

BUTRINT FOUNDATION
Annual Report 2007



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View toward Butrint and the hill of Çuka e Ajtoit

OBJECTIVES OF THE BUTRINT FOUNDATION

The Butrint Foundation was established by Lord Rothschild and Lord Sainsbury of Preston Candover in January 1993 as a charitable trust. Its principal objective is to restore and preserve the Butrint site in southern Albania for the benefit of the public.

Other objectives include:

- The improvement, protection and preservation of the natural aspect, character, amenities and ecology of the Butrint site
- Support of the Butrint National Park and protection of the World Heritage Site from development
- The excavation, restoration, preservation and protection of any locations or structures 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
- Improving 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



Triconch Palace mosaic female theatrical mask



Triconch Palace mosaic ivy leaf



Triconch Palace mosaic male theatrical mask

TRUSTEES' FOREWORD

The Butrint Foundation's fifteenth year has been a vintage one in terms of the intensity and variety of its activities in and around the site. The fact that the archaeological team was pushing to complete its ambitious eighth year programme of excavations, in order to move on to the vital task of post-excavation research and publication, gave the summer campaign a real sense of urgency which pervaded all aspects of our work this year. Once again the season's finds added to, and in some cases changed, our understanding of the development of the city from its Bronze Age beginnings to the Middle Ages.

As the archaeology shifted its focus from excavation to research, so our work in monument conservation and vegetation management continued to gain pace, with no less than seven months being dedicated to these activities in 2007. This seems to be an appropriate change in emphasis given the thoroughness and scope of the excavations to date and the huge challenge presented by the size of the site at Butrint and its unique combination of conservation issues.

One of the most pleasing aspects of our activities this year has been the degree of co-operation with the management of the Butrint National Park and with our Albanian colleagues at all levels of government. Notable in this respect was the co-funding of the autumn conservation programme, which we hope will set a precedent for future collaborations, and our co-hosting of the UNESCO mission's visit, which reported extremely favourably on the progress made in the last two years.

Meanwhile we continue to invest in the long term future of Butrint and Albania as a whole, through our commitment to management and academic training by means of the community projects, which ensure that the local villagers benefit materially and educationally from their proximity to Butrint.

Such a level and breadth of achievement would, of course, have been impossible without the continued support of our many donors, to whom we offer our sincere gratitude. Dr David W Packard deserves our special thanks for his commitment of Packard Humanities Institute resources over the entire period of our archaeological activity at Butrint. We are, as ever, indebted to our Albanian colleagues at the Institutes of Archaeology and Monuments and to Mr Ylli Pango, the Minister of Culture, Tourism, Youth and Sports.

We hope that through these partnerships, as the pressures of tourism and development increase with Albania's growing prosperity, we can continue to protect and promote the unique qualities which Butrint has to offer.

Lord Rothschild

Lord Rothschild, OM, GBE

Lord Sainsbury

Lord Sainsbury of Preston Candover, KG

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

When we look back on 2007 we will see it as a year in which the Butrint Foundation's activities reached a peak both in volume and range. Our eighth full season of archaeology explored several different sites and was rewarded with many fascinating finds; the conservation programme grew in size and scope; the community project embarked on a two year programme in the villages of the Vrina Plain and, in addition, we were able to provide specialised training for all the Butrint National Park staff, many young Albanian archaeologists and several local stonemasons and conservators.

The summer's archaeological campaign was made possible once again by funding from the Packard Humanities Institute to whom we are, as always, hugely indebted. The season aimed to bring to a close the principal excavations with a view to focusing more fully on post-excavation research and publication. Bronze Age fieldwork confirmed that Butrint was settled in this period, but that it was only an outlying settlement to a centre on Kalivo or Cape Stillo. Our understanding of the configuration of the city in the Roman period was enhanced by the discovery that the forum ran east-west and not, as previously thought, north-south. Further, work on the Vrina Plain and on the bridge by the Water Gate provided archaeological confirmation that the construction of the aqueduct was part of the colonial development of Butrint. While the aqueduct fell into disuse by the 4th century AD, it appears that the bridge itself remained in use until the 10th century. The urban expansion of Butrint during the Roman period was also documented by the investigation of the 3rd-century Roman house on the Vrina Plain with a store of intact amphorae attesting to the prosperity of the site in the 2nd and 3rd centuries. Illuminating discoveries were also made in the excavations within the intra-mural site: at the Well of Junia Rufina, where the cemetery produced both human skeletons and some beautiful 11th-century jewellery; and at one of the towers in the Western Defences, where domestic occupation was revealed by ceramic and glass finds sealed off and preserved by the collapse of an upper floor in about AD 800. As ever, the team of international experts and their local support staff worked tirelessly in Ksamil to process, record and interpret the finds. Photogrammetric recording is now becoming a standard practice in Butrint, and it was augmented this year by some experimental work with laser scanning by a team from Exeter University. Both methods will prove invaluable as the site continues to be studied academically and developed for cultural heritage tourism.

A new two-year conservation programme, funded by a grant from the Howard and Nancy Marks Fund, got under way in April. The 2001 condition survey was updated in order to provide a base for a conservation strategy for the Butrint National Park over the coming two years. In June and July monument conservation and vegetation management was carried out with the help of the Butrint National Park conservation specialist, a group of local stonemasons and workmen and a series of British volunteer conservation professionals. The result of the summer's work was the rehabilitation of several monuments, notably the Water Gate and the Roman nymphaeum, alongside the opening of several new vistas within the site created by the thinning of forested areas. In the autumn the Butrint Foundation joined forces with the Butrint National Park to co-fund a further extensive programme of conservation work. This was an initiative unprecedented in the region and one which creates a model for similar collaborations in the future. We were pleased to welcome back the Israeli mosaic conservators who studied selected mosaics and compiled a proposal for presentation of the Baptistry mosaic, we are grateful to the Oak Foundation for funding this project. In the area of conservation, a small project was carried out on a hoard of coins in the museum funded by the Howard and Nancy Marks Fund.

Water Gate and Tower after conservation





This year saw the blossoming of the Community Enterprise and Development project which, thanks to continued funding from the Philanthropic Collaborative, moved into its second year, building on its achievements in 2006 as well as exploring new areas in which to help local villagers benefit from their proximity to Butrint. The small agricultural projects, along with the

ongoing handicraft training sessions, provided the community shop located within the Butrint National Park with a vast array of locally grown and crafted products. It came as no surprise therefore when the end-of-year figures revealed a doubling of the shop's income. The village schools also benefitted this year, first in the form of an activity book to help pupils better understand and enjoy the site and, second, in late 2007 we undertook the renovation of the school playgrounds in Vrina, Xarra and Mursia. In July local secondary school students were invited to a performance of *Medea* at the Butrinti 2000 Theatre Festival, an event supported by additional funding from Nat Rothschild and the British Council. Once again we were able to host the Community Day with its usual display of stalls and activities at which villagers, archaeologists, tourists and the Butrint staff came together to celebrate their common interests.

