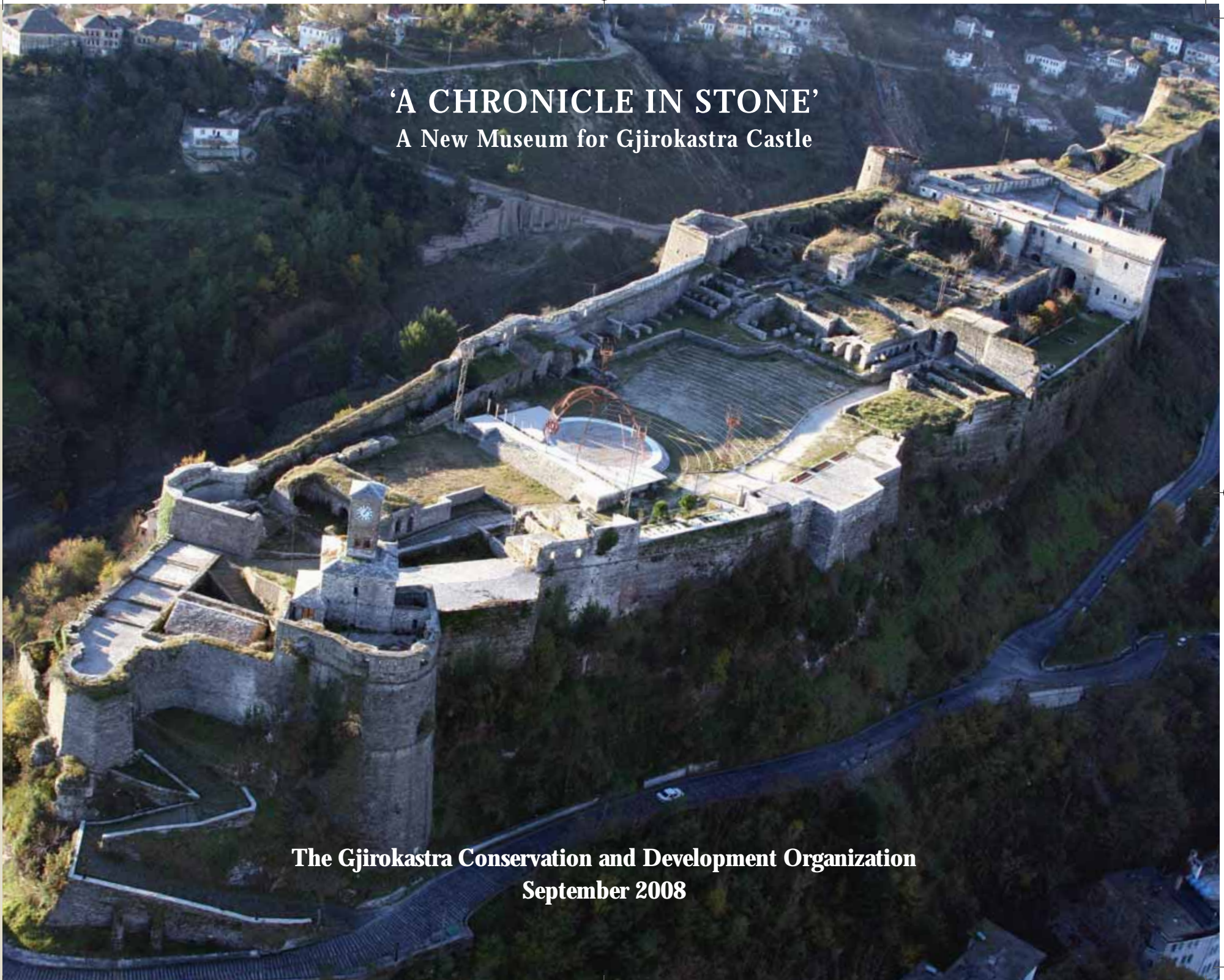
