

6th International Scientific Symposium
in honour of Stjepan Gunjača

**Political and Social Structures
in Early Medieval
Central, South and Eastern Europe
(9th – 15th centuries)**

Archaeological and historical evidence



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8 - 11 November 2023,
Museum of Croatian Archaeological Monuments,
Split, Croatia



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GUNJAČA

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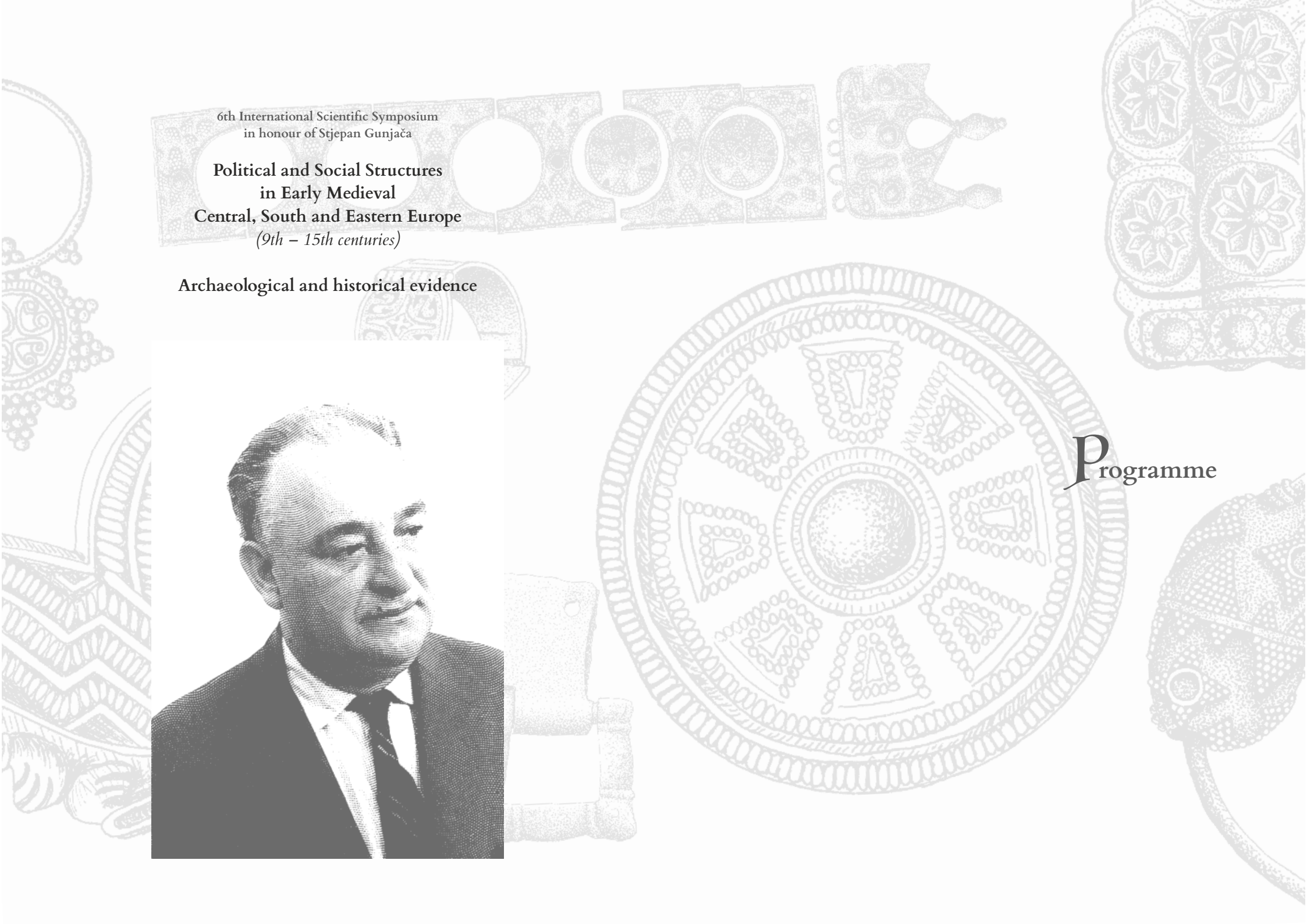
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Programme

Wednesday, November 8

- 8:30 – 9:00 Registration and collection of accreditation and accompanying materials
- 9:00 – 9:10 Welcome speech by the Director of the MHAS
- 9:10 – 9:25 **A. Alajbeg**, *Between the Adriatic and the hinterland: the rise of early medieval Nin*
- 9:25 – 9:40 **A. Aladzhov**, *The round stone ground and the chronology of Pliska*
- 9:40 – 9:55 **S. Gorjanova**, *Organisation and development of the second Bulgarian medieval capital Veliki Preslav*
- 9:55 – 10:30 Discussion
- 10:30 – 10:45 Coffee break
- 10:45 – 11:00 **N. Profantová, Tismice and Kouřim** — *transformation of early medieval centrality (central places) in the 8th and 9th centuries in central Bohemia. (Change in power structure visible/recognizable in the local network of hillforts?)*
- 11:00 – 11:15 **E. Nowotny**, *The hilltop site of Thunau am Kamp*
- 11:15 – 11:30 **T. Milavec**, *Early medieval use of late antique hilltop sites, another possible answer to the riddle?*
- 11:30 – 12:00 Discussion
- 12:00 – 15:30 Lunch break
- 15:30 – 15:45 **M. Marić Baković**, *The fortified town of Livno (Cleuna, Hlivno) within the framework of the early medieval Croatian state*
- 15:45 – 16:00 **N. Uroda**, *Bribir and its early medieval county*
- 16:00 – 16:15 **M. Sergeeva**, *Early Rus complexes related to woodworking: identification and study (based on material from the Middle Dniipro area)*
- 16:15 – 16:45 Discussion
- 16:45 – 17:00 Coffee break
- 17:00 – 17:15 **P. Šmalcelj Novaković**, *Understanding interactions and identities through archaeological records; example of two Late Avar-age cemeteries in western Syrmia, Croatia*

Wednesday, November 8

- 17:00 – 17:15 **T. König**, *Origins of the Great Moravian elites*
- 17:30 – 17:45 **R. Přichystalová**, *The formation of the hereditary elite in the Early Middle Ages*
- 17:45 – 18:00 **D. Tojčić, A. Curić**, *Contribution to the study of socio-economic relations in the Early Middle Ages – the case of Rižinice*
- 18:00 – 18:30 Discussion
- 19:00 Opening of the exhibition
“Prince from Bojna – A New Chapter of Croatian History”
- 20:00 Reception

Thursday, November 9

- 9:00 – 9:15 **P. Špehar, O. Špehar**, *Early medieval settlements and churches in rural areas of modern Vojvodina: Crkveno brdo case study*
- 9:15 – 9:30 **G. Bilogrivić**, *Beyond typology: Analysis of hilts as a source for studying the personal relations between sword-bearers and their swords*
- 9:30 – 9:45 **E. Gáll, R. Fülöp, S. Nagy, D. Bindea, A. Horváth, I. Major**, *A new interdisciplinary study on funeral sites from Cluj Napoca - Plugarilor Street in the peripheral Transylvanian Basin*
- 9:45 – 10:00 **M. Radišić**, *On how justified the term Bijelo Brdo culture is in medieval archaeology*
- 10:00 – 10:15 **N. Khamaiko, O. Zhurukhina, V. Nesterovskiy**, *Replaced beauty: amethyst and fluorite in early Rus' jewellery*
- 10:15 – 10:45 Discussion
- 10:45 – 11:00 Coffee break

