

# WOLF'S PLUMB BOB NEWS 2012

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## COLLECTORS MEETING in ATHENS

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[www.plumbbobcollectors.info](http://www.plumbbobcollectors.info)

Dear Fellow Collector,  
Dear reader of the PLUMB BOB NEWS,

Please, as always I am in search of new photos, catalogs, articles or personal stories about any aspect of PLUMB BOBS from you. Any help is appreciated.

**If you have any information or pictures for these themes, please let me know.**

Thank you, looking forward to hearing from you

Wolf

### 4 th INTERNATIONAL PLUMB BOB COLLECTOR'S MEETING IN ATHENS, GREECE

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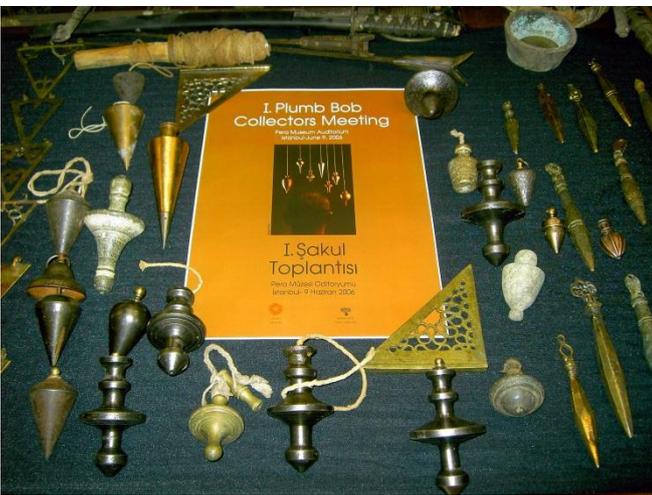
**4th INTERNATIONAL  
PLUMB BOB COLLECTORS MEETING  
OCT. 5, - 7, 2012 ATHENS, GREECE**

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**COLLECTORS DINNER  
PRESENTATIONS  
SIGHTSEEING**

# 1. INTRODUCTION/REVIEW

Since 2006 some plumb bob collectors meet every two years in a European city to change information and talk about plumb bobs. The first time Dogan Basak organized the meeting in ISTANBUL, Turkey. It was a

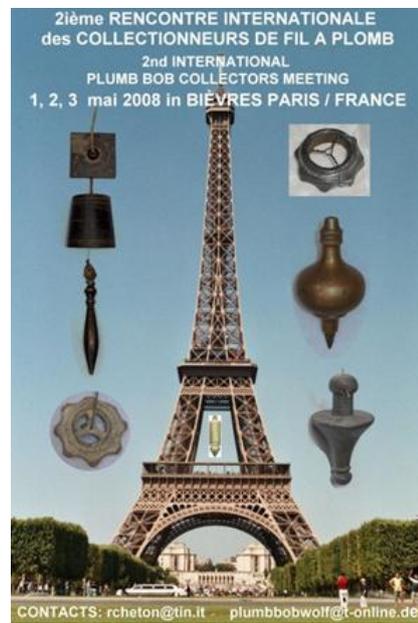


big success for us and we decided to do it again two years later.



We choose the Antique Tool Market that was every Mai 1st organized by the " FRIENDS OF TOOLS" „Les amis de l’Outil“ LADO in Bièvres near Paris, France as base for the meeting in 2008. A video of the tool market you can see on <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.lesamisdeloutil.net>



COLOGNE, Germany was the city in Oct 2010. We visited the cathedral and the very famous plane museum of Gerhard Schmitz in Langenfeld.



3. INTERNATIONALES SENKLOTSAMMLER TREFFEN 1. - 3. Okt 2010 in KÖLN und LANGENFELD

3rd INTERNATIONAL PLUMB BOB COLLECTORS MEETING Oct. 1. - 3, 2010 COLOGNE / Germany

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This year we flew to ATHENS, GREECE for our 4<sup>th</sup> International Meeting to use the last hot days of this summer for a very interesting weekend.

