

# Reminiscence Programmes In The Museum: The Example Of The Handicraft – Industrial Educational Museum

By  
Sophia Roque-Melas  
Handicraft-Industrial Educational Museum  
Lavrio, Greece

Paper presented for the conference "Can Oral History Make Objects Speak?",  
Nafplion, Greece. October 18-21, 2005.

---

The Handicraft-Industrial Educational Museum is a non-profit educational and cultural organization based inside the grounds of the Technological and Cultural Park of Lavrion. The objective of the Handicraft-Industrial Educational Museum is to collect, preserve, research and exhibit materials, for educational purposes, which relate to the handicraft and industrial past of the region and also by extension to the technological, economic, social and cultural history of Greece.

The Handicraft-Industrial Educational Museum is, in effect, a *“living workshop”* linking the many dispersed historical landmarks found in the Lavrion region. This networking, in itself, constitutes a landmark in the Museum’s educational journey. One of the primary activities of the Museum is the educational programs for school groups. These educational programs are created specifically around *the abilities and special needs of the target groups attending* and take into consideration the unique qualities and/or restrictions of the space where the program is held.

## **The Educational Programs aim:**

- To familiarize young people with museum spaces and the cultural, historical, industrial and technological heritage of Greece. To create a pleasant experience from a visit to the museum by considering the special needs and particular abilities of the visitors.

- To promote the development of observation, research and comprehension skills in children using the objects, both man-made and natural, that form the exhibits. To give children a chance to discover their own ways of relating to exhibit materials as a basis for future, independent visits to the museum and, in general, for improving their observation skills.
- To sensitize teachers to the use of museums as learning centers and engage their active participation in the educational methods used.

**“Bringing back memories: What I remember about the former French Mining Company of Lavrion”** The Handicraft – Industrial Educational Museum, by recognizing the contribution of oral history to its educational and social work, designed – in cooperation with the former employees of the French Mining Company of Lavrion – a personal memories educational program titled: *“Bringing back memories: What I remember about the former French Mining Company of Lavrion”* The students have the opportunity to collect information on the former French Mining Company of Lavrion, drawing their information not only from the former employees, but also from the museum space itself. Former employees share their memories and experiences with the students, providing for them a living source of research. The former employees share the knowledge, experiences, memories and feelings.

### **The B.B.E.M. educational methodology in the framework of the museum practice**

<b>EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM</b>	<b>Bringing bank memories: What I remember about the former French Mining Company of Layrion.</b>
<b>SPONSOR</b>	<b>ALPHA BANK</b>
<b>SPACE</b>	<b>Lavrion Technological &amp; Cultural Park</b>
<b>DURATION</b>	<b>90 minutes</b>
<b>AGE OF CHILDREN</b>	<b>(2nd – 6th Grade of Elementary School and also Junior and Senior High School) NUMBER OF CHILDREN: 30 (100-200) CHILDREN</b>
<b>MATERIALS</b>	
<b>GOALS</b>	<b>See below</b>
<b>METHODS</b> <b>Historical Method</b> <b>Recollections</b>	<b>FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS</b>

**Specific goals of the educational program** To discover information about the former French Mining Company of Lavrion To create their own book with information about the former French Mining Company of Lavrion To give the visitor the ability to act as a researcher by selecting information, having at their disposal living sources (both the Industrial Museum and its former employees) In the educational program

**“Bringing back memories: What I remember about the former French Mining Company of Lavrion”**

participants follow the method of the historian and select information about the former French Mining Company, combining two basic elements: space and living sources.

**Snapshots from the Educational Program**



**Frequently Asked Questions:**

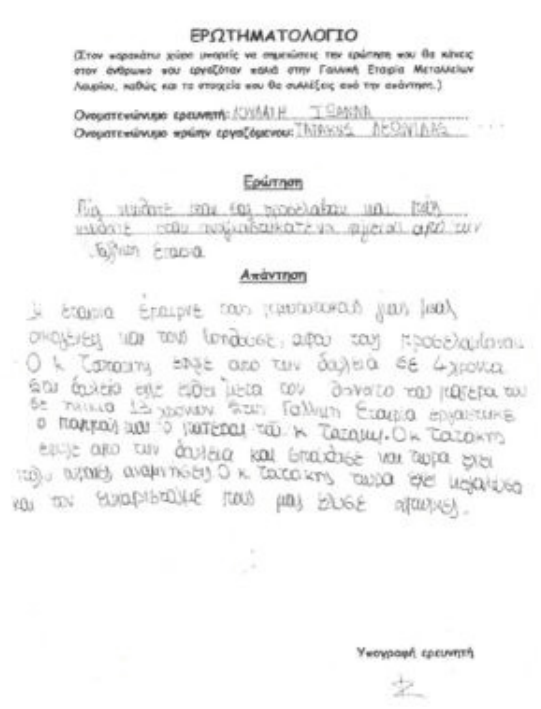
Q. How many years did you work at your job?