Thursday, November 9

- 11:00 – 11:15 **P. Langó**, *Trade and cultural relations between the 10th- century Carpathian Basin and Dalmatia in the light of contemporary earrings*
- 11:15 – 11:30 **Š. Ungerman**, *Regional groups of early medieval luxury jewellery – archaeological analysis versus historical interpretation*
- 11:30 – 11:45 **J. Hasil**, *The so-called grave complex 2/3 from Matzhausen, northeaster Bavaria: The mystery of Central European Slavonic archaeology*
- 11:45 – 12:00 **M. Petrinc**, *On the relationship between Dalmatian cities and their hinterland, using the example of jewellery discovered in medieval graves*
- 12:00 – 12:15 **V. Lupis, E. Shala**, *Two Limoges medallions in the reliquary of the Cathedral of Dubrovnik*
- 12:15 – 12:45 Discussion
- 12:45 – 15:00 Lunch break
- 15:00 – 17.30 Guided tour of Split
- 17:30 Visit to the Archaeological Museum in Split
- 18:00 Reception in the Archaeological Museum Split

Friday, November 10

Excursion (field trip)

Departure at 8:00 h

Early mediaeval church of St. Saviour in Cetina – early mediaeval churches in Biskupija – waterfall Krčić in Knin – snack in Drniš – visit to Šibenik (Cathedral of St. James, cathedral museum, city museum) – dinner in Šibenik – return to Split

Saturday, November 11

(The oral presentations will be in Croatian, while the PowerPoint presentations will be in English)

- 9:00 – 9:15 **M. Katić**, *Late antique “civitates” and their role in the founding and development of medieval towns on the Adriatic coast*
- 9:15 – 9:30 **K. Filipec**, *Labor and Carolingian Lower Pannonia*
- 9:30 – 9:45 **A. Jurčević**, *New insights into the archaeological site of Rižinice*
- 9:45 – 10:15 Discussion
- 10:15 – 10:30 Coffee break
- 10:30 – 10:45 **T. Sekelj Ivančan**, *Design and technological features of early medieval ceramic ware using the example of the researched micro-complex Torčec in Podravina*
- 10:45 – 11:00 **T. Kolak**, *Positioning of medieval churches in the area of Lika*
- 11:00 – 11:30 **J. Vučić**, *Previous results of the research of the early medieval cemetery in Tinj near Biograd*
- 11:30 – 12:00 Discussion

Venue:**Museum of Croatian Archaeological Monuments (MHAS)**

Šetalište Ivana Meštrovića 18, Split (large hall on the first floor)



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Summaries

Andrey Aladzhov

The Round Stone Ground and the chronology of Pliska

Pliska is located in north-eastern Bulgaria, around 60 km west of the Black Sea coast. Situated in the centre of the plain and surrounded by highlands, the town is home to the fortified settlement of Pliska, which spans over 22 km². Considered the first early medieval Bulgarian capital, Pliska has been the subject of continuous archaeological investigations for over a century, with the first excavations taking place in 1899.

Pliska is entirely enclosed by an earthen rampart and a ditch. The earthen fortification of the Outer City dates back to the first half of the 8th or the late 7th century AD. The boundaries of the Inner City are marked by a stone fortress, which was built in the first half of the 9th century AD. Within the centre of the inner fortress, a third brick wall was erected, serving as the citadel. The city's layout, building materials and construction technique suggest that it was built as a single act, most likely during the reign of Khan Omurtag (814–831 AD).

The Round Stone Ground, which dates to the same period, covers an area of one hectare in the centre of the palace in Pliska. It is connected to the Trone palace and the pagan temple in the town centre through a secret underground passageway. The Round Stone Ground, also known as the Arena, has an elliptical shape and is paved with 4,448 stones. Many of these stones bear inscriptions and graffiti. One inscription in Greek reveals the name Toktu, one of the Khans who ruled Bulgaria in the 8th century. The stone pavement is located one meter below the medieval level and is surrounded by a one-meter-high wooden fence. Above the pavement, there are three stratigraphic layers that coincide with the historical periodization of Pliska, which is divided into the capital, post-capital, and Byzantine stages.

The pavement is located within a large wooden building with trench-pit foundations, dating to the first half of the 9th century.

The architectural features of the site—excavated and fenced—suggest an interesting explanation for its function – it may have served as a gaming facility, which, in large towns like Pliska, was quite expected to exist. For this reason, it is sometimes referred to as the arena of Pliska.



Inner City – Palace Center and Round Stone Ground

Ante Alajbeg

Between the Adriatic and the hinterland: the rise of early medieval Nin

Nin has often been referred to, and quite rightly so, as one of the centres of the early medieval Croatian state. The small island of Nin was the only coastal city with an ancient tradition that was controlled by the Dalmatian Slavs even before the establishment of the principality. Numerous cemeteries from that time, found in Nin or its immediate vicinity, share exactly the same cultural characteristics as other cemeteries in the eastern Adriatic hinterland. However, the story of Nin's rise in the Early Middle Ages differs somewhat from the development of other centres such as Knin, Solin, Bribir or Livno. If we examine Nin in the context of the trade throughout the entire Mediterranean at that time, we will notice that it had a significant comparative advantage compared to the other centres of the Dalmatian Slavs: in addition to having a harbour that allowed direct and independent contact with the most important traders in the northern Mediterranean, the area of Nin also possessed substantial potential for the production of salt. During that time, salt, along with timber, fur and slaves, constituted the primary commodities in maritime trade throughout the Mediterranean. By becoming part of the Mediterranean trading network in the eastern Adriatic hinterland, a significant amount of imported goods was brought to Nin, primarily Byzantine jewellery, Frankish weapons and warrior equipment, and even some items from the Abbasid Caliphate. Moreover, these imported goods, together with the opportunity for direct interaction with foreign merchants, were instrumental in building a new social order. The demand for imported goods was a result of strong economic growth in which Nin played a crucial role. Yet not only commodities were brought by these foreign merchants to Nin, but also ideas. Therefore, it is not mere coincidence that some of the earliest items with Christian symbolism were found precisely in Nin and its surroundings, nor is it surprising that the first Croatian bishopric was established on the island in the late 9th century. To support the aforementioned arguments, it is crucial to answer two questions: what caused the economic growth in the late 8th century, and with whom did the inhabitants of Nin trade at that time?



Goran Bilogrivić

Beyond typology: Analysis of hilts as a source for studying the personal relations between sword-bearers and their swords

Swords are undoubtedly one of the most recognizable symbols of the Early Middle Ages. These weapons held various meanings, ranging from their association with renowned warriors to their symbolic representation of royal power during coronation ceremonies, but also to various other aspects of the sword-bearer which they signified in burial contexts. Weapons as archaeological objects derive mostly from this latter group, and their role in funeral ceremonies has been extensively studied across Europe, thus including also in the context of early medieval Dalmatia and Croatia. By examining these archaeological evidence, we gain valuable insights into the place and meaning of the sword throughout the sword-bearer's life, where these weapons could indicate various other aspects of their owner's identity and thus had a role in broader social transformations. Additionally, early medieval swords held personal value to their owners, yet this aspect has been somewhat overlooked in early medieval archaeology. In the light of some recent studies, which have opened new directions for research in that respect, this paper focuses on several examples of Carolingian swords from Croatia. By analyzing the signs of wear and use on the hilts, as well as the wider burial context, the paper aims not only to shed some new light but also open a discussion about the significance of these swords in everyday life and the bond between the sword and its bearer.