## 2. PROGRAM

Unfortunately this time some friends from Canada, Guatemala, Spain and France could not participate. But there will be a chance in two years again.

The program was as follows:

**Friday Oct. 5, 2012**

Arrival (some of us arrived already earlier)

In the evening COLLECTORS DINNER

**Saturday Oct. 6, 2012** Visit of the Acropolis with a special guide

Visit of the Acropolis museum

In the afternoon presentations by collectors in a small museum

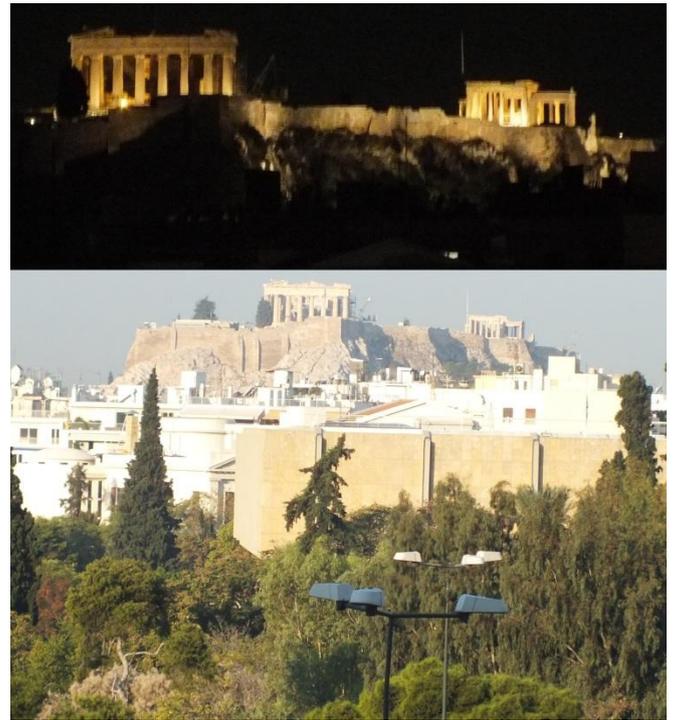
Evening in the downtown

**Sunday Oct. 7, 2012** visit of some museums or the antique market and departure back home

Below the official photo of the group.

We stayed in the Hilton hotel. It was not more expensive than the other hotels and we could be together.

Photo below shows the view from our room at night and day: direct view to the Acropolis. Phantastic!



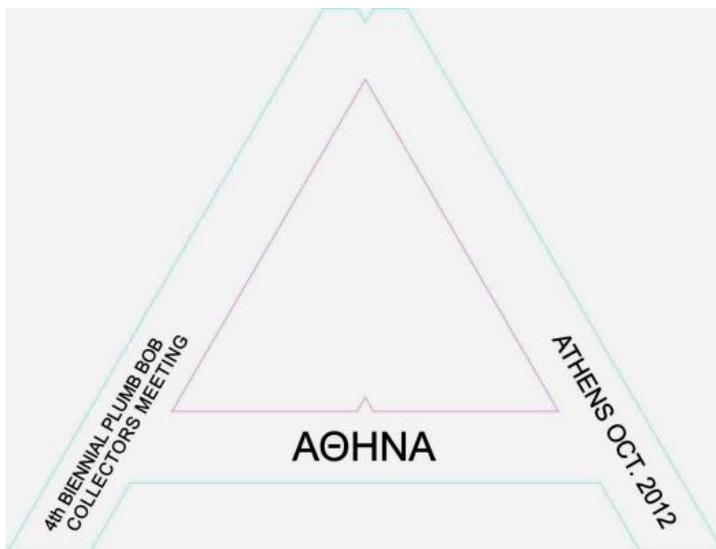
### 3. PRESENTS FOR THE PARTICIPANTS

Each participant got two presents: One A-LEVEL of Plexiglas and a reference book about the Acropolis especially the Parthenon.

