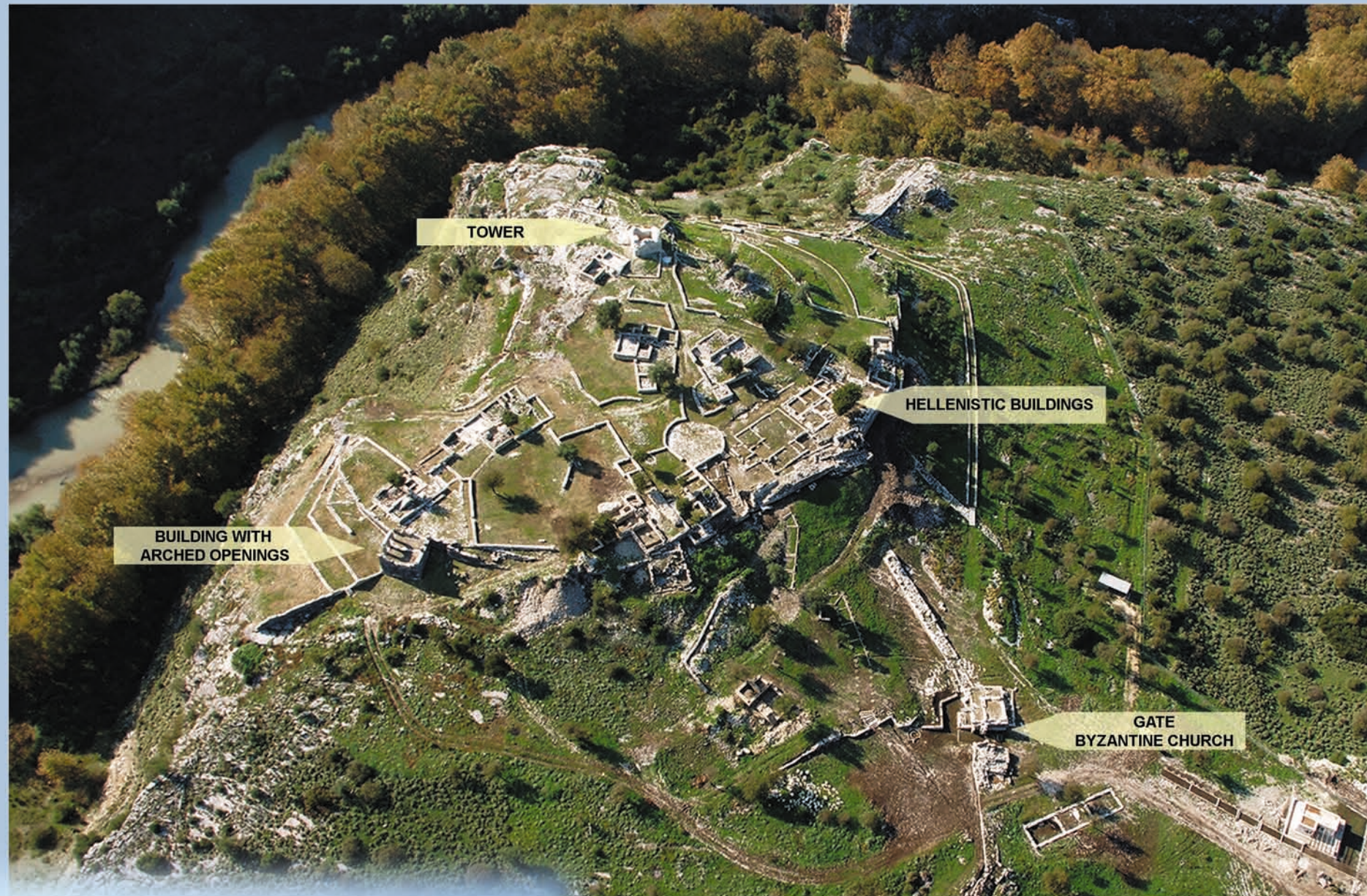




## ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE OF DOLIANI



BUILDING WITH ARCHED OPENINGS

Information: 32nd Ephorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities  
Tel.: 26650 29177 - Fax: 26650 25133 - E-mail: lbepka@culture.gr

