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ПЪТУВАЩ СЕМИНАР „В ДОЛИНАТА НА РОЗИТЕ“

Бойка Божаровска

Нов български университет

На 4 юни 2023 г. пътуващият семинар „В долината на розите“ в Казанлък, организиран от департамент „Музика“ и Изследователски център за компютърна и приложна лингвистика в Нов български университет, събра много бакалаври, магистри и преподаватели от БП „Приложни чужди езици за администрация и управление (на английски и втори чужд език), МП „Технологии в писмения и устния превод“, БП „Русистика“, БП „Визуални изкуства“, МП „Танцово изкуство“, МП „Живопис“ и курс ООКС030 Български танци. Всички останаха очаровани от българските традиции, демонстрирани на Празника на розата в Казанлък. В тази статия са отразени впечатленията на автора от Тракийската гробница, Музея на розата и Историческия музей.

THE VALLEY OF ROSES TRAVELLING SEMINAR

Boika Bojaróvska

New Bulgarian University

On June 4, 2023, *The Valley of Roses* Travelling Seminar in the town of Kazanlak organised by the Department of Music and the Centre for Computational and Applied Linguistics at New Bulgarian University brought together numerous BA and MA students and lecturers from the programmes in Applied Foreign Languages for Administration and Management (in English and a second foreign language), Technologies in Translation and Interpretation, Russian Studies, Visual Arts, Dance Art, Painting and OOKS030 Bulgarian Folk Dancing Course. Everybody was fascinated by the Bulgarian traditions demonstrated at the Kazanlak Rose Festival. In this article, the author's impressions on The Thracian Tomb, the Rose Museum and the History museum are presented.



Pic. 1. The Thracian Tomb



Pic. 2. The Thracian Tomb



Pic. 3. The Thracian Tomb

The Thracian Tomb of Kazanlak is a remarkable archaeological site, located in the town of Kazanlak, Bulgaria. Dating back to the 4th century BCE, this ancient tomb provides valuable insights into the rich and enigmatic Thracian civilisation. Discovered in 1944, the tomb has been renowned for its exceptional architectural design, elaborate frescoes, and profound cultural symbolism. The significance of the Thracian Tomb of Kazanlak extends beyond its historical and artistic value, as it serves as a demonstration to the vibrant cultural heritage of Bulgaria and its permanent connection to the ancient Thracians. This article delves into the fascinating history, artistic features, cultural symbolism, and ongoing efforts to preserve and promote this extraordinary archaeological treasure.

The tomb was not just a resting place for ancient Thracian nobility, it also serves as a window into the rich beliefs and rituals of the Thracian culture. The tomb's intricate frescoes depict scenes of the afterlife, emphasising the Thracian's belief in an eternal existence. From the delicate brush strokes to the brilliant colours, every detail represents their reverence for life beyond the earthly realm.

The Thracian Tomb has a special place in Bulgarian heritage, symbolising the country's ancient roots and cultural legacy. Its discovery and subsequent conservation have instilled a sense of national pride among Bulgarians, fostering a deeper connection to their past and shaping their identity as a nation. The tomb serves as a tangible reminder of the richness and complexity of Bulgarian history.





Pic. 1 & 2. The Rose Museum



Pic. 3. The Rose Museum



Pic. 4. The Rose Museum

The Rose Museum of Kazanlak, nestled in the heart of Bulgaria's Rose Valley, is a captivating destination that celebrates the rich cultural heritage and historical significance of roses. This unique museum offers visitors an extraordinary experience, allowing them to delve into the fascinating world of roses, from the traditional rose cultivation practices to the extraction of precious rose oil. With its diverse exhibits, interactive displays and educational programs, the Rose Museum of Kazanlak provides a comprehensive presentation of the rose industry's importance in the region.

Established in 1974, this unique museum is dedicated to the rich history and cultural significance of roses in the region.

