

DIMITRIS ANANIADIS

Epirus

IOANNINA - PREVEZA - THESPROTIA - ARTA



Publication or reproduction of this work in full or in part is prohibited in any way whatsoever, as well as its translation, adaptation or use in any way whatsoever for the reproduction of a literary or artistic work, in accordance with the articles of Law 2121/1993 and the International Conventions of Berne and Paris, as ratified by Law 100/1975. In addition, reproduction of the layout, pagination, cover and general aesthetic appearance of the book, using photocopies, electronic or any other means whatsoever is prohibited, in accordance with article 51 of Law 2121/1993.

© Copyright 2006 MICHAEL TOUBIS PUBLICATIONS S.A.
Nisiza Karela, Koropi, Attiki, Telephone: +30 210 6029974,
Fax: +30 210 6646856, Web Site: <http://www.toubis.gr>

ISBN: 960-540-692-6

*[...] Let the clove tremble, let the bridge tremble
let the leaves fall from the trees, let the passers by tremble.*

*- Girl, the word changed, and he gave another curse,
Who have a dear brother, let it not happen that he passes.*

*And this word changed, and he gave another curse:
- If the wild mountains tremble, then let the bridge tremble too
and if the wild birds fall, let the passers by fall,
I have a brother faraway, let it not happen that he passes.*

Excerpt from the folk song "The Bridge of Arta"



CONTENTS

Introduction	8
--------------------	---

Epirus

GENERAL	10
Geography	10
Flora - Fauna	12
Climate	14
Economy	14
History	16
Cultural and tradition	23
Folk architecture	23
Folk art	26
(Painting, icon painting, silver work, gold embroidery, textiles, weaving, traditional costume)	
Folk culture - traditions	30
Epirot cuisine	31
Events	31

PREFECTURE OF IOANNINA

Geography – Natural environment	34
History	36
Ioannina town	42

(Lake Pamvotis, Ayios Nikolaos of the Philanthropists, Dilios Monastery, Eleousis Monastery, Panteleimonos Monastery, Ioannina Castle, Aslan Pasha Mosque, Municipal Ethnographic Museum of Ioannina, Aslan Pasha Mausoleum, Fetihe Mosque, Byzantine Museum, Fotis Rapakousis Museum, Ali Pasha Museum, Archaeological Museum, Folk Museum, Municipal Art Gallery, Pavlos Vrellis Waxworks Museum, Perama Cave)	
Sights of the Prefecture	52
(Voidomatis, Vikos Ravine, Zagori Ravine, Drakolimni, Aristi, Panayia Spiliotisa, Papingo, Kolymvythres, Monodendri, Ayia Paraskevi Monastery, Vovoussa, Skala Vradetou, Konitsa, Stomios Monastery, Monastery of the Koimiseos Theotokou, Molyvdoskepastis, Bourazani, Bourazani Environmental Park, Metsovo, Zoodochou Pigis Monastery, Monastery of the Koimiseos tis Theotokou, Aaos Lake, Milia, Tzoumerka, Kalarrytes, Syrrako, Kalentzi, Pramanta, Vyliza Monastery, Matsouki, Kipinas Monastery, Tsoukas Monastery, Mouchoustios Monastery, Plaka Raftanaia, Dodona)	



CONTENTS

PREFECTURE OF THESSALY

Geography – Natural environment	76
History	78
Igoumenitsa town	80
<i>(Igoumenitsa, Drepano, Makriyiali, Kastro, Ragio Castle, Lygia, Kalamas, Skala Tzavailinas)</i>	
Sights of the Prefecture.....	82
<i>(Philiates, Tsamantas, Goumani, Raveni, Foiniki, Plaisio, Geromeri, Michaliari, Keramitsa, Plataria, Syvota, Vrachonas, Perdika, Ayia Paraskevi, Asillas, Karavostasi, Paramythia, Fotiki, Elea, Polydrosso, Glyki, Gardiki, Sagiada, Souli, Pente Ekklisies, Stavropigadia, Kalodikiou Marsh, Margariti)</i>	