As well as being a year of significant material achievements, 2007 was also distinguished by its investment in the future in the form of management training: all members of the Butrint National Park staff received training in programmes organised by the Butrint Foundation funded by the A.G. Leventis Foundation and the British Council. Two members of staff attended a conservation course organised by ICCROM at Butrint in October. The Butrint National Park Management Plan for 2007-2012 was completed in February by the Butrint Foundation in consultation with specialists from the Butrint National Park, thus providing essential managerial training in an area particularly noted in the report by the UNESCO mission after their visit to Butrint in April. Overall the report was favourable, remarking on the progress made in many areas since the last visit, while recommending particular vigilance with regards to construction in the area.

None of the activities described above would have been possible without the generosity of our donors, the participation of many international academics and the support of their institutions together with the collaboration and friendship of our Albanian colleagues. It has been a pleasure to work with the Ministry of Culture, Tourism, Youth and Sports and the Institutes of Archaeology and Monuments and we thank them for their continued assistance and support. My thanks are also due to the Director and staff of the Butrint National Park for their continued cooperation and considerable efforts to initiate the new collaborations that were a feature of 2007.



Finally I would like to acknowledge and thank all my colleagues in London, Norwich, Rome and Tirana for their roles in our ongoing collaboration, and especially Professor Richard Hodges, our Scientific Director, and Alison Ferrary, our Administrator, for their support throughout this busy and productive year. My particular thanks goes to Diana Ndrejnik, who steered me through the first six months of the year in Albania, before being called to take over the directorship of the International Centre of Albanian Archaeology in Tirana, and to Smirald Kola, the new Butrint Foundation Project Officer, whose dedication ensures the smooth running of our operations in Butrint throughout the year.

Rupert Smith *Director*



Archaeology and conservation teams July 2007

ARCHAEOLOGY

The Butrint Foundation's partnership with the Albanian Institute of Archaeology in 2007 included an exciting portfolio of archaeological projects at Butrint between mid-May and the end of July 2007. One hundred and fourteen participants were involved in the excavation and post-excavation activities and more than 60 local people were recruited from nearby villages to support the excavation and finds teams. A great debt of gratitude is owed to the Packard Humanities Institute for its support in funding the archaeological research projects at Butrint.

Period-specific themes ran through this summer's projects. Research into Bronze Age Butrint centred on small excavations at the prehistoric sites of Cape Stillo and Kalivo and on establishing pottery chronologies for the region. The nature of Roman Butrint was examined in work in the forum, at the Roman bridge crossing the Vivari Channel, and in the Albanian student training excavation at the Vrina Plain Temple, as well as in the extensive 3rd-century AD townhouse on the Vrina Plain. The nature of post-Roman Butrint is coming into sharper focus thanks to a remarkable phase of Byzantine occupation within one of the towers of the city's Western Defences and to two superimposed cemeteries associated with the Christian chapel at the Well of Junia Rufina.

Sections of the medieval fortifications were recorded photogrammetrically ahead of conservation works and a comprehensive photogrammetric record was made of the mosaic pavements in the Triconch Palace. Other monuments were digitally captured with a high definition laser scanner. Further, the effect of seismic events on the topography of Roman Butrint was investigated. Finally, in Saranda, attempts were made to locate remains of the ancient town centre amongst the modern redevelopment.

The specialist team and research programme based at Ksamil were focused on the Butrint Foundation's current publication schedule. Excellent progress was made in all areas of the finds analysis, photography and illustration, reinforcing the Foundation's commitment to archaeological publications and the integration between finds study and archaeological data.

Richard Hodges directed the excavations in partnership with Ilir Gjipali, Deputy Director of the Institute of Archaeology. The project was managed by Andrew Crowson closely supported by Oliver Gilkes and Jerry O'Dwyer. Dhimitër Çondi represented the Institute of Archaeology on each of the excavations. Oliver Gilkes conducted the investigations in Saranda and oversaw the archaeological field school. The training courses were supervised by Valbona Hysa and Gjergji Vinjahu. The excavation of the Roman Townhouse on the Vrina Plain was led by Simon Greenslade with Sarah Leppard, and excavations in the forum were directed by David Hernandez. Solinda Kamani and Matthew Logue excavated the tower in the Western Defences. Recording of the Roman bridge was managed by Benen Hayden. Alessandro Sebastiani and Erjona Qilla led the excavations at the Well of Junia Rufina. Ilir Gjipali and Sarah Lima directed the Bronze Age research assessments at Cape Stillo and Kalivo, and Dawn Gooney carried out specialist excavation and exhumation of human skeletons. David Bescoby undertook electronic survey work, topographical reconstructions, environmental studies and hydrological observations. Nevila Molla conducted the photogrammetric survey. Massimo Zanfini took aerial photographs of the Vrina Plain and photogrammetric studies. High definition laser scanning of monuments was carried out by Robert Van der Noort and Andrew Wetherelt. The Triconch Palace mosaics were documented by John Mitchell, and Elda Omari managed the opening and backfilling of the pavements.

The finds department was managed by David Boschi and Sabina Veseli supported by Amy Culwick and Blerina Shametaj. Hellenistic and Roman ceramics were studied by Paul Reynolds aided by Emanuele Vaccaro. Joanita Vroom assisted by Fotini Kondyli and Patricia Caprino studied the post-Roman pottery. Klodiana Kondo studied the Roman ceramics from the field school excavations. Coin studies were undertaken by Richard Abdy, Shpresa Gjongecaj, Sam Moorhead and Pagona Papadopoulou. Small finds were studied by John Mitchell with support from Jane Chick, and Sarah Jennings catalogued and studied the vessel, mosaic and window glass. Finds conservation was conducted by Pippa Pearce. The Butrint Physical Anthropology Project was led by Todd Fenton with Jared Beatrice and Angela Soler. Faunal remains were recorded by Adrienne Powell with the support of Richard Madgwick. The Butrint Museum stores were organised by David Boschi and Blerina Shametaj, and later by Evisa Gaçi. Object photography, illustration and archive compilation was programmed by Inge Lyse Hansen. James Barclay-Brown and Martin Smith undertook the photography of objects from the excavations and in the Butrint Museum. Objects and ceramics were illustrated by Patricia Caprino, Adelheid Heil and Julia Jarrett. The electronic archive and Integrated Archaeological Database was managed by Christian Biggi.

Our thanks are extended to Alison Ferrary and Diana Ndrejka for their support and advice. Special thanks are reserved for Professor Muzafer Korkuti, Director of the Institute of Archaeology, and his colleagues for helping make the 2007 field projects an overwhelming success.

BRONZE AGE BUTRINT

Research was focused on recovering ceramics from stratified prehistoric archaeological deposits at two complementary sites, Cape Stillo (Shën Koll) and Kalivo, in order to establish a chronology of Bronze Age pottery in southern Albania. Cape Stillo comprises a large rectangular enclosure consisting of low rough-built stone walls interspersed with natural rock formations. Trenches inside the enclosure, and on the natural terraces below, recovered diagnostic potsherds of both Bronze Age and Iron Age date. The discovery of a stone-lined pit, together with the ceramic spindle whorls, beads and flint scrapers found in 2006, provide good evidence for prehistoric manufacturing at the site.

