

GREECE

Pythagoreion and Heraion of Samos

Brief description

Many civilizations have inhabited this small Aegean island, near Asia Minor, since the 3rd millennium B.C. The remains of Pythagoreion, an ancient fortified port with Greek and Roman monuments and a spectacular tunnel-aqueduct, as well as the Heraion, temple of the Samian Hera, can still be seen.

1. Introduction

Year(s) of Inscription 1992

Agency responsible for site management

- Hellenic Ministry of Culture
21st Ephorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities
Ministry of Culture
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2. Statement of Significance

Inscription Criteria C (ii), (iii)

Justification provided by the State Party

Samos, due to its geographical place in the eastern Aegean, securing easy communications with the coast of Asia Minor was one of the most important centres of political and cultural developments in the prehistoric age (4th mil. B.C.) until almost the Middle Ages.

During the geometric age (9th-8th cent. B.C.) the ceramic and copper finds of the Heraion and the ancient city prove that Samos had developed her own style, which was in relation with Attica, the hellenic centres of the Asian coasts and the Dodekanese.

In the Archaic age the Samians established colonies across the coast of Ionia and Thrace as well as in the West and they developed relations even with Egypt and Spain.

Already as from the first half of the 6th cent., Samos was established as one of the most

important artistic centres of the hellenic world. This is proved even by the fact that the invention of the construction of copper hollow statues is attributed to Roikos and Theodoros of Samos. Another proof, the two or three colossal marble koyroi 5m height, dated at the beginning of the 6th cent., remains of which have been found. A well-known sculptor of that period is Geneleos; statues of one of his masterpieces have been found.

The sanctuary and the ancient city were adorned with splendid sculptures, which nominated Samos as one of the great centres of sculpture in the Ionic world. We must also mention the renown local ceramic and copper workshops.

Offerings from the area of the Eastern Mediterranean, the Asia Minor, Corinth, Attica, Laconia, Dodekanese, Crete, Syria, Phoenike, Cyprus, Egypt even from Persia have pouring in the sanctuary of Hera.

The philosopher and mathematician Pythagoras was born in Samos and also Aristarchos the Samian who first in the 4th cent. B.C. established the theory of the planet system.

The most important ancient writers who have dealt with Samos are Pausanias, Herodotus, Plutarch and Strabon.

Pausanias mentions that according to the local tradition Hera was born on the coast of the river Imvrasos under a withe, her holy tree, where later was founded her sanctuary.

We therefore believe that due to the important role that Samos played in the development of the hellenic art, culture and thinking, we should pay the appropriate attention and respect to its heritage.

As provided in ICOMOS/IUCN evaluation

That this cultural property be included on the World Heritage List on the basis of Criteria ii and iii.

- Criterion ii : The temple of Hera at Samos is fundamental to an understanding of classical architecture. The stylistic and structural innovations in each of its successive phases strongly influenced the design of temples and public buildings throughout the Greek world. The technological mastery of the Eupalineio similarly served as a model for engineering and public works.

- Criterion iii : Samos was the leading maritime and mercantile power in the Greek world in the 6th century B.C., and this importance is reflected in the extent and richness of the archaeological remains, which are largely untouched by subsequent

development.

Committee Decision

Bureau (1992): Although recommending this property for inscription, the Bureau requested the competent Greek authorities to give assurances regarding the protection of the natural environment of this property.

- Statement of significance does not adequately define the outstanding universal value of the site. At the time of initial inscription, the World Heritage Committee did not approve a Statement of Significance for the site which defined the outstanding universal value
- Proposal for text has been made by State Party

Boundaries and Buffer Zone

- Status of boundaries of the site: adequate
- Buffer zone: adequate
- The buffer zones are sufficient and include, for the Pythagoreion the area inside the walls of the Ancient city of Samos with a 500-m wide buffer zone; for the Heraion, the area taken up by the Ancient Greek Sanctuary of the goddess Hera with the buffer zone around that. The criteria used to delimit the Buffer Zone for the Ancient city of Samos were the remnants of human activity in the area around the city, while for the Heraion, it was the expanse that used to be occupied by the Sanctuary to the goddess Hera. In both instances, the extent of the aesthetic damage that would be caused to the ancient city and to the Sanctuary itself by modern building activities was taken into consideration
- Pythagoreion: 1. Ministerial Decision 11107/1963, Government Gazette 408/A/1963; 2. Ministerial Decision 40292/1401/1984, Government Gazette 598/B/1984; 3. Presidential Decree Government Gazette 798/D/1991
- Heraion: Ministerial Decision 25291/1969, Government Gazette 635/B/1969

Status of Authenticity/Integrity

- World Heritage site values have been maintained
- The 21st EPCA, in its supervisory capacity, constantly monitors the protected areas, inspecting their condition, and intervenes as suitable, in order to avoid any alterations that would cause problems to the integrity and authenticity of the monuments