Let Elias tell the story about the A-level:

*“Back in 2010, when it was announced that participants of the Cologne meeting voted to hold their next meeting in Athens, I started thinking about creating a commemorative present for this event. I decided that an A-LEVEL would be appropriate because it combines a plumb bob and the letter A, which is the initial of Athens or AΘHNA, as it is called in Greek.*

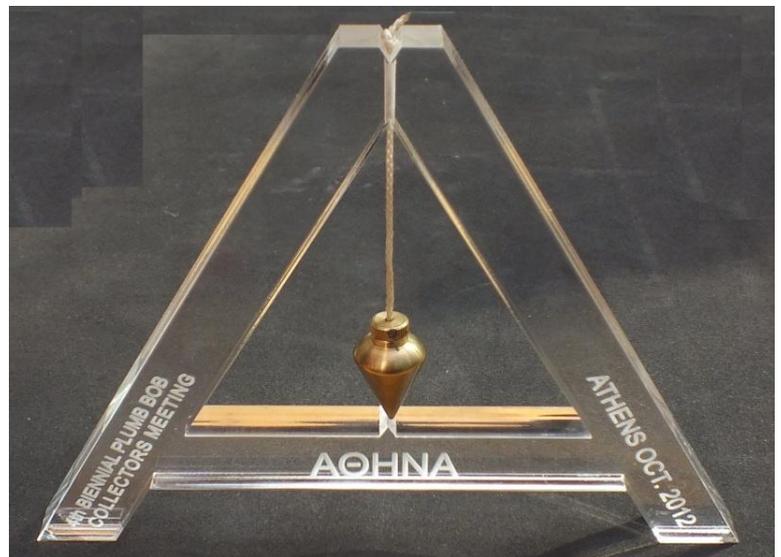
*Having worked in the Model Workshop at the School of Architecture in Athens, I knew the capabilities of the laser cutter. Therefore it was easy for me to design and create a preliminary model of the level in Plexiglas, cut and etched by*



*laser. First, I asked Wolf to provide details about the design of A-levels. I decided to choose a 60 degrees top angle, instead of the more common right angle, because the shape looked more like the letter A and there would be less material waste by positioning the A's as shown in the drawing.*

*As I could not find a suitable small sized plumb bob in Greece I contacted Wolf who made a search in the German market. It is his part of the story to describe how he spotted the right sized plumb bobs. (WOLF: Since it was not possible to find the quantity and size of the plumb bob on the market, I asked the factory Gampper to help us. A worker produced in a special shift on Friday evening the full working plumb bobs for this instrument. Many thanks for this help!)*

*The A-levels were laser cut in 10 mm Plexiglas in September 2012. The tricky part was to drill*



*accurately the hole on the top. As shown in the picture, a special jig (see fig. below) was made to hold the A under a column drilling machine. The result is pretty accurate, so the A-level can also be used to check horizontality. Only twenty pieces were cut. The final assembly was made on Thursday night (4/10) when Wolf brought with him twenty brass plumb-bobs packed carefully in a black velvet pouch. The assembled A-levels were distributed to participants and people who helped organize the Athens Meeting.*