Krešimir Filipec*Lobor and Carolingian lower pannonia*

During the period from the late 8th to the end of the 11th century, the region between the Drava and Sava rivers witnessed significant political and social changes. After the decline of Avar dominance in the Pannonian Plain in the late 8th century, a new era began under Frankish rule that lasted throughout the 9th century. The archaeological sites from this period provide valuable insights into these historical events. These sites were mainly rural types, but there were also sites, which served as gathering places within the new social order. They were usually established at old, late ancient locations, within abandoned ancient cities and alongside ancient roads. Along with Sisak, which is mentioned in historical sources during the time of Ljudevit's rebellion against Frankish authority, the most significant fortress of the 9th century is Lobor, Our Lady of the Mountain, which also currently represents the most extensively explored early medieval Carolingian centre in Lower Pannonia. With the arrival of Frankish missionaries, a wooden church was built on the site of an earlier Slavic settlement, as evidenced by the discovered and explored cremation cemetery. Unlike the previous traditions and practice of establishing settlements in the plains, Lobor was built on a hill. In the 8th or early 9th century, the site was fortified with a palisade that was erected on the remains of a late ancient rampart. Excavations within the fortress revealed the presence of two churches dating to the 9th century. The first church, built at the beginning of the 9th century, was a wooden structure with a single nave, rectangular apse and a porch on the facade. It was built above the cremation cemetery and represented a radical break from the old era and traditions. With its construction, the burial practices changed to include burials of human bodies, a cemetery was established around the church and Christianization began. The second church, a three-aisled basilica, was erected next to it, i.e. above the ruins of an early Christian church by the end of the 9th century. The interior of the basilica underwent multiple renovations, as evidenced by the discovered decorated stone fragments and parts of its inventory that date to the period from the 9th to the 11th century. The churches were not destroyed when the Frankish authority declined. Their existence, along with the associated cemetery, indirectly bear witness that Lobor continued to thrive

beyond the Carolingian period and even survived Hungarian invasions until at least the end of the 11th century. This is so far the only evidence of the survival of older structures after the collapse of the Frankish rule, primarily church structures in Lower Pannonia. The burial customs and objects found in the graves show that the local population followed the trends and fashion of that time. However, the significance of Lobor diminished after the 11th century, likely due to the establishment of the new political structure after the creation of the Croatian-Hungarian union and the relocation of the power centres to other locations.



**Erwin Gáll, Réka Fülöp, Szabolcs Nagy, Diana Bindea,
Anikó Horváth, István Major**

*A new interdisciplinary study on funeral sites from cluj napoca-plugarilor street
in the peripheral transylvanian basin*

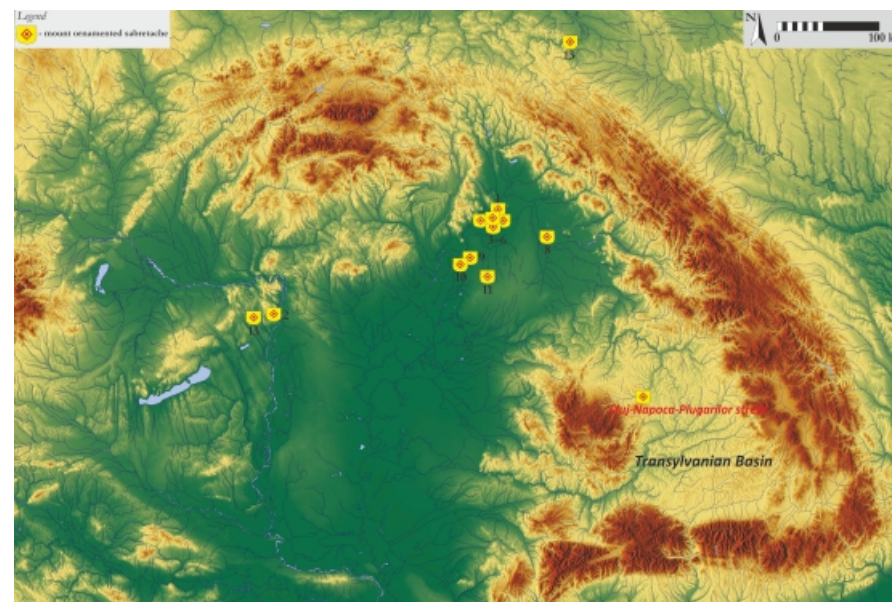
Southeast of the Roman town of Napoca, 26 graves from the Hungarian conquest period were discovered during the excavation of a Roman cemetery between 1985 and 1986. Additionally, a 10th-century necropolis was discovered on Zápolya and Kalevala Street, one level below the aforementioned terrace. The inhabitants of this area may have played a significant role in controlling the salt mines, while the cemeteries are located close to the Roman route towards Potaissa (now Turda).

The site in question had not been previously published. According to the excavator, Ioana Hica, the cemetery has been only partially excavated, leaving the possibility of additional graves hidden underground. The burials within the cemetery were arranged in groups.

Only one equestrian burial was found in the cemetery, specifically in grave 25, which belonged to a man aged between 60 and 65 years old. A mounted sabretache, the most significant find in the cemetery, was discovered in this grave. It represents the only one of its kind in Transylvania. Many of the features of the mounted sabretache are well integrated into the archaeological context of the 10th-century network of power, since the most similar specimens of the sabretache have been found in the Upper Tisza region. The radiocarbon analysis of grave 25, which included the remains of the man and the horse, confirms a dating to the second half of the 10th century. This confirms the recent finding that the mounted sabretaches and the sabretache plates coincide in time.

The significance of the Cluj cemetery, excavated 35 years ago on the outskirts of the Hungarian dominion, stands out among the sites of this period due to its abundance of weapon finds rather than its precious metal wealth. This presentation aims to address specific questions in a unique way in regards to the research of the micro-region by using several interdisciplinary studies, including radiocarbon analysis, strontium isotope examination and stable isotope investigations:

1. How does this cemetery align chronologically with other Hungarian cemeteries in the region that have already been published?
2. Was the senile man (and his community) in the cemetery already native to Cluj, or did they migrate from elsewhere and settle in the region?
3. Was the community of Plugarilor Street related and in what form (sociological or biological, or both) to the communities of Zápolya Street and Kalevala Street buried 400 and 550 metres away respectively?



Snezhana Goryanova

Organisation and development of the second Bulgarian medieval capital Veliki Preslav

In 893, the capital of the medieval Bulgarian state was moved from Pliska to Preslav. Simeon, the new king, later named the Great, launched construction activities in the capital city that lasted 28 years according to the chronicles. However, the archaeological excavations, which began in the late 19th century, show that the construction activities were carried out i.e. the new structures had been built upon existing structures. Most probably, a small aul, the residence of the new ruler had been built on the bank of the Ticha River as early as the first quarter of the 9th century, during the reign of Khan Omurtag. The construction of temples related to the new faith, but also new palaces was initiated in the period immediately following the conversion to Christianity (864/5). Significant changes took place in the capital city: the old defensive facilities were destroyed and a new citadel with two fortified sections (a total area of ca. 1.5 ha) was built. Separate fortified courtyards and an extensive outer fortress covering an area of nearly 4 sq. km were constructed.