At Kalivo significant assemblages of pottery were recovered from five trenches including several examples of so-called 'imitation Corfiote ware' that mimic imported fine wares. Residues of bitumen, used as a sealant, identify these pots as storage vessels, and are a signal characteristic of the southern Albanian Bronze-Iron Age transition. Hellenistic and early Roman wares, and a few possible terracotta figurine fragments, may lend weight to earlier hypotheses of a Hellenistic temple located on the summit of Kalivo.



Southwest corner of the forum pavement



Forum steps at the northern end

Locally produced wares of the Bronze Age have proved difficult to date, but a working series based on five distinct late Bronze Age and early Iron Age wares (two imported and three locally-produced) will provide a baseline from which to expand future chronological studies. Already we can see the use of a common clay source for the local products, with different forms of surface treatment corresponding to different intended uses.

ROMAN BUTRINT

The Forum

The excavations established the southern extent of the forum pavement demonstrating that it was orientated east-west, measuring 20 m in width and thus altering our perspective of the urban plan of the Roman city. The forum space appears to have been developed from the Hellenistic agora in the late Republican period, that is, soon after the grant of colonial status to Butrint.

The forum pavement consists of fine limestone slabs surrounded by a perimeter gutter leading up to two marble steps. On the south side the steps led directly into a building fronted by granite columns, most probably a basilica. A fine marble moulding for a statue base was found straddling the gutter, probably the remains of one of many originally located along the forum's outer limits. Marble fragments from at least four statues, characteristic of types representing deities, heroes or generals, illuminate the sculptural decoration of the forum and its adjacent buildings. On the west, a road allowing access into the theatre area was, by the 2nd century AD restricted by the construction of a long portico, belonging to the Peristyle Building. To the east of the Tripartite Building (the three shrine rooms, one of which was dedicated to Minerva Augusta), a lofty flight of marble steps (perhaps originally 22) led up from the forum pavement to an elevated terrace, and presumably to an important Roman building.

One of the most surprising discoveries from the excavations is that the forum pavement is inclined by 0.50 m from south to north, the result of displacement through seismic activity. This event may have taken place during the late 3rd or early 4th century and resulted in a rapid inundation. Buildings lining the forum were then demolished for their stone. Subsequently, the area was repeatedly re-occupied and stepped terraces were established for tenement buildings, dated by middle Byzantine coins, ceramics and other objects, including an unusual glass bird fragment.

Late medieval and Venetian period ceramics indicate fairly continuous occupation until the attested abandonment of the city by the Venetians in 1572. The most significant find of the later period was discovered concealed within the wall of a domestic building: a coin hoard consisting of 15 Venetian *torneselli* (base silver coins) of Doge Antonio Venerio (1382-1400). The *torneselli* were minted in Venice specifically for its eastern colonies, and the date of the hoard coincides with the annexation of Butrint by Venice in 1386.



Cleaning the Roman bridge

The Bridge

The Roman bridge, once linking Butrint and the Vrina Plain, survives in the form of a large masonry block on the northeast side of the medieval Water Gate. Remnants of masonry piers have been glimpsed in the thick silt on the channel bed, but elsewhere nothing remains of this once substantial structure.

The bridge remains were cleaned and recorded along with adjacent aqueduct piers, revealing the initial span of the bridge with its vault largely intact, and a collapsed arch mostly buried in mud. Some elements of the well-crafted outer face of the standing arch survived *in situ*. A section of smooth stone paving of the original

road surface was uncovered on the top of the bridge, together with sections of rougher, later repairs. The road carried by the bridge measured at least 6.50 m across, sufficient to permit wheeled vehicles over the Vivari Channel. The bridge or aqueduct appears on coins struck at Butrint during the reigns of Augustus and Nero, testimony to the significant investment their construction required.

The aqueduct fell out of use by the 4th century, but it is now evident that the bridge itself remained in use for considerably longer. The late antique (c. AD 475) fortification circuit retained the bridge opening and the road was only closed when a wall was built over it, probably in the 10th century, possibly as part of a new enclosure built around the Great Basilica.

The Triconch Palace mosaics

Four mosaic pavements in the Triconch Palace were re-opened, cleaned and documented as part of a conservation assessment. The mosaics were recorded by photogrammetry and conventional photography. An exciting discovery was made in the eastern vestibule of the long southern gallery used by distinguished guests and the main entrance to the property during the 3rd and 4th centuries. Here, under a later mortar floor or spread were striking images of Graeco-Roman theatrical masks relating to New Comedy.

The mosaics depict a male and a female mask and are the work of a master using a colour range and skill not found elsewhere in Butrint. The two new masks are related to another, if later, female dramatic mask located in the apse of the *triclinium* (dining room) at the west end of the gallery. The common theatrical theme demonstrates the owners' cultural aspirations and display of Hellenic cultural, literate and elite ideals.



A small trench through a damaged area of the mosaic in the western peristyle provided pottery to date the pavement, and the penultimate phase of the building itself, to around AD 400. A remarkable stone fragment, carved with the motif of two pomegranates on a stalk in low flat relief in a framed field, was also found. This appears to be from the display front of a table or podium, or possibly from the front of a semi-circular dining couch, or *stibadium*, from an earlier 4th-century phase of the house.

Store of ceramic vessels found at the Western Defences

The Temple on the Vrina Plain

Work was carried out on the Roman road (which was carried by the bridge to Butrint) in front of the Temple and around the aqueduct at its rear. Three phases can be established in the long history of the road. It was built in the later 1st or 2nd century AD from large stone blocks. A replacement surface including debris from the partly demolished Temple was built, probably in the 3rd century, and continued to be used into Late Antiquity. Finally, the collapse of buildings flanking the road brought about a build-up of banks, forming a small hollow-way that continued in use into the Middle Ages. Facing the Temple across the road were a stone flagged pavement, a portico and an entrance to an apparently open, undeveloped area.

East of the Temple vast quantities of masonry rubble showed that its rear wall had been deliberately undermined and demolished for its fine stonework in the 6th century AD. The falling wall had struck an adjacent arch of the redundant aqueduct and brought this down with it. Importantly, an early imperial date was established for the construction of the aqueduct: its foundations cut through deposits containing crushed amphorae of Augustan date. Furthermore, the excavations highlighted the enormous levelling operation required for the Roman centuriation organisation of the Vrina Plain.



Early-mid 1st-century AD cobbled yard

The Townhouse on the Vrina Plain

A nucleus of buildings found beneath the townhouse represents the development of a small urban centre during the early Roman period. Parts of three structures were found, including one rough-built building dated to the mid 1st century AD. Another, well-built structure included a series of rooms and mortar floors associated with a cobbled yard. The third building looked out on to the contemporary waterfront on the west side of the settlement. Fresh environmental studies indicate that the settlement edge was defined by open water rather than a river channel. By the late 1st century

AD the character of the urban core changed dramatically and the disparate buildings were brought under single, consolidated ownership. The early structures were either knocked down, some being cleared to make way for a new courtyard, or else incorporated within the later complex of a large luxury townhouse.

New aspects of the layout of the later Roman residence were gained by the discovery of the southern portico of the peristyle (courtyard) and of a building paved in fine mosaics. Parts of a bath-house were found built close to the ancient

waterfront. In the northwest corner of the complex a remarkable octagonal building, possibly a tower, was located, which would have afforded striking views to Butrint and Corfu. East of the peristyle, a well-stocked storeroom contained numerous large, intact 2nd–3rd-century amphorae. The assemblage included wine amphorae from southern Italy and an example from Portugal for *garum* (fish sauce). The amphorae are strong indicators of the economic links and purchasing power of the owners of the townhouse.

