



BUTRINT FOUNDATION
Annual Report 2004

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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.

TRUSTEES' FOREWORD

The Butrint Foundation has been working in Albania for eleven years now, and our endeavour to research, protect and preserve the unique classical site of Butrint for prosperity is reaping ever more successful results. In 1993, when the Foundation was established, Butrint was a rural backwater under pressure from a myriad of problems that threatened to destroy all that made it special. Now, in large measure owing to the projects funded by our donors, some fifty thousand tourists a year are visiting the Butrint National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1997, and Butrint is at the forefront of the effort to protect and promote Albania's cultural and natural heritage. The Park is increasingly financially self-sustainable and its fame and popularity should, we hope, ensure its long-term protection.

Over the years the Foundation has forged close relationships with many Albanian institutions and colleagues and it gives us great pleasure that this relationship continues to flourish to the mutual benefit of so many students and academics in Albania and abroad. As ever, this year our activities have spanned a wide spectrum of activities ranging from archaeology, conservation, environmental protection and park management – all of which are providing vital expertise, opportunity and energy to Albania's efforts to preserve Butrint.

Likewise, the Butrint Foundation is encouraging a wider interest in, and donor support for, the rest of Albania's cultural resources. Our sister organisations – funded by the Packard Humanities Institute (PHI) – are the Tirana based International Centre for Albanian Archaeology and the Gjirokastra Conservation Office, the latter being the vanguard of the race to save the imperiled Ottoman fortified city of Gjirokastra in the south of Albania. These efforts, we believe, will be felt by many Albanian generations to come.



View of Butrint from Kalivo

H.E. Mr Fatos Nano presents Lord Rothschild with the Freedom of Saranda



Wallis, the Foundation's Administrator. Both positions are full-time, enabling the Director to spend considerably more time in Albania, and we are especially grateful to PHI for its support with implementing these changes. We are delighted that Sir Patrick has accepted our invitation to remain associated with the Foundation as Senior Adviser. Professor Richard Hodges continues to direct the scientific team, which as you will read in the report, has had another very productive year, culminating in the publication of the marvellous volume, *Byzantine Butrint: Excavations and Surveys 1994 – 1999*.

It was a pleasure to welcome the new Albanian Minister of Culture, Mr Blendi Klosi to our Trustees' board meeting in May and we thank him for all the assistance he gave us in 2004. A particular highlight of the year for Trustees was the bestowing, by the Albanian Prime Minister, Mr Fatos Nano, of honorary citizenships of Saranda on Lord Rothschild and Lord Sainsbury and the presentation of the Naim Frasheri Medal for Services to Albanian Culture to Sir Patrick at a ceremony at Saranda in October. We are most grateful for this recognition of the Foundation's efforts within the region.

Of course, our biggest thank you goes to our donors who have funded such a broad spectrum of activities at Butrint and enabled the Foundation to make the contribution that it has. Such an international alliance of goodwill has helped to put Butrint firmly on the map and given Albania a tourist attraction and motor of economic growth of immense importance to the country.

Lord Rothschild

Lord Rothschild, OM, GBE

Lord Sainsbury

Lord Sainsbury of Preston Candover, KG

We owe much of this success to Sir Patrick Fairweather who, for eight years, has led and sustained the Butrint Foundation with a boundless energy. However, Sir Patrick's retirement as Director in April has led to significant organisational changes: Daniel Renton became the new Director and Katherine

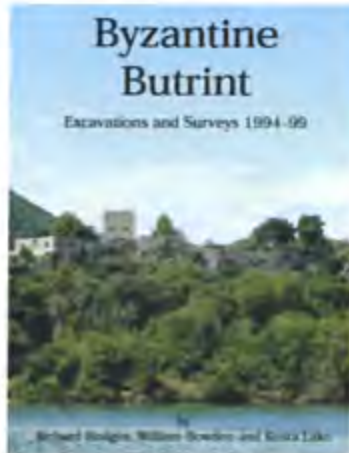
DIRECTOR'S REPORT

In recent years these annual reports have demonstrated an extraordinary growth of activity and 2004 was no exception. In collaboration with the Albanian Institute of Archaeology, the Butrint Foundation undertook its largest ever excavations. These summer digs at Butrint are now truly infused with an international flavour – in 2004, nearly 80 archaeologists, specialists and students from seven different countries took part. As a result of the immense generosity and continued support of the Packard Humanities Institute (PHI), the Butrint Foundation excavations at Butrint are now among the largest in the Mediterranean. We are grateful, also, to the Institute of Aegean Pre-History, for its continued support in the form of a grant to conduct a survey of the caves at Himara.

Quite apart from the fact that our excavations are providing valuable insight into the history of Butrint and the wider region, it gives us particular pride that the Foundation's activities are bringing benefit to Albania, which remains among Europe's poorest countries. In 2004 we trained 58 Albanian students, many of whom would not otherwise have had the opportunity to learn about modern practical field archaeology. Our investment in this young generation of specialists is reaping tangible results, as increasingly they take up key management positions in the field of cultural heritage, within Albania. This year five students were given the opportunity to continue their studies abroad, thanks to PHI, the J.E. Costopolous Foundation and Fondazione Monte dei Paschi di Siena.

Meanwhile the post-excavation work continues at a rapid pace. We are indebted to the Drue Heinz Trust, whose renewed commitment to the archive project has

enabled great progress on the Butrint electronic archive. This project will, in due course, enable a global audience to access Butrint research on the Internet. 2004 also welcomed a host of new academic publications, including, most notably, the completion of the impressive volume of research and scholarship, *Byzantine Butrint: Excavations and Surveys 1994 - 1999* by Richard Hodges, Will Bowden and Kosta Lako. This work is a demonstration of the considerable achievements of Richard Hodges and his team, and we look forward to the publications pipeline issuing forth further research from Butrint in 2005 and beyond.



The opportunities offered by our own website for publishing academic research have also been increasingly seized upon and a number of electronic documents can now be found on our web pages.

Additional activities in cyberspace included supporting the development and rolling out of a Missing Antiquities website for the International Centre for Albanian Archaeology (which can be seen at www.icaa.org.al/missingantiquities), an invaluable resource that highlights the illicit trade in antiquities, focusing on statuary missing from Butrint, as well as discussing problems at Phoenice, another significant Albanian archaeological site.