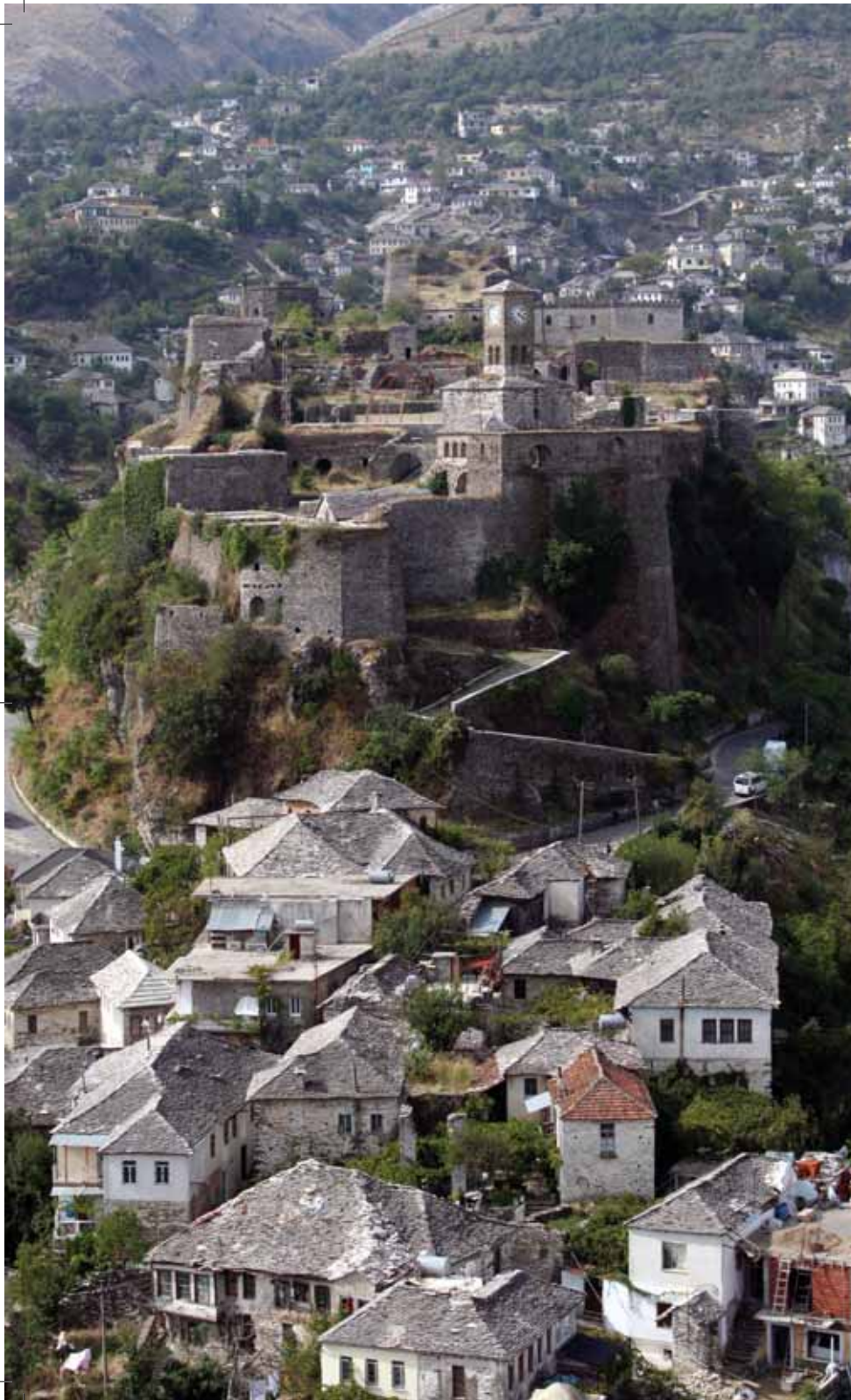


