Research, Preservation and Presentation of Banat Heritage

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Research, Preservation and Presentation of Banat Heritage: Current State and Long Term Strategy

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The Serbian and the Romanian part of the Banat region have been inextricably linked by cultural relations since the earliest prehistoric times. Owing to its specific geographical position, distinctive features and the crossing of rivers Tisa, Tamis and Karas, the ways used for spreading influence by a number of different cultures identified in archaeological research, the area of Banat represents today inexhaustible source of information about cultural and historic ties.

Numerous ancient peoples passed through the area on their way towards Central and Western Europe leaving behind tangible evidence of their presence, but at the same time also some intangible impact, primarily reflected in the expression of tradition, clearly evidenced through archaeological research, unmistakably indicate to constant interweaving of historical heritage.

These circumstances shaped – what has become a long-term desire of the experts from both the Serbian and Romanian part of Banat – a need to establish a close cooperation in all matters concerning research and protection of the cultural heritage. This need gave birth to the idea of establishing a regional centre, which will not only represent a central point for gathering of experts and education of new personnel, but also a hub of information, in terms of movable material, written resources and a digital database.

Experience

Currently, we do not have data on the existence of an institution anywhere in Europe, which would cover the border zone of two or more countries and deal with issues of cultural heritage protection. Even though there are numerous regions in Europe, split by state borders, but having the same cultural and historic origins, only the initiatives for setting up cross-border projects of environmental protection have been initiated. Such regional cross-border centres are more often to be found worldwide, but there are also a number of examples of the ones dealing with cultural heritage. Under the auspices of UNESCO, the Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Latin America – CRESPIAL, has recently set up. Recognizing the importance of cross-border cooperation, seven countries in Latin America joint their potentials for joint management, strategy and cooperation in preservation, research and presentation of cultural heritage. By organizing a consultation workshop for the promotion of cross-border cooperation, UNESCO has launched an initiative to unite several states in a joint task of conservation and preservation of the famous „ice graves” in the Altai Mountains, and then nominate the site for the World Heritage List.

Initiatives launched show that it has become clear that only united efforts can preserve certain natural and cultural environments and achieve significant results in preservation of uniqueness of regions divided by state borders. By impartial information, presentation and interpretation of cultural heritage, the awareness of the people living in border regions would be raised and by their involvement in conservation projects, a tremendous power would created, which can exert great influence to all relevant modern system structures and do much more than isolated units in each individual country of a potential region.

Goals

The Regional Centre for Banat Cultural Heritage is planned to be an “umbrella institution”, serving as a coordinator in developing common strategy of research, preservation and presentation of the Banat cultural heritage. It would also serve as a promoter of a continuous educational improvement. In order to reach its goal, the Centre will perform constant research, information updating, expert meetings, scientific conferences, courses, lectures, excavations, exhibitions and other activities which will represent integral, continuous and main principles of the Regional Centre’s policy.

Exchange of ideas and integration of knowledge in Banat, the region wealthy in material and intangible cultural heritage, will contribute to the creation of the most favourable conditions for presentation of this heritage. The Centre will represent a place where population of both the Serbian and the Romanian part of Banat will be informed about common cultural heritage and will be permanently up to date with the newest research and discoveries in this field. Quality community life can only be achieved through the awareness, understanding, preservation and respect of the cultural heritage of the both nations, for the benefit of the whole population of the Banat region. The history of the Serbian and the Romanian Banat is mutual and the Centre will be responsible for transferring it to the future generations in the best manner.
Priorities

- The main objective of the Regional Centre for Banat Cultural Heritage is the establishment of cross-border cooperation between all cultural and scientific institutions, in order to design a strategic plan for creation of the best conditions for preservation, presentation and interpretation of cultural heritage of this region.
- Presentation of heritage aiming at raising awareness of importance of cultural heritage among the population of the region.
- Creating conditions for continuous improvement and education of new staff.

Role and significance of the Centre

Nowadays, when it is becoming clear that for preservation, study and presentation of heritage, huge resources have to be allocated, the establishment of the Regional Centre for Banat Cultural Heritage should be the initial step and an example for the future setting up of such centres all over Europe. Uniting activities, data, knowledge and ideas of experts from a series of smaller institutions would enable implementation of much greater number of more significant and comprehensive projects.

The Regional Centre would, in addition to its priority tasks, assume a role in connecting the Ministries of Culture and Science in three countries in the task of finding solutions for the preservation, study and presentation of the common heritage.

Organizational structure of the Centre

The long-term strategy of the Regional Centre for Banat Cultural Heritage would include setting up of several segments, the work of which would directly permeate, thus creating conditions for multidisciplinary approach to cultural heritage.

The Centre would include:
- Department of Strategic Planning of Research and Preservation of Cultural Heritage
  - Organization of meetings of the Banat experts;
  - Lectures given by experts from other institutions and organizations, with the aim of sharing experiences and educating.
- Department for Presentation and Interpretation of Cultural Heritage
  - Organization of exhibitions and talks;
  - Setting up of an ethnic-village and old crafts workshops;
  - Setting up a workshop for experimental archaeology;
  - Establishment of cultural & historic and natural environments under protection;
  - Issuance of professional publications and the ones for general public and children.
- Department for Documentation
  - Setting up of a digital library;
  - Setting up of a digital data base that would include movable, immovable, as well as intangible cultural heritage.
- Department for Education
  - Organization of specialist courses, seminars and workshops;
  - Summer workshops for children;
  - Specialization and exchange of experts;
  - Education and specialist training of professionals;
  - Educational programs for general public.

Establishment of a regional centre would be a very important step, both for future expert research and the creation of strategies for new research, as well as for the protection of cultural goods in the Banat region. It should be stressed over and over again that only by knowing, understanding, preserving and respecting our heritage, we will be able to create quality coexistence to the benefit of all inhabitants of the Banat region.

Setting up of the Regional Centre would at the same time represent the idea of European Union-uniting resources, but with emphasizing uniqueness of regions, nations and ethnic groups.

“The heritage should be passed on to future generations in its authentic state and in all its variety as an essential part of the memory of the human race. Otherwise, part of man’s awareness of his own continuity will be destroyed.”

_The European Charter adopted by Council of Europe in 1975_

Ivana Pantović
Senior curator
Gradski muzej Vršac
Research, conservation and presentation of prehistoric archaeological sites on the example of the archaeological site Grad (Town) in Starčevo

Jasna Jovanov
Omoljica

Abstract: The archaeological site of Grad (Town) in Starčevo, which is located 8 km south of Pančevo, it is of great importance both for the archaeological science, and for the presentation of the cultural heritage of Banat and Vojvodina. Unfortunately, until now little has been done on a wider popularization of archaeological sites, the site was not marked and is not presented to the public. I think that site Grad (Town) in Starčevo represents one of the potential of tourism and culture and through the education and scientific research may be included in the current European and world trends. Also, the popularization of the cultural property and applying scientific-popular approach to the protection would help to develop awareness of and concern for the preservation of cultural heritage.

Key words: Starčevo, Neolithic, protection, archaeological park

Problems in protection
Brief history of the protection

Archaeological heritage is finite and non-renewable. By archaeological excavations of prehistoric sites, due to the specific material of construction in that period and the region itself, removing layers of soil permanently destroys the cultural layers and leaves only movable artifacts and remains of fired - clay rubble from the burned walls - and daub walls, charred wood and earth samples taken for pale-botanic analysis. After exploring the prehistoric sites generally nothing remains on the site that could attract tourists who are expecting to see something monumental, "solid" as the architecture of ancient and medieval sites. So the question is, how to attract people and animate them to take an interest in something completely different, which was destroyed in the very process of research, of which remain portable artifacts usually deposited in a local museum. Unlike the old overground buildings that enjoyed the protection of the legal acts in the Middle Ages, the legal regulation of the archaeological sites was introduced much later.

In the 19th century, in 1844, the Regulation for the protection of antiquity of Prince Alexander (Toumba, 1893), stipulated that the destruction of the ruins of old towns and castles was strictly prohibited, specifically stressing that the Regulation does not include the subterranean ones.

Unlike any other kind of cultural goods (fixed and mobile), archaeological sites are being exhausted, meaning that systematic excavations, conducted by the extraction of immovable and movable objects from the earth and water, lose the characteristic of sites and archaeological sites as a cultural good.

The first normative act that indirectly protected objects under the ground of historical, scientific and artis-
tic value, was Forest Act from 1929 year, which had been defined and declared by Alexander I, King of Yugoslavia.

Article 121 of the Law provides: "The objects of historical, scientific and artistic value, natural beauty and rarities, which are located in the forest, will be kept and maintained. Ministry of Forestry and Mining will prescribe what is necessary to retain these buildings and objects." Based on this law, the Ministry of Forestry and Mining issued an order on preservation and maintenance of historical objects, scientific, artistic value, natural beauty and rarity in 1930.

In 1937 the first regulation which mentions the systematic excavation - Decree on the Organization of the Ministry of Education was passed. Article 9 provides that the jurisdiction of the Department for Education and its departments also include "taking care of the historical antiquities, allowing some museums, private individuals and institutions research and excavating." The terms "archaeological objects" and "objects under the ground and water," in the legal and regulatory by-laws were first encountered in the Regulation of the preservation of antiquities (prescribed by the Council of Commissioners in 1941 and the Ministerial Council from 1942). Regulation from 1942 envisaged Central Bureau for storing antiquities as an institution for protection of "archaeological monuments" and "their immediate vicinity" without whose approval "monuments and their surroundings" may not be dug up, destroyed, demolished and restored.

After the Second World War, a number of the Laws for Protection of Cultural Property were passed, and Law on Cultural Property from 1994 (Official Gazette RS no. 71/94) is still in force. In relation to the recent past, as far as the legal side, archaeological sites with archaeological content have been protected, but in reality the situation is different. There are numerous problems and the most common ones are: the violation of the Law on Protection of Cultural Property, mild penalties, the lack of funding for research, short-term projects (the lack of long-term strategy i.e. the lack of continuity in research),
the lack of databases and poor communication between institutions and individuals. Construction, infrastructure, construction, the development of villages and towns, tillage, reforestation and the construction of mines often destroy an archaeological site without us being aware of its existence.

The concept and purpose of the previous protection

The previous protection represents the first measure of protection for goods that legislators assumed to have or that may have the properties of a cultural good. Article 2 of Law on Cultural Property provides a definition of the assets as "objects and creations that are assumed to have the properties of special significance to the culture, art and history, shall be protected in accordance with the provisions of this Act (goods enjoying prior protection)." Measures to protect properties ensuring prior protection have been established only for a limited term of three years from the date of recording (Kljačić and Kljačić, 1996: 21-22). During this period, the relevant institution for protection is required to make the assessment of the value of such property for the duration of safeguards established by law and determine whether the registered real estate possesses prominent characteristics and determine the corresponding real estate as a cultural property. The central registry has currently registered 2409 immovable cultural properties, 156 of which are archaeological sites. Among the immovable cultural properties of outstanding importance, there are 18 archaeological sites, including 25 architectural sites, defined as the immovable cultural properties of great importance. (www.heritage.gov.rs/nepokretna_kulturna_dobra.php).

Map 1 - the position of Starčevo settlement

There is a large archaeological site Grad (The Town) in Starčevo situated in the vicinity of Pančevo. Grad in Starčevo is a site of outstanding importance whose existence we have been familiar with, for a century, since 1912. Most of the site is destroyed by brickworks, one part of the site houses were built, and in the immediate vicinity a large industrial complex was built, in the 60s of 20th century. Only a small part remained undestroyed for further research.

Archaeological research of site Grad in Starčevo

Neolithic culture, named after the place of find - Starčevo, is well known in our country, as well as in the world of archaeology. The archaeological site of Grad in Starčevo – the eponym, becomes after extensive systematic archaeological work carried out in the twenties and thirties of the last century. Safety from flooding and proximity to water were the main criteria for selecting sites for housing. Since the area of Vojvodina, with the exception of the southeast corner of sandy land, is extremely rich in water, contained in the network of small and large rivers, the settlements of the Starčevo group usually occur in those places which still constitute the supreme point of the terrain (Brukner, 1974: 34). The archaeological site of Grad in Starčevo is located at the edge of loess terrace, which slopes gently towards the alluvial plain of the Danube, on the northwest edge of Starčevo (Map1), about 3 km away from the present shore of the Danube. It was discovered in the work of field brickworks in 1912, and the material of this site was sent to the National Museum in Pančevo and Belgrade. In 1928 the first professional research directed by Ph D M. Grbić from the National Museum in Belgrade was completed. By that occasion, it was stated that the settlement and necropolis date from the Neolithic period. In the period of 1931-1932 (Ipsoug, 1978: 42-43), it was followed by extensive systematic research of the National museum in Belgrade and American archaeological expedition (American School of Prehistoric Research), under the direction of V. Fikewas. The members of the US team were Hetty Goldman (Fogg Art Museum) and Robert W. Erich (Peabody Museum). Since 1969-1970 the re-\n\n\nexcavation of this site were carried out, in order to establish the stratigraphy of the settlement. The works were performed by the National Museum in Belgrade (Draga Garašanin) and City University of New York (Robert Erich) (Seržić ed.), 1988: 56). Material from this site is kept at the National Museum in Belgrade, the National Museum in Pančevo and Peabody Museum in Cambridge, USA (material from the excavations from 1931 and 1932).

The archaeological site was listed as the monument of culture on the proposal of National Museum of Pančevo by the resolution of the Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments and Scientific research (APVojvodina). In 1990 it was pronounced the archaeological site of outstanding significance. On that occasion, the borders of the site were not clearly defined, nor were its surroundings put under the protection regime. The process of determining the protected area of the archaeological sites is still underway.

The significance of the findings found place in the scientific study of numerous and diverse subjects as well as the possibilities for research and scientific reconstruction of the old and Middle Neolithic settlement. During archaeological excavations the remains of the settlement which constitute the habitat of the pit - and dungrots elipsoidal circular with a diameter of 2-6 m, and a rectangular object have been explored. Several graves with the dead in a contracted position were excavated in the settlement. They discovered large number of stone and bone tools and weapons, but the main feature of the site and cultural group is ceramic pottery painted in white and dark colour on a red base and a large number of vessels decorated with rough invoice barbotine.

Map 2 - Archaeological site and protected area of the archaological site Grad in Starčevo

In excavations in 20s and 30s of the 20th century the small area was explored, the material was published only preliminary and did not have enough elements to carry out further reaching conclusions for the reconstruction of a Neolithic settlement. The results of revised excavations, conducted in 1969-1970, were not published. Therefore, in order to protect the remains of the Neolithic settlement and arrive with the new results the new archaeological excavations of the Grad in Starčevo were commenced in 2003, 2004 and 2007 and are planned to be resumed (Amaranou, 2008a: 107-126). The objectives of this new research are as follows: firstly, delimitation of the spread of Neolithic settlement in general; secondly, determining the complete resolution of vertical and horizontal stratigraphy at the site Grad in Starčevo, thirdly, delimitation of the protected area of the site to determine the measure of protection for the protected area (construction work, envisaged construction of the highway E-70, the construction of ancillary facilities private plots endangering the archaeological site). In the process of re-assessment of environmental and archaeological systematic excavations by opening the small-scale probes the borders of protected area were established (Map 2). To the east, in the neighboring gardens, many fragments of pottery were found overground, and also, in the rain channel, on the border of plots 3417 and 3419. In the north, towards the industrial complex, the pit of the remains is found during the digging and planting the fruit in the gardens. Towards the border with Vojojvica, the number of overground findings decreases. To the south, to the street of JNA plenty of material is found, especially in private plots after shallow plowing. Some plots are large in size, such as those used for cultivation of fields of maize and wheat, not just for vegetables and fruits. Mostly, smaller fragments of pottery, some decorated with barbotine and several stone axes, have been found. The results of revision excavations in 2003, 2004 and 2007, as well as geo-
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Electrical surveys in June and October 2008, were used to revise the Decision for establishing the site Grad in Starčevo as an archaeological site. In new research, methods of archaeological prospection, geophysical survey and archaeological excavations have been applied. Due to the limited funding and research objectives, in order to establish protected area of the site, small scale probes were opened, therefore, neither of these newer studies have provided sufficient results for the reconstruction of the facilities of the settlement.

The plot, which was originally established as the monument of culture, was partly researched, but larger parts were destroyed by brickyard works. The preliminary design of the bypass around the Belgrade E-70, envisages that the bypass road passes in the vicinity of protected site. The measures of protection, preservation, maintenance and the use of archaeological site that are proposed within the Draft Decision on determining the site Grad in Starčevo provide:

- The change of the shape of the terrain is allowed only in purpose of the presentation of archaeological site; the prohibition of construction of housing and ancillary buildings at the archaeological site; the prohibition of cultivation by deep plowing the soil to a depth greater than 0.30m and the prohibition of planting of orchards; the planting of high vegetation and reforestation of areas is allowed only in an area that is completely archaeologically researched; the prohibition of spillage, disposal and temporary disposal of waste and harmful substances chemically aggressive, explosive, poisonous or radioactive, the prohibition of digging sand, gravel, stone or soil and any kind of damaging the archaeological profile save for the purposes of the presentation of the archaeological site; the prohibition of unauthorized collection of movable archaeological overground findings.

The possibilities of touristic presentation Grad in Starčevo

So far, little has been done for a wider popularization of the archaeological site Grad in Starčevo. Local communities in Starčevo showed interest for the presentation of archaeological site. Also, the Tourist organization of Pančevo is interested in including this site in their offer for visiting attractive sights in the City of Pančevo (formerly the Municipality of Pančevo). In cooperation with RMSA “Jelenak” from Pančevo the project “Driving out of love” was made aiming at people who love driving in the countryside. The tourist activities would include a tour of farms, rivers in Banat plain, church, the villages of Banat and cycling on several bike trails of different mileage. One of the trails passes near the archaeological site Grad in Starčevo, and in the centre of the village, a board with a map of trails and a short text about the site and Starčevo culture was set up. To get to the archaeological site Grad in Starčevo, an already existing bike trail would be used, starting from the industrial complex Azotara - Petrohemija on the right side of the road Pančevo - Starčevo and leading to the center of Starčevo. The existing trail is outside the protected area and does not threaten the site. In the immediate vicinity

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Map 1 - The proposition of the location of the archaeological park Grad in Starčevo

Map 2 - The proposition of the location of the archaeological park Grad in Starčevo

Map 3 - The proposition of the location of the archaeological park Grad in Starčevo

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of the site is a park that could be improved and used for the research of prehistory. In the south, at the foot of the hill and on a lower altitude (Map 3/option 1) which is a protected archaeological site that has been explored and is located in the marsh and whose space could be used as a potential archaeological park. Within the park reconstructed Neolithic dugout with furniture, table, boards (panels) with photos and texts about the site and Starčevo culture, wooden benches and tables for people to rest at this location, would be set up. There is plenty of space to build a museum, workshops and souvenir shop in the park reconstructed Neolithic dugout and a rectangular house, and a channel along the wall, which is in the marsh and on a lower altitude (Map 3/option 2). Since the area of the archaeological park is much smaller, in this variant, the green area would be reduced, and a museum space and the content would remain the same.

Variant 3: According to this variant archaeological park would be located on the left side of the road Starčevo – Pančevo (Map 3/option 3), on much smaller area and outside the archaeological site and the boundaries of the protected area of the site. Across the street is the “Đeram” restaurant and a gas station. The park would include refurbished dugouts and a gift shop, a gazebo and benches that would be fit into the existing vegetation.

In late July and early August, the days of meetings with relevant cultural - entertaining program are being held in Starčevo. As part of this event there could, also, be organized “Fishing days” where the fish could be caught with the reconstructed Neolithic nets and weights. Also, in local primary school a series of workshops with different contents: art workshops, historical workshops, school of animated film (available in the neighboring village Omlađica) with the theme of how people once lived in the territory of their place, how they look, could be organized. In the tourist organization of Pančevo, in addition to a variety of souvenirs of Vojvodina and souvenirs with the symbols of the city, there could be, also, be made and sold replicas of Neolithic vessels and small magnets in the shape of Neolithic pots, miniature prints, watercolour and paintings that shows the reconstructed dugout, pottery, scenes from everyday life. One of the possibilities is that, in collaboration with women’s associations that deal with old crafts, embroidery, knitting and so on to organize workshops where they would weave Neolithic cloth on old looms (there is a remain of the fabric of younger Neolithic (Vinča culture) from the site Oprovo – Ugar, in South Banat). There could, also, be made pottery of clay and materials from the site (decorated with barbotine, impressed pottery, painted...) and jewelry.

In neighbouring Croatia, the reconstruction of houses were made on several prehistoric sites (Sopot, Zadubravlje – Đuzine, Vučedol etc.) and turned into archaeological parks (Durman (ed), 2006). In Serbia there are three archaeological parks on prehistoric sites: Lepenski Vir, Vinča and Pločnik. Potentially sustainable cultural tourism would help in educating and raising awareness of the existence of a large archaeological site in the local community, and economic and social development which would use the projection of quality products and services. Preserving and promoting cultural heritage should be the mutual responsibility of citizens, owners of cultural heritage, experts in the field of cultural heritage, workers in tourism and political structures.

The most important and most interesting sites, and sometimes entire areas, are being destroyed in si- lence. Today, the law is often evaded, a majority of sites with archaeological content is not protected by any legal means. The only hope that they survive the 21st century lies in the multiple increase in legal protection, or much higher awareness of all participants in devastation caused by plowing, planting, quarries, road construction and development of villages and towns.
Chipped stone artefacts from the localities
Stari vinogradi-Sokačić (Banatska Dubica), Vojlovica-Refinery (Pančevo) and Sedlar (Starčevo)

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Abstract: Collections of chipped stone artefacts from the Neolithic sites of the Banat territory are predominantly unpublished. Their relationships towards the contemporaneous finds from other Neolithic sites in Serbia are in this moment unclear. Albeit quantitatively negligible, the artefacts reported in this study pose some standard questions and suggest adequate approaches for further research.

Key words: chipped stone artefacts, Neolithic, Banat

Chipped stone artefacts represent a great and significant part of unpublished mobile archaeological finds from the Prehistoric localities. Although making most of the inventory at many occurrences, these artefacts have not been given the same attention by the researchers in comparison, for instance, to chronologically more sensitive material, such as ceramics. As part of the inventory that was used daily, in various manufacturing processes and applying on different raw material, this type of artefacts can provide invaluable data. These data may be used for comprehensive reconstructions of life conditions in a single object, in a single settlement or in a wider area inhabited by members of a larger ethnical agglomeration that we today refer to as the area of given culture groups.

In ideal conditions, a detailed analysis of chipped stone artefacts enables the following:
– making a classical typology, based principally on morphological characteristics of the artefacts,
– making a functional analysis by investigating macroscopic and microscopic traces of use; this enables more precise determinations of some artefacts within a given category,
– clear defining the principle categories, i.e. types of tools accompanied by characteristic traces of use; this would enable better understanding certain activities and their distribution within a given settlement or wider, within the limits of a cultural circle, which is a prerequisite for analyzing priority economics in a given region,
– precise locating the finds in a given settlement; both vertically and horizontally; this would provide conditions for locating the working sites or real workshops for chipped stone artefacts, and for processing other types of material by chipped artefacts,
– petrographic analysis — always performed by competent specialists/geologists exclusively — that could, at certain extent, indicate the provenance of the studied raw material, i.e. the location of primary occurrences and thereby possible directions along which contacts between more or less remote communities could have been established; the most reliable results in this process give comparisons with reference collections, which can be formed by collecting the available raw material from primary occurrences,
– and finally — something that is one of the major research goals in archaeology — the above mentioned phases of a more general analysis, would enable, again at some extent, unraveling conditions with precedent cultures and defining the degree of mutual influences that produced effects directly or indirectly, successively or with a hiatus.

The chipped stone artefacts comprised by this study are of small quantity. It is therefore unlikely that they can provide all these types of data underlined above as it might have been the case if the research had been carried out in ideal conditions. In anyway, they inevitably represent a symbolic start of investigations of this type of finds from Neolithic sites in the territory of Banat.

Stari vinogradi (Sokačić)1

The site is situated in Banatska Dubica, more precisely at the south-westward periphery of the village. Limited excavations were carried out in 1956 (Simovljević, 1959: 376), when two trenches along the line Stari vinogradi (Sokačić)2 were opened.

Trench 1 with dimensions 1,72 m X 3,45 m, had a north-northwest — south-southeast orientation and was located on the cadastrial parcel No 844. The deepest
A plethora of fragments of reddish baked earth, remnants of shells and snails, as well as, at depth of 1.38 m, a tomb with a skeleton in disturbed position having an east-west orientation and lacking appendices were found. In the tomb’s close vicinity a devastated hearth, with around 0.12 m thick flooring was recovered. On the hearth a large quantity of ash and tiny fragments of charred tree were found. This finding of a hearth with partially preserved flooring would suggest that this was a devastated residential object.

This occurrence was not dated precisely in the paper published by Simović (1959: 376). However, on the basis of the ceramic vessels characteristics it can be dated as mainly belonging to the 3rd Starčevo phase. All finds of chipped stone artefacts originate from a closed context, because they were found in a pit in the eastern part of the Trench 2. The pit as a closed context can be related with a given phase of this very settlement. Unfortunately, a limited extent of excavations does not allow such an approach. Without postulating a closed chronological context, these finds can only be regarded as components of the whole entity. The tomb with disturbed and devastated object with hearth also belong to the same entity.

Although the excavations did not reveal a working place, because of the lack of splinters and nucleuses, the presence of rejuvenation blades inevitably suggests that the artefacts were produced within settlements.

A total of eight chipped stone artefacts were excavated in the pit. Seven artefacts were available for studying whereas one artefact has been lost.4 The main raw material were chert (4 pieces, i.e. 57.14 %) and obsidian (3 pieces, i.e. 42.86 %). Typological-morphological analysis combined with data obtained from the study of raw material gave results presented in table below. A conclusion can be made that the artefacts were reworked by scraping. This artefact is made of obsidian with a platform angle of 40°.

### Table 1: Quantity of main types of chipped stone artefacts and raw material of Stari Vinograd site (Sokolac) site

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>types of tools</th>
<th>raw material</th>
<th>chert</th>
<th>IN TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>rejuvenation flakes and blades</td>
<td>1 pc. = 14.28 %</td>
<td>1 pc. = 14.28 %</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>materials</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>reutilized rejuvenation flakes and blades</td>
<td>1 pc. = 14.28 %</td>
<td>1 pc. = 14.28 %</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>unretouched blades</td>
<td>1 pc. = 14.28 %</td>
<td>1 pc. = 14.28 %</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>endscrapers on flakes</td>
<td>2 pcs. = 28.57 %</td>
<td>2 pcs. = 28.57 %</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>truncations with abrupt retouch</td>
<td>1 pc. = 14.28 %</td>
<td>1 pc. = 14.28 %</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tools with notched retouch</td>
<td>1 pc. = 14.28 %</td>
<td>1 pc. = 14.28 %</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IN TOTAL</td>
<td>4 pcs. = 57.14</td>
<td>3 pcs. = 42.85</td>
<td>7 pcs. = 99.98</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4 Documentation of the National Museum in Pančevo does not contain data about the Starčevo layer. However, according to personal communications of Lj. Bukošić, Director of the National Museum, the present ceramics is characterized by forms and decoration solutions suggesting that the site belongs to the youngest phases of the Starčevo culture.

The site Sedlar was discovered in 1985 during reconnaissance work. It is situated on the southern periphery of Starčevo over a plateau covering an area 150 m x 150 m, on gentle slopes of the right banks of the river Nadel, which are in recent time subject to flooding. The excavations on the site Sedlar were carried out in 1988, by opening a 4 m x 4 m trench.5 The excavation results suggest that the settlement has a thin cultural layer with, most likely, horizontal stratigraphy.

- decoration of surfaces by barbotine, - a small percentage of fine ceramics, - the lack of ornamented ceramics.

The above characteristics fit very well in the general picture of the Starčevo culture. It also lacks any specific techniques of production. They also indicate that this site belongs to the youngest phase of the Starčevo culture, i.e. that it can be dated as the 3rd Starčevo phase. During the excavation activities on this site two artefacts were recovered in the excavated trench (blade t.i. 3 and flake t.i. 4), whereas one artefact (blade t.i. 2) was found accidentally. All samples are made by chert.

### Unretouched blades

A single blade (t.i. 3, T. 1/10), fragmented and unre- worked, without visible traces was recovered. On blade t.i. 2 (T. 1/11) along the whole right lateral edge exists a direct, fine micromarginal retouch.6 On the distal half of the retouched edge a weak silica gloss can be observed. The platform angle is 80°.

### Retouched flakes

A single sample (t.i. 4, T. 1/12) holds an irregular, direct and normal retouch on the left edge. The platform angle is 90°. The flake is fragmented, without observable traces of use.

5 Results of these investigations have not been published and all data used in this text were provided by Lj. Bukošić, curator of the National Museum in Pančevo.

6 This artefact is not really usable especially during reconnaissance work in 1985. Given the fact that the results of excavations in 1988 confirmed that this was a single layer locality of the Starčevo culture and because there is no evidence of mixing of material from younger periods, the artefact is studied together with the excavation finds.
Conclusions

Technological flake (i.b. 3624/2, T. 1/2) and blade (i.b. 3524/6; T. 1/1) produced in the process of preparation of nucleus and recovered at the locality of Stari vinograd, demonstrate that the artefacts were made within a settlement. The lack of splinters and nuclei suggests that the excavations did not comprise the area in which the immediate working place was situated. Three obsidian artefacts, out of seven chipped stone artefacts that were recovered in total, indicate that this type of raw material had great importance in the manufacture of this settlement. The find of a technological blade (i.b. 3624/6; T. 1/1), produced during the nucleus preparation, corroborates that obsidian was supplied to the settlement in the form of primitive nodules or roughly prepared nuclei, and not exclusively as the final product. The provenance of obsidian used for some artefacts in this settlement remains an open question. However, the relative vicinity of some primary occurrences of obsidian in Romania and Hungary lends support to the hypothesis that the most important role played the import from the Tokai-Preshovo area.

Chipped stone artefacts from Vojlovica were recovered on the peripheral part of a Starčevo settlement. Because the excavations covered a small area, only two artefacts have been recovered. The raw material is represented by so-called Balkan flint, and that is another type of the raw material that makes the problem of provenance of the primary occurrences even more actual.

From the site Sedlar, near Pančevo, three artefacts have been recovered. They do not show specific features neither in typology nor in the types of raw material.

Due to a very small number of finds from these three sites it is impossible to interpret a complete typology or to discuss the significance of these finds for complementing the typology of chipped stone artefacts from the Starčevo culture (Sarić, 2007: 9-45). Individual samples of typologically clearly defined tools, such as scrapers, tools with notched retouch, truncations with abrupt retouch and retouched flakes, i.e. blades, represent common types of chipped stone artefacts for the Neolithic, both for its early and final phases.

The appearance of artefact types that are produced during the production process is a clear indication that these tools were made within the settlement itself (Stari vinograd, Banatska Dubica) and that more extensive excavations may give far more data. The raw material used for producing chipped tools suggests that contacts with populations in the neighborhood were quite possible. In this context, obsidian might have been derived from the Tokai-Preshovo area. On the other hand, the origin of so-called Balkan flint was not necessary related to the regions in Bulgaria but possibly in much more proximal areas of present day central and eastern Serbia (Sarić, 2002: 11-26, 2004: 65-72).

