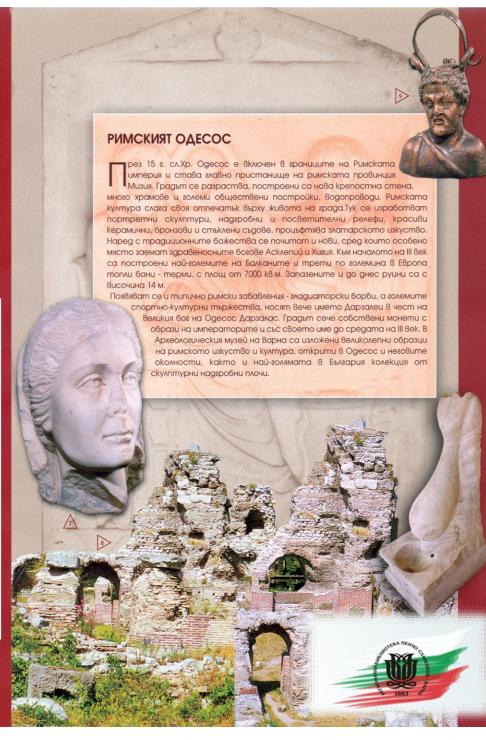


THE ROMAN ODESSOS

In 15 AD Odessos was already part of the Roman Empire and became the main port of the Roman province Moesia. The town widened, new fortress wall, many temples, large public buildings and aqueducts were built. Roman culture set its mark on the town's life. Portrait sculptures, sepulchral and dedication reliefs, beautiful utensils of ceramics, bronze and glass were made here; the traditional goldsmith's art continued developing. Along with the traditional deities, new ones came to be respected; among them the list was headed by the healing gods Asclepius and Hygia. In the beginning of 3rd century AD the biggest on the Balkans and thirdly by size in Europe hot spring baths - Thermae, were constructed with an area of 7,000 sq.m. They still exist on 14 m height. Typical Roman entertainment occurred, too - gladiators' fights, and the big sports and cultural festivities - in which sportsmen from other regions participated - were renamed Darzaleia games in honor of the great god of Odessos - Darzalas. The town minted its own bronze coins with Emperors' images and the town's name up to the middle of 3rd century. In the Archaeological Museum - Varna, wonderful paragons of the Roman art and culture found in and near the Odessos town are exposed.