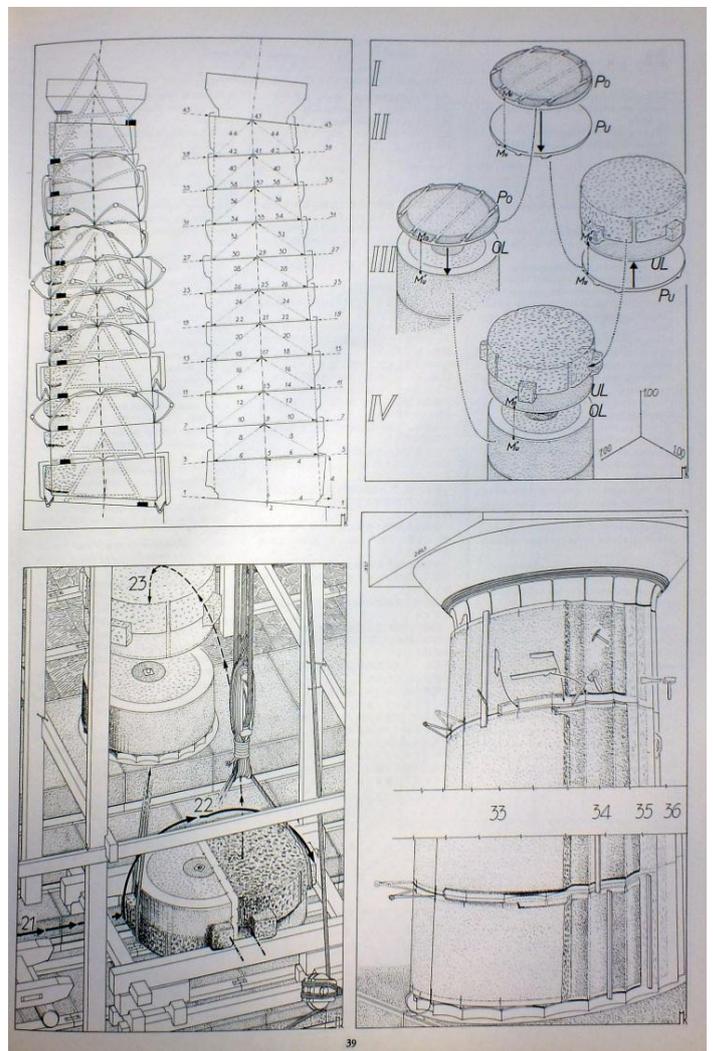


The A-Level is functional and can be used as a measuring instrument.

But also on the office desk it looks nice and is a good conversation tool



Fig. below:  
Elias with the A-level in the lobby of the hotel.



The reference book **THE PARTHENON, ARCHITECTURE AND CONSERVATION** (see figures right) was published for an exhibition in Osaka, Japan in 1996, edited by M. Korres, G. A. Panetsos and T. Seki.

Let me copy some sentences from this book: *"The Parthenon; the masterpiece of Classical art; was successor to a series of other temples that stood on the same site from at least the beginning of the 6<sup>th</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup> c. BC ...The Parthenon was built in a very short period of time between the years 447 and 438 BC. A further five years were needed to place sculptures in position on the pediments. The work was financed by public money deriving from a variety of sources, the most important of which were the silver mines at Laurion."*

Most of the drawings in this book are from Prof. Manolis Korres. (see next chapter)

Friday evening we had our traditional **COLLECTORS DINNER** in a small restaurant near the hotel. We had a lot to talk about the last two years. It is a difference to talk together face to face than sending emails or using the www.



## 4. PRESENTATIONS AT THE ACROPOLIS



Classification of the pillars contact area into three zones

The Saturday started very early for us at 8 a clock (and ended very late. ☺). Together we went by metro to the Acropolis. There, we met with several hundred tourists from a cruise ship who also wanted to visit the Acropolis. See fig. right. We received from Professor Manolis Korres, who was several decades involved in the restoration of the Parthenon temple four hours a very profound and interesting introduction to the details of the history of the Parthenon temple in its various phases. From the planning through procurement of the stones from special quarries nearby up to the destruction by explosion.

I will not repeat all the explanations, and so I propose that you should google for “Prof. Manolis Korres” or search in Wikipedia for more information about the work of Prof. Korres and the Parthenon. I had the impression that he knows the history of every single stone over there. After several hours of strenuous climbing under the still very strong Athenian sun we “rescued” us into the cool Parthenon Museum, to look at the exhibited artefacts.



