounded along while the sirens of the factories rang as well the knell of the Occupation.



Celebrations in the Freedom Square, Archive Zimeris, DIKI.



Parade of ELAS in Volos, Archive Zimeris, DIKI.

The Earthquakes

Between 1954-1957, Volos was sorely tried by a series of natural disasters. Powerful and successive earthquakes cause practically the levelling of the city with the majority of the buildings destroyed, with thousands of homeless and the economic activities of the city frozen. Moreover, the big floods of the city torrents in 1955 and 1957, which affected mainly the regional districts, aggravated the situation even more. The magnitude of the destructions was such that altered radically the historical city cast of figures. The choices made for the reconstruction of the city, that is assigning the mission-to-be- accomplished to the military administration - thus debarring the politicians, the exclusion of the municipal authorities - and the local institutions, in general, from the decisions concerning its management, the lend-lease self-housing system and the artless types of antiseismic residences which were applied all added up to the total absence of any urban planning resulting in

influencing crucially the portrait of the city as it is today... "



After the earthquakes ..., Archive DIKI



After the earthquakes ..., Archive DIKI

1960 - 2010

A flavour of today