3. Protection

Legislative and Administrative Arrangements

- The regime of protecting the ancient city of Samos and the Heraion of Samos and specifically: A) Ministerial Decision 11107/1963 Government Gazette 408/A/1963 designating the city inside the ancient walls of the Pythagoreion to be an archaeological site. B) Ministerial Decision 40292/1401/1984, Government Gazette 598/B./1984 for the extension of the designated archaeological site of the Pythagoreion. C) Presidential Decree Government Gazette 798/Δ/1991 on defining the buffer zones for the designated archaeological site of the Pythagoreion; D) Ministerial Decision 25291/1968 Government Gazette 635/B/1969 designating the buffer zone for the archaeological site of the Heraion E) Presidential Decree Government Gazette 100/ Δ /1995 designating the zones of residential control in the Municipalities and Communities of the island of Samos, in combination with the provision of Law “On the protection of antiquities and cultural heritage in general”, has achieved to a great extent the protection of the aforementioned monuments. Sometimes it is extremely difficult to achieve this goal, particularly on the site of the ancient city, thankfully not with respect to the integrity of the monuments, but instead in their visual “assault” by planned municipal works
- A presidential Decree was issued defining the zones of residential control in the Municipalities and the Communities of the island of Samos, which included Pythagoreion and the Heraion
- The protection arrangements are considered sufficiently effective

4. Management

Use of site/property

- Paid visitor attraction

Management /Administrative Body

- Management by the State Party, under protective legislation
- Site manager with responsibilities added to an existing job
- Levels of public authority who are primarily involved with the management of the site: national
- The current management system is sufficiently effective

5. Management Plan

- No management plan
- The management and the protection of monuments and archaeological sites in Greece is not based on a concrete management plan. Greece has a system of protection, which is administered centrally by the Ministry of Culture through its regional services, i.e. the Ephorates of Prehistoric & Classical and Byzantine Antiquities. The Ministry of Culture is the competent body supervising the sites and overseeing all works carried out. As far as the safeguarding of cultural and natural heritage is concerned, there are cases where other competent bodies besides the Ministry of Culture are involved. The Ministry of Culture sets out the guidelines and the general policy for the management of the monuments and sites which is then implemented by the competent Ephorates. In the case of Pythagoreion and Heraion of Samos the 21st Ephorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities is responsible for the management and protection of the monuments.

6. Financial Resources

Financial situation

- National resources
- 3rd Community Support Framework (for the Heraion)
- Insufficient funding for the protection and conservation of the site and for its adequate management; the funding that currently exists for the Heraion has a termination date. Constant funding by the State is required in order to maintain monuments in good condition. Pythagoreion requires generous funding in order to achieve the goals set by the 21st EPCA to create a unified archaeological park on the site of the ancient city of Samos

7. Staffing Levels

- Number of staff: 9

Rate of access to adequate professional staff across the following disciplines:

- Very good: interpretation
- Good: management, education, visitor management
- Average: promotion
- Bad: conservation
- The hiring of permanent expert staff is required in order to deal with all the problems at the sites

8. Sources of Expertise and Training in Conservation and Management Techniques

- At present no specific expertise or training is provided
- Training available for stakeholders

9. Visitor Management

- Visitor statistics: 100,000-120,000 (ticket counting), 2004
- Visitor facilities: ticket booths and lavatories at the Heraion and the Eupalineian Tunnel, Electrical lighting at the Eupalineian Tunnel
- Visitor needs: the infrastructure is suitable but insufficient:

Heraion: At the Heraion it is necessary to create visitor paths and to place information signs. Plans to transfer the visitor entrance of the Archaeological Site are under preparation; also the construction of a new ticket office; provide electrical lighting for the site; and to organise a photographic exhibition and a visitor information room

Pythagoreion: An information sign is planned for the Eupalineian Tunnel at the Pythagoreion. For the archaeological site of Thermai at Pythagoreion the construction of a ticket office is planned and is necessary, as is the creation of visitor paths

10. Scientific Studies

- Risk assessment; archaeological surveys; visitor management
- Risk evaluations studies (Heraion) will play a significant part in planning the conservation work at the archaeological site

11. Education, Information and Awareness Building

- An adequate number of signs referring to World Heritage site
- World Heritage Convention Emblem used on some publications
- Need for awareness raising: by organising day fora to inform teachers and students as well as the local community
- There is an educational programme about the Heraion and the Archaeological Museum at Vathy, Samos, where the finds from the Heraion are on display. This includes an informative walk at the archaeological site of the Heraion for students and a guided tour at

the sculpture exhibition of the Archaeological Museum at Vathy, Samos

- Over the past few years a number of documented archaeological guides to the Heraion of Samos, Samos in general and the Eupalineion Tunnel by specialized scientists are published; also a documentary about the archaeological wealth of Samos was produced, translated into the major languages. A series of information stations are planned for the archaeological site of the Heraion. Moreover, a similar station will be installed at the Archaeological Museum of the Pythagoreion; its construction will soon be completed. The Archaeological Museum at Vathy, Samos, has on display the unique finds from the excavations at the Heraion, while the Archaeological Collection of Pythagoreion displays a few, representative objects from the site of the ancient city of Samos
- Web site available
- Local participation: daily contact with the local community, the organisation of lectures and tours, all contribute to raising public awareness of the values of the monuments