In the field of conservation, with a grant from the Howard & Nancy Marks Fund, we made good progress with our on-going work to conserve, interpret and present the Roman villa site of Diaporit. Conservation work at the Triconch Palace also continued and we look forward to seeing the research on this monument published in 2005. A generous grant from Venetian Heritage Inc. enabled us to undertake an archive and condition survey of all the Venetian monuments at Butrint. This survey has allowed us to understand better the historical phases of the monuments as well as the best means of conserving them. Further work on this project will include a feasibility study of the monuments to assess their suitability for use as visitor facilities, in particular a Visitor Centre. Our thanks also goes to the Getty Conservation Institute who conducted a four day training programme at Butrint, in June, to instruct Albanian specialists in new conservation techniques.

More broadly within the cultural heritage sphere, the Butrint Foundation has initiated a number of new projects to bolster the prestige and the facilities of the Butrint National Park. Since 1991 the museum on the acropolis at Butrint has been closed, but in 2004, with a grant from the A.G. Leventis Foundation and the Arrow Charitable Trust, on behalf of Nat Rothschild, we began renovation work on the museum, and anticipate its re-opening in time for the 2005 tourist season. Taking the story of Butrint further afield a large photographic exhibition, *"Eighty years of excavations at Butrint"*, went on display at the National Gallery in Tirana. The exhibition, funded by the Butrint Foundation and set up in collaboration with the Institute of Monuments, brought together the wealth of spectacular images that have resulted from our archival research, and we are very pleased that it will, eventually, go on permanent display in Saranda. The film *The Rise and Fall of a Mediterranean City*, which the Foundation made in 2003 has also been instrumental in reaching out to a wider audience. The film has been broadcast on Albanian national television no less than ten times throughout 2004 and it was selected for presentation at the annual International Archaeological Film Festival held at Rovereto in Italy in the autumn.



Lord Sambour visiting the excavations in July

The support of the Oak Foundation allowed us to continue to fund an Environmental Officer to help protect and promote the spectacular landscape around Butrint, and support us in a number of environmental projects. It has been very encouraging to see the increasing interest from donors in supporting the very special environment of Butrint. With an anonymous gift awarded to promote environmental awareness and protection, a bi-lingual illustrated environmental guidebook is being compiled for publication in 2005, and a project to expand the boundaries of the Park to secure protection under domestic law has been initiated. The Foundation has also been providing ongoing assistance to the World Bank as it prepares the ground for its multi-million Global Environmental Project due to begin at Butrint in the autumn of 2005.

Partly as a result of these projects, the prospects for the Butrint National Park continue to improve. While there was a drop-off in the number of domestic tourists in 2004, foreign tourist numbers rose to nearly 23,000 and the international tourist industry is showing a much sharper interest in the coastal regions and areas of cultural heritage of Albania. Indeed, the Foundation responded to a request from the Albanian Ministries of Territorial Adjustment & Tourism and Culture, Youth and Sport respectively, for assistance with the presentation of the Albania display at the 2004 World Travel Market in London in November. Closer to home, an Open Day was organised in July to give local residents the opportunity to visit the ancient site, be guided around the monuments and learn more about this local jewel, which has the potential to greatly involve the surrounding communities in its development of resources. Initiatives from other international organisations from Italy and the UK to promote sustainable tourism and projects for local community development have been explored and the Butrint Foundation has shown itself willing to help promote and assist with the development of these ideas.

The resulting increase in revenue from ticket sales means that the Park is increasingly self-sustainable. However there is still urgency to complete implementation of the Butrint National Park Management Plan, so that Butrint is fully capable of dealing with the ongoing increase in tourist numbers. The appointment of four specialists to the Park management this year was an encouraging initial step forward and the Foundation continues to offer its advice and practical support to the respective Albanian Institutions so that the Plan, which was formally adopted in April 2004, can be implemented fully. In June we were pleased to support arrangements for a visit to the UK by Professor Muzafer Korkuti, Director of the Institute of Archaeology. The visit included formal visits to the British Museum and to Stonehenge, which enabled Professor Korkuti to see, at first hand, examples of the management of such cultural institutions and how they function.

We were very pleased that a number of our trustees, donors and supporters were able to visit Butrint throughout the year. Included in this number was Bill Dietel, whose enthusiasm for Butrint and support for the Foundation has been instrumental in widening our support base, particularly for environmental projects.

2005 promises another vigorous excavation season including digging on the Vrina plain and in the Forum, along with a host of other projects that will see more publications, the opening of the renovated museum and a network of well marked trails with interpretive signs around the Butrint National Park. We are confident that the year will be as productive and collaborative as 2004.



Butrint Open Day

In the meantime we offer our thanks to our many donors and friends for their unstinting support and generosity, and also to our many Albanian colleagues for their camaraderie, expertise and co-operation. We have been particularly pleased to see the further germination and blossoming of cross-border relationships with Greece in 2004 and this we continue to owe largely to the

interventions of Sir Patrick Fairweather. I, for one, am very pleased and reassured that Sir Patrick continues to be involved with the Foundation as Senior Adviser and know that his experience and knowledge remains an important tool in the continuation of our activities.

Daniel Renton *Director*



The 2004 season at Butrint, supported by the Packard Humanities Institute, saw an ambitious and wide-ranging programme of excavation and survey in the city and its surroundings. Excavations commenced in May, with the final major season of work at the Roman villa of Diaporit aimed at investigating the earliest phases of the site's long and complex history. At the same time an extensive survey was carried out on Butrint's acropolis fortifications and the Triangular Castle, the latter accompanied by a programme of geophysical prospection. The second half of June and July saw three simultaneous excavations, with the major excavations on the Vrina Plain acting as the focus of the training programme, while smaller investigations were carried out on the hilltop site of Kalivo and within the probable area of the Roman forum.

The training of Albanian students in excavation methods and data processing was also a key component of the season and the success of this programme can be measured by the fact that year on year an ever-increasing proportion of the excavation team is composed of present and former Albanian students, working alongside volunteers from the UK, Ireland, Spain, Italy, Portugal and the USA.

The project was directed by Richard Hodges and Ilir Gjepali (Institute of Archaeology); Louise Schofield served as Project Manager aided by Gjoni Marko, Muço Laze and Viola Sherifi. The excavations at Diaporit were directed by Will Bowden and Luan Përzhita; Oliver Gilkes and Ryan Ricciardi, assisted by Nevila Molla, directed the excavations on the Vrina Plain; Andy Crowson directed excavations on Kalivo; Karen Francis and Dhimiter Çondi directed the excavations of the forum. Oliver Gilkes and Nevila Molla organised the training excavations. The fortifications project was carried out by Andy Crowson and James Schryver and geophysical survey was carried out by David Bescoby. The finds were managed by Dave Boschi and Ilir Papa. Pippa Pearce of the British Museum returned to conserve the finds and work on the conservation of the wall plaster at Diaporit. The pottery was studied by Paul Reynolds and Joanita Vroom; the coins were catalogued and studied by Shpresa Gjongecaj and Pagona



Papadopoulou; the glass was studied by Sarah Jennings and the small finds were studied by Erleva Nallbani and John Mitchell.