‘A CHRONICLE IN STONE’

A New Museum for Gjirokastra Castle

The Gjirokastra Conservation and Development Organization
September 2008





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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

*'It was a strange city, and seemed to have been cast up in the valley one winter's night like some prehistoric creature that was now crawling its way up the mountainside. Everything in the city was old and made of stone, from the streets and fountains to the roofs of the sprawling age-old houses covered with grey slates like gigantic scales. It was hard to believe that, under this powerful carapace, the tender flesh of life survived and reproduced'*¹

Gjirokastra is an outstanding example of an Ottoman-period town, and life in its steep winding streets still reflects much of the style and culture of that time. The town sits beneath a stunning mountain backdrop and above a majestic landscape that is fertile, varied and largely unspoilt. Gjirokastra and its environs are a priceless part of the region and its history.

In 2005 Gjirokastra was listed as a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Site in recognition of its architectural and cultural importance. There are over six hundred of Gjirokastra's signature fortified tower houses, a unique building type that embodies the uneasy merging of Ottoman and Albania cultures. These houses cluster around a massive castle, one of the largest in the Balkans, which towers over the Drino valley. The castle has played a pivotal role in the region's history for nearly 3000 years.

The past century has been traumatic for Gjirokastra. Following invasion and violent repression in World War II, the city suffered the ravages of communist ideology and most of its mosques and churches were destroyed in the 1960s.

typical Gjirokastra tower houses



The unsettled democracy of the 1990s brought further destruction, with the looting and vandalism of buildings in the aftermath of the collapse of the government's pyramid finance schemes.

Over the last 10 years stability has been re-established, and the inhabitants of Gjirokastra have begun to prosper, but at a further price: the new town development on the valley floor has sucked away the economic life of the old historic town in the upper quarters of the city. Now many of the Ottoman tower houses stand empty, dangerously dilapidated and in urgent need of restoration. Old Gjirokastra is teetering on the brink of collapse and if it is allowed to crumble further, a small yet important part of Europe's history will be turned to rubble.

There is hope for Gjirokastra yet. UNESCO inscription and close proximity to the pan-Balkan highway are bringing increasing numbers of tourists to see the region's sites. In 2006, just short of one million people visited Albania² and over the next 10 years tourism is expected to contribute 4.9% of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).³ Furthermore, many of the international visitors are cultural tourists travelling to the country specifically to see Albania's archaeological parks and historic monuments.

Gjirokastra itself is well placed geographically to benefit from this rapid increase in tourist numbers. It is just ninety minutes drive from the popular archaeological site of Butrint, which receives 60,000 tourists a year. In 2007, 10,000 tourists visited Gjirokastra - a 100% increase on the previous year, and by mid-July 2008 over five thousand tourists had visited the city.⁴ According to surveys by Gjirokastra Tourist Information Centre, two-thirds of all tourists visit the castle (see table 1).

There is no doubt that cultural heritage tourism is the key to the city's renaissance and the Gjirokastra Conservation and Development Organization (GCDO), funded by the Packard Humanities Institute (PHI), works with a variety of agencies including United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNESCO, the Albanian Institute of Monuments of Culture and the Gjirokastra Municipality to implement this vision. As well as undertaking projects to repair the fabric of the buildings and monuments, the GCDO promotes the town as a tourist destination. Using principles of sustainable development, the GCDO endeavours to encourage local businesses such as bed and breakfasts, craft production and tour guides, while working in partnership with municipal agencies to provide cultural heritage attractions in the city and the region.

However, while the image and physical aspect of Gjirokastra is slowly improving, there is still a depressing absence of suitable quality attractions for tourists which adequately explain the city's historic significance. Existing museums in the city are out of date and poorly interpreted and none of them offer an experience worthy of UNESCO World Heritage status.

The aim of this proposal is to fundraise for an important new regional museum to be housed in Gjirokastra castle. Provisionally entitled "A Chronicle in Stone" (using the title of Ismail Kadare's famous book about Gjirokastra), this new museum will serve as a focal point for the UNESCO World Heritage Site by fully interpreting in a modern, relevant and participatory way, the fascinating cultural heritage of the city and the region. The museum aims to appeal to all age groups and nationalities and to be a source of pride to Gjirokastrians. Most importantly as the numbers of tourists increase, it aims to be a catalyst for further conservation, revitalisation and economic opportunity in the surrounding historic old town.

1.1 Project objectives:

- To create a modern museum which interprets intelligently the fascinating history and cultural identity of the city and the wider region
- To provide a flag-ship attraction and a focal point for local citizens and the growing number of tourists visiting Gjirokastra and the region
- To create a tourist experience worthy of a UNESCO World Heritage Site which is a source of pride to Gjirokastrians
- To encourage greater numbers of cultural tourists to Gjirokastra
- To provide a world-class museum which will boost efforts to conserve the old town around it, thereby reviving traditional building skills, creating new jobs and new economic opportunities for the citizens

