

BULGARIA

Thracian Tomb of Kazanlak

Brief description

Discovered in 1944, this tomb dates from the Hellenistic period, around the end of the 4th century B.C. It is located near Seutopolis, the capital city of the Thracian king Seutes III, and is part of a large Thracian necropolis. The tholos has a narrow corridor and a round burial chamber, both decorated with murals representing Thracian burial rituals and culture. These paintings are Bulgaria's best-preserved artistic masterpieces from the Hellenistic period.

1. Introduction

Year(s) of Inscription 1979

Agency responsible for site management

- National Institute for Cultural Monuments
Knyaz Dondukov Blvd. 16, 1000 Sofia, Bulgaria
e-mail: nipk-sof@inet.bg
website: www.mc.government.bg
- Ministry of Culture
Al. Stamboliisky Blvd. 17
1040 Sofia, Bulgaria
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2. Statement of Significance

Inscription Criteria C (i), (iii), (iv)

Justification provided by the State Party

The Thracian Tomb of Kazanlak is a unique aesthetic and artistic work, a masterpiece of the Thracian creative spirit. This monument, emerging from the remote past, is the only one of its kind in Europe -or anywhere else in the world. The frescoes are wonderful, revealing the exceptional evolution and high level of culture and pictorial art in Thrace. The frescoes are very well preserved. The construction and the walls are in their original state, without any alteration.

As provided in ICOMOS evaluation

ICOMOS: (Second year of inscription) "An essential archaeological discovery, this Thracian tomb merits the attention of scholars and the International community."

Committee Decision

The Committee made no statement.

- No Statement of Significance has been required for adoption by the World Heritage Committee at the time of inscription
- Proposal for text has been made by State Party
- Additional change proposed by State Party: Official Description of the site, reflecting the Statement of Significance

Boundaries and Buffer Zone

- Status of boundaries of the site: adequate
- Buffer zone: no buffer zone has been defined

Status of Authenticity/Integrity

- World Heritage site values have been maintained

3. Protection

Legislative and Administrative Arrangements

- Law: law on Cultural Monuments and Museums (1969)
- Municipal Territory Planning Act (for park management)
- The protection arrangements are considered sufficiently effective

4. Management

Use of site/property

- Visitor attraction

Management /Administrative Body

- Steering group: does not exist at this time
- Site manager on full-time basis
- Levels of public authority who are primarily involved with the management of the site: national; local
- The current management system is sufficiently effective

5. Management Plan

- Management plan is being implemented
- Implementation commenced: 01/1961
- Adequate
- Responsibility for over-seeing the implementation of the management plan and monitoring its effectiveness: National Institute for Cultural Monuments (NICM)

6. Financial Resources

Financial situation

- Budget sources: main sources are the Ministry of Culture, Municipality of Kazanlak, site revenue
- Bi-lateral: 'Beautiful Bulgaria' programme 2004 (EU and UNDP)
- Sufficient

7. Staffing Levels

- number of staff: 2

Rate of access to adequate professional staff across the following disciplines:

- Very good: promotion, interpretation
- Good: conservation, management, education, visitor management

8. Sources of Expertise and Training in Conservation and Management Techniques

- Scientific institutions: technical specialists (air-conditioning, equipment maintenance)
- Museum conservation facilities: "Iskra" Museum specialists, National Institute for Monuments of Culture, National Art Academy
- Training on site management: some cultural management and tourism management training

9. Visitor Management

- Visitor statistics: 689 counted by ticket sales (2004)
- Trend: slight increase
- Visitor facilities: protective shoes and clothing, restricted tours

10. Scientific Studies

- Risk assessment, visitor management
- Studies used for: updating climate control system

11. Education, Information and Awareness Building

- An adequate number of signs referring to World Heritage site
- World Heritage Convention Emblem used on some publications

- Adequate awareness of World Heritage among: visitors, local communities, businesses, local authorities
- Events: permanent and temporary exhibitions
- Web site available: <http://www.kazanlak.bg>

12. Factors affecting the Property (State of Conservation)

Reactive monitoring reports

- N/A

Conservation interventions

- Conservation: at the time of inscription, the tomb was already protected by a permanent protective building and the major cultural value, the fresco decorations, were conserved. During conservation, for the sake of the monument's uniqueness and integrity, the frescoes were only cleaned and consolidated, and no retouch or supplementing was done
- Present state of conservation: very good

Threats and Risks to site

- Visitor and tourism pressure, natural disasters (earthquakes)
- Emergency measures taken and planned: duplicate air-conditioning system recently updated; revision of earthquake prevention programme needed

13. Monitoring

- A formal monitoring programme exists
- Measures taken: microclimatic measurements
- Key indicators: temperature, humidity

14. Conclusions and Recommended Actions

- Main benefits of WH status: conservation, social, economic
- Strengths of management: as a result of the inscription, the scientific interest for the Thracian heritage in the region increased manifold. As a result of this, more than 150 burial mounds were investigated, 12 Thracian tombs of various types were discovered, some of them with frescoes. As a result, new, different methods for their protection were sought and offered. Also: improvement of the air-conditioning system and permanent monitoring, and improvement of visitors' service
- Weaknesses of management: none given