The statements were checked



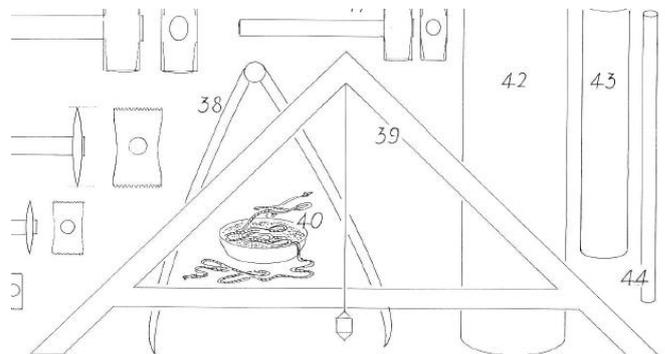
Hundreds of visitors from a cruise ship



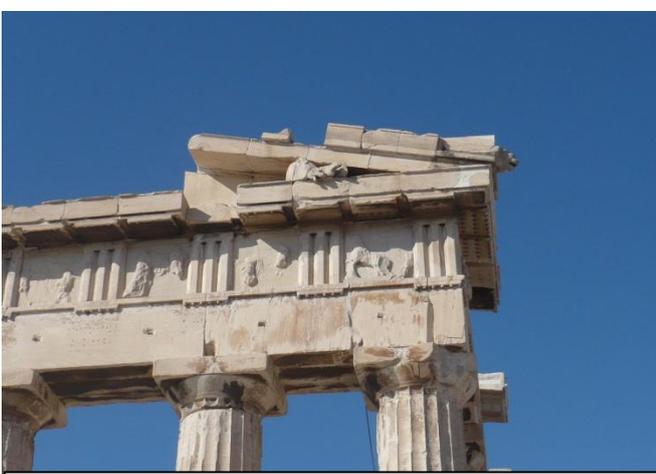
Excellent explanation of the procedure



In the heat a shady place was needed.



A-level, chalk line and dividers  
from book: Korres, Manolis: From Pentelicon to the Parthenon  
Melissa Publishing House, Athens, 2001.



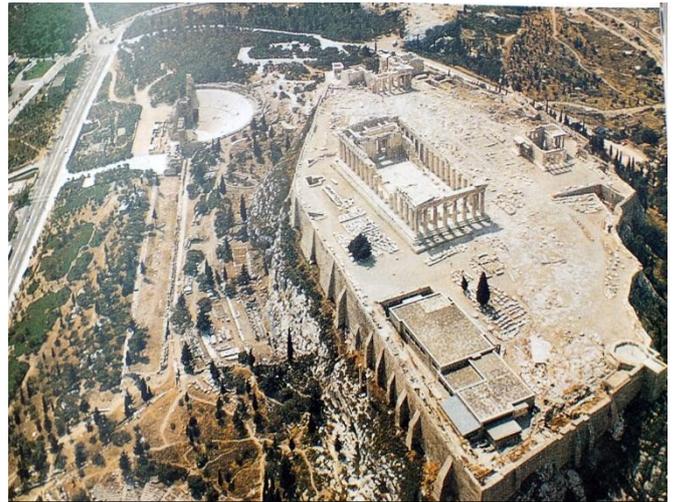
Detail of the roof of the Parthenon



Prof. Korres gets his A-LEVEL



Theater



Overview of the Acropolis with Parthenon



Everywhere restoration. Even with cranes.



Prof. Korres tells us engaged the displacement in perspective view from the entrance to the stairs of the Acropolis



Prof. Korres shows the accuracy in the preparation of the great columns parts

Walking together through the narrow streets of downtown we arrived in the afternoon the MUSEUM OF GREEK FOLK ART "MAN & TOOLS" in 22 Panos street. Here we got the chance (after the opening hours) to use a room for our presentations.

While Elias with his daughter Maria and his son Makis installed the technic for the presentation (see figure right), we visited the exhibition.

This exhibition aims to:

- Discuss the various uses of the objects, as well as the real and symbolic meanings of the objects in the collection.
- highlight aspects of labour in the pre-industrial world
- endorse the rituals and traditions associated with man and his work
- discuss the relation between the recent past and the present through the displays of about 300 collected objects

Below some photos of plumb bobs in the rooms.