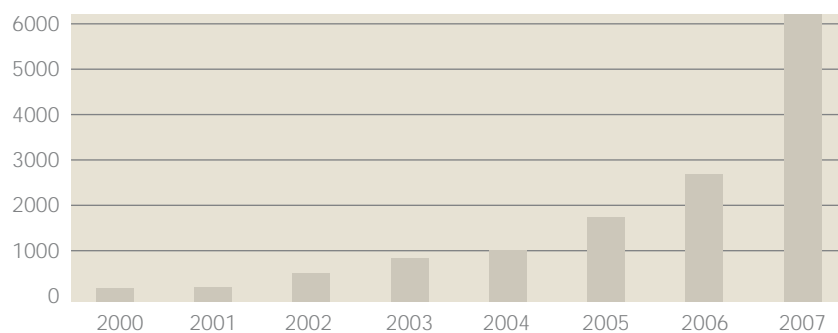


Table 1: Visitors to Gjirokastra castle (Source: Gjirokastra Tourist Information Centre survey 2007)



the decaying Angonates House

1.2 The conservation challenge and the need for a new museum

During the years of Albania's transition from an isolated communist state to a modern democracy, Gjirokastra has suffered severe depopulation and a corresponding lack of investment in its internationally renowned architecture. While the Institute of Monuments of Culture, the state body charged with the upkeep of the buildings, once employed over 100 skilled craftsmen, it now employs only five. The deleterious effect on buildings made of plaster, wood, and stone, which are subject to extreme summer temperatures and heavy winter rainfall is readily apparent. Of the 600 historically important buildings in the old town, over 50% are in immediate need of urgent repair. Their poor condition is compounded by low occupancy, multiple ownership, a declining craft skills base and a lack of investment.

However, there is strong evidence that the tide is turning for the better. Over the last three years an increasingly well co-ordinated inter-agency effort has begun to deliver meaningful long-term change. Recent examples of this include the large-scale beautification of the Bazaar area; the restoration of the finest of the Ottoman tower houses, the Zekate House; the restoration of the Seven Fountains Park area; comprehensive physical improvements to Gjirokastra castle and its environs, including the installation of solar lighting; and the opening of a Tourist Information Centre and a souvenir craft shop. Many of these projects have been spearheaded by the GCDO (funded primarily by the Packard Humanities Institute), with help from the UNDP, UNESCO, the Italian Regione Marche, the Albanian Institute of Monuments of Culture, the Gjirokastra Municipality, and the Albanian Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports.

the Zekate House



While this inter-agency effort is becoming increasingly effective at conserving buildings and providing a basic tourist infrastructure, there has been no effort so far to provide a single quality attraction that serves as a focal point to interpret the town and the region's fascinating history.

With only the Bazaar, the Ethnographic Museum, the castle and its outdated Armaments Museum, which is in serious disrepair, the town at present has a limited platform for the development of tourism. Few of these attractions offer a 'quality experience' worthy of a UNESCO World Heritage Site and Gjirokastra's reputation continues to subsist on past glories and the decaying grandeur of its houses. The results of surveys of tourists conducted by UNDP/GCDO confirm this fact - many visitors are disappointed by the poor quality of the existing cultural venues and they would welcome a single attraction/experience which would explain the city's historical and cultural importance.

the Bazaar





the National Armaments Museum

The inter-agency strategy is to promote the city for cultural tourism, aiming to increase visitor numbers and the length of their stay. Tourism will provide economic opportunities leading to restoration and revitalisation of the historic old town:

- Tourism provides the incentive to conserve empty and dilapidated historic buildings and to give them a functional purpose such as hotels, guest houses or small businesses
- Tourism will provide much-needed revenue for private and public investment in the city
- Conservation of buildings provides a new investment in traditional building skills and associated jobs
- Successful cultural tourism will help to regenerate a sense of civic pride and enthuse the community to make further improvements to their city

The project to create a new museum in the castle is central to these goals.

1.3 Gjirokastra castle and a new museum – A Chronicle in Stone

'Museums are very important tourist attractions in themselves; they are often amongst the main reasons to visit a city'⁵

Gjirokastra castle is one of the largest in the Balkans and the vast castle complex dominates a central ridge which towers above the historic old town. Its presence is inescapable from anywhere in the city. By day it looms massively above, and by night, softly illuminated beneath the Lunxheria mountain range, it provides a remarkable backdrop to the café life of the old town. The central position of the castle and its central role in the history of Gjirokastra makes it the ideal setting for a new museum.

Gjirokastra castle



The castle's history is interwoven with centuries of geo-politics. Towering above the Drino valley - a principal communication route of the Mediterranean world - it has played an important strategic role for nearly 3000 years as watch-tower, military garrison and stronghold.

