



TEN YEARS
OF THE BUTRINT FOUNDATION

REPORT 2002

Front cover: the archaeological team in July 2002 including Albanian students from the University of Tirana and the University of Gjirokastra.

TEN YEARS OF THE BUTRINT FOUNDATION REPORT FOR 2002

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TRUSTEES

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Lord Sainsbury of Preston Candover, KG

Sir Jocelyn Stevens, CVO

Martine d'Anglejan-Chatillon

Jessica Douglas-Home

The Hon. Mrs Emily Freeman-Attwood
(since December 2002)

* * *

Sir Patrick Fairweather, Director

Prof. Richard Hodges, Scientific Director

Sally Martin, Project Manager

(UK Registered Charity No. 1017039)

THE OBJECTIVES OF THE BUTRINT FOUNDATION

The Butrint Foundation was set up by Lord Rothschild and Lord Sainsbury in January 1993 as a charitable trust. Its principle objective is to restore and preserve the Butrint site in southern Albania for the benefit of the general public.

Other objectives include:

- The improvement, protection and preservation of the natural aspect, character, amenities and ecology of the Butrint site.
- The support of the Butrint National Park and the protection of the World Heritage Site from development.
- The excavation, restoration, preservation and protection of any locations or constructions within the Butrint site of national architectural, archaeological, historic or artistic interest.
- The promotion of public access to and enjoyment of the Butrint site by the creation and improvement of appropriate facilities and amenities.
- The preservation and protection of historical records concerning the Butrint site and the display of any objects discovered there or associated with it.
- The conservation of animal, bird and plant wildlife within the area of the Butrint National Park and the World Heritage Site.
- The advancement of education on matters of historic, artistic, archaeological or aesthetic interest, relating to Butrint.
- Assisting in the promotion of sustainable tourism to the Saranda/Butrint region.

FOREWORD BY TRUSTEES

TEN YEARS ON

The Butrint Foundation is ten years old. This is a good moment to look back at what has been achieved and to reflect on the future of Butrint and the Butrint project.

These have been years of change in Albania: from the ruins of a recently deceased Communist system to a functioning parliamentary democracy; from an oppressive, all controlling state to an open society and a market economy. The impact has been enormous in terms, for example, of the breakdown of the old organisational structures, huge population movements within Albania and of Albanians abroad, the assertion of the rights of individuals over the collective, developmental pressures, the opening of Albania to foreigners, and a strong Albanian interest in being accepted as quickly as possible into the western community including NATO and the European Union.

All these have impinged on Butrint and on the work of the Butrint Foundation. Without the support of the Butrint Foundation, without our persistent advocacy of the cause of conservation, and without the effort to mobilise international interest in Butrint, the site might by now have been abandoned to the rampant vegetation, its monuments looted and the area built over.

That Butrint today remains one of the great unspoiled sites of the Eastern Mediterranean is important for Albania and a source of pride for our foundation.

The conservation battle of course continues. But we draw particular encouragement from:

- The exciting results of our archaeological work, carried out in partnership with the Packard Humanities Institute and the Albanian Institute of Archaeology. The 2002 campaign was the most ambitious so far and the most productive.
- The quality and quantity of written research coming out of the Butrint Foundation - a key measure of a responsible approach to archaeology - and the wonderful material resulting from the archive project which has been funded since 1998 by the Drue Heinz Trust. This material is not only casting a fascinating light on the history and archaeology of Butrint but is increasing knowledge of the site in the academic world and beyond.
- The commitment and skill shown by young Albanian archaeology students who have participated in the practical training programme at Butrint or who have spent a year at the University of East Anglia. These programmes, which are made possible by the Packard Humanities Institute in collaboration with the UEA's Institute of World Archaeology, have involved over 70 students in field training and over 35 in the UEA's programme.
- The results of the effort we undertook (with the Butrint National Park administration and the Greek authorities) to encourage tourism from Corfu to Saranda and Butrint. This produced a significant increase in numbers to approximately 15,000 in 2002 - almost 100% more than the previous year. The numbers of Albanian visitors also increased. Revenue from ticket sales is now substantial and if it continues to grow will soon enable the Butrint National Park management to meet its normal costs from its own resources.

- The growing international interest in the archaeology and history of Butrint, its environmental importance and its potential as the motor for economic development through sustainable tourism. This interest is best exemplified by the visits of the Orthodox Patriarch at the beginning of his fourth Symposium on the Seas and the Environment which took place in the Adriatic in June 2002, and by Prime Minister Berlusconi of Italy in October. The Butrint Foundation was instrumental in both visits.
- Our belief that the successive Greek and Italian presidencies of the European Union in 2003 will mean greater EU interest in the Balkans and in Albania, and more aid. Easier access to the region through improved ferry services and port facilities and new roads, will bring more visitors and demonstrate to the local community that conservation brings economic benefits.
- The encouraging start to our environmental work. This has already brought results in terms of measures to bring fresh water to Lake Butrint, where fish stocks are threatened by pollution and low oxygen levels, and the listing of Butrint by the Albanian Government as a wetland site of international importance under the Convention agreed in Ramsar (Iran). The visit of Mr Johannes Linn, Vice-President of the World Bank, in July 2002 will we hope lead to a World Bank grant for Biodiversity and heritage conservation in the Butrint wetlands under the Global Environmental Facility.

None of this would have been possible without the moral and financial backing of so many individuals and organisations that have worked with the Butrint Foundation in 2002 or at some time during the last ten years or have encouraged us in our work. In particular thanks must go to the Packard Humanities Institute, which has been our partner in the Butrint project for more than three years.

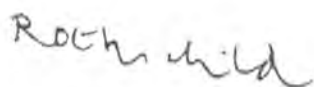
We are also grateful to the British Museum, the Costopoulos Foundation, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, the Drue Heinz Trust, the George H. and Jane A. Mifflin Fund, the Getty Grant Program, the Howard and Nancy Marks Fund, the Institute for Aegean Prehistory, the Kress Foundation, the Oak Foundation, the Open Society Foundation, and World Monuments Fund. Butrint also benefited from grants from the World Bank, the European Investment Bank and the European Union.

This anniversary is the moment to acknowledge the work of Richard Hodges, our Scientific Director, who has been with the Foundation since it was set up. He and his colleagues Sally Martin, Lorenc Bejko, David Bescoby, Felicity Booth, Will Bowden, Andrew Crowson, Karen Francis, Oliver Gilkes, Diana Ndrenika, Pippa Pearce, Iris Pojani and Louise Schofield, have, by their commitment, enthusiasm and professional skills, put Butrint in the vanguard of archaeological and conservation science in Albania. Our thanks also to Patrick Fairweather, the Director, who has not been with us as long as Richard but who, in his last posting as Ambassador to Italy and Albania, was involved with us from the beginning. Trustees are also delighted to welcome Lord Rothschild's daughter, The Hon. Emily Freeman-Attwood, to the Butrint Foundation's board of trustees.

Words of thanks finally for our Albanian friends. The Butrint Foundation has been exceptionally fortunate in enjoying the strong support of successive Albanian presidents, heads of government and ministers, regardless of their political affiliation, ever since we set up. This is all the more remarkable in that they had to struggle in these years with major political, economic and social issues and might have been forgiven for devoting little attention to the heritage. It says a great deal for Albania that Butrint's importance has always been understood by her leaders. We are profoundly grateful to them. The Butrint Foundation works at Butrint in the closest co-operation with the Institute of Archaeology. We would like to thank Professor Korkuti, who has been its Director for much of these ten years, and his colleagues for the

immense contribution they have made. We also acknowledge with gratitude the important co-operative relationship we have enjoyed with successive directors and with staff of the Institute of Monuments and the practical support and help offered to us over several years by Mr Auron Tare.

As trustees of the Butrint Foundation we remain committed to doing what we can to ensure that the second decade of the Foundation is as productive as the first and that the principal objective we set ourselves in the Butrint Management Plan – to make the Butrint National Park a world-class site – is achieved. If we are able to retain the support of this extraordinary alliance of national and international, public and private, organisations, which have worked with us these last ten years for Butrint, there is a good prospect of success.



