



THE Athenian
Agora
Museum Guide

FIFTH EDITION

Laura Gawlinski

with photographs by
Craig A. Mauzy



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FOREWORD

THIS IS THE FIRST STAND-ALONE EDITION of the *Athenian Agora Museum Guide* and is intended as a companion to the fifth edition of the *Athenian Agora Site Guide* (J. McK. Camp II, 2010), which uses the icon  to highlight objects in the museum. Further information about the antiquities and monuments of the site as well as a short history can be found there. Some material, particularly plans and images, has been repeated here in order to allow each guide to stand alone for convenient use by the visitor. Short bibliographic notes  are at the end of most entries for the visitor who may wish to read more about artifacts on display.

Unless otherwise noted, all translations of inscriptions and texts are by Homer A. Thompson, Director of the Agora Excavations from 1947 until 1967.

Much of the material within this guidebook has been retained from the earlier editions of the *Agora Guide*, which combined into one volume the monuments on the site and the objects in the museum (see M. L. Lang and C. W. J. Eliot [1954], H. A. Thompson [1962, 1976], and J. McK. Camp II [1990]).

This guide takes account of the recent reorganization of the museum galleries, as well as new discoveries and recent scholarship. It is intended for visitors who are in Athens touring the site and is arranged following the order of display in the different areas of the Stoa of Attalos. A general plan of the site, with individual monuments numbered, is in a pocket in the back of the *Site Guide*. Monument numbers on the plan are cross-referenced in the text as . For accounts of the site that draw on the objects discovered there, see H. A. Thompson and R. E. Wycherley, *The Agora of Athens* (*Agora XIV*, 1972), and J. McK. Camp II, *The Athenian Agora* (London, 1986).

At the end of the book, the reader will find a list of the publications of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens that specifically concern material recovered from the Agora. Digital versions of a number of publications, and many other resources, are available through the Web site of the Agora excavations, <http://www.ascsa.edu.gr/index.php/excavationagora>.

This guide includes new color images, prepared by Craig A. Mauzy. Archival images were taken by a succession of Agora

photographers: Alison Franz, James Heyle, Eugene Vanderpool Jr., Robert K. Vincent, and Craig A. Mauzy. Most of the drawings are the work of successive staff architects: John Travlos, William B. Dinsmoor Jr., and Richard Anderson. Support for the publication of the guidebook was provided in part by a grant from the Charles A. Dana Foundation.

Work in the Athenian Agora is sponsored by the American School of Classical Studies at Athens and the Packard Humanities Institute, with support from Randolph-Macon College, the Samuel H. Kress Foundation, and individual donors. The results described here were accomplished by hundreds of individuals. The views expressed are based on the combined thinking of the many scholars who have worked at the Agora excavations for over 80 years.

John McK. Camp II, Director, Agora Excavations

HISTORY AND TIMELINE



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PREHISTORY AND PROTOHISTORY (3200–700 B.C.)

ARCHAIC PERIOD (700–480 B.C.)

CLASSICAL PERIOD (480–323 B.C.)

ca. 3200–2800 B.C.

Late Neolithic period.

Earliest recorded habitation in Athens on the Acropolis slopes.

ca. 3000–1550 B.C.

Early and Middle Helladic periods.

ca. 1550–1100 B.C.

Mycenaean period (Late Helladic or Late Bronze Age).

Period of Greek mythology: fall of Troy; Jason and the Argonauts; Theseus and the Minotaur.

ca. 1100–700 B.C.

Protogeometric and Geometric periods (Early Iron Age).

Period of Greek colonization/migration; Olympic games start, 776 B.C.; introduction of the alphabet; *Iliad* and *Odyssey*.

Late 7th century B.C.

Introduction of black-figure style of painted pottery to Athens.

ca. 600 B.C.

Lawgiver Solon (594 B.C.), beginnings of Athenian democracy.

560–510 B.C.

Rule of the tyrant Peisistratos and his sons Hippias and Hipparchos. Assassination of Hipparchos, 514 B.C.

ca. 515 B.C.

Red-figure style of painted pottery appears in the Agora.

508/7 B.C.

Creation of Athenian democracy under Kleisthenes.

490–479 B.C.

Persian Wars: Battles of Marathon (490 B.C.), Thermopylai (480 B.C.), Salamis (480 B.C.), and Plataia (479 B.C.). Athens destroyed by Persians, 480 B.C.

460–429 B.C.

Age of Perikles, rise of Athens.

431–404 B.C.

Peloponnesian War, Athens versus Sparta (Peace of Nikias, 421–415 B.C.)

399 B.C.

Death of Sokrates.

338 B.C.

Rise of Macedon under Philip II and Alexander; Battle of Chaironeia (338 B.C.); Lykourgos in charge of Athenian finances, 338–326 B.C.

323 B.C.

Death of Alexander the Great.



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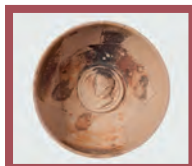
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HELLENISTIC PERIOD (323–86 B.C.)