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Neolithic bone industry in Banat

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Abstract:
One of the very important, but still not sufficiently known aspects of the Neolithic economy is the industry from osseous raw materials (bone, antler, teeth, mollusc shell). In this paper will be presented the results obtained after the analyses of the bone industries from Starčevo and Vinča culture from several sites (Starčevo-Grad, Coka-Kremenjak, Botoci-Zivaniča Dolja). The presence of semifinished pieces and manufacture debris pointed to the presence of workshops or working places for manufacture of objects from bone and antler in the Starčevo culture. The bone industry of Vinča culture is less known, however, grave finds from Botoci gave important data on the use of osseous raw materials for making decorative objects. The presence of large number of decorative objects made from mollusc shell in both Starčevo and early Vinča culture demonstrated that the territory of Banat was important part of the larger network of trade and exchange.

Keywords: Neolithic, Starčevo-Körös-Criş culture, Vinča culture, bone industry, shell trade and exchange

Introduction
Osseous raw materials were used since early prehistory for different purposes – for making everyday tools, hunting implements, or different decorative, sacral or ritual objects. These were raw materials of specific physical and mechanical properties, easy to shape with stone and flint, but resistant during use, and their white colour and animal origin may have also been valued. Most of them were available in abundance or easily accessible – bones were taken from animals killed for food and red deer antlers usually gathered when shed in the settlement vicinity. Some of them, however, such as some mollusc shell, were obtained through exchange.

Methods for managing raw materials and the used techniques of manufacture reveal both technological knowledge and cultural choices, and traces of use enlighten the perishable technologies (working with organic materials such as leathers, hides, wood and plant fibres). Thus the prehistoric bone industry can provide data for studies of economy, craft organization and production, level of specialization, trade and exchange on short and long distances, etc. In the Neolithic period, osseous raw materials were one of the three main raw materials in archaeological evidence, along with clay and stone.

Typologically, these artefacts were classified after the shape and mode of use of their distal parts into several groups, which were further divided into types, subtypes and variants (cf. Vitezović 2007, 2011a). These groups were: I pointed objects (awls, points, needles, borers, fish hooks, projectile points, harpoons), II cutting tools (chisels, wedges, axes), III burnishing tools (spatulas, scrapers), IV punching tools (punches, retouching tools, hammers, picks), V objects of special use (haft, sleeves, recipients, different auxiliary items), VI decorative objects (pendants, beads, bracelets, buckles and other clothing pieces), VII non-utilitarian items (musical instruments, figurines) and VIII incomplete objects (manufacture debris, unfinished or broken pieces). When possible, they were analyzed from the technological point of view (cf. Inizian et al. 1995), and the analysis encompassed the reconstruction of the entire operational chain (chaîne opératoire), i.e. technological choices involved in different stages, raw material acquisition, manufacturing techniques, final forms, use and discard (see also Vitezović 2011b).

The bone industry in Starčevo-Körös-Criş culture
Most important bone tool assemblage from this period comes from the eponymous site, Starčevo-Grad, situated in southern Banat, on the left bank of Danube, at the entrance of modern village of Starčevo, 8 km south-east from Pančevo. Site was first discovered during the activity of a brick factory in the early 20th century, and excavated in several campaigns (1928, 1931-2, 1969-1970 and 2003-4 – Arandelović-Garašanin 1954; Ehrich 1977; Živkovic 2008). Also several bone objects were discovered on Mužlja-Krstićeva Humka in middle Banat, and Coka-Kremenjak and Iđoš in northern Banat (Marinković 1996; Vitezović forthcoming).

As the main raw material were used different bones, mostly different long bones and ribs, from large- and medium-sized ungulates (Vitezović 2011a). Preferred choice for several artefact types were cattle andovic-aprine metapodials. Other bones were used to lesser extent, and the presence of pig bones could not have been identified with certainty. Bones were followed by antlers, mainly from red deer, although roe deer antler also occur. Red deer antlers were in most, probably all cases, shed, as suggested by several preserved basal segments. Teeth used for tools were exclusively boar tusks, although other teeth were used for decorative items. Bones, antler and teeth were obtained locally, as these were the animals represented in faunal material (cf. Clason 1982).

Also mollusc shell were used, for making decorative objects, and at least two species were identified, Spondylus and Dentalium. Dentalium beads were so far discovered only at Starčevo, and there is a possibility that...
Antler tools were relatively numerous, and included, in addition to the specialized use of antler harpoons, tools made from beaver mandibles should be mentioned, as this is an unusual raw material (Russell 1993: 171). Mylonitic antler (A. Marinković 2002) was also prevalent on the site, as well as some decorative objects, including nine complete or fragmentary artefacts made of Spondylus shell, and two small perforated shells (Russell 1993: 175, 468).

The assemblage from Coka also contained large number of awls made from longitudinally split medium-sized marine snails (Russell 1993: 175, 468). The assemblage included chisels from longitudinally split long bones, rib scrapers and spatulata, burnishers from cattle metapodials, and different punching tools. It is interesting that on Coka relatively large number of antler harpoons was discovered – they were made from cortex segments, probably from beam, shaped by cutting and scraping. There were also antler sleeves, made from basal segments, and decorative objects of different shapes and sizes, mainly pendants and buckles. (Bannor 1960; Vitezović, forth.).

Small number of artefacts from Idosi-Gradina that can be attributed to the Vinča culture included rib awls, heavy points, one burnisher from cattle metapodial, and several perforated objects, most of them ornaments – bracelets, beads and decorative objects of different shapes and sizes, mainly pendants and buckles. (Bannor 1960; Vitezović, forth.).

The finds included total number of twenty-one bracelets from different raw materials, some of them are inventoried as Spondylus, judging from the photo, at least seven, i. e. one third, were made from the shell of hedgehogs (cf. Marinković 2002), over all also presents ornaments from Spondylus, biconical and cylindrical in shape, one U-shaped piece, probably belt buckle, as well as pieces made from the shell of Dentalium species, among other raw materials, it is interesting to note one amber pendant, which imitates by its shape red deer canines. Some beads were found separately, but it seems that some were discovered as parts of necklaces (beads may have been also sewn to clothes, not necessarily worn as such). The impression that they give is that the raw materials stratifies the use and the value of the artefacts made from Spondylus shell. Also, when found within settlements, these artefacts should be considered as usual, i.e., as the primary raw material.

Several objects from Coka (from red and roe deer antler tines, but also long bones and ribs were used. Points from antlers usually have at distal part natu- ral tip preserved, sharpened by scraping and cutting. On some examples from Starčevo the entire antler surface was smoothed by scraping or burning. Needles, very fine pointed tools, were made from small bone fragments, both long bone splinters and small rib segments. Bones were first shaped by cutting and burning, and very often they have traces of polish- ing with some fine-grained implement, on most or all the surfaces. Projectile points were relatively numerous at Starčevo, made from large unglazed long bones by cutting, scraping and burning. They occur in three sub- types, among which most interesting is the one made of tines, with natural tip sharpened or modified. Retouching was done in the same manner as another tool type, exclusively used, for basketry, leather and textile working. Clason 1982). And, finally, there was one tooth with traces of cutting, and in the faunal report were mentioned. At Starčevo, bracelets and discs made from Spondylus were discovered, as well as three Dentalium shells (Vitezović 2011a). At Opovo, bone tool assemblage included different tools, for example, one made from red deer, other from roe deer antler, with characteristic traces of use (deep grooves and incisions). At Starčevo also was found pieces made from basal part of shed antlers, some of them with perforation for wood- en handle. Bones – special use. Most important types are differ- ent hafts, sleeves and different small containers. Hafts and sleeves were made from long bones, either diaphy- sal part, or with epiphysis preserved as handle, or from com- pletely hollowed segments of red deer antler beams.

Bone industry in Starčevo culture in Banat is characterized by predominance of tools for different crafts (awls, needles, scrapers, spatulata), used mainly for basketry, leather, hide processing and textile work. Most of the finds were discovered in the valley of the Tisa and Cris sites (Makkay 1990; Choyke 2007, Beldiman 2007). Antler tools used for woodworking were less common, although they also appear in Vinča culture. For the traits specific for Starčevo culture, should be men- tioned generally high ratio of projectile points made from antler, and the presence of specific artefacts subtypes and variants, such as spatula–spoons made from cattle metapodials and diverse decorative items (variants of beads, buckles, etc.). The presence of manufacture debris is an impor- tant find, as it is indirect evidence for workshops and workshop areas. A workshop for woodworking of antler was specialized for ornamental pieces, existed on Coka, the place for making spatula–spoons is confirmed for Idosi, while on Starčevo all the locally obtainable raw materi- als were worked – bone, antler, red deer and roe deer antlers, even Dentalium shells. The questions regarding the or- ganization of production in the Neolithic period are still open, and the actual identification of a workshop is very important.

In Vinča culture, again crafting tools prevail – awls, needles, scrapers, spatulata. A workshop for woodwork- ing was also found. The presence of antler workshops is also documented in the Vinča culture sites (cf. Bačkalov 1979; Vitezović 2007). As charac- teristic for the region of Vojvodina and Danube valley were the spread of the use of antler harpoons, which imitates the use of the harpoon, with the preserved handle, which is inaccessible in the site. These were used for processing different organic materi- als, for basketry, leather and textile working, and a high incidence of resharpening was also noted.

The bone industry in Vinča culture is less known in the Banat area. Some of the bone artefacts from Coka Kremenjak and Idosi belong to Vinča layers, and also there are finds from Ugar–Opovo, Aradac and Botoși–Zivanića—tiny splintered long bones, and ribs, and other fragments (Clason 1982). At Starčevo, also were found similar chip-shaped pieces, as well as one half-abraded sheep/goat metapodial, blank for producing awls, and several fragments of bones with traces of cutting. Also antler manufacture debris was discovered – several fragments of red deer antlers with traces of cutting, and in the faunal report were mentioned shed antlers, which may represent a cache of raw materi- als. In Ugar–Opovo, finally, one antler tine (Clason 1982) with unfinished perforation, suggesting all the locally obtain- able raw materials (bone, antler, teeth) were processed within the settlement.

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Discussion

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bones (on most other sites domestic fauna prevails – cf. Vitezović 2007), and for the northern Banat area, the presence of burnishers from cattle metapodials (otherwise relatively abundant on the Neolithic sites in Pannonia plain, especially Hungary – cf. Toth 2011).

Relatively rich finds of different shell ornaments is especially significant (fig. 3, page 217). They were discovered in all phases, in Starčevo culture (at Starčevo) in earlier phases of Vinča (at Botocu) as well as in later phases (at Opovo); on Aradac, Coka and Idos they occur as well, although their cultural attribution is not clear. The presence of Spondylus and Dentalium on Starčevo is so far the oldest presence of these raw materials in the Vojvodina area, and at the same time these are the only known Dentalium beads so far in the entire Starčevo culture (Vitezović 2011a, cf. also Dimitrijević, Tripković & Jovanović 2010). Relatively dense finds of Spondylus suggest these artefacts were not restricted only to certain settlements. In addition, one unworked shell was discovered at Botocu, and one semi-finished piece comes from unclear stratigraphic context at Idos.

Shell trade and exchange is a pan-European prehistoric phenomenon, it represents the oldest long-distance trade of a specific, identifiable resource on the continent (cf. Šefriedeids 2010). It is often associated with the concepts of wealth and prestige (cf. Šefriedeids 2010, see also Siklósi 2004) – they were relatively rare, but used for a long time, often repaired, and they were deposited in graves. Their distribution is also used to map trading routes that were likely used for trade of other, less prestigious goods. The high importance of shell ornaments is unquestionable, and it is likely that it connected more with prestige and status; M. L. Šefriedeids 2010 even suggested that their meaning is related to shamanism.

However, the trade routes are still unclear, as well as the relation between the exchange of shells and other goods (luxurious or otherwise). For future research, assessing the origins of shell trade, the routes, as well the significance and meaning of shell items, these finds from Banat will be very important, although it is necessary first to revise the existing evidence on such finds elsewhere (especially in central Serbia – cf. Vitezović 2007).

References:


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Problems of the Neolithic musealization

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Abstract: Museum items from different Neolithic sites, stored in depots, permanent museum exhibits or those displayed as thematic exhibits are bearers of various “messages.” These “messages” are transferred to a vast audience by curators and influence the image creation of the way of life in the past. However, not all of the items are displayed to the public (it is not even possible to do so), but the question is “how are those items selected for the display?” In addition, it is essential to consider what kind of image is presented to the public using exhibits items displayed in a certain way. Still, is it enough to place the items in well-lit glass cases and indicate the age and area they obtained from and thus suggest the image of the way of life in one house or settlement to the audience? In order to create the best possible presentation of this period, it is primarily necessary to try to find answers to these questions. Just then, the museum exhibits might become active participants in the education of audience of all ages.

Therefore, this article will be presenting the basic concepts of museums and museum objects in the modern society. That is the only way in making revisions and changes in the concepts of the Neolithic exhibitions.

Key words: Banat, Neolithic, museums, museum exhibits, museum exhibitions

There are four different types of museums with archaeological departments in Banat (the part of Banat that belongs to Republic of Serbia). National museums are stationed in Zrenjanin, Pančevo and Kikinda while the City museum is stationed in Vračac although all of them belong to the group of complex museums since they possess various archaeological collections. Even though they only differ by typology these museums, have an important role in preserving objects from the past and also presenting the past lifestyle. During the everyday work of presenting their results, the custodians are often encountering different audience whether the exhibits are permanent or temporary.

These cultural objects along with their employees are forced to follow the current life tendencies. Therefore, they are faced with one of the key problems: the absence of audience enjoyment in museum exhibitions, which is traditionally expected (Subotić, 2005:6). In order to satisfy and somehow recover these audience’s criteria, museums are forced to adapt to the needs and wishes of their visitors.

Neolithic period in Banat (from the early to the late Neolithic) is represented through the following archaeological cultures and groups: Starčevo, Kičev, Vinca and Turza (Brukner, 1968; Đapauzauhn, 1973). Since the absolute dating of those cultures is still at the early stages, the usual duration of the Neolithic period is placed between 6200 BC and 4300/4000 BC (Whittle et al., 2002: 93; Țîrnică, 2007: 18). Museum representation of this period to the public consists of pottery, figurines, objects made of bones, animal horns, and stone placed in the glass showcases with the descriptions that satisfy the basic archaeological criteria (object name, cultural origin, and site origin). However, is that enough for the wide audience of different age? Is it possible to imagine the prehistoric life only having displayed those archaeological object with that data? What degree of stereotype will that image have? In other words, the archaeological cultural-historical paradigm has set a base for the way in which the objects would be exhibited today. Objects will be grouped and presented according to variety of typologies and chronologies without leaving the possibility of perceiving the “wider” image of the past.

Today we are able to load some new meaning in different texts and items that older authors did not know, and we can transform their work into a new contemporary product (Olsen, 2002: 109). That means that the presented “image” of the Neolithic by the museums must be and can be subjected to change. Therefore, this article will be presenting the basic concepts of museums and museum objects in the modern society. That is the only way in making revisions and changes in the concepts of the Neolithic exhibitions.

What is a museum?

Answering to this question could seem as a rather easy task. Since there is a special scientific discipline that deals with this very complex question, yet easy when simply looked at, I will try to give the shortest and the simplest answer possible.

A museum is a non-profit, permanent institution in the service of society and its development, open to the public, which acquires, conserves, researches, communicates and exhibits the tangible and intangible heritage of humanity and its environment for the purposes of education, study and enjoyment.

(Chairl. 2007; http://icom.museum/who-we-are/the-vision/museum-definition.html)
More up to date definition of the museum could look like this:

Museums are places of privileged knowledge and wisdom. They make the memory of the man and the nature is preserved and cared.

(Subotic, 2003: 7).

However, it could be said that the museum also represents a visualized and organized collection with the aim of making them live, as well as obtaining knowledge about it, like some other sciences. In that, particular way museums participate in forming of knowledge but they should also represent the places of fun and joy (Jovanovic, 2006: 62). Their main obligation is the forming of various collections in particular way, which means collecting and protecting the objects or buildings. Theories. Each object or building in this case the procedure is different from the moment of official arrival to museum goes through the documentation processing and then is stored in depot or is set for the permanent exhibition.

Before continuing the story about objects in the museum, it is necessary shortly to indicate the existence of different types of museums, and that depends on the type of the activity they perform. It is also important to take a look at the locations of the buildings in which the museums are stationed.

The most widespread type of museum in Serbia is the National museum which has been developed since the XIX century. During the long development path, they retained the status of complexity, which is widely understood. It has various categories – naturalistic, ethnographic, historic, archaeological, etc. (Jovanovic, 1976: 65). Complex museum type also includes city museums and Local history museums but the emphasis is on data collection from smaller administrative areas (Jovanovic, 1976: 65). The goal of Local history museum is presentation of the life in one smaller area of culture (art, archaeology, anthropology, etc.). City museum has the same goal as the Local history museum but is limited to one area. They were usually founded in bigger settlements with rich history, culture and artistic past (archaeological sites, battles, urbanism of the set-

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Archaeological Research Center (ARC) in York that has been established during the 1980’s. In spite of the progress of excavation technique and computer technologies the ARC defies two of the biggest conventional museum presentations:

1. there are no glass showcases as well as the permanent collections of any kind
2. it is not the integral part of the interpretion process of the past because the visitors are able to view and hold in hands the real archaeological objects as well as the possibility of watching the "real" archaeologists through glass doors and walls of the offices as the work (Ippan, 2003: 341)

Visitors are allowed to hold different objects and animal bones in their hands and to discuss them with the employees. Computers allow them to analyze the layout of findings on the site plans or, with the help of rather interesting footage, observe the detailed photographs of a particular site (Ippan, 2003: 341). It is possible to deconstruct the common image of archaeology and archaeologists by using the mentioned method and to give a closer meaning to each object and not only those chosen to be displayed in showcases.

With the help of computing it is possible to make 3D models of one or more sites, depict the different phases of one object’s look, part of the settlement or the entire settlement. In that way the even the handicapped audience, that is often forgotten, could be allowed participating in museum activities.

Each museum object has many layers of value and significance and nothing can replace it (Subotić, 2005: 8). Because of that, modern museum exhibitions are using wide spectrum of reconstructing methods of materials in order to create new strategies for interpreting those objects, creating new ideas with the help of innovative concepts of presentation and delivery of old findings with the new methods or discovering the new approaches to the same known objects and terms (Subotić 2005: 9).

Conclusion

Of all asked questions, considering many problems in the country and the world, there could be one more: Why are archaeologists still excavating? In order to justify the purpose of our existence it is necessary to explain what we are doing and why; to give a clear limit that we are not creating national past and that the objects found in the earth do not belong to us as a nation but a much wider picture of the European and world cultural heritage. That way we could make people forget about the administrative borders drawn in the atlases or globes for a moment.

In addition, the modern technologies that are steadily becoming available for material analysis should become the part of the permanent exhibitions. Path to presenting archaeology as a serious science discipline is, in one way, based on self-presentation. Considering that, sorting the results or the analysis process of certain object type must be presented or filmed.

Global fashion of converting museums into spaces for having fun could be seen on the free market of Serbia, and that includes major and radical changes. As the spare time becomes filled by television and computer (that represents comprehensive system of recreation and enjoyment) the museum, and thus the exhibitions, should be presented on that marked as places for recreation and fun (Olsen, 2002: 218). Aside from educational character, which certainly hasn’t been forgotten, it is necessary to consider the ways of making exhibitions entertaining for the audience of different age group. Museums are not static and self-sufficient institutions anymore. They are constantly forming new audience in a new and an open way and offer the best and the most innovative views of past they are capable of, but do not hesitate to adapt to diverse approach and listen to requests coming from the outside (Subotić, 2005: 17). The testament to that possibility is the “Museum Night”, which is successfully happening since 2005 in Serbia. During the one night, different museums and galleries are organizing specially planned programs with the emphasis on educational and entertaining aspect. According to that, museums can sell their products on the market. Still, it is a bit devastating fact that people are willing to spend their during the one night to visit the different places in the city to see something new but fail to do the same during the remaining days of the year. Museums want to have a constant, satisfied audience with pleasant and long-lasting memories, to make the visitor enriched with new knowledge and to make them want to return shortly after the visit (Subotić, 2005: 15). That is the reason why the audience must be demanding and able to criticize the offered exhibition where the educational role is present.

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Banat and the central Balkans since the end of the sixth until mid-fourth millennium BC: ceramic styles as an indicator of contacts, interaction and integration of prehistoric communities

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Abstract: Despite the low level of published results of archaeological excavations of the late Neolithic and Eneolithic sites in Vojvodina and Serbia, intensity of the relationship between communities that inhabited the contact zone of the southern area of the Pannonian Plain and the central area of the Balkans can be anticipated. The character of these relationships can be traced by distribution of artifacts of obsidian, shells and copper. This paper represents an attempt to highlight the characteristics of ceramic styles in different archaeological contexts and possible relations between prehistoric communities at certain periods. These relationships reflect more or less intensive contacts, interaction and integration of populations of the Pannonian-Balkans region.

Key words: Banat, the central Balkans, late Neolithic, Eneolithic, ceramic styles, contacts, interaction, integration.

The position of Banat region makes it an important area that connected the Great Hungarian plain and the Balkan-Aegean region. The major tributaries of the Danube river are: the Drava, Sava and Drina in the west, the Morava in the south, the Tisza, Tamis, Morit and Timok rivers in the north and east were the most important lines of communications.

In the past a considerable part of Banat was covered by wetlands, and the most suitable locations for settlements were: river terraces of the alluvial plains of the Tisa, Banat marine-lake terrace intersected by river valleys of the Zlatica, Galacka, Begej, Tamis, Brzava, Moravica, Karaš, Nera and stream valleys of Vrsic mountains. The relatively good exploration of the late Neolithic and Eneolithic settlements in Banat and in the central Balkans is not in proportion to the published results of these excavations.

Specificity of certain archaeological contexts indicate close connection between communities that inhabited the southern area of the Pannonian Plain and the central area of the northern part of the Balkans from the end of sixth to the mid-fourth millennium BC. Distribution of certain ceramic styles can be a reliable indicator of relationships between prehistoric communities. Two categories of artifacts are observed when the following was found within the archaeological context: 1. vessels belonging to two different ceramic styles, and 2. vessel on which we can note morphological and ornamental elements of different ceramic styles. This paper will suggest that the vessels crafted in the tradition of different ceramic styles in certain contexts reflect contacts, interaction and integration of population of the Pannonian-Balkan region.

Late Neolithic population, traditionally identified as the Vinča culture communities and their northern neighbors, the communities of late Alföld linear pottery (Szakálhát) and Tisza culture from the end of the 6th to the mid-5th millennium BC existed in Banat (Brukner, 1974; Chapman, 1981; Raczky, 1989; Horváth, 1989, 2000, 2006). The character of these relationships is reflected by archaeological contexts in certain settlements, in which ceramic vessels marked as an import were found, and settlements with mixed material of the Vinča and Szakálhát or Tisza ceramic styles. Vessels of older Vinča and Szakálhát ceramic styles were registered...
The Romanian researchers defined the Banatului culture, which investigated. The Tiszapolgár villages were registered Šumadija and the Velika Morava valley are very poorly Eneolithic settlements in the areas of northwestern Serbia, 1979, 1995; Radu, 2002: Fig. 1–2; Nikolova, 1999). Early Eneolithic in these regions. A discovery of the house destroyed in a fire, at the site Livade near Kalenić, during the protective archaeological excavations in the Mining Basin „Kolubara” offers new perspectives for the study of ceramic style belonging to communities that inhabited the northwestern Serbia (Đaković, 2005). A significant number of vessels was found in a residential object which also served as a workshop (Fig. 3–4). Vessels of the early Eneolithic Krivodol-Salkuţa-Bubanj ceramic style (plates with thickened rim, bearers with two handles, amphorae and bowls) and of the Tiszapolgár ceramic style with the elements indicating the tradition of western culture areas of the Pannonian plain (late Lengyel) (high foot bearers with or without perforations, bowls with inverted rim and tongue shaped handles and nipple-like bulges) were discovered in the same context. Only a few fragments were decorated with flowers or pricks. At the site Vladimirović dvoři in the village Mionica, a horizon characterized by the Krivodol-Salkuţa-Bubanj ceramic style was recorded, containing elements that pointed to the ceramic style of the communities that inhabited the western Balkans areas (Đaković, 1998). Few pottery fragments were published from the excavated early Eneolithic site Bodnić near village Drujžetić, in the municipality Koceliye. The researchers pointed out that the vessels had characteristics of the Krivodol-Salkuţa-Bubanj style with a strong ceramic tradition of the Vinča style, and highlighted the existence of elements on ceramic vessels indicating influences from the north and west (Pazar, Bogođanovac and Crnopah, 1993, 1996). At sites in Romanian Banat, settlements characterized by mixed material of the Tiszapolgár and Salkuţa cultures were recorded (Timiş-Cerna, Slatina Timiş), as well as a settlement of the Salkuţa culture with “imported” ceramic vessels of the Tiszapolgár style (Captoare Sălaj) (Radu, 2002: 195–197, Lazarovici, 2006). In the middle Eneolithic, settlements of the Bodrogkeresztúr and the latest Krivodol-Salkuţa-Bubanj cultures (Scheibenhenkel horizon)1 were noted in Banat (Brukner, 1974; Batoșin-Thomisz and Usea, 1986; Tasić, 1995; Uzelac, 2002). The settlements of this period are very poorly investigated. Findings from a few published contexts in Srem and western Serbia attract attention, such as: at the site Životic near Ruša (Fig. 5/1–5) (Tasić, 1995), the cultural layer at sites Piévriac in Zemun (Fig. 6/3–5) (Đaković, 1994) and Jovin Breg in Vileša near Bajina Bašta (Fig. 5/6–9, 6/1–2) (Životic, 1985, 3eronaš, 1988). In these contexts, vessels made in both the latest Krivodol-Salkuţa-Bubanj (Salkuţa IV) and late Bodrogkeresztúr ceramic styles were recorded. Distinctive elements of the Salkuţa IV style are vessels with disc-handles (Fig. 5/3, 8–9, 6/3, 5) and rectangular vessels (lobate vessels) usually fired in oxidizing conditions, decorated with knob or lentil-shaped bulges at the rim and at the edges, sometimes decorated with a

3 Nikolova (1999, 71–94, see Table I) highlights two major horizons of the Final Copper Age I–II, the older one that corresponds to the latest Krivodol-Salkuţa-Bubanj and late Bodrogkeresztúr and the younger, to the Salkuţa-Telish-Baile Herculane cultural complexes.

4 The Romanian researchers defined the Banatului culture, which consists of several groups: Bucovăţ, Parta, Pojciţa i Matejki Brod (Lazarovici and Draganov, 1991).
FIG. 2 1-9, Hődmezővásárhely-Gorcza (Gorcza-D1) (Horváth, 2006).

FIG. 3 Kalenić, Livade (Stanojević, 2005).
FIG. 4: Kalenić, Livade (ibidem, 2005).

FIG. 6 1-2. Višesava, Jovin breg (Zotović, 1985); 3-5, Zemun, Prigradica, (Garašanin, 1996; Spasić, 2008).

FIG. 7 1-3. Novi Sad, Klisura; 4-6. Niš, Babanj.
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Reproductive research of the site Vatin - Bela Bara
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Abstract: Vatin Culture is one of the most important phenomena of the early and middle Bronze Age on the Balkans. The history of its studies begins at the end of the late nineteenth century works of the curator of the City Museum in Vršac, Felix Milleker at the site of Bela Bara, near the village Vatin. The review of research on the site began in 2010 in cooperation with the Department of Archaeology, Faculty of Philosophy in Ljubljana. The main emphasis was placed on the use of non-invasive archaeological prospection methods, which involve the systematic screening of surface, subsurface prospection, geophysical research, prospection from the air, as well as various other methods that can provide relevant information.

Key words: Felix Milleker, Bronze Age, Vatin Culture, Vatin-Bela Bara, geophysical research, surface prospection.

The village of Vatin is situated 16 km north of Vršac, near the border with Romania. It has been set up at the western end of an elongated sand dune at the mouth of the river Moravica into the marshland Veliki Rit, which represents the eastern region of the Great (Bele) Depression, known as Alibunar wetlands. This part of the coast was formed in late Pleistocene by sedimentation of fine grained clastics, which largely contributed to its current form. To the north of the village there is a prominent loess terrace at the foot of which the modern settlement has been set up, with all the features of planned villages in Vojvodina. Vatin was first mentioned in written sources from 1333 when there was a parish in the village (Milleker F. 2005: 111). The streets are arranged in a lattice pattern, and almost all the houses are placed in three parallel streets oriented east-west, while the crossing streets serve only as passages (Curčić 2006: 252).

In the 19th century sand exploitation began at different locations in the village and the surrounding area resulting in the first recorded archaeological finds. The first such account made by Pavel Kengele, the Archimandrite of the Vojlovica Monastery (Kengele 1971: 281) dates from 1804. The next, more concrete datum dates from 1856 when the local contractor Vasa Bogić, wishing to...
excavate the sand, partially damaged the central part of a barrow on the right side of the river Moravica. Realizing that it was not a geological formation, Bogić suspended sand excavation (Milleker B. 1905: 3), but the two big pits can be still seen at the top of the barrow. Starting from the spring of 1893 Felix Milleker, the curator of the Town Museum in Vatin, visited the site in Vatin 57 times (Milleker B. 1905: 2), performing some smaller scale digging of archaeological objects or simply bought them up from the villagers and noted the place and circumstances of the discovery. Already at that time a considerable number of artifacts from Vatin ended up in private collections and in museums in Subotica, Sremska Sloboda and Belgrade. Until 1905 Milleker conducted excavations in more than 20 campaigns, controlling simultaneously work on the exploitation of sand which had destroyed much of the archaeological site. In the late fifties of the 20th century, the works on sand excavation were briefly restored, therefore it takes up the area to the east of the poultry farm, while the asphalt road Vršac-Vatin makes its northern and eastern boundary. The last three sectors (A4- A6) do not have strictly defined boundaries towards the south, i.e. towards the swampy land. The locations where surface and subsurface prospecting have been performed were marked by numerical Roman numbers (Loc. I-IX). Whenever it was possible (if the field conditions allowed it), different methods of both surface and subsurface prospecting methods were combined on the same location.

Archaeological research carried out in 2010 and 2011 included the following non-intrusive forms of archaeological survey: a systematic surface exploration, a systematic subsurface exploration, geophysical soil testing, non-systematic sampling and checking for vegetation signs on aerial photographs. Two control archaeological probes were opened in 2011, on peripheral parts of the Bela Bara site.

Surface and subsurface prospecting

During the 2010 and 2011 campaign, surface and subsurface exploration was carried in the sector A1-locations I to V and sector A6-locations VI to IX. The systematic exploration included collection of archaeological material within the geo-positioned square grid containing 4 x 4 m squares marked in a chessboard pattern. Collection in the squares was done individually and within a limited period of time.

Unsystematic collection of surface materials was performed on those surfaces that due to the configuration or vegetation were not suitable for the systematic gathering in a square network. In cases where circumstances allowed it, the collection was also done in plowed furrows on the surfaces planted with corn.

In implementation of both methods the visibility filter was used for control. We used a four-grade scale for surface visibility within the field of investigation: 0 – area under dense vegetation, poor visibility, 1 – partially visible ground, 2 – visibility greater than 50%, 3 – area of good visibility.