A. 38 years.

Q. What was the most difficult machine?

A. The most difficult was the air hammer. It worked air and a wheel. That machine especially required a lot of caution and skill. Q. To have good results, did you work as a team? Were there arguments among you?

A. We worked together as a team. There weren't a lot of arguments because we had



to get along in order to achieve our goals and get paid. The only argument was would be first in line to get the food which the company provided.

**Evaluation of the educational**

**program** Museum staff observe the students and record their reactions and suggestions Teachers evaluate the program by writing their own thoughts and suggestions without prompts (naturalistic evaluation).

**Contributions of the educational**

**program** Contributes to strengthening the ties between the museum and the local community

- Brings the public in contact with the former French Mining Company of

Lavrion in an experiential manner Demonstrates the importance of personal testimony by using it as a basic method of gathering information Provides an emotional outlet for the former employees and a way to play a meaningful role in contemporary society

**Stephanos Poutachidis, a former employee's comments about the**

**program:** "Each program is a unique experience. The children transmit their liveliness and enthusiasm to you. They look you in the eyes, hang on your every word, make you feel useful. It's like you give them a piece of yourself. Each program gives you something else, and you take a lot in return".

ΒΙΟΤΕΧΝΙΚΟ ΒΙΟΜΗΧΑΝΙΚΟ  
ΕΚΠΑΙΔΕΥΤΙΚΟ ΜΟΥΣΕΙΟ

ΑΡΧΟΛΑΥΡΙΣΤΙΝΗΣ ΤΕΧΝΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ ΚΑΙ ΒΙΟΜΗΧΑΝΙΑΣ  
ΕΚΠΑΙΔΕΥΤΙΚΟ ΜΟΥΣΕΙΟ

Έδρα: Τεχνολογικό & Βιομηχανικό Πάρκο Λαυρίου, Κτίριο Χαμάκι - Τμήμα Περιεχομένου  
Λαυρίου, Αττικής 1 ΑΛΑΥΡΙΟ Τ.Κ. 19500, Τηλ.: 2292025575, 2292063178-9  
Φαξ: 2292063178 - Email: b\_boutachidis@yahoo.gr

Ημερομηνία: 10/11/2005  
Εκπαιδευτικό πρόγραμμα: Αλλαγή στη συνείδηση  
Σχολείο: Γυμνάσιο Αρifiμίδας  
Διεύθυνση σχολείου: Ολυμπία Παλαιολέων και Ολυβία  
Τηλέφωνο σχολείου: 85010 Φαξ:  
Τάξη: Γ Γυμνασίου  
Αριθμός παιδιών που συμμετείχαν: 45  
Όνοματεπώνυμο ερευνητή/τριας: κ. Πουταχίδου Μαρία  
Όνοματεπώνυμο συνοδού εκπαιδευτικού: κ. Έβραγος Χαράλαμπος

**Σ' ΑΥΤΟ ΤΟ ΧΩΡΟ ΜΠΟΡΕΙΤΕ ΝΑ ΓΡΑΨΕΤΕ  
ΤΙΣ ΕΝΤΥΠΩΣΕΙΣ ΣΑΣ ΑΠΟ ΤΟ ΕΚΠΑΙΔΕΥΤΙΚΟ ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ**

Ήταν μια ατόμητη προσπάθεια τα παιδιά χωρίστηκαν σε ομάδες  
Ερέψαμε το χώρο. Είναι πολύ ενδιαφέρουσες έρωτικές τους  
πρωτοεργασίες και συνέταξαν ένα κείμενο.  
Πέρα από τις πληροφορίες που άρχισαν για το επεξεργαστή  
του μαζύρου, φτιάχτηκαν στο μίγμα της εποχής και ζαχαρώδη  
όχι τις δυνατότητες των σιδηρών δουλειών του εργαζομένου.



## Development and future prospects

- Interviews with all the former employees for the archives of the Museum.



- Enrichment of the Museum collection through the addition of personal objects used by former employees which they feel are important to use in the program.



- Participation of former employees in other educational programs: schools, school groups, non-school groups, families, holidays, workshops





A student of the fifth grade gives this drawing to the former employees of the French Company and thanks them very much.

