

## INTRODUCTION

*Inge Lyse Hansen*

This interim report presents the work undertaken by the Italian archaeological Mission in 1928-29 and by the Butrint Foundation in 2001 and 2004 at the pre-Roman fortified citadels of Kalivo and Çuka e Aitoit (Monte Aetòs) in southern Albania (Fig. 0.1). Kalivo and Çuka e Aitoit, together with Butrint, are situated within the same, somewhat circumscribed, geographical area. Butrint lies at the head of the Ksamili peninsula, with the Ionian Sea on the west and the expanse of Lake Butrint (connected to the Ionian by the Vivari Channel) on the east (Fig. 0.2). To the south is the Vrina Plain, an alluvial plain created by the local river systems, in particular the river Pavlass, over the past 2 or 3 millennia. A number of isolated hills rise from the plain: Shën Dëlli, Shën Dimitri, Vrina, Çiflik, and Kalivo (81m) (Figs. 0.3, 0.4). The plain terminates abruptly in a spectacular conical shaped mountain, Çuka e Aitoit (273m) (Figs 0.5, 0.6). Beyond, to the south, lie the Plain of Vardar, and then the mountains on the frontier with Greece.

The Italian surveys and excavations were carried out as part of the archaeological campaigns at Butrint under the direction of Luigi Maria Ugolini. The results were prepared in preliminary form with the intention of publishing both as part of a monograph on the hinterland of Butrint. However, that volume was not brought to completion before Ugolini's death in 1936, and hence the archaeological results from Kalivo and Çuka e Aitoit were never published in full. The manuscripts have now been prepared for publication, and despite the preliminary nature of the original manuscripts the overall result is of two full and well-rounded accounts detailing the wealth of standing remains surviving at these two hilltop sites.

This report is informed by the survey results of the Albanian-Soviet archaeological investigations undertaken in the post-War years. The plans were drawn up at the time – that of Kalivo (Fig. 4.3) is of particular interest – but the written documentation remained in the main inaccessible to the public.

This has now changed and the Butrint Foundation aims to publish an account of the archaeological investigations undertaken around Butrint from the 1920s onward. Quite apart from the benefits of academic completeness, a joint account of the pre- and post-War results would provide an important record for the history of archaeological investigation in southern Albania and for the historiography of the past in state-sponsored archaeological investigations. Equally important, a reassessment of these diverse coastal and inland sites will add new light on the nature of settlement in southern Epirus.

The reason for publishing Ugolini's preliminary texts now is threefold. Firstly, and most importantly, in order to allow these two sites to be evaluated afresh and to initiate the long overdue examination of the connectivity of settlements in this area. A fuller understanding of Kalivo and Çuka e Aitoit supplies valuable contextual information for the history and development of the region and the role of these places in local communication networks. Indeed, the visual links from Kalivo to Butrint and to Çuka e Aitoit are striking and suggest the possibility of a network of visual communication points in the area.



Fig. 0.1 Location plan of Butrint, Kalivo and Çuka e Aitoit (Courtesy of the Earth Science and Image Analysis Laboratory, NASA Johnson Space Centre.)



Fig. 0.2 Location plan of Butrint, Kalivo and Çuka e Aitoit, detail (IWA, BF)

Secondly, to publish the manuscripts in their entirety – despite their preliminary nature – adds further insight to the academic background and the archaeological methodology of the 1928-1929 investigations.<sup>1</sup> As Chapter 1 highlights, the explorations at Kalivo and at Çuka e Aitoit – not just those of the Italian archaeological Mission, but also of the Albanian-Soviet investigation of the 1950s (continued in the 1980s by the Albanian Institute of Archaeology) – are intimately linked to contemporary political and historical concerns. The pre-Roman foundations at both of these sites in different ways provided an important impetus for the initial surveys, offering strong emotive links to the perceived origins of the excavators and their respective governments, and to their current political outlook. Similarly, the archaeological investigations also effectively functioned as a means to establish a symbolic, if not always actual political, hegemony over the coastal area of southern Albania. The archaeological integrity underpinning the various surveys has prevented their academic value being compromised by contemporary concerns, though these naturally influenced the emphasis of the investigative research, and in some cases also the interpretation of the results. Hence the manuscripts provide much additional historiographic detail for the individual campaigns of excavation and enhance our understanding of the development of archaeological interest in southern Epirus.

Thirdly, a fuller understanding of Kalivo and Çuka e Aitoit supplies valuable contextual information for the history and development of Butrint, and provides comparative development sequences of multi-period settlement occupancy. Equally important, their geographical positions mean that each of these sites in different ways acts as gateways between the Adriatic and the interior; while being physically linked by land-routes across the Vrina Plain or by sea across Lake Butrint. Investigating the three sites together may elucidate the relative fortunes of these settlements and the detail the nature of trade and communication routes in the region.



