

KOTSANAS MUSEUM OF ANCIENT GREEK TECHNOLOGY

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Abstract

The Kotsanas Museum of ancient Greek Technology includes approximately 500 operating models of exceptional ancient Greek inventions reviving the ancient Greek technological marvel from the robot - servant and the "cinema" of Philon to the "automobile vehicle" of Heron and from the automatic clock of Ktesibios to the Antikythera Mechanism. Their exhibits are based solely on the thorough study of the ancient Greek, Latin and Arabic literature, vase painting information and minimal relevant archeological finds and cover the period from 2000 B.C. until the end of the ancient Greek World. The aim of the museum is to highlight this relatively unknown aspect of ancient Greek civilization and to prove that the technology of the ancient Greeks, just before the end of the ancient Greek world, was extremely similar to the beginning of our modern technology. The robotics and computing, automotive and automatic navigation, steam mobility and jet propulsion, automation and programming, telecommunication and cryptography, geodesy and mapping, the use of hydraulic and wind power, the application of belt drive, chain drive, gear drive and many other sciences and techniques were invented in Greece demonstrating that the course of the western technological culture was not an ascending linear evolution, as we usually know, but a rapid development and culmination during the 3rd c. B.C., a decline and loss of this technology during the following centuries and a gradual recovery, with the 14th c. A.D. balancing the cutting edge technology at the beginning of the 2nd c. B.C.. The exploration of this age, when ownership for peak technology was not claimed, demonstrates how much more (than we think) the modern Western Technological Civilization owes to the Greeks. It is unfortunate that the social, economic and political circumstances during the years that followed, led to the regression of this technological revolution and mankind lost so many centuries of evolution.

Author identification

Panagiotis Kotsanas. Was born in 1993 in Patras, Achaia. He studied in the Department of Chemical Engineering at the National Technical University of Athens (Greece). He has given several speeches regarding ancient greek technology at International Conferences in Greece and abroad (University of Salzburg-Salzburger fruhlings Symposium, National Science Museum of Korea-ISSM etc). He is conducting his research in Ancient Greek Technology, a relatively unknown aspect of the Ancient Greek Civilization and is the head of the educational department at the Museum of Ancient Greek Technology