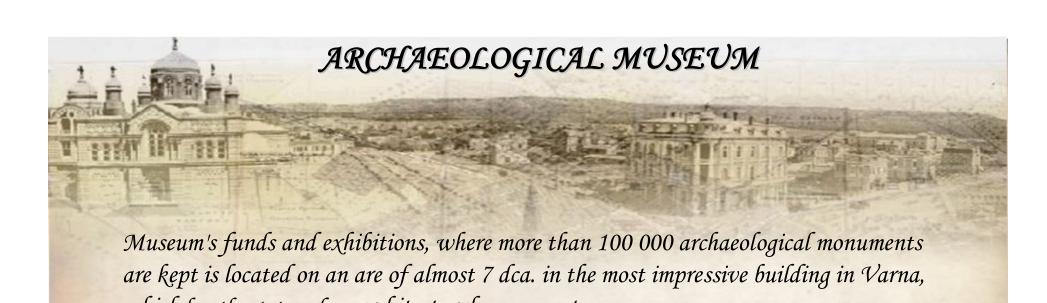




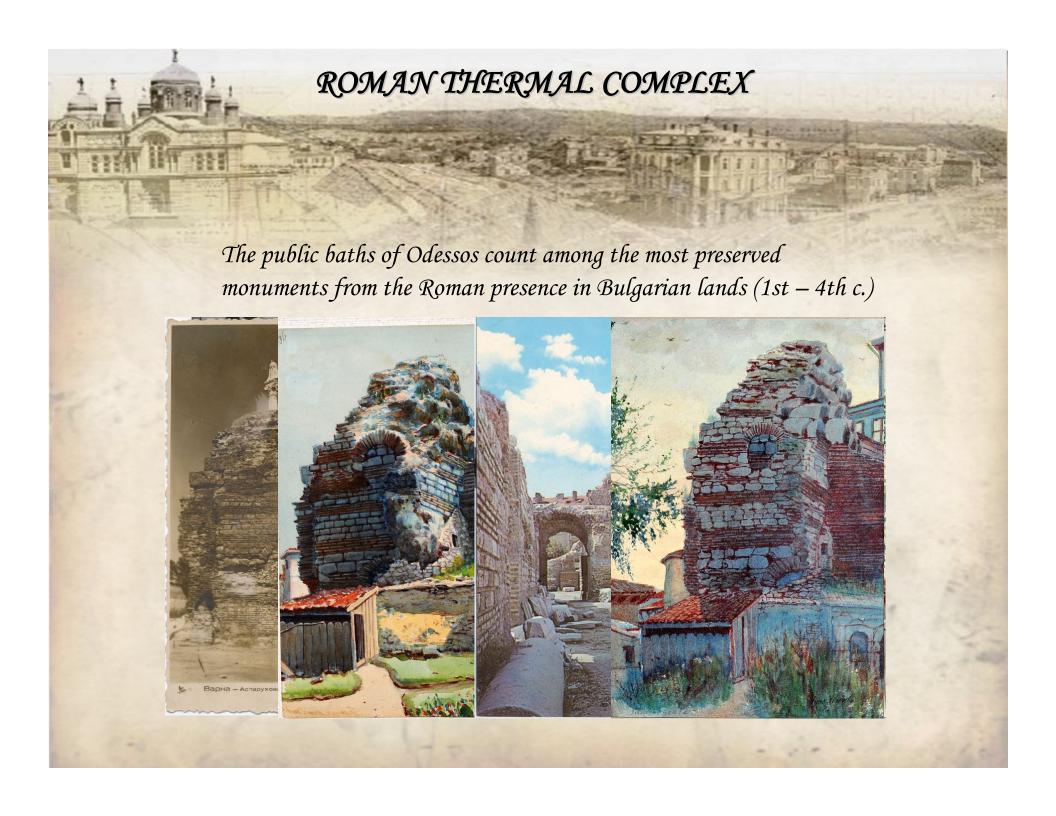






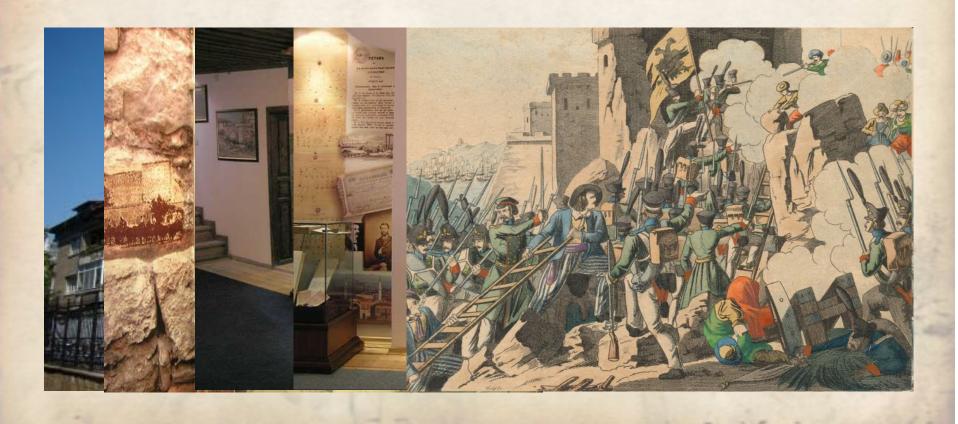








The collection displays the most important moments of Varna's history during the period of National Revival (from 1762 through 1878). Since the Revival activities in Varna were initiated much later, in mid 19th century, the exposition accents more on the cultural-intellectual sphere.



ETNOGRAPHIC MUSEUM

On 27 July 1974 a Bulgarian Revival house, property of a rich Varna merchant, built originally in 1860, was restored, and it hosted a new exhibition of the Varna Ethnographic Museum. It shows the wide variety of everyday life and culture of the population in North Eastern Bulgaria from the second half of the 19th C to the middle of 20th C.





The Museum of the History of Medicine is located in the building of the first Bulgarian charity hospital.





Near the entrance to the Sea Garden is the Astronomic Observatory and Planetarium "Nikolay Kopernic". Built in 1962 in connection with the 8th International Congress of Astronomy it is unique on the Balkan Peninsula.