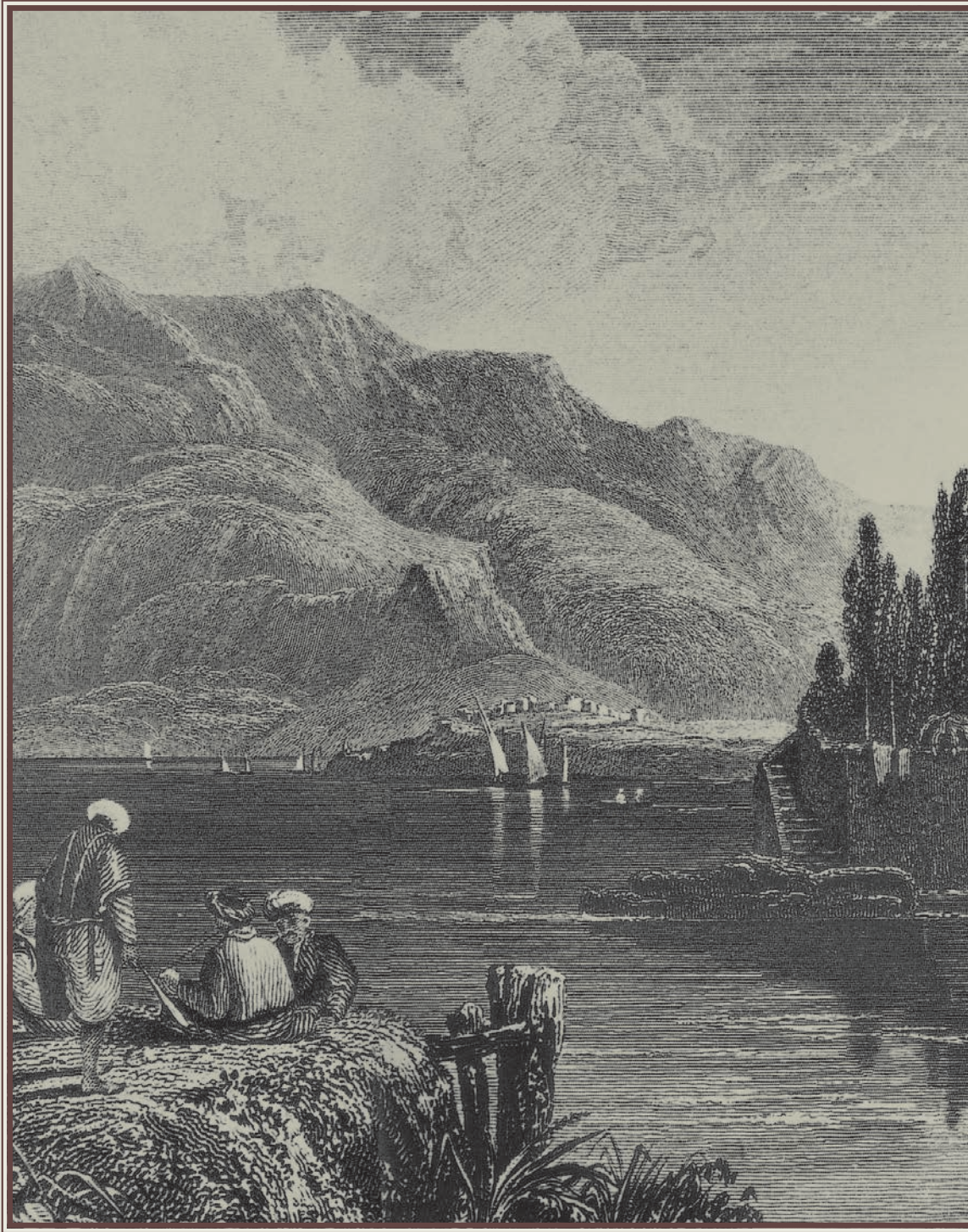
PREFECTURE OF PREVEZA

Geography – Natural environment	96
History	97
Sights of the Prefecture.....	98
<i>(Preveza, Ayios Andreas Castle, Ayios Georgios Castle, Pantokratora Castle, Ayios Haralambous)</i>	
Sights of the Prefecture.....	102
<i>(Parga, Panayia Islet, Lichnos, Valtos, Vrachos, Riza, Ammoudia, Kastrosykia, Kanali, Nekromanteio, Zalongo, Ancient Kassopi, Ayios Georgios, Asprochaliko, Louros, Lake Zeros, Rogi Monastery, Nikopolis)</i>	

PREFECTURE OF ARTA

Geography – Natural environment	114
History	116
Arta town.....	118
<i>(Bridge, Temple of Apollo, Ancient Ambracia, Castle, Plesioi, Ayios Dimitrios Katsouris, Panayia Parigoritissa, Ayia Theodora, Feik Pasha Mosque, Ayios Vasilios, Kokkini Ekklesia, Skoufas Historical and Folk Museum)</i>	
Sights of the Prefecture.....	124
<i>(Frousia, Seltso Monastery, Piges, Ayios Nikolaos, Dilofa, Mesounta, Voulgareli, Athamani, Kypseli, Myrofylio, Theodoriana, Ammotopos, Plaka, Melissourgoi, Ambracian Gulf, Lake Logaros, Lake Tsoukalios)</i>	





Lake Ioannina, engraving by William Page, ca 1820.



*“...ancient Hellas, the country about Dodona and the Acheloos...
Here the Selli dwelt and those who were formerly called Graeci and now Hellenes.”*

(Aristotle, Meteorology, a14).

“Primitive Greece,” as the 2nd-century AD natural scientist and geographer Ptolemy Claudius calls it, stretches from the northwest section of the country, from Albania as far as the Ambracian gulf and from the Ionian Sea to the Pindus mountain range, its natural border with the rest of Greece. It is said that the name comes from the ancient Greek word “aperos,” i.e. infinite, or infinite land. The arrival of the Greek tribes is located within its inaccessible and mountainous lands, the first permanent settlements of the Thesprotians, Haonans and Molossi who came from the north at the