Fig. 0.3 View of Kalivo from the east (IWA, BF)



Fig. 0.4 View of Kalivo from the northeast with the excavations at Diaporit in the foreground (IWA, BF)



Fig. 0.5 View from Butrint across the Vrina Plain toward Çuka e Aitoit (IWA, BF)

### Organisation of the volume

The various elements that were intended to comprise the final reports on the work at Kalivo and Çuka e Aitoit (Monte Aetòs) were left in an early draft stage by Ugolini's death. Ugolini tended to compose his texts on pieces of foolscap or rough paper of various sizes, which would be annotated, altered, added to and deleted as he worked through his field notes. These survive in the archives of the Museo della Civiltà Romana in Rome. The constant reworking of his texts means that at times Ugolini's handwriting is completely undecipherable. However, the bulk of the manuscripts had fortunately been turned into a typed first draft and the versions published here are based on these typescripts.

The intention here has been to present the two manuscripts as a coherent whole. To this end the texts have been cleaned up, contradictory sections revised and unfinished or now irrelevant material removed. Where specific information was yet to be added by Ugolini, this is indicated by [...] in the published version; this is particularly noticeable in the case of certain exact measurements, which he clearly needed to confirm before committing to paper. Where parts exist in outline/note form only these have simply been transcribed, as in the introductory chapters to the two sites. The original excavation photographs have been used where possible, though a number are now missing. Similarly, the plans of the sites that accompany the texts are those of Dario Roversi Monaco, redrawn where necessary. New material has been added where Ugolini's documentation could be reinterpreted: in particular, the finds from Çuka e Aitoit are annotated on basis of the original photographs; and new illustrations by the Butrint Foundation have been included in the absence of certain details or to provide new information. In the case of the acropolis at Kalivo new surveys and excavations have been undertaken. Consequently a new section accompanies Ugolini's text to provide a comparison with, and amplification of, the older work. This is particularly pertinent since the surveys of the 1950s provide valuable information for locating the excavation-trenches of the Italian team, and since new

technology has supplied fresh data for the interpretation of the structures. For example, satellite imaging has now identified the continuation of the enceinte wall on the western side of Kalivo, a feature not established in the 1920s.

The spelling of place names follows the predominant language of each chapter. Hence the use of English format (Butrint, Kalivo, Çuka e Aitoit, etc) in Chapters 1, 4 and 5, and Italian format (Butrinto, Kalivò, Monte Aetòs, etc) in those written by Ugolini.



Fig. 0.6 Çuka e Aitoit (Monte Aetòs) (IWA, BF)

The volume forms part of the ongoing research and publication programme of the Butrint Foundation's Archive Project. Since 1997 research have been carried out in archives in Albania, Britain, France, Greece, Ireland, Italy and Turkey to investigate the archaeological history of Butrint and to position Butrint within wider political, social and international contexts. The ensuing body of material is substantial: film footage; oral history accounts; excavation and travel reports; tax ledgers and property rights; photographs and other visual material; and maps and letters. The results that are emerging in the collation of this information are no less rich: an increasingly composite picture is being built up of Butrint from the 14th century to the present day, providing a historiographic view of the status of Butrint and international interest in the area, as well as placing the study of the ancient city within the history of European antiquarian research.

As this volume illustrates, the archival research is already impacting on current archaeological investigations, and in the

reflexive approach of the Butrint Foundation is becoming an integral part of the field research. By the contextual references provided through the archive research original excavation details otherwise lost on the ground are recovered, direction for future campaigns is suggested, and depth and breadth is gained in the study of the archaeological remains.

The current objective is to see these results through to publication. Besides the present publication, one monograph is already in print and a further volume is in press.<sup>2</sup> Integral to the vision informing the Archive Project has been the creation of a fully web-based archive and database for Butrint (including all the excavation information), and the realisation of this is now under way and advancing fast. The on-line archive of Butrint will provide an accessible view of the exceptionally long and complex history of Butrint, and create an academic archive available for scholars, students and interested individuals to scrutinize this remarkable material.

#### Notes

<sup>1</sup> The historical implications of the work by the Italian Archaeological Mission in Albania is discussed in detail in Gilkes 2003b, as well as in Gilkes 2002 and Gilkes and Miraj 2000. See also Gilkes 2003c; 2004 and forthcoming.

<sup>2</sup> Gilkes 2003a; Francis 2005.

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