LATE ANTIQUE AND MEDIEVAL BUTRINT

The Western Defences

The so-called 'Western Defences' consists of three towers connected by walls within the late antique fortification network of Butrint. Excavation of the northernmost tower has allowed an unparalleled insight into the archaeology and history of the otherwise elusive 8th and 9th centuries. The excavations focused on the ground floor storeroom of an elite residence situated on an upper storey reached by an external staircase. The store was sealed beneath a collapsed upper floor of shattered 5th-century tiles and carbonised joist timbers. The collapse of the floor above was the result of a catastrophic fire, an event dated by radiocarbon analysis to c. AD 800.

In the centre of the earthen floor was a hearth, next to which a portable oven, or 'chafing dish', had been found in 2004. Just inside the door were two storage areas with contents unparalleled in the southern Adriatic. To the right lay a collection of glass, probably hoarded in a wooden crate as indicated by iron fittings and straps. The assemblage included at least 60 thin-stemmed wine goblets, window glass, fragments of late Roman vessels and a lump of opaque green glass. This mixture of glass fragments bears the hallmarks of a collection intended for recycling - an extraordinarily precious consignment destined for a glassmaker.

Alongside the glass was a rich assemblage of ceramic vessels. This included two tall decorated, locally produced pots of the regional Slavic tradition, a brightly painted amphora and bowl from Apulia, and thin, white-walled tableware from Constantinople. More vessels, crushed by the collapsed first floor, were located to the left of the door as well as seven globular wine amphorae from Otranto and another probably from Ephesus. In all 24 complete and half complete vessels from the tower have now been reconstructed.

The finds indicate that the proprietor of the tower had connections both to Byzantium and to the province of Byzantine Italy, and was engaged in the commerce of one of the great luxuries of this materially impoverished age - glass. This suggests that the tower was the residence of the commander of Butrint - the *archon* - who acted as an independent ruler of the ancient city.



Well of Junia Rufina cemetery silver earrings

Well of Junia Rufina

The area near the Well of Junia Rufina, behind the Lion Gate, was excavated to allow urgent conservation of fallen masonry and loose vaulting around the well. The well was dedicated to the nymphs during the 2nd century AD and adapted as a Christian oratory in the 5th or 6th centuries before becoming the site of a chapel in the medieval period. The 2007 work revealed part of the cemetery around the chapel.

Three stone-lined graves of adults were found above the wellhead. One, capped with flat stones, contained a skeleton bestowed with a striking pair of perfectly preserved composite silver earrings with applied filigree ornament in twisted wire. The earrings, associated pottery and coin finds indicate a 6th-century date. Use of the cemetery was discontinued, probably before the 7th century, but revived between the late 10th and early 11th century. Seven graves belong to this later phase: four children or infant burials and three adult inhumations. One of the infant graves was covered with reused late antique tiles, the earliest example of this style from Butrint; another was marked with a headstone, only the second such example known from Butrint.

During the 11th century the chapel began to collapse and a remarkable so-called 'Benno-jeton' - a small circular *fibula* brooch in the form of a coin - was found in the fallen building rubble. The brooch bears the perfectly preserved effigy of the Salian king and Holy Roman Emperor Henry III (1046-1056), ringed by the inscription: +O:ENNO PVCIT (BENNO ME FECIT - Benno made me). Only five other brooches of this type are known, from Denmark, northern Germany,



Western Defences wine goblet stems



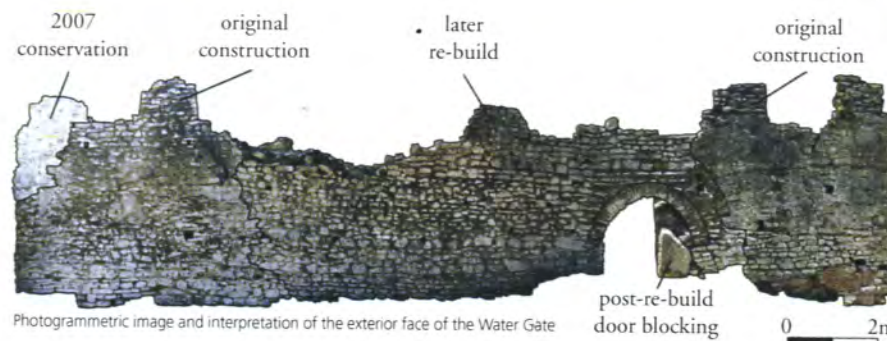
Well of Junia Rufina cemetery 'Benno-jeton' brooch

Austria and Hungary, and its presence in Butrint shows the exceptional international contacts that the city's community maintained with the West.

THE SARANDA ODEON

A trench was dug to the rear of Saranda town hall close to the purported site of the odeum, an area that has suffered greatly from unstructured and destructive development since 1992. Beneath extensive deposits of modern rubbish and foundation structures, a number of *in situ* archaeological layers were identified containing Roman and late antique ceramics as well as pottery of early medieval date, 9th or 10th century. This adds to the debate on the later history of Onchesmos (the ancient name of Saranda) since occupation was previously believed to have ceased in the later 6th century. The small-scale excavation was halted in the light of the relatively intact archaeological levels here and the high probability of good survival over the whole of the adjacent area.

Further, a section of the late antique city wall around Saranda, exposed in recent construction work, was recorded, leading to the surprise re-discovery of a large Roman cistern overlooking the town's seafront. This impressive structure was believed to have been lost during the building of a new hotel complex, but had in fact been well preserved and was found standing up to 3 m high in the basement of the hotel bar where it served as a feature of the complex. While the destruction of its context is to be lamented, its survival in an imaginative development shows potential for the preservation of Saranda's classical heritage in co-existence with the demands of modern urban renewal.



DIGITAL RECORDING PROJECTS

Two separate initiatives were instigated for rapid recording of standing structures in advance of conservation and restoration work: photogrammetry and high definition laser recording. Besides serving archaeological research and heritage management purposes, both techniques can be used to produce 3-D reconstruction models for academic analysis or public presentation.

Photogrammetry, the technique to produce a single scaled image from numerous individual images, was employed to document sections of the fortification walls. The primary focus of the photogrammetry project was the medieval Water Gate. Photogrammetric records were produced for each façade of the gate, digital elevations were drawn up and the structural sequences re-analysed and interpreted. To the south of the Water Gate, sections of the city wall circuit and two of the towers were also recorded. Finally, photogrammetry was used to support the recording process at the excavation sites at the Well of Junia Rufina, the Roman bridge and in the forum, the Tripartite Building and statue podium.

The capabilities of a high definition laser scanner were piloted for use in archaeological applications through surveying a number of monuments in the city. The interior and exterior of the Great Basilica was surveyed in just two days, the scanner collecting some 400 million 3-D points. The scanner was subsequently used to rapidly capture images of the Theatre, the Roman bridge and a section of the Baptistry pavement to test it with different types of structure, materials and surface textures, all with positive results.