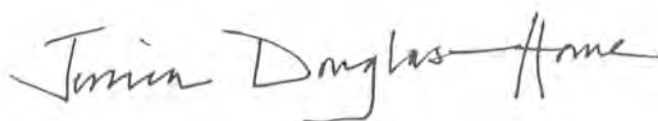
Lord Rothschild, GBE, OM



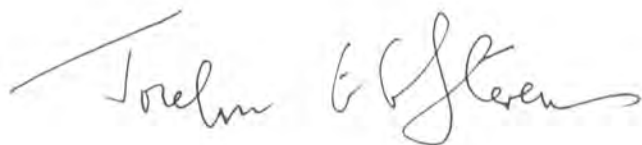
Martine d'Anglejan-Chatillon



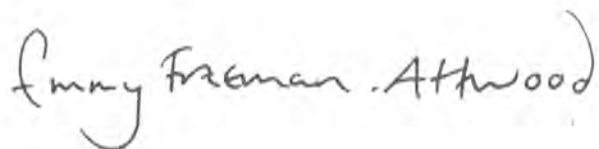
Lord Sainsbury of Preston Candover, KG



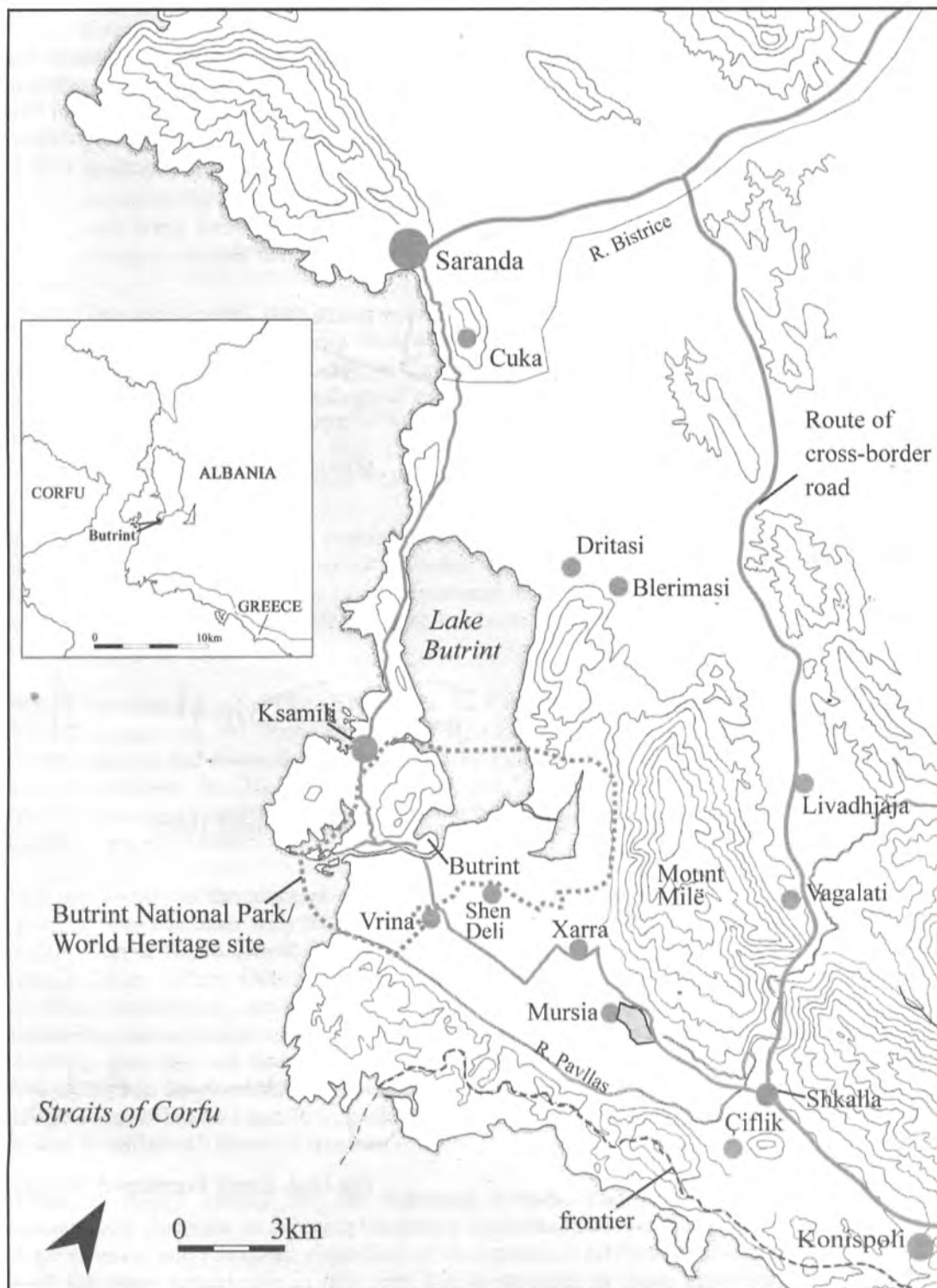
Jessica Douglas-Home



Sir Jocelyn Stevens, CVO



The Hon. Emily Freeman-Attwood



Map showing the location of the Butrint National Park

ACTIVITIES OF THE BUTRINT FOUNDATION IN 2002

ARCHAEOLOGY

The 2002 season at Butrint was planned on an unprecedented scale. Our aim for the season was to build upon the assessment phase described in our monograph *Byzantine Butrint: Excavations and Surveys 1994-99* (Bowden, Hodges and Lako, forthcoming), and the interim analysis presented in the *Journal of Roman Archaeology* (Bowden, Hodges and Lako 2002). In particular, we aimed to achieve a greater understanding of the Roman *colonia* at Butrint and its transformation in the late-Roman period.

In 2002 over 200 people participated in the excavation programme, including over 60 Albanian archaeologists and student archaeologists who brought an enormous amount of energy to the project. The team stayed in the village of Ksamili and our warmest thanks are offered to this community for their friendliness and warm welcome. Special thanks must also go to a small group of people who make this project possible. These include Ylli Bani, Gjoni Marko, Kuitim Jazenxhi, Muço Laze and Astrit Zhupa.

The excavations

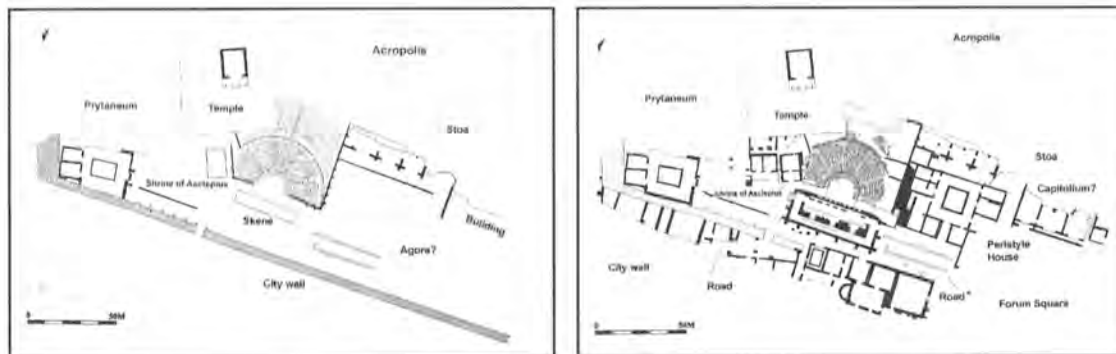
In 44 BC Caesar decreed Butrint to be a *colonia*. The initial foundation was unsuccessful and Augustus had to repeat the process following his victory at Actium in 31 BC. The establishment of the *colonia* led to the remodelling of the Hellenistic city and the expansion of the original settlement from a 10-hectare walled area. The Italian Archaeological Mission (1928-1943) interpreted Butrint as a nucleated settlement based around the acropolis hill on the southern tip of the Ksamili peninsula. Ugolini believed that the wall line showed the limits of the Roman city and as a result, much of the archaeological research at Butrint undertaken over the past 80 years has focused on an area of 16 hectares bounded by the Vivari Channel and enclosed by the later city walls. Since 1998 this topographic model has been challenged by the discovery of a further 11 hectares of nucleated settlement on the Vrina Plain and an increasing understanding of environmental changes which would have influenced the morphology of the city. In order to understand these changes, the team excavated in key areas of the Roman city. These included the forum, two city plots (see Triconch below) and the expanded settlement on the south side of the Vivari Channel. In addition, excavations of a large villa complex, associated with Atticus, were continued at Diaporit.