The faunal remains were studied by Adrienne Powell, while the human skeletal remains were studied by Todd Fenton and his team from Michigan State University. Finds illustration was undertaken by Sarah McDowell and finds photography was carried out by Martin Smith. The Archive Project was directed by Inge Lyse Hansen, assisted by Sabina Veseli. Special thanks to our site supervisors Simon Greenslade, Emily Glass, Benen Hayden, Sarah Leppard, Nevila Molla, Jerry O'Dwyer and Riley Thorne who worked with great enthusiasm in blazing temperatures and pouring rain.

The success of the 2004 season was, as ever, due to the continuing support and dedication of the Albanian Institute of Archaeology, and in particular to its Director, Professor Muzafer Korkuti.



Above left: The location of the 2004 excavations and surveys.
Above right: Second World War partisan found in excavations of the Kanalit rock shelter.
Left: Muzafer Korkuti and Dhimiter Çondi

Diaporit

2004 was the final major season of excavation at the Roman villa of Diaporit (on the shores of Lake Butrint), and was aimed, primarily, at resolving questions relating to the earliest occupation of the site. Previous seasons had revealed that occupation at Diaporit stretched back to the late 3rd century BC, some 200 years earlier than had previously been thought. The 2004 excavations showed that this early occupation covered an area of up to 2,000 m² and was an extensive open site, quite different from the fortified farmsteads that were characteristic of the area during the 4th and early 3rd centuries BC.

Around AD 40-80, a substantial villa was erected at Diaporit and became progressively more grandiose. In 2004, part of the excavation concentrated on the west wing of this complex, and in particular on the remains of a monumental fountain. This fountain had an axial window that allowed a view onto the garden beyond, and therefore formed a link between the 'civilised' interior of the building and the tamed 'natural' world beyond - an important aspect of the ideology of Roman villa construction. Further excavation on the bath complex to the south also revealed how earlier elements of the baths were demolished in the 2nd century to create what was, probably, an open courtyard. On the eastern wing of the villa, meanwhile, the excavation of the geometric mosaic, partially uncovered in 2003, was completed. The mosaic had been used to pave what was probably an opulent dining or reception room that allowed a view across the central garden to the lake beyond.

The excavations also showed that the early Christian activity associated with the 5th-century church spread across all areas of the site, with 5th and 6th century remains noted in both the bath-house area and that of the fountain described above. A particularly important discovery relating to this period was a lamp mould, showing that ceramic lamps with Christian insignia were manufactured at Diaporit in this period.

Five years of large-scale excavation at Diaporit have made it a site of international value, tracing the development of a rural site over more than a millennium. Diaporit remains the only rural Roman site to have been scientifically excavated in Albania or Greece, and, as such, has an importance far beyond the boundaries of Butrint. The excavations have identified an archaeological sequence that charts the ebb and flow of prosperity and activity at the site, together with the complex ideological changes that marked the ways that aristocratic taste and power were expressed over the course of the site's long history.



Diaporit - excavations of the bath house courtyard



Vrina Plain - mosaic in the nave of the church



Diaporit - the monumental fountain

The Vrina Plain

The major Roman suburb to the south of the Vivari Channel, initially discovered through geophysical work, continued to be a focus of excavation. A particularly important discovery was that of a temple, identified during investigation of a substantial ruin positioned immediately to the west of the aqueduct. This has long been noted as a significant feature of the Vrina plain and has, previously, been interpreted as a bath-house or cistern dating to the early imperial period. Cleaning and recording of the building, however, revealed a brick podium originally faced with stone and fronted by a flight of steps, while the measurements of the building corresponded to the Vitruvian formula for temple architecture. Earlier excavations (by the Albanian Institute of Archaeology) had recovered sculpture including fragments of heads and torsos, reliefs and architectural fragments. The funerary nature of some of this sculpture suggests that the building could be interpreted as either a temple or as a temple mausoleum dating to the 1st or 2nd centuries AD.

A second spectacular find was that of an early Christian church, the narthex of which was built into the reception room of an earlier Roman house. The church, which was only partially excavated, is a three-aisled basilica of which the nave is paved with an elaborate mosaic composed of octagonal panels filled with sea-creatures, birds, terrestrial beasts, fruit and flowers. A Greek inscription in the pavement reads:

ΥΠΕΡΕΥ[]
ΩΝΟΜΑ[]
ΘΘΕΟCTA
ONOMATA

'In fulfilment of the vow (prayer) of those whose names God knows.'

This is an anonymous dedicatory inscription in which the benefactors conceal their names and identities as a public demonstration of their humility and in acknowledgement of God's omniscience, which obviates any need of spelling out the names (although not apparently the need to record one's generosity in epigraphic form!).

The church was rebuilt during the 9th or 10th centuries, a particularly important discovery relating to this little known period in Butrint's history. This aspect, together with the excavation and conservation of the mosaic, will be a focus of future excavations.

The Forum

The site of the forum of Roman Butrint has never been conclusively identified, but is thought to have been in the unexcavated area that lies between the theatre and the so-called Gymnasium. This hypothesis was given weight by the 1990 excavation of a large tripartite building at the base of the acropolis with a statue base in the central room, together with a monumental inscription recording the erection of a shrine to Minerva. This suggests that the building may have been the *capitolium* - the shrine to the principal deities of Rome, Jupiter, Juno and Minerva - that would have stood at one end of the forum. Subsequent excavations in 2003 by the Albanian Institute of Archaeology in front of the tripartite building discovered a monumental togate statue (possibly of Augustus) that was being reworked, together with a huge quantity of marble chippings.



The date and nature of this reworking are of crucial importance in understanding the history of the forum and thus of Roman Butrint. Consequently, in 2004, the Butrint Foundation was allowed to re-examine the area where the statue had been discovered in order to try and recover more of the discarded marble-working flakes and to understand the context in which

this reworking had occurred. The excavations revealed the remains of a flight of monumental marble steps that had led from the pavement of the forum to the threshold of the tripartite building, together with traces of an opulently decorated room with a marble pavement. This room was apparently abandoned by the 3rd century, after which it was used as a marble workshop. Over 80 kg of marble flakes were recovered, together with broken pieces of sculpture - evidence of the re-working of classical statues on a large scale. A fragment of togate shoulder was found to be part of the monumental statue found in 2003.