**REMARK**

The presentations below you can see and download completely soon on my web site [www.plumbbobcollectors.info](http://www.plumbbobcollectors.info)



**PRESENTATIONS**

in the museum

**WOLF RUECKER:  
REVIEW TO THE  
LAST MEETINGS**

See first page of this report.



**WOLFGANG  
RÜCKER:**

**IN MEMORIAM NELSON DENNY †  
and JEAN-PAUL MICHEL †**



**RADICAL**  
DISTINGUISHING GEOMETRY:  
• FOLLOWS NO SPECIFIC DEFINING GEOMETRY.



ULRICH BIBER and WOLF RUECKER

gave to the participants a

**COLLECTOR'S CALENDAR FOR EVERY YEAR**

**"PLUMB BOBS IN THE ART"**

(You will not see this calendar on my web site.)

Here are some pictures of the calendar to get an idea of it.



Here is an art work of the artist ANTONIA LOW; living in Berlin, Germany.

The plumb bobs are from my collection ☺.

**PER GRAVITATION, 2010**

Galerie Morgen, Berlin

Material: light tracks, plumb bobs, thread, spot lights

Size: 4.10 x 8 x 6 meter

Light tracks are partly screwed off the ceiling and lean down into the space. Hanging plumb bobs mark the particular position of the four former outer screw holes in each of the hanging light tracks.

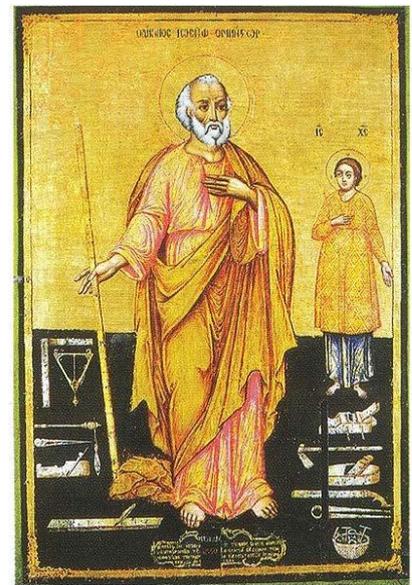


PER GRAVITATION, ANTONIA LOW, BERLIN 2010

**February**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	24	26	27	28
29						

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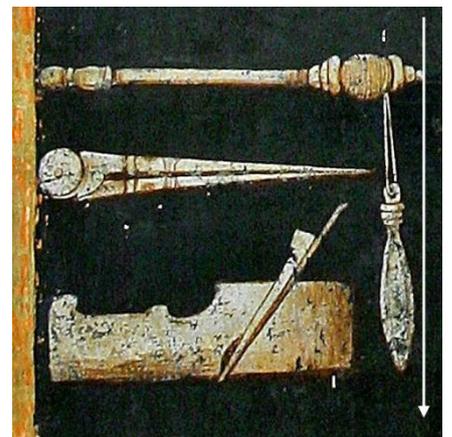
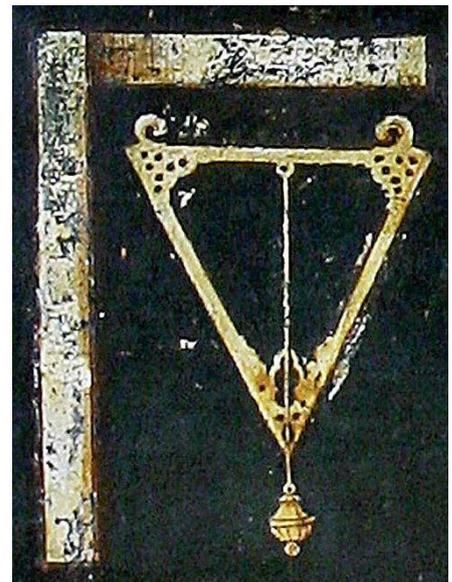