beginning of the 2nd millennium BC, gradually displacing the pre-Hellenic Pelasgians who had lived in the area since the Palaeolithic era. Even the name “Hellene” is believed to be a product of the word “Helloi,” which the lexicographer Hesychius interpreted as meaning “Hellenes, those in Dodoni and the priests.” From this very early period until today, Epirus lived through the centuries of Greek history always taking an active role in developments, ceaselessly paying the price of its particular geographical location. From here passed conquerors such as the Romans, Byzantines, Goths, Bulgarians, Slavs and Normans, until the foundation of the Despotate of Epirus. After this came Serbs, Albanians, Venetians and Franks, until 1430 when the Ottomans conquered Epirus, ushering in a long period of political subjection but also of economic and cultural prosperity, which closed at the beginning of the 20th century. From this mixture of conquerors, numerous colonies, constant population movements and the high point of the Ottoman period emerged an exciting cultural idiom. This idiom is manifest in every form of popular art, in the Epirot dialects, through which one can still hear even today the “fusion” of cultures, from the days when Epirus was the bridge towards Europe, the bond between the Mediterranean and the Middle East.

In this guidebook we present the history and geography of this region in a synoptic fashion. Here you can learn the basic guidelines for a magical tour of the history and nature of the “land of the mountains,” of which the early-19th-century French traveller François Pouqueville wrote “the inexhaustible combination of the ways used by Divine Providence to achieve her aim, appears here so wonderfully, that if we wanted to give Epirus the name most fitting, we would have to call it the ‘miniature of all landscapes, of all climates.’”

