

European Museum Academy Awards 2016

IN LESBOS - GREECE

**Welcome EMA 2015 award winner 9+1 reasons to come to
Lesbos It's all Greek to me**



A warm welcome from our Chairman

Dear invitees,

It is with particular pleasure that I welcome you to the 2016 European Museum Academy's meeting & awards, which it is our joy as the Piraeus Bank Group Cultural Foundation (PIOP) to host in our Museum of Industrial Olive-Oil Production of Lesbos, on this beautiful North Aegean island. Indeed, it is a great honour and a source of joy for us to be collaborating with the European Museum Academy (EMA) and cooperate in organising this year's meeting and its award ceremony. PIOP is a foundation with an active presence in the sector of preserving, studying and

valorising Greece's cultural heritage and identity, with an emphasis on the diptych Environment/Culture. The Network of thematic technological museums we created, and run, in the Greek provinces (www.piop.gr) contributes decisively to projecting the history of production in our country, by showcasing the traditional ways of processing local natural resources. In parallel, our museums constitute vibrant cultural entities in our land, for they function as everyday meeting, recreational and creative places for the local societies concerned.

This year's award ceremony also coincides with what, for us, is an important moment in time, as the Museum of Industrial Olive-Oil Production of Lesbos has its «birthday», offering us the opportunity to celebrate, with you, its 10 years of existence and contribution to local society. I wish the best of luck to the candidates of the EMA Awards and look forward to welcoming you all in Greece.

Sophia

Z.

Staikou

Chairman of the Piraeus Bank Group Cultural Foundation

Hello from the *EMA2016@Lesbos team* !

98 days to go till 19 May. This first newsletter marks the beginning of our written communication, through which we wish to get to know each other better and ensure you enjoy an unforgettable **philoxenía** (hospitality) on beautiful Lesbos.

As of now, then, every 15 days you shall be receiving from us a bulletin with information about Lesbos: famous people hailing from this island, traditional recipes, its cultural landscapes and museums, its music and, naturally, Greek words – not forgetting, of course, information about your trip to Greece.

Registration form: click **here**

Coming soon: The EMA2016@Lesbos website !

Let's meet last year's laureate!

In these newsletters, we shall present EMA2016 candidates. Ahead of this year's candidates, however, let's get to know last year's winner.



"The Memory Palace – with your head in the archives"

exhibition, **staged by the Nationaal Archief**, has won the **Luigi Micheletti Award 2015** in the Italian city of Brescia.

Irene Gerrits, Director of Collections and Public Relations:

'We are incredibly happy with this award. This shows how interesting archives are, both analogue and digital. Documents, maps and photographs bring stories to life. Following the Museums + Heritage Awards for Excellence in 2014, this is the second award for The Memory Palace exhibition, we are so proud of that.'

9+1 reasons to come to Lesbos



In 2016, the Museum of Industrial Olive-Oil Production of Lesbos completes 9+1 years of contribution to local society. We shall celebrate its anniversary with you and in each issue we shall offer you 9+1 reasons to better acquaint yourselves with Lesbos.

1. **9+1 famous people**
 2. 9+1 local dishes
 3. 9+1 museums
 4. 9+1 scenic routes and sights
 5. 9+1 churches and monasteries
 6. 9+1 beaches
 7. 9+1 villages
 8. 9+1 mansions
 9. 9+1 birds, animals and plants
 10. EMA2016@Lesbos !
- Alcaeus, Ancient poet
 - Stratis Myrivilis, Novelist
 - Odysseas Elytis, Nobel laureate poet
 - Georgios Iakovidis, Painter
 - Theofilos Hatzimihail, Folk painter
 - Theophrastus, Ancient philosopher
 - Arion, Ancient poet
 - Elias Venezis, Novelist
 - Loukas Geralis, Painter
 - **Sappho, Ancient lyric poet**

... and many more to discover ...

It's all Greek to me..!

Philoxenía = philó + xénos (to love the stranger or foreigner) meaning the openhearted welcome and hospitality offered to visitors and strangers. In Antiquity, Zeus Xenios, one of the epithets attributed to Jupiter, was the patron god of strangers/travellers.

To you Lesbos brings to mind

...

"Lesbos is the poetry of **Sappho** and the beauty of its pristine and tormented coasts." (The "FOOF Dog Museum Team").
 "How migration is related to urban planning and collaboration on a European level." (Het Nieuwe Instituut).

Are you from Lesbos, too ?

Mountain wind
(Ed 42b)

Just as the wind in the mountains blows the oaks assunder, so did Eros blow my mind.

Sappho

Sappho (/ 'sæfou/; Attic Greek Σαπφώ [**sap**:h̄ŏ:], Aeolic Greek

Ψάπφω, *Psappho* [**psáp**:h̄ŏ:]) was a Greek lyric poet, so greatly admired in Antiquity that

she was called 'the Poetess' in the same way that Homer was 'the Poet'. Indeed, in *Phaedrus*, Plato qualifies her as being wise, while according to an epigram ascribed to him in the *Anthologia Palatina*, he called her the tenth Muse. Little is really known of Sappho's life, other than that she was born in Eressos, on Lesbos, between 630 and 612 BC and died circa 570 BC, meaning that she was a contemporary of fellow poet Alcaeus (or Alkaios) and of tyrant Pittacus of Mytilene. The only contemporary documentation of Sappho's life is her own verse, written to be accompanied by the lyre (hence lyric) with music of her own composition. Yet, although it is estimated to have been the length of half *The Iliad*, today only fragments of that body of work survive. Her work comprises hymns to deities, wedding songs – and the love poems we spontaneously associate her name with.

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