

emerging collection of the History museum. The first curator was appointed in 1954. He organised the renovation of the old Hadji Stoyan's school; he opened the first exhibition and formed the major departments of the museum collection. Today the museum collective consists of five people, and the main collection includes nearly 50 000 cultural assets.

In the six decades of its existence, the History museum has been expanding its work and today offers its visitors the opportunity to see the brilliant archaeological site, Hotalich; Hadji Stoyan's School with the exhibitions "Archaeology" and "Sevlievo region during the Revival"; the restored Tannery with an exhibition about the development of the tanning craft, and the Historic house-Museum "Dr Atanas Moskov", which is also entrusted to the care of the museum staff.

The archaeological studies of the Early Byzantine and medieval fortress **Hotalich** continue today. A strong Byzantine fortress was built there around the fifth century. After the tenth century a large medieval Bulgarian town was formed. It survived and flourished during the time of the Second Bulgarian Kingdom. It consists of a fortress and outer town, surrounded by strong walls. In 1994 Hotalich was declared a cultural monument of national importance. Hotalich continues to be among the best studied and maintained medieval towns that attract the attention of specialists and visitors.

**Hadji Stoyan's school** was among the first Bulgarian secular schools. The building was erected in 1844 and bears the name of the donor, Hadji Stoyan Nikolov. The first teacher was Petko Rachev Slaveikov, who later became a famous Bulgarian writer and public figure.

**The Tannery** is the only one that has been restored in Bulgaria, with an exhibition entitled "The tanning craft during the Revival", which shows the development of the craft during the centuries, the hard work of the master tanners and their aspirations towards modernity.

A short walk leads visitors to the town's cultural properties: the Clock tower, dating from 1779; the renovated in 1834 old church St Ilya the Prophet; the stone bridge over the river Rositsa with chief master Gencho Kunev from Tryavna, and the majestic Freedom Monument by the famous Italian sculptor Arnaldo Zocchi.

The walk around the museum buildings continues with the **Architectural Revival complex**, with exhibitions in the beautiful gardens and Revival interiors recreated in a patriarchal atmosphere of an urban Revival home from 1870.