The Bulgarian rulers not only took care of the protection and the defensive walls of the city, but they also launched a series of activities related to the spatial planning of the town and its public utilities. Palaces were built, enlarged and decorated. The individual assemblages in the Inner City were connected with the fortress gates and to each other by narrow stone-paved streets. The extensive water supply system, including various facilities and water mains, was among the city's most important assets. Water was transported from several sources through gravity. The water was mixed in many special facilities, and transported to the numerous courtyards and buildings. Dozens of water mains brought water by ceramic pipes to fountains, small garden ponds, baths or sanitary facilities (latrines). Archaeological evidence of the water system was mainly found in the Inner City. Outside the citadel, water was probably extracted from wells or from the river. In contrast to the extensive evidence of the well-developed and extensive water supply network, information about the functioning of the drainage system and the sewers is limited.



Jan Hasil

*The so-called grave complex 2/3 from Matzhausen, northeast:
the mystery of central European Slavonic archaeology*

Grave unit 2/3 from the Matzhausen site, located approximately 25 km northwest of Regensburg, has captivated the field of Central European Slavonic archaeology already on the eve of the Second World War, yet – and perhaps because of this – it was only published for the first time in the 1950s. However, it wasn't until the late 1980s that it started to receive regular attention in the form of numerous exhibition presentations. Although the Matzhausen assemblage encompasses a variety of artefact types and has been cited in numerous studies touching on the typochronological schemes of early medieval jewellery, it is surprising that it has yet not been critically analysed.

The first level of this analysis was a technological and material analysis carried out by a team of researchers from the Institute of Archaeology in Prague, which was published in 2019. At the same time, particular attention was paid to the most suspicious circumstances surrounding its discovery, which involved prominent personalities from the SS-Ahnenerbe. The implications of both of these research steps are that the Mantzhausen collection cannot be viewed as a homogeneous assemblage that would provide a basis for the discussion of supra-regional typochronological schemes. The second part of the paper will therefore propose an alternative structure of research questions with which this remarkable source can be confronted. Above all, it is crucial to contextualise the finds with the current knowledge of the extremely heterogeneous image of early medieval cemeteries in the Upper Palatinate, reflecting the diversity of communities that inhabited this communicative region in the early medieval period.



Ante Jurčević*New insights into the archaeological site of Rižinice*

This presentation shares the results of the archaeological excavations that were carried out at one of the most significant sites of the Early Middle Ages in Croatia in 2011. It is a multi-layered site in Rižinice, which features remains from the Roman, early Christian and early medieval period, but also an ancient and medieval necropolis. Of particular interest was initially the presumed early medieval sacral structure with an apse to the north and its surrounding area until the collapse of a nearby road revealed an astonishing discovery: a nearly fully preserved single-nave building with an apse and external walls divided by buttresses and an architrave cornice. Additionally, the excavation revealed other buildings with economic functions. Among them, a notable find was a cistern (known as a "piscina") with polychrome hydraulic plaster and a mosaic floor. The discovery of fragments of early medieval liturgical furniture and other movable artefacts complement the existing knowledge about this important site, which can be linked to the information provided in the Charter of Croatian Duke Trpimir.

**Miroslav Katić***Late antique civitates and their role in the founding and development of medieval towns on the Adriatic coast*

The establishment of individual fortified centres with ports, which would later develop into medieval urban entities, began on the eastern Adriatic coast in the late 4th century. Towns such as Kotor, Dubrovnik, Hvar, Šibenik, Novigrad in Istria, and Venice itself are typical examples of towns that had their origins in the late antique period. These late antique civitates were directly connected to the maritime trade route between the East and the West, and trade played a decisive role in their development. While each city had its unique path of growth, it is important to highlight more clearly the significance of late antique towns on the Adriatic in our archaeological and historical studies.



Natalia Khamaiko, Olena Zhurukhina, Victor Nesterovskyi

In replaced beauty: amethyst and fluorite early Rus' jewellery

Amethyst and fluorite jewellery from Kyivan Rus' is a topic that has so far received only limited research. There has also been minimal discussion regarding the definition of amethyst and fluorite in medieval jewellery from Central and Eastern Europe. The primary reason for this is the imprecise definition of these minerals in the initial description of the objects or jewellery made from them. In most cases, archaeological finds were identified by visual inspection immediately after excavation, with colour being the main diagnostic feature. It was the violet of varying saturation, which is actually the reference colour for amethyst, that provided confidence in the identification. Moreover, amethyst proved to be a much more popular and well-known mineral than fluorite, even among archaeologists. Usually only specialists such as mineralogists or gemologists can recognize fluorite visually, whereas archaeologists on the other hand lack specialized training and require experience to identify fluorite.

The initial misidentification of the mineral as amethyst contributed to the belief that amethyst items were present in Early Rus' complexes and cultural layers. Instead, our mineralogical studies have shown that the majority of the Early Rus' beads from Kyiv in the second half of the 11th and 12th centuries, previously identified as amethyst, are actually composed of fluorite. Publications by colleagues from Poland and Hungary confirm this trend in Central Europe.

In the Byzantine Empire, precious stones were extensively used in all kinds of jewellery and religious objects. The presence of precious stones in imperial robes held significant importance, imbuing them with sacred significance. To prevent imitation and counterfeiting of luxurious robes, decrees were issued to restrict the use of specific precious stones to the robes of the imperial family. As the Byzantine Empire was a source of fashion and technology for neighbouring regions, the use of precious stones was quite common. The fashion of certain types of jewellery and jewellery techniques actively spread throughout the countries that were part of the Byzantine Commonwealth. However, due to the existing restrictions, alternatives were sought. Consequently, fluorite became more prevalent than amethyst in Eastern and Central Europe during the 11th century. This trend is

already evident in the 10th-century treasure from Preslav, Bulgaria, which featured fluorite inserts and represented Southern Europe's inclination towards this mineral.



Tatjana Kolak*Positioning of medieval churches in the area of Lika*

The presentation provides information on the positioning of medieval sacred buildings in the Lika area in relation to the present-day settlement grid, thus presuming the location of medieval settlements that have not been located yet. The territory examined here refers to the geographical area of three of the largest fields in Lika or the medieval parishes of Lika, Gacka and Krbava in the period between the 12th to the 15th century respectively. The collected data is based on continuous research gathered over many years and through archaeological excavations on a smaller number of localities within the last fifty years.

**Tomáš König***Origins of the great Moravian elites*

Great Moravian elites are always perceived only within the period during which they were mentioned in written sources. The question of finding their origins always ran into the problem of missing sources, based on which it would be possible to confirm their presence in an earlier period. However, the archaeological investigation of the issue of material culture of the Late Avar period recently brought results allowing the identification of the elites not only in the Avar, but also in the Slavic cultural sphere. Findings of belt sets, strap-ends and fittings, and decorative horse-harness elements of so-called "Avar" type are also to be found outside Avar territory. They have been repeatedly uncovered within settlement contexts in the areas which later became Great Moravian centres, which also include finds of hooked spurs. The location of these central settlements allows us to connect them with the elites, who later became the representatives of Great Moravian power.



Péter Langó

Trade and cultural relations between the 10th-century Carpathian basin and Dalmatia in the light of contemporary earrings

Various pendants and earrings represent frequent findings of jewellery in cemeteries from 9th to 11th centuries that are located within the central region of the Carpathian Basin and have parallels primarily in the contemporary material culture of South-Eastern Europe. While their significance is well demonstrated by numerous studies in Croatia that have addressed their dating and interpretation, this presentation focuses on the latest research results from Hungary. In this regard, the evaluation of Hungarian finds has been greatly aided by the publication of several outstanding summaries by researchers like Valeri Grigorov, Maja Petrinec and Šimon Ungerman, which have provided numerous new perspectives regarding the assessment of the individual groups of artefacts. This also means that the previous stance in Hungarian research has been supplemented by new perspectives.