12. Factors affecting the Property (State of Conservation)

Reactive monitoring reports

- World Heritage Bureau sessions: 17th (1993); 18th (1994)
- World Heritage Committee sessions: 17th (1993)

Conservation interventions

- Conservation; restoration works: *Heraion*: Constant care is taken to clear the site of the teeming vegetation in order to ensure the integrity and protection of the site's monuments, as they can undergo corrosion by the plant roots and also in order for the site to be accessible and visible with its individual monuments. Conservation interventions at the site are scheduled, in order to ensure the integrity and conservation of the monuments. *Pythagoreion*: Constant diligence for the deplantation of the archaeological sites
- Present state of conservation: adequate, needs more resources

Threats and Risks to site

- Natural disaster(s); visitor/tourism pressure
- Specific issues if mentioned: the position of the Sanctuary of Hera, which is marshy and with

uncontrolled growth of reeds and bushes, is the major problem that has to be dealt with in the conservation of this monumental site. The site has exceptionally high humidity, giving rise to a lot of vegetation, which is certainly a negative factor for the monuments whose foundations are sunk into this wet ground. The surface walls of the monuments frequently display phenomena such as flaking, which the Service is attempting to counteract with studies that are underway with special conservators from the Stone Centre and the Conservation Directorate of the Ministry of Culture. The Service plans for conservation interventions at the site; these interventions will include burying sections of the foundations of the dipteral temple of Polycrates, which presents the most serious conservation problems. The uncontrolled vegetation growth is dealt with to the extent possible by clearing the site using workers; such work is painstaking and expensive, but most effective. Luckily, the existence of the airport at that specific location does not create particular problems for the Site's monuments, as shown in research conducted by experts measuring the vibrations caused by the aircraft taking off and landing, when these take place near the Heraion. The major rainstorm of 2000 at Samos, caused major upheaval, as it caused the entire archaeological site of the Heraion to be flooded by rainwater. The floodway leading the waters to the sea could not withstand the large volume of water from the precipitation. Persistence and great effort on the part of the Ephorate staff resulted in the channelling of the water into the sea and in a few days the situation was dealt with, without damage to the Site Monuments. *Pythagoreion*, Thermai: Weather conditions and time are damaging to the integrity of ancient monuments. A major problem for the wider archaeological site of the Pythagoreion is the free grazing of animals: Legal action brought against the shepherds by the Ephorates and recommendations to shepherds have unfortunately not borne fruit, and for this purpose the Ephorate intends to set into motion the procedure to forbid grazing within the buffer zones of the ancient city of Samos as well as at boundaries of the archaeological site of the Heraion towards the sea, where, luckily, the situation has improved over the last few years. Illegal building: The human factor is the third factor causing damage to the ancient monuments. Attempts by private individuals to build illegally within Buffer Zone A of absolute protection of the ancient city of Samos (now Pythagoreion) and within the

buffer zone protecting the archaeological site of the Heraion, creates problems for the Service, with the result that many cases end up in Court

- Emergency measures taken: there is a programme in progress for the general enhancement/protection of the Heraion

13. Monitoring

- No formal monitoring programme
- Measures taken/planned: Pythagoreion and Heraion of Samos do not have measurement indicators up to date, however, the climate conditions of these areas are well known, as is the degree to which these conditions affect the ancient monuments. Daily observation of the ancient monuments, constant diligence and dealing directly with any problems that might arise, have resulted in the monuments being in better condition now than they were when they were designated World Heritage Sites. Despite this, it would be useful for the monuments to have an integrated study on the overall conservation, landscaping and enhancement

14. Conclusions and Recommended Actions

- Main benefits of WH status: conservation, social, economic, management
- Despite the problems caused by the inevitable effect of the weather and the climate, as well as the influence of the human factor, the ancient city of Samos, and the ancient sanctuary of Hera preserve unaltered the values for which they were designated World Heritage Sites, due to the constant efforts of the Ministry of Culture to that end
- The State Party, through its competent Services, constantly monitors the condition of the ancient monuments of Pythagoreion and the Heraion; it intervenes where it is judged to be necessary. With constant monitoring the monuments remain visible, in good condition and capable of receiving visitors safely, both as regards the safety of the monument and that of the visitors
- Weaknesses of management: expert staff must be hired, studies carried out, the required funding obtained to ensure the prerequisites for organizing a programme of uninterrupted conservation of the monuments are met, to maintain their integrity and the values for which they were designated World Heritage Sites

Future actions:

- Submission to the Ministry of Culture of requests for generous funding in order to ensure the required staffing levels and the means to deal with existing problems