Icon of Saint Joseph with Jesus, ca. 1850, Varna Archaeological Museum, Varna, Bulgaria

**December**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Icon of St. Joseph with Jesus from the Archaeological Museum in Varna, Bulgaria with spool and triangle Ottoman plumb bob. Ca. 1850



**RICCARDO CHETONI** presented his **NEW** book about **FRENCH PLUMB BOBS**.

This new book he will not sell as a paper copy, but printed on a CD. The costs for printing a book in high quality with so much colour pictures are too high.

It will have 265 pages (126) with 800 photos (300).

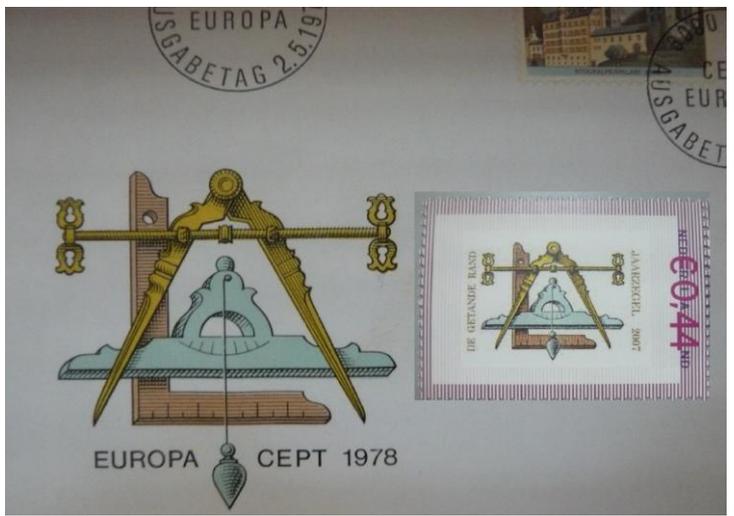
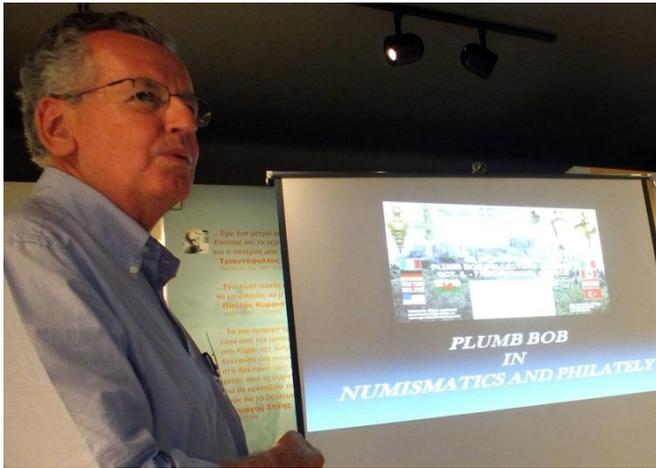
The text will be in Italian, French and for the first time in **ENGLISH**.

Why a new edition after 4 years only?

- a lot of new plumb bobs
- many new catalogues
- revision of the classification
- new plumb bob families

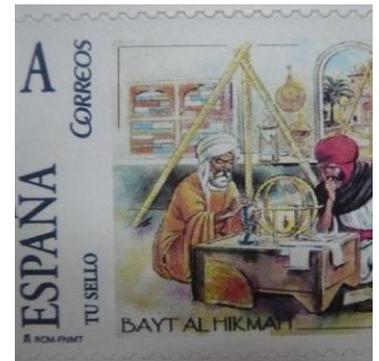


**DOGAN BASAK** talked about  
**THE PLUMB BOB IN NUMISMATICS AND PHILATELY:**



Related to:

- The French Revolution
- Free Masonry
- Surveying instruments
- As an esoteric symbol
- Architecture