Satellite photograph (© Digital Globe) of the main site of Butrint, previously interpreted as the only occupied area of the city. Recent work has shown that this area represents only half of the total area covered by the Roman settlement.

The Forum

The location of Butrint's forum is not known but has long been thought to be located close to the heart of the Hellenistic city, where a large section of the Hellenistic city wall had been removed. At the northern limit of the area thought to be the forum a row of rooms, stepped into the natural rock at the foot of the acropolis, was excavated in the 1980s and early 1990s by the Institute of Archaeology. These rooms have been previously interpreted as shops but the discovery of an inscription dedicated to Minerva in the central room led us to suspect that they formed a Capitulum to house the chief gods of the Roman state - Jupiter, Juno and Minerva. In order to investigate this possibility a new survey and excavation of the structure of the rooms were undertaken in 2002. The results of the study proved positive and showed that the rooms were built in one phase with a monumental façade punctuated by three wide doorways. The entrances were reached by a flight of fine limestone steps, which led up from an east-west aligned street. The scale of the building, plus topographic evidence from neighbouring buildings, appears to confirm the interpretation of these buildings as the Capitulum.



Plan showing the reorganisation of the civic centre of Butrint in the Roman period.

]RVAE
]AUGUST. SACR
 (O)]TACILIVS MYSTES
 AEDEM D S P F C
 I D D D

Prof. John Wilkes has suggested that this might be restored as:

[DEAE MINE]RVAE / AUGUST(AE)
 SACR(UM) / [. O]TACILIUS MYSTES /
 AEDEM D(E) S(UA) P(ECUNIA)
 F(ACIENDAM) C(URAVIT) / L(OCUS)
 D(ATUS D(ECRETO) D(ECURIONUM)).

'This shrine to Minerva Augusta, was built by Otacilius Mystes at his own expense on land voted to him by the city council.'

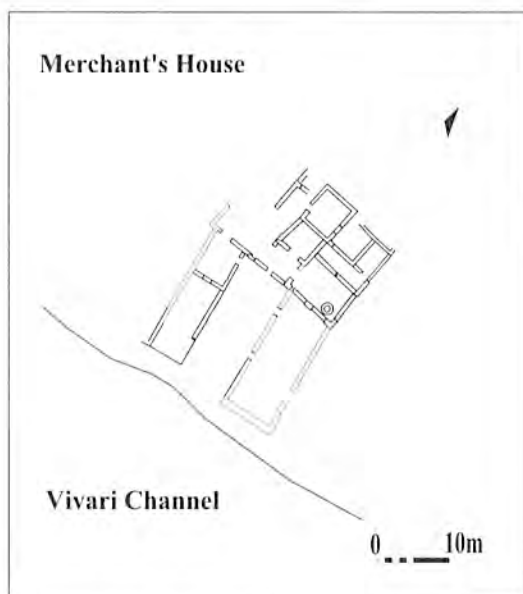
Text of the inscription to Minerva discovered in excavations in the centre of Butrint.

Triconch Palace

Excavations of the Triconch Palace have been underway since 1994, with the on-going aim of understanding its complex sequence of development and detecting any changes to the layout of the Roman city highlighted by its construction. Previous excavations have identified three separate plots. The excavations in 2002 focused on examining the changing fortunes of two of these and focused on common trends of expansion and contraction, which help to illustrate changing patterns within the overall topography of the settlement.

Plot 1 – the discovery of a Merchant's House

The 2002 excavation season confirmed that a deeply stratified sequence of archaeological deposits dating from the 3rd century ad to the late medieval period survives across the area of Plot 1. The earliest building excavated was a large residential and mercantile complex that grew and evolved throughout the 3rd-5th centuries, and was the closest neighbour to the main Triconch Palace to the east. The Merchant's House was a rectangular stone-built structure, which, by the 5th century, had living quarters on the first floor plus two wings of storage rooms forming ranges between the main buildings and the waterfront. The living quarters were finely decorated and finds recovered from their destruction levels contained many fine objects including elegant imported glass and ceramic wares and a gaming piece, thought to be the earliest chess piece found in Europe.



Plan of the 5th-century Merchant's House (above) and photograph of the chess piece found in the excavations (right).

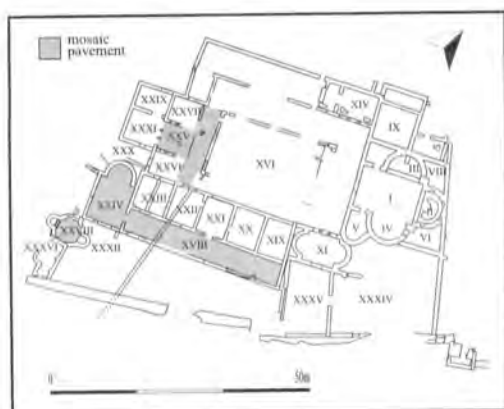
The demise of the late Roman complex dates to the end of the 5th century and beginning of the 6th century when the structures were systematically dismantled for their building stone. This process was contemporary to the construction of the city wall and may have happened as a direct consequence. However, the plot was not abandoned for long and at least one two-storey timber and stone building was constructed up against the city wall by the end of the 6th century. The appearance of two-storey accommodation in the 6th century represents the origins of a distinct type of vernacular architecture that became widespread in the Medieval West.

Plot 2 – the domus and its later uses

The 2002 excavations of the main palace complex or *domus* explored the channel-side wing of the palace and investigated whether its abandonment coincided with the construction of the city wall. Like Plot 1, the excavation of the south wing and its adjacent rooms revealed a remarkable sequence of archaeology.

Firstly, the *domus* itself appears to have had two separate phases of construction, with evidence for both structural and decorative alterations. These were undertaken as a result of a change of emphasis in the reception rooms and/or entrance arrangements associated with the house. During the first phase the southern range of the house was probably accessed via the banks of the channel and was separated from the western range. Both areas were furnished with *coccio pesto* floors during this phase. In the second phase the height of the floor levels was raised and fine mosaic pavements were laid, separated by colonnades. During this time the main reception room was probably accessed from the west, via the colonnaded rooms. This is most clearly demonstrated by the position of a mosaic inscription within the floor of a reception area leading into the adjacent peristyle, which recorded the *domus* proprietor's name and rank, and presumably welcomed the guests into the heart of the palace.

Previous excavations have led us to believe that the occupation of the *domus* was brief and that the palace complex was abandoned and reused for other purposes relatively quickly after it was finished. In 2002 the excavations were focused in the south corridor of the south wing. The results of these excavations showed that the floor of the corridor had barely been completed before it became covered with silt, possibly as a result of flooding. During the course of the 5th century the corridor was repeatedly re-occupied and re-organised by the insertion of timber partitions and rubble-built walls, with periods of activity interspersed with flooding and apparent abandonment. A final hiatus dating to the mid-6th century was followed by the construction of a series of industrial workshops and organic processing factories situated within the ruins. The kilns, residues and features associated with this period bear witness to successive phases of activity lasting until the 7th century. Following the demolition of the kilns the site was utilised intermittently for burials and for the construction of timber buildings.



Plan of the Triconch Palace in plot 2



Late 6th-century kiln built above a 4th-century mosaic.

Vrina Plain

Since 1998 the Vrina Plain has been investigated using geophysics to map its archaeological remains, and by field survey to collect dating evidence and small-scale trial excavations to test the archaeological stratigraphy. In 2002 a more ambitious programme of excavations was carried out which included the excavation of a trench 220 m long by 4 m wide which followed the route of a modern drainage channel. This excavation was accompanied by further investigations of an extant bathhouse and a programme of coring to investigate the historic environment of the settlement on the plain. The programme was integrated with a training programme for young Albanian archaeologists from the universities of Gjirokastra and Tirana (see page 30).



Excavations and sampling on the Vrina Plain (2002).

The excavation of the drainage ditch exposed a cross-section of the Vrina Plain settlement and offered an important insight into the formal layout of the settlement, its development in the 2nd and 3rd centuries and its eventual abandonment in the 6th century.