Text: Vasiliki Lamprou  
Graphics: Miltiadis Gogolos  
Photographs: Archive of 32nd Ephorate of Antiquities



PROGRAM SUPPORTED BY THE  
EUROPEAN UNION  
EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND





The name of the city of Fanoti in Thesprotia is mentioned by the Roman historian Livius, in his account of the facts that preceded the roman conquest of Epirus. After the unsuccessful attempt of the general Appius Claudius in 170/169 B.C. to take over the city, it was finally surrendered to the Roman legions the following year, first of all the cities of Epirus.

The name of the city is derived from the denomination "Fanoteis", a Thesprotian tribe which is believed to have occupied the area of middle Kalamas during the antiquity and was based at the city of Fanoti. The fortified settlement located at Doliani, in the Municipality of Parapotamos, is identified today with the ancient city, due to its opportune position and its strong fortification.

The settlement is believed to have been founded during the Late Classical Period. After the Roman conquest of 167 B.C. the settlement was not abandoned and remained inhabited for a very long period of time. It seems that during the Byzantine Period the name Fanoti was replaced by the name Doliano; a golden bull issued in 1321 by Despot Symeon Palaiologos the Serb mentions this name. An Ottoman inventory of the mid-15th century refers to this settlement as Dulyani, hence its modern name, Doliani.



Kantharos and sherd of the archaic period



Roman silver coin



Horse figurine and skyphos of the hellenistic period

The earliest evidence of inhabitancy on the hill of ancient Fanoti comes from individual archaeological finds: handmade 7th century B.C. pottery from the ancient city cemetery and Late Archaic pottery fragments from the settlement.

Approximately around the 4th century B.C., the settlement of Fanoti was fortified with a double pseudo-isodomic wall, which has undergone several repairs and modifications from the Antiquity up to the more recent years. The inner wall was there to protect the acropolis situated on the hilltop. The rest of the settlement was surrounded by a second wall with a less well-built enclosure wall on the west. An extension of the acropolis wall to the northwest provided the inhabitants with a safe access to the river Kalamas.

The monumental arched main gate of the fortification is located on the northeast side of the outer wall, between two strong rectangular towers. At least three gates existed on the inner wall.

On the northeast part of the acropolis a small part of the layout of the ancient settlement has been excavated: a main road and at least two private houses, demonstrating consecutive construction phases between the Hellenistic and -at least- the Late Roman Period.

During the Hellenistic Period, the main cemetery of the settlement was situated at the foot of a neighbouring hill, at a location that had already been used as a burial ground during the Archaic Period; clusters of Hellenistic cist graves have been found in other spots of the area surrounding the ancient city.

In the Middle Byzantine Period the ancient cemetery was reused and expanded; it is possible that the remains of a one-roomed church that were revealed on the west tower of the main gate of the ancient fortification belong to the same period. During the Late Byzantine Period the settlement cemetery is relocated to the area around the church and consists of a large number of graves, over 100 of which have been excavated. Two pottery kilns discovered in the gate area are sure to be connected to the Byzantine period of the settlement.

Possibly towards the end of the Byzantine Period extensive repairs were carried out on the inner fortification, an annex was added to the west wall and terraces were built in order to reinforce the defence capacities of the south part of the fortification. The tower that occupies the highest spot of the acropolis (building 4) must have been built during the same period. On the southeast tower of the ancient fortification is situated a four-sided building with arched openings (building 5), probably part of a muslim mosque.

Extensive residential remains dating from the Late Byzantine and the Ottoman Era, that can be seen all over the acropolis, indicate the existence of a thriving agricultural settlement at the location of the ancient city during that period. The settlement had a path network and was centred around a circular threshing floor - square. The stone built houses usually had two floors, an indoor toilet and a spacious yard with auxiliary rooms. This settlement, apparently, was abandoned gradually until the end of the ottoman period.

Byzantine glass dowl



Venetian silver coin

