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### Antifonitis Monastery

This Byzantine monastery is found in the village of Kalograia, in the Kyrenia district. Its church, which was built at the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> century, is the only well-preserved octagonal church in Cyprus. The entire interior of the church was painted with exceptionally fine wall-paintings during the 12<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Turkish illicit dealers in antiquities destroyed the heads of the two Archangels in the apse of the church. They cut the representations of the Day of Judgment and the Stem of Jesse into pieces and removed them from the walls, destroying large parts of them. Sixty fragments of these wall-paintings were found in Munich – some of them were repatriated to Cyprus in December 1997. The rest were found in the possession of Aydin Dikmen, a Turkish illicit dealer in antiquities, by the Munich police, also in 1997.

Other wall-paintings have also been removed from the church, along with portable icons, which were found in the Netherlands.



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