Archaeo-seismic survey

A study was made to assess the locally active tectonic mechanisms and to compare these with the heights of excavated archaeological surfaces and current water levels. The valley to the south of Butrint is formed within a tectonically controlled basin, bounded by fault lines running along the edge of the Mt Mile range and along the northeast edge of the Korafi Hills. The related subsidence of sediments in the valley has led to a rise in relative water levels at Butrint.

Active fault zones are the causal locations of most earthquakes. A small local fault line appears to exist along the south-facing scarp of the Butrint acropolis, running behind the Theatre and the forum and forming a characteristic spring line. In 2007, it was discovered that the southern part of the forum pavement had undergone considerable subsidence, dipping at an angle of *c.* 20 degrees. Since the pavement was also overlain by a deposit of alluvial silt 0.20 m deep, it seems likely that the forum pavement subsided during an earthquake with the pavement effectively hinged along the acropolis bedrock edge, the southern end built over unconsolidated sediments experiencing sudden subsidence and inundation.

Archaeological indicators suggest that the seismic event affecting the forum occurred in the 3rd or 4th century, though in tectonic terms it seems likely that a period of intense regional activity during the so-called 'Early Byzantine Tectonic Paroxysm', from the middle 4th century AD to the middle 6th century AD, led to the activation of local faults. Butrint is considered as the macro-seismic epicentre of a strong earthquake in AD 358 as well as the probable epicentre for a lesser-known seismic event in AD 1153.

Laser scanner image of the Theatre at Butrint



CONSERVATION

As in previous years the on-site conservation was directed towards monument and mosaic conservation. However, thanks to a new two-year grant from the Howard and Nancy Marks Fund, the programme has widened considerably in scope and aim. Two-thirds of the work in 2007 was carried out as a joint, co-funded project with the Butrint National Park, strengthening the working relationships between the two organisations and enhancing the effectiveness of the project. We are particularly grateful to Albana Hakani and Klara Hoxha of the Butrint National Park for their help in setting up this project.

The monument conservation and vegetation management programme, led by Rene Rice, included a thorough update of the 2001 condition survey and the creation of a priority-based monument conservation programme. The new survey includes monument-specific condition assessments and proposals for vegetation management, conservation, maintenance and associated training. The survey has been collated in electronic form providing access to visual and written records of each monument through an interactive map. This format also has the advantage of being easily updated in response to changing conditions. In addition, a strategy for the management of vegetation in the Park was developed, and a series of local workers were trained to carry on the work, both in monument conservation and vegetation management.

Water Gate before conservation



The grant from the Howard and Nancy Marks Fund also provided the opportunity for carrying out some much needed conservation work on metal objects in the Butrint Museum. This was undertaken by Alma Bardha, who included recommendations for the future long-term protection of the metal objects in her report. These suggestions were passed on to the Institute of Archaeology, who run the museum, as a proposal for a possible future project.



Water Gate after conservation



Assessments and conservation of the mosaic pavements were carried out by Jacques Neguer and Ghaleb Abu Diab from the Israel Antiquities Authority, with Agron Islami of the Institute of Monuments conserving the Vrina Plain mosaics. This project was made possible by the award of a grant from the Oak Foundation. The results were as impressive as in 2006: the post-excavation consolidation of the mosaics on the Vrina Plain was completed, the diverse mosaics in the Triconch Palace fully examined and recorded, and a proposal for the conservation and presentation of the famous Baptistery mosaic was elaborated.

MONUMENT CONSERVATION

The Water Gate

The primary objective for 2007 was the medieval Water Gate. It was in a parlous condition mainly due to large tree roots having penetrated the core of the stonework causing it to split and disintegrate. The work involved a minimum of eight people over a period of four weeks and necessitated the provision of scaffolding. The object of the conservation was to stabilise the structure in its current condition and to prevent further deterioration. Sections of the southern end of the monument, which were in danger of collapse, were dismantled and rebuilt, the southern niche arch was repaired and the whole building was consolidated by replacing lost and failed pointing with lime mortar, filling cracks in the stonework and buttressing areas of unsupported masonry.



Building a dry stone wall

The Well of Junia Rufina

The area of the well, having been exposed by the removal of a tree during the spring, was made safe for archaeological investigation and the excavation area was protected from collapse by a raking shore. At the end of the summer this was replaced by a dry-stone wall. Vaulting adjacent to and above the well itself was consolidated to prevent further deterioration. Finally the area above the well was backfilled to re-create the natural slope of the bank.

The Nymphaeum near the 'Wall of Inscriptions'

An extensive programme of vegetation clearance was undertaken in the area surrounding the nymphaeum and the so-called 'Wall of Inscriptions'. This exposed previously hidden problems in the structure of the building, caused mainly by root growth within the masonry structure. After vegetation clearance the monument was subjected to a programme of masonry consolidation, pointing, crack filling and rough racking to support facework masonry.

The Stoa Church

The wall-painting associated with the church is protected only by a sloping roof and hence risks exposure to the elements. The aim was simply to prevent any more of the wall-painting from falling away; hence, work was limited to re-adhering the plaster and buttressing its edges, leaving the paint surface to be cleaned and conserved at a later date by the appropriate specialists.



Conservation of the Stoa Church wall painting



The Acropolis Basilica after vegetation clearance

Fortification wall between the Venetian Tower and the Triconch Palace
The late antique section of wall exhibits three construction phases as well as incorporating remnants of Roman brick buildings. Conservation work was preceded by vegetation clearance of 2 m either side of the structure. Trees growing on the wall were felled as necessary to avoid structural damage. The walls were cleared of debris, loose stones were reset and empty joints re-pointed with lime mortar. The wall tops were either mortar-capped or left with a soft capping of grass.

The Fortification towers near the Triconch Palace and the Water Gate
The tower adjacent to the Triconch Palace was threatened by the presence of a large, mature wild olive tree growing within the masonry and overhanging the freestanding wall. Conservation began with the controlled felling of the tree and the poisoning of the stump. The tower was then subjected to vegetation removal from vertical surfaces, resetting of loose stones on wall tops and re-pointing of open joints and cracks after careful cleaning of debris. A wooden lintel was placed above the jambs of the remaining window opening. The tower next to the Water Gate received the same vegetation removal and consolidation treatment.

The Acropolis Basilica

Major preliminary vegetation clearance was undertaken in collaboration with Erjona Qilla from the Butrint National Park and included thinning of the surrounding vegetation to reveal the spectacular views across Lake Butrint and the Vrina Plain. The masonry of the basilica is constructed using respectively lime and earth mortars. Empty and decayed joints in the lime mortared areas were re-pointed, but no attempt beyond cleaning was made to recreate the earth mortars.

The Triangular Fortress

Over the years a multitude of large vertical cracks have appeared on each face of the fortress as a result of differential settlement. It was decided to deep pack and point these cracks to prevent the ingress of dirt and the loosening of stones on the edges of the cracks, and to provide a way of monitoring contemporary movement in the building.