Although the forum excavations were limited in scale, the information derived from them is of immense value. The use of such an important area of the forum for marble working suggests that the importance of the public centre of the town had declined and that the public areas of the city were losing their monumentality from the 3rd century onwards. The ceramics found there indicate that this was the earliest possible date for changes in the area.



The Fortifications

A new archaeological and historical assessment of the castles and fortifications at Butrint, funded by a grant from Venetian Heritage Inc., was carried out in collaboration with Professor Gjerak Karaiskaj (Institute of Monuments) during May. This study built upon previous work by the Butrint Foundation on the fortifications and on the archives of the Italian Archaeological Mission, together with Professor Karaiskaj's 1985 book, *Butrinti dhe Fortifikimet e Tij*. A short comparative study was also made of contemporary castles on neighbouring Corfu.

The 2004 survey focused primarily on the medieval and Venetian phases of the city's fortifications, with particular emphasis on the acropolis castle and the Triangular Castle (including extensive geophysical survey around the latter monument). At the acropolis castle, the survey revealed a lengthy history of renewal, alteration and repair spanning the period from the 12th century (when the acropolis was first fortified) until the 20th century (when the Italian Mission built much of the present castle). The Triangular Castle, which formed the focus of the much reduced Butrint of the 18th and 19th centuries, was also found to have a complex structural history reflecting the rapidly changing design of fortifications caused by the development of artillery.

The survey was seen as a prerequisite for the restoration of these buildings and their potential use as visitor facilities. It was carried out in consultation with conservation architect Richard Andrews, of Carden and Godfrey Architects, who advised upon methods of safeguarding the surviving elements of the city's defences which remain one of the most visually impressive aspects of the ancient city.



The Painted Tomb

As was common in a major Roman settlement, the well-to-do inhabitants of Butrint commemorated deceased members of their families in prominent tombs, constructed on the approaches to the town. By far the largest concentration of tombs lay, not on the landward sides of the city, but directly on the channel connecting the lagoon with the straits of Corfu, thus catching the eyes of any visitor approaching the town by boat. During 2004 the Butrint Foundation team took the opportunity to study and record the best-preserved example of these tombs, which was built right at the water's edge.

In its earliest phase, which dates to around AD 200, it was a shallow barrel-vaulted building, covered with a hipped roof and with a façade topped by a gable with pediment. Two phases of painting were identified of which the second included compositions that incorporated green plants, as well as a possible figural composition.

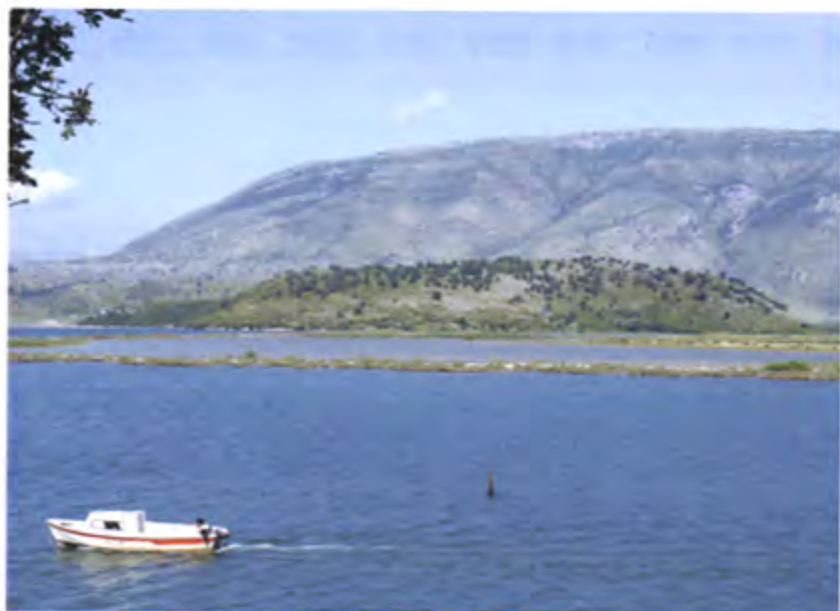
Later the building was extended and converted to Christian use with the addition of a small altar and a new painted scheme depicting standing figures, of which at least one was a saint. It is unclear whether the tomb was refashioned as a funerary oratory or as a small way-side chapel, while the paintings suggest dates ranging from late antiquity to the later Byzantine period. Maps of the 18th and 19th centuries make it clear that by that period it carried a dedication to St. Demetrios – Shën Dimitri.

*Above: Recording paintings in the painted tomb
Right: View of Kalivo from Butrint*

Kalivo

The hill of Kalivo, which lies to the east of Butrint, is a major archaeological site in its own right. Its 2km circuit of walls encloses an area of 18.5 hectares, significantly larger than that enclosed by the Hellenistic wall of Butrint. Despite investigations by the Italian Mission, and subsequently by the Albanian Institute of Archaeology, the site remains an enigma in terms of both the period and nature of its occupation, with speculation of the date of the walls ranging from the Bronze Age to the Hellenistic period. Following on from survey work in previous seasons, two small-scale excavations were carried out on Kalivo in July. These were principally aimed at the recovery of datable material to assist interpretation of the defences and the low structural remains within the walls.

The recovery of Iron Age pottery from beneath the walls show that they certainly date to after this period, although comparison with Hellenistic walls in Kephallonia and Ithaca suggests that Kalivo's walls may date from as late as the 4th century BC. Hellenistic material was also recovered from buildings on the acropolis. Post-Hellenistic ceramics found elsewhere on the acropolis, including Roman and medieval wares, suggest that occupation of Kalivo endured in one form or another, and the hill remained an important element within the post-Classical countryside around Butrint.