The most important early features excavated in the trench included a collapsed pier of the aqueduct (thought to be a public work associated with the foundation of the colony) and a monument constructed of fine cut limestone pinned together with iron clamps. The geophysics results, together with the alignment of the aqueduct and neighbouring buildings, indicates that the settlement was formally laid out in *insulae*. The collapse of the aqueduct pier can be dated to the end of the 5th century, which suggests that the aqueduct was maintained until this period (which is consistent with evidence from the late-antique structures from the centre of Butrint).

The monument is a fine building and was most likely built as a commemorative monument or altar – perhaps celebrating the founding of the colony or perhaps even the victory of Augustus at nearby Actium. Further excavation of this monument will be undertaken in 2003.

Throughout the 2nd and 3rd centuries the number of buildings in the area increased and the excavations showed a considerable density of occupation (all buildings following the original alignment). Most of these buildings appear to have been abandoned by the 6th century although two of them may well have been converted into churches in the 5th or 6th centuries AD.

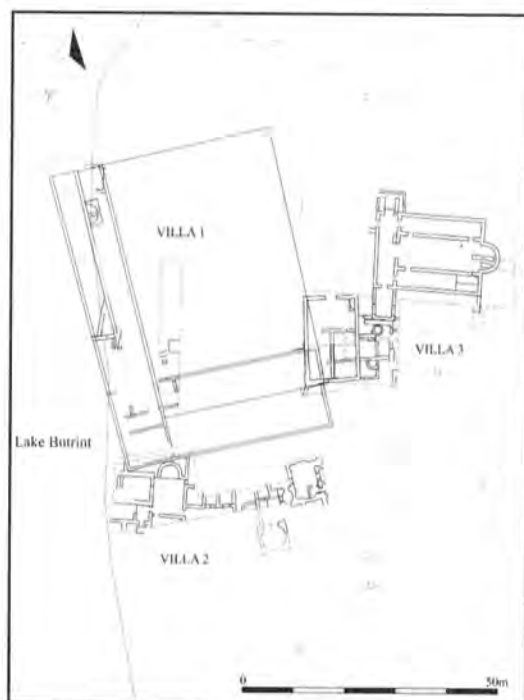
Close to the drainage ditch are the remains of a large bathhouse complex, thought to be the private baths of a substantial townhouse. The extant ruins have been used as a sheep pen for several decades and have never been investigated archaeologically. The bathhouse complex

was excavated by a group of students from the universities of Gjirokastra and Tirana, with a small Butrint Foundation team. The excavations revealed two construction phases for the bathhouse dated to 1st century AD onwards. Importantly the excavations demonstrated that the underlying topography of the Vrina Plain has changed significantly, and despite the landscape appearing as a flat plain today, the bathhouse appears to be located on a knoll, some 2 m above the occupation levels found in the drainage ditch.

The change in natural topography is partly the result of natural processes over time and partly due to man's intervention in a drainage scheme of the 1950s. The impact of these changes is the subject of a separate investigation using geoarchaeological techniques. In 2002 a series of cores was taken across the study area and their contents analysed. The picture that emerged is that the north section of the Vrina Plain and south shore of Lake Butrint were formed by successive shingle banks built up through wave action and cross currents from Lake Bufi. The shingle banks protected the shoreline and allowed marsh, and eventually woodland to develop, forming solid ground. In the period of the first settlement the bathhouse and buildings were situated inland from the lakeshore, with a shingle bank located some 30 m to the north. The aqueduct was constructed to pass across this bank and use it as a foundation from which a crossing of the Vivari Channel could be made. A cistern was built on the bank to add extra strength to the aqueduc, but even this rather robust structure shows evidence of subsidence in antiquity.

Diaporit

The 2002 excavation season at Diaporit continued the investigations of the early- to mid-Roman villa complex and the late-antique church and associated settlement. The excavation season led to the surprise discovery that, rather than two villa phases, the site offers the remains of three major villa complexes, which date from the 1st, 2nd and 5th centuries AD respectively indicating that the site was a prime location for large-scale villa development. The season also led to the conclusive dating of the church to the latter part of the 5th century, making the church one of the only late-antique basilicas to be dated stratigraphically in the Mediterranean.



Three different villa plans are emerging from the excavations at Diaporit (left). The bathhouse of and reception rooms of 'Villa 2' (above right), and the bathhouse extension on the lake shore (bottom right).

The earliest villa discovered thus far on the site dates to the middle of the 1st century AD¹. The alignment of this early phase of buildings is significantly different to that of the later structures, allowing a number of isolated structural remains to be confidently linked together and an outline plan to be extrapolated. This year's excavations proved that the complex was far more extensive than was previously imagined, measuring more than 60m by 40m.

The villa probably comprised four wings laid out around a large central courtyard with a garden surrounded by a peristyle. The excavations revealed traces of the garden and a pier that may have formed part of the peristyle. The southern wing was richly painted and had an adjacent bath building. The west wing lies partly under the present surface of the lake, giving some indication of the extent to which the water level has risen in the intervening period. An apsidal ornamental feature, which was part of the west wing, was discovered on the beach at the northern end of the site. To the east, further painted rooms were discovered.

The layout of the earliest villa, with its great central courtyard, is reminiscent of an earlier villa type which is characteristic of the Hellenistic period and which is described by Vitruvius as the 'house of the Greeks'. The discovery of this villa type at Diaporit indicates that the form continued to be adopted well into the Roman period, and provides an intriguing insight into the nature of 'Romanisation' in 1st-century Epirus.

'Villa 1' described above underwent significant alterations during the 2nd century. These included the aggrandisement of the bath complex with the addition of new heated rooms and a vaulted decagonal building noted in previous seasons and the construction of a further major extension on the lower terrace adjacent to the lake. This complex, which included a large apsidal room with a plunge bath and a possible latrine, was part of a much larger campaign of rebuilding which saw the villa extended some 40m further south. The east wing of the earlier villa was also rebuilt at the start of the 2nd century.

This second major phase appears to have been relatively short-lived. In the late 2nd or early 3rd century all marble decoration was stripped from the walls and floors, and the great apsidal room was converted into a kitchen. A large oven was built close to the plunge bath and a rough doorway was knocked through the wall into the earlier latrine area. While the kitchen was in use a thick black occupation layer developed on the floor and in the adjacent latrine. This deposit, which has so far only been partially excavated, contains a huge assemblage of cooking pots, which will play a major role in the construction of the local pottery sequence for the mid-Roman period at Butrint.

'Villa 2' employs many of the architectural devices that were characteristic of high-status residential architecture during the 1st and 2nd centuries AD. These include the use of terracing to accentuate the height of the structures and to demonstrate the owner's dominance of his environment, and the use of a waterfront location with a commanding vista. Complex apsidal and polygonal structures were also employed as part of an architectural vocabulary that would have been recognised by the owner's contemporaries. Similar elite villas, showing the same range of features can be seen at Acharavi and Benitses on Corfu and at Frangoklisia and Strongyli in mainland Greece.

From the early 3rd century to the end of 5th century, the site was largely abandoned, or at least the areas excavated thus far show no sign of activity in this period. However, sporadic ceramic finds, in particular a large section of an early 4th-century Gazan amphora recovered from the terracing levels of the later church, may indicate that occupation was present close to the villa. The recognition of this period of abandonment is important, in that it challenges the perception,

¹The Diaporit site has previously been associated with Cicero's correspondent Atticus. So far the earliest villa discovered on the site dates to a slightly later period, however finds material from the 1st century BC has been recovered.

derived from field-survey data, that many sites in Epirus were occupied throughout the Roman period. Equally, it provides an intriguing counterpoint to the settlement patterns noted at Butrint and other Roman urban centres, where the 3rd to 4th centuries were characterised by substantial investment in the form of private dwellings, an investment that was apparently not extended to the countryside.

In the latter part of the 5th century the site was reoccupied and a large church was built on the northern part of the site. As noted in previous seasons, the church was entirely constructed using material quarried from the ruined villa. Conclusive dating evidence for the construction of the church was provided by a large sherd of African red slipware (Hayes form 84), dating to the second half of the 5th century. The absence of material from the third quarter of the 5th century elsewhere on the site suggests that a construction date towards the end of the 5th century is most likely, confirming the more fragmentary dating evidence recovered in previous seasons.



