



# ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM OF VERGINA





**The museum is located on the site of Vergina, or Aigai, the sacred city of Ancient Macedon. The site includes a palace site, a theater, and royal burials. The museum has been built inside the royal burial mound. It is one of the most beautiful and well designed museums in Greece, taking advantage of the material in situ.**



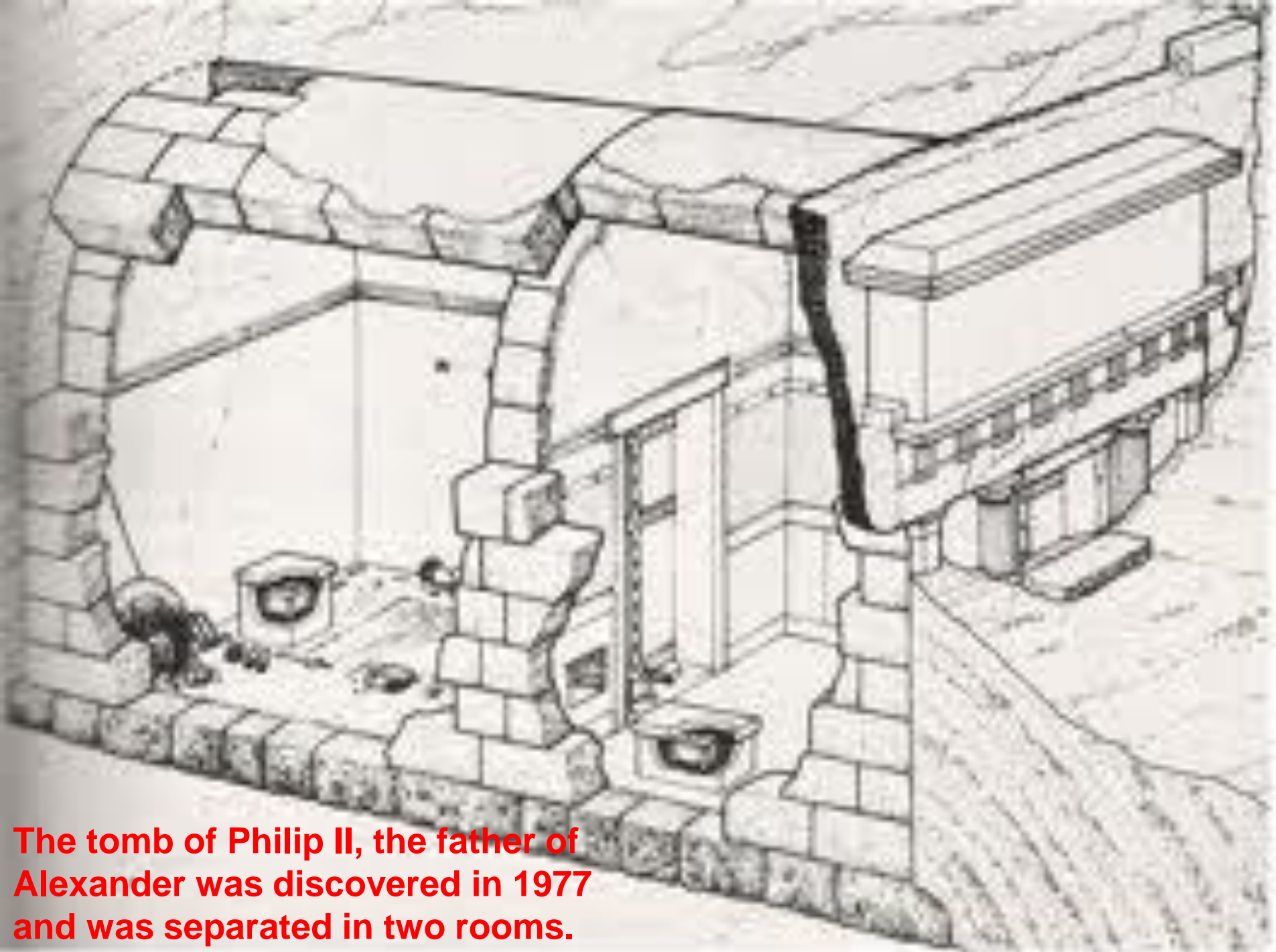
**The museum which was inaugurated in 1993 was built in a way to protect the tombs, exhibit the artifacts and show the tumulus as it was before the excavations.**



Inside the museum there are four tombs and one small temple, the heroon built as the temple of the great tomb of Philip II of Macedon.



The two most important graves were not sacked and contained the main treasures of the museum.



**The tomb of Philip II, the father of Alexander was discovered in 1977 and was separated in two rooms.**



**The main room included a marble sarcophagus, and in it was the larnax made of 24 carat gold and weighing 11 kilograms.**




**Inside the golden larnax the bones of the dead were found and a golden wreath of 313 oak leaves and 68 acorns, weighing 717 grams.**



**In the room were also found the golden and ivory panoply of the dead, the richly-carved burial bed on which he was laid and silver utensils for the funeral feast.**



**In the antechamber there were another sarcophagus with another smaller golden larnax containing the bones of a woman in a golden-purple cloth with a golden diadem decorated with flowers and enamel.**



**There was one more partially destroyed by the fire burial bed and on it a golden wreath representing leaves and flowers of myrtle. Above the Doric order entrance of the tomb there is a wall painting measuring 5.60 metres which represents a hunting scene.**



**The facade of the tomb of Alexander IV of Macedon. In 1978 another burial site was also discovered near the tomb of Philip, which belongs to Alexander IV of Macedon son of Alexander the Great. It was slightly smaller than the previous and was not sacked too.**



**It was also arranged in two parts, but only the main room contained a cremated body this time. On a stone pedestal was found a silver hydria which contained the bones and on it a golden oak wreath. There were also utensils and weaponry. A narrow frieze with a chariot race decorated the walls of the tomb.**



The other two tombs were found to have been sacked. The "tomb of Persephone" was discovered in 1977 and although it contained no valuable things found, on its walls was found a marvellous wall painting showing the abduction of Persephone by Pluto.



The other tomb, discovered in 1980, is heavily damaged and may have contained valuable treasures while it had an impressive entrance with four Doric columns. It was built in the 4th century BC and the archaeologists believe that the tomb belonged to Antigonos II Gonatas.



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