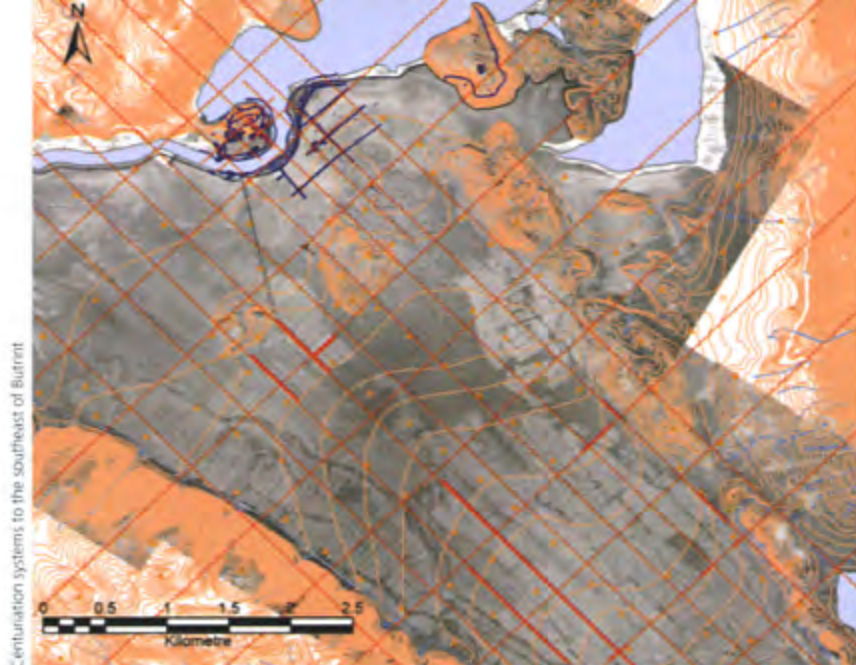
Reconstructing Butrint's inhabitants

The work of processing the materials from the excavations continued throughout the excavation season, with work carried out on pottery, glass, coins and faunal remains. Of particular interest was the work by the team of anthropologists from Michigan State University who continued their examination of skeletons recovered from Diaporit and the Triconch Palace in Butrint. The remains of 185 individuals were examined: 80 skeletons from Diaporit and 105 skeletons from Butrint (mainly the Triconch Palace). The skeletal remains from Diaporit date from AD 500-550, whereas those from the Triconch Palace date mainly from AD 550-650.

Significant differences were found between the two sites in both the distribution of ages and the health of the individuals. Rates of child mortality were found to be far higher in the Triconch population than in the slightly earlier group from Diaporit. The Triconch skeletons also showed evidence of sustained periods of anaemia in the population as a whole. Widespread anaemia may have been a response to a dietary deficiency in iron, a response to persistent malarial infection, or a response to the presence of numerous infectious agents in the local environment, due to poor living conditions and sanitation. All these reasons would indicate a significant decline in the quality of life and health of Butrint's population after AD 550.



Studying human skeletal remains



Centuriation systems to the southeast of Butrint

At Diaporit also, study of the skeletal remains provided some surprising results, including evidence of surgical procedures. There is no evidence of healing, so it is most likely that the surgical procedures were either performed after death or they were fatal to the individuals. A further female skeleton died from head injuries caused by a high-velocity projectile.

Future work on the inhabitants of Diaporit and Butrint could include analysis of mitochondrial DNA. This type of research has the potential to illuminate the relationship that the individuals from past populations may have with each other or with more recent populations.

Conclusion

This was the most successful season to date at Butrint. We now have a sense not just of knowing Butrint intimately, but also for the first time being able to recalibrate its long history to shape an entirely new story about the evolution of Butrint from an important Hellenistic sanctuary to a port with readily dated episodes of prosperity. This, in turn, has major implications for the history of the central Mediterranean permitting us to reassess the history of the region in these periods. Perhaps the most satisfying aspect was the increasing part played by our young Albanian students – many of them alumni of the PHI-sponsored programmes in the UK. They undertook much of the day-to-day organization, and brought to the whole enterprise a spirit of fun and commitment.

CONSERVATION

Conservation of the excavated archaeological areas remains a priority. In 2004 a number of interim measures were implemented in order to protect the sites in advance of a full-scale project to consolidate the remains and prepare them for presentation to the public.



At Diaporit, a generous grant from the Howard & Nancy Marks Fund allowed the conservation of areas of wall plaster in the bath-house area, carried out by Michallaq Qarri of the Institute of Monuments in collaboration with Pippa Pearce of the British Museum. An extensive programme of back-filling was also undertaken on areas of particularly sensitive structural remains, while additional areas of the bath-house were also excavated in order to make the site more accessible to visitors.

At the Triconch Palace the Institute of Monuments' conservation programme proceeded, further to delay caused by the high water levels of the winter of 2003-4. The ongoing conservation project was visited by Richard Andrews of Carden and Godfrey Architects (who drew up the original proposals for the conservation of the Triconch Palace). The Institute of Monuments have also drawn up proposals for a series of raised wooden walkways over the site, which may form an alternative to back-filling some areas.

On the Vrina plain, in accordance with the recommendations of the 2003 UNESCO report on Butrint, the excavations were fenced off to protect the monuments from grazing animals. All delicate areas of the excavation (such as mosaics) were covered with netting and sand, while areas of the excavation that had been completed were back-filled entirely. This included, in particular, areas that had been exposed in the drainage ditch, such as that of the so-called 'monument', which were particularly vulnerable to flooding.

The survey of the Triangular Castle, supported by Venetian Heritage Inc., highlighted the problems created by the two make-shift roads that circumscribe the monument. It is now particularly vulnerable to erosion and pollution damage caused by the substantial increase in traffic since the upgrading of the highway south of Butrint. Richard Andrews proposed removing this threat by diverting the roads to a single route to the south-west.



The Triangular Castle

In conjunction with this, the area between the castle and the Vivari Channel would be cleared so as to conserve and present the wall remnants of 17th- to 19th-century buildings clustered around the castle. A geophysical survey of the areas alongside the remaining two sides of the fort provided information on the buried remains that are threatened by the existing roads. The initial response from the Albanian Ministry of Transport on this proposal has been favourable and it is hoped to pursue this course in collaboration with the Butrint National Park and the Albanian Institute of Monuments. In addition a feasibility study of this, and the other Venetian monuments, will be carried out by the Foundation to assess the suitability of sensitively restoring them for the provision of visitor facilities.

As well as the continuing archaeological programme, in late May 2004 the Getty Conservation Institute (GCI) organised and ran an architectural conservation workshop at Butrint, led by Jeanne-Marie Teutonico (GCI), John Ashurst and Colin Burns (English Heritage) and Reshad Gega (Institute of Monuments). In a successful collaboration between the GCI, the Institute of Monuments, the Butrint National Park and the Butrint Foundation, a team of Albanian craftsmen, actively engaged in conservation work, came from various regions of Albania to attend the course. Classroom sessions were followed up with practical hands-on experience. The so-called "Venetian House" in Butrint was used as the sample monument and the workshop developed as an interesting and stimulating exchange of ideas and experience between those involved. The specialised tools and equipment brought from abroad were given to the craftsmen by the Getty team when they left, in order that new techniques and methods learnt at the workshop can be implemented in the future.