For centuries, the Rose Valley has been renowned for its fertile soil and ideal climate, making it the perfect place for cultivating roses. The region's rose-growing tradition dates back to the 17th century and continues to thrive today. Every year, when the roses are in full bloom, the valley transforms into a picturesque carpet of delicate petals, an awe-inspiring sight that attracts visitors from all over the world.

In Kazanlak, roses are not just flowers; they hold deep cultural and symbolic significance. The rose is the national flower of Bulgaria and represents love, beauty, and purity. The annual Rose Festival, held in Kazanlak, is a testimony of the town's admiration for these blossoms. During the festival, locals dress in traditional attire and participate in various rose-related activities, including the famous Rose Queen pageant. It's a celebration that truly captures the spirit of the region and its love for roses.

Understanding the process from field to bottle is essential to truly appreciate the value of rose oil. In this section, the museum reveals the secrets behind successful rose cultivation and harvesting techniques. Discover the precise timing required for picking the delicate blossoms and the meticulous care needed

to ensure the top quality petals, all of which contribute to the exceptional aroma and therapeutic properties of rose oil.

The art of distillation as the museum reveals the step-by-step process of extracting rose oil from the petals. From the traditional copper stills to the modern distillation methods, you'll gain a newfound respect for the skill and precision required to create this precious elixir. Learn about the different grades of rose oil and how each grade is used in various applications, including perfumery, cosmetics, and even culinary delights.

Finally, the museum sheds light on the diverse industries that benefit from the exceptional properties of rose oil. Explore the world of perfumery, where rose oil is a prized ingredient in creating exquisite fragrances. Discover how the cosmetic industry utilises rose oil for its rejuvenating and soothing effects on the skin. You'll be amazed at the versatility and widespread use of this precious oil.





Pic. 1 & 2. The History Musem



Pic. 3. The History Musem



Pic. 4. The History Musem

The History Museum of Kazanlak is a captivating institution that offers a glimpse into the rich cultural heritage of the ancient Thracians and the historical significance of the Kazanlak region in Bulgaria. Situated in the heart of the Rose Valley, the museum serves as a custodian of the area's fascinating past, showcasing archaeological treasures, artifacts from different periods, and providing insights into the renowned Kazanlak Tomb. Through its exhibitions and events, the museum not only preserves the city's historical legacy but also promotes tourism and cultural awareness. Embark on a journey through time as we explore the captivating exhibits and delve into the intriguing history of the History Museum of Kazanlak.

Step into the History Museum of Kazanlak, and you will find yourself surrounded by a treasure trove of artifacts from ancient times. From intricately carved pottery to ancient weapons and tools, this section of the museum offers a fascinating glimpse into the lives of people who lived here thousands of years ago. Get up close and personal with the remnants of ancient civilisations and marvel at the craftsmanship that has stood the test of time.

In addition to conservation, the museum actively promotes tourism and cultural awareness. It serves as a gateway for visitors to discover Kazanlak's historical treasures, encouraging them to explore the town's other attractions and immerse themselves in the local culture. Through its exhibitions, events, and educational programs, the museum fosters a deeper understanding and appreciation for Kazanlak, helping to put this hidden gem on the map for travellers seeking authentic and enriching experiences.

In conclusion, the History Museum of Kazanlak stands as a testament to the ancient Thracian heritage and the historical significance of the Kazanlak region. Through its impressive collection of artifacts, exhibitions, and special events,

the museum offers visitors a unique opportunity to immerse themselves in the rich history and culture of this remarkable area. By preserving and promoting Kazanlak's historical legacy, the museum ensures that future generations can continue to appreciate and learn from the treasures of the past. A visit to the History Museum of Kazanlak is not only a journey through time but also a celebration of the enduring human spirit and the importance of cultural preservation.

The travelling seminar was an amazing event. We are looking forward to visiting other cities as well in order to experience festivals and learn more about Bulgaria's unique traditions.