Archaeologists believe the castle's origins may date back to the Iron Age in the 8th – 7th centuries BC, while fortifications were probably erected from the 5th century BC during the time when Epirus was a battle-ground between tribes of Illyrians, Macedonians and the forces of Rome. The site was reoccupied at the end of the Roman Empire and by the mid-13th century it had become a mighty medieval fortress occupying an area of 2.5 hectares.

By 1471 Gjirokastra had become the administrative capital of the Ottoman province of Albania and the castle grew accordingly to house a substantial garrison. The Ottoman regional ruler, Ali Pasha of Tepelena, known as the 'Muslim Bonaparte', rebuilt and extended the castle to the southwest after 1811 and added an aqueduct. The castle continued to be used as a garrison in the 19th century and, in the 20th century King Zog ordered the construction of a prison inside the castle walls. It remained a prison housing many political opponents of the communist regime until 1963.

Today the castle is the first port of call for almost all tourists who have walked up from the central Bazaar. Its panoramic views are outstanding, yet despite the scale of the actual complex, there is little to see or do once there. The castle still houses a National Armaments Museum created during communist times. While of passing interest, the museum has been stripped of its most important items, lacks any form of interpretation and is in serious disrepair.

The creation of a major new museum in the castle has the potential to revive comprehensively not only the castle's fortunes but also those of the historic old town. It will serve as a major tourist attraction, an employment and income generator, and also as a catalyst for the further conservation and preservation of buildings in the vicinity. In addition, a new museum will kick start the long-term objective of turning the castle into a regional centre for arts and culture, where concerts, folk festivals and theatre can all be staged.



Ali Pasha's aqueduct



the Butrint Museum

2. THE PROJECT

2.1 Project team

The project team will be led by the Gjirokastra Conservation and Development Organization, an Albanian registered NGO which is predominantly funded by the Packard Humanities Institute. The GCDO has operated in the city for seven years conserving Ottoman buildings, providing appropriate tourist infrastructure and working to raise awareness of the plight of the historic city.

The GCDO is the sister organisation of the Butrint Foundation which has been active in Albania providing archaeological research, conservation and cultural heritage management solutions for 15 years. In 2005, the Butrint Foundation created the Butrint Museum, a modern and highly acclaimed facility dedicated to the history and archaeology of Butrint, an important UNESCO site in southern Albania.

The GCDO will employ a team of national and international experts (including participants of the Butrint Museum project) with extensive relevant experience in the disciplines of museology, archaeology, building conservation and tourism management. It will work closely with all relevant Albanian Institutions, including the Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports and the Gjirokastra Municipality - all of which have expressed support for the project.

Much research, supported by the Philanthropic Collaborative (New York), has already been conducted locally into potential themes and exhibitions for the new museum. This research has been a truly collaborative and inclusive effort involving an oral history audio-recording programme, appeals for artefacts and gathering of local information. The research is ongoing. Ultimately an international museologist will be employed to help design a museum which is modern, innovative, participatory and appealing to all age groups.

2.2 The long-term management of the museum

The museum once opened will be overseen by the Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports. It is anticipated that it will employ three people (thereby creating three new jobs) who will curate, maintain and secure the museum.

The annual management payroll is expected to be in the region of €20,000. Little daily maintenance will be required and with the use of solar energy, ticket revenues will adequately cover all running costs (see table 2).

Any surplus revenue will be apportioned to conservation projects in other parts of the castle.

The ticket charge is likely to be €3, rising to €4 after three years.

Visitors	Ticket price	Estimated revenue
Yr 1. 10,000 visitors	€3	€30,000
Yr 2. 12,000 visitors	€3	€36,000
Yr 3. 15,000 visitors	€4	€60,000

Table 2 - Projected museum revenue years 1 - 3 (Source - GCDO)

2.3 Background to museology in Gjirokastra

During communist times a number of museums - each promoting themes of nationalism and communist propaganda - were created in Gjirokastra. The whole of the historic old city was designated a 'museum town' and because Gjirokastra was the birthplace of the communist party leader Enver Hoxha, the two principal museums in the town told the story of his greatest achievement - the anti-Nazi struggle in World War II. His birthplace was meticulously reconstructed and became the Ethnographic Museum while the castle was given over to the National Armaments Museum, which contained captured trophies from foreign enemies - Italians, Germans and Imperialists. A third historical exhibition was created in the restored Topulli house, the home of Çerciz Topulli the leader of a band of nationalist patriots in the early years of the 20th century. This covered the struggle against the Ottoman Empire and the liberation wars of 1913.