It is anticipated that subsequent seasons will see the completion of work on the Triconch Palace and Diaporit sites to enable them to become fully incorporated into the visitor's experience of Butrint.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES

The training school in June and July was an outstanding success. We were delighted to receive 58 Albanian students from the Albanian universities of Tirana, Gjirokastra, and Elbasan, and the foreign universities of Thessalonika, Stamboul and King's College London. More than half of the group had no previous experience of excavation. As in previous years returning students constituted a major element of the project personnel, particularly during July when the ratio of Albanian personnel to non-Albanians was 38/10, including directorial staff and specialists.

The focus of the 2004 excavation training school was the continuing excavation on the Vrina plain to the south of the Vivari Channel, as appears earlier in this report. This site was the principal training venue and new students were introduced to a range of theoretical and practical archaeological concepts. A particularly rewarding element of the programme was the supervision carried out by Nevila Molla (principal site supervisor and training school tutor) and Esmeralda Agolli (assistant site supervisor), both are graduates of previous courses who had also attended the Packard Humanities Institute funded junior year abroad-scheme at the University of East Anglia. Their involvement in the excavations and ongoing commitment to archaeology demonstrates the very positive benefits and opportunities that the Foundation's training programme offers.

Introduction to scanning and image manipulation

This short course was run for two groups of five students from the universities of Elbasan and Gjirokastra as an experiment to assess the feasibility of including an IT element within the overall training programme. The results were instructive. Apart from one student, who had no experience, the group claimed some familiarity with computers. However, it was quickly apparent that their experience with even the most simple IT functions was at a very basic level. Future training initiatives at Butrint hope to address these problems and develop more structured approaches to teaching IT and archaeology together; providing the facilities for small groups of students to undertake courses in computing and data manipulation.

Recording inscriptions

At the initiative of Louise Schofield, project manager, Robert Pitt of the British Museum was invited to lead four students on a week-long course to teach the various processes involved in recording inscriptions. The students were

introduced to the concept behind ancient Greek and Latin epigraphy, had the opportunity to practice transcribing examples at Butrint and then were trained in how to take squeezes as a primary means of documentation. This course, which had its own short handbook, was well received by the students, and a number of professional archaeologists working on the project also took the opportunity to be trained in the art of squeezing inscriptions. We are grateful to the Institute of Archaeology, who opened the epigraphic collections of the Butrint museum and stores for the course.

As in previous years, the 2004 training programme required significant input from all those involved the teaching process. However, it is very clear that the investment made in these new and returning students over the past four years has been enormously successful in creating a new generation of Albanian archaeologists, and the numbers of archaeology students enrolled in Albanian universities is constantly growing. The Butrint course is now the primary means by which new Albanian students and archaeologists are introduced to modern field practice.



ARCHIVE DEVELOPMENT

With the continued support of the Drue Heinz Trust, the Archive Project is moving into a new phase, with its emphasis on the collation and publication of research results, and to make the rich history of Butrint accessible to a wider audience – not least through the development of the electronic archive.

Leon Rey and Apollonia

Research on the archives of the French archaeologist Leon Rey, working in Albania in the interwar period, continued during the early part of 2004 and a complete copy of his personal archive, consisting of glass-plate negatives and notebooks detailing the excavations, letters and administrative documentation giving an account of the political and practical climate in which the French team worked, has now been presented to the Butrint Foundation. The Foundation is pleased to have been instrumental in identifying this valuable resource, and to aid in the gifting of the original archive to the Albanian State Archives in Tirana. We are very grateful to the Rey family for its support and assistance.

2004 was the 80th anniversary of Leon Rey's excavations at Apollonia and was celebrated at an international conference in Tirana and Apollonia in May at which three speakers representing the Butrint Foundation presented aspects of 20th-century interest in Albanian archaeology – from Rey at Apollonia to Ugolini at Butrint. The Archive Project further sponsored a photographic exhibition on the history of archaeological investigations at Apollonia, designed and organised by Sabina Veseli (Institute of Monuments). The exhibition was received to acclaim and the display will travel to Saranda, Durrës and Tirana.

Archive publications

The monograph detailing the investigations by Luigi Cardini at the cave site at Himara has been prepared for publication in 2005. Cardini was a member of the Italian archaeological mission during the 1930s and his explorations have been followed up in excavations led by Karen Francis (University of East Anglia) and Ilir Gjipali (Institute of Archaeology). Cardini's investigations detailed the pre-

Roman human occupation in the area near Saranda, and his archives illustrate the broad research scope of Ugolini's archaeological engagement with Albania.

Investigating an archaeological site through multiple periods, and in relation to its surrounding landscape, is a characteristic of Luigi Maria Ugolini's work but was highly unusual for its time. This approach is highlighted in the publication of Ugolini's investigations at the spectacular hilltop sites of Kalivo and Çuka e Aitoit (Eagle Mountain); two sites that up until now have never been fully studied, and only perfunctorily published. The hitherto unpublished manuscripts, to be published on the Foundation's website, are complemented by modern reassessments, and highlight the importance of the hinterland of Butrint for a fuller understanding of the city's cultural and economic relationships.

The Butrint Foundation is pleased to have been offered the opportunity to publish the archives of the Albanian archaeologist Selim Islami, one of the leading archaeologists of the post-War period. In particular, his excavation details from Çuka e Aitoit will provide fascinating insights for the modern archaeological history of Albania. Both Kalivo and Çuka e Aitoit are spectacular sites, which possess heroic associations used to effect by both Ugolini and the Communist Regime. The link between archaeology and myth in the inter-war years, as evidenced through the history of Butrint, has also been explored in two articles with a further in press.

Details of existing and forthcoming publications can be found on page 19



Poster advertising the Leon Rey exhibition



Luigi Maria Ugolini



The electronic archive

The Butrint database is entirely Internet based, making it a highly flexible and accessible tool. The initial task has been to convert the archaeological data arising from the excavations into electronic format, and this was done during the excavation season, in a temporary office at Butrint, under the supervision of Sabina Veseli with assistance from Rovenia Kurti. They were ably assisted by Ermelinda Hoxhaj, Ardit Miti and Eglantina Serjai, as part of their Master's degree in Medieval Archaeology at the University of Siena. The three students had been awarded scholarships to undertake their degrees, which were generously funded by the Fondazione Monte dei Paschi di Siena and set up with the support of Prof. Riccardo Francovich. The contribution of the students enabled the high standard of data-entry to continue for the rest of the year.

