

Duklja – Doclea

Country or territory:
MONTENEGRO

Name of organisation
compiling the information:
Ministry of Culture

Contact name:
Lidija Ljesar

Email address:
min.kulture.rcg@cg.yu



<u>Name and address of building(s) or site:</u>	DUKLJA – DOCLEA, Podgorica
<u>Inventory reference number(s):</u>	44
<u>Type of building(s):</u>	Archaeological site
<u>Main date(s):</u>	1 st century BC
<u>Current use(s):</u>	Archaeological site
<u>Significance:</u>	

The remains of the town of Doclea/Duklja are the most important remains of an urban centre dating back to the Roman period in Montenegro. The town was planned according to the Roman urban typology of the 1st century BC, and was an important administrative and cultural centre. The archaeological site of Doclea/Duklja comprises Roman monuments and two necropolises, two early Christian three-nave churches from the 5th and 6th century AD, and a smaller cross-formed church from the 9th century.

During the 4th and the 5th century, Doclea/Duklja suffered from barbaric invasions. The city was destroyed by an earthquake and reconstructed in 518. Slovenes sacked the city in 620. Since this event, Doclea/Duklja lost its importance.

In the middle of the 19th century, the importance of Doclea/Duklja was rediscovered and attested by several archaeological findings, such as the Glass of Podgorica and many epigraphs. It became a place of interest for European travellers and scientists. In 1890, the first scientific research was initiated under the leadership of the Russian scientist P.A. Rovinski. The research was continued by an English team led by J.A.P. Munroe. Between 1958 and 1962, archaeological research and protective measures were carried out on the southern and western necropolises. In 1997, the Montenegrin Academy of Science and Arts engaged a group of experts to prepare the project "Doclea/Duklja – Research, Conservation and Presentation" but, owing to the lack of funds, the project was suspended in 1999. Over 1200 ancient artefacts have been recovered from the ruins of Doclea/Duklja.

Category of significance:

Of international importance

Category of ownership or interest:

Interest related to the remains of Roman and Slavic cultures.

Documentation and bibliographic references:

Documentation

- Decision for the inclusion in the Central Registry of Protected Cultural Monuments of Montenegro.
- Reports on Archaeological Works and Journals of Archaeological Excavations of Duklja from 1954 to 1964.
- Reports on Archaeological Works 1994 and 1996.
- Archaeological Research, Conservation and Presentation of Duklja, book III, 1999.
- Register of Documentation of Vandalism in Duklja.
- Register of Expropriation for the Benefit of Duklja.

Bibliography

1. *On the Roman Town Doclea in Montenegro*, publication including information on epigraphic monuments and objects found at the Antique and Medieval archaeological site of Duklja, 1893.
2. Sticotti, P.; *Die Romischen Stadt in Montenegro*, 1913. The most complete monography about Duklja.
3. Markovic, Cedomir, Vujicic, Rajko; *Spomenici kulture Crne Gore*, Novi Sad, 1997.

Condition:

Poor

Risk:

Risk is related to the lack of protection and guarding: deterioration is caused by the atmospheric conditions and vandalism.

Condition risk:

Immediate risk of further rapid deterioration or loss of archaeological material; solution agreed but no action taken.

Technical assessment and costings:

Technical assessment has been carried out but costs have not been assessed.

Ownership:

The State owns 100,000 sq m, and 170,000 sq m are in private ownership.

Management:

The Municipality of Podgorica is responsible for the management of the site.

Summary:

The remains of the Roman town Doclea are the most important remains of an urban centre from the period of the Roman domination in Montenegro. Taking into consideration the significance, condition and risks, it would be very important for the Montenegrin archaeology and for the international community to continue the research at Duklja. There is already one project prepared for the Roman forum and civil basilica. The priority level is *high*.

Sign. and date: Lidija Ljesar, February 2004