While the standard of design and exhibits was once high - and still is in the Ethnographic Museum - these outdated museums no longer serve the need of discerning cultural tourists who have travelled long-distances to visit the city. Tourists, many of whom have wide international experience of other historic sites, want modern, innovative, well interpreted and participatory museums that will inform and entertain.

3. DESIGN

The new Gjirokastra Museum - **A Chronicle in Stone** - will do the following:

- Tell the Gjirokastra story
- Make the history of the city come alive
- Make the experience participatory
- Be relevant to visitors and local people
- Focus on quality and authenticity

3.1 Design principles

- The displays will be developed without the need for high security, regular maintenance or expensive electrical equipment. High-tech displays or interactive systems will be avoided
- Models, photographs, archive maps, pictures and text will be extensively used in the museum along with imaginatively selected objects for exhibition
- Energy for the new museum galleries will be provided by photo-voltaic panels installed on the castle roof

3.2 Location of a new museum within the castle

*'The Architecture **is** the Museum...'*⁶

A complex of three large galleries on the ground floor in the centre of the castle offer a very promising space for the new museum (see figure 1). Currently empty, they were formerly used as part of the Armaments Museum. The total space available is 280 m² with a vertical dimension of up to 6 m. This vast internal space with its soaring vaults and cupolas and impressive stone walls will provide an ideal architectural back-drop for the museum displays. The space will allow for a flow-rate of at least 55 visitors for an average half hour visit - an appropriate period of time for a busy tour group.

the castle galleries



3.3 Preparation of the interior space, renewable energy lighting and environmental conditions

The aim is to retain the rugged stone work of the interior space as much as possible, as it provides both a dramatic and an authentic background setting. However, extensive and costly preparation of this space will be necessary.

This will require waterproofing of a section of the roof above the exhibition galleries, removal of loose plasterwork/cement from the interior walls, installation of new electrical circuits and re-pointing and finishing of the entire interior space.

Additionally, the existing cement floor of the museum will have to be removed, dry-coursing will need to be added and the area will be re-paved with stone. Other construction will include a new fire exit, the creation of a small multi-media room and the installation of all lighting units, display cases and other exhibition areas.

The three exhibition galleries are lit by six large windows along the southern wall which provide plenty of natural light. This will be supplemented by a solar powered low energy lighting system, part of which has already been installed elsewhere in the castle (a GCDO project implemented in 2008, the first of its kind in Albania).

The ideal temperature range for a conventional museum is 18-25°C. In the castle the temperature varies between 11-18°C. The optimum relative humidity for a museum is 45-50% while in Gjirokastra castle it ranges between 57-64%. It is anticipated that after the repair of the roof, this figure will be reduced. The museum design will take into account any discrepancies to ideal temperature and humidity and provide remedial heating and de-humidification systems to correct them.

3.4 Museum themes

*'As we enter the twenty-first century, the greatest challenge facing museums is to recognise that museums are for people'*⁷

The museum aims to provide a solid starting point for visitors to learn about the history and culture of Gjirokastra and its surroundings. While fundraising is ongoing, research will continue into the thematic content of the museum.

Given the popular nature of many of the themes, a consultation process with Albanian institutions as well as civic focus groups is intrinsic to the design process. Ultimately a museologist will be contracted to create a modern museum from this extensive research base. It is the aim of the project team to create a museum which leads the way in terms of content, design and appeal, both in Albania and the Mediterranean region.

Figure 2: floor plan of the proposed museum



Broadly, without predetermining the final appearance of the museum, the following themes/displays are likely to be included:

Gallery 1. The Entrance

The entrance area - a vaulted space 15.2 m x 6.95 m containing a substantial outcrop of limestone.

Gallery 1 contains a limestone outcrop which forms the bedrock of the castle and the city (see figure 2). The theme of the opening display could be the raw materials used in the city's construction: raw stone, worked stone, slate and timber and the tools of the craftsman's trade, supplemented by giant scale satellite and topographic images of the region to orientate the viewer.

Gallery 2. Regional History

This is a large space, 15.65 m x 6.95 m centrally divided into four bays by stone piers, with a wider, but shorter, bay at the southern end where two large windows provide lighting along its length.