The systematic subsurface exploration included control drilling by ø200 mm prop bore, to 550 mm depth. The content of the soil obtained in such drilling was carefully examined for archaeological finds. The wells were located in geo-referential grid 16 x 16, or 20 x 20m. There were 120 such wells tested.
Sector A1

Location I is in the western part of A1 sector, on cadastral lots 765, 764 and 763/3. It is bordered by the asphalt road Vršac-Vatin on the south, the railroad on the west, the river Moravica and its defensive embankment on the north, while the eastern boundary consists of a dirt road and a border between cadastral lots 763/2 and 763/3. The investigated area is undulating, with a significantly lower terrain in the western part consisting of the old sand mine and a gentle slope towards the north-east. Today, this part is a farming area of uneven degree of fertility, in places overgrown with weeds and crops. Cadastral lot 765 was best suited for the systematic review of the surface within the square grid. The rest of the location I is overgrown with weeds, except for a small part to the east which was under corn. In the southern part of the site, five rows with 44 control wells were opened. Two control profiles (P_2 and P_1) were opened on the south side of the river embankment, providing the same picture, according to which only the upper part consists of a landfill containing recent findings, while the lower layers consist of compact soil with a lot of sand and rare archaeological findings. This pattern is consistent with Milleker’s description, in which the amount of archaeological finds and objects dramatically decreases towards the north-east of the river, which logically makes the end of the settlement (Milleker B. 1906: 164).

The choice of location for the initial research, despite the possible limitations, proved to be a very good solution. The main objective of research on this location was the assessment of situation in the former sand mine and changes that have occurred so far. The first results were somewhat surprising, given that the largest concentration of archaeological material was observed in the western part, precisely the area which obviously represents the bottom of the sand mine. It also turned out that the quantity of archaeological material gathered on the surface and from the control wells, decreases towards the north-east, i.e. the higher ground. Most of the pottery discovered on the surface belongs to the late Roman period, and the Sarmatians, and there is only a negligible presence of finds confirming to the fringes of the site. However, we were unable to establish whether any part of the location I (this mostly applies to its western part) had been covered with transferred soil in a similar way as location I.

Location II is in a triangle between the asphalt road, railroad and the river Moravica. The surface is dotted with deep pits that remained after the extraction of sand. The soil filled with water during high water of the river. Considering the state of the explored area, only a control profile (P_3) has been opened in the northern part, because the rice harvest was completed. It was concluded that it is only a coarse sand layer without any archaeological findings. Clearly, the exploitation of sand at this location was very intense and somewhat disorganized, which is indirectly indicated by a lack of top soil.

Location IV is situated at the edge of older sand mines which discontinued sand exploitation probably even before 1880 (Milleker B. 1894: 1). Along the north-eastern edge of the asphalt road and on the skirts of the old sand mine, a pit created as a result of a recent sand mining was found. The hole is of irregular oval shape, approximately 2.5 m wide and 2 m deep. By the southern edge of a control profile (P_4) was made, 1.9 m wide and 2.1 m deep. The darker soil humus in thickness of about 30 cm is most probably a recent layer under which there are geological layers of different sands and clays. Archaeological findings have not been found, therefore it can be concluded with some certainty that the cultural layer has been destroyed in this part of the site, i.e. in the place of the control profile. Further confirmation came from the probing exploration made in Sector A4, which provided us with quite different stratigraphic picture.

Location V is situated at the right bank of the river Moravica, by the southern edge of the burial mound. A smaller cultivated area under corn was explored by application of the method of gathering along the furrows. Surface prospecting was examined by control wells organized in five rows. The results from control wells supplement the picture obtained in surface exploitation and build on the conclusions presented for the location I. The collection of material from both surfaces (freshly ploughed up and the one under vegetation) indicates to a significantly smaller quantity of findings, also confirmed by subsurface prospecting. Despite poor visibility in parts covered with vegetation, the results obtained on newly ploughed area combined with results of the wells, could be considered relevant and point to the fringes of the site. These results were later confirmed by the fully consistent results of the geophysical research, which also point to the northern fringes of the site. However, we were unable to establish whether any part of the location II (this mostly applies to its western part) had been covered with transferred soil in a similar way as location I.

Location VI is in a triangle between the asphalt road, railroad and the river Moravica. The surface is dotted with deep pits that remained after the extraction of sand. The soil filled with water during high water of the river. Considering the state of the explored area, only a control profile (P_3) has been opened in the northern part, because the rice harvest was completed. It was concluded that it is only a coarse sand layer without any archaeological findings. Clearly, the exploitation of sand at this location was very intense and somewhat disorganized, which is indirectly indicated by a lack of top soil.

Location VIII is situated on the same level as location VI, but to the north of the asphalt road. A recently ploughed field is situated in the area of about 1.5 ha. The search was performed in the same way as on location VI, with combination of subsurface exploration and control bore holes. The distribution of holes was in the grid 20 x 20 m. In 49 bore holes, 27 field walkers’ units (surface search) and in unsystematic surface survey, 325 artifacts were found, out of which approximately 73% could be dated. Slightly more than 21% belong to prehistoric times, 42% to late antiquity, 29% to the late Middle Ages and 8% is glazed ceramics.

Location VII is situated on the same level as location VI, but to the north of the asphalt road. A recently ploughed field is situated in the area of about 1.5 ha. The search was performed in the same way as on location VI, with combination of subsurface exploration and control bore holes. The distribution of holes was in the grid 20 x 20 m. In 49 bore holes, 27 field walkers’ units (surface search) and in unsystematic surface survey, 325 artifacts were found, out of which approximately 73% could be dated. Slightly more than 21% belong to prehistoric times, 42% to late antiquity, 29% to the late Middle Ages and 8% is glazed ceramics.

Location VIII is situated to the east, in the part of the drained wetlands, which most probably has not kept its original topography. The search was performed in the area of approximately 6.3 ha, during 14 systematic site visits. A small test aimed at checking the quality and the possibility of statistically random sampling of an area 80 x 80 m was carried out on location VI. Prospection results were somewhat surprising given that some 900 artifacts were found concentrated in two major areas - in the far north near the asphalt road, and on the eastern side of the site. For about 85% of the findings it was possible to determine roughly chronologic order, out of which about 5% belongs to the prehistoric material, about 15% to the late antiquity and the Sarmatians, to the late Middle Ages belongs near 65%, and about 11% is the glazed ceramics.
Geophysical research

Field measuring using a magnet (Geometrics G-858) and geo-radar method (GSSI SIR3000, 400 MHz antenna) was performed in parallel profiles with the distance of 0.5 m which was estimated to be an optimum distance between the profiles within those archaeological objectives (remains of prehistoric settlement and graves) and the total area of approximately 1 ha planned for survey (fig. 9).

Bedrock of the Vatin site in the main layers consists of fine grained sand covered with thin layers of soil (0 to 50 cm), which represents a convenient medium for the magnetic and geo-radar methods, because it is a homogeneous structure composed of layers in which archaeological remains can be recognized by means of magnetic or dielectric contrast. In this archaeological concept, exceptionally low susceptibility of the quartz sand is a favourable circumstance, because a magnetometer of appropriate sensitivity can detect very weak magnetic anomalies of an archaeological source, which was proven after the processing of the results. Similar to the magnetic method, the application of geo-radar method that uses a high resolution 400 MHz antenna, which emits adequate short electromagnetic waves, detects more compact archaeological objects in the sandy layer, as well as larger negatives, i.e. finds. It is necessary to mention that during field measuring the level of ground water was low and that it had no impact to the results of geo-radar method, which is very sensitive to soil moisture. In processing of the results obtained by application of geo-radar method, we managed to increase the ratio of “signals” (useful information) in relation to “noise” (adverse environmental impact) in favor of archaeological information and thus significantly contribute to knowledge based on magnetic method, which has been supplemented by complementary geo-radar method.

Magnetic method

Magnetic method is a passive method because magnetic meters measure local changes in the “outside” i.e. terrestrial magnetic field, which are the result of changes in magnetic susceptibility of the material below the surface. The task of archeological geophysics is to identify magnetic anomalies, which are caused by different types of archaeological structures as carriers of different magnetization types. In magnetic prospection we used measuring changes in density of magnetic flow of the terrestrial magnetic field in (pseudo) gradient method (nT/m). Gradient method is often used in archaeological prospection as it strengthens weak magnetic anomalies caused by relatively small archaeological objects in shallow layers and significantly reduces the adverse effect of anomalies of geological phenomena.

In prehistoric context, magnetic method successfully detects different negative forms (moats and pits) and especially objects with thermo-remnant type of magnetization typical for fired clay (ceramic stoves, furnaces for metal melting, fireplaces, etc.). The expected thermo-remnant type of magnetization is the most important reason why we decided to apply high resolution magnet method on prehistoric site near Vatin. Theoretically, the maximum depth where we can detect an archaeological structure by application of the magnetic method depends on contrast between artifacts and background
Geo-radar method

Geo-radar sends electromagnetic energy impulses through a transmitting antenna into the ground and the receiving antenna registers time and amplitudes of feedback waves. With the knowledge of the dielectric constant, which determines the velocity of propagation of electromagnetic waves (EM) in the investigated medium, time backscatter expressed in nanoseconds (ns) can be converted into units of length or depth. Part of electromagnetic waves reflected at a discontinuity between two different materials (e.g. land/pit-ditch, land-incineration layer, etc.) depends on contrast in dielectric constant (to a lesser degree of conductivity and magnetic permeability) and relation between wavelength of EM waves (determined by the antenna frequency) and thickness of archaeological structures. The resolution and depth of intervention of geo-radar signals in practice depends on the frequency of the transmitting antenna. With antennas with center frequency of 400 MHz, under the given circumstances, we estimate as favourable, the depth of reach is approximately 2.5 m with good lateral and vertical resolution, allowing detection of less preserved remains or archaeological objects of smaller volume. Apart from the frequency of the antenna, the depth of range is significantly affected by the concentration of water in the soil. The most accepted and at the same time most widespread is the presentation of geo-radar results in “time slices” which implies time cuts of EM signals emitted by series of parallel and evenly distanced geo-radar profiles. The result of time slices is a diagram showing equal signal amplitudes in the same time interval as recurrent waves. In archaeological practice it means a series of “layouts” on selected depths. In some situations such presentations enable detection of negative archaeological structures, as confirmed in this research performed on Location B. Numerous horizontal sections of radar signals for all investigated areas were made at arbitrary depths, while this report presents only selected, typical sections. From the geophysical standpoint the situation is too complex for use of all the presentations, which can create more doubts and confusion, than offer archaeologically useful information. The chosen pictures we consider relevant and sufficient enough for understanding of archaeological interpretation.

On horizontal sections of geo-radar signals, we can generally recognize relatively stronger rebound from the environment. These changes are caused by stronger materials, which at Locations A and B appear only in the form of sand deposits (Figures 12 and 15). Because of the physical properties we can’t expect clearer geo-radar signals from less preserved objects with thermo-remnant magnetization (e.g. Area A). Due to extreme dielectric contrast of the sandy layer, areas of relatively weaker geo-radar signals can be easily recognized in places with pits or pit clusters on Location B (Figure 15). In addition to horizontal radio signal slices, for the presentation of results obtained by application of geo-radar method, we also used “auto pics” method which emphasizes highly contrasting spots (layers). At Site A we managed to separate more clearly contrasting (sub)horizontal layers at different depths (Fig. 13). We assume that this is a natural response of sandy deposits. In this process we clearly detected “holes” in the sandy sediments at Location B, which we interpret as a negative archaeological structures or pits (Figure 16).

Probing archaeological research

After a detailed study of the results of geophysical survey conducted last winter, it was decided that the first probe (1/11) 3 x 4 m, should be opened in Sector A2 on...
Only the first 50-60 cm represent the archaeological layer of Petar Latković (cat. lot 567/2), located on the left bank of the Moravica near the village. During the geophysical surveys at this location, it was noted that there are at least 14 archaeological objects - most likely pots. Our intention was to check the results and explore one of the potential facilities. Even though we failed to get the expected results, we can't say with certainty that the rest of the investigated area also lacks the expected archaeological potential (this is primarily the lack of expected archaeological objects - pits or similar holes like graves). The reason for this can be very simple and somewhat banal, since due to the lack of technical resources we were not able to determine accurately the location of a searched object. It can be concluded that there is a kind of a cultural layer on this site, which contains mostly mediaeval ceramics/pottery, freely dispersed on the site, without any archaeological context. The probe 1/11 did not show any settlement elements or materials other than ceramics. A few smaller, rough stones can without doubt be connected with raw materials found on the Vršac Hill, but they are of no archaeological significance. Stratigraphic picture in probe 1/11 is very simple: the upper layer consists of 80 cm thick dark-grey sandy soil (with some qualifications it could be called "humus"), below which there are geological layers of dark-yellow coarse sand, called "sweet corn" by the villagers.

Probe 2/11, 3 x 4 m, was opened in sector A4, on the farm of Petar Latković (cat. lot 567/2), located on the left bank of the Moravica, near the bridge. In field walking a great quantity of Bronze Age ceramics was observed on the surface, which was the reason for opening of a control probe which would establish the archaeological potential. After disappointing results obtained from probe 1/11, we put all our hopes into probe 2/11, which, based on the surface results, might have provided a great potential. However, it turned out that except for substantial amount of pottery, there were no other archaeological indicators. Similarly to the probe 1/11, all the material belongs to the upper layer, of 50-60 cm thickness, where it lays without any archaeological context. Not any static archaeological objects were detected, or any indications of settlement setting up. In this sense, perhaps the most logical explanation for the occurrence of large quantities of pottery without an archaeological context is that it is its secondary position.

Roman Banat at the End of the First Century AD and in the Early Second Century AD
Adrian Ardet
Romainia

Abstract: The aim of the present paper is to present the Roman period between 1st to early 2nd century in Banat, the first Dacian province conquered by Roman Empire. Appearance of the Romans at the Danube influenced life and relationships with Dacian tribes throughout the first century AD. Emperor Trajan since he began reign in year 98 represents also change totally the Roman policy from the Dacians. In year 100 was finished the Roman road from the Danube Boilers (Cazane), known from the Tabula Traiana. The main Roman roads crossing Banat are on Tabula Peutingeriana, from Lederata and respectively Dierma. Conquer of Dacian kingdom led by Decibal, a predominant role was taken by Roman garrison in Viminacium, headquarters of the Legion IV Flavia Felix and then of the Legion VII Claudia. Representing the operations base in the wars with the Dacians, Viminacium is related to the new capital of the province of Dacia, Colonia Augusta Dacica Ulpi Traiana Sarmizegetusa. The road between Viminacium and Sarmizegetusa is part of the main thoroughfare (Roman road) Via Appia Traiana inaugurated in the year 109, on the section Beneventum - Brindisiun. In recent years Museum from Caransebes conducted archeological researches on the section of road between the Ad Media and Sarmizegetusa, finding new Roman settlements at Bucorinășă, Petrosinăș, Timis valley and not at least in Zavoș, where he discovered a impressive Roman Villa, dated during the reign of Emperor Trajan.

Key words: Banat, Danube, Dacia, Roman Empire, Emperor Trajan, Zăvoi, Viminacium, Via Appia Traiana

References:
1 Tudor 1968, 20-21.
4 Ardeț 2000, 217-222.
5 Ardeț 2011, 57-71.

Pl. I. Map of Banat
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Modern Banat province is a distinct entity, bordered to the north by the Mures River, to the south by the Danube River, to the east by the Carpathian Mountains and to the west by the Tisa River (Pl. I).

In the first century AD the province was inhabited by tribes (albocensi and saldensis) belonging to Dacian kingdom who are mentioned by Ptolemy. These tribes bordered on the south with picenses and tricennenses tribes (Pl. II), belonging to the nation of celtic Scordisci.

In 15 AD it is established Moesia, the Roman province that during the Emperor Domitian (86 AD) was organized in Moesia Superior and Moesia Inferior.

Appearance of the Romans at the Danube influenced daily life and relationships with Dacian tribes throughout the first century AD. The existence of Dacian fortresses at the north of the Danube (Liubcova - Stenca, Babeş 1971, 359-394) and to the west by the Tisza River (Pl. I).

Danube River, to the east by the Carpathian Mountains to the north by the Mures River, to the south by the Apuseni Mountains.

Pl. II. Map of Banat in the first century BC

This all settlements represent a true “dacicus limes” and are dated during the first century BC, in the first century AD.

Roman intentions become clearly after year 86 when were sent the expeditions from year 87, led by Cornelius Fuscus and respectively those in the year 88 led by Tetius Iulianus, concluded by the Peace of the Dacians and Romans from 89 AD.

Taking the Roman throne by Emperor Trajan in year 98 represents also a total change of Roman policy relation to Dacians.

So it is made that in the year 100 was finished the Roman road from the Danube Boilers (Casane) known from the Tabula Traiana, that exists today.

The assumed route followed by Emperor Trajan in the first Dacian War was mentioned in Priscianus work (Grammatici Latin, VI, 13) where we find: “Traianus in I Daciorum: inde Berzobim, deinde Aizi processimus” that means Trajan in first (war) Dacian: from there (from) Berzobim, and then (at Aizi) have advanced on ...

The main Roman roads crossing Banat are on Tabula Peutingeriana, from Lederata and respectively Dierna. In conquering Dacian kingdom led by Decebal, a predominant role was taken by Roman garrison in Viminacium, headquarters of the Legion IV Flavia Felix and then of the Legion VII Claudia (Pl. III).

During the time of Emperor Hadrian, the civil settlement is raised to the rank of municipium, becoming municipium Aelium Viminacium.

Representing the operations base in the wars with Dacians, Viminacium is related to the new capital of the province of Dacia, Colonia Augusta Dacica Ulpia Traiana Sarmizegetusa founded in 106 AD, by a section of Roman road that represents a distance of 186 miles novels, or 275.28 kilometers.

This road starts from Viminacium and crosses the Roman settlements Punicum, Vico Cuppe, Ad Novas, Ad Frofulas, Faliatis, Dierna - Ad Media - Pretorio, Ad Pannonia, Gaganis, Masclianis, Tibiscum, Agravis, Ponte August and Sarmizegetusa.

The mention of the settlement from Ad Mediam by our historians as “ad viam mediam” (the middle way) between the Danube and the important passing East Gate has from our point of view another connotation.

First, the road between Viminacium and Dacian settlements is part of the main thoroughfare (Roman road, Via Appia Traiana) inaugurated in the year 109, on the section Beneventum – Brindisium.

This road represented in fact the route followed by Trajan during the Dacian campaigns.

We do not know when the road from Ad Media and Sarmizegetusa opened but we know that the distance between Viminacium and Ad Media is of 92 Roman miles, and between Ad Media and Sarmizegetusa is of 94 Roman miles.

On both sections of Roman road that crosses Banat, Roman settlements mentioned by Tabula Peutingeriana were identified by archaeological excavations.

In recent years Museum from Caransebes conducted archeological researches on the section of road between Ad Media and Sarmizegetusa, finding new Roman settlements at Bucușonă, Timis valley and at least in Zavoș, where we discovered an impressive Roman Villa, dated during the reign of Emperor Trajan.

9 Gumă 1977, 69-104.
10 Babeş 1971, 359-394.
12 Săcărin 1993, 75-94.
13 Dudasievski 2007, 104-106.
14 Medeleţ 1977, 63-74.
17 Hertz, 1755
18 Stillwell/MacDonald/McAllister 1976, 120-128.
20 Ardeţ 2000, 217-222.
Abstract: During the protective archaeological excavations there were campaigns of excavations on the site at Saldum (village of Dobra), at the entrance to Upper Gorge in the Iron Gates area. Saldum could be late Roman Gratiana, or a word of Turkish origin (“ford, crossing”), but we find earlier connections of this name with the Dacian tribe Saldenses, that lived opposite to Saldum and mentioned in Ptolemy’s Geography.

The settlement was most probably founded during the period of the Flavians (68-96), but flourished until mid-2nd century. During the investigation there were encountered the vessels of local, Dacian autochthonous production together with Early Roman mostly luxurious imported pottery. These forms existed from the La Tène period until the beginning of the 3rd century AD at many sites in the Iron Gate area, indicating the cohabitation of the autochthonous population and the Romans, although the lively connections with Dacian regions.

Key words: Saldum, Iron Gates, Upper Moesia, Saldenses, 1st–3rd century AD.

Fig. 1. Section of the Danube in the Iron Gates area and positions of Saldum and Saldenses (according to: Daicoviciu 1977, Abb. 1).
The site at Saldum is about 350 m upstream from the confluence of the Kožica brook and the Danube (fig. 2). Opposite from Saldum lays Berzasca with the rests of larger Roman settlement at the confluence of the Valea Mare and the Danube. In the immediate vicinity of the site, about 300 m downstream from the fortification remains is the mouth of the Kožica brook. In the hinterland are gentle slopes of the Kučaj Mountains transversed by the fertile valley of this brook.

The Roman fortification and civilian settlement at Saldum belonged to the province Upper Moesia (Moesia Superior) and to the First Moesia (Moesia Prima) in the late antiquity. In the preserved Roman texts and itineraries we did not find the data concerning the name of this settlement. Some authors with certain reservations tried to identify Saldum with Gratiana or Cantabaza (Kantabaza). The assumption that Saldum is Late Roman is suggested on the basis of the data from (Κανταβαζά). The assumption that Saldum is Late Roman Gratiana was suggested on the basis of the data from Nuntia Dignitatum where the garrison of auxilium Gratianense is mentioned somewhere between Golubac (Cuppae) and Donji Milanovac (Taljata) (Petrović 1980: 766, Iđim 1984: 133). Gratiana was mentioned in 528 when the Ostrogoths under Vitiges achieved a victory when the Ostrogoths under Vitiges achieved a victory over the Herules and Gepides and destroyed this settlement on the occasion (Vasić 1995: 41-42, note 9).

In the course of archaeological excavations 1967-1970 revealed that there are two archaeological sites in the area called Saldum, one of them was situated on the left bank of the brook and another on the right bank of the Kožica. In the course of archaeological excavations 1967-1970 was investigated most of the interior of the fortification, the area of the supposed necropolis was explored by test trenches and in the same way were investigated the remains of the partition walls in the Kožica valley and these works encompassed the area of 1,500 square meters.

At the site, nor in its immediate vicinity there have been no registered remains from the La Tène period, however, there were two spots with traces from the Bronze and Earlier Iron Age archeologically confirmed: on the Danube bank itself, at 700 m distance from Saldum, there was a settlement examined from the Bronze Age (belonging to Dubovac-Zato brdo culture), while downstream from that site, there were registered settlement remains from the 5th – 4th century BC (Tasić 1968: 104; Iđim 1969: 144; Popović 1984:135).

The excavations in the interior of the fortification at Saldum have been concluded at the relative depth of 5.10 m because of the underground waters so all the layers, especially from the early Roman period and prehistory had not been completely investigated. The data about the earliest remains of Roman settlement or fortification at Saldum are rather scarce. The earliest Roman layer (E) dating from the second half of the 1st – beginning of the 2nd century contains sporadic remains of the building rubble (Jeremić 2009: 31). In one of the excavated areas were registered loose broken stones with the remains of the burnt wooden architecture and timber structures with floors of packed earth was also confirmed nearby.

The contact and interaction of Saldum with Dacia had probably begun in the Flavian period, when the settlement was founded, and possibly the first camp at this position was established. Among the portable findings of the Roman origin (luxurious pottery from North Italy and Gaulish provinces, terra sigillata, terra nigra, marbled vessels and vessels with thin walls; military equipment — sword of Pompeja type and bronze vessels with stamp) there can be found autochthonous typical Dacian forms of pottery – pots and so called Dacian cups, used as beakers or lamps (fig. 3/1-11).
The Dacian pottery at Saldum is dated from the Flavian period to the beginning of the 2nd century according to the finding circumstances (Jeremić 2009: 56-59). All Dacian vessels (twenty specimens) were handmade of unrefined brown poorly fired clay. They are part of the Dacian production as we know it from many sites in the middle Danube basin and that is synchronous with the Roman pottery forms (Babović 1984: 116-117, fig. 8, 17-90; Jeremić 1986: 50; Cermanović-Kuzmanović and Jovanović 2004: 187-188). These forms of the pottery existed from the La Tène period until the beginning of the 3rd century AD in Upper Moesia. Large amount of pots of Dacian type from Singidunum belong to two chronologically different variants that differ in the fabric and surface treatment. The pots of rather coarse fabric and lavishly decorated under the rim dated from the end of 1st and the beginning of the 2nd century, while later specimens (end of 2nd – beginning of 3rd century) are made mostly of brown-red fired clay, they are of finer fabric and undecorated or decorated with button-like protrusions (Nikolić-Djordjević 2000: 79-80, type II/34).

During the second half of the 2nd century AD, the Dacian element in the material culture of Saldum was lost. The portable findings represent products typical for Roman-provincial manufacture. The goods in 2nd – 3rd century come to Saldum mostly from the workshops from Upper Moesia, possibly even from Dacia, from where the ceramic glazed statuette of a nude Venus originates (fig. 3/12) (Cyjećčanin 1997: 62, type RC 62; Gudea 1997: Abb. 26; Jeremić 2009: 200-201, cat. 653).

During the archeological research the existence of a stone fortress, with thin walls and shallow bedrock was registered, and which was modified after the abandonment of Dacia in the period of Aurelian (270-275), judging by the find of a brick with the stamp of praepositus, Hermogenes (Dušanić 1976: 276, kat. 3, sl. 3; Jeremić 2009: 50, cat. 5). On the basis of the bricks with stamp of this commander found at Cezava-Novae, Ravna-Campsa, Boljetin-Smorna, Donji Milanovac-Taliata, Prahovo-Aguzar and Sviinja it is assumed that Hermogenes was active in the final decades of the 3rd century or in the beginning of the 4th century, in the time of Aurelian (Novae) or in the post-Aurelian time (Sovorna, Taliata). (Mirković 1998: 118; Zotović 2006: 551). It is not impossible that Hermogenes stayed at Saldum in that time as money circulation indicates an intensive life (Jeremić 2009: 225, phase II.b). Its building activity was also witnessed on the Dacian side of limes, in the reparation of the fortress of Sviinja (Gudea 1974: 140-146).

For the later periods there are no clues found of trade, economic or any other kind of connection with the settlements on the left side of the Danube. Due to defense of the empire borders in the period of Valens and Valentinian, more troops with their families were settled here, most probably from Lower Pannonia and not from Lower Moesia, according to the findings typical for the late Roman production with no elements of Chernyakov-Sîntana de Mureş culture. The army protecting this spot was defeated in the invasion of Western Goths in 378/380, and the whole settlement was destroyed. Another stone fortress of smaller dimensions was only built in the Dacian period, with 0.14 ha of surface, providing residence for a smaller squad, that was, in the next few decades, protecting the border from the Avars and Slavs, who had however finally destroyed the fortress around 592, or a few years later, according to the findings of the most recent money remains (Popović 1975: 482, fig. 7).

The connections of Saldum with the Dacian region, as we have seen, were present from the beginning of the settlement, actually from the founding of the military garrison in this area. The name Saldum itself could be derived from the Dacian tribe name Saldenses. The findings of ceramic trays typical of Dacian manufacture point to the presence of Dacian element among the early Roman settlers. It is most likely that in that period customs (poriorum) were established in Saldum, followed by the flow of goods and men between these two provinces. Two provinces in the time of Empire, up to the point when Aurelian had left Dacia. In the following centuries, up to the breakdown of the Roman limes, Saldum had played a great strategic role in preserving the territory on the right bank of the Danube.

References

Research, Preservation and Presentation of Banat Heritage: Current State and Long Term Strategy


The Roman Origins of the Hercules Spa

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Abstract: The evolution of the Hercules spa resort in the last centuries has affected severely the old roman traces. Today these legendary ruins can not be admired because of modern facilities build here. Only one map from the time of the Habsburg Empire has retained traces of Roman buildings and aqueducts. However the importance of this discovery requires an archaeological research and better use of national cultural heritage.

Keywords: roman baths, old map, exhibition, local museum, Herculane

Herculane from the Cerna Valley is one of the oldest resort known worldwide through spectacular archeological finds from Roman times. The largest research has been conducted in eighteenth century during the rebuilding and modernization of the old establishments. This work was repeated several times during the next century and always with military craftsmen of the austrian army. Francesco Griselini is one of the witnesses that wrote about this (GRISELINI 1984, 205 - 222). Monuments, sculpture and epigraphic discoveries and significant amount of money being removed from the Roman ruins of Herculane have made an impression at the time (TIMOC 2010, 185). Ancient baths, as suggested by numerous scientific papers which have appeared during the 18. - 19. century, show special attention to the area and enjoyed popularity among scientists of the Enlightenment. Its image is comparable with the famous city of Pompei from Italy. The geographical position, between the slopes and narrow place where the ancient settlement was discovered by the habsburg administration forced the architects by the urban systematization to sacrifice the roman ruins found here in situ. The biggest change has suffered the Cerna River. His bed was dammed with huge vertical stone walls, the ancient ruins during this operation were „burying”, including the old baths. Basically their tracks have been incorporated into the cliffs dammed. This arrangement entailed and have changed the trajectory and appearance capture of the thermal springs, which before flow freely in Herculane from thousands of years. Modernization has led in fact to change the face of old sites more rustic, simple in appearance (TIMOC 2010, 186). The current number of hot springs can say without any mistake that some at least six were known and used by the Romans. The steam cave was also popular in ancient times, and bath in thermal water could be made in small basins fed continuously with springwater by means of gutters.

Unfortunately today remembers nothing more of the Roman ruins. I pointed out in several previous articles how the Hotel Roman in communist time, without consulting archaeologists and historians had as a consequence mutilation few remaining Roman ruins here. The created modern museum point is absolutely ridiculous and have not a proper functionality, just to confuse the visitors and put them in charge. The small relief on the cliff with the character of Hercules Salutiferus, the only authentic Roman remnant is barely indistinguishable from modern clad with marble and brick (TIMOC 2003, 200). Copies of Roman inscriptions found here in the eighteenth century made in marble and with modern letters give a strong note of kitsch and unprofessional aspect to the exhibition. The massive door of glass from the entrance and the modern imitations of classical greek amphoras from inside (the ancient Greeks never established in Herculane) can only disappoint and leave totally confused tourist visitors.

Mistakes and blunders in movable and immovable heritage are not from yesterday in Hercules Spa. Ever since austrian – hungarian times have been made major studdies in preservation of ancient remains. For example the Hygeia watersource is evidenced by a monument of gutters.

For example the Hygeia watersource is evidenced by a monument of gutters. General Nicolae Cena is one of the oldest museum from towns of Romania. Founded in 1923 by romanian Army General Nicolae Cena is one of the oldest museum from Banat but nowadays is more closed than open (BURACU 1924, 14). The tourist can visit the small exhibition if he
is lucky to find the door open in two upstairs rooms of the old Casino, just above the central main entrance. Unfortunately the lack of a fixed schedule, a curator and guide dedicated to this modest but important museum captivates tourists who want to know something about the past of the site. There is not a single poster, a brochure of the exhibition for the support of the tourists. The inventories of the museum that we have the opportunity to verify are not in required standards. The few items, most Roman inscriptions and brickstones, lie dusty in a room whose walls full of mold making you out as soon you entered in the museum. Most disturbing, in our opinion, is that the exhibition was remade in communist era with pieces from other museums just to fill the tables and a good part of the small finds from Herculean given to the museum exhibition from Nicolae Cena are not more to see there. I could identify between the exhibition pieces the legion VII Claudia stamped bricks discovered at Gornea and images from other Roman sites in Banat and Teregova, Mehadia and without any connection with Herculanum. It is very sad that a mountain resort with a rich heritage as authentic as Herculanum is not highlighted on the Internet even as they deserve. Lack of the concern of the authorities and property issues leaves the old establishments continue further decay of the resort, loss of fabulous ar- chitectural monuments and a historical legacy that oth- er countries would like to have. The Roman traces from the misfortune Herculea spa can not be more recovered. Remains our obligation (together with the support of the local and central authorities) to set up a museum re- sort, in a suitable extended visit space, including all ages of settlement evolution throughout history (BOZU & MICLI 2005, 142).

