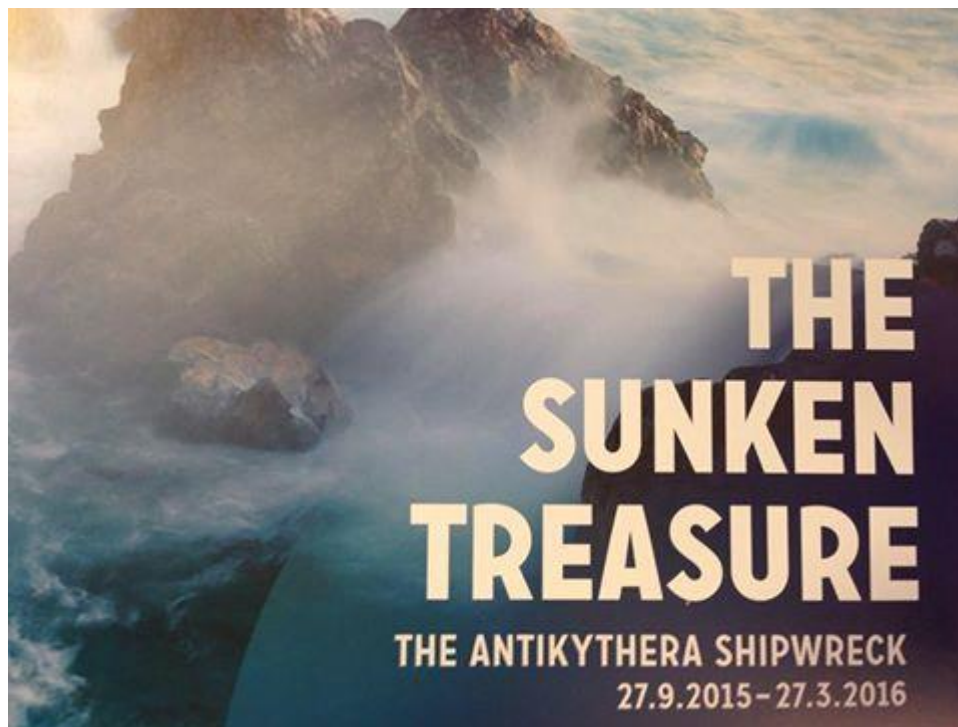


ADDRESS BY THE MAYOR OF KYTHERA  
Mr. EFSTRATIOS CHARCHALAKIS  
DURING THE OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY  
FOR THE EXHIBITION OF THE ANTIKYTHERA SHIPWRECK  
AT THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM OF BASEL



BASEL, SWITZERLAND

26-09-2015

Your Excellency, Mr. President of the Government of Basel,  
Excellencies,  
Directors of the Museums of Greece,  
Dr. Bignasca,  
Ladies and gentlemen

Kalimera and Gruezi mitenand

It is a great honor and pleasure for me to be here today at this exceptional museum and to speak at the opening ceremony of the exhibition on the Shipwreck of Antikythera.

I feel very proud and it is a great coincidence that I come from this small island of Antikythera which currently has no more than 30 inhabitants.

I warmly thank the Basel Archaeological Museum and also, the company Hublot and all the sponsors for their active support on the research and the exhibition and for the invitation and warm hospitality in your beautiful city.

The Antikythera Shipwreck is not just another ancient shipwreck from the thousands that exist in the Mediterranean.

It is a special and unique worldwide finding that gathers many unique items, including the famous Mechanism which 115 years after its discovery continues to surprise us pleasantly.

For our local community, Kythera and Antikythera islands, the new research in the area of the Antikythera shipwreck is not just a scientific process, but a great opportunity for international promotion of our homeland through its global scientific value.

Since March 2015, this new research program is held under the auspices of His Excellency the President of the Republic of Greece, who is a great supporter of this research as he re-confirmed to me 2 days ago.

Closing I would like to congratulate the Director of the Museum Dr. Andrea Bignasca, the executives and the personnel of the National Archaeological Museum and the Ministry of Culture of Greece, the sponsors and all who actively supported and worked hard in every way, in order to bring this unique treasure in the heart of Europe. This treasure was made by the Greeks, but the values that those findings represent belong to the entire world.

Congratulations and good luck to the exhibition and the museum.

Thank you.