



*Quarry faces made by pick-axe*



*Quarries and spoil heaps are numerous*

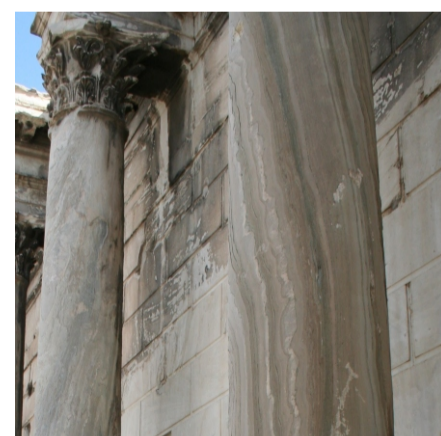


*Inside a "dragon-house"*

At the southern part of the island of Evia, Greece, large deposits of a unique type of marble are found - the Cipollino Verde. This was one of the most popular coloured marbles of the Roman Period and examples of its use have been found in almost every corner of the Empire as far north as Britain. Production probably started in the 2nd Century BC and continued through the Imperial Period until the 7th Century AD. The Romans called it Marmor Carystium after the small town Karystos on the southern tip of the Island. The Cipollino Verde is an impure calcite marble containing bands rich in silicate minerals, particularly chlorite, alternating with more pure white and grey calcite-rich layers. The marble displays a lively pattern of folded and sheared layers, giving associations to waves in the sea. This was an important reason for its popularity, but it is also technically strong and well suited for load-bearing columns -rough-outs of which can be observed in several quarries through which there are walking trails. The famous dragon houses of the area have by some researchers been interpreted as houses for the Roman legions guarding the quarrying activity. There are numerous ancient quarries on the island that are remarkably well preserved, suggesting that the quarry landscape is probably one of the least disturbed industrial landscapes of Roman antiquity in the Mediterranean. Tom Heldal



*Quarry road - carved in bedrock*



*Columns in Hardian's Library, Athens*

*The banded and folded layers characterize the marble*