To highlight the sculptural and epigraphic discoveries that made famous the spa requires a comprehen- sive research of the K.u.K. archives in Vienna, so we can recover the context in which these pieces were found. Registration and marking the field of ancient Roman settle- ments and bringing to the light, where this is possible, through excavations of ancient habitation levels would make the local history more vivid and certainly. Just with some good implemented archaeological projects the age of Herculanum would be appreciated properly.

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Abreviation
PB – Patrimoniul Banaticum, Directia pentru cultura, cultă şi patrimoniu cultural, Timișoara.
SIB – Studii de istorie a Banatului, Universitatea de Vest din Timișoara.

Research, Preservation and Presentation of Banat Heritage: Current State and Long Term Strategy

In accordance with the Regional Conference in Vrsac, with the subject “Research, Preservation and Presentation of Banat Heritage: Current State and Long Term Strategy”, the anticipated subject which presents the economic and political importance of South Banat and Roman roads from the same period, has still a definite goal to show new and for the first time published information about the subject. The goal of this subject and presentation is in harmony with the subject of the whole conference, namely, the objective presenta- tion of all known current information in the given area and the representation of the facts that influenced economical de- velopment of the South Banat in the IV century, the de- gree of the research, and of course, suggestions about the future research of the subject.

Abreviation
PB – Patrimoniul Banaticum, Directia pentru cultura, cultă şi patrimoniu cultural, Timișoara.
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The importance of the subject:
The territory of South Banat was always a very im- portant political and economical factor in the Danube area, because of its strategic position and advantages. Direct contact with Danube gives this area great impor- tance as a border area. When we look at historical facts, it is very clear that the part of Banat near Danube and the part of Banat towards North, it was always consid- ered as a border zone, in antique period, in Middle Ages and modern or contemporary age. Geo-political position of the region and the advantages that it offers had made this zone of direct interest of the Roman Empire in the IV century, in spite of strong barbarian elements in the zone, especially Sarmatian. Having in mind that this part of Banat in the IV century was a direct border zone with the barbarian world, it was obvious the great interest of the Romans to use economical and strategic advantages of South Banat and in the same time, justified the pres- ence and intervention of the Roman army.

The degree of the research:
Historical and archeological research of the South Banat started in the second half of the IV century, and from 1876, Leornhard Bhm and his coworkers pub- lished several reports and information in the periodi- cal publication “Tortenenli es regessiti ertosito”. In the Romanian part of Banat, the first information can be found in Daminasch Bojinca’s notes in 1833 and after that, by Nicolaie Stoica de Hateg. However, the greatest merit for the research and publishing of the researched information about South Banat has Felix Milner. He was totally devoted to discover and present archaeologi- cal and historical facts about Banat. Surely, great merits have Ivzan Berkezi, and in the recent time, the research is continued by V. Dautova-Rasevlijan, Olga Brukner, Nicolae Mitjovic, Maja Dordovic, Dinca Benea, and the list goes on.

Political facts that influenced economic situation of South Banat in the IV century:
The territory of present Banat in the IV century, es- pecially West and South Banat, was characterized by the arrival of new Sarmatian forces at the end of III and the beginning of the IV century, which additionally made stronger the Sarmatia cultural element, which was al- ready present in the zone.

Political events in the South Banat had influence on economical life and development of the territory, but the greatest influence had the interventions of the Roman army. The Sarmatian forces attacked Roman territory, in the provinces of Moesia and Pannonia, so Constantine I have decided to punish Sarmatia’s military campaign, and in 322, unexpectedly attacks Sarmatia forces. The Romans had great victory and they managed to take captive great number of Sarmatian soldiers, along with their leader, Rausimodus. After the Roman’s victory, the South part of Banat comes under direct influence of the Roman econ- omy. Especially the part by Danube, which Constantine I completely adapts according to the Roman’s interests, as well as for the importance of this border zone and easier protection from the barbarian campaigns at the Roman provinces, and for the resources they could gain. We es- pecially talk here about the metals from the mines in the Romanian part of Banat. So, under Constantine I, in South Banat, and not only here, were obviously great efforts to build fortress for protection of Roman territory, or to ren- ovate the already existent Roman’s defense systems.
Therefore, for the economic development of this zone, the Itinerarium and the Roman road system played an important role. The road system in the area was found a Roman monument which proved that in the same zone, in the approximately same time, were present both, Sarmatians and Romans. A similar case is at the fortress in Sapaja, where, in the interior of the fortress were found Roman’s and Sarmatian’s objects. The remains of mutual presence of Romans and Sarmatians, regarding economics, proves a certain amount of short stability and safety. Then, continues toward north, the Roman road in the area was found a Roman monument which proved that in the same zone, in the approximately same time, were present both, Sarmatians and Romans. A similar case is at the fortress in Sapaja, where, in the interior of the fortress were found Roman’s and Sarmatian’s objects. The remains of mutual presence of Romans and Sarmatians, regarding economics, proves a certain amount of short stability and safety. An another accumulate land road in the same zone can be tracked from Starčevo toward Kovin, crossing the territory of contemporary Banatski Brestovac, Bavanište and Ploča (Đorđević, 1996, p. 128). However, in this case it is needed the subject to be up-to-date and the motivation where the written historical documents are very rare, it is needed the subject to be up-to-date and the motivation where the written historical documents are very rare, it is needed the subject to be up-to-date and the motivation where the written historical documents are very rare, it is needed the subject to be up-to-date and the motivation where the written historical documents are very rare, it is needed the subject to be up-to-date and the motivation where the written historical documents are very rare. The road which leaded to Tibiscum was used in the IV century and it was of a great importance. As for the Serbian part of Banat, it seems that the Roman road went north of Sapaja, in a straight line 15 km, to the river Apo, known as Karaci. From the station Apo FL the road continued toward Arcidava, in today’s Romania. From the Felix Miller’s documents we can notice the existence of a possible Roman settlement near Grebenac, which lead Maja Đorđević to introduce the hypothesis that Apo FL was located near the village Grebenac or in the area. In this part of Banat were found Roman objects from an earlier period, the most known among the Roman’s findings is Roman ara with the consecration to Victoria Vitrix, on the island of Suciou in the middle of the IV century. The Roman road system in this area provided the development of the economic system in the IV century and the approaching of the zone to the Roman influence.

**Indicators of the economic state of South Banat**

The economic state and degree of economic development of a certain territory is possible to study based on archaeological findings from a certain period of time. In this case, economical indicators for the IV century in South Banat are, mainly, the findings of coins from this period, ceramic objects and proofs of population. The findings of money from Banat in a great number and specifically for the IV century are the presence of a great number of coins in hoards. Great hoards made from thousands of pieces, like those in Vršac, Racadija, Pojejena, Radimlja, Moldova Veche (Chirila E., 1974, p. 22-25) and so one, are proofs of a high degree of economic development. On the other hand, great number of hoards is also a proof of political instability and frequent changes in the region.

In the entire Banat region, and not only on the South, there are about 45 findings of money from the IV century with several thousands of coins. As an indicator of an economic state is the fact that from the all amount of money, 97% make bronze coins which proves that South Banat and broader region under were included in the Roman currency system and that bronze coins had a stable value in the IV century. A small number, or in many cases the absence of money of silver value, from silver and gold coins, that the economy in the region was stable while under the authority of Roman power and that there wasn’t a need to collect precious metals. The fact that money left in hoards from which one also completely extracted, show better the safety and security which Roman economy gave to this zone in the first half of the IV century (Suciu V. 2000, p. 179.).

The research of economic state based on the findings of money, is possible to notice the fact that the Roman influence was the greatest during the time of Constantius II for the biggest amount of money in hoards comes from the period under his rule. In the same way, the research of the money findings in South Banat proves that the greatest accumulation of money in the Romanian part of Banat was in the period between the years 340-348, and in the Serbian part of Banat between the years 348-354. This also proves that the region of Banat near Danube which belongs to Serbia was less influenced under Roman economic system and administration. The findings from this part continue with intensity until 375, while in the south-east part of Banat the hoards mostly ended up in 354, but interestingly enough, in a smaller quantity, they appear again at the end of the IV century, in a rather bigger scale in the period of 383-392, but not close enough to the level from the year of 348.

Economical connections of South Banat were direct- ed to the all parts of the Roman Empire and the money that came from the West and central part of the Roman Empire made 58,1% of the whole findings, while from the East part of the Empire came 41,9%. This economic state shows that the South part of Banat was under the influence of the whole Roman Empire in the first half of the IV century and the zone also inclined more to the East. The biggest influx of money in South Banat arrived from Sirmium, although a great influence had Siscia, Solun’/Thessalonik, Hraklea and Constantinopol.

When it comes to ceramics, Olga Brukner presents the findings from Barbarikum, South Banat (Brukner, 2006, p. 199-216). Doina Bena also presents all familiar findings in the region, including the South part of Banat in her book "Dacia sud-vestica in secolele III-IV". The ceramic products are of a poor quality, mostly local products, which indicates similarity of economic state with the zone of South Mezija, where in the IV century there weren’t notorious pottery studios or known pro- duction. A local influence, Roman and Sarmatian is present and shows medium and, from time to time, stable state of the economic system.

The population area was mostly rural, in small dimen- sions, with the exception of military defense points. Small populated places proved to have a barbarian origin, and showed a poor economic state of the population. Lot of the found settlements weren’t permanent and belonged to the Sarmat population. The use of bronze coins in small, barbarian populated places evidenced the commercial character of the zone and the acceptance of the Roman economy by Sarmats, mostly after their defeat in 322.

The long-term goals of the research:

Taking under consideration the importance of the subject in historian circles, the systematic research is more than needed. All known information of not mentioned information come from old researches, excavations, which were discovered mostly by accident during the work of construction or agriculture. To get to know better this part of Banat, and not only to identify its role on the borders of the Roman Empire, it is absolutely necessary systematic archaeological research of already familiar but little investigated locality from the IV cen- tury. New archaeological findings would explain, for sure, the already existent, but foggy picture of the economic state of South Banat. Furthermore, this need is valuable for both sides of Banat, Romanian and Serbian.

For the better understanding of this part of our his- tory where the written historical documents are very rare, it is needed the subject to be up-to-date and the motiva- tion for further investigation.

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Preliminary Results of Archaeological Research at the Medieval Site of Starčevo-Livade 2008–2010

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Abstract: The site of Livade is located in the vicinity of the village of Starčevo, about 6 km east from Pančevo and at the same distance northeast from Starčevo. It spreads along the road Pančevo–Kovin, at a distance of several hundred meters from the left bank of the river Nadel. Rescue archaeological excavations, carried out in 1984, revealed a part of a necropolis dating from 8th–9th century. A Medieval settlement was discovered during the ground survey in 1971 and 2007. Trench type excavations, which confirmed the existence of a settlement, were carried out as soon as in the year 2008. On that occasion, there were found remains of settlement structures and two inhabitation phases were defined, the earlier phase dating from 7th–8th century and the later one from 9th–10th century. In 2009, excavations were carried out on the right side of the road Pančevo–Kovin and there was excavated a part of a Medieval necropolis on the tumulus, dating from 12th–13th century. It is supposed that there existed a church from the same period. Systematic excavations of this settlement started during the campaign in 2010.

Key words: Early Middle Ages, settlement, dwellings, open air kilns, pottery, necropolis.
The site of Livade is located northeast from Starčevo, at a distance of about 6 km from the last houses in the north outskirts of the village (fig. 1). It is situated at the end of a slightly elevated loess ridge and along the bank of a channelled water flow spreading in the east-west direction, along the road Pančevo–Kovin, and emptying in the river Nadel about 500 m farther towards the west (fig. 2). The site is approximately 850 m long and 250 m wide. It was registered in 1971 during a systematic ground survey organized by the Provincial Institute for Protection of Cultural Monuments in Novi Sad when pottery fragments, which could be roughly dated from 8th–9th century, were collected at the surface (Брмболић, 1991: 66; Барачки и Брмболић, 1997: 226).

During the channelling of the above mentioned river flow, in 1984, rescue-orientation archaeological excavations, organized by the Unit for Protection of Cultural Monuments of the National Museum in Pančevo, were carried out. At the excavated area of about 200 m², in the east part of the excavation, there was discovered a part of a Late Antiquity necropolis (4 graves), dated to the 4th century according to the coins, and, in the west part of the excavation, there was discovered a part of a necropolis from the Late Avar period (15 graves), which can be dated, according to the burial offerings and fragments of costumes, to the period from the end of 8th to 9th century (fig. 3) (Гачић, 1985: 178-179; Букаш, 1988: 134-135; Пан, 1997: 137-142).

During the autumn of 2008, the team of the National Museum of Pančevo, carried out trench type archaeological excavations at the site of Livade. In close vicinity of the west border of the excavation which had confirmed the existence of a necropolis in 1984, a trench was excavated in order to identify further spreading of the necropolis towards the west. However, the excavations in the area of the necropolis did not give any results. At about 600 m west from the location of the necropolis, on a slightly elevated bank descending towards the channelled river flow, on the left side of the road Pančevo–Kovin, two more trenches were excavated in order to research the area where surface pottery finds, dated roughly to 8th–9th century, were collected during the ground surveys realized in 1971 and 2007 (fig. 4). In the area of the second trench, which gave certain results, four structures were completely excavated, namely, two dug-in houses which could be roughly dated to the period from 7th to 9th century, according to the archaeological finds, and two dug-in houses which could be roughly dated to 9th–10th century. There was identified a complex horizontal stratigraphy. The houses of the later settlement were dug through the cultural layer of the earlier settlement, while some of them were buried over the houses of the earlier settlement. Archaeologically sterile subsoil was found at a relative depth of 0.8–0.9 m, as measured from the surface level.
The structures 4/08, 6/08 and 12/08 belong to the earlier settlement. The houses belonging to this horizon have almost square bases, with small kilns in the northeast corner and floors made of compacted earth. One house (structure 4/08) was identified at a relative depth of 0.75 m, as measured from the surface level. The house was buried into the subsoil and it was filled by light brown earth mixed with chunks of yellow and white clay containing rare fragments of handmade pottery. The structure has a rectangular base and its dimensions are 3.3 x 2.5 m. In the northeast corner there were preserved the remains of a 0.6 x 0.4 m kiln, surrounded by brick and stone fragments. The floor was made of well compacted clay and it is situated at a relative depth of 1.1 m, as measured from the surface level. The second house (structure 6/08), buried into the subsoil, was identified at a relative depth of 0.8 m. The same as in the structure 4, the infill consisted of light brown earth mixed with chunks of yellow and white clay containing rare fragments of handmade pottery characteristic for 7th–9th century (fig. 5/1), as well as a fragment of an iron knife (fig. 5/2). The house has about 3.2 x 3.2 m square base. In the northeast corner there is a 0.4 x 0.4 m kiln made of baked earth. The floor made out of compacted earth is situated at a depth of 0.9 m, as measured from the surface level. This structure has been damaged by digging in of later houses, namely by the structure 8 in the south and by the structure 9 in the north. Only a smaller part of the third house (structure 12/08), which also belongs to the earlier horizon of settlement, was excavated. The structure was identified during the cleaning of the southwest corner of the structure 8 which transacted the third house.

The later settlement horizon includes the structures 8/08, 9/08 and 10/08. The houses from the later settlement have a more complex structure. North from the structure 6 belonging to the earlier settlement is located the structure 8. It is about 4.2 x 4.2 m square base house, including a 0.7 x 0.35 m kiln in the northeast corner (fig. 6). The structure was followed starting from the depth of 0.5 m, as measured from the surface level. From that level upwards, there was found a greater quantity of archaeological material, pottery fragments, daub fragments and animal bones (fig. 7/1-7). At the depth of 0.7 m, as measured from the surface level, there was identified a regular dugout for this house. According to a greater quantity of pottery found in the backfilling layer, it can be supposed that, after having been deserted, the structure was used as a garbage pit. The main characteristics of this house are foundation trenches dug in along the edges of the house. Above the floor of the kiln made out of baked earth, there was found a concentration of stone, which indicates that the kilns used to have a stone structure. The floor of the house was made of compacted clay and in the northwest corner there is a 0.7 x 0.9 m pit. The pit was buried 0.5 m deeper through the floor and it was probably used as a garbage pit. The structure 9/08 is located north to the structure 6 and has a complex stratigraphic situation, having in mind that the preliminary results allowed to identify three inhabitation phases, based on the existence of three kilns and the fact that the floor made of compacted earth was repaired several times.

In the first phase, this house probably had the following dimensions: 5.4 x 4.4 m. It included the kiln 1, which is located in the northeast corner of the structure. About 0.8 x 0.6 m of floor of the kiln made of baked earth was preserved, as well as a 0.8 x 0.6 m round pit – grain storage pit in the southwest corner, about 0.6 m deep starting from the floor level. At one point, the north edge of the original house was moved for about 1m towards the south, which is confirmed by the new foundation trench dug in through the floor made of compacted earth which belonged to the previous house. This second house probably included the kiln 2, with preserved dimensions of about 0.5 x 0.2 m. The house probably got a square base in the last phase, according to a new foundation trench and a new kiln 3, with dimensions of about 0.35 x 0.40 m, as well as a new floor made of compacted earth covering the opening of the storage pit in the southwest corner. After having been deserted, this structure was also used as a garbage pit, the same as the structure 8/08, taking into account that there was found a larger quantity of fragments belonging to the identical pottery, and even fragments of the same vessels, thrown away in both structures (fig. 7/8-9).

The find consisting of a partly damaged bronze byzantine anonymous A2 class follis, forged between 976 and 1030/35 is particularly important (fig. 7/12). The reverse of the coin contains a bust of Christ facing with nimbus, wearing a tunic and himation, blessing with his right hand and holding the Gospel Book in his left hand. The reverse contains a standardized inscription 'ИВАНІЕВИЋ 2006: 169, Т. 42/700). The follis was found in the backfilling layer of the structure 9/08, namely at the level after which the inhabiting of this location was interrupted at the beginning of 11th century.

The structure 10/08 represents a trench dug in over the northeast part of the structure 9. The uncovered part of the trench is 3 m long and 0.60–0.90 m wide. The trench was dug in at about 1 m from the surface level. In the backfilling of the trench (brown ashy earth with chunks of white clay) there were pottery fragments manufactured on a slow potter wheel, corresponding to the pottery found in the later horizon of settlement.

Due to the lack of small archaeological finds, there is an excavated area (structure 7/08) which cannot be precisely chronologically defined, but only roughly dated from 7th to 10th century. The structure represents an open air kiln, buried into the subsoil at a depth of about 0.55 m, as measured from the surface level. It consists of...
fig. 7 – Finds from the later horizon of settlement, 9th-10th century.

fig. 8 – Plan view of graves from the Medieval necropolis.
Livade. On that occasion, there was discovered a part of this tumulus, which is also located within the area of Pančevo. During the ground survey of the site carried out in 2007, there was discovered a greater quantity of graves and grave structures about 250 m². The excavations were carried out in the south part of the settlement, next to the road Pančevo-Kovin, where four 5 x 5 m squares were completely excavated. In the whole area, there were excavated four houses which belong to the earlier phase of settlement (structure 12/08 – partially excavated house in 2008, structures 2/10, 8/10 and 9/10) and there was identified the position of a double trench marked as structure 1/10 which could be associated to the structures 5/08 and 10/08 from the excavation campaign in 2008. Another double trench (structure 5/10) was discovered in the rest of the excavated area, as well as one smaller trench (4/10), one larger open air kiln dating from the later horizon of settlement in 9th–10th century (structure 7/10) and the same kiln dating from 12th–13th century (structure 3/10, including a pit – structure 6/10) (fig. 4).

Among the structures belonging to the earlier phase of settlement (7th–9th century), was dug in. In the middle of the east and west edge of the house there are two openings for columns-piles, which used to support the part of the house above the ground, probably a double pitched roof. The infill of the house contained very little finds, among which can be distinguished a fragment of a dome-shaped cooking utensil. The structure 2/10 represents a 3 х 3 m square base house buried up to the depth of 1.2 m. In the northeast corner there is a kiln above which there was found an important quantity of broken pottery (fig. 5/3-7). Most of the fragments belong to handmade pottery, with a lot of large gravel and crushed pottery mixed with the material it was made of (about 90%). Besides fragments of pots, there were also discovered fragments of dome-shaped utensils (fig. 5/5) and a pair of a vessel which could belong to a handmade cauldron (fig. 5/4). Next to the south-west edge of the house there is a grain storage pit. The structures 8/10 and 9/10 also represent 3 х 3 m square houses with a kiln in their northeast corner and column pits in the middle of the east and west edge (fig. 10). The finds discovered in the infill of the house are quite uniform. Handmade pottery prevails comparing to the pottery manufactured on a slow potter wheel (fig. 5/8-11). The infill of the structure 9 contains potteries shards which could belong to clay cauldrons (fig. 5/8, 9).

An access pit, with almost square 1.74 x 1.7 m base and a round furnace of about 1.4 m in diameter. The floor of the kiln was made of baked earth. The spherical structure of the kiln has not been preserved.

At about 130 m south from the Early Medieval settlement and about 600 m east from the Nadel, on the right side of the road Pančevo-Kovin, there is a slightly elevated area in form of a tumulus with a diameter of about 30 m (fig. 1). During the ground survey of the site carried out in 2007, there was discovered a greater quantity of brick fragments and human bones at the surface of the tumulus. For the control purpose, at the end of 2009, smaller trench type excavations were carried out on this tumulus, which is also located within the area of Livade. On that occasion, there was discovered a part of a Medieval necropolis with a total number of 28 identified graves, some of which were entirely excavated. The burial pits contain skeletal remains of individuals buried in a stretched position laid on their back, oriented in west-east direction, with certain tolerances, with their arms in different positions, but mostly crossed on their stomach (fig. 8). In some graves there were found parts of jewellery (silver earrings-loops, necklaces with pearls made of glass paste, bronze ring with serrated ends), as well as the finds of silver Hungarian coins from the end of 12th and the beginning of 13th century (fig. 9). The excavations confirmed multilayer burials, with overlapping of graves and difference in orientation of the different tombs. The remains of a church building, indicated by the brick fragments, were not identified on that occasion. However, the burials which had been performed probably after the demolition of the church building were identified thanks to the discovered graves and grave structures made of brick fragments. Overlapping of graves was also identified in this later burial horizon.

Systematic excavations in the area of the Early Medieval settlement started during 2010. The system of a square grid allowed the excavation of a total surface of about 250 m². The excavations were carried out in the south part of the settlement, next to the road Pančevo-Kovin, where four 5 x 5 m squares were completely excavated. In the whole area, there were excavated four houses which belong to the earlier phase of settlement (structure 12/08 – partially excavated house in 2008, structures 2/10, 8/10 and 9/10) and there was identified the position of a double trench marked as structure 1/10 which could be associated to the structures 5/08 and 10/08 from the excavation campaign in 2008. Another double trench (structure 5/10) was discovered in the rest of the excavated area, as well as one smaller trench (4/10), one larger open air kiln dating from the later horizon of settlement in 9th–10th century (structure 7/10) and the same kiln dating from 12th–13th century (structure 3/10, including a pit – structure 6/10) (fig. 4).

Among the structures belonging to the earlier phase of settlement (7th–9th century), was dug in. In the middle of the east and west edge of the house there were damaged when the structure 8/08, one of the houses from 9th–10th century, was dug in. In the middle of the east and west edge of the house there are openings for columns-piles, which used to support the part of the house above the ground, probably a double pitched roof. The infill of the house contained very little finds, among which can be distinguished a fragment of a dome-shaped cooking utensil. The structure 2/10 represents a 3 х 3 m square base house buried up to the depth of 1.2 m. In the northeast corner there is a kiln above which there was found an important quantity of broken pottery (fig. 5/3-7). Most of the fragments belong to handmade pottery, with a lot of large gravel and crushed pottery mixed with the material it was made of (about 90%). Besides fragments of pots, there were also discovered fragments of dome-shaped utensils (fig. 5/5) and a pair of a vessel which could belong to a handmade cauldron (fig. 5/4). Next to the south-west edge of the house there is a grain storage pit. The structures 8/10 and 9/10 also represent 3 х 3 m square houses with a kiln in their northeast corner and column pits in the middle of the east and west edge (fig. 10). The finds discovered in the infill of the house are quite uniform. Handmade pottery prevails comparing to the pottery manufactured on a slow potter wheel (fig. 5/8-11). The infill of the structure 9 contains potteries shards which could belong to clay cauldrons (fig. 5/8, 9).
The structure 1/10, namely the double trench, was identified by a 9 m long square excavation realized within a square grid, as well as by excavation of about 1 m long trench 4/10. As already mentioned above, this structure could be associated to the structures 5 and 10 discovered in 2008, which provides an image of a circular trench surrounding an area with a diameter of about 20 m. The width of the trench varies between 1 and 1.2 m, at some points, up to 2 m. The trench is 0.9 to 1 m deep. This trench can be quite precisely dated to the later phase of inhabitance, with pottery finds dating from not later than 9th to 10th century. This has been stratigraphically confirmed by the fact that this trench was dug into the infills of the structures 2/10 and 9/10, which belong to an earlier horizon of the settlement. Finally, the double trench can be associated to two houses excavated in 2008, dated according to pottery finds to the same period, that is, to 9th–10th century. The position of the trench shows that it used to surround these structures from the west, north and south, while towards the east there was an open space, since it was identified that the trench had been interrupted in the south. The structures from the later phase of inhabitance include an open air kiln (structure 7/10). It consists of an oval shaped access pit with a diameter of 1.2 m in diameter. The access pit is about 1.6 m deep. There were sporadic pottery finds in the infill of the pit according to which the structure was roughly dated to 9th–10th century.

There was discovered another open air oven (structure 3/10), consisting of an oval access pit (marked as structure 6/10) and a circular base furnace with a damaged dome superstructure. The structure was roughly dated to 12th–13th century according to the pottery finds discovered at the base of the furnace. The discovery of this structure also confirms that this location was inhabited in the later Medieval periods.

Archaeological excavations of the Early Medieval settlement, as well as the area surrounding the Medieval necropolis with the church, shall be continued in the following years. An extremely convenient location of the site, close to busy roads, represents a good base for further considering, planning and realization of the complete protection, conservation and reconstruction of the discovered houses, well-planned excavation of the remains of the church, its conservation and restoration, would allow all structures to become a part of a reconstructed archaeological complex-park which would give the future visitors an authentic insight into the lives of the Early Medieval populations in this area.

References


Medieval fortifications in Dupljaja and Grebenac

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Abstract: Grad near Dupljaja has long been known in archaeological literature as a prehistoric site famous for its unique Bronze Age finds of the votive carriages. It was not until recently, thanks to the excavations which have been being carried out since 2002, that it also became well known as a large medieval complex. The results of the previous excavations indicate that this site could be the largest archaeological site from the 11th–12th century in the south of Banat. On the opposite side of the river Karaš there is a site called Grebenac – Grad, a medieval fortress which was mentioned in written sources from the end of the 14th century. Both fortifications were used to represent important points of the same defending system. They were located opposite each other and they certainly used to control the communication along the valley of the Karaš, each in its own time and, obviously, occasionally at the same time.

Key words: Banat, Dupljaja – Grad, Grebenac – Grad, medieval fortifications.

Dupljaja and Grebenac are villages at the southeast of the Serbian Banat. They are situated in the valley of the river Karaš, at about 10 km north from its old confluence into the Danube, near Stara Palanka (Fig. 1). Dupljaja is still along the old route of a loess terrace, while Grebenac is situated at the east edge of Deliblato Sand. Archaeological excavations have confirmed the existence of remains of medieval fortresses in both villages. The fortification of Dupljaja was situated at the site of Grad southwest of the centre of the village, while the fortification of Grebenac was situated on the opposite side of the Karaš, almost facing Grad of Dupljaja.

The remains of fortifications in the valley of the Karaš, the so called „earth towns“ in Grebenac, Dupljaja and Orešac, have been attracting the attention of researchers since the second half of the 19th century (Milleker 1892: 108, 110; Milleker 1897: 121; Milleker 1899: 71; Téglás 1904a: 318–321; Téglás 1904b: 397-404; Téglás 1905: 218-221; Milleker 1906: 44-45, 217-218, 262-263). These sites were assumed to contain the remains of fortifications from prehistoric periods, and Romano–Byzantine times. The first printed plans of ground plans of these fortifications were published at the beginning of the 20th century (Figs. 2 and 3).

The fortification of Dupljaja was built at the edge of a high loess terrace, about thirty meters above the old bank of the Karaš (Fig. 4, page 218). The construction works on the great channel Danube–Tisa–Danube have completely changed the ancient appearance of this part of the Karaš valley. The old flow of the river has been artificially poured into the new channel, while many meanders and effluents, intersected and covered by embankments, have been left aside as „dead“ parts of the ancient flow.

The fortification includes a plane plateau descending steeply from the north and the west side towards the Karaš (Fig. 5). A low marshy terrain stretches at the south, and it is only at the east that the extension of the loess terrace stretches towards the today’s village. On the east side there is a large and high rampart with a deep dry moat in front of it. Today, the moat is up to 20 m wide and its bottom is at about twenty meters below the preserved height of the rampart.

East of the fortification (Vinogradi site), according to the archaeological material found on the surface of an area of at least 7 hectares, there used to be a suburb, which could have also been protected by less strong fortifications. The excavations have confirmed the existence of a lower town, which used to stretch south of the city and along the flow of the Karaš at a length of about 1 km. Test excavations at the site of Grad were carried out in 1972 (Ipsauns 1977: 18). At that occasion, there was found a necropolis dated to the 11th–12th century inside the fortress, while the trench excavated on the rampart showed the remains of carbonized wood- en structures. More recent researches, realized in cooperation with the Department of Archaeology of the Faculty of Philosophy at the University of Belgrade and Town Museum of Vračar, were started in 2002 and they are still being carried out (Janković and Radečević 2005: 275-278).
Since the beginning of excavations, the works have been conducted through the east rampart of the fortress, which was built out of loess excavated from the outside during the digging of the moat. The excavated loess was probably backfilled in the structures made out of horizontal wooden girders. There have been defined two construction phases of this rampart. Some parts of an older rampart have been discovered - a structure made out of surfaces of compacted loess placed between horizontal girders (Fig. 6, page 218). Regularly delimited rectangular surfaces covered with fired loess are separated and between them there is a surface covered by pure loess, without traces of burning. The older rampart had been flattened at one moment and, later, a much wider and higher rampart was built above it. Due to the leveling of the terrain, and, afterwards, to the construction of a new rampart, a layer containing pottery, which could be dated to the 10th – 11th century, was closed next to the west side of the older rampart. On the top of the later rampart there was found the presence of stone and mortar, while in the interior there was found a layer of fine gravel leaning against the rampart. That layer was dated thanks to the finds of Hungarian and Byzantine coins from the second half of the 12th and the first decades of the 13th century.

The large building has not been completely excavated. Only some parts of it have been superficially uncovered. A silver jewelry and coins hoard found near the foundations indicates until what time the building had been functional. The hoard contains: a fragment of white quartz, a pair of earrings with three berries, 8 bracelets, 9 rings and 3 buckles. On certain objects there were preserved the remains of different issues. The total number of coins exceeds 1000 and it includes Hungarian, Frisian, English and Irish money. The analysis of the hoard indicated that it was buried during the Mongol Invasion in 1241 (Byscui 2008: 91). At the moment, this hoard represents also the latest finding of the site of Grad, since the former excavations have shown that, after those events, the life within the fortification was never restored.

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Fig. 2. Dupljaja – Grad: site plan (according to Téglaš 1905: 218-221).

Fig. 3. Grebenac – Grad: site plan (according to Téglaš 1904b: 399, 401, 403).