The basilica at Diaporit.

The church formed an integral element of a new type of rural settlement at Diaporit. To the south-west of the basilica the remains of 'Villa 2' were used as the foundations of a new building. This was a far more compact structure than the extensive courtyard villa of the imperial period and was arranged on two floors. Storage facilities, including circular bins and great *pithoi*, were placed on the lower floor while living accommodation was on the first floor, an arrangement which is broadly analogous with the later 5th- and 6th-century buildings found in the Triconch Palace at Butrint. Of particular interest in this phase is a very small but elaborately decorated room on the lower floor. This room, which was lined with marble veneer, could only be reached by passing through rooms that were filled with storage jars. Its position, in conjunction with its small size and elaborate decoration, suggests that it may have functioned as an estate office rather than as part of the residential area.

The ruined buildings of the villa complex were used for the disposal of rubbish and burying the dead. In particular, an extended sequence of burials was found within the plunge bath on the lake shore, interspersed with rubbish deposits of the 6th century.

'Villa 3' was intensively occupied (and modified) for around 75 years, until the third quarter of the 6th century. After c. 575 there is an apparent gap in the occupation sequence until the late 7th century, when ceramic evidence attests to a renewed activity on the site. It is possible that this hiatus is linked with the raiding and later settlement of Slav groups in the area during the 580s and into the early 7th century, but further excavation is required to demonstrate whether the hiatus is genuine or merely results from the choice of excavation areas.

ACTIVITIES OF THE BUTRINT FOUNDATION IN 2002

CONSERVATION

Conservation planning

The Butrint Foundation has led a programme of conservation assessment at Butrint over the past eight years to establish approaches and strategies for the conservation of the built and reburied archaeological remains within the Butrint Park. This assessment has included preliminary studies on the condition of the standing remains and a public workshop on the nature of conservation management at Butrint in September 1998 (funded by the Getty Grant Program). These studies culminated in a management plan for the World Heritage site (Martin 2001) and a monument-by-monument assessment of all standing remains in the Park, and the development of a prioritised conservation plan (Andrews 2001). The World Bank's IDF Program funded the conservation master plan.

Training conservation teams

With the conclusion of the assessment phase and the production of the conservation plan, energy is now increasingly being focused on the development of skills to undertake the conservation programme. With this in mind the Butrint Foundation has been working with the Getty Conservation Institute to develop a formal conservation-training programme for both site managers (conservation officers) and for site work teams (skilled workers). The first phase in the development of this training programme will take place in spring 2003.

Year-round conservation

As a result of severe funding and manpower constraints after the collapse of the regime in 1990 - 91, the Butrint Foundation has been funding the conservation work teams at Butrint for many years. However in September 2002 increasing income generated by ticket revenue at Butrint permitted the Butrint National Park office to take back the financial responsibility for the conservation work teams. This is an important step in the Parks' development as a sustainable financial institution. The Butrint Foundation remains appreciative of all the support it has had from the Institute of Monuments and the work teams of Butrint throughout the period of the project.



The Butrint National Park teams sponsored by the Butrint Foundation 1995-2002.

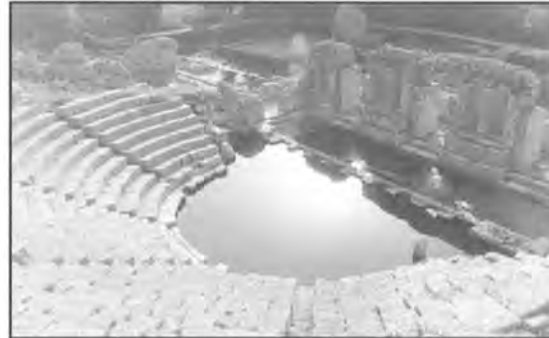
The inscription project

In the late 1970s the Institute of Archaeology discovered a special group of inscriptions at Butrint. These inscriptions, which date from the mid 2nd century to 1st century BC, record the release of slaves and were intended as a public record of the releases. The main inscription group discovered had been used as spolia in a later structure. In 1981 this structure was dismantled by the Institute of Archaeology to allow the study of the inscriptions.

There are 89 inscriptions. They probably all originate from the theatre area of Butrint where a further 28 similar inscriptions can still be found in situ.



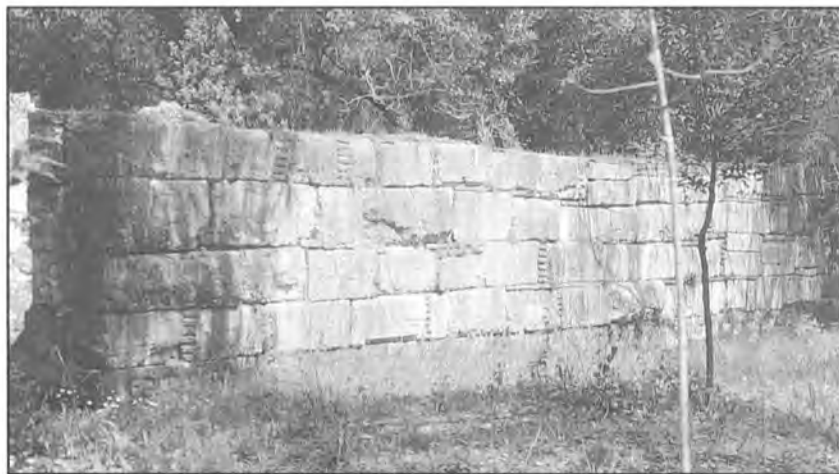
Reused inscription blocks in the tower.



Butrint's theatre where 28 inscriptions can still be found in place.

The state of conservation of the inscriptions is poor. This is largely due to increased exposure to weather erosion and damage caused by the growth of lichens. In order to monitor the erosional processes and produce a long-term conservation solution for the inscriptions, a project of first aid conservation was undertaken for each block, followed by a process of squeeze moulding to create an accurate record of each inscription. These moulds are now being compared to moulds taken in the early 1980s to measure how quickly weathering is destroying the inscribed face of each individual blocks. A catalogue of the inscriptions is underway. This project was funded by the J. F. Costopoulos Foundation.

In the short-term it is anticipated that a temporary cover for the inscription blocks will be installed to protect them from weathering. The medium- to long-term conservation of the inscriptions however, depends on their removal to a dry store or display area – perhaps forming part of the museum of Butrint.



View of the modern wall containing 57 inscriptions.

UNESCO

The Butrint Foundation was represented at the conference organised by UNESCO in Venice in November 2002 to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the World Heritage Convention. Butrint is one of the 730 World Heritage Sites nominated under this convention and one of 33 World Heritage Sites in Danger. The Butrint Foundation attaches the greatest importance to a close working relationship with UNESCO.

The IDF Program and Park development

In 1999 the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports applied to the World Bank's Institutional Development Fund (IDF) for a grant to develop the newly established local office for Butrint. The grant was awarded in 2000 and was disbursed in 2001 and 2002. This grant enabled major steps to be taken in the establishment of the Butrint National Park. The key achievements made under this grant have been:

- the preparation of a draft legislation which establishes the authority of the Park office and aids the long-term conservation and protection of the Park and its hinterland
- a successful application for RAMSAR status for the wetlands of Butrint
- a conservation master plan (see above)
- a Development Study charting the circulation requirements, interpretative needs and infrastructural developments necessary to allow the expansion of the Park's visitor capacity
- the preparation of an application for a Global Environmental Facility grant.

The Butrint Foundation have informed the World Bank that we would be prepared to contribute, alone or with other organisations, to any requirement for matching funding under the Global Environmental Facility Grant.