Gallery 2 may focus on a chronological display of the history of the Drino area from earliest times using interpretive panels and models of each of the following sites that have played an important role in the region's history.

Sofratike-Hadrianopolis - The city of *Hadrianopolis* was probably founded in the 2nd century AD. The principal monument is the theatre which was excavated in the 1980s.

2nd century theatre at Hadrianopolis



the church of Shën Mëri (Saint Mary)

Labova e Kryqit - The village of Labova is late Ottoman in date and is important for its vernacular architecture. The church of Shën Mëri (Saint Mary) is one of the oldest extant churches in the region, the present building probably being a 13th century reconstruction of a much earlier basilica.

Goranxi Gorge - A recently discovered multi-period archaeological site containing evidence of Mesolithic and Paleolithic occupation and tool making industries.

Antigoneia National Archaeological Park - Antigoneia National Archaeological Park - Founded by King Pyrrhus of Epirus in 297 BC using Greek-style architectural design. *Antigoneia* is the largest ancient settlement known in the Drino valley. A centre for trade and administration, it played a key role in valley life.

Gjirokastra Castle - The vast bulk of the castle has stood on the rock above the town for about a thousand years. The edifice seen today is the result of a long period of development and comprises myriad vaults, passages, tunnels, adits and oubliettes as well as the mighty battlements with their dramatic views. The story of the castle will be explained through phased plans and reconstructions, and visitors will be encouraged to explore the vast monument via a newly created visitor trail.

In addition to models, a series of eight locally woven banners displaying the heraldic badges of the various powers who dominated the area from ancient times could hang from the stone walls of the gallery.

Gallery 3. A Chronicle in Stone

To the south lies the largest of the three spaces, 17.35 m x 8.25 m divided into four double bays by a line of substantial stone piers.

It is anticipated the third gallery will focus on the social history of the city and region.

Town Life - Gjirokastra is best known for its fortified stone tower houses, and the display will focus on the design, rationale and evolution of these evocative buildings and how people lived in them. Particular focus will be given to the Zekate House, one of the grandest surviving buildings.

the interior of the Zekate House



Country Life - This display will look at the folk life and history of the surrounding villages and smaller settlements. Themes will include iso-polyphonic music and agricultural history.

Religion - This will focus on the three main religious groups - Sunni Muslim, Christian Orthodox and Bektashism (a branch of Shi'a Islam) - that co-exist in Gjirokastra and highlight the remarkable harmony that has existed between these faiths in the valley for 500 years. Special focus will be given to the mosques of the town, the Christian monasteries of the surrounding villages and the Bektashi shrines of the hinterland.

Trade and Industry - The display will look at trade and Gjirokastra's merchants' bazaar which has played a prominent role in the fortunes of the city. Varieties of merchandise will be exhibited along with images and testimonies of old traders. The display will also look at modern industrial production in communist and more recent times (metalworking and woodworking in particular). The display may also consider trade communications and the great trade caravans that used to traverse the mountain passes.

War and Peace - The Drino valley has always been highly significant geo-politically as a strategic route from the Adriatic to Constantinople and a crucial point of control in times of war. The display could touch on historic conflicts (the Romans and Macedonians) and highlight the Partisan struggle during World War II. Special emphasis would be placed on the experience of the townspeople in war.

Travellers and Tourists: the Drino valley in art and literature - Many famous travellers have visited the area including Çelebi, the Great Ottoman 'world traveller', Byron and other Grand Tourists such as the landscape artist, Edward Lear. This display could examine their contribution to recording and documenting the city and valley.

People and Personalities - The display could cover the influential individuals that have been raised in the region. These would include the Albanian-Ottoman governor of the area Ali Pasha of Tepelena; Eqrem Cabej, the great philologist of the Albanian language, and Enver Hoxha the communist dictator whose 50 year rule made modern Albania. A special place would be given to the Gjirokastrian, Ismail Kadare, the internationally famous writer whose work has immortalised Gjirokastra.



Gjirokastra by Edward Lear

Voices of Gjirokastra - Albania has a rich tradition of film-making. The communist film studio 'New Albania' produced feature films and newsreels of events throughout the country after 1945. This has been added to by an oral-history project undertaken by the GCDO. A small multi-media theatre will display a continuous show of extracts of film interspersed with memories of Gjirokastra residents, poems, music and the accounts of early visitors and travellers produced both in their original languages and in Albanian translation.