MOSAIC CONSERVATION

The Baptistery Mosaic

A detailed record of the conservation issues concerning the Baptistery and the adjacent Trapezoidal Hall mosaics was drawn up with the assistance of Erjona Qilla and the photogrammetric images produced in 2006. The primary problems concern the instability of large areas of the mosaic and the negative effects of previous interventions, particularly those using cement-based mortars. The proposed conservation programme addresses the aesthetic aspects of the mosaic as well as the underlying causes of its deterioration. The aim is to secure a level of stability and integrity to allow the mosaic to be presented to the public for several months a year.

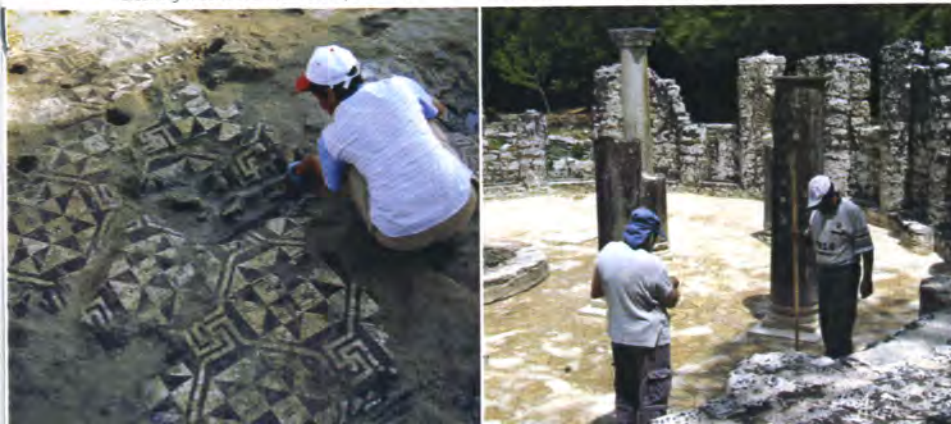
Vital to this proposal is a training programme for mosaic conservators to monitor and maintain the Baptistery mosaic and to extend the conservation and presentation programme to other mosaics in Butrint and in Albania. A three-year programme has been proposed focussing on a series of month-long campaigns of conservation and training preceded by an archival study to establish the exact nature of previous interventions.

The Vrina Plain

First aid stabilisation and conservation was carried out on mosaics in the Vrina Plain basilica and the Roman townhouse, thus completing a project started last year. In rooms L and O of the Roman townhouse, lacunae were filled with lime mortar and the edges of the mosaics were stabilised. Recommendations were made for the treatment of the mosaics in the nave and *bema* of the Vrina Plain basilica urging that special care be taken in covering them to avoid the deleterious effects of micro-vegetation. Minor consolidation also took place on the mosaics in the excavation trenches to the northwest of the basilica. Two new mosaics were discovered during the excavations; these were assessed but not treated.

Cleaning Triconch Palace mosaic pavement

Condition assessment of the Baptistery mosaic pavement



The Triconch Palace

A thorough condition assessment of all the mosaics was made assisted by Elda Omari and recommendations for conservation and possible presentation were drawn up. Water infiltration, resulting in the sinking and shrinking of the surface of the mosaic, as well as the effects of animal and human activity, vegetation, seismic activity and salt crystallization following the drying of the mosaics are the main causes of damage.

The pavements examined comprised the eastern vestibule, the southern gallery and the apsidal *triclinium* (dining room). Due to the degree of deterioration of the former two, these areas will only be uncovered for future conservation purposes. However, the mosaic in the apsidal *triclinium* could conceivably be presented to the public during periods when the water table is at its lowest. In the course of the assessment two new and very attractive mosaics were found representing a pair of comic theatre masks.

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

Vegetation management is integral to the conservation projects. For the monument conservation programme the immediate aim was to arrest ongoing damage to the monuments and to open up the forested areas in order to prevent a laurel-dominated monoculture from taking over. This in turn increased the visibility of the monuments. Further, the Hellenistic fortification walls were cleared of vegetation between the Lake Gate and the acropolis and to the west of the Lion Gate. Once this work has been completed in 2008, a programme of annual vegetation management will be developed.

TRAINING AND VOLUNTEERS

A number of young Albanian specialists and students collaborated in the season's conservation work. Three specialists, one an alumnus of the Butrint Foundation archaeological training programme, participated in the monuments conservation programme for a two-week period each, and a further three received basic training in cleaning and first aid consolidation of mosaics. Collaborating with the Albanian masonry conservators were six English volunteer conservators and stonemasons. In addition, local workmen were employed in all conservation programmes to create a pool of skilled personnel to draw on in the future.

The results were as impressive as in 2006: the post-excavation consolidation of the mosaics on the Vrina Plain was completed, the diverse mosaics in the Triconch Palace fully examined and recorded, and a proposal for the conservation and presentation of the famous Baptistery mosaic was elaborated.



Local children at the launch of the school activities book



The President of Albania visiting the 'Kasolle'

COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

In 2007 the Community Enterprise and Development Project moved into its second year, thanks to continued funding from the Philanthropic Collaborative and the support of Mr William Dietel. The handicraft and agricultural production programmes started last year were developed, the schools programme took off in earnest and the first steps were made in the new environmental programme; to these initiatives was added a visit by a documentary photographer and filmmaker. As in previous years, the hugely successful Community Day at Butrint was an integral part of the project.

HANDICRAFT PRODUCTION PROGRAMME

The central plank of the income generating part of the project is handicraft production. In order to build on last year's successes we arranged a small business seminar in January at which the producers were advised on such concepts as pricing and stock control. The bi-annual off-season training sessions took place again in the small community centre in Shën Dëlli. These were run by international experts from Britain, Holland, America and Macedonia. At each session the producers were introduced to new techniques and, perhaps more importantly, shown how to adapt their existing skills to the demands of the tourist industry. The input of the Macedonian expert was vital in overcoming the producers' initial reticence because she was able to demonstrate how the handicraft industry had developed in her country over the past six years from very similar beginnings. As a result of the training programmes, the range of products has expanded to include bags, mosaics, pendants, key rings, baby booties, painted stones, cushion covers and some traditional clothing. The income from sales of the handicrafts at Butrint has increased dramatically over



Basketball at the Vrina Plain school playground



Display at the 'Kasolle'

the past two years with sales at the 'Kasolle' (the traditional thatched structure in the site) more than doubling between 2006 and 2007. Sales of agricultural products continued this year and included herbs, honey, jam and raki, and advances were made in the labelling and presentation of these products. The only sad note for the project was the destruction of the 'Kasolle' by a winter storm. However, this is being seen as an opportunity to build a bigger and more robust structure to accommodate the expanding demands of the project.

THE SCHOOLS PROGRAMME

2007 was the year in which the schools programme begun in earnest. In early May the combined student body of the schools of Ksamil, Vrina, Xarra and Mursia assembled in the Theatre at Butrint to be presented with their new school activities book. The book is aimed at primary school children and seeks to actively engage them with the site of Butrint by telling them a little bit of history and then encouraging participation in activities such as making theatrical masks, recreating Butrint mosaics using paper tesserae and reliving a Roman banquet. The Butrint Foundation has continued to provide support for the teachers to help them integrate the book into the curriculum and it is hoped that the pupils will return to the theatre next year to perform their own plays based on the ancient myths.