For the past sixty years, Hungarian archaeological research has emphasized the relations between the 10th-century Magyars and South-Eastern Europe in terms of material culture. Béla Szőke was the first to refer to this group of sources in detail when discussing the objectives of future research. Three decades later, Károly Mesterházy summarized the new results. This lecture aims to present the research results related to specific types of jewellery over the past three decades since Mesterházy's work. The discovery of new artefacts in the Carpathian Basin, although few in number but crucial for analysing this type of object, in addition to the recent results of investigations in the wider region allow not only a more general interpretation of the assemblages in question, but also the investigation of such general issues that may contribute to a better understanding of the connections between the Carpathian Basin and South-Eastern Europe in the 10th century.

In my presentation, I will showcase specific case studies that highlight both ancient and new findings, which can help in the broader comprehensive interpretation of these minor objects.



Vinicije B. Lupis, Elvis Shala*Two Limoges medallions in the reliquary of the cathedral of Dubrovnik*

From the beginning of the 12th century, Limoges became the main centre for the production of polychrome enamels. The evolution of the *champlevé* enamelling technique in this region during the last four decades of the 12th century was fundamentally linked to the patronage of the House of Plantagenet, who were at that time the rulers of Aquitaine, but also to the rise of the cult of saints in the Middle Ages and to the importance of objects of personal devotion. The lack of information about the organization and geographical location of workshops and artists, both in time and in space, makes it difficult to precisely date Limoges enamels. However, by following the research that has been conducted in recent years, we can still agree that it developed between 1150 and 1220. In the Dubrovnik treasury, we find it on two reliquaries: the hands of St. Fosca (XXVIII.) and on the reliquary of the hand of St. Laurentius (CLII.), which are each decorated with one enamel medallion from one of the Limoges workshops (*opus lemovicense*). The medallions served as a precious *appliqué*- instead of a precious stone- on the reliquary. This was a very common procedure in the export of finished products which would then be applied to other works of art. Both hand reliquaries from Dubrovnik belong to the "speaking reliquary" type (German: *sprechenden*), and are dated to the end of the 12th century. and the beginning of 13th century. The reliquary of the hand of St. Laurentius was recorded in the first preserved inventory of the Reliquary of the Dubrovnik Cathedral from 1335. The two Limoges medallions from Dubrovnik are particularly valuable examples of the expansion of French workshops to the south, and along with the Apulian specimens from Italy, they are the southernmost preserved specimens in the Adriatic basin.



Marija Marić Baković

The fortified town of Livno (Cleuna, Hlivno) within the framework of the early medieval Croatian state

The position and role of the early medieval fortified town of Livno will be reconstructed on the basis of written sources, collected archaeological finds and remains on the terrain.

Livno emerged as a fortified town and served as the administrative and governing centre of the Hlivno County during the Early Middle Ages. The county and the town share the same name, namely Livno, known as Cleuna in Latin or Hlivno/Hlevno in Old Slavic. This county represented a separate territorial, ecclesiastical and tax district within the early medieval Croatian state.

The first written reference to Livno appears in Duke Muncimir's Charter on 28th September 892, where it is mentioned in the Latin form under the name Cleuna. In Constantine Porphyrogenitus' work "De administrando imperio" from the mid-10th century, it was included in the list of cities of baptised Croatia as Livno (Hlebena), a fortified town and the centre of the Livno County. It is believed that the fortified town was established on the elevated northern part of the present-day settlement, near the Crvenica cliff, close to the source of the river Bistrica and situated on the adret and leeward side. While reliable archaeological data is lacking, the location of the fort on the elevated site would correspond to the topographical conditions suitable for the formation of an early medieval town. Unfortunately, the period from the 11th to the 13th century is mostly unknown in terms of written sources. However, archaeological evidence and subsequent recorded conditions suggest that the colonization process of the territory of this medieval county began and unfolded precisely at that time.



Tina Milavec

Early medieval use of late antique hilltop sites, another possible answer to the riddle?

At several hilltop sites in Slovenia an early Medieval occupation phase, dated approximately between late 8th–11th c., can be detected above the ruins of late antique settlements. It consists mostly of abundant metal small finds, often of a military or equestrian nature. The lack of recognizable dwelling buildings or fortifications makes it difficult to find an overarching explanation for this phenomenon. Various interpretations have been offered so far, from military sites, to sacred places and ordinary settlements, but no interpretation fits all possible scenarios.

In this paper I am considering such sites in western Slovenia, in Posočje / Isonzo river valley. This region represents the hinterland of Friuli and the area of communication between Friuli and Carniola. In view of the turbulent political events of the early Medieval centuries in northern Italy and the regular contact with regions north and east of the Alps it is possible such sites played a role in the organisation of defence of Friuli.



Elisabeth Nowotny*The hilltop site of Thunau am Kamp*

This presentation aims at giving an overview of the research regarding the hilltop site of Thunau am Kamp. It is unique in the region of Lower Austria with regard to its extensive archeological investigation. In Carolingian times a large-scale fortified complex was located on the hill called “Schanzberg”, witnessing the importance of this site in the valley of the river Kamp. The central site comprises ramparts, gates, a centrally situated homestead (Herrenhof) including a large cemetery etc. The cemetery was evaluated in the context of the burial areas of the elite on the eastern edge of the Carolingian Empire. Its analysis – consisting of 215 burials and being therefore by far the largest uncovered early medieval burial ground in Lower Austria – was able to present a substantial contribution to the evaluation of this central place.

These and other results will be briefly reviewed, while the focus will be on latest research: This regards on one hand the centre of power on the Schanzberg and on the other hand an associated production-oriented settlement in the valley at the foot of the Schanzberg. Here further excavations have been conducted and are still ongoing. Recent analysis evaluating material of the hilltop site regards the homestead as well as a church in the outer baily (suburb) called “Untere Holzweise” and other minor find complexes. The dating and function of the church as well as the few irregular burials around it had been a matter of discussion since its uncovering in the 70s and 80s of the 20th century. Their systematic evaluation and C14-dates recently allowed new insights concerning this matter.

Long ongoing anthropological analyses of individuals buried on and around the Schanzberg are briefly presented. They cover multiple aspects from paleoepidemiology to isotope analysis and promise highly interesting results.



Maja Petrinec

*On the relationship between dalmatian cities and their hinterland,
using the example of jewellery discovered in medieval graves*

Already at the turn of the 8th and 9th centuries and during the formation of the Croatian Principality and its neighbouring south-eastern Sclavinias (Pagania, Zachlunia, Travunia), jewellery, including highly luxurious pieces, began to appear in medieval graves. This trend continued in later periods when jewellery items became predominant in grave inventories. It has always been assumed that they originated and were produced in the goldsmith workshops of coastal cities, which, organized as the Theme of Dalmatia, remained under the authority of Byzantium until the mid-11th century.

Significant changes occurred in the second half of the 11th century when the Croatian King Petar Krešimir IV annexed the coastal cities to his kingdom in 1069. After entering into a union with Hungary, these same cities acknowledged the authority of King Koloman Arpadović, who was also crowned Croatian king in Biograd in 1105.