The results have proved impressive: approximately 8,000 individual records pertaining to the excavations and finds from Butrint now exist in electronic

form; amounting to roughly 95% of the entire body of material – including the information from the 2004 excavations. With the assistance of Nevila Molla, the archive will be cross-referenced and brought fully up to date in the spring 2005.

The objective for the 2005 season will be to electronically record the archive research material, and to start bringing together the rich resource of the Foundation's archives — from excavation and travel reports, to film footage, oral history accounts, tax ledgers and property rights, photographs and other visual material, and to maps and letters — contributing to a history of Butrint that will reach a wider audience. For this purpose, the photographer Brian Donovan from the University of Auckland was invited to Butrint in May. Donovan specializes in 360° interactive images (QTVR panoramas and stills) of archaeological and heritage sites and has produced a series of panoramic photographs that go a long way to capture the beauty and fascination of Butrint, and which feature throughout this report.



ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES

The coastline around the Butrint National Park is still under threat from unchecked and unregulated urban development, which threatens to destroy one of the last remaining Mediterranean wildernesses. However at Butrint – due in large measure to the activities of the Foundation and its environmental projects funded by generous donors, including the Oak Foundation – environmental protection is now well established and well recognized.

As in previous years, the Butrint Foundation has employed an environmental officer, Dr Taulant Bino, on a variety of projects, which serve to improve academic knowledge of the Park's wetlands; help to create and implement management plans to promote bio-diversity; and raise awareness about environmental protection and conservation.

One of Dr Bino's achievements in 2004 was to co-ordinate the preparation work for the World Bank Global Environmental Facility (GEF) which will release \$1 million to fund environmental projects at the Park from September 2005. The GEF envisages a three year programme of environmental projects that will do much to promote bio-diversity and community participation in environmental protection. The funds will be managed by an implementation unit at the Ministry of Tourism and Territorial Adjustment with oversight from the Butrint National Park Board.

Lake Butrint water quality improvement and monitoring

The aim of the project was to increase the amount of fresh water entering the northern part of Lake Butrint and to reduce the lake's salinity in order to encourage a greater degree of bio-diversity in the lake. Since the project began in 2003 with channel dredging and the installation of new sluice gates on the Çuka-Butrint channel, there has been regular monthly monitoring of the water quality conducted by the Saranda Fisheries Directorate. Results from 2004 demonstrate that the freshwater intake has greatly improved.

Preparation of an environmental guidebook for the Butrint National Park

This guide to the rich bio-diversity of the Butrint National Park aims to raise awareness about the environmental importance of Butrint and to promote environmental protection. The guidebook also outlines a network of trails around the Park. It will be printed in English and Albanian and will be available at the Park in the summer, 2005.

Inventory of wintering waterbirds

The mid-winter bird count took place in the 2004/05 winter, conducted by a team of two experienced ornithologists. The census covered the main wetland sites as well as the peripheral locations included in the Butrint Ramsar Site (Lake Butrint, Lake Bufi, Vrina plain, the mudflats of Butrint bay and the salt marshes of Alinura bay and Vivari channel).

The total number of wintering waterbirds in February 2005, was the lowest figure ever registered at Butrint, with 5,253 individuals represented in 34 species

Number of waterbirds wintering in Butrint (1999-2005)

Year	Number of species	Number of individuals
1999	31	6720
2001	38	7740
2002	40	14103
2003	40	11776
2005	34	5253

As in previous years Ducks, Coots, Lapwing and Gulls dominated the waterbird community while the Vrina plain is the most important wintering subsite. More than 3,000 waterbirds were recorded in the flooded plain, while only 241 individuals were recorded at Lake Butrint – a low figure compared to previous years.

Other observations of particular interest were the presence of significant numbers of birds of prey such as: Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*, Merlin *F. columbarius*, Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*, Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*, Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*, Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo* etc.

Hunting and disturbance by humans are not believed to be responsible for the low number of wintering birds in 2005, as both are believed to be well controlled by the ranger programme at the Butrint National Park. It is more likely that the low number of birds is related to the mild early winter conditions in the Balkans, Central-Eastern Europe and Siberia. As a result birds did not come so far south to wintering grounds like Butrint.

Preparation of documentation to extend the boundary of the National Park to include the Ksamil peninsular and Cape Stillo.

The aim of this project is to expand the boundary of the Parks to cover environmentally sensitive areas that have attracted the attentions of developers in the past. It will also include the whole of the Butrint Ramsar area (129 sq miles) in Albania's network of Protected Areas.

Preparation of the project started in 2004, and will be completed in the spring of 2005 so that a detailed proposal will be submitted to the Albanian Council of Ministers in early summer.

Future Projects

With the award of a generous donation by The Philanthropic Collaborative, the Butrint Foundation, in conjunction with the Park, will construct a network of marked trails at the Park in 2005 which will be furnished with interpretive signs. Environmental leaflets and an educational environmental video will be made to help raise awareness and publicize the trail network.

Left: The Straits of Corfu, Below: From Kaliva



SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

AUDITORS' STATEMENT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE BUTRINT FOUNDATION

We have examined the summary financial statements of the Butrint Foundation set out on pages 16 & 17.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND AUDITORS

You are responsible as trustees for the preparation of the summary financial statements. We have agreed to report to you on our opinion on the summarised statements' consistency with the full financial statements, on which we reported to you on 23 June 2005.

BASIS OF OPINION

We have carried out the procedures we consider necessary to ascertain whether the summarised financial statements are consistent with the financial statements from which they have been prepared.

OPINION

In our opinion the summarised financial statements are consistent with the full financial statements of the Butrint Foundation for the year ended 31st December 2004.

Saffery Champness

Chartered Accountants
Registered Auditors

23 June 2005

Lion House
Red Lion Street
London
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, 14 St James's Place, London SW1A 1NP. The full accounts have been audited by Saffery Champness and received an unqualified opinion. They were approved by the trustees on 22nd June 2005 and will be submitted to the Charity Commission.