The Ranger Service

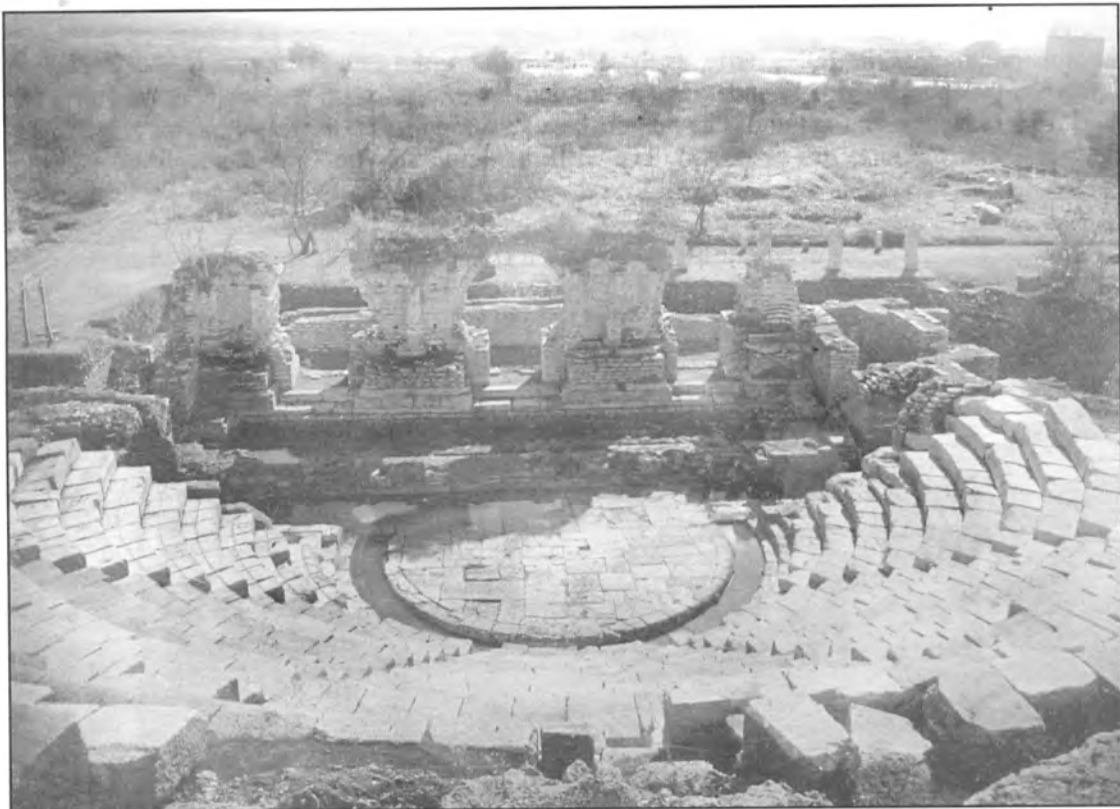
Another product of the IDF grant was the establishment of a ranger service at Butrint. Since January 2002 the Butrint Foundation has funded the ranger service with a grant from the Howard and Nancy Marks Fund. The rangers have ensured that no illegal activities occur in the Park and that the sites are protected. The Mifflin Memorial Fund has sponsored a parallel project for the site of Phoenixe.



The rangers and guides of Butrint with Afredita Memaj, the ticket-seller (front row)



Excavation of the theatre at Butrint (Ugolini archive 1929)



Completed excavations of the theatre (Ugolini archive 1932)

ACTIVITIES OF THE BUTRINT FOUNDATION IN 2002 ARCHIVES

Since 1997 the Butrint Foundation archive project, generously supported by the Drue Heinz Trust, has investigated the archaeological history of Butrint. During the five years of the programme, archives in the UK, Italy, France and Albania have been examined in depth, and relevant material identified and catalogued. As a result information on Butrint is now as extensive as that for any other major archaeological site in the Mediterranean area.

This major achievement has contributed significantly to all the other areas in which the Butrint Foundation is working: the archaeological research programme; the creation and development of the National Park of Butrint; and the international publicity programme on Butrint and the work of the Butrint Foundation.

Year by year, the principal achievements have been:

1997-1998: Investigation of archives in the UK. This included finding and examining the accounts of visits to Butrint by Grand Tourists and diplomats, such as William Martin Leake and François Pouqueville. The substantial collection of maps and drawings produced by cartographic missions and artists of the 18th and 19th centuries was also researched. The original surveys made for the Royal Navy were identified, as were sketches undertaken by Edward Lear during his residence on Corfu in the 1850s.

Archive report:

- *A report on the printed and documentary archival material for the later history of Butrint to be found in the UK.*



Porto Palermo: engraving from Captain W. H. Smyth's surveying expedition on the Albanian coast 1817.

1998-1999: The discovery and copying of the Ugolini archive. The scientific, political and personnel archives of the Italian Archaeological Mission to Albania were identified in a number of archives and museums. The paper archives were mostly located in Rome, while the 1700 glass negatives of the photographic archive were found intact in Tirana. Three films of the Italian excavations in Albania taken by the Istituto Luce were also discovered in Rome.

Archive reports:

- *A report on the archive material relating to the Italian Archaeological Mission to Albania.*
- *Catalogue of The Ugolini Archive in the Museo della Civiltà Romana Archivio Storico.*
- *A report on the documentary material of the Italian Mission in the Saranda region found in the Central State Archives of Albania.*



Luigi Ugolini (far right) with other members of the Italian Mission visiting Nikopolis (Greece)

1999-2000: Work during this period focused on the major task of copying the archive. This involved establishing systems in Tirana to permit the vital photographic archive to be reproduced and undertaking the substantial work of copying the archive materials in Rome. These elements of the programme were successfully completed, along with obtaining conservation advice on the important Rome material. A copy of the archive is now held in the UK.

Archive reports:

- *Travellers, cartographers and archaeological researchers in Albania.*
- *The myth of Aeneas. CD ROM of the Ugolini archive materials.*
- *Archive materials relating to Luigi Cardini, prehistorian with the Italian Archaeological Mission.*

2000-2001: The major initiative for this year was the identification and copying of the Butrint archive for the communist period (1945-1990). Most of this archive is stored in Tirana and several months were spent sorting and copying the relevant elements. Further film footage was identified in the Albanian film archives, including footage of Enver Hoxha and Nikita Khrushchev at Butrint. In addition Prof. Dhimosten Budina, chief archaeologist at Butrint for much of this period, was brought from his home in Moscow. An oral history project was built around his visit to Butrint and other sites in Albania.

Archive report:

- *A report on the archive materials relating to Butrint for the socialist period (1945-1990).*

2001-2002: During this period the preparation of two major monographs was the main element of the programme. The first involved the unpublished manuscript relating to the excavation of the theatre at Butrint by the Italians during the 1930s; while the second volume concerned the papers of the prehistorian, Luigi Cardini. Cardini was a member of the Mission, who investigated a number of internationally important Palaeolithic sites in southern Albania. In addition a survey of the Venetian archives held in both Corfu and Venice was undertaken by Sirlol Davis (Cincinnati University). The archives held a wide variety of documents relating to land ownership, fishing licenses and maintenance of the fortifications. A survey of the Ottoman archives held in Istanbul was undertaken in December 2002. The results are not yet available.

Archive report:

- *Late Venetian Butrint: A report on the research of the archives of Corfu and Venice*

Publications forthcoming:

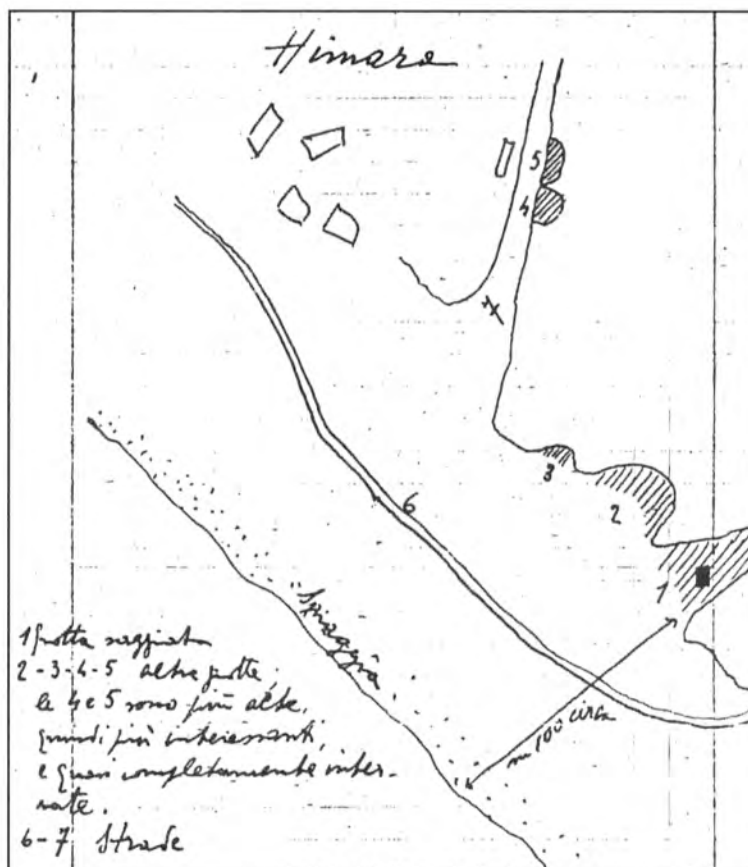
Gilkes, O. (ed.) *The Theatre at Butrint: Luigi Maria Ugolini's excavations at Butrint 1928-1932*. The British School at Athens.