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Fig. 5. Dupljaja – Grad: situation

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South of the site of Grad, on the east edge of the lower town, there is a site called Veliki Prokop (Fig. 5). On that site there is about 3 m high prehistoric tumulus, above which was built a medieval church. The excavations of the church and the necropolis started in 2002 and have not been finished yet. There has been discovered a cross-based church containing an inside semi-circular apside and a rectangular apside on the outside (Fig. 9, page 218). It has been defined only at the surface, while the interior has not been completely excavated yet. There were preserved the foundations made of well compacted earth, which shows that the elevated parts of the walls were built of bricks and stones joint by lime mortar. The foundation is 8.65 m long and up to 8 m wide. On the west side of the church there was a 6 m long vast exterior narrowth. At the area covering the tumulus and around it, it was confirmed the existence of a necropolis, which so far has been more thoroughly explored only on the north side of the church. The excavations have shown that the church was built above the existing necropolis, but the exact time of its construction has not been defined yet. Therefore, the graves found under the foundations have not been useful, since they contain no finds. According to the results of the former excavations, burying was practiced from the 12th to the 15th century, at the latest up to the mid 16th century. Until the next excavations, it will remain unclear whether the graves belonging to the earliest horizon of burials found so far, dated to the 12th century according to the finds, precede the construction or they were also buried around the existing church.

The fortification in Grebenac was built with the help of the east rampart of the town, on a slightly inclined terrace on the north side, the conditions allowed creation of a lower town which, according to the archaeological material found on the surface, used to spread towards the old flow of the Karáš (Madaš 2001: 30-35). There

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The report on the excavations carried out in Grebenac mentions only the finds dated from the 13th to the 15th century, but on the same site, on the surface, there had already been found pottery finds which can be precisely dated to the 10th–12th century according to their typological characteristics (Madas 2001: 30, Т. 24). Therefore, it can be assumed that in that direction, between the points of the same defense system. These fortresses, each with their own individual characteristics (Madas 2001: 30, Т. 24). Therefore, it can be assumed that the fortification in Grebenac could have represented important independent fortifications.

The biggest market for the archaeological values of the region is a Roman and early Byzantine bridge (Madar 2015: 30, T. 24). Therefore, it can be assumed that the fortification in Grebenac could have also been of importance in the centuries which pre-dated to the 10th–12th century according their typological characteristics. However, due to the absence of finds in the graves, their dating was not possible. The excavations, there is also a problem of protection, presentation and sustainability of the site. Namely, the European Convention on Protection of the Archeological Heritage (revised) provides for the measures for physical protection of archaeological heritage, protection of the areas which are to become archaeological reserves and maintenance of archaelogical heritage in situ, if possible. The advantage of the Karaš is its proximity to Belgrade, as a potential great consumer, and to the Danube road, with its remarkable archaeological and tourist attractions (Vincă, Smедерево, Vinica and Ram, which is connected with Dupljaja, Židovar and Vrača by the DTD channel. Therefore, a well conceived archeological park, including natural treasures, would provide a solution, both for the protection and for the exploitation. On the Karasi, Grad near Dupljaja is the most convenient site for reconstruc- tion and implementation of a tourist offer by building an ethnocratic settlement.

Abstract: In the lower flow of the Karasi, there are three glo- bally known archeological sites:
• Grad near the village of Dupljaja is a prehistoric site well known for its find “wheelbarrow of Dupljaja”.
• Židovar is a prehistoric sanctuary established in the Bronze Age which has certain characteristics of a fortified settlement. It is situated on a hill in the loess ravine of the Karasi near the village of Oresac. It has been used as a settlement from the 1st until the 1st millennium a.d. and as a place of habitation. The excavations, which have been launched several times (Uzelac J. et al. 1997), have uncovered up to 5 m deep archeological deposits; the excavated surfaces are protected by a thin layer of earth. It is threatened by vandalism and erosion.
• Lederata is a Roman and early Byzantine bridge-head, a castle built in order to defend a floating bridge at the entrance of Dacia. It was situated at the island of Sapaja near Stara Palanka, next to the confluence of the Karasi into the Danube, which is now mostly submerged by the lake formed by the dam of Derdap I. It had been used until the 18th century (Dumprajnus, 2006). The excavations on Lederata cannot be expected to be continued soon and the protection of the submerged remains seems unrealistic at the first sight, unlike the site Dupljaja. On both sites, the architectural and archeological excavations, as well as solving of the problem of their protection and presentation to the public, are expected to last for decades.

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it connects all countries by waterways and not only those along the Danube. Following the downstream course from Belgrade, along the right bank there is a number of remarkable archaeological sites on the bank itself or very close to it: Neolithic Vinča, crypt of Saint Ermi and Stratonic in Brestovik, Smederevo, the town of Margun – Morava at the mouth of the Morava with the Turkish fortress of Kulič, then, there is also Viminacium, a well-preserved Turkish fortress of Ram and a Roman-Byzantine fortress called Novi facing the mouth of the channel Danube–Tisa–Danube (the former Karaš). The distance between Belgrade and Ram by navigation on the Danube is 106 km. Grad near Dupljaja is at 20 km by waterway from the Danube and Lederata, and Židovar is at about 3 km further. Besides the mentioned archaeological sites, the Karaš offers protected natural rarities, natural reserves of Deliblatska peščara on the west side of the Karaš and Mali pevak on the left bank, as well as the channel Danube–Tisa–Danube, the old effluents and old flow of the Karaš. There is also the town of Vršac with its museum and the castle of Vršac, as well as Bela Crkva with its rich accommodation and gastronomy offer. Traveling along the left bank of the Danube from the Karaš to Belgrade, one comes across Kovin with its remains of a medieval town, and then Pančevo on the mouth of the Tamis, with its rich museum, churches and Vojlovica monastery. Therefore, there can be organized at least a three-day trip from Belgrade, rich in archaeological contents, with two nights spent near the mouth of the Karaš, in Bela Crkva or Vršac.

Grad near Dupljaja has the most convenient position on the Karaš, the best preserved archaeological site from the 11–13th century in the Pannonia and it is situated in a protected natural environment (fig. 1). Grad is situated between the asphalted road and the channel Danube–Tisa–Danube, next to a village provided with water supply and electricity. On the other side of the channel, there are Deliblatska peščara and the town of Grebenac, a fortification from the 12–13th century. That is the reason to start the construction of the archaeological park at that particular spot. Upstream from the road Belgrade–Bela Crkva to Židovar, there could be easily reconstructed the former landscape with boglands and effluents of the Karaš in order to obtain a region with clear waters rich in fish, with wild animals and birds. Along the destroyed banks of the Karaš, towards the channel Danube–Tisa–Danube, downstream from the road Belgrade–Bela Crkva to Židovar, there can be created parks, zoos, botanical gardens and different playgrounds.

The biggest edifice of Grad are the ramparts which are about 800 m long and at least 10 m wide, at some places approximately 5 to 10 m high comparing to the interior of the fortification. In front of them, on two sides there were lower ramparts and on the third side there was about ten meters deep moat. The rampart was made of compacted loess and wooden girders and the upper part and the surfaces were only made of wood. The important length of the rampart, simplicity of its exterior appearance and low price of the necessary construction material are making the experimental conservation and restoration easier at some extent. The previous excavations have provided a partial cross-section through the rampart, 3 m wide and 15 m long (fig. 2). That trench can be completely excavated and covered by a transparent roof, fixed lateral sides (fig. 3). This would allow the visitor to experience and understand the proportions of construction projects undertaken to build ramparts and their destiny. Besides that protected and open cross-section through the rampart, there could be made a reconstruction of the original rampart, maybe in different stages, as a representative edifice, including the necessary explanations (fig. 4). Next to it, maybe without systematic excavation, there can be reconstructed a rampart with the annex residential buildings, which could at first be used for accommodation of the archaeological team. Then, there should be gradually built the whole rampart including an attractive accommodation area (hotel) providing an ethno-archaeological atmosphere. There could be accommodated hundreds of visitors. That would also allow organization of excavations financed by the participants, foreign students or tourists themselves.

Prehistoric buildings of the lower town could be protected in a similar way. The started excavations of a Bronze Age house on Rivače, under Grad near Dupljaja first require a reliable financing, regarding the importance of the discovery. That house, of a perceived surface of 15 x 7 m, with a plethora of pottery finds, lies under a 2 m thick layer of mostly sterile loess. In its close proximity, there is a vertical bank of an old effluent of the Karaš, about 6 m high. The house may be conserved in site by realizing a complete excavation of an appropriate width and providing a trench open towards the Karaš, enabling the access and visits from the river bank (fig. 5). It should be covered by a double pitched or semi-circular transparent roof, placed on the existing soil. Next to it, on the surface, the house could be reconstructed together with the casts of the found inventory.
In Spring 2007, the entire site was threatened by the floods, so a reconstruction and amateur archeological excavations were carried out in order to strengthen the dam laying north of the site led to removal of the upper earth-layer from it. Besides this, atmospheric influence, constant treat by river led to exposure of skeletons at the surface. Because of that, Bronze Age and Sarmatian age cultural layer were practically destroyed, whereas osteological material and archeological context of necropolis were placed in jeopardy. Therefore, urgent preventive archeological excavations were undertaken in May 2010, and were continued in July 2011.

In 2010, four archaeological probes were undertaken and total area of 80 sqm was thoroughly explored. 30 cm beneath the river bed were found bronze age ceramic fragments with the construction debris, graves have been found embedded into the loess.

The probes had lead to discovery of 22 graves, oriented from west to east. Their shape could not have been determined and they had no connections on them or around them whatsoever. Skeletons were found laying stretched, placed on the back of the head, with the hands beside the body, except in graves 2, 3, 4, 17, 18, 19, where one hand was found laying beside the body, whereas other was placed on the stomach or the pelvis.

A research had been done by Narodni muzej Zrenjanin from May to June 2010, and later from July to August 2011, led by archeologist Snežana Marinković and her team, consisting of archeologist Ivana Grubić, academic photographer Dragana Marinković, and these stu-
dents-interns: Natalia Miladinović from the Archeological Institute in Belgrade was entrusted with the anthropological analysis of the bone material. Excavations in 2010, and 2011 were financed by Provincial Secretariat for Culture in Novi Sad.
 Especially interesting was the grave of the female along with children graves 9, 9a and 9b. It was partially preserved, oriented from west to east, with arms bent in elbows, and both legs bent in their knees. 

Grave 9a, belonging to a child, well- preserved body remains with only bones of feet and arms missing. The carcase was laid on back, with legs bent and skull facing north, in total orientation west-east. Grave 9b was partially preserved, with bodily remains of a child laid back with legs stretched in position west-east, 17 degrees to north (T. II/5).

Grave goods are scarce and classified as ceramics. These are mostly pot-fragments, done by pottery wheel with typical medieval XII-XIII century decoration, consisting of horizontal and sinuous lines. Most valuable finding from this necropolis is the bronze ring, found in grave 17, heavily damaged and dated in XII or first half of the XIII century. Bricks with traces of mortar found at the spot indicate the plausible presence of the remains of medieval church. The necropolis Atar C most likely had several burning levels, all related to remains of the church. Atar C-Sečanj chronologically corresponds with other burial grounds in Banat, such as Omlolica, Sv. Vodice-Perlez and Dupljaja. Field survey of the nearby terrain on the right and left bank of Tamiš showed fragments of pottery that could not had been determined.

The initial archaeological excavations of the site Atar C near Sečanj resulted in significant, although not decisive findings. Further research will be focused on determining the shape of the necropolis, and perhaps the location of the medieval settlement and church.

Grave goods are very rare. Some graves contained grave goods, huge amount of dislocated bone material was found in the same area, this number might prove to be much higher. Based on the analysis of the ceramical findings, burial customs, and bronze ring found in situ, the necropolis is to be dated in XII or first half of the XIII century. Bricks with traces of mortar found at the spot indicate the plausible presence of the remains of mediaeval church. The necropolis Atar C most likely had several burning levels, all related to remains of the church. Atar C-Sečanj chronologically corresponds with other burial grounds in Banat, such as Omlolica, Sv. Vodice-Perlez and Dupljaja. Field survey of the nearby terrain on the right and left bank of Tamiš showed fragments of pottery that could not had been determined.

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**Literature**


**Key words:** the Vršac Castle, archaeological research, Vršac, Banat, Serbia

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At the end of 19th century a small fortification on the Hill aroused great interest of the professional and general public. The attention was primarily focused on the always visible tower. Therefore, some minor constructive interventions were performed in 1894 and then again in 1993, with the aim to repair the existing damage (Milleker, 1996: 51). The first archaeological excavations, which were probing character, were made in 1952. In the western foot of the donjon tower, a trench between southern and northern walls was set up, defining the width of the fortifications. Probing archaeological research carried out in 1983 along the ramparts and walls of the building determined the shape of the basis and dimensions of the fortress. 

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1. Archaeological excavations made in 1952 were managed by R. Baracki, the Director of the National Museum in Vrača. Results of the excavations are known to us in small extent, only on the basis of a few drawings and photographs kept by the Town Museum in Vrača.

2. Probing archaeological excavations were managed by S. Baracki, archaeologist and the curator of the National Museum in Vrača.
The first systematic archaeological research was initiated in 1996 after the building of a parking lot at the foot of the Tower. In the same year, a project was made, containing archaeological and conservational works for reconstruction and revitalization of the fortification and its immediate surroundings.1

In the following five years the archaeological research showed that it was a well preserved mediaeval fortress, 58 m long and 21 m wide in the central part. Apart from the always visible square donjon tower, some additional findings were made: a semicircular tower at the western part of the plateau, constructions built in stone—the palace, water tank and parts of building by the donjon tower, as well as remains of a wooden building by the semicircular tower (Fig. 1).

Based on analysis of the archaeological remains found, we can conclude that the construction of the fortification was performed in two phases and the movable archeological findings point to a short period of time.2 Eastern part with donjon tower was built in the first phase, the evidence of what is the fact that the donjon tower walls were built together with the eastern ramparts, as well as simultaneous building of the southern and northern with the western ramparts. After completion of construction of the eastern part, during the second phase, the western part of the walls and a semicircular tower were erected. Clearly visible dividers between the southern and northern ramparts and western walls of the eastern part, i.e. later the partition wall, indicate to that. The height and the width of the walls varied, being 11 m in the eastern, and 8 m in the western part and 1.90 m and 1.60 m respectively (Brombic, 2009: 24-32). The northern rampart was in its eastern part destroyed to the ground. Based on the terrain configuration, possible access and arrangement of buildings within the fortification, the main entrance/gate might have been in this part.

The mighty donjon tower (Fig. 2), with 13 x 11 m in basis and height of 19.85 m is reinforced by escarpments on three sides. The interior space is divided by wooden floor structures into the ground floor and two upper floors, while the third floor serves as a walking path. The main entrance to the tower is in the western wall and could be reached by removable wooden stairs.3 There is a preserved furnace in the north-eastern corner of the third floor of donjon tower, built of the brick-chimney type (Fig. 3). The complex structure has two combustion furnaces, one in the level of the floor and the other-above, in the level of the walking path. Chimneys of the both furnaces merge into one with the diameter of about 0.70 m. The closest analogies can be found in nearby fortresses on the Danube—in Ram and Golubac (Simic, 1984:78; Simic G., Simic Z., 1984:47; Cunjak, 2008:82). In the south wall of the second floor, outside the wall outline, there is an opening of a machicolation which was used for wall defense (Fig. 4). The tower probably had a pyramid-shaped roof covered with boards or shingles.

The building by the southern rampart was probably a palace, the main landlord's residential facility (Fig. 5). Circular openings in the southern wall indicate to the existence of another floor. The ground floor consisted of two rooms, the bigger one served as a storage room and the smaller one with the furnace, as a kitchen. The entrance to the ground floor was in the shape of a protruding vestibule, measuring 3 m x 3 m. The closest analogy to our assumed appearance of the entrance into the ground floor and the upstairs part of the palace is the vestibule of the mediaeval Diocese in the Belgrade Fortress (Papovic, Bikic, 2004:224-236).

In the safest part of the castle, in its north-eastern corner, there is a circular tank (Fig. 6, 7). It was carved into the rock, to the depth of 3.30 m, with the diameter of 7 m. The existence of hydraulic mortar, or elements that would point to the well filters, have not been found. As both the tank and the palace might have been built in the first building phase, it is realistic to suppose that the tank was in use, but also that it was completely destroyed by collapsing of the walls (Brombic, 2009: 52-54).

1 The Manager of the Project was Marin Brmbolic, archeologist and adviser with the Institute for Protection of Cultural Monuments in Pancevo. The research had been carried out continually from 1997 to 2001 and in 2001 the organization of work was taken over by the Institute for Protection of Cultural Monuments of the Republic. In a part of eastern yard and foot of the donjon tower, the works were performed in 2002 by the Town Museum of Vrsac, outside the existing Project.

2 Results of the research were presented in a number of articles and in 2009 in a monograph on the Vrsac Castle M. Brmbolic, V. Manojlovic-Nikolic, The Vrsac Fortress—Vrsac, the results of systematic archeological and conservational works in 2000, the Herald of Serbian Association of Conservators 25, 108-111; M. Brmbolic, V. Manojlovic-Nikolic, The Vrsac Fortress, the results of archaeological and conservational works in 2001, The Herald of Serbian Association of Conservators 26, 116-119; M. Brmbolic, V. Manojlovic-Nikolic, The Vrsac Fortress, archaeological excavations in 2002 in the eastern part, the Herald of Serbian Association of Conservators 27, 78-81; M. Brmbolic, The Vrsac Castle (The Vrsac Castle summary), Belgrade 2009.

3 Having in mind that the entrance to the tower is on the height of 9 m from the floor, it is realistic to conclude that the donjon tower was built in the first building phase, it is realistic to suppose that the tank was in use, but also that it was completely destroyed by collapsing of the walls (Brombic, 2009: 52-54).
The remains of the walls of the second tower have a semicircular base with a diameter of about 10 m. to the east, towards the interior, the tower was closed with a wall and the entrance was located in its southern part (Fig. 8). Originally, it was open to the courtyard. The existence of the upper floor is indicated by an added construction in the north-eastern part of the ground floor, with three niches: two two-part and one one-part niche (Fig. 9). We assume that this was a pedestal that bore the construction of the built furnace upstairs. The most similar fireplace to the one from semicircular tower of the Vrsac Castle can be found in the palace of the Small Town in the Smederevo Fortress (Popovic, 1978: 106).

In the west courtyard, the remains of a wooden structure were found, which could have been used as a stable or a blacksmith’s workshop, three furnaces and one hearth not belonging to the same living horizon/timeline (Brmbolic, 2009: 55-58). In the central part of the courtyard, six graves have been found. They originate from the second part of the 16th and the beginning of 17th century, the period when the western part of the castle was already in ruins, and in use were only the donjon tower and eastern courtyard (Brmbolic, 2009: 59-61).

Numerous movable archaeological finds contain fragments of ceramic vessels, arms and pieces of warrior equipment, as well as objects of various use made of iron, born or stone. Jewellery and objects luxuriously handcrafted from bronze and glass are much less present. Among the most numerous movable archaeological finds are the fragments of pottery. The vessels which were used for the preparation of food include pots, lids, bowls, extractors and earthenware dishes. Table pottery-dishes in which food was served, is less represented, while many fragments of ceramics belong to technical pottery.

Numerous are fragments of so-called kitchen pottery: vessels used for food preparation - pots, lids, extractors, bowls and earthenware dishes (Fig. 10). This kitchen pottery reflects local traditions in pottery making and is most similar to specimens discovered in the Belgrade Fortress and Fortress of Smederevo (Bikic, 1994: 77-79; Bajalovic-Hadzi-Pesic, 1981: 46-48; Cunjak, 1998: 218-220), while the pots used for cooking food over the open fire were produced in Austrian pottery workshops (Bikic, 1994: 91; Bajalovic-Hadzi-Pesic, 1981:97).

Within the ramparts of the Vrsac Castle, a small number of table pottery fragments (bowls, jugs and pitchers) were found (Fig. 11). It is possible that the bowls, though mostly brought from some of the Hungarian pottery workshops, were also made in Belgrade (Bikic, 1994: 82). According to numerous similar specimens from the Belgrade Fortress, found in the area of the castle and north-eastern walls of the Lower Town, it is possible that they date from the 15th and the first decades of the 16th century (Bikic, 1994: 82-83). According to its technological characteristics, a bowl made of kaolin white clay, most probably came from a Hungarian workshop. Due to very small size of the fragments, we were able to reconstruct only one decanter. Based on other fragments, we can only guess the repertoire of outer surfaces and the handles. Scarce fragments of jugs, judging on the ornaments, are very similar to the ceramic material found in the Belgrade Fortress, as well as the jug discovered in the Small Town of the Fortress of Smederevo (Bajalovic-Hadzi Pestic, 1970: 63-64; Popovic, 1978: 107-109).

Numerous fragments of baked pottery are parts of the furnace situated in the ground floor of the Palace. Conical in shape, narrow and long, they had an inside grooved edge. Pottery of this type represent frequent findings on numerous sites in Serbia dating from the same period. The closest analogy is found in the furnace pottery from the Belgrade Fortress, excavated at the foot of the Danube Slope (Bikic, 1994: 103-105).

More luxuriously handcrafted objects, including bronze and glass dishes, a candlestick and pieces of jewellery, bone and horn shells, represent rare findings (Fig. 12). These objects were mostly imported from Hungary and can be put in the 15th-16th century timeline (Brmbolic, 2009:78). Although found randomly, a bowl and a candlestick deserve special attention. The bowl-goblet is made of silver-plated copper sheet by the hammering technique. The walls are embossed and decorated with a series of vertical ribs, and on the surface of the bottom there are extremely stylized floral motifs. This type of a bowl-goblet was used in the Serbian lands south of the rivers Sava and Danube in the 14th and 15th century and in their workmanship the influence of old Byzantine art with elements of Gothic are clearly visible (Radojkovic, 1977: 89-90). Well preserved chandelier is made of iron in the casting technique. The candlestick is placed on three legs bent at the right angle, with their bases found between the donjon tower and the palace.

6 The paper gives a smaller number of objects as an illustration; complete analysis and illustrations of movable archaeological findings from exploration of the Vrsac Castle can be found in: M. Brmbolic, The Vrsac Castle, Belgrade 2009: 63-101, fig. 33-56.

7 According to the records kept at the Town Museum in Vrsac, the bowl-goblet was found at the foot of the donjon tower and the candlestick was found between the donjon tower and the palace.
stands facing outwards, made very precisely in the shape of feet. In terms of topology, the candlestick can be classified as figurative. As well as the bronze bowl, the candlestick was certainly not a product of the local workshops. They are likely to have been made in the German workshops from where they were exported all over Europe (Bikic, 1992: 223-228). To our area they probably arrived from Hungary through existing trade routes. Similar objects were discovered in fortresses north and south of the Danube, but also in monastery settlements dating from this period (Birtasevic-Hadzi-Pesic, 1992: 217-222; Brmbolic, 1984: 83-92).

The most numerous group of movable archaeological findings consists of weapons and pieces of warrior and horse equipment (Fig. 13). Weapons include only the types used for distance fighting: arrow points, spears and stone projectiles, while the horse and warrior equipment includes spurs and horseshoes. The biggest number of findings consist of iron arrow points, which is quite common in medieval fortresses. The arrows discovered during archaeological excavations in the Vrsac Castle belong to two groups: the top solid arrows with implant of circular cross section, which were discharged with crossbows, and arrows with lighter tips and thorn which were discharged with a bow (Manojlovic-Nikolic, 2007: 50-54). Weapons for distance fighting include also a few spears and a lot of stone projectiles (Manojlovic-Nikolic, 2007: 54-55). Spurs represent integral part of horseman
equipment. However, specimens discovered during excavations are mostly fragmented. They belong to a group of late-Gothic spurs appearing at the end of 14th century and also used during the 15th century (D. Nikolic, 1956: 70-71; Cunjak, 2005: 114). We can classify iron shoe enforcement as part of equipment, maybe warrior’s equipment, used for strengthening of lower shoe/boot parts.

A small number of tools were found on the Vrsac Hill, while hinges, padlocks, locks, latches and bolts are preserved parts of the Vrsac gates and other doors made of wood and wooden structures (Fig. 14).

Among the tools used for farming, three sickles and one scythe were found, damaged and severely corroded. A knife with bent blade and twisted handle was used in the treatment of skin, while the sharp-peaked hammer at one, and widened hitting surface at the other end, was probably used in a blacksmith’s workshop. Very small number of specialized tools and also insufficient space within the ramparts are witnesses to non-existence of intensive craft activities. Based on the results of the archaeological research, we can conclude that in the western courtyard only the essential everyday activities, those which satisfied the basic needs of the castle inhabitants, were performed. Among the items that found application in everyday life of inhabitants of the Vrsac Castle are knives and whetstones. Knives of different shapes, dimensions and usage belong to the most spread findings in all medieval archaeological sites. Although it is sometimes hard to determine precisely whether the knife was used as a tool, or as a weapon, the pieces discovered in the Vrsac Castle, judging by dimensions, can be safely classified as tools.

Taking into consideration the applied solutions and organization of space, the donjon tower within the walls, the other defense tower across, the palace and water tank located in the best protected part, this fortification is characterized as a castle similar to the castles in the Belgrade and Smederevo Fortress and the one on Maglic (Popovic, 2006: 204-207; Brmbolic, 2000: 112). Built at an expertly chosen, strategic and inaccessible place, this fortification undoubtedly had in the 15th century an important role in the system of defense of the southern Hungarian border.
The use of digital technologies in a presentation of archaeological heritage

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Abstract: In line with the constructivist perspective, heritage cannot be comprehended as a material culture, but as discourse which shapes our ways of thinking, speaking and writing about it. Nevertheless, numerous regards over the material culture and the contexts where we find one shouldn’t deny the sense of duty of an archaeologist to reconstruct the past and present it to the public with arguments. Digital technologies give us the opportunity to present different aspects of the heritage to the public and to ask questions as effectively and as cheap as possible. Those methods can make display areas more accessible to different target groups, and it is possible to especially adjust the archaeological interpretations to children groups of different ages.

The area of Vršac castle has been used through out the time because it has always been recognized as emblematic. The use of this area in middle ages, its re-use during the 16th century and the attention which had been given to it during the entire modern period represents a specific overlapping spot where all its elements can be scientifically-systematized and digitally reconstructed. Archaeological interpretations of artefacts found in the fortress and the physical-anthropological analysis of skeletons has given us rich material to create an interactive images of the past. The way we make conclusions from an archaeological record can also be shown through digital technologies, in which way the critical attitude towards the archaeological activity and heritage is affirmed.

Keywords: heritage, epistemology, digital technologies, The Vršac castle

There is no such thing as 'heritage'.

(Smith, 2006: 13)

Archaeological community in Serbia is more and more confronted with the need to step out of its "ivory tower", to communicate with the frames that go beyond itself and wonder about the ways of translating its own results to the languages of other disciplines and different social backgrounds (Smith, 2006: 13). If we consider archaeology and all the activities it applies unquestionable, then we do not have to take care of our terminology, goals of our researches, consumers of our results. On the other hand, if the results of archaeological researches are given to the audience by primary and sensationalistic tendencies, then archaeology loses its connections with the science in general. There are different possibilities between these binary oppositons which represent extreme solutions (Feder, 1999: 15-39; Hodder, 2001; Kosso, 2006: 3-22; Paslaeva, 2010: 239-258). The important question is how to solve the problem in a way that makes the presentation of archaeological work attractive and understandable to the audience, but not to depart from displaying the complex pictures of the past. It is not enough that just a trusted authority stands behind the interpretation, but it is necessary to affirm the explanations the audience towards the severe critic of our work, instead of nourishing the sacralizing relation to the past and to those who know and tell us about the past.

Using the term heritage, widely understood, we can primarily think about material culture from the angle of preservation and adaptation. The interpretation to the audience, which in practice can (but certainly does not have to) justify our own escape from clearly articulate foundation in any theoretical and methodical approach.

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strength of material culture as a testimony of interpreted digital technologies give us are very useful tools of creation expressed with the goal to educate and develop a critical understanding which heritage possesses can be consciously recognized as such are being the product of a selection based on the history of archaeological discipline is such an argument. Therefore, we are not going to reconsider what heritage is.

In this paper, heritage will be regarded from a constructivist point of view. Therefore, we are not going to reconsider what heritage is. Overcoming the ungrounded and widespread can connected the Vršac tower with Djuradj Branković, but the conclusions are made within the archaeological community and are told in a form that easily affects their imagination, it draws attention and interests of the unprofessional audience, which means that a good basis is set for the final instructive reconstruction of the history of the Vršac castle, and the derived elaboration can be seen in the book. The goal of the study is questioning of thought which archaeological researches acquire the knowledge and the reaches they strive to achieve in the first place. Marin Bribrović offered an ideal reconstruction of the Vršac fortress. Of course everything isn’t politics, but the reality is far more challenging (Томов, 2006: 189-207). Graves dug in the middle of the fortress yard and physical-anthropological analysis of skeletal material give a broad base for purposeful work of an archaeologist. However, it is a simplified understanding which indicates that translation of the text into digital images is a neutral process and that it is necessary to consider the proximity (Daly & Evans 2006: 2-7; Zuberov 2006: 8-26; Earl 2006: 173-188; Doesigner 2008).

In the southwestern part of the castle massive construction was found, with a shingle roof, which reveals herself every hundred years at midnight when she wants to free herself from the spells. (Милекер, 1996 [1934]: 1-167)

Even though he writes about mythical folktales he refers to them nearly critically:

Critical historical research, naturally doesn’t want to believe in such poetical stories and tends to get trustworthy information. But in this case it is very hard. The Ottoman rule, lasted nearly two centuries on our territory, and the people who created nothing, only destroyed or just let everything that others had created before them decay. They did not preserve the fortresses that were supposed to protect and defend them. No wonder no notification that could out-lived this terrible time was preserved. (Милекер, 1996 [1934]: 42)

His reference to the Ottoman period as “terrible times” isn’t without tradition in Serbian archaeology (Baram & Carroll, 2000: 3-32; Milošević & Janković, 2011: 5-6). They are very little revised by archaeological researches of the Vršac fortress (Брмболић 2009: 65-114; Ђоировић & Милањић-РАДМиловић, 2009: 141-167).

The digital presentation can only scratch the surface of this and many other questions, but first we need to go back to the elements of the archaeological records which are represented as dominant, i.e. architecture and its reconstruction.

The Vršac castle is situated east of the town of Vršac, on Vršac’s hill and on 400m. Above sea level. Walls of this fortress occupy a small plateau and extend over its edges. The south wall extends from the keep to semicircular tower. It consists of four unequally sized segments, which makes south wall looks fractured creating polyg- onal base of the fortress. Wall is made of crushed stone, gneiss, with irregular bond in whole-grained lime mortar. It is preserved up to 1-1.6 m in height. The original height of the south wall can only be reasonably assumed for its eastern part of its preserved traces on the outer side of the keep, 1.90 m and more. Therefore, it was concluded that the height of the eastern part of the south wall was around 11m. The western part of the south wall is narrower, and it is assumed that the height of the wall in this part corresponds with the height of the semicircular tower. Better fortification of the wall in its eastern part is explained by the fact that the nobler’s palace and the cistern were at the foothill of the keep. Ascertainment width of the walking path is reduced by 0.8 m in which is placed. The height of the central part of the tower with double slope roof (Брмболић & Милањић-РАДМиловић, 2001: 110; Брмболић, 2009: 19-29).