Lord Rothschild, OM, GBE (Chairman)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2004

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2004 Total £	2003 Total £
Incoming resources				
Donations	287,476	191,262	478,738	1,071,742
Activities for generating funds:				
Interest receivable	978	2,606	3,584	1,619
Total incoming resources	288,454	193,868	482,322	1,073,361
Less: Costs of generating funds				
Fund-raising and development	38,470	-	38,470	39,143
Net incoming resources available for charitable application	249,984	193,868	443,852	1,034,218
Charitable expenditure				
Costs of activities in furtherance of the objects of the charity:				
Archaeology	65,487	369,255	434,742	423,584
Conservation	17,227	28,740	45,967	54,338
Research projects	-	46,454	46,454	63,332
Publications	-	2,166	2,166	12,260
Visitor facilities	1,927	8,866	10,793	31,899
Scholarships and bursaries	-	9,716	9,716	-
Project support costs	67,276	-	67,276	70,618
Management and administration costs	48,432	9,439	57,871	86,552
Total charitable expenditure	200,349	474,636	674,985	742,583
Total resources expended	238,819	474,636	713,455	781,726
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources	49,635	(280,768)	(231,133)	291,635
Transfer from restricted to unrestricted fund	428	(428)	-	-
	50,063	(281,196)	(231,133)	291,635
Balances brought forward:				
Capital fund	68,306	-	68,306	68,306
Income funds	(18,097)	441,777	423,680	132,045
Total funds carried forward	100,272	160,581	260,853	491,986

BALANCE SHEET

	£	2004	£	£	2003	£
Tangible fixed assets			2,162			1,060
Current assets						
Donations receivable	-			6,897		
Sundry debtors	12,392			9,153		
Cash at bank and in hand	303,539			570,907		
	315,931			586,957		
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year						
Accruals	17,711			44,584		
Other creditors	39,529			51,447		
	57,240			96,031		
Net current assets			258,691			490,926
Total net assets			260,853			491,986
Funds						
Capital			68,306			68,306
Income:						
Unrestricted			31,966			(18,097)
Restricted			160,581			441,777
			260,853			491,986

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

TRUSTEES OF THE BUTRINT FOUNDATION

Lord Rothschild, OM, GBE (Chairman)

Lord Sainsbury of Preston Candover, KG

Martine D'Anglejan-Chatillon

Sir Jocelyn Stevens

Jessica Douglas-Home

The Hon. Emmy Rothschild

BUTRINT FOUNDATION

Daniel Renton (Director)

Prof. Richard Hodges (Scientific Director)

Sir Patrick Fairweather (Senior Adviser)

Katherine Wallis (Administrator)

PUBLICATIONS IN 2004

Butrint: Excavations and Survey 1994–1999 edited by W. Bowden, R. Hodges and K. Lako. Published in London by Oxbow Books in collaboration with The Butrint Foundation; 432 pages, inc. 304 illustrations; ISBN 1842171585. On sale from Oxbow Books, Park End Place, Oxford OX1 1HN (email orders@oxbowbooks.com; tel. +44 (0)1865 241249). (2004).

**Interim Excavations Report 2004: Butrint and Diaporit (2004).*

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

**A Second Report on the Mcmurrough-Kavanagh Archives* by O.J. Gilkes (2003).

Butrint: A guide to the city and its monuments (2003)

Illustrated book for the specialist and the interested layperson. 81 pages; ISBN 0953555607. Price*: UK and Europe £5 + £2.50 p&p; USA and rest of world £5 + £3.50 p&p.

Butrint: The rise and fall of a Mediterranean city (2003)

30-min. VHS video by Eyetoeye on the work of the Butrint Project. Price* (p&p only): UK and Europe £3.50 p&p; USA and rest of world £4.50.

**Butrinti 1993–2003: Ten years of research* (2003)

A highly illustrated English/Albanian introduction to the results of ten years of archaeological research. 48 pages, ISBN 0953555631. Price* (p&p only): UK and Europe £ 2.50 p&p; USA and rest of world £3.50 p&p.

Epirus Vetus: The Archaeology of a Late Antique Province by W. Bowden (2003) ISBN 0715631160. Published in London by Duckworth (www.ducknet.co.uk; tel: +44 207 4907300).

**Interim Excavations Report 2003: Butrint and Diaporit* (2003).

**Ottoman Butrint: Results of preliminary research* by T. Robinson and M. Van den Boogert (2003).

**The Roman Sculpture from Butrint: Roman Butrint in Context* (2003)

A report on the international workshop held in June 2003 and organised by I.L. Hansen and I. Pojani.

The Theatre at Butrint: Luigi Maria Ugolini's Excavations at Butrint 1928–1932 (Albania Antica IV; Supplementary Vol. no. 35) edited by O.J. Gilkes with contributions by A.M. Liberati, L. Miraj, I. Pojani, F. Sear, J. Wilkes and B. Polci (2003).

Published in London by The British School at Athens in collaboration with The Butrint Foundation, the Museo della Civiltà Romana, and the Instituti Arkeologjise; 298 pages, inc. 262 illustrations; ISBN 0904887448. On sale from the British School at Athens (email publications@bsa.ac.uk; tel. +44 207 862 8733).

Butrint Management Plan 2000–2005 by S. Martin (2001)

Plani I Menaxhimit Te Butrintit 2000–2005 by S. Martin (2001)

97 pages; English edition ISBN 0953555615; Albanian edition ISBN 0953555623. Price* (p&p only): UK and Europe £ 2.50 p&p USA and rest of world £3.50 p&p.

* Please send cheque, postal order or money order (payable to the 'Butrint Foundation') in GB POUNDS STERLING ONLY to 14 St James's Place, London SW1A 1NP.

FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS

Butrint: the Triconch Palace edited by W. Bowden, R. Hodges and K. Lako (forthcoming 2005).

Butrint National Park: Environmental Guide and Walking Trails. Published by the Butrint Foundation and the Butrint National Park (forthcoming 2005).

Eternal Butrint: A UNESCO World Heritage Site in Albania by R. Hodges. Published by Periplus Ltd (Hillcorn Group) (forthcoming 2005).

Explorations in Albania 1930–1939. The Notebooks of Luigi Cardini, Prehistorian with the Italian Archaeological Mission. Francis, K.D. (ed.) London. The British School at Athens (forthcoming 2005).

Hiking in Southern Albania by B. Hayden (forthcoming 2005).

Kalivo and Çuka e Aitoit, Albania. Interim Report on Survey and Excavations 1928–2004. ed Hansen, I.L., Gilkes, O.J. and Crowson, A. (forthcoming 2005).

The Roman Colony at Butrint: An assessment (Journal of Roman Archaeology Supplementary Volume) edited by I.L. Hansen and R. Hodges (forthcoming 2005).

*Electronic versions of these publications can be downloaded at www.butrintfound.dial.pipex.com

For a bibliography of further work published on the Butrint project please visit www.butrintfound.dial.pipex.com



Illustration Acknowledgements

Front cover: photograph by Brian Donovan

Pages 1, 2, 10, 13, 14, 15 & 20 - panoramic photographs by Brian Donovan

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