In the second half of the 11th century, the first records on goldsmiths and jewellery production started to appear, which became even more numerous in the centuries to come. The towns of former Byzantine Dalmatia played a crucial role in this regard. Despite the formal power of Croatian or Hungarian rulers, they retained their status as free communes until the 15th century when they came under Venetian rule. Meanwhile, their hinterland, which had been supplying by them with luxurious jewellery for centuries, became part of the Ottoman Empire. Of particular significance in the south, which also had an impact on the broader Balkan hinterland, was the city of Dubrovnik.



Renáta Přichystalová

Of the formation hereditary elite in the early middle ages

The Early Middle Ages in Central Europe played a pivotal role in shaping the history of this part of the continent. During the 9th and 10th centuries, the later early medieval hereditary elite was established and emerged in residential centres. The origins of this elite community can be traced back to the church cemeteries located in the power, political and economic centres of that time. One of these significant centres was Pohansko near Břeclav (CZ). In this cemetery, which surrounded a rotunda in the northeastern suburb of the stronghold, 152 graves were investigated. Five individuals were placed directly in the interior of the church. While a few richly equipped graves were discovered, they were not plentiful. It appears that the burial practices were likely influenced by Christian funeral customs, where the significance of grave goods and material displays of power diminished. The graves located within the church also lacked elaborate grave furnishings. For the individuals from this burial site, we have a complete a Dna data, enabling us to construct individual pedigrees and trace biological relationships. By combining an archaeological approach (such as analysing grave furnishings, the arrangement of grave pits and the position of graves in relation to the church) with palaeogenetic information (relating to blood relations), we can gain a fundamental understanding of how early medieval church cemeteries were structured and how they reflected the social hierarchy of the community at that time. We anticipate that the results of our research will have broader implications for the study of similar sites.



Nad'a Profantová

*Tismice and Kouřim - transformation of early medieval centrality (central places) in the 8th and 9th centuries in central Bohemia.
(change in power structure visible/recognizable in the local network of hillforts?)*

Czech archaeology deals with the interpretation of a couple of central hillforts — an older one that ceased to exist or perished and a later hillfort in the vicinity of the older one, which was built entirely new in the 10th century, in reflection of the deliberate power change that was initiated by the ruling duke. It could be a symbolic separation from earlier traditions. I established an analogous situation to be present in the region east of Prague already in the 9th century, namely, the Tismice hillfort ceased to exist in the second third of the 9th century and its central role was taken over by the stronghold Kouřim, which also had the function as a “city”, around the year 850 AD. It spanned over 40 ha and was the residence of one of the dukes of the 9th century according to written sources (archaeologically burials of dukes, large hall building). The Duke of Kouřim had warred against the ruling Duke Wenceslaus I (+935) and according to the *Vita et passio sancti Wenceslai et sanctae Ludmilae avae eius* (Christian’s legend) surrendered to him. This information shows the importance of the region and of Kouřim as a centre rivalling the residence of the ruler. It was violently destroyed some time later (950–960), most likely by Duke Boleslaus I of the Přemyslid dynasty (+972).

The exploration and research of the two hillforts was approached in different ways. The Kouřim hillfort has undergone a much more extensive field prospection, which included the elite burial ground. The change of orientation of symbolic self-representation of the local elite can be proven by archaeology — from the Byzantine-Avar circle of symbols, accompanied by local spurs and western weapons (Tismice), to the full Carolingian spirit, reflected in the symbolism of men-dukes in Kouřim (sword, spurs, standard-shoe/fitting, calf-straps). At the same time, the discovered rich female graves reveal that they were adopting decorations from Great Moravia and a new cultivation/developing of this tradition at the beginning of the 10th century. According to our interpretation, the Duke of Kouřim played a significant role in the destruction of the older

network that consisted of five hillforts with its centre in Tismice and was responsible for the construction of a new network on a much larger territory. However, his network too was replaced shortly after, i.e. in the second half of the 10th century by an “early state” fortress structure with administrative functions, which was located at the smaller hillfort Kouřim – Sv. Jiří, as proven by the single nave church and the mint. These well documented changes in Bohemia need — if they should be taken as irrefutable facts in the future — a more extensive series of scientific data (Kouřim), but also new facts about some of the less researched hillforts from both replacement networks (Přistoupim, Radim).



Milica Radišić*On how justified the term Bijelo Brdo culture is in medieval archaeology*

The term "Bijelo Brdo culture" was introduced in the field of archaeology in the 1920s and refers to the archaeological remains from the period of the formation and rise of the Hungarian state in the Carpathian Basin, spanning from the 10th to the 12th century. However, this term has sparked a controversy within medieval archaeology due to conflicting opinions among experts regarding the interaction between the local post-Avar population and the settled Hungarian groups. In accordance with the specific development of archaeological science, various interpretative frameworks have been established in Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, Croatia and Serbia, often influenced by an ethnocentric approach and primarily based on the interpretation of finds from necropoles. Rather than solely criticizing earlier research practices in these countries, the focus of this paper is to present modern tendencies and provide a fresh perspective on the topics covered by the term "Bijelo Brdo culture." We believe that the socio-economic processes associated with the formation of the Hungarian state led to the development of a distinct material culture in this region, the elements of which can also be traced in areas that were not initially under the direct political influence of the Hungarians, such as Slavonia and southern Banat. It would seem that the rise of Byzantium, the Holy Roman Empire and Kievan Rus', along with the intensified activities of the Vikings across Europe, influenced, in a wider sense, the creation of a new regional identity in the neighbouring areas. While the Carpathian Basin was continuously influenced by these spheres, which could be deemed "more progressive" on the basis of general parameters, its material culture possessed certain traits of its own. Though the finds may appear modest at first glance, they display distinctive traits in terms of their development. We would, therefore, like to highlight the similarities and differences in the morphology of jewellery and craft production between East-Central Europe and its surroundings. In this regard, the author suggests that the archaeological heritage of the Carpathian region should not be named after a single site (Bijelo Brdo in Croatia) but rather use a more specific terminology, such as the phrase "culture of the Árpád period" as an alternative.



Andrea Rimpf, Siniša Krznar*Development of Ilok during the high middle ages*

In this paper, the authors present the mediaeval structures of the historical core of Ilok that have only been partially archaeologically explored so far. Ilok began its rise in the 13th century when it became the property of the first dukes of the Újlaki (Iločki) family, which were members of the powerful Csák dynasty. It experienced its golden age during the time of Nicholas Kont of Orahovica and his successors, particularly Nicholas and Lawrence in the 15th century (the second dukes of the Újlaki family). The development of Ilok's historical core was accompanied by the progress of the population, which buried their dead at the sites Ilok-Adanski kraj/Krstbajer and next to the Basilica of St. Peter and St. Paul the Apostles. Archaeological research of urban structures was carried out from 2001 to 2015 in specific locations such as the castle of the dukes of Ilok, the barbican and the monastery of St. John Capistrano. The cemeteries were recorded during the rescue excavations that were carried out from 2006 to 2008 and from 2015 to 2017. Numerous analogies for the archaeological material discovered during the research can be found at several sites in Vojvodina, such as Subotica-Hinga, Bač, Arača, Rakovac, and others, which indicates that there were similar trends in construction and decoration in this region, not only based upon Central European influences but also by influences from Italy in the late 15th century.



