

Museum Highlights



1 RYTHON

Rython is a drink container used in ceremonies. It was born from the tradition of drinking from the animal horn. In Hittite texts, it is stated that rhytons are produced from gold, silver, bronze, terracotta, wood, and stone. The exhibited example is a bronze ritual in the form of ibex.



2 URARTIAN BELT

Bronze belts on which various scenes and patterns are embroidered with fine craftsmanship are among the most magnificent gifts found in Urartian tombs. The exhibited example includes a banquet and entertainment scene. The figures and motifs on the Urartian belt are depicted as digital prints on wood hanging above it.



3 CLAY TABLETS

Ten tablets in the museum collection are dated to the Old-New Assyrian and Hittite Periods. Translated tablets of the Neo-Assyrian Period (669 BC) are related to slave trades. In one of the New-Assyrian tablet which is also reflected to the large plexiglass, the name of the city of Maraş is referred to as "Mar-qa-si-a" for the first time.



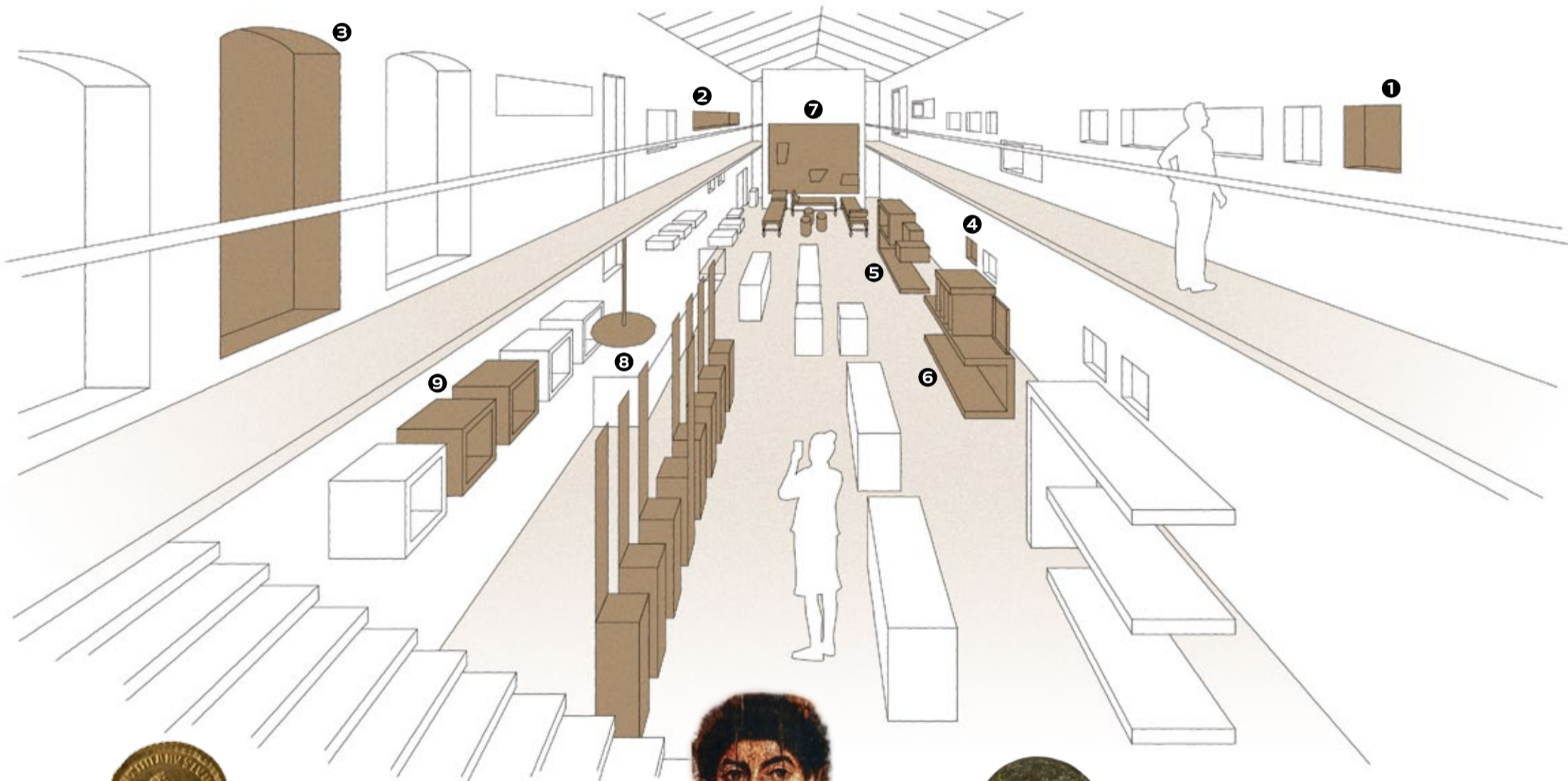
4 RING STONES

The founder of the museum, Yüksel Erimtan, started to collect archaeological artifacts with these ring stones in the early 1960s. In ancient Greece and Rome, the seal rings were used as the present signature. The patterns and mythological scenes embroidered on the semiprecious stones carry the symbols of the time they were built.