Francis, K. (ed.) *Explorations in Albania 1930-1939. The Notebooks of Luigi Cardini, Prehistorian with the Italian Archaeological Mission*. The British School at Athens.

Cardini project excavations

In August 2002, as one aspect of the ongoing archive project, small-scale excavations were undertaken within a large cave in the coastal town of Himara, to the north of Saranda. The cave was first discovered in 1939 by Luigi Cardini and the Italian Archaeological Mission, when trial excavations revealed stratified Roman, Hellenistic and Copper Age deposits containing ceramics and flint tools – remains that provide a rare chronology of human occupation in the region from 4,500 BC onwards. Cardini's work was interrupted by the escalation of the Second World War and his notebooks lost. However, a chance discovery of Cardini's diaries and notebooks in an archive in Rome, led the Butrint Foundation team back to the cave site.

The new excavations led to the rediscovery of Cardini's old trenches, sealed by a deposit containing Second World War bullet cases and a German bayonet! Subsequent research found that the cave had been utilised as a German machine gun nest. More importantly however, the new excavations confirmed the survival of the deep archaeological deposits that Cardini had hoped to excavate. A further season of excavation in the cave is now planned for 2003, when it is hoped that the careful sampling of the Copper Age levels will provide stratified ceramic and flint tool typologies, as well as radiocarbon dates of importance for the whole region. Funding from the Institute for Aegean Prehistory enabled this important prehistoric site to be re-examined for the first time in over 60 years.



Luigi Cardini's location map of the Himara cave site (site 1)



Photograph of Himara taken in 1944. The cave mouth can just be made out to the right of the buildings on the beach. (Photo reproduced courtesy of Hugh Munroe and Roderick Bailey)

ACTIVITIES OF THE BUTRINT FOUNDATION IN 2002

THE ENVIRONMENT

Since 2000 and the establishment of the Butrint National Park, the Butrint Foundation have become increasingly involved with the environment in and around Butrint. Our first activity was to undertake a species and habitat survey of the new Park area using specialists from the Albanian Natural History Museum and Tirana University. The studies formed a vital part of the preparation work behind the *Butrint Management Plan* (Martin 2001) and showed that the Park is a site of special importance for the conservation of global biodiversity. The area supports a large number of species that have an unfavourable conservation status world wide representing nearly 17% of Albania's species richness. The Park is particularly important for amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals and is the only site in Albania to support the Epirote frog, marginated tortoise, sand boa and Balkan wall lizard. Fourteen Globally Endangered Species - two Critically Endangered, two Endangered and ten Vulnerable - are to be found in the area.

In 2001 the Butrint Foundation won its first grant for environmental management from the Oak Foundation. This grant was used to sponsor an environmental officer for the Butrint National Park, Dr Taulant Bino, and to establish a working relationship with the Ministries of Agriculture and Environment through a practical conservation project for the re-oxygenation of the waters of Lake Butrint. In addition the Oak Foundation sponsored a feasibility study for the restoration of wetland areas on the Pavlass River flood plain.

Taulant Bino has helped train the Butrint rangers to protect important bird habitats and identify key species. The winter bird population in the Park is now being properly recorded and protected. The bird population has risen substantially as a result.



Dr Taulant Bino

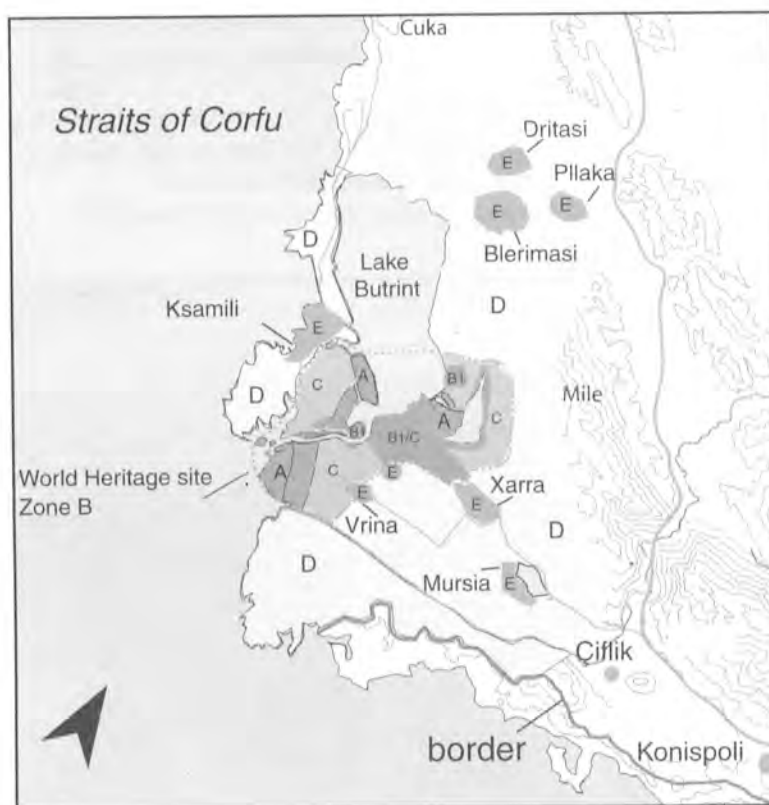


Fishermen on the Vivari Channel

The Lake Butrint project involved the survey of a system of sluices and channels that bring fresh water into Lake Butrint. A list of recommended measures was drawn up including the dredging of a key drainage channel to allow water to flow more quickly, the repair of a sluice gate and the purchase of monitoring equipment to test the lake waters. The first of these measures has been completed.

Taulant Bino also worked on the World Bank's IDF program as an environmental consultant. In cooperation with Catherine Bickmore, of Catherine Bickmore Associates and Jamie Buchanan, a UK-based landscape architect, a landscape assessment of the Butrint area was undertaken for the *Butrint Development Study* (Martin 2002). As part of this programme, an area of wetland was defined for designation as a RAMSAR site. The site was so designated in autumn 2002 and is the first international acknowledgement of Butrint's environmental importance.

The Butrint Foundation hopes to extend these programmes in association with the Oak Foundation and the World Bank (Global Environment Facility) and to participate in a project to encourage local community participation in sustainable land management and the development of natural biodiversity. We also intend to build on the relationship with the ministries of Agriculture and Environment to promote the designation of the network of protected areas around Butrint under the Ministry of Environment's *Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan* (Bego and Koni 1999).



Map of the Butrint wetland nominated for RAMSAR status.

Key:

A – Strict nature reserve

B – Area of archaeological importance

B1 – Archaeological monument

C – multi-use area

D – uninhabited areas important for wildlife

E – inhabited areas

ACTIVITIES OF THE BUTRINT FOUNDATION IN 2001

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES

The Butrint Foundation has made a conscious effort from the beginning to include a training element in all aspects of the Butrint project. In the first years of the excavation programme a handful of young Albanian archaeologists participated. Since 2000 generous support from the Packard Humanities Institute has made possible an increased range of training opportunities for Albanian students of archaeology, including a field-training course in practical archaeology where each student learns a range of different field techniques and participates in the field season. This field-training course now has a regular intake from both Gjirokastra and Tirana universities with the occasional student from Elbasan. More than forty students making up more than half the team participated in 2002.