Tajana Sekelj Ivančan

Design and technological features of early medieval ceramic ware using the example of the researched micro-complex Torčec in Podravina

The presentation provides information on the design and technological features of early medieval pottery obtained in the systematic archaeological excavations that were carried out in the period from 2002 to 2014 in the vicinity of the present-day village of Torčec in Podravina (Koprivnica-Križevci County). After many years of intensive archaeological reconnaissance and reambulation of the surroundings of Torčec, several locations were selected for detailed research (Prečno pole I, Blaževo pole 6, Ledine, Pod Gucak, Rudičevo). These locations indicated a continuity of settlement in this area from the turn of the 6th and the beginning of the 7th century to the end of the 13th and the beginning of the 14th century. The research revealed remains of residential buildings, hearths and ovens, as well as waste pits, but also parts of open settlements of the scattered type located along the old courses of the Drava River and its meanders. Noticeable changes, which had occurred during the centuries-long habitation of this micro-complex in the Middle Ages, could be identified, particularly in terms of the shapes of the ground-plan of residential buildings, but also in the design and technological features of ceramic ware, which, based on a detailed analysis, were classified into five groups of pottery (1-5). Of the functional forms, the kitchen pot is the most frequently represented one in the entire period under review, which in certain groups shows identical or similar features in terms of the design of the rim and body, the motifs of decoration and the method of production. Based on other findings from the investigated structures and also analogies from the wider surroundings, the differences between the defined ceramic groups were additionally supported by radiocarbon analyses and hence divided into five phases (Torčec phases I-V). In addition to pots, other functional forms had also been used in different time periods, from baking pans in the earliest period to bottles, jugs and plates in the most recent period observed here.

Life in the wider area of Torčec had continued throughout the late medieval period and early modern period, as indicated by the archaeological remains that were discovered at sites with fortification and sacred features, i.e. at locations with indicative toponyms such as Gradić (late medieval hillfort) and Cirkvišće (church with cemetery).



Maryna Sergeeva

*Early Rus complexes related to woodworking: identification and study
(based on material from the middle Dnipro area)*

One of the insufficiently explored issues relating to Early Rus' woodwork is the identification of woodworking complexes. Despite the fact that the identification of such complexes is quite problematic due to the poor preservation of wood in the medieval cultural layers of archaeological sites, some of them have now been found and explored in the Middle Dnipro area.

Residential structures containing a set of woodworking tools can be linked to domestic craftsmanship. Complexes like these have been found in various locations such as Kyiv and Kolodiazhyn, etc. In some rare cases, the remains of wood with traces of processing and wooden products have also been preserved and identified in certain Rus' estates in Kyiv.

Although no wood processing centres have been identified in Voinska Hreblia so far, the examination of the remains of turned utensils has revealed two distinct processing methods, but also raised the question of the existence of several (at least two) turners' workshops within this hillfort.

Several centres and structures related to woodworking specialties have been discovered in various Early Rus' sites.

In Kyiv, for example, a large area in the northwest part of Kyiv Podil has been identified as the primary wood processing site. This area, characterized by a layer of wood chips, predates the cultural layers from the late 11th century associated with the settlement of this part of Kyiv. Thus, it can be inferred that this region was part of the economic activity zone of the townspeople before their settlement, where wood could be stored and worked upon. In locations such as Khodosivka-Roslavske near Kyiv, Chernihiv and Shestovytsa, several pits containing woodworking waste have been discovered. Additionally, in Khodosivka-Roslavske, the remains of a beam belonging to a structure were found. By studying the wooden remains from these pits (Roslavske and Shestovytsa), it has been possible to determine some types of wood that was processed, including pine-tree (*pinus silvestris*), oak (*quercus* sp.), poplar (*populus* sp.) and birch (*betula* sp.) in Roslavske, and pine-tree in one pit in Shestovytsa, but also pine-tree and

oak in another pit at the same site.

The examination of wood chips has also revealed traces of tools on their surfaces and various wood processing techniques. Therefore, it is crucial to study all materials from such complexes, including wood chips, as they provide additional information about woodworking, such as the raw material base and wood processing techniques.



Pia Šmalcelj Novaković

*Understanding interactions and identities through archaeological records;
example of two late avar-age cemeteries in western Syrmia, Croatia*

It is a well-known fact, i.e. general knowledge that Avar-age elites relied on the cultural heritage of Late Antiquity to establish their own symbols of prestige. While this cultural practice was particularly evident during the Early Avar period when the Avar Khaganate shared direct borders with the Eastern Roman Empire, it continued to exist during the Late Avar period despite the absence of direct conflicts or documented interactions with Byzantium in historical sources. This study aims to examine whether such cultural influence extended beyond the elite level and was also present among the "ordinary" population, and, if so, in what way.

It seems that the micro-region of Western Syrmia in Croatia could hold the key to answering this question. Western Syrmia, once part of the famous former Late Roman province of Pannonia Sirmiensis, is traditionally regarded as the southeastern periphery of the Late Avar Khaganate. Notably, it stands out as a micro-region with the highest number of archaeologically researched Late Avar cemeteries in Croatia, while the entire Syrmia region displays archaeological findings hinting at possible Byzantine/Mediterranean cultural influences. This is reflected in the greater receptivity of (certain?) communities to Mediterranean "fashion" trends and the potential survival of specific skills and activities from Late Antiquity. It is within this historical context that theories emerge about existing communication pathways between this peripheral area of the Khaganate and the Byzantine sphere.

To explore these possibilities further, this study will focus on two Late Avar-age cemeteries: Privlaka-Gole njive and Stari Jankovci-Gatina in the wider context of the archaeological and historical circumstances of the Syrmia region.



Perica N. Špehar, Olga Z. Špehar

Early medieval settlements and churches in rural areas of modern vojvodina:

Crkveno brdo case study

Crkveno brdo site is located about 10km south-west from the town of Senta (Zenta), in the modern village of Gornji breg (Felsőhegy), Vojvodina. Small-scale archaeological excavations conducted during the mid-20th century showed that this area was almost constantly inhabited during the Early Middle Ages. In the course of these excavations, the late-Avar necropolis and two necropolises dated to the period of Magyar settlement were detected. The importance of this territory was further confirmed by the most recent archaeological excavations, conducted during the last couple of years at site Crkveno brdo in the same village. During these excavations, a settlement with an adjacent necropolis and a church were discovered. The settlement was mainly used from the 11th to 13th century, while several discovered structures were dated to the 14th and 15th centuries. The necropolis was first used during the 10th/11th century, and continued to be used until the 15th/16th century. The church was erected on the already existing necropolis. Although we don't have any chronologically sensitive material evidences, we can assume that its founding was closely tied to the conversion of Magyars at the beginning of the 11th century. Excavations showed that the church had two building phases, since it was restored and extended in the mid-12th century. During this phase, the church walls were painted in fresco technique.

The continuous presence of settlements and necropolises over a longer period of time in this small area suggests that it obviously played the role of an important central place, the more so because it was in the vicinity of the southern border zone of the Magyar medieval state. The settlement and church discovered at site Crkveno brdo served as a focal point for the local medieval population. Excavations showed that after the first church was destructed, the local population continued to use the same place for burials even before the second church was erected, and continued to do so after this religious place was completely abandoned, which indicates the long lasting continuity of this sacral space. In later centuries, this area has undergone significant changes, finally to become completely ruralized, while the nearby Senta begun to gain more importance, primarily because of its strategic position.



