

A tale of two museums *by George Vardas*

This is a story about two archaeological museums, one in Nafplion and the other in Kythera. Can you tell the difference?

In recent years, the Archaeological Museum of Nafplion has been extensively refurbished and remodeled into a state of the art museum. It is housed in Venetian built barracks and has a fine exhibition of artefacts from the Neolithic, Mycenaean, Classical, Hellenitic and Roman periods from all over the southern Argolid. In contrast, the museum in Hora, Kythera has remained closed since it suffered damage in the 2006 earthquake. The building was constructed in 1911 and was donated to the Greek Ministry of Culture in 1975. The photos below were taken by me in 2003 (that is, before the earthquake) and highlight the inadequate display of what should be the island's premier archaeological institution. No wonder the Minoan finds from Agios Georgios are on display at the Archaeological Museum of Piraeus.

This is an absolute disgrace. Kytherians world wide should be lobbying the Greek Culture Ministry to ensure that a proper museum is built to house to display Kythera's rich archaeological heritage.