5 THE SHORT STORY OF GLASS

A short video about the history of glass and glassblowing is presented inside the transparent screen located in this section. The glass jug and objects located behind the transparent screen are part of the Roman Empire period of the collection.



6 COINS

21 coins belonging to four emperors (Valentinian I, Valens, Gratian, Valentinian II) from the Valentinian Dynasty dated to the Late Roman Period were found during the construction of the Kirikkale Kapulukaya dam in the pot exhibited near the coins collection.



7 TRICLINIUM AREA

In ancient Roman culture, dinner had a great importance. The kitchen staff prepared simple or flashy dishes according to the status and number of guests. Wealthy Romans used to eat their food in the Triclinium area, reaching out to three U-shaped divans. The seating order at dinner was determined according to social status. After and during dinner, various entertainments were held. A fresco from Pompeii, Italy (Pompeii, House of Lovers, 35-45 AD) on the main wall of the museum shows one of these scenes. On the digital screens used in three parts of the wall, it is possible to watch the transformation of the objects in the screens placed into original fresco into the forms of the artifacts in the museum.



8 FAYYUM PORTRAITS AND SOUNDSHOWER

Mummy portraits are the oldest images in the world that represent the people of ancient times in a very realistic way. This portrait tradition, which depicts the face as a whole, represents people who are, or, try to look like rich and high-class Romans but are mummified and buried according to ancient Egyptian customs. The portrait prints in this section contain examples of letters from that period. One of these examples can be heard when standing under the sound shower.



9 PERSONAL CARE

The Romans assumed that their healthy appearance and long life were related to their personal cleansing, and they embraced the culture of baths and incorporated them into their daily activities. The baths, which had an important place in the daily life of the Romans, were not only for cleaning but also serving as social clubs, public libraries, conference halls, and even art galleries. The exhibited strigilis is a curved scraping tool that is used mostly by athletes to provide personal cleansing in baths and is used to clean the dirt layer on the body which is formed by oil, sand and sweat.

The vertical handled mirror in the Erimtan Collection has a form similar to the Roman Imperial period mirrors. The mirror, whose frame is adorned with grooves and holes, is one of the most characteristic features of this form. While most of the known examples of this mirror form are made of bronze, Erimtan Collection has one of the unique examples of silver mirror known in the literature.



Erimtan

ARCHAEOLOGY AND ARTS
MUSEUM

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The museum is open everyday
except Mondays.

Museum Highlights

There is a lot more
to see and discover
at the museum:

About the Collection

The Erimtan Archaeology and Arts Museum collection is a private archaeological collection which consists of nearly two thousand portable artifacts, almost all of which are of Anatolian origin. The collection was born out when Yüksel Erimtan worked near Tarsus in the early 1960s, collecting Roman ring stones with the encouragement of his local friends, and was later expanded by taking the advice of competent archaeologists. The idea of transforming the collection into a museum has emerged by the aim that these special artifacts, which have been collected over the years, are opened to the public by adopting a contemporary museum narrative and shared with the audience. Thus, as of the first quarter of 2015, three old Ankara houses in Kale Square, one of the oldest settlements in Ankara, have been transformed into today's museum building while preserving its historical and architectural values and started to host this special archaeology collection.

The collection covers a period from the 3rd millennium BC to the Byzantine Period: Hittite, Urtartu, Assyrian, Achaemenid, Byzantine, and Ilhanli, as well as artifacts belonging to different civilizations and periods. These include decorated pottery, ornamental needles, belts, jewelry, cuneiform tablets, votive plaques, oil lamps, and bowls. The artifacts that make up the majority of the collection include finds from the Late Hellenistic and Roman Periods: bowls, jugs, glasses, measuring cups, rings, glass containers, perfume bottles, engraved ring stones, tweezers, gold crowns, strigils, jewelry, mirrors, glass mixing sticks and gold, silver and bronze coins. In addition to emphasizing the cultural heritage of Anatolian geography, the artifacts in the museum collection were brought together with a specific plot, thus presenting them to the audience in different ways in comparison with the usual exhibition methods, both to emphasize the visual values of the artifacts and to relate the artifacts to the elements of the contemporary life.