The second training option is for second-year students from Tirana University, who, after completing certain entrance requirements, are offered an opportunity to complete their third year of study on a degree course in the University of East Anglia's School of World Art Studies. The students are required to return to Albania for their fourth year but can then compete for post-graduate places abroad. Since 2001, the Packard Humanities Institute has also offered direct funding for postgraduate studentships.

In total over 70 students have participated in the field-training programme and over 35 in the UEA programme.



Students and post-graduates from Tirana University, July 2003.



Students and lecturers from Gjirokastra University, June 2003



Packard Humanities Institute student programme:
the first year of Tirana University students studying in the UK

THE ALBANIAN AND INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT

Albania is a much more stable place than the country in which the Butrint Foundation started work ten years ago. The time is gone when communications between Saranda and Tirana scarcely existed. In the new circumstances trustees believe the Butrint Foundation should work much more closely in future with the Board of the Butrint National Park, an organisation chaired by the Minister of Culture and which brings together representatives of all Albanian government departments with an interest in Butrint. This will strengthen the Board as the place where all programmes relating to Butrint are co-ordinated and priorities established.

In July President Meidani, who gave strong support to the Butrint Foundation in his years in office, was replaced by President General Alfred Moisiu. We look forward to the continuation with him of the friendly and supportive relationship we enjoyed with his predecessors. A change of government in July 2002 led to the return of Mr Fatos Nano to the premiership and of Mrs Arta Dade to the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports. Both are old friends of the Butrint Foundation and we welcome them.

Internationally the coincidence of Albania's EU neighbours, Greece and Italy, holding the Presidency of the European Union in succession in 2003 led to a marked quickening of the interest of these countries, and of the European Union, in Albania.

The visit of the Orthodox Patriarch to Butrint in June 2002 at the start of his Fourth Symposium on the Seas and the Environment, which took place this year in the Adriatic, was a milestone in raising Greek consciousness of the Butrint project.

The official Greek interest in Butrint was manifested through the Ionian Islands Region in Corfu. Representatives of the Butrint Foundation had several meetings with the Director-General during the course of 2002. With her support, the Butrint Foundation and the Butrint National Park have been working with the Association of Corfu Travel Agents to encourage tourist flows to Albania and, at her request, we produced a list of projects to increase co-operation between Corfu and the Saranda region of Albania.

Again with Greek official encouragement, we are working with the Egnatia Epirus Foundation and with the Association of Corfu Travel Agents to put forward cross-border co-operation projects for possible funding under the Greece-Albania INTERREG III Programme.

Lord Rothschild called on Prime Minister Berlusconi of Italy in May 2002, to inform him of the work of the Butrint Foundation and to seek his support for the conservation effort. As a result RAI, the Italian State TV corporation, despatched a crew to make a film about Butrint and Mr Berlusconi visited Butrint during his lightning trip to Albania in October 2002. There are signs that Italian official funds may be made available for archaeological, conservation and tourism development projects involving the Butrint region.

Lord Rothschild and Lord Sainsbury briefed Mr Chris Patten, EU Commissioner responsible for External Relations, on our work in Albania in April 2002 and discussed with him the possibilities of EU funding for projects e.g. in the environmental sector, which would have an impact on our work.

The Butrint Foundation offers its sincere condolences to the family and colleagues of Ambassador Joseph Limprecht, who died in May 2002. In his capacity as US Ambassador to Albania, he was a strong supporter of the work of the Butrint Foundation and the conservation of Butrint.

THE FUTURE

Prospects are good. The continuation of a substantial programme of archaeology, conservation, environmental work and archival research in 2003 is assured. The chances of a grant under the World Bank Global Environmental Facility seem high. The Butrint Foundation is prepared to contribute to an endowment fund under this project – an innovative element which, if the grant is made, would guarantee funds for environmental conservation at Butrint on a continuing basis.

We look forward to working in 2003 with the Getty Conservation Institute to devise a conservation-training project at Butrint. This will lead to the formation of a cadre of monument officers and workmen for Butrint who would work alongside the impressively well-qualified young Albanians now working with us on the archaeological side.

Barring an unexpected setback, a further increase in tourist numbers is certain in 2003, bringing nearer the day when the Butrint National Park is able to rely on its own resources to meet the routine costs of park management. But the beginnings of tourism and the growing interest in Butrint contain the seeds of a threat to Butrint, the park and the area around. In 2003 it must be a priority to persuade the Albanian Government to put in place adequate legislation and structures to ensure that development is controlled and the environment conserved. The new Butrint National Park Law, which was drafted more than a year ago has still to be enacted. Measures under Albania's *Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan* to provide protection for environmentally sensitive areas round Butrint are also urgently needed.

During the ten years of the existence of the Butrint Foundation, Butrint has been protected by the perception of Albania as a difficult, perhaps dangerous, country in which it was unwise to invest. The rapid change in this perception, Albania's increasingly close relations with the European Union, and the improvement in communications with Greece, are bound to lead in the course of the next decade to an exponential increase in Greek and other investment in the region. It is essential and urgent that the right structures should be set up so as to ensure that this process, which is immensely important if Albania is to enjoy a growing measure of prosperity, should not lead to damage to the environment of the area around Butrint which is a priceless asset, not only for Albania, but for the human heritage. The Butrint Foundation will be working hard with Albanian organisations and the international community to ensure that this objective is not lost to sight.

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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2002 Total £	2001 Total £
Incoming resources				
Donations	200,629	445,361	645,990	384,617
Activities for generating funds:				
Book sales	310	-	310	215
Interest receivable	1,417	242	1,659	10,952
Total incoming resources	202,356	445,603	647,959	395,784
Less: Costs of generating funds				
Fund-raising and development	31,177	-	31,177	32,515
Net incoming resources available for Charitable application	171,179	445,603	616,782	363,269
Charitable expenditure				
Costs of activities in furtherance of the Objects of the charity:				
Archaeology	39,503	325,355	364,858	273,479
Conservation	39,520	52,832	92,352	64,489
Research projects	-	28,950	28,950	50,458
Publications	-	4,702	4,702	450
Visitor facilities	-	3,082	3,082	-
Scholarships and bursaries	-	4,000	4,000	-
Project support and development	52,427	-	52,427	59,383
Management and administration	35,967	30,651	66,618	33,990
Total charitable expenditure	167,417	449,572	616,989	482,249
Total resources expended	198,594	449,572	648,166	514,764
Net incoming resources	3,762	(3,969)	(207)	(118,980)
Transfer between funds	3,305	(3,305)	-	-
Balances brought forward				
Capital fund	68,306	-	68,306	68,306
Income funds	(4,227)	136,479	132,252	251,232
Total funds carried forward	71,146	129,205	200,351	200,558

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

BALANCE SHEET

	2002 £	2001 £
Tangible fixed assets	8,960	21,318
Current assets		
Donations receivable	39,844	-
Sundry debtors	883	8,390
Cash at bank and in hand	215,350	215,795
	256,077	224,185
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		
Accruals	64,686	44,945
Net current assets	191,391	179,240
Total net assets	200,351	200,558

Funds

Capital	68,306	68,306
Income		
Unrestricted	2,840	(4,227)
Restricted	129,205	136,479
	200,351	200,558

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The restricted funds referred to in the Statement of Financial Activity on page 35 cannot be used for management and administration of the Butrint Foundation except to the extent agreed by the donor. These funds are dedicated to specific projects by the funding organisation. These organisations include:

- The Packard Humanities Institute
- The Drue Heinz Trust
- The Oak Foundation
- The George H. and Jane A. Mifflin Memorial Fund
- The J. F. Costopoulos Foundation
- The Howard and Nancy Marks Foundation
- The European Investment Bank
- The Institute for Aegean Prehistory
- Francis Cairncross grant
- Area-Archives of European Archaeology, EU

The Butrint Foundation is profoundly grateful for their generous support and for that of the numerous individuals who have supported the work of the Foundation in 2002.

Core funding of the Butrint Foundation continues to come from Lord Rothschild and Lord Sainsbury of Preston Candover.

Note: further financial information is available in the Annual Report and Financial Statement for 2002, which can be obtained from the Butrint Foundation office.