On the other hand, symbolic capital (Durkije, 1999: 206-230) which heritage possesses can be consciously expressed with the goal to educate and develop a critical relationship with the knowledge about the past instead of sanctifying it because the forms which digital technologies give us are very useful tools of creating critical approach, because they can neutralize the strength of material culture as a testimony of interpreted digital technologies.
Position and solid build represent the basis for the conclusion that we have pedestal for wooden stairs which led to the wall walk of the south wall. The north wall extends in a straight line to the keep. It is preserved in an average height of 1.60 m, except in the eastern part where it is destroyed to the ground. The width of the north wall is as unequal as the one of the south wall. Based on the preserved part of the north wall the keep it is suggested that the north wall was 8m high in whole. It is supposed that the position of the entrance of the tower that is destroyed to the ground, but yet it is said that the entrance could have been 3m wide with massive double wooden door. The east wall consists of two parts which are connected to the north and south wall. The southern part was 11m high, and the northern part 8 m high (Brpašošalj, 2009: 28-32).

The space within the castle wall is divided into two parts (west and east yard) by the partition wall 18.20 m in length and 1.60 m in width. A western passage was discovered in the southern part of the partition wall which connected west and east yard. The way the yard was partitioned gives the impression that the intervention was performed in a short period of time. We can see from this wall that we had an extra purpose, to defend the east yard, which was due to the constant threat of the Ottoman troops. At this point, the archaeological record is incorporated into the currents of history as an illustration of accepted, expected and standard pasts of the Ottoman troops. At this point, the archaeologist is supposed to initiate epistemological questions in archaeology exactly in this way.


THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF MEDIEVAL SITES IN TIMIȘ COUNTY
(THE PRESENT STAGE OF RESEARCH AND STATE OF MONUMENTS)

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Abstract: The paper is a short presentation of the present stage of research of medieval archaeological sites, focusing mainly on castles, monasteries and churches. For several reasons, such as lack of interest for the historical period, lack of specialised experts on medieval archaeology etc. investigation of medieval sites in Timiș County has been mostly limited to field trips and surveys. The destruction and ultimately the disappearance of monuments dated in this period probably had a great effect upon research. Since the enthusiastic starting moment of investigation of medieval sites in the 1970’s, excavations became rather rare. The last few years stand out through extremely important excavations, though of preventive character, carried out in the historical centre of Timişoara, with spectacular results for the medieval history of one of the most important towns in the Romanian Banat.

Keywords: medieval archaeology, monuments, castles, churches, Timiș County.

It is a well known fact that archaeological investigation of Medieval Age sites is extremely defective all around Romania, but especially in the Banat. Timiș County roughly overlaps the north-eastern part of historical region of Banat, composed of the Banat Plain, bordered on the south and east by the Banat Mountains and on the north by the Mureş River. A narrow stripe along the southern bank of the Mureş River belongs of administrative point of view to Arad County.

Whereas for the southern, mountainous region of Banat (Caraş-Severin and Mehedinţi Counties) we do have a more recent archaeological monograph written by Dumitru Teicu (Teicu 1998, Teicu 2008), preceded by another volume about the archaeological researches of the medieval villages limited also to the same geographical area (Teicu 1996), for Timiș County the latest similar approaches date back to the end of the 19th and to the beginning of the 20th century.
The data base contains only a slight range of the archaeological sites, particularly those included in the official List of Historical Monuments of Timiş County. For a long period, beginning with the funding of the Museum of Banat in Timişoara, archaeological constructions or field researches have been way exceeded by the new survey methods, successfully implemented during the last few years by Dumitru Ţeicu, who following the model of the above mentioned works, drew up the list of military and religious objectives dated in the Middle Ages, covering the entire area of the historical Banat (Ţeicu 2007a, also in German: Ţeicu 2007b and 2007c). We must also mention the activity of the art-historian Suzana Môrê Heitel regarding the research on ecclesiastical architecture along the lower Mureş valley, interrupted much too soon by her unexpected death (Heitel 2000, Heitel 2010). Until recently the only archaeological repertoires at our disposal (**1999 and Luca 2006), based on excavations or field researches, have been way exceeded by the new survey methods, successfully implemented during the last field research project for the enlisting of archaeological sites from Timiş County (Măruia 2011).3 We also omit to present the archaeological settlements, as a systematic research of medieval villages, markets or towns has never existed in our region. There are numerous, partly published information regarding the discovery of medieval dwellings made in multi-stratigraphic sites by experts on other periods. Excepting the chronological framing of the discoveries, the scarceness of data makes it impossible to draw conclusions in this stage of research.

Among the archaeological sites dated in the medieval times, castles, fortifications, churches and monasteries were always of great interest for scholars. These were usually the sites first to be identified and investigated. In comparison with the surrounding region Timiş County has a very poor medieval constructed heritage still preserved. This matter of fact is due in large measure to the lack of solid construction materials in the area, such as stone that determined the predilection use of brick and wood in military, residential or ecclesiastical architecture. Historical events, like the Tartar invasion, the riot led by György Székely, the Ottoman conquest and later on the Habsburg rule, have also left their marks on the destiny of medieval monuments. One of the consequences of the treaty of Karlowitz in 1699 was the destruction of fortifications in order to prevent local resistances.

The archaeology of castles

Timişoara was one of the most important medieval settlements of the region: while Cenad played the role of an Episcopal see, the medieval Themesswar was more of an administrative and military centre of Timiş County. Charters reveal that as early in the 12th century a royal castle existed on the bank of the river Temes, the first indirect mentioning dates back in 1177 (Borsa 1962, 213). At the beginning of the 14th century, more precisely between 1317 and 1323, an earthen castle was erected to Timişoara. For the housing of the royal family a new castle was built here. Later on, during the 14th and 15th centuries the same castle was used as a residence by the counts of Timiş, who probably expanded and modernised the castle in order to fulfil not only the technical and military demands of their time but the new architectural trends as well. Jenő Szántkláray, a clergyman known for his monographs of the medieval Timişoara and of the region, localised the residence of Charles I in 1902.

When reparation works were carried out at the so-called Huniade castle from Timişoara. At that time the building was used as a military garrison for almost 200 years. When the discoveries of the medieval ruins belonging to the castle were made, architects and historians were invited to see the site (Szántkláray n.d., 7). That time and further on in the 1950’s serious destructions were made at the site because of interventions in construction. The foundations of the present day building, constructed in the early 18th century, and rebuilt in 1856 following the siege from 1849, were reinforced with concrete, meaning that in the present they cannot be investigated with traditional methods. The first professional excavations in 1890 were led by archaeologist Alexandru Rădulescu (Rădulescu 2006). The latest investigations were started in 2007 due to the restoration project of the building. The excavations were carried out by the Banat Museum under supervise of A. Rădulescu (Rădulescu et al. 2008). The researches are still going on in the present under the direction of the author. During the five campaigns of excavations aiming the inner courtyard and the north-western wing of the building, constructions dated in the 14-15th century have been revealed (Fig. 2a). In the present stage of our research we can state that the royal castle consisted of a donjon with a quadrate shape plan, a pala- tial building, a defence wall and a moat (Rădulescu et al. 2008, 142-143; Fig. 2b). These were erected mostly of brick upon wood posts. In later construction phases, dated in the first half of the 15th century, stone blocks were used in the foundations. The destruction of the 14-15th century castle sometime at the end of the 16th century apparently was caused by an attack, probably the siege led by Stephan Báthory in 1596-1597. Preceding the Ottoman siege in 1551 the reinforcement of the castle was carried out. Later on, during the Ottoman rule, further works were fulfilled. On the eastern part of the building, segments of the earthworks dated in the 16-17th centuries were discovered (Rădulescu et al. 2008, 142-145). These consist of alignments of oak posts; the space between them was filled up with clay. On the southern, eastern corner of the castle the foundation of wood posts which could belong to a possible rondella were identified (Fig. 3a). Another wooden structure, oriented E-W, might have belonged to a bridge that linked the castle to the eastern suburb, as the town maps of the time also certify (Fig. 3b). Archaeological excavations mostly confirm Evely Celebi’s accounts about Timişoara at the middle of the 17th century.

In the historical centre of Timişoara archaeologi- cal rescue excavations were carried out in 2006 reveal- ing parts of the medieval town. Different phases of the streets paved with wood were discovered on this occasion (Fig. 4a). Unfortunately investigations haven’t reached the limits of the late medieval town therefore no elements of the presumed fortification were unearthed (Draşovean et al. 2007, 79-84). The early, 12-13th century fortification wasn’t localised either until the present.
For the latest restoration works at the tower took place in 1962-1963, when the battlement and the roof have been reconstructed (Săcară 1970, 166).

The castle of Jdioara is a more isolated one, its location probably contributed to the preservation of the ruins after it has been demolished by the Habsburg authorities. The castle dated in the 13-18th centuries has been the object of several archaeological campaigns carried out during 1972-1979 by Adrian Bejan. These were preceded by the surveys made by C. Daicoviciu and I. Miloia in 1930 (Daicoviciu-Miloia 1930). The purpose of the excavations, aside from the scientific research, was the introduction of the monument into the circuit of historical tourism (Bejan 1979a, 199). The project has never been finalized (Fig. 6a). The castle constructed entirely of stone is situated on a hill with three steep slopes, access was allowed from the west, from the Timiş valley. Some segments of the walls have been preserved in 6-7 m height. The shape of the castle is adapted to the configuration of the field: a polygon with rounded corners of 40 x 22 m

Fortifications existed also at Cenad in different phases of the Middle Age. Elements of a fortification were reported as a result of archaeological excavations: the rampart with two construction phases was discovered in the courtyard of the Romanian Orthodox Church (Iambor – Matei 1996), the second phase was dated in the 16th century.

In the orthodox cemetery of Foini excavations aiming the protection of the archaenum revealed a “V” shaped defence ditch with the depth of 2.3 m and width of 2 m. An alignment of post holes belonging probably to the palisade was also discovered parallel with the ditch (Draşovean 1996, 44).

Another archaeologically investigated small fortification is the one situated near Gladna Română (Old Castle). In 1987 the Museum of Lugoj carried out a conflagration. Based on archaeological finds archaeologist concluded that the castle was in use for a brief period sometime under the reign of King Sigismund of Luxemburg (Popa et alii 1987, 13). The constructions inside the fortification were made entirely of wood. Archaeologist identified two major phases of functioning: some reconstructions were carried out after a conflagration. Based on archaeological finds archaeologist concluded that the castle was in use for a brief period sometime under the reign of King Sigismund of Luxemburg (Popa et alii 1987, 13). The constructions inside the fortification were made entirely of wood. Archaeologist identified two major phases of functioning: some reconstructions were carried out after a conflagration. 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were unearthed, along with pottery, stone tiles, household objects and coins from the 16-17th centuries (Moroz 1995, 52). On the occasion of the construction of the Drăgănescu River University in 1992-1993 rescue excavations were carried out again on the presumed site of the late medieval castle. Two lines of post holes were identified parallel with the Timiş River. The posts had the diameter of 0.40 m and were placed at the distance of 0.50 m; the distance between the two lines was 9 m (Moroz 1995, 53). Excavations were probably hindered by the construction works and haven’t been extended. The only trench was drawn apparently on the length of the defence ditch, the observations made at the end of the 19th. Within the two trenches drawn up on the northern side of the actual church, several habitation layers dated from the Bronze Age to the medieval times have been recorded. Two parallel walls, assigned to the early 11th century were interpreted as the foundations of the northern aisle of the church constructed by Ahtum (Fig. 10a). In the 13th, respectively in the 16th century reconstructions have been carried out reusing the structure of the inner wall (Iambo et alii 90-92). Archaeological investigations were resumed in 1987 and 1994-1995, when the foundations of a rotunda dated in the X-XII centuries have been unearthed in the vicinity of the present day church (Iambo-Matei 1995, 19). Renewing an older hypothesis belonging to Frigyes Ortvay, Suzana Heitel considered that the rotunda could have been the burial chapel of St. Gerard, placed under the holy patronage of the Virgin Mary (Heitel 2005, 19). Excavations have been carried out also in 2000-2002, with the participation of Museum of Banat also, publication of the results is still in work.

A map discovered in 1999 in the archive of the Catholic Bishopric and dated in the first half of the 18th century changed in some respect the vision regarding the topography of the medieval religious establishments in Cenad (Fig. 10b). The map illustrates three churches: one placed outside the fortification, another two towards south, inside the fortification. The first one is considered to be the Serbian Orthodox Church, probably built upon the apses of the St. George cathedral, the second one is the St. Mary with the annexes of the monastery and the third one is the church of Ahtum (Heitel 2005, 16-17). The small map on our exposition it is clear that final conclusions regarding the history of medieval ecclesiastical monuments in Cenad cannot be formulated in this stage of research. Undoubtedly the publication in the near future of the results of archaeological excavations will constitute a major contribution to the medieval history of one of the most important religious centres not only of the region, but of the entire Hungarian Kingdom.

Igriş is another important medieval site because it is the first Cistercian monastery from the territory of the present day Cenad established here at the end of the 12th century (Heitel 2010, 49). Historical events had a great impact on the later evolution of the monastery: it had been ravaged in 1241 by the Tartars, later by the Cumans. The fortification of the monastery, mentioned by written sources must have been constructed under the influence of the menacing attacks. King Andras II and his second wife, Yolanda of Courtenay have been buried here as situated next to the monastery of St John the Baptist. Regarding the third church mentioned by Henszal only opinions are divided. According to Katalin Dávid it must be the cathedral church St. Salvador (Dávid 1974, 21). On the other hand, art historian Suzana Heitel believed that it must be identified with the chapel of St. Ladislaus, described in the charter issued in 1433 as situated above the chapel of St. John the Baptist. She also stated that the church of St. John must have been in use until the 13th century, and even further on, possibly as a subterranean church or crypt (Heitel 2010, 28-29).

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The ruins of Igriş, situated west to Igriş, on the bank of the Mureş River were identified for the first time by Kálmán Juhász (Juhász 1927, 195-198). This latter site hasn’t been an archaeological excavation site, but we dispose of some photographs made by the same Juhász.
were identified. The dimensions of the church are 35 m side-chapels; the principle aisle is delimited by two pairs with basilica plan has a central semi-circular apse and two 1927, 197). Although nearby the monastery many artefacts have been found, the excavations didn’t reveal any trea- use. With the occasion of a more recent field trip could be observed that the dam was constructed partly upon the ruins, two building were also placed on the site after 1973 (Ţeicu 2007, 100).

According to medieval written documents Timişoara had two parish churches, with the patron saints of St. George and St. Eligius. There are also mentioned the chapels St. Margaret and St. Mary and a third church dedicated to St. Martin. These could be independent chapels situated in the town or perhaps within the walls of the castle. The function of side-chapels belonging to the other churches is a theory that must be also taken into consideration. Monastic orders were also present in Timişoara. We have certain data of the Dominican monastery; presumably the Franciscans were also present (Petrovics 2008, 68-73). Following the Ottoman con- quest in 1552 probably all churches have been trans-formed into mosques. These are represented on plans and maps of Timişoara, dated in the 16-17th centuries, but were never exactly localised. The only one we can surely localise is the St. George’s church, situated be-neath the square that today bears the name of the same patron saint. According to historical tradition the church was the first campaign of the walls belonging to a church erected on the north-west and north-east of the church where habitation layers, a dwelling dated in the 16th century and six graves without any funeral inventory (Ţeicu 2008b, 173). Unfortunately the foundations of the church have not been investigated; therefore no conclusions regarding the presumed medieval construction phases could be formulated.

Medieval documents refer to the market of Mănăştiur in the late medieval times as a settlement with a castel-bum (Pesty 1885, III. 882). Close to the present day village on the bank of the river Bege, the traces of a fortification have been identified. In 1979 a series of archaeological investigations have been initiated in order to clarify the exact chronology and the nature of medieval fortifica-tions in Timiş County (Rădulescu 1980b). For this rea-son, at Mănăştiur, at the site called „La mănăstire” (At monastery) excavations were continued in 1982-1984 (Rădulescu 1999, 71-88). Within the results of the inves-tigations the most important is the discovery as soon as the first campaign of the walls belonging to a church constructed of brick and stone. The church with a basilica ground-plan has three aisles delimited by brick pilasters and three semicircular apses, constructed of stone. The church has the length of 22 m and the width of 12.70 m and is situated on a plateau of 30 x 20 m (Fig. 13a). Based on the ground-plan of the church it is clear that it belonged to a monastery. Teicu had proposed the iden-tification of the ruins with Zákánya monastery mentioned in medieval charters in the middle of the 15th century (Ţeicu 2007, 104-105). The church is surrounded by a ditch visible on the site also in the present. According to A. Rădulescu, who coordinated the excavations, the ditch is contemporary with the church or it has been arranged shortly after the construction of the church. Other de-fence elements haven’t been identified during researches. Both inside and outside the walls of the church graves
dated in the 14-th centuries have been unearthed. Based on these discoveries (bottoms, iron hoards, copper wire ear- 
ings, fittings, coins etc.) could be concluded that most of the graves belonged to the villagers, who possibly took over the necropolis after its abandon- 

...sometime at the end of the 14-th or at the beginning of the 15-th century. During the 15-16th centuries the ru- 
ins of the castle were fortified with a second ditch 

...placed between the first ditch and the walls of the 

...church. Based on the observation traces from the ditch, 
presented above charters are confirming or invalidating information provided by docu-
men...ions. In terms of preservation cultural and touristic re-
valuation of archaeological sites and of ruins we can state 
that such an intention is existing, probably also because of their poor state of conservation. Valorification efforts 
however seem not to be made either in case of still standing 
monuments, like the case of Ciocvara, where the early 14-th century tower is being used for utilitarian purpose. 

...future extended researches materialised also in pub-
lications, presentations and exhibitions addressed to a 
larger community should have the aim to teach and to 
raise the awareness regarding the protection of cultural heritage as a potential tourist resource.

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cation in Banat, Timisoara, 2009.
The Forgotten Collection of Vojlovica Monastery — Conservation and restoration dilemmas

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Abstract: Movable assets from the Vojlovica Monastery - icons, portraits of the church officials of the Karlovci diocese, liturgy books etc were listed as cultural assets in 1952 and 1968. Today the Monastery keeps only a small number of these objects. In 1960s they "travelled" across Vojvodina due to closing of the Monastery in 1965, for conservation purposes, displays or for safekeeping in other location. As part of the Pancevo "Museum Night" held this year, a part of this dispersed Vojlovica treasure was exhibited to the public.

What next?

Key words: collection, Vojlovica Monastery, portraits, liturgical objects.

In a very few miles from the center of Pancevo, Serbian orthodox Vojlovica Monastery stands with the church of Archangels Michael and Gabriel. The Monastery has ever been the spiritual center of Donji Banat and it is one of the very few which lasted for over 600 years on this land. According to the archive materials, folklore tales but also on the narratives of individuals of the people related to the Monastery in different ways and shared its fate in the last 50–60 years, the two centuries (the 18th and 20th) were abundant in events which posed a serious threat to the Monastery.

For example in the 18th Century the monastery has been demolished 3 times: – in 1716, 1738 and in 1788. After the World War II the Monastery was at the brink of destruction, for several years because of the anti–church propaganda of the Communist Party which had a policy against propagating religion and did its best to prevent people from practicing the religion of their ancestors and hence the usual practice of the Vojlovica Monastery.

In mid 1960's a grand industrial complex was constructed on the Monastery lands. It was the complex of the Oil Refinery Pancevo, which was supposed to lead the citizens of Pancevo and the surrounding area towards the brighter future.

However, thanks to the Refinery, which donated significant financial contributions between 1981, and 1988, some significant restoration projects in the Monastery church were completed. The church was, without a doubt, a great monument of Serbian medieval Sacral architecture was worth investing into. At that time, among other things some complex conservation and restoration was done on the church iconostasis which dates from the late 18th century and which was in the alarming state. The state of the iconostasis was known even long before any action was taken. The Record from 1948 made, under the orders of Ministry of Education FNRJ by the painters Stojan Trumic and Jovan Svedic on the behalf of Department of the Cultural Heritage Protection of the Vojvodina Museum Pavle Jefic states that the iconostasis is in an alarming state and the measures recommended for its restoration.

That record is a historic document of great value to the cultural history of that part of Banat. It is kept in the Vojlovica Monastery archives. Aside from the records on iconostasis previously mentioned the Record contains the list of the icons and portraits of the clergy officials of the Karlovci diocese which were at the Monastery when the Record was made.

The Record is also the base of the three Decisions of the Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments AP Vojvodina (no. 319/52, 323/52, 01/2-159/68) which officially verify the existence of the collection. Separately from the Record, several other records were made referring to the transfer and the takeover (the Monastery – Refinery – National Museum of Pancevo – SPCO Pancevo) which indicate the existence of many objects that had the characteristics to become cultural monuments but were not a part of the Decisions for various reasons.

Once started the listing of documents (which is occasionally a necessary reconstruction of the past) cannot circumvent the honorable Decision of the Parliament of the Republic of Serbia made at the end of 1990, which proclaims the Vojlovica Monastery to be a cultural asset of extraordinary value.

After the thorough examination of the stated decisions and the records and the comparison with actual physical state of the Monastery some shocking data emerged. The collection was sent to various places in Vojvodina due to the conservation, closing of the Monastery in 1965, exhibiting and preserving at different locations and such. There was a rather unimpressive number of movable cultural assets in the recovery of the Vojlovica treasure. In spring of 2010, the search for the recovery of Vojlovica...
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Painting in the collection which is a great contribution of the artists vital for the 19th century Serbian art. Konstantin Danil took his first large commission – painting the iconostasis of the church of Our Lady of Assumption in Pancevo and yet he found the time to paint some portraits, so in 1830, he painted the portrait of Teodori Crnjanski the Prior of Vojlovica Monastery (picture 9) who was the head of the monastery for 35 years (1823–1858). Crnjanski is as respected as Miljkovic and is one of the most eminent Priors of Vojlovica (picture 10) was portrayed by Arsenije Petrovic an artist from Bela Crkva. That portrait is the only Petrovic’s work of art presented in oval presuming that it was also created in the Vojlovica Monastery. Novak Radonic, one of our most educated painters of his days, painted the official portrait of Samuil Masirevic (1858) the Patriarch (picture 11) who was the head of Vrsac diocese between 1849 and 1852. The Patriarch was presented in official robes and the emphasis was not only on spirituality but also on the status of the person portrayed.

One of our greatest painters from the late 18th century was Teodor Ilic Cesljar (1745–1795) painted two portraits for the collection. The portraits of Josif Jovanovic Sakabenta the Bishop of Vrsac (picture 7) and Petar Petrovic the Bishop of Timisoara (picture 8) were painted most probably after 1786, when both of the Bishops were assigned to their dioceses. There are paintings of the artists Konstantin Danil (1802–1873), Arsenije Petrovic (1803–1870) and Novak Radonic (1826–1890). Each painter is represented with one portrait of the person portrayed.

The portraits of the clergy are the significant part of the Vojlovica collection and may be considered in two aspects. They were painted by the most eminent of the Serbian painters who lived in the late 18th and early 19th century.

On the other hand the portrayed clergy and their influence on the church, politics and culture of the Serbs in Banat, which was a part of Karlovci diocese is immense. Considering that there were no possibilities of taking photographs at the time, those portraits are the testaments of the appearance of our church eminent figures. Typologically, all the portraits, save one, are the so-called monastery portraits which are smaller in size and modesty, spirituality and morality of the individual portrayed were emphasized.

Famous painter form Timisoara Sava Petrovic (1794–1857) painted three portraits. Aside from Josif Putnik (1831) the Bishop of Timisoara (picture 1) and Avgustin Petrovic (1815) the Archimandrite of Bezdin (picture 2) another portrait bears special merit and that is the portrait of Joanikije Miljkovic (1817) the Prior of Vojlovica (picture 3).

The life and work of Miljkovic left profound impressions on the recent history of the Vojlovica Monastery. He was a prior for 26 years (1796–1822). He had many other interests apart from his prior’s daily obligations. He founded the Monastery library and wrote the first history of the Monastery. That history was printed in 1801, in Budim and was, titled „The History of People’s Vojlovica Monastery”. That publication remains to this day the base for any research of the Vojlovica history. Miljkovic expressed his talent in art in his paintings of the Metropolitan of Karlovci Pavle Nenadovic (picture 4) and Jovan Djojdevic (picture 5) were painted in the Vojlovica Monastery 1796 or some later date and they are important segment of the Vojlovica collection.

Miljkovic, without a shadow of the doubt, had ordered for the new iconostasis which was completed in 1798. The iconostasis was painted by the painter Aksentije (Arsenije) but the name of the author of the frescoes painted at the same time remains shrouded in mystery. The possibility that the vise Prior took part in it, however remote may be, cannot be ignored. The evidence in favor of such conjecture is the icon of the Crucifixion of the Christ (picture 6) painted in 1808, that has been signed by him.

One of our greatest painters from the late 18th century was Teodor Ilic Cesljar (1745–1793) painted two portraits for the collection.

The portraits of Josif Iovanovic Sakabenta the Bishop of Vrsac (picture 7) and Petar Petrovic the Bishop of Timisoara (picture 8) were painted most probably after 1786, when both of the Bishops were assigned to their dioceses. There are paintings of the artists Konstantin Danil (1802–1873), Arsenije Petrovic (1803–1870) and Novak Radonic (1826–1890). Each painter is represented with one portrait of the person portrayed.

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1 Exhibition “The Forgotten Collection of Vojlovica Monastery” by the author Nikola Vlajic was open for the event “Museum Night” held on May 14th 2011, in the National Museum of Pancevo. At the same place on August 5th 2011 the same author gave a lecture “On Vojlovica Monastery treasures”
The collection of Vojlovica contains a certain number of icons and some of them were painted by the most eminent Serbian painters. Stefan Tenecki (the late 18th century – 1798), the painter from Arad, who innovated the Serbian painting styles of the 18th century by introducing the elements of the Ukrainian baroque is the author of the Virgin Mary (picture 12). At the bottom of the icon next to the signature of the author and date of its creation (1764) stands a writing in Slavonic-Serbian language conveying that it is about ‘true rendering miraculous image of the Holy Virgin Mary of Bezdin that has generously healed all the fateful plaintiffs. This icon is one in the series created in the 18th century and at the later day on the territory of Banat as works of art of the famous and anonymous iconographers. To all of those artists the role model was the Russian icon The Virgin Mary Vladimirska (15th–16th century) which was in the monastery Vinca in the early 18th century, then it was taken to the Bezdin monastery.

The iconostasis of the Monastery church in the lower area on the north and the south side is spreading and turns into thrones which is an unusual solution for the Altair obstacles. On the north side – throne, there is miraculous icon of Vojlovica which in its typology coincides with the rendering of the Arabian Virgin Mary Odigitrija (picture 14). The icon was painted by the anonymous zographer in the 18th century and its style mismatches the remaining icons of the iconostasis. St. Nikolaj Velimirovic, the Bishop of Ohrid and Zica wrote The Kanon of Prayers and The Prayer inspired by that icon while he was a German prisoner at the Monastery during the World War II. Nikola Neskovic (the early 18th century – 1785), the contemporary of Stefan Tenecki, is the author of a minor icon painted on wood rendering The Birth of John the Baptist (picture 15). Neskovic is one of our first early baroque artists who had abandoned Ukrainian painting style and seeking his own artistic impression introduced into his art principles of the western art. Ljubomir Aleksandrovic (1828–1887), the author of the icon Christ and the Samaritan was an artist of the Konstantin Danil artistic style. Aleksandrovic is considered to be the most successful of Danil’s style imitators but that applies to his sacral painting only. Aksentije Marodic (1838–1909) painted the icon the Beheading of St John the Baptist (picture 16). Although Marodic is considered to be the representative of romanticism and academism as far as sacral painting is concerned, his tendencies to the Biedemeir and Nazarene style features is obvious. During the late 19th century he completed the iconostasis in Ilandza, a village in Banat which was originally set up by Novak Radonic. The Archimandrite Fotije Jorgovic (1840–1888) was certainly one in the multitude of renowned heads of the Vojlovica Monastery. He was the head of the Monastery 13 years (1875–1888). His life and
work requires further research. Jorgovic, was among other things, interested in painting and the evidence of that interest is the icon Rendering St George (picture 17) which he painted. The Serbian art of the 19th century gave outstanding individuals who were considered to be extraordinary due to the variety of their interests and ability one of such extraordinary men was Anasta Jovanovic (1817 – 1862). He was a painter, a designer, engraver and a photographer. Aside from promoting photography amongst Serbian bourgeois youngsters, he also introduced lithography in Serbia. The Monastery of Vojlovica possess the icon St George on the Horse (picture 18) painted on white silk using lithographic technique by Jovanovic in 1853.

The portraits and icons have the equal value as the liturgy books3 and other liturgy objects, geodetic maps and old documents which are also part of Vojlovica collection. In the past, liturgy books were rare, expansive books and difficult to obtain, but necessary for every monastery. Separate specificum of the 18th and the early 19th century books that are in possession of the Vojlovica Monastery were manually inscribed on the margins and printer’s blank pages of the books, i.e. on any empty space. They were made by the monastery students, novices monks, even Bishops themselves. The inscriptions are true treasure of the data of the events and characters whose authenticity is beyond the doubt. As an example we state the interesting inscription from the first Serbian printed Srbijak (Rimnik, 1761) which translated from Slavonic – Serbian language states: “This book is given to the Vojlovica Monastery the temple of the Holy Archangels Michael and Gabriel by his eminency the Bishop of Timișoara Vikentije Jovanovic as a memento, on November the first 1764” (picture 19). Without the sacral it is impossible to perform the liturgy so the Vojlovica Monastery owns certain number of such liturgy objects which aside of the religious role have cultural characteristics. The Silver Cross (picture 20) embellished with enameled medallions with scenes of Crucifixion and Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ on the fringes on its stand has engraved text: ‘In the memory of Svetozar Strijic, 20 years of the Vojlovica Monastery in a larger numbers lately. Conservation and restoration treatment is in larger or lesser extent necessary for all the discovered Vojlovica objects. Should we be in position to set the priorities (an extremely ungrateful task) we believe that Miljakovic’s Crucifixion (picture 6) would definitely enter the nearest selection for restoration and preservation. The presentation of the Vojlovica objects is accomplished through the exhibition “The Forgotten Collection of Vojlovica Monastery” which has not been closed yet, or better yet is closing has been delayed. What should happen to the object afterwards? Where should they be returned? To whom? How should the funds be provided for the conservatory treatments, searching for storage room and permanent exhibition space? These and many other pending questions remain unanswered.

Conservation and restoration dilemmas

The first objects to have the status of movable cultural assets in possession of Serbian Orthodox Vojlovica Monastery were taken out of its properties over 50 years ago. As it has been mentioned before the process of removing Monastery’s possessions lasted continually through the late 20th century. Some of the objects that were retrieved were not kept in appropriate conditions. Some of the objects have not been retrieved yet. The unretrieved objects must not be considered lost, because in that case the search of them would probably be terminated. It is believed that some of the objects are still on the certain locations but they are difficult to reach and their condition most probably demands conservatory interventions. It is necessary to include more younger experts of different expertise (art historians, historians, ethnologists, painters, theologers...) who have affinities for church cultural legacy into the mission of preservation of Vojlovica treasure. Preservation, conservation and presentation of the object that have been identified should certainly be performed in accordance with conservatory principles and museum polices. Unfortunately the Vojlovica Monastery is not in the condition to meet any of the stated demands. The Monastery residence is a common room shared by the employees of the Refinery and the clergy and the parishioners who have been visiting the Monastery in a larger numbers lately. Conservation and restoration treatment is in larger or lesser extent necessary for all the discovered Vojlovica objects. Should we be in position to set the priorities (an extremely ungrateful task) we believe that Miljakovic’s Crucifixion (picture 6) would definitely enter the nearest selection for restoration and preservation. The presentation of the Vojlovica objects is accomplished through the exhibition “The Forgotten Collection of Vojlovica Monastery” which has not been closed yet, or better yet is closing has been delayed. What should happen to the object afterwards? Where should they be returned? To whom? How should the funds be provided for the conservatory treatments, searching for storage room and permanent exhibition space? These and many other pending questions remain unanswered.