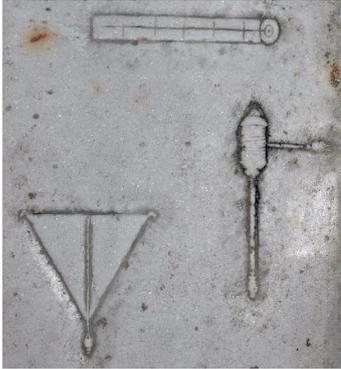


**ELIAS ZACHAROPOULOS** showed us photos of **TOMBSTONES WITH TOOLS OF ARCHITECTS AND MASTER MASONS** of the **18th and 19th century** from **Greece and Turkey**.

The pictures are from Christian graves, churches, private houses and memory plates.



Μιστεγνά, Κοίμηση Θεοτόκου (1839)  
[αρχιτέκτων Ιωάννης Εμμανουήλ]



Topics to be briefly presented:

- the guild architect (the kalfa)
- the symbolisms of
  - ❖ the (folding) rule
  - ❖ the suspension level
  - ❖ the Anatolian plumb bob
  - ❖ the dividers



Baloukli cemetery,  
~ 1859



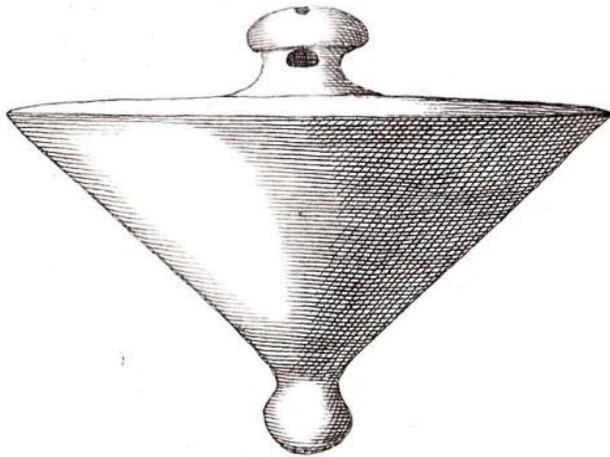
Finally I explained the difference between **ROMAN PLUMB BOBS** and other tools looking like plumb bobs. i.e.

- sling bullets
- loom weights
- scale weights
- others

This presentation you already know as WOLF'S PLUMB BOB NEWS 2012-10 ROMAN PLUMB BOBS



*Fig. 3.*



After this long and hard day we had a dinner together in the downtown. On Sunday, a flea market, or museums were visited, until we returned back to our cold homes.

Although it was hot and tiring, it has pleased each of us, as I could see from the feedbacks.

TO ALL PARTICIPANTS:  
THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION.

### 5. NEXT MEETING

About the location of the next meeting, we found no agreement. My suggestion was a meeting with fellow collectors from one of the two American collectors clubs EAIA or MWTCA on the east coast of the United States. This was too expensive for most of us. Maybe I'll try to find in America a local collector to organize a meeting there.

(Are YOU this one?)

For the European collectors we will continue with the two years rhythm in a big European city. We discuss about Pisa, Italy, or a town in England or Spain, but there is no hurry.



## 6. SOMETHING TO SMILE ABOUT

CHRISTMAS TIME is coming soon.

I already saw a very special CANDLE HOLDER working like a plumb bob.

This tool holds the candle straight and vertical. So it can burn without any problems.

Very nice idea!



Left: candle holder in action      middle: its function      right: two different candle holders (old and new)

Unfortunately candles from wax are no longer used, but LED lamps from China ☹

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

## 7. REMARKS

The presentations of Wolf, Elias, Dogan and Riccardo you can download on my website [www.plumbbobcollectors.info](http://www.plumbbobcollectors.info) on page “collectors meetings” subpage “4<sup>th</sup> meeting 2012 ATHENS”

direct link <http://www.plumbbobcollectors.info/95343/174401.html>

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Enjoy it

Wolf

