

Let our past meet the future

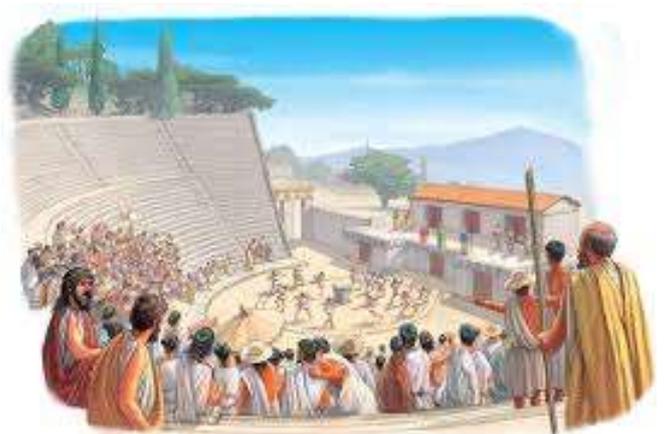
- Acharnes, the town where I grew up, is considered one of the largest demes, according to Thucydides. Located in the west-northwest part of the Attic plain, it's a place that many people and especially tourists, aren't aware of. However, it is full of natural and historical treasures, which make us citizens proud! Firstly, Acharnes was the centre of the Athenian charcoal-burning industry. It was from the woods of mount Parnitha that the Acharnians were enabled to produce charcoal. Mountain Parnitha, is an important place for many animals, such as migratory birds, foxes and deer. It's also known for the cave of Panas, which was once a worship site. Most importantly, in the mountain was the palace of the Greek ex royal family. Apart from the natural sights, my town is well known for its historical past. I feel delighted to live in an area where an ancient tomb was discovered, which - according to many researchers - is the tomb of the ancient Greek tragedian Sophocles. Moreover, if you are familiar with ancient Greek plays, you might know Aristophanes and his worldwide-known play, Acharnians, which has to do with my hometown's citizens. I have to admit that all those glorious historical facts are truly remarkable, however the ancient theatre of Acharnes, is the cultural heritage that I'm mostly proud of.
- The ancient theatre of Acharnes, was discovered in 2007 and it dates back to the first half of the 4th century BC. The orchestra has a horseshoe shape. It is estimated that the theatre can seat 1,500-2,000 spectators. It used to be a venue of music and singing competitions, ancient theatre performances and official ceremonies. The discovery of the theatre, gave



my town a chance to be known for its past. It is of huge importance that we give prominence to it. Most importantly, we will have the opportunity to honor our ancestors, to whom we owe so much. Also, I believe that this piece of art that we are lucky enough to have, would attract many tourists, thus help our town evolve and draw the attention of people such as architects, artists and even celebrities, who might work hard to make this

theatre great again. Last but not least, it is vital that we keep our town's history alive for the next generations.

- The restoration of an ancient theatre is a fascinating and, sometimes, complex procedure which, in order to be completed, needs the love and care of all of us. Giving prominence to such an important monument and incorporating it into our daily lives in most cases includes expropriations, compensations, or even special traffic regulations. Regarding the work that has been done so far, in 2010 "Diazoma" started raising money for the full excavation of the theatre. The first expropriation of the property owned by K. Trivella was completed in 2011 and the second expropriation of the property owned by Borsi, Gritsi and Pouraimi was completed in 2019. Also, in 2010 a citizens' institution called "Episkinion" was founded which has undertaken many different acts for the restoration of the theatre, starting with the placement of an informative sign at the ancient theatre. In July 2019 the Minister of Culture, Mrs L. Mendoni announced the start of excavations at the ancient theatre area.



- Theatre is a kind of art that makes people express their feelings and thoughts through speech, so don't hesitate, let everyone know how important it is to bring our culture out! Anyone willing to help restore the ancient theatre of Acharnes in any way possible, can contact

info@diazoma.gr for more information. I hope that your cultural awareness is increased and you will take action soon!

Written by Student Gavridou Maria - Grade A, 2nd General Lyceum of Acharnes, May 2020



Sources

- <https://el.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Αχαρναι>
- <http://www.diazoma.gr/theaters/apxaiο-θέατρο-αχαρνών/>
- <https://www.google.com/search?q=mount+parnitha&oeq=&aqs=chrome.69i177j46j35i39l3.-1j0j7&client=ms-android-samsung-ss&sourceid=chrome-mobile&ie=UTF-8>