Deni Tojčić, Ana Curić

Contribution to the study of socio-economic relations in the early middle ages – the case of Rižinice

The archaeological site of Rižinice is located in the outskirts of the city of Solin, on the eastern slopes of the Kozjak mountain and along the western side of the Rupotina stream. Rižinice has been well-known to the public for many years as one of the most significant medieval sites, primarily due to the stone gable bearing the name of Croatian Duke Trpimir, which was discovered by accident here in 1891. This gable could be easily connected to two historical documents that speak of the foundation of the monastery under Trpimir's patronage. One of these documents is the donation charter of the mentioned duke from the year 852, which provides glimpses and insights into the social and economic system within the royal and church estate. In this analysis, we aim to compare these hints from historical sources with the situation at the site, particularly with the results from the excavations conducted within a section of the cemetery in 2021, but also with the natural characteristics of the surroundings. By doing so, we aim to determine some of the social and economic processes and stages associated with the site, and indirectly with the society of early medieval Dalmatia.



Šimon Ungerman

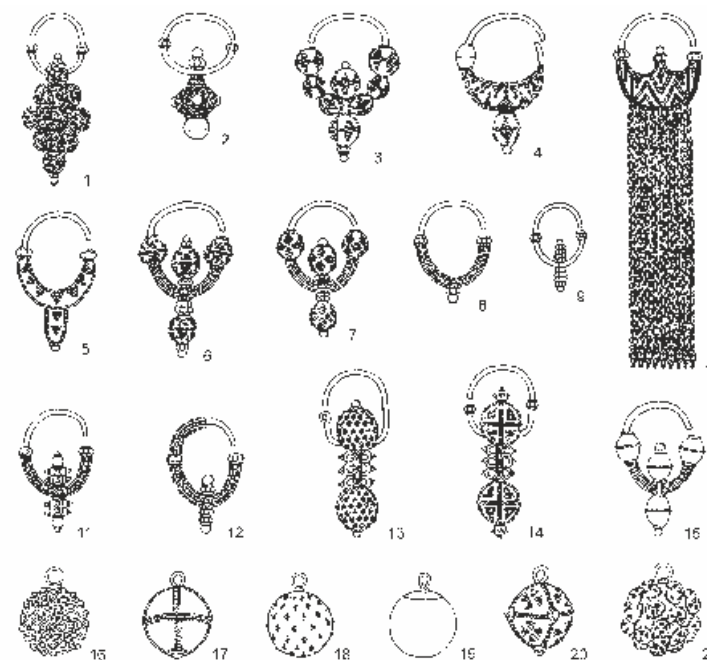
Regional groups of early medieval luxury jewellery – archaeological analysis versus historical interpretation

Luxury jewellery of early medieval Europe, made of gold or silver and decorated with granulation or filigree, can be divided into several major regional groups. It is common knowledge that jewellery found in Croatia, for example, differs from the Great Moravian or Polish finds. However, besides the differences, there are also noticeable similarities. This raises questions that archaeologists have been asking for a long time: How did these groups emerge, and how did they interact with each other? How can we interpret this interaction in terms of living culture or historical development?

How luxury jewellery is put into a broader historical context in a particular region is significantly influenced by the archaeologists' own views on its origin and dating. Nevertheless, the theories develop over time and the historical interpretation changes as well. This can be illustrated by the example of Great Moravian jewellery from Moravia and southwest Slovakia. V. Hrubý (1955) dated the jewellery to the end of the 9th century and the first half of the 10th century and considered it a local product influenced by Byzantine traditions, which should have occurred after the arrival of Constantine and Methodius (863 AD) from Byzantine Thessaloniki. The current predominating theory among Czech and Slovak archaeologists states that Great Moravian jewellery dates back to the whole 9th century and the early 10th century, i.e. covering the entire period of the existence of Great Moravia. Further, it is not possible to prove the direct Byzantine influence on its emergence. It is assumed that Avar craftsmen played the main role in its development, who had mastered the necessary production technologies and, after the collapse of Avar Khaganate around 800 AD, arrived in Great Moravia where they began to produce new types of jewellery, which included to satisfy the specific requirements of local customers.

With the given example, to which we can easily add more, we recognise a clear interpretive pattern – once researchers have a rough idea of the dating of a particular regional group of jewellery, they look for a historical event to which it can be linked, and which would provide a 'generally acceptable explanation'. Conversely, actual archaeological analysis usually plays only a secondary role in

this approach, as it is based, for example, on a limited number of more or less similar jewellery types or decorative features. But most importantly, from today's perspective, this way of argumentation often shows major methodological shortcomings, which does not take into account (1) the nature of the archaeological record (i.e. it is not a direct reflection of past reality) and how it changes over time; (2) a huge difference in the archaeological record between the two compared regions; and (3) the different nature of archaeological and written sources and thus their low 'compatibility'. Therefore, we now need to approach these 'historicising' interpretations of early medieval jewellery very critically. Detailed analysis of the available archaeological data on a European scale, following the proper methodology, can impact the research's progress.



Nikolina Uroda

Bribir and its early medieval county

Bribirska glavica, formerly known as Varvaria, is located in the hinterland of Šibenik, near the Krka River and the Roman city of Scardona (now Skradin). This settlement sits atop a hill, 305 meters above sea level. It has been inhabited from the 1st millennium BC until the 18th century AD, and archaeological excavations have been ongoing since 1910. While most of the archaeological findings pertain to the ancient period, the medieval phase of Bribir is equally significant yet somewhat mysterious.

Bribir evolved as an early medieval fortified town (*castrum*) upon the ruins of the Liburnian-Roman Varvaria. It served as the center of one of the eleven early medieval Croatian counties (territorial-administrative units), known as ḡ Βρεβέρη. Within the ancient fortifications, traces of medieval architecture have been discovered in various locations. The medieval dwellings have elongated rectangular shapes, with foundations either built directly on top of the Roman ruins or partially incorporating existing Roman structures while modifying the ground plans using lower-quality stone masonry.

Remarkably, a rotunda dating back to the 6th century managed to survive the end of antiquity. Its preservation level and the remains of liturgical stone furnishings from the 9th century indicate this. Additionally, chance discoveries of Charlemagne's silver coin, a Hohenberg strap-end, and fragments of early medieval spurs suggest that the surrounding area of the rotunda served as a burial ground during the early medieval period. Two other cemeteries, located outside the city walls to the west and east of the *castrum*, also emerged during this period and remained in use until the 11th century.

In close proximity to Bribir, the surrounding territory reveals several sacral buildings, church furnishings, and cemeteries from the early medieval era. Archaeological sites like Otres, Žažvić, Ždrapanj, and Vaćani contribute to our understanding of this area, although much more research is needed to shed light on this "dark" period.



Jakov Vučić

Previous results of the research of the early medieval cemetery in Tinj near Biograd

Following a report of a chance discovery of a grave, the Archaeological Museum Zadar carried out two archaeological excavation campaigns at site Jurjevića Glavica in Tinj, in 2017 and 2021. A total of 10 graves were explored within the scope of these two campaigns, which were arranged in rows, buried into earthen pits, partially lined with stones, and one grave was covered by stone slabs. Based on radiocarbon dating (^{14}C), one of the graves was dated to the time between 689 and 771 AD, or more likely between 669 and 865 AD. A smaller number of graves contained jewellery, which, along with the dates acquired through radiocarbon analysis, provides an opportunity to study the relationship of this cemetery with neighbouring ones.





6th International Scientific Symposium
in honour of Stjepan Gunjača

**Political and Social Structures
in Early Medieval
Central, South and Eastern Europe
(9th – 15th centuries)**

Archaeological and historical evidence



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