322 B.C.

Macedonian occupation of Athens begins.

Early 3rd century B.C.

Production of West Slope style of painted pottery begins.

ca. 225 B.C.

Production of moldmade bowls begins.

2nd century B.C.

Production of Neo-Attic sculpture begins.

159–138 B.C.

Building of the Stoa of Attalos, funded by Attalos II, king of Pergamon.

146 B.C.

Ascendancy of Rome in Greece. Sack of Corinth by Mummius.

86 B.C.

Siege and capture of Athens by the Roman general Sulla.

ROMAN PERIOD (86 B.C.–A.D. 250)

27 B.C.–A.D. 14

Reign of Augustus.

A.D. 117–138

Reign of Hadrian.

A.D. 138–161

Reign of Antoninus Pius.

ca. A.D. 150

Visit of Pausanias to Athens.

LATE ROMAN AND BYZANTINE (A.D. 250 +)

A.D. 267

Athens and the Agora burned by the Herulians.

A.D. 330

Founding of Constantinople.

A.D. 396

Invasion of Athens by Visigoths under Alaric; some damage to the Agora.

A.D. 529

Schools of Athens closed by the emperor Justinian.

A.D. 582/3

Devastation probably caused by Slavs; abandonment of the Agora.

10th–12th centuries A.D.

Reoccupation of Agora area; Church of the Holy Apostles built.



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History of the Museum



ARABIAN SCIENCE

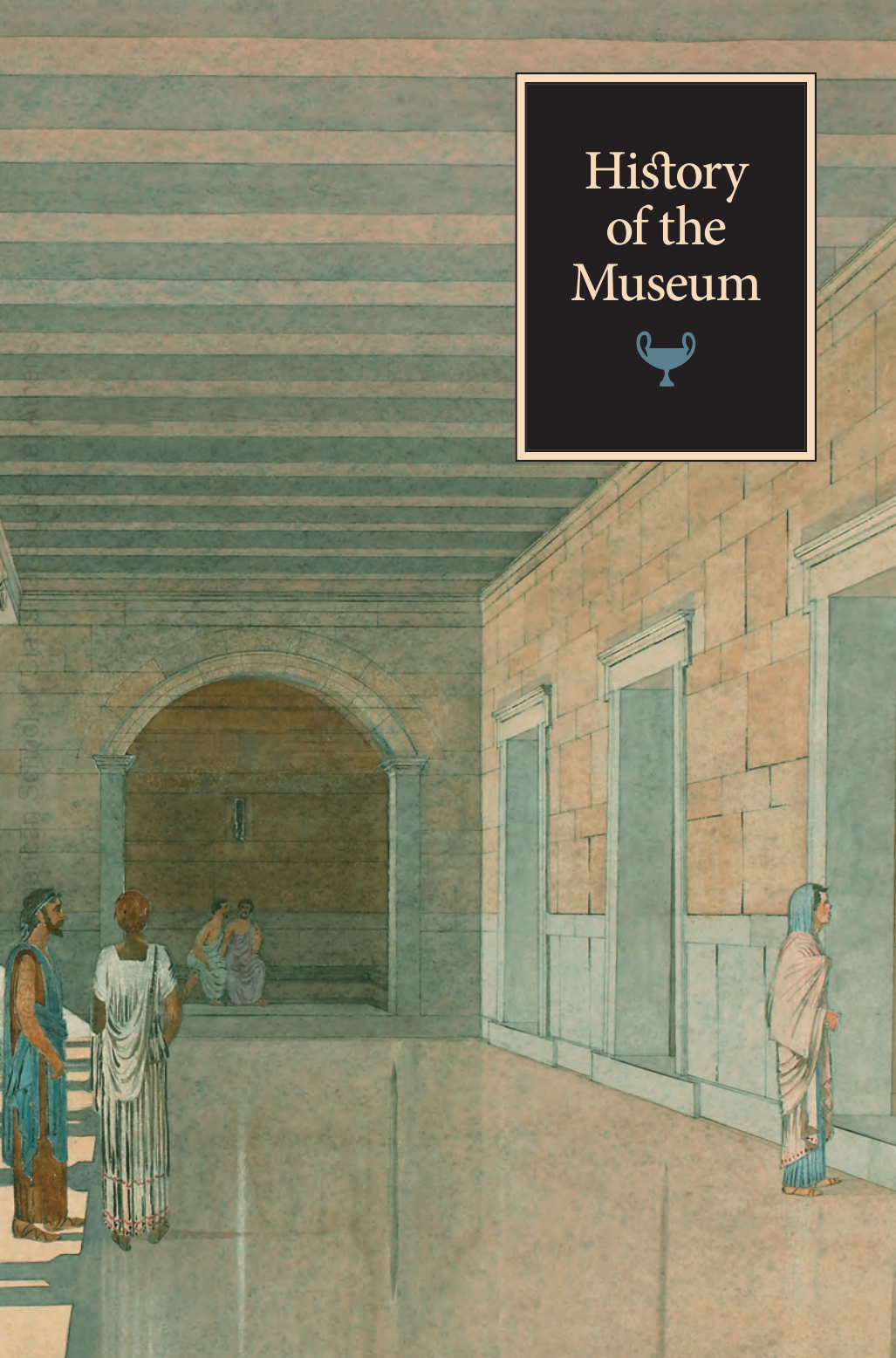




Figure 1. Setting up Apollo Patroos in the reconstructed Stoa of Attalos (August 1956)