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Research, Preservation and Presentation of Banat Heritage: Current State and Long Term Strategy

Research, Preservation and Presentation of Banat Heritage: Current State and Long Term Strategy

The exhibition “The Old Liturgy Books of the Vojlovica Monastery” (the author was Nikola Vlajic) was opened on the City of Panevco Day (November 8th), in The City Library of Panevco, on November 8th 2010. The exhibition displayed 23 books dating from the 18th century, which were written in Slavonic–Serbian language (Romanian version). In 2011, an employee of The City Library of Panevco (currenly employed in The National Library of Serbia), Zarko Vojnovic performed an expert evaluation of the books available to him (about 80 books). Vojnovic was the translator of the “The History of People’s Vojlovica Monastery” written by J. Miljakovic. These expert commentaries and footnotes when the book was published in 2002, and the publishers were The Historic Archives in Panevco, The Bookstore Pevica Vasa and The City Library of Panevco.
THE INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE OF SOUTH BANAT, REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

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Abstract: The term *Industrial heritage* involves studying of industrial cities in their urban or rural environment including all the structures that follow industrial growth in a specific area. These include public buildings constructed for industrial use, resident buildings for workers, machinery and tools, transportation vehicles and traffic infrastructure serving the industries. Due to an early start of industrial development, South Banat has very old industrial facilities. Many maintain, with a general trend of decay and deterioration. The tooth of time and inadequate maintenance left visible devastation marks, which are alarming in some cases and require urgent interventions and inclusion of such facilities in the sustainable development trends, in order to avoid complete physical destruction.

Since industries have continued to develop in this region to this day, in addition to history of technology and production, the development of architecture of these industrial heritage facilities can be followed throughout different periods.

Key words: Industrial heritage, reactivation, viable development.

The industrial heritage is still insufficiently researched field and the curators have started to take interest in it in the late 20th century. In 1973, in Ironbridge, England the first international congress was organized, the topic was "Conservation of Industrial Structure". The term *industrial heritage* today relates to the studies of the industrial structure in their urban and rural environment including all the structures that follow industrial growth in a specific area. Aside from the manufacturing facilities there are also public buildings erected in industrial purposes, labour residential units, as well as machinery tools, transportation, vehicles and traffic infrastructure required by the industry.

The structures of the industrial heritage are not only a scientific research source, but also an important element of the urban and spatial planning and need to be considered as an integral part of their environment.

THE ORIGINS OF THE INDUSTRY OF SOUTH BANAT

In the early 18th century, Banat was a great marsh. The Austrians turned that marsh into property of the crown, after the peace of Pozarevac, and it was placed in possession of the army and military Chamber. It was planned...
The development of industry in South Banat caused the construction of industrial structures of the early date. Since development has continued to the modern days, the development of the industrial structures architecture of different ages has continued as well creating industrial heritage.

The architecture of most of the structures fits the purpose of the structure. Many structures had lost the original appearance because they were reconstructed in time to adapt to the new requirements of the technological innovations. The industrial heritage structures in South Banat can be categorized in three groups: manufacture facilities, services and traffic structures.

Manufacture Facilities
Those facilities were used for processing raw materials using particular technological process. Initially, the location for construction of such facilities was chosen depending on the vicinity of raw materials source. Later on, due to development of the traffic infrastructure, the proximity of main roads was the only parameter for choosing the location.

The manufacture facilities are: breweries (in Pancevo and Vrsac); two silk factories in Pancevo (the old silk factory on the Road to Bavanište founded in 1889, and the one on the bank of the Tamis founded in 1898); food industry facilities such as bakeries, dairies, meat processing plant, cold storage plant, wine cellars (the most famous one in Vrsac, founded in 1880), mills (mostly typical constructions in most large settlements in the region); brick factories (built in most settlements in the region and the oldest is the first steam brick factory in Pancevo, built by, Frederick Nay which was active in 1863); printing houses; power plants; glass factory (the first mechanized glass factory that produced windowpanes in Pancevo built in 1932); light bulbs factory (“Tesla” in Pancevo was the only factory of a kind in former Yugoslavia, built in 1931); wine cellars; factory structures (furniture factory and wood joinery in Pancevo, in Debeljaca); foundry (“Ulva” in Kacarevo); the first factory of agricultural airplanes (“Ulva” founded in 1940, in Pancevo); facilities for leather processing; chemical industry facilities (Oil Refinery, “HIP Azotara”, “HIP Petrohemija” and “Panonja” in Pancevo and “Hemoarm” in Vrsac) and so on.

Some of those facilities, especially the older ones, are no longer functional, while others have been reconstructed to adapt to the new technologies. The oldest industry facilities, in South Banat were built of materials in close vicinity, such as massive edifices, which had brick walls and roofs of wooden beams. The covering of the roofs was of hiber roofing tile. The size and the appearance of the facilities depended upon their purpose and the technological process performed in them. The facilities that were used for process that did not require much light had small windows for ventilation purposes only. Such facilities were the brewery, brick factories, wine cellars, and the like. When much light was required for the process, the facilities had large windows (such factory is silk factory). Many industrial facilities of the age had many high chimneys walled in bricks.

The development and growth of the industry caused the construction of the typical facilities, namely the facilities that were meant for the same production were built in the same way but in different locations. That is the reason of the similar appearance of the mills and brick factories in all the larger settlements in South Banat. That was the policy of Austro-Hungarian Monarchy.

The development of technology caused the use of new materials in construction of the industrial facilities: mostly steel and concrete. Pancevo was a leader in that innovation, as well, by building “Svilara” on the bank of the Tamis. The architectural structure of the main spinning mill is of great architectural importance. The base of the facility is in the form of a cross with uneven ends.

On the ground floor is a construction made of concrete and steel beams which carry the concrete mid-floor construction. There is an engraving on the steel beams stating the name of the manufacturer and the year of production (1899). The roof of the wing was built using triangle steel bars visible only on the inside. Those bars constructed in 1899, are the earliest example of the use of steel bars construction in the construction history, because they were made a year before Eiffel presented his bar construction (the Eiffel Tower) at an exhibition in 1900, in Paris. A unique façade is typical for “Svilara.” It was made of façade tiles with huge windows.

Aside from the main spinning mill, there are two smaller attendant structures facilities in the complex: the Silk factory Management building and the Silk factory Supervisor’s residential building which were constructed in the same style with the specifically designed façade of the façade tiles.

The industrial complex in the 20th century was mainly built as metal and concrete constructions. Modern technological processes performed in them required particular safety measures and often the particular materials. Those complexes consist of great manufacture halls and factory chimneys. In those complexes, the process of production is constantly improved, facilities are adapted and new ones are built. Their architecture is not final, but is constantly changing and reshaping.

Services: The service structures are not meant for the production process but they are used as storages, warehouses, repositories, garners (and the best known of them are “Promijav” and “Crveni Magacin” warehouses in Pancevo, wood warehouse in Kovacića, warehouse in the railway station in Bela Crkva and many of those that have not been investigated yet); ice-houses, wells (the well in Vladimirac has been identified as cultural asset); steam pumps (pumps such as Water-tower in Pancevo constructed as a water reservoir for cleaning the streets and the Water-tower in Vrsac, steam pumps in Dubovac, Susara and Ivanovo…); fire stations (in most of the settlements) etc.

Storages and repositories are most commonly large constructions built next to the traffic infrastructures or manufacture facilities. The materials used for their construction are the same as those used for the manufacture facilities and the choice of materials keeps up with the development in technology and construction industry in general.

The Factory on the bank of the Tamis, in Pancevo (the old postcard)
Most common are storages for grains. One of the oldest preserved objects of that kind is “Crveni magacin” in Pancevo, which was the largest storage of grains in South Banat. It was built next to the harbor on the Tamis de- signed to meet the requirements of the military. That is a building of a rectangle base with a ground floor and three more floors. It is a massive building of brick with an intriguing wooden construction between floors that could be seen only on the inside and is one of few preserved buildings of that kind. The characteristic mentioned is a great technical asset of the building. The roof is high, gabled and covered with biber roofing tiles. The north and the south side have four counterforts, the west side twelve and the east side has ten of them. All the windows are small rectangle shape with bars. The doors are massive and made of steel. Large wooden storages were built for storing grains. After the World War II, concrete massive and made of steel. Various building complexes and their size and architecture style depend on the purpose of their use, so they were similar to the railway stations across the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy. They were usually multi-storey buildings, with a rectangle base and emphasized entrance. They were massive brick buildings with architrave constructions and wooden roof construction covered with biber roofing tiles. Their facades were simple with horizontal wreaths and simple decorative art work on the fringes of the entrance. Those stations have remained in use even until modern days. The growth of the road traffic and the railway traffic in South Banat urged the construction of bridges over the slow rivers and the digging of canals. The bridges were steel constructions, built by using a particular building technology. The oldest bridge preserved dates the Austro-Hungarian rule and it was built of brick in the village of Ploice. In modern days, it is out of use and it stands on dry land. Due to the passing of time, insufficient preservation and human factors (by-passers take away parts of the bridge), the bridge is in a very bad condition and it is getting worse as days go by. Aside from being an architectural asset, this bridge has its historic value to the area considering that, it is the only bridge of that kind preserved in the region. The oldest river traffic constructions preserved are the two steam lighthouses on the confluence the Tamis and the Danube built in 1909. They are unique paired signal structures on the entire Danube flow. They use to help regulate the entry of ships flowing from the Danube into the Tamis to the Pancevo harbor, which does not exist anymore. They are symbols of the development of the city of Pancevo and its transformation into the important crossroads of land and river traffic in the early 20th century but from the architectural point of view they have some interesting details. They were built of yellow brick laid on the circular surface and walled with stones. They were also built in three belts, which were horizontally parted by decorative wreaths of red profiled tiles, which frame the front door and the windowpanes. The middle belt of the tower becomes narrow closer to the top. Central metal staircase ends with a trap door on the attic and leads to the terrace at the top of the tower. The terrace is walled with protective wall and covered with tin roof in a shape of a cone. There is a light source under the roof that serves traffic regulation.

Traffic infrastructure

The expedient development of the economy caused the development of the traffic infrastructure. The railway network was constructed throughout Banat, road traffic and river traffic were developing as well. Traffic infrastructure includes: lighthouses at the Confluence of the Tamis into the Danube built in 1909; bridges (overpass over the roads and railway tracks and the oldest one is in Plocica built in time of Austro-Hungarian rule for military purposes); railway stations – built in all the settlements the railway were ran through; bus stations; harbor (the Danube harbor in Pancevo).

The development of the railway instigated the construction of railway stations and other attendant constructions in nearly all settlements in South Banat the railway runs through. They were designed typically depending on the purpose of their use, so they were similar to the railway stations across the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy. They were usually multi-storey buildings, with a rectangle base and emphasized entrance. They were massive brick buildings with architrave constructions and wooden roof construction covered with biber roofing tiles. Their facades were simple with horizontal wreaths and simple decorative art work on the fringes of the entrance. Those stations have remained in use even until modern days.

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The expansion of industry in Pancevo caused the development of the harbor on the Danube that is nowadays one of the largest transport harbors in Serbia. The harbor was initiated in the early 19th century, after the historic structures are torn down. Some of the important structures have already been destroyed.

Despite the demands of the inventors who have the financial assets necessary for the reconstruction of the abandoned industrial structures that are mostly in a very poor state, some are in the process of privatization, for some their former owners and their heirs have placed their claims over the structures. The entire situation abates the interest of the political investors. The demands of the investors usually do not coincide with the principles of preservation. The realization of the preservation requirements usually conflicts with the demands of the inventors who have the financial means to invest. The potential investors also have their demands when purpose and the appearance of the structure is concerned. Those demands usually collide with the principles of preservation. On the other hand, some are being leased, some are in the process of privatization, for some their former owners and their heirs have placed their claims over the structures. The entire situation abates the interest of the political investors.

The structures on the banks of the Tamis are mentioned in the planning documents. In most cases the reconstruction of such structure is not planned, nor their new purpose and in some extreme cases the reconstruction of such structure is not planned, their new purpose and in some extreme cases the reconstruction of such structure is not planned, their new purpose and in some extreme cases the reconstruction of such structure is not planned, their new purpose and in some extreme cases the reconstruction of such structure is not planned, their new purpose and in some extreme cases the reconstruction of such structure is not planned, their new purpose and in some extreme cases the reconstruction of such structure is not planned, their new purpose and in some extreme cases the reconstruction of such structure is not planned, their new purpose and in some extreme cases the reconstruction of such structure is not planned, their new purpose and in some extreme cases the reconstruction of such structure is not planned, their new purpose and in some extreme cases the reconstruction of such structure is not planned, their new purpose and in some extreme cases the reconstruction of such structure is not planned, their new purpose and in some extreme cases the reconstruction of such structure is not planned, their new purpose and in some extreme cases the reconstruction of such structure is not planned, their new purpose and in some extreme cases the reconstruction of such structure is not planned, their new purpose and in some extreme cases the reconstruction of such structure is not planned, their new purpose and in some extreme cases the reconstruction of such structure is not planned, their new purpose and in some extreme cases the reconstruction of such structure is not planned, their new purpose and in some extreme cases the reconstruction of such structure is not planned, their new purpose and in some extreme cases the reconstruction of such structure is not planned, their new purpose and in some extreme cases the reconstruction of such structure is not planned, their new purpose and in some extreme cases the reconstruction of such structure is not planned, their new purpose and in some extreme cases the reconstruction of such structure is not planned, their new purpose and in some extreme cases the reconstruction of such structure is not planned, their new purpose and in some extreme cases the reconstruction of such structure is not planned, their new purpose and in some extreme cases the reconstruction of such structure is not planned, their new purpose and in some extreme cases the reconstruction of such structure is not planned, their new purpose and in some extreme cases the reconstruction of such structure is not planned, their new purpose and in some extreme cases the reconstruction of such structure is not planned, their new purpose and in some extreme cases the reconstruction of such structure is not planned, their new purpose and in some extreme cases the reconstruction of such structure is not planned, their new purpose and in some extreme cases the reconstruction of such structure is not planned. For many years the Danube was navigable and the river is no longer navigable, due to its historical, social and cultural significance, its geographical position, the crossing of the international railway – Belgrade – Timisoara – Bucharest – Constanta with the branch to Ukraine made Pancevo one of the most important industrial centers in Serbia.

The recovery potential of the industrial heritage

Considering great historic, social and architectural importance of the industrial structures for the city and its surrounding, it is necessary to recover them and in such way preserve them as a permanent evidence of the period of industrialization in this region. That would include reconstruction, adaptation in a manner of finding new purposes to provide them with viable development while preserving their characteristics of cultural assets. The structures of the industrial heritage have great potential to recover and develop further should their multitude and large surface be taken into consideration.

The potential

- A great historical, social and architectural significance for the region, therefore they should be preserved for the posterity.
- To preserve some of the structures that could reflect past usage of the structures. Some photograph is evidence, archive documents, old machinery (still present in some facilities) may be presented. It would be a manner to obtain and present historic continuity to the future users.
- A creative approach to the preservation.
- Large inner surfaces and construction of the facilities provides options of creative approach to defining new purposes and recreating the interior while following the rules of preservation. Such rules would include the preservation of the appearance and, in some facilities, the preservation of their construction.
- The potential of turning the facilities into cultural, educational, business, recreational or other spaces. The change of the purpose of the structures should be the manner of preserving some of the structures that could reflect past usage of the structures. Some photograph is evidence, archive documents, old machinery (still present in some facilities) may be presented. It would be a manner to obtain and present historic continuity to the future users.
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- The potential of turning the facilities into cultural, educational, business, recreational or other spaces. The change of the purpose of the structures should be the manner of preserving some of the structures that could reflect past usage of the structures. Some photograph is evidence, archive documents, old machinery (still present in some facilities) may be presented. It would be a manner to obtain and present historic continuity to the future users.
SUMMARY

South Banat has, for centuries, been a bordering territory and therefore the innovation and the industrialization leader of the region. The industrial heritage structures, numerous in this region, witness industrial production from its beginnings to the modern days. Since the industrial heritage is not limited to the large cities but in the rural area, it is, obvious that South Banat was very prosperous in the past. The industry development brought economic prosperity to South Banat but also the great pollution of the environment. Many of the oldest structures that have been identified as cultural assets were abandoned because the technology they used became obsolete; the maintenance of the production became too expensive. They are now dilapidated due to the inappropriate preservation and the passing of time. The level of dilapidation is alarming on some of the structures and measures should be urgently taken so they would not be utterly destroyed. To avoid unfaithful damage caused by the destruction of the industrial heritage of the entire region so very significant for the beginnings of the industrialization, it is necessary to set into motion a programme of its preservation and its visible development.

Although the use of strict means of preservation occasionally justified, a creative approach is required in order to stop and overturn the trend of abandoning, damaging and destruction of the industrial structures so that they could be preserved as testimonies of times past for posterity.

The recovery of the abandoned industrial heritage structures that are in very poor condition, demands not only the expertise and precise identification of the alternated purpose and recovery and large financial assets but also active involvement at all social elements in the region. A part of the viable development of Europe, since the 1980s, a movement that is based on the innovations and the preservation of the cultural heritage has started. It consists on the idea that all the Europeans share common European cultural heritage. The preservation of cultural values in our own community, in this case it is the industrial heritage, has a positive effect on the preservation of cultural values in our own community, in this case it is the industrial heritage.

The integration of the industrial heritage conforms its value and restricts the risks of further damaging and destruction.

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DRAGIŠA BRAŠOVAN AND ARCHITECTURE THAT EPITOMIZED AN AMBIENCE

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Abstract: The territory of Banat with its specific and highly varied geographic settlement and structural relations represents the especially interesting part of north Serbia. The following article analyzes new discoveries made on architecture of master-builder Dragiša Brašovan who represented on the best possible way towns like Vršac, Pančevo and Zrenjanin during the second and third decade of the 20th century. The buildings mentioned opened a series of questions related to history of this period. Purchase of the mentioned facts concerning significant art reputation of whole region.

Key words: Brašovan’s architecture before Belgrade, European styles, Eclecticism, History, arising of national consciousness, universal values.

Recent Serbian history has little architectural artists who have left behind a comprehensive and rounded artistic opus. Art scene in Serbia was quite heterogeneous during the first years of the 20th century. All the buildings are built in prominent European styles that are late arriving to our country in very confusing combination. There were elements of historicism and eclecticism, a combination of Art Nouveau, Romanticism, classicism and folklore. At the end of the twenties are sensed the first mark and a very restricted syllable in modern architecture, and many of the architects left behind the old wandering in historical styles and recognize condition for the duration of their inexorable ideology for the modern movement.

Vršac was at this time, in the early years of the new century, which is in iskon changes and turbulent events in the historical and geographical plan, which are invariably influenced the art scene, architecture and of course, bore the characteristics of a small provincial town in the developing world. In the revolutions of 1848-49 Vršac has played an important role. But after the collapse of the revolution the creation of Duchy of Serbia and Vršac to the world. He is remembered, mainly, as one of the most important initiators and foremost Serbian artists of Modern orientation. Motivation of this study architecture of Dragiša Brašovan is the result of lengthy research and for purpose to draw attention and gain new insight on transitional period in his career, time when he returned from studies in Budapest and for several years he worked over the borders of Vršac. This life situation was a better chance from living in Belgrade. This relatively short phase of his work also testify how important he was for the whole architectural scene in Serbia those years. In fact, shows how much personality of an architect and creator could affect the changes in the taste of social environment.

Dragiša Brašovan belongs to a generation of architects from the first half of the 20th century. He was born on May 25 1887 in Vršac, raised and brought up by his large family. His father, Nikola, was a teacher in local school and one of a few intellectuals strictly socialist orientation, although he played a major role in social life. However, his family was unaccepted minority status often brought him problems. It was the reason why he was temporarily suspended from his teaching job. Brašovan has never been socialist in the beginning of his life, though he passed through some problems with the socialist Yugoslavia after the World War II. Mother, Savina, tiny, lively and skillful housewife was the complete opposite of his father. She did not understand husband's intellectual occupation, but respected it. Because of her keen
obraving, constructive discussions were conducted in
being his general area of interest, which emphasizes the way of
forming his personality and character. His older sister,
Anica, had great influence on his professional career, be-
coming his mentor in business matters with many
business connections, a doctor Slavko Županski. Brašovan
had one younger sister named Kosara. The most impor-
tant influence on his professional career was his older
brother, who took care of young Brašovan. After finishing elementary and High school in
Vršac, the uncle brought Brašovan to his own home in
Budapest for his further education. Brašovan’s demonstrated talent for music and drawing
was important for parents to sent him to Budapest to
get proper education and finish college, although moder-
ine life had taught them that painting at that time was
his life’s career, he accepted uncle’s call from
Budapest. A great decision was leaving the province and moving to a big city, like Budapest was in
those days. A good friend of Brašovan, Nikola Mandukić,
talked him out of idea to attend the Art Academy. In the
year 1906 Dragiça Brašovan enrolled in the Architectural
Department of the Technical University in Budapest.
From that moment his architectural activity began to
take a shape and will last until death in 1967.

Studying of architecture in Budapest has its own ad-
herence. He learned how to use popular manner of in-
novation, early modernism, one of the romantic-classicist mid-European variant and to present himself as crea-
tor of national environment. Applying without mistakes different elements of academic historical styles: Greek, Roman, early Christian, Byzantine and free styles which the
professor Virgil Nagy talked in classes. Using tech-
niques of Romanesque and Gothic styles was the main
thing for them. The professor Schubert while the
professor Alajos Hauszmann was responsible for teach-
ing theories of Renaissance and Baroque architecture.
However, the most important influence on creative work
of Dragiça Brašovan had Emil Torny, expert for architec-
ture of Renaissance. He hired Brašovan in his design of
office “Tory & Pogany”.

The successful adjustment for client’s demands cer-
tainly had an impact on his popularity, although he did not use it with the other architects, by
character. Brašovan survived some psychological iden-
tity crisis, the characteristic habit of many young art-
ists, which his had a productive outcome. In the years of forming himself as an artist, he was feeling contin-
uously affiliation and did not belong to something. That
feeling as the result had tireless creativity and obligation
of national environment. Applying without mistakes
the academic historical styles: Greek, Roman, early Christian, Byzantine and free styles which
Brašovan took part in all the changes that complex
historical circumstances brought accepting and contrib-
ting to their persistence only if the historical context
had their valid reason for being eternal good. Expressiveness
remains the main feature of his creative work by its end.
There are few local architects with the ability to prove
on such a vast architectural plan, as Brašovan did. He
designed almost everything that state or wealthy indus-
trialists, businessmen and former statesmen desired and
in his opus can be found:

- Individual residential buildings
- Residential and commercial buildings
- Public edifices
- Industrial buildings.

Brašovan was always good in drawing, oriented in painting, but skilled as an architect, interior design, ur-
ban planning, reconstruction and adaptation and his
success was guaranteed. Ready to make compromises,
to reconcile and accept ideas and forms which brings new
Zeitgeist, what was necessary to determine a series of
characteristics of his architectural language. That was
most important as one of the main stands of postmod-
technics in Serbia ever. Therefore, it was necessary to make
attention on phases his work and cultural arising of the
social, cultural, class and national influence. It was
important to understand the ways in which public has ac-
cepted his work.

In his career Brašovan’s legacy and important part belonged to
family. Some projects are in Architecture Museum in
Belgrade but the rest, quite significant, is in the muse-
im of his hometown Vršac. The legacy is well preserved
and available to researchers of his work and architecture
of his style. This angle part
got the dome, shaped base of the pyramid, which stands
on the pedestal of the short pillars dedicated. This ide-
tial evokes the idea of an ancient temple. It was supposed
to be a symbolic expression screening idea of superior-
ity of spirit in which was then a modern, reformed soci-
ety. Already sensed his need for architecture to a new
meaning, not everything boils down to pure design
and technology, but also the visual circuit to receive the
so-
cial, aesthetic or political and national significance and
interpretation. This pyramidal dome, a typical element of
Hungarian architecture style, Brašovan used for his initial
data of highland national identity. But the object was
not Hungarian and not sacrail. It indicated the nationality
of another state. During the studies Brašovan practiced
use of different combinations of cultural and architec-
tural models, which in future become a form of recogni-
tion his style. It was not unusual for him to take over the
more traditional aspects of architecture left behind
smallest element of distinguishing edifice from the exis-
tion his style. It was not unusual for him to take over the
more traditional aspects of architecture left behind
smallest element of distinguishing edifice from the exis-
tence in the environment. This type of building erased cul-
tural and ethnic differences. Therefore, used elements did
not associate and implicate nationalism or particularism.
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Unfortunately, house is totally devastated today. The research revealed that there was no interior in the house. The decoration motifs from the main façade and gate.

All conditions for permanently moving to Belgrade were fulfilled. Symbol of 17th and 18th centuries, house was built in Belgrade in proven traditional style. House had monumental character, typical for this period, and it was a symbol of social and economic status of the inhabitants. The building showed all the knowledge and skills of the architects and craftsmen who were involved in its construction. The building was designed to be included in the urban landscape and to interact with its surroundings.

When the family house was sold before the application for adaptation, Brašovan's involvement in the project was limited to the design of the façade. The façade was divided into three main parts: the central part with the main entrance, the side parts with windows and the attic.

In September 1920 Brašovan started to develop plans for the "residential house of family Zupančić". The design much resembles the first design for the "residential house of family Zupančić". The design was based on the existing building and the requirements of the clients. The building was designed to be a symbol of the status and wealth of the owners.

The last phase of Brašovan's architectural activity was the design of the "Sokolski Center" in Zrenjanin. This building was designed to be a center for cultural and social activities of the Sokolski organization. The building was designed to be a symbol of the community and to represent the Sokolski organization.

Brašovan's architectural style was influenced by the Habsburg Empire, but it also showed a tendency towards the development of new forms and styles. The buildings designed by Brašovan were characterized by their monumental character, symmetry, and the use of classical elements. The buildings were designed to be symbols of the status and wealth of the owners and to represent the community they belonged to.
lower parts, ground floors, are slightly lifted from ground level, and serve and perform the function of office space, while the upper parts of the façades are either flat screen, symmetrically divided by windows and balconies or ei- ther with alternately extended and retracted terraces-glazed stair parts, incorporated into the basic dimen-
sions of the building. Employees at the National Museum in Vršac discovered which were those objects and con-
figured it as Brašovan’s work pieces. Even today could be seen in original interpretation at square of Sv. Sava 6a and 6b, at luxurious building, Dvorska 6-14 and Abraševićeva 23-34.7

Residential buildings are the main examples of his modern work. There is a clear achievement of aesthetic quality as the primary. All of mentioned buildings are solved in architecture without decorative details. Modest style of expression is dominating. Simple exteriors have regular rectangular forms. Openings are also quite sim-
ple, rectangular and vertically ranged. Despite all, the total image provides a strong calming tone and unique expressive line. Apart from the impressive architecture from earlier periods in the same area, those designs are clear and legible by themselves and they don’t need any of ornamental supplements.

In general, they do not possess initial or authentic style of author. The search for a particular realization of the character and expression of modern architecture is evident.

Design for High Agricultural School “Paja Jovanović” in Vršac is one of the usual combinations of vertical and horizontal zones with whom he experimented through his entire work. Central rectangu-
lar vertical axis, on which main entrance to school is lo-

cated, is drawn into the field and flanked with classrooms which have different levels. Windows fol-

Influence of his architectural activity is very strong and long lasting. He is one of those artists who can in-
tervene within more powerful system, as someone who’s always ahead of his generation, and someone who was able to recognize opportunities even in dramatic times. His activity was to turn every situation in his favor, to use it for evocation his natural creative impulze for art. He believed he should do what he knew best especially in certain periods of history when it seemed like impos-
sible, when local architects had to work under difficult circumstances as surviving frequent wars with devastat-
ing consequences.

Based on foregoing, the activity of architect Dragiša Brašovan must be viewed as a reflection of the situation and conscious acceptance of circumstances. Summing up, all the forms of Brašovan’s work at the territory of Banat, give another insight into personality of this ex-
terordinary talented architect. What is left is the result of proper values of verified tradition, history sources, modern taste, so it is the best context on what his local architecture can be interpret.

Resume:

There were times when new ideas have not yet been crystalized to produce noteworthy structures. In con-
tact to recognizable periods in history of architecture. Concepts of period assigned in the article above arise as a reflection of a community’s progress and, as a form of domestic view of eclecticism which freely combines different historical styles and in some ways manifests its decadence from time. The buildings, which is writing about, are splendid demonstration of academic rules. Forms and elements evoke a classical balance, expressive-
tone and overall effects of unity. They indicate Serbian architect Dragiša Brašovan’s penchant for the high ide-
als and clever keeping pompousness, weightiness and monumental tendencies. At the first sight, neo-design like this, could be evocation of magnificent past epochs. Those building swayed between two poles: classical and modern. They look as updated variant of academism and reflect the spirit after the ages of war. This architecture revived the consequences of earlier periods substituted for the Medieval National-Byzantine tradition, Baroque, Romanticism and Modern concepts of art. According to them, the region of Banat appeals as an urban whole resulting from the conflicting dichotomies like particu-
lar and general, national and traditional, supranational and modern.

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RESEARCH, PRESERVATION AND PRESENTATION OF BANAT HERITAGE: CURRENT STATE AND LONG TERM STRATEGY

Concepts of period assigned in the article above arise as a reflection of a community’s progress and, as a form of domestic view of eclecticism which freely combines different historical styles and in some ways manifests its decadence from time. The buildings, which is writing about, are splendid demonstration of academic rules. Forms and elements evoke a classical balance, expressive-tone and overall effects of unity. They indicate Serbian architect Dragiša Brašovan’s penchant for the high ideals and clever keeping pompousness, weightiness and monumental tendencies. At the first sight, neo-design like this, could be evocation of magnificent past epochs. Those building swayed between two poles: classical and modern. They look as updated variant of academism and reflect the spirit after the ages of war. This architecture revived the consequences of earlier periods substituted for the Medieval National-Byzantine tradition, Baroque, Romanticism and Modern concepts of art. According to them, the region of Banat appeals as an urban whole resulting from the conflicting dichotomies like particular and general, national and traditional, supranational and modern.

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In general, they do not possess initial or authentic style of author. The search for a particular realization of the character and expression of modern architecture is evident.

Design for High Agricultural School “Paja Jovanović” in Vršac is one of the usual combinations of vertical and horizontal zones with whom he experimented through his entire work. Central rectangular vertical axis, on which main entrance to school is located, is drawn into the field and flanked with classrooms which have different levels. Windows follow the rhythm of horizontal and vertical combinations. This building is an example of triumph of geometry, essentially the right angle. It is massive, monumental and thoroughly modern. Therefore seems a bit shapeless. Because, Brašovan cared more for urban issues than about architecture demands. It has fully symmetrical network in the basis what attest windows of the same size and
DIGITAL ARCHIVE OF THE BANAT VERNACULARS AND CULTURE: FIELDWORK AND PERSPECTIVES

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Abstract: In this paper we will outline the key characteristics of the Digital Archive of the Balkan Institute of the Serbian Academy of Science and Arts, abb. DABI. The DABI is created on the basis of data being collected in the fieldwork over the course of more than a decade. The emphasis of our paper is placed upon the recordings made during the fieldwork in the Serbian Banat among different ethnic, linguistic and confessional communities. We will point at possibilities and perspectives regarding the DABI development and its utilisation for scientific, educational and museum purposes.