4. FUNDING

A sum of €517,496 or USD 764,000⁸ is required to complete the museum from design stage through to final construction and presentation. Funding is being sought for this amount.

PHI is a co-funder of the project providing local managerial support and academic expertise worth €50,000. This is in addition to the overall sum of €517,496.

Part of the overall sum is being sought from Albanian philanthropic sources, either as finance or work in kind. The fund-raising effort will begin following publication of this proposal. Through charitable fund-raising events and private donations, the GCDO hopes to raise 20% of the capital required from Albanian sources.

5. BUDGET

The total cost of the museum project is €517,496 or USD 764,000

BUDGET FOR CASTLE MUSEUM PROPOSAL

SEPTEMBER 2008

Construction Costs (including professional fees and labour)	Units/Description	Totals (EURO)*
Repair and waterproofing of castle roof	620m ²	43,087
Removal of cement plastering on interior walls	200m ²	7,734
Removal of gallery floor, drycoursing and re-paving of gallery floor	580m ²	48,876
Cleaning stabilisation and re-pointing of gallery walls	1600m ²	81,196
New wooden doors, double-glazed windows, wrought-iron windows		20,572
Subtotal		201,465
Museum Interior		
Light fittings and carriage to Albania	Strip/spotlights/display LEDs	6,552
Display cases and carriage to Albania		15,000
CCTV security system and installation		9,500
Labour and installation of all electrical fittings and interior fixtures		18,000
Subtotal		49,052
De-humidifier/heating		70,000
Subtotal		70,000
Museum Exhibition (outline design - to be confirmed)		
Manufacture of woven banners		10,000
Acquisition of non-state owned exhibits		10,000
Design and printing of wall panels		5,000
Models	5 x 8.4m ²	6,720
Labelling, signage and preparation of display case interiors		5,000
Interior museum furnishings - furniture		5,000
Audio and TV/DVD for multi-media display		4,000
Subtotal		45,720
Publicity		
Design and printing of publicity material		3,000
Subtotal		3,000
Total (Minus Project Management Costs)		369,237
Contingency at 15%		55,386
Project Management Costs		
Project Manager (Albanian)	16 months @ €1500/month	24,000
Architect (Albanian)		8,000
External Museum Designer		5,000
Office and Admin costs (telephone, travel etc)	16 months @ €300/month	4,800
External Museum Consultant (including travel and accommodation)	12 months @ €2500/month	36,000
Butrint Foundation accountancy and financial oversight	3.06% of overall budget	15,073
Subtotal		92,873
Grand Total		517,496
*All costs include VAT @ 20%		

Figure 1

Gjirokastra Castle

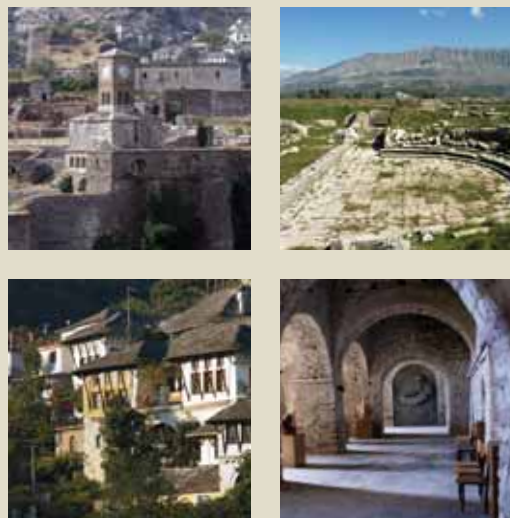
Location of the museum



End notes

- ¹ Kadare, I., 1987, *Chronicles in Stone*, New York, Arcade Books, p.1.
- ² Albanian Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport, 2006.
- ³ World Travel and Tourism Council.
- ⁴ Gjirokastra Tourist Information Centre.

- ⁵ Graburn, N., 2007, "A Quest for Identity", in Watson, S., *Museums and Their Communities*, London, Routledge, p. 128.
- ⁶ Giebelhausen, M., 2006, "The Architecture is the Museum", in Marstine, J., *New Museum Theory and Practice*, Oxford, Blackwell, p. 41.
- ⁷ Ambrose, T. & Paine, C., 2006, *Museum Basics*, ICOM, London, Routledge, p.17.
- ⁸ Using exchange rate: €1 = USD 1.47545 (27/08/08).



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