ALL OF THE FINDS FROM THE EXCAVATIONS conducted in the Agora by the American School of Classical Studies since 1931 are now housed in the Stoa of Attalos ⁴⁶. Most of the outstanding pieces found in the course of the earlier Greek excavations have been transferred to the Stoa from the National Museum, among them the statues of Apollo Patroos (Fig. 1), a Corinthian capital from the Odeion of Agrippa (now on the site of the Odeion), and the personifications of the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey* (Fig. 25; p. 37). The material from the excavations carried out by the American School on the north slope of the Acropolis and on the Pnyx is also deposited in the Stoa.

The history of the museum is intertwined with the history of the reconstruction of the Stoa of Attalos. Within a few years of the beginning of the excavations at the Agora, the Old Excavation House was no longer sufficient (Fig. 2), and plans for an on-site museum to present the objects in their context were well underway even before the outbreak of World War II. The area west of the Areopagus ⁷⁴ seemed a suitable location for such a museum, and in 1946, preliminary excavations began there and sketches of potential building plans were drawn up. When the excavations brought to light an unanticipated number of important features and finds, excavation director Homer A. Thompson recommended restoration of an ancient building as a solution to the problem of location. The Stoa of Attalos (built by King Attalos II of Pergamon, 159–138 B.C.) was chosen because the building form was suitable for museum galleries and work-space, and enough of the original structure was preserved to permit accurate restoration. The north end even stood to the original roof line. The reconstruction was carried out with the generous financial support of John D. Rockefeller Jr. between 1953–1956 (Fig. 3). In June 1957 the Greek Archaeological Service assumed responsibility for maintaining and guarding the archaeological



Figure 2. Courtyard of the old excavation house



Figure 3. The Stoa of Attalos after reconstruction (1956)

area and the Stoa of Attalos. In preparation for the 2004 Olympics, the Hellenic Ministry of Culture cleaned the façade of the Stoa of Attalos and the ground floor colonnade and reorganized and renovated the galleries of the museum. In 2012 a new exhibition on the upper floor was opened to the public made possible by funding from the European Economic Area (EEA) and the Hellenic Ministry of Development, Competitiveness, and Shipping.

Today, the Stoa not only provides ample space for storage, research, and the display of objects, but also allows the visitor to appreciate the function and form of this common type of ancient public building. It is an excellent example of the fully developed type of stoa: on each of its two stories a two-aisled colonnade was backed by a row of 21 rooms, which served chiefly as shops. In front, a broad terrace ran the entire length of the building. The chief function of the Stoa was to provide a sheltered promenade for informal interaction, which must also have assured its success as a shopping center. The shops were rented by the state to individual merchants, so the building would have served as a source of revenue as well as an ornament to the city. Note the adaptation of the lower, Doric order for a stoa, a building designed for use by numerous people, unlike a temple. These

Doric columns are more widely spaced for easy access, and the lower third of each exterior column is left unfluted so as to prevent damage by people and goods passing in and out of the colonnade.

After undergoing various slight alterations in the course of four centuries, the Stoa shared in the destruction of A.D. 267 by the Herulians, a Germanic tribe. Note the effects of fire on the inner face of the south end wall. A few years later it was incorporated into the Post-Herulian Wall, at which time the facade and all the columns were dismantled for use in strengthening the rear part of the building. The back rooms continued to be used into Ottoman times (15th century).

The survival of enough of the walls and architectural members made possible a detailed and certain restoration. Specimens of the various ancient members were added into the reconstruction, especially toward the south end of the building near the entrance. The restoration was carried out in the same materials as the original: marble for the facade, columns, and interior trim; limestone for the walls; and terracotta tiles for the roof. The upper floor and the roof are now supported on beams of reinforced concrete enclosed in wooden shells that reproduce exactly the spacing and dimensions of the original beams of solid wood. The design of the wooden doors was recovered from cuttings in the marble jambs and thresholds, and from the analogy of surviving ancient tomb doors made of marble in imitation of wood.

Through this reconstruction, the visitor can understand the suitability of stoas as public gathering spaces. The spacious colonnades provided shelter for literally thousands of people, protecting them from sun in summer and wind and rain in winter, while allowing light and fresh air in abundance.



Agora XIV (1972), pp. 230–233; C. A. Mauzy, *Agora Excavations, 1931–2006: A Pictorial History* (Athens, 2006), pp. 26–73.