Key words: digital archive, Banat, anthropology, linguistics, ethnic, confessional and linguistic communities, vernacular, oral history

The research team of the Institute for Balkan Studies of the Serbian Academy of Science and Arts has been dedicated for more than a decade to the field research of multiethnic, multilingual and multi-confessional communities in Serbia and its neighbouring countries. As a result, the Digital Archive of the Balkan Institute SASA – abb. DABI – has been created. Alongside interviews the fieldwork data includes numerous photographs and video recordings. The multifunctional and multilingual Digital Archive thus represents a unique cultural heritage of Serbia and the Balkans. A significant part of the DABI is comprised of the recordings made in the Serbian Banat among different ethnic, linguistic and confessional communities in their native vernaculars, i.e. Serbian, Hungarian, Romanian, Romani, Croatian, Bulgarian, etc. We would like, hence, to give an overview of the Banat communities that have been thus far explored and incorporated into the DABI, as well as to point out different perspectives on the DABI utilisation for scientific, educational and museum purposes.

1. Fieldwork of the Balkan Institute Research Team: Projects

The fieldwork of multiethnic, multilingual and multi-confessional communities in the Balkans has been carried out since 1998. It began more or less informally at the Institute of Serbian Language SASA. From 2002 it has continued as a systematic, institutionalised research at the Institute for Balkan Studies SASA within the projects funded by the Ministry for Science of the Republic of Serbia. Following the chronological order, we provide a list below of the Balkan Institute projects dedicated first and foremost to conducting anthropological and linguistic fieldwork:

(2) “Ethnic and Social Stratification of the Balkans”, 2006–2010;
(3) “Language, Folklore, Migrations in the Balkans”, 2011–2014, i.e. the current project.

A leader of all the above mentioned projects is Dr. Biljana Sikimić. The projects serve the creation of interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary digital database and scholarly studies which enhance the general awareness and knowledge on the Balkan multiethnic culture (cf. Vučković 2010; Sikimić 2012). Moreover, the projects are carried out by a multidisciplinary team working which has so far included more than thirty researchers, e.g. linguists, anthropologists, ethnomusicologists, historians, museum people, folklorists, literature scholars, etc.

Besides, a number of research projects funded by UNESCO’s Intangible Cultural Heritage Programme were based upon the same fieldwork methodology as the Balkan Institute projects. The researchers of the Balkan Institute also took part in the UNESCO projects, while the recordings made for those projects were consequently incorporated into the DABI. These were the following projects:

(a) “Slavic Vernaculars in Kosovo and Metohija”, carried out in 2003 by the Institute of Serbian Language SASA;
(b) “Serbian Epic Poetry and its Cultural Expression”, carried out in 2004 by the Institute for Literature and Arts;
(c) “Language and Identity in the Republic of Serbia” carried out in 2008 by the Institute of Serbian Language SASA.

The Balkan Institute’s and UNESCO research projects were based upon fieldwork and scientific elaboration, i.e. interviews, audio and video recordings, archiving.
which could be approached only in the building of the Serbian Academy of Science and Arts in Novi Sad and Kopaonik; in Central Serbia – Banyash, Bulgarian, Serbian and Roma population (e.g. in Belgrade and its vicinity, in the vicinity of Lazaricevac, Mladenovac, Jagodina and Paracin); in Southern Serbia – Roma and Serbs (e.g. in the vicinity of Prokuplje and Vranje). The large part of the DABI com-
ponents audio-recordings made during the field research among the Kosovo Slavic communities, above all the Serbian enclave communities and the refugees in col-
lections of interlocutors; also the DABI also includes field-
work recordings from Hungary (e.g. Serbian and Catholic-
slavic communities), Romania (e.g. Banyash, Roma, Ro-
manian, Serbian communities), Croatia (e.g. Banyash-
communities and some in Russian), Slovakia (e.g. Ro-
manian, Serbian communities), Slovenia (e.g. Serbian comm-
unities), etc. The significant part of the DABI is comprised of re-
cordings made during the fieldwork in Vojvodina, i.e. in
Backa and the Serbian Banat. In Backa, the Bunyev and
Banyash communities have been mainly examined. The
fieldwork in the Serbian Banat particularly focused upon
a wide variety of ethnic groups and involved the system-
atic data collection as will be discussed in more detail below.

4. Fieldwork in Banat

4.1. Serbian Speech Communities

Given that the most of the fieldwork has been con-
ducted in Serbia, it comes as no surprise that most of the
data has been collected among the Serbian speech and
etnic minorities. The research has been mainly fo-
cused upon multiethnic and multilingual settlements,
the subjects of the research were mainly those Serbian
communities who live alongside other ethnic groups.

In regards to the Banatian Serbs, the research conducted
in Southern and Central Banat has been especially pro-
ductive. The research was carried out in the municip-
ality of Pančevo (Dolovo, Omoljica), Kmon (Mramorak),
Alibunar (Dobrica, Novi Kozjak, Vladimirak), Bela-
Crkva (Banatska Palanka, Crvena Crkva, Vrajci, Gaj
Jasenov), Vračev Gaj (Izbište, Ulija, Vlajkovac), Boka,
Neužina, Radiojevo.

That the DABI has not yet been fully presented is
fairly difficult to estimate the exact number of recorded
hours. A rough estimate would probably be over 2,000
hours of audio material, more than 100 hours of video-
material and over 1,000 photos.

3. DABI: Database Overview

One of the most noteworthy results of the more than
decade-long fieldwork is the Digital Archive of the
Balkan Institute SASA – ab DABI – envisaged as a col-
aborative project of the Balkan Institute researchers and
associates. The DABI is stored on an external disk

The research of the Hungarian communities in the
Serbian Banat included mainly Southern Banat, i.e. the
village of Vojlovač (Hun. Hertelendyfalva), Skorenovac
(Hun. Sándora), Novo Varoš (Hun. Székelykéve) and Ban-
jaši, Rudari, Romanians, Koritari, Romanian / Valachian (Hun. Székelykeve) and Ivanovo (Hun. Sándoregyháza).

4.2. Hungarian Speech Communities

The research on the Hungarian communities in the
Serbian Banat included mainly Southern Banat, i.e. the
village of Vojlovač (Hun. Hertelendyfalva), Skorenovac
(Hun. Sándora), Novo Varoš (Hun. Székelykéve) and Ban-
jaši, Rudari, Romanians, Koritari, Romanian / Valachian (Hun. Székelykeve) and Ivanovo (Hun. Sándoregyháza).

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village of Vojlovač (Hun. Hertelendyfalva), Skorenovac
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jaši, Rudari, Romanians, Koritari, Romanian / Valachian (Hun. Székelykeve) and Ivanovo (Hun. Sándoregyháza).
4.4. Bunyash and Roma Communities

Aside from the ethnic Romanians, very extensive re-
search on the Bunyash communities has been con-
ducted. The Bunyash are native speakers of different dialects of
Romanian language and regarded as being close to Roma in
identity were (cf. footnote 3). In the DABI database, the
Bunyash fieldwork material covers whole territory of
Serbia, parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia.
Field research on the Bunyash in the Serbian Banat in-
cluded villages of Ujligan, Grebecan, Mali Torač, Malo Središte
e i Ečka (cf. Ćirković 2006; Sikimić 2005, 2006;

In the DABI database there are also recordings of
the village from the cities of Strašja, Rtišjevo, Lokev
and Veliki Torač (cf. Ćirković 2007; Mandić 2007; Sikimić 2007).

4.5. Slavonic Catholic Population

The DABI records the Slavonic Catholic communities in the
Banat included several communities: Krashavci, Crnaša,
Craiovi, Bulgarians and Romanians. Field research on
these communities in the Serbian Banat included
villages of Jelovica, Grebecan, Mali Torač, Malo Središte
e i Ečka (cf. Ćirković 2006; Sikimić 2005, 2006;

In the DABI database, the Slavonic Catholic
research material is available for
Muslim, Russian, Jewish and Roma
material. By representing vernacular, narratives, songs of
the Banatian people, we could give a new breath of
life to static museum displays. The field research on
Bulgarians from 2002 to 2005 included villages of Ivanovo,
Središte i Ečka (cf. Ćirković 2006; Sikimić 2005, 2006,

By representing vernacular, narratives, songs of
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Središte i Ečka (cf. Ćirković 2006; Sikimić 2005, 2006,

5. Perspectives

Perspectives on the DABI use can be viewed from two
different angles:

(1) Neccessitate of new field research focused on the
communities in the Serbian as well as in the Romanian
and Hungarian Banat which have so far been
underexplored.

(2) The possiblities of the DABI utilisation for scientific,
educational and museum purposes in order to repre-
sent this cultural heritage to the wider audience.

With regards to future field research in the Banat,
there is obviously a need for fundraising and field re-
search grants which would be regorun-
mental fieldwork projects. Namely, although a very range of
ethnic communities has been the subject of research in the
Serbian Banat, there are still some communities who
have not attracted the scholarly attention they deserve.

E.g. Bulgarians, Slovaks, Macedonians and Germans.
Furthermore, there is a necessity to conduct systemat-
ic research of all the Banatian communities in the time
characterized by transition and profound social and
cultural changes.
The DABI, as already stressed, can be utilised for
scientific, educational and museum purposes. The field-
work data archived in the DABI could serve as a source in
various disciplines, e.g. linguistics, anthropology, history,
cultural and folklore studies, sociology, etc. Based on
the DABI, several monographs, papers collections and more
have so far been pub-
lshed (cf. Vučković 2010; Sikimić 2012). Furthermore, the
DABI utilisation for museum and educational purposes fits very well into the programmes which create a sense
of regional identity and support interregional and inter-
cultural cooperation. We think that exhibitions and ar-
s. of the potential Regional Centre for Banat Heritage should
include the aforementioned data and
material. By representing vernacular, narratives, songs of
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The Manners of Performance in Historical Recordings of the Serbian and Romanian Traditional Music

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Abstract: On the territories of the Balkan, as well as on those belonging to the Austro-Hungary, there were not enough local educated musicians, so Czech and German experts were invited to act as capelle-masters and teachers of music. The Serbian and the Romanians composers were dealing with collecting musical folklore primarily with the aim of harmonizing traditional songs, mostly for voice and piano, choir or when they were inspired they created major artistic compositions. However, owing to the Bartók who has even in 1912 recorded with phonograph the Serbian and Romanian musical folk material on the region of the Banat, we can see how the Serbian and Romanian performers sang and played almost a century ago. In order to present all these, we shall use also the phonographic recordings realized with Serbian performers – prisoners in Germany, in 1916.

On the bases of analysis using these precious historical recordings, the aim of this paper will be focused to researches of the fundamental characteristics of manners in performing the Serbian and Romanian music by singers and instrumentalists from the beginning of the 20th century, and the continuity and changes of manners of contemporary performers in connection with the music folk material eternized by phonograph.

Key words: manners of performance, phonograph recordings, region of the Banat, the Serbian and Romansians composers, teachers of music

At the very beginning of the 20th century, when musical experts were working across the Balkans and putting on paper folk tunes by ear while listening to indigenous performers, people started to talk about a technical ‘wonder’ invented in the West and in use in some countries – one which could record and reproduce sound, that is: music. In the Banat area, then under the Austro-Hungarian rule, Béla Bartók was in the year 1912 recording folkloric musical material by phonograph and – using these recordings – transcribing tunes with their minutest ornamentation, which made the rarity even more precious and alluring. 

In the wake of Bartók’s recordings of Serbian and Romanian tunes made in several towns and villages of the Banat (the region now shared by Serbia (Vojvodina and Romania), this paper focuses on studies in some basic features of the manners of performance to be found with the Serbian and Romanian songs from early 20th century, as well as on the continuities and/or alterations in the performing styles found with the present-day songs as compared to the phonograph-recorded folklor material.

This paper also relies on the phonographic recordings filed at the sound library (Lautarchiv) of Berlin’s Humboldt University which were carried out with the Serbian interpreters imprisoned in the German war camp at Koenighshreuck on November 21st, 1916. Therefore, I take the opportunity to express my great thanks to Dr. Arthur Simon, Dr. Susanne Ziegler and Mr. Juergen Mahrenholz who enabled and helped me to use that important, valuable and engrossing material.

Unfortunately, I have not managed to get access to Bartók recordings of the Serbian material from the year 1912, so I have had to rely on his transcriptions only – 21 specimens of vocal and instrumental music. 

For this paper, I have also used 264 phonographic recordings of Romanian folklore material made by Bartók with Romanians mostly, but in part also with the ‘Romanian’ Gypsies/Romanies from the Banat (area in the northeast of Serbia and the west of Romania). These were made in December, 1912. At this point I must remark that some of those recordings cannot be used due to their technical insufficiencies, yet many are in better condition, while a number of the items can even be transcribed and used for scientific purposes.

An ethnomusicological analysis of the available folklore material led me to a classification of the manners of performance that are relevant for both Serbian and Romanian folklore from the beginning of the 20th century. Considering the manners of performing the melodic line, two discernible basic styles of interpretation can be ascertained: melismatic and syllabic. The melismatic style of performance is widely spread in the vocal traditions of both peoples, especially in lyrical love songs (most numerous), wedding-songs and occasionally in epic-lyrical, i.e. ritual songs (e.g. zorile with Romanians). This manner of performance is immediately related with the parlando-rubato rhythmic system that had a general relevance for both Serbian and Romanian traditional music. 

The melismatic style of performance is widespread in the vocal traditions of both peoples, especially in lyrical love songs, especially in literary love songs, wedding-songs and occasionally in epic and lyrical songs (e.g. zorile with Romanians). This manner of performance is immediately related with the parlando-rubato rhythmic system that had a general relevance for both Serbian and Romanian traditional music. 

# References

1Dr. Vinko Žganec, Croatian ethnomusicologist, claims that his friends “were captivated by the accuracy” of Bartók’s transcriptions: Bartók, 1970:191-192.
2For more on Bartók’s material see: Fracile, 1995: 53-76.
3 The corpus consists of mere 6 phonographic recordings which were taken by Dr. Susanne Ziegler from the Lautarchiv which is part of the Department of Musicology at Berlin’s Humboldt University. All of the specimens were carried out at Koenignshreuck on November 21st, 1916, under the controllership of Herman Jacobsohn. The date itself may indicate that the prisoners were observing the feast day of the Holy Archangel Michael – perhaps in the form of a stage performance evoking their historical and artistic heritage. For my present research, I have used 6 copies of those recordings which are in the phonographic Archive of Berlin indexed as: Serbian recordings of prisoners in German prisoner camps, 1916, under the following call numbers: P.K. 540, P.K. 550, P.K. 546 i P.K. 533.
5These phonographic recordings are kept in Bartók Archives in Budapest: NH 1754-1850.
6 More about ritual songs zorile, see: Fracile: 1987: 71-76.
The syllabic style of performance within the giusto-syllabic system is spread far wider in the Romanian folklore of the earlier historical layer. Several examples are evidenced in Bartók recordings and include some secular carols and rainsongs. Incredibly enough, some of these songs have retained the basic features of the melodic line, almost identical to the syllabic style of performance which dates at least from the beginning of the 19th century and has been practised until nowadays. For illustration, I transcribed two examples: the first is noted on the basis of Bartók’s phonographic recording of a rainsong which the second has been made with Yugoslavia’s Romanians by the author of this paper (Examples 2, 3).

Other examples one can find in the Romanian folklore vividly illustrate the vitality of the akkāl rhythm, of the melody and the refrain, but also of the manner of performance. The persistence of these aspects establishes a firm span between the past and the present. “Such beautiful songs cannot fall into oblivion easily” – claims Ana Pardos, informant/performer. Now follows a 1912 example recorded by Běla Bátork, and another one made by the author of this paper on August 17th, 2002 (Examples 4, 5).

For the major portion of the Serbian epic poetry, syllabic style of performance with an accompaniment of gusle is typical. However, the corpus of the phonographic recordings made in Germany contains one poem which is interpreted in a thoroughly different style. It is a poem telling about the assassination of Serbia’s King Aleksandar and Queen Draga Obrenović [8]. First, the poem has no instrumental accompaniment – it is sung/narrated as an individual solo performance within the parlando-rubato rhythmic system. Hence the extremely enriched and sublimely melismatic style of performance ‘overtured’ through the opening lines. That is, instead of the instrumental introduction (usually a gusle-section), the singer/narrator demonstrates his vocal qualities, sensitivity and talent for improvisation, by way of melisma based on the vowel ‘o’ as a kind of vocal intermezzo. It is a combination of melismatic, moderately melismatic and syllabic styles of performance that makes a special ‘imprint’ and quality of the truly splendid epic poem that invokes the spirit of traditional Modem music. It is noteworthy that as soon as in the third line, the singer addresses his ‘brothers from the Serbian lands’:

Caffe, branc, iz srpskih zemalja, jubili su Aleksandra kraljiv...

(“Hear this, brothers from the Serbian lands, / Alexander, king of ours, has been killed...”) which is followed by narration in epic decasyllable of asymmetrical structure (4+6) (Example 6).

In a number of Romanian lyrical songs (doină) recorded by Běla Bátork, a special manner of performance is distinguished with the performance of the first melos (melodic stanza melismatic sections) on the neutral syllable (e. g. Traï, lai, lai, lai, lai, lai, lai...).

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la", "re"), whereas the second melostrophe is performed on the octosyllabic verse (e.g. "Traundar gă creanga n'apă", "The rose with its branch in water"), which is sung four times successively. In other specimens, one melostrophe/melodic stanza is performed on one octosyllabic line (Dă mă mamă după placă", "'Marry me off, oh, mother, to the one I love"), also sung four times, while the second occurs with another one (Măcăr să fie săracă, "Even though he’s poor"). Within the Bartók phonographic corpus, this rather specific manner is not found with other folklore genres (wedding songs, carols, epic-lyrical songs etc.).

Yet one must not forget that Bartók recorded only the first two or three melodic stanzas of Romanian doină songs, which makes it difficult to draw any definite conclusions about this manner of performance. What is certain, however, is that the manner of performance was characteristic of the interpretation of the Romanian doină songs at the beginning of the 20th century, and – in all probability – for quite a while before that. Additionally, we should know that these songs were usually sung unison, while today solo performance prevails (Example 7).

This paper would fail to reflect the true picture about the manners of performance to be found with Serbian traditional songs if we overlook one important trait of theirs – part singing. The issue has not been discussed thus far because the analyzed specimens from early 20th century include but a single song performed in two voices/parts. The one is a Serbian love song, entitled Idem kući, a već zora ("Home I’m going while dawn’s already breaking"); it was phonograph-recorded by Bartók in the Banat in 1912, then transcribed. Bartók’s notation (as has been said, sound recordings are not accessible) indicates that the item represents a more recent style of traditional homophonous two-part singing. By ordinary people, the style is widely referred to as na bas ("given-bass"). It is manifested in the movement of the second voice, mostly in parallel terzis and a perfect fifth chord in the cadenzas of the melopoetic entities, as well as in the very ending.

In the Serbian vocal tradition, however, there is another style of singing which is far older. It is heterophon-ic two-part interpretation, popularly referred to as 'given voice' (na glas). Until the 1960s, very little had been written about it. This can be explained by the fact that in the earlier period most of the Serbian researchers did not have a phonograph, later tape-recorder, to record part singing before they would put it on paper and examine. Therefore, systematic research in Serbian tradi- tional part singing has been taking place only over the last thirty years or so. 

The results allow one to conclude that – speaking about na glas two-part singing – the ear-lie feature of style includes domination of second chord which is usually produced by crossing of the parts, i.e. by descent of the leading voice below the accompanying second voice. The style was widely spread in the past in Serbia’s highlands, with the exception of the southern areas, which is usually produced by crossing of the parts, i.e.

by descent of the leading voice below the accompanying second voice. The style was widely spread in the past in Serbia’s highlands, with the exception of the southern areas, as (the valley of the South Morava river, Kosovo-Metohija) where solo (monophonous) or group (unison) performances prevailed. Evidently, over the latter half of the 20th century, the older, ‘given voice’ style of performance has been retreat- ing before the more recent na bas (‘given-bass’) manner.

Even elderly singers prefer the recent singing style. Thus, two-way penetration of elements of style often take place: the second chord can at times be found within the re- cent style, and perfect fifth chord in the older manner of performance.

One phenomenon deserves to be mentioned at this point: over the last two decades, especially the last dozen or so years, urban young people (including students of ethnomusicology, composition, musicology and ethnology) have been showing increased interest in studies in, and performance of, the older singing style. They perform on stage with great success, attracting the auditoria of their own age and generally so. What is more, they manage to fill concert halls. In that way, the second – as an interval characteristic of this style of vocal performance – has changed its ‘place of residence’ and moved from rural highland areas to urban milieus.

We have to wait for a while and see whether the trend is to be continued and/or even to gain in strength in the future. Right now, both singers and their auditoria take delight in the second chord, better to say, in the ‘discovery’ of the second. Thereby, groups of young singers and future musical scholars among them – revive the old
style of vocal performance and build a bridge of under-
standing between rural and urban cultures.13

Conclusion

Undertaking to write this paper, the author intend-
ed to use available phonographic recordings in order to
8 shape some manners of performance practised in the
interpretation of Serbian and Romanian songs; on the
one hand, the manners are directly related to corre-
sponding rhythmic systems, and on the other hand they
are linked to the folklore genres within the respective
national communities. The work has revealed that there
is much in the Serbian and Romanian vocal traditions they
share in common, such as melismatic or syllabic style of
performance, solo or unison singing, etc.
The syllabic style of performance within the giusto-
 syllabic rhythmic system, one which comprises an earlier
part of the Balkans.

The sad reality is that the earlier layer of songs is on
eradical decreasing; with the shortage in phonographic
recordings of songs we well be directly related to the
metrics of the verse; in the distributive rhyth-
ic system, the disposition/arrangement of accents de-
pend on the kind of measure (e.g. 2/4 or 6/8), which
is typical of art music.
The melismatic style of performance, although
less representative now than in the past, still survives – it
is very extensive and takes a lot of time for systematical
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Ethnocoreological and ethnomusicological research of the Dinaric
people in Banat

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Abstract: Researching of the musical tradition, the life and customs of the people of multicultural place such as Banat is very precious for the science such as ethnocoreology and ethnomusicology. Ethnocoreological and ethnomu-

Researching of the musical tradition, the life and customs of the people of multicultural place such as Banat is very precious for the science such as ethnocoreology and ethnomusicology. Ethnocoreological and ethnomu-

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as a traditional country instrument adapting to perform some new music under new conditions.

One more work named "On contemporary tradition of the people from Krajinæ from the village of Nakovo in Banat" by Vesna Kariæ, resulted from musical-folklore material, collected in the vicinity of Kikinda in 2001 (Kapun, 2008). In this paper the focus is on the vocal traditions of the Kikinda and later, when he chose the topic of pedagogues in Kikinda, section: Traditional dance, 2007, in the villages Lukiævo i Klek.

Vojvodina), she dealt with similar research in 2006, while Since she is interested in the mentioned topic (the Sanja's Selo, Rusko Selo, Novi Kozarci i Banatsko Karađorđevo. Society for cherishing music 'Gusle' from Kikinda research project and, for the need of Archives of The Academic

In the last ten years, which is the period of taking place of music-folklore material from Kikinda and nearby villages. Since my first filed researches in 2001, I have been interested in music and dance practice of the Dinaric people in Banat, in fact in Vojvodina. The aim of my work is to present specificities of the relations between move-ments and sounds in dance practice of the Dinaric people in Vojvodina.

Scientific research work lasting a few decades of Olivera Vasiæ, PhD and Nice Fracile, PhD connected to the Dinaric people in Vojvodina has resulted in publishing a few publications. These are: Olivera Vasiæ, PhD, "Common characteristics of the dance tradition of the Dinaric people in Vojvodina" (Bacsb, 2002) and Nice Fracile, PhD, "Traditional music of the Serbs in Vojvodina - Anthology, CD 1 (Fræxæ, 2006).

The ancestors of nowadays Dinaric people colonized in Vojvodina after the First and the Second World War, but generations who were born in new area have kept and cherished traditional customs, songs and dances showing the strength and importance of traditional practice of their fatherland, says Golemovic, PhD. But, on the other side, Dragica Panic-Kalaæski, MA, considers that music tradition of the Dinaric people colonized in Vojvodina has got new features.

By analyzing of the dance genres and musical multi-lingualism of the Dinaric people in Vojvodina, in fact in Banat, Dinaric characteristics are united but also region/al local features of the colonists' traditional heritage are specified. On that way, we get a new dimension of the homogeneity in the order with opposition to "we" and "they", where "we" implies the Dinaric people in Vojvodina, and "they" implies the native Serbs. Dakomo Skoti, in his book Operation Storm, "liberation" of the Serbs from Nazi occupation in Croatia, the part of their history and culture has gone

(Скоти 2010: 111). On the other side, the Dinaric people have enriched its multicultural area by their coming in Vojvodina opening new possibilities for more quality an-alytical approach to intercultural dialogue.
Traditional Dance Practice of the Banat Serbs:
Research, Preservation and Presentation

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Abstract: Contrary to many areas in Serbia, the dance practice of the Banat Serbs can be surveyed throughout the entire 20th century. In several ethnochoreological and ethnomusicological writings about the dance and musical tradition of the Serbs from this region, one can find ethnographic details pertaining to certain dance and musical events, data about dance and musical repertoire, as well as descriptions of the ways of their performance. In addition, there are many video recordings of traditional dancing since the beginning of the early 1980s and audio recordings of traditional music since 1912 up to nowadays. My personal fieldwork of the dance and musical practice of the Serbs in this region (Serbian and Romanian part) started in 1994. It can be characterized as a never-ending, long-term type of research consisting of many trips to many of the Serbian villages throughout the region. The aim of this paper is to present the short survey of the past and present of the traditional dance and practice of the Banat Serbs, to indicate the most significant problems researches have faced during their research and, to propose strategies for the safeguarding of the traditional dances as intangible cultural heritage of this region.

Keywords: Banat, the Serbs, traditional dance, research, safeguarding

The region of Banat could be considered as the geographical and historical region of the Central Europe and the Pannonian Plain bordered by the rivers Muruš to the north, the Tisza to the west, the Danube to the south and the Carpathian Mountains to the east (Popović 1955: 7). It is the multiethnic area that extends across northern Serbian (part of Vojvodina), southern Hungarian and eastern Romanian territory.

The dance practice of the Serbs from all over the Banat can be surveyed throughout the entire 20th century. Beside the ethnographic details pertaining to certain dance events, one can find data about the dance repertoire, as well as descriptions of particular dance structures and the ways of their performance in several ethnochoreological writings about the dance practice of the Serbs from this region (Janković 1949; Crum 1974, 1976, 1993; Ilijin 1971, 1978; Putnik 1991; Feleldi 2003; Rakočević 2011).

In addition, there are many video recordings of traditional village dancing made since the early 1980s. The video clips have been recorded by Dimitrije Golemović and Olivera Vašić during the 1980’s and within the field research of the Northern Banat (Serbian and Romanian) as part of the summer „Ethno Camp“ for ethnomusicology students, which have been organized by the Academic Society for Music Cherishing „Gusle“ from Kikinda since 2002. None of the video recordings of the traditional dancing from this region have been published yet.

Beside the engagement within the students’ „Ethno Camp“, my personal fieldwork on the dance and musical practice of the Serbs from Banat started in 1994. It can be characterized as a never-ending long-term type of research consisting of many trips to the Serbian villages throughout Serbian and Romanian parts of Banat. Almost all of the units within my bibliography, including bachelor, master and doctoral thesis (Litvinović 1999; Rakočević 2002; Rakočević 2011), as well as one CD (Rakočević 2005), are devoted to the dance and musical practice of the Banat Serbs. The beginning of my professional interest for the dance and musical practice of the Serbs from this region was rooted in the mainstream of the nationally orientated discourse of the Serbian ethnochoreology and ethnomusicology. This scholarly approach has been based on the paradigmatic triad field research transcription-analysis of the local rural dance and music of the majority culture, guided by research workers who were “native” insiders, as myself (Golemović & Rakočević 2008: 88-89). My professional background as ethnochoreologist and ethnomusicologist from Serbia will certainly traced the perspectives of traditional dance (and music) safeguarding strategies which I will propose.

Within the basis of this long-term commitment to one region, the region where I grew up, the need for understanding processes of shaping dance and musical culture to which I partly identify myself too, is hiding. Nevertheless, during the research I became aware of the urgent need for cross-cultural and cross-national investigation of this part of Europe, which I will further develop within the discourses of multiculturalism, but also interculturalism. Nevertheless, those concepts of the future scientific narratives about traditional dance and music should be developed in parallel with also urgent need for preservation of their forms.

According to the UNESCO’s Convention, identification and preservation are some of the actions which should be implemented within the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (UNESCO 2003: 3). Considering the traditional dance practice of the Banat Serbs we should first identify, more precisely (re)construct the autonoustic dance genres. A systematically-based assessment of the traditional dance practice of this region, which encompasses its choreological as well as...
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... semantic traits, the (re)construction of Banat dance genres during twentieth century implies an emic-etic conceptualization of two basic dance genres: the kolo and couple dances.

Emic and etic are terms used within anthropology and other social sciences to refer to different kind of data considering human behavior. An emic account is a description of cultural forms which is given by the member of the culture. An etic account is a description of cultural forms of an observer. The emic-etic conceptualization of the traditional dance genres of the Banat Serbs fits to the one of the main ideas of UNESCO's safeguarding program: to place in the foreground the authority of the communities themselves. The role of researchers is to give the voice to the people they investigate and to make their tradition, and thus themselves too, visible to the Others.

Even though the initial criterion for a classification of Banat dances was the structure of their dance pattern, or to be more precise their formation, the phenomena of the kolo and couple dances were much more than that for the Serbian people of Banat. They were the identifiers of various dance cultures, during which the function of dancing in a kolo is directed toward restoring local and national cultural idioms, while the aim of couple dances were to express the desire of belonging to the cultural space of Central Europe.

Within the main genres of traditional dance practice we should, further on, identify subgenres which are autochthonous within given dance culture. Those are autochthonous kolo dances and the older couple dances, so-called po dvoje (in two). Among those, we should concentrate on the particular dances, which can be performed as singular dance performances. Among autochthonous kolo dances are veliko kolo, malo kolo, banatsko kolo, paosoko kolo and some others. Po dvoje dances are madurac, fico, sertica, lidana and others.

In other words, along with the scientific conceptualization of genres and subgenres which can help us in understanding the historical processes within the dance culture, we should focus on the particular dance performances in the safeguarding actions. One of the main tasks within the safeguarding of the traditional dance practice of the Banat Serbs is publishing of the audio and video materials which are not published yet. The published materials we can use, further on, for different purposes.

From the perspective of a researcher I propose followig strategies for the safeguarding of the autochthonous forms of traditional dance practice of the Banat Serbs: continuation of the research within the international cooperation and assistance, documentation of the materials (it means archiving audio and video recordings, but also making dance notations and musical transcriptions), publishing and promoting of the materials (this will make the material visible to the wider audience) and variety of educational efforts (at the first place triple cooperation between researchers, cultural-artistic/folklore societies and schools). All of those activities will make possible the preservation as one of the main tasks of the safeguarding the traditional dances from this region.

The final remarks this time will be directed toward my personal experiences considering making the proposed strategies possible in the context of the contemporary Serbian society. From my personal perspective, it seems that in recent years more has been done at the local than at national level. State policy encourages local institutions to focus real problems. This conference organized by the Municipality of Vršac and the City museum is one of the indicators for that statement. Let us all help this ambitious project succeed.

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A possible historiographic Banatian project
Carmen Albert
The Museum of Mountainous Banat, Reşiţa

Abstract: Having in view the proximity that existed during the course of history between the Romanians and the Serbian peoples, their common past, thus