The other strand of the schools programme has been to restore the playgrounds of the schools in the three villages on the Vrina Plain. The fabric of these schools has not recovered from the upheavals of the 1990s and both the buildings and recreational areas have fallen into a bad state of disrepair. A local builder levelled an area in each school and created overlapping spaces for basketball, football and volleyball, while the appropriate boards and nets were brought from Greece. In the Vrina school stepped stone seating for spectators was also constructed.



Medea

In 2007 the schools programme included a production of Euripides *Medea* performed by the British theatre company, Company Collisions. The production was co-funded by the Philanthropic Collaborative, the British Council and Nat Rothschild and was included within the Butrinti 2000 Theatre Festival. The Butrint Foundation invited 100 local students and their teachers, who joined a full house of Albanian and foreign visitors. It was an outstanding production, which was rapturously received by the audience and critically acclaimed in the Albanian press. From the students who attended we received lengthy written appreciations of the play and expressions of the importance of such an experience for them.

OTHER COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Also in July we held our second Community Day at which the Butrint Foundation, the Butrint National Park and the people of the Vrina Plain came together next to the Triangular Castle to celebrate another year of co-operation. Local farmers displayed their wares, the youth of the villages, as well as some of the archaeologists, competed in the tug-of-war and swimming races and everyone danced to the band from Xarra. Meanwhile free boat tours and site visits were offered to the villagers.

Linked to the community enterprise project a series of striking photographs and material for an eight-minute film were made by the acclaimed filmmaker Kevin J. Everson. The photographs capture contemporary life in the Butrint region:

agriculture, construction, leisure - and archaeology. The images record a country grappling with modernity without loss of history or tradition. Focusing on the dignity of everyday life, the images form an ideal foundation for local exhibitions and school projects as well as adding a new exciting facet on Butrint for display through the Butrint website.

The final contribution of the Community Project in 2007 was the planting in early December of assorted fruit and olive trees in the village of Shën Dëlli, the youngest and poorest of the Vrina Plain villages, having only been established in the 1990s.

Looking ahead

In 2008 we look forward to continuing our support of the income-generating elements in the programme, while at the same time preparing the ground for the projects to become financially independent, as their ability to do this successfully will be a measure of their success in the long run. In our schools programme we will address the needs of secondary school students and try to engage them in the site at Butrint. We will also be attempting to improve the fabric of the Vrina Plain by turning our attention to tree-planting, environmental issues in farming and the building of a community centre. Our thanks go to the donors in the Philanthropic Collaborative, William Dietel, the staff of the Butrint National Park and the villagers of the Vrina Plain for their many and various* contributions to the achievements of 2007.

Tree planting in Shën Dëlli



Swimming competitors at the Community Day



EDUCATION

The archaeological field school

Over the past three years, Albanian alumni of the Butrint Foundation's student training programme have been handed increasing degrees of control over the project. This year, the teaching and direction of the training excavation, as well as project logistics and pastoral care, were placed entirely in the hands of two experienced alumni. The manifest ability of the instructors and their efficient management of the students marked the training programme out as one of the true success stories of the season.

Fourteen Albanian students were recruited for the training school from the universities of Tirana, Gjirokastra and Elbasan. As in previous years, the programme began with instruction on basic field techniques - excavation, written recording, scale drawing and surveying - but in 2007 elements on finds processing, standing building survey and monument conservation were included. The teaching of these aspects involved other members of the project team, staff from the Butrint National Park and the International Centre for Albanian Archaeology as well as the Foundation's own specialist staff. These short courses are seen as an important development in the field school programme to increase awareness of post-excavation requirements and to give a flavour of closely related archaeology-based disciplines.

Students excavating the Roman road



Students learning Roman ceramics identification and recording

All of the students received a comprehensive field-training manual to accompany the practical course and were presented with certificates of attendance upon completion of the programme. The Butrint Foundation's field training school remains as the foremost course in the country for Albanian archaeology students to gain experience of contemporary techniques and practices. Two alumni of the field school now working for the International Centre of Albanian Archaeology will plan and structure the training course at Butrint for the summer of 2008.

MANAGEMENT TRAINING

The Butrint National Park now has a management structure consisting of the director, a finance officer and four specialists in the fields of archaeology, conservation, tourism and environment. This increase in personnel has been a welcome development and one that is indicative of the commitment of the Albanian government to good management at Butrint. However, since Butrint is

the first of its type in Albania, there is little general experience of managing a national park, hence the pressing need for appropriate training. It was for these reasons that the Butrint Foundation, with the help of funds from the A.G. Leventis Foundation and the British Council, organised four management training projects in the course of 2007.

Site visit to Nicropolis





The first explored comparative experiences and models of cultural heritage management at sites in northern Greece. Our thanks go to the 12th Ephorate and the staff at Nicopolis for allowing the visit to the site, and to the Egnatia Epirus Foundation at Metsovo for sharing their experiences. At Nicopolis ambitious plans for

future EU-funded visitor management was presented and common experiences in monument and mosaic conservation, traffic management and the provision of visitor facilities were shared. At Metsovo an excellent example of how tourism can be turned to the economic benefit of the community was presented by the village's transition from a dwindling shepherding community to a thriving tourist destination and conference centre; of particular interest was the role of handicrafts and other cottage industries in the local economy.

The second project, funded by a grant by the British Council, was a workshop at Apollonia, at which the staff of the Butrint National Park gave the benefit of their experience at Butrint to colleagues from the six new archaeological parks created in Albania in 2006. The meeting consisted of presentations by the Butrint National Park team, lectures by British and American archaeologists on archaeology in cultural heritage and the application of guiding techniques, and tuition in the writing of a management plan.

Finally, in October the International Centre for the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments (ICCROM) held its annual South East Europe conservation course at Butrint for the first time. The course was organised by the Butrint Foundation and the Butrint National Park and was held at the new Arts Centre in Ksamil. It was attended by 20 students from Serbia, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Croatia and Georgia, as well as two specialists from Butrint, and conducted by Valerie Magar from the Rome office of ICCROM. As well as site visits and hands-on conservation the students attended seminars and lectures by Italian, Albanian and British experts including Lorenc Bejko, the Director of the Institute of Monuments. The course received widespread and positive press attention in Albania as well as detailed coverage on the ICCROM website.

Working with the financial department of the Butrint National Park, the third project sought to establish a functional ticketing system at Butrint. A workable system for the selling and checking of tickets at the entrance to the Park has now been put in place, which will also accurately record the number and nature of the visitors and the income generated. This information will provide a firm basis for future planning, from monument conservation to visitor facilities.

THE UNESCO MISSION

The biennial UNESCO mission, comprising Anastasia Tzigounaki from UNESCO, Giora Solar from ICOMOS and Gamini Wijesuriya from ICCROM, spent four days in Butrint examining the progress made since 2005. They were particularly interested in the degree to which previous recommendations had been followed up and, as the ensuing report made clear, the findings were generally favourable. It was noted that the Management Plan for 2007-2012 (written by the Butrint Foundation in consultation with the Butrint National Park) had been completed on time, and considerable supplements were suggested, particularly with regards to the environmental conservation of the Park. They also requested in their report that the Albanian government should pay particular attention to the issue of construction in and around the Park. The report is available from the UNESCO website.

