

TOWER OF THE WINDS

The Tower of the Winds in Athens is an outstanding architectural monument of late Greek antiquity. For a long time, its study was mandatory for future architects in the Academies of Arts in many European countries[2]. The octagonal tower, or octogon, is set on a three-stage podium. Its edges are oriented to the cardinal points. The tower served as a sundial[1]. In antiquity, the marble pyramidal roof was crowned with a weather vane in the form of a Triton blowing a trumpet (not preserved). A frieze encircling the upper part of the tower has been preserved with allegorical images of eight winds blowing from the side to which each side of the octogon faces - Borea (northern), Kekia (northeast), Apeliot (east), Evra (southeast), Nota (southern), Lipsa (southwestern), Zephyra (western) and Skirona (northwestern).



The images are accompanied by explanatory inscriptions, which made it possible to determine which wind is blowing at the moment. Under the figures of the winds is the marking of the sundial. The Roman architect Vitruvius, in his description of the tower, gives other names for the eight winds: Austria (south), Solan (east), Favonius (west), Septentrion (northern), Eurus (southeast), Afrik (southwest), Kavr (north -western), Aquilon (northeast) [3]. The winds are represented in the form of flying winged male figures in cloaks with various attributes: Northern Borealis - bearded and wrapped in heavy clothes; cold northeastern Kekiy pours hail from a round shield, southern rainy Not overturns a vessel with water; flowers fall from under the cloak of the warm western wind Zephyr. The reliefs are far from perfect, they are rough and probably made by an inept craftsman



Inside the tower, a water clock (clepsydra) was arranged, which fed the waters from the Acropolis[1]. Inside the tower were two doors located on the northeast and northwest sides. In front of them were small two-columned porticos with triangular pediments. Only the lower parts of the columns have been preserved. The walls inside the tower are dissected by cornices and had small colonnades, not a trace of them remains. From the south, a round turret adjoined the tower, through which water flowed into the clepsydra from an aqueduct passing nearby.

