



The Marble Types of Thassos Island through the Ages

Kostas Laskaridis (1), Michael Patronis (2), Christos Papatrechas (3), and Björn Schouenborg (4)

(1) I.G.M.E., Department of Natural Mineral Resources, LITHOS Laboratory, 1, Sp. Louis Str., Olympic Village, Acharnae, EL-13677, laskaridis@igme.gr, (2) I.G.M.E., Department of Natural Mineral Resources, LITHOS Laboratory, 1, Sp. Louis Str., Olympic Village, Acharnae, EL-13677, patronis@igme.gr, (3) I.G.M.E., Department of Natural Mineral Resources, LITHOS Laboratory, 1, Sp. Louis Str., Olympic Village, Acharnae, EL-13677, papatrechas@igme.gr, (4) CBI, Materials Division, c/o SP, Box 857, 50115 BORÅS, Sweden bjorn.schouenborg@cbi.se

ABSTRACT

The first references to the “white whole-grain” marble of Thassos Island, Greece, date back to the 6th century BC when stones were quarried at Alyki peninsula and at Fanari and Vathy capes. Since that time, Thassos marble was exported to Samothraki and other neighbouring islands, Asia Minor coastal cities, Southern Greece and Rome. In ancient times, there were two principal types of marble quarries in Thassos: (a) those producing material for the construction of temples and for the creation of various art pieces, i.e. ornamental stones, and (b) those for extraction of rough blocks for export. This paper aims at describing the Thassos marble, the geological setting in brief, its historic use and future supply possibilities and other reasons why it is a time-enduring ornamental stone. The aesthetical characteristics and the physical mechanical properties of its two main types (i.e. calcitic and dolomitic) are described and evaluated. The relevant results justify the wide application range and the continuous use of Thassos marble from ancient to present times and confirm the ability of this stone to survive over time.

Keywords: Thassos, Marble, Ornamental Stones, Physical Mechanical Properties, Historic use