ICCROM course participants



PUBLICATION PROGRAMME

The Butrint Foundation continues its publication programme comprising academic monographs and articles, guidebooks and magazine articles. In 2007 three books appeared in print, with a further 14 contributions in academic journals, conference proceedings and magazines.



Launch of the Saranda guidebook

Roman Butrint (edited by I.L. Hansen and R. Hodges), a prequel to *Byzantine Butrint*, published in 2004, is an academic assessment of Roman period Butrint discussing the urban development, the political changes and the cultural realignments produced by the grant of colonial status. Two further archaeological monographs are currently in preparation, with more being planned during 2008.

The books *Saranda, ancient Onchesmos* by Richard Hodges and *Venetian Butrint* by Andrew Crowson both draw on archaeological detail to create attractive books for a broad audience. The former is a guide to the history and archaeology of Saranda and surrounding area. It represents an appreciation of the regional context of Butrint, central to heritage management programmes of the area. This will be followed up by an archaeological guide written by Oliver Gilkes.

Venetian Butrint, published with a grant from Venetian Heritage Inc, describes the turbulent period between the 14th and 18th centuries when Butrint was a valuable enclave of the Venetian Republic. It is the first of a new series of individual subject guides published by the Butrint Foundation aimed at highlighting the historical breadth of Butrint. A book on the Baptistry and its celebrated mosaic pavement will follow in the spring of 2008 with a further two in preparation.

A full list of all Butrint Foundation publications is available through the Butrint Foundation and the Butrint websites. Academic monographs and journal articles are the backbone of research on Butrint and on the long-term survival of data on the archaeology and history of the site, while the general audience books will raise the profile and knowledge of the site to ensure its long-term survival. Maintaining the pace and quality of publications on Butrint is a fundamental aim for the next two years.





Screenshot from the Butrint website

THE BUTRINT WEBSITE

The website about Butrint (www.butrint.org), launched in 2007, is the most comprehensive information portal on Butrint currently available on the web. It provides a personalised encounter with the site - with its rich history and spectacular natural setting - as well as an introduction to the archaeological sites of the region. The site it is receiving a good level of attention, and an increased number of visitors each day. Most explore the archaeology and history of the site, but many are looking at the detailed practical information on how to reach Butrint. This is particularly pleasing since the aims of the website include encouraging visitors to the Butrint region. Also noticeable is the number of visitors interested in local community issues through the community shop and the B&B network linked to the Butrint National Park.

Most encouraging of all, however, are the increasing number of visitors from Albania itself, as well as from its immediate neighbours, Italy, Greece, Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro. The availability of the website as a reference point for information on Butrint offers significant back-up for the ongoing regional collaborative projects in cultural heritage development, as well as a broad base from which to sustain local community enterprise projects and national educational programmes.

The aim of this richly illustrated website is to bring to life the particular magic with which Butrint has touched every visitor throughout its long history, and to encourage a more profound knowledge of a site unique in the Adriatic.

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' STATEMENT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE BUTRINT FOUNDATION

We have examined the summarised financial statements of the Butrint Foundation set out on page 20.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND AUDITORS

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the annual review containing summarised financial statements in accordance with the recommendations of the charities SORP.

Our responsibility is to report to you our opinion on the consistency of the summarised financial statements with the full financial statements and Trustees' Annual Report. We also read the other information contained in the annual review and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the summarised financial statements.

BASIS OF OPINION

We conducted our work in accordance with Bulletin 1999/6 "The auditors statement on the summary financial statement" issued by the Auditing Practices Board for use in the United Kingdom.

OPINION

In our opinion the summarised financial statements are consistent with the full financial statements and the Trustees' Report of the Butrint Foundation for the year ended 31 December 2007.

Saffery Champness 11 June 2008
Registered Auditors
Lion House
Red Lion Street
WC1R 4GB

TRUSTEES' STATEMENT

These summarised accounts may not contain sufficient information to allow a full understanding of the financial affairs of the Butrint Foundation. For further information the full audited accounts should be consulted – copies are available from the Butrint Foundation, 29 St James's Place, London SW1A 1NR. The full accounts have been audited by Saffery Champness and received an unqualified opinion. They were approved by the trustees on DATE and will be submitted to the Charity Commission.

Lord Rothschild, OM, GBE (Chairman)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2007

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2007 Total £	2006 Total £
Incoming resources				
Incoming resources from generated funds				
Voluntary income	215,911	495,267	711,178	753,555
Donation in kind	34,776	-	34,776	26,630
Investment income	4,505	11,227	15,732	8,624
Fundraising from sales	1,500	137	1,637	-
Incoming resources from charitable activities	3,194	-	3,194	54
Total incoming resources	259,886	506,631	766,517	788,863
Resources expended				
Cost of generating funds				
Cost of generating voluntary income	46,846	-	46,846	50,929
Cost of books sold	1,140	-	1,140	-
Charitable activities				
- Archaeology	134,233	426,102	560,335	551,122
- Conservation	17,252	53,274	70,526	65,686
- Community Enterprise	11,923	44,233	56,156	45,143
- Research projects	291	1,080	1,371	71,534
- Publications	-	-	-	9,181
- Visitor facilities	8,492	4,210	12,702	13,108
- Scholarships and bursaries	479	1,775	2,254	13,360
Governance costs	6,610	-	6,610	9,525
Total resources expended	227,266	530,674	757,940	829,588
Net incoming (outgoing resources) before transfers	32,620	(24,043)	8,577	(40,725)
Gross transfers between funds	8,420	(8,420)	-	-
(Losses)/gains on revaluation of foreign currency	(2,326)	25,827	23,501	(1,088)
Net movement in funds	38,714	(6,636)	32,078	(41,813)
Total funds brought forward	92,023	116,222	208,245	250,058
Total funds carried forward	130,737	109,586	240,323	208,245

The Statement of Financial Activities contains all recognised gains and losses for the year, which all relate to continuing activities

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2007

	2007		2006	
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets		8,759		981
Current Assets				
Stock of books purchased	8,860		-	
Sundry debtors	29,232		29,250	
Cash at bank and in hand	468,792		293,863	
Total current assets	<u>506,884</u>		<u>323,113</u>	
Current Liabilities				
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year;				
Accruals and deferred income	215,206		52,730	
Other creditors	60,114		63,119	
	<u>275,320</u>		<u>115,849</u>	
Net current assets		231,564		207,264
Total net assets		<u>240,323</u>		<u>208,245</u>
Funds				
Unrestricted		130,737		92,023
Restricted		109,586		116,222
		<u>240,323</u>		<u>208,245</u>

TRUSTEES OF THE BUTRINT FOUNDATION

Lord Rothschild, OM, GBE (Co-Chairman)

Lord Sainsbury of Preston Candover, KG (Co-Chairman)

Martine D'Anglejan-Chatillon

Sir Jocelyn Stevens, CVO

Jessica Douglas-Home

The Hon. Emmy Rothschild

BUTRINT FOUNDATION STAFF

Rupert Smith (Director)

Prof. Richard Hodges (Scientific Director)

Alison Ferrary (Administrator)

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Front cover: Butrint from The Triangular Castle

Back cover: Details of finds from the 2007 season. Above: Butrint and the Straits of Corfu

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