

RARE COIN COLLECTION DONATED BY NIKOLAOS AND THEANO METAXAS

A collection of Arabic coins belonging to era of Arabic domination of Crete (828-961 A.D.) was donated by the civil engineer Nikolaos Metaxas and his wife Theano Metaxas -owners of the maris hotel chain- to the Cretan Historical Studies Company. The collection, which the couple had in its ownership for 35 years, consists of 181 coins, 7 of which are gold, 2 silver and the remainder bronze.

The donation was kindly accepted by the board of directors of the Cretan Historical Studies Company and the collection will be exhibited in showcases at the Historical Museum of Crete, and with the other Arabic coins already in the museum will contribute to historical research and will also help the visitors who would like to have more information about this little known period of Cretan history.

The collection's historical and cultural value is enormous, as these coins are the only archaeological finds of that era and also because out of the 268 existing coins which are to be found today in collections all over the world, 181 belong to the Metaxas collection.

This is not the only donation and contribution of the Metaxas family for the preservation and enrichment of our cultural inheritance. In February 1997 the Metaxas archaeological collection, consisting of 2.229 objects which cover the period from 4th millennium B.C., to 3rd century A.D., (including the unique collection of 680 Minoan engraved stones) was donated to the Heraklion Archaeological Museum, for which the Academy of Athens honored Mr. Nikolaos Metaxas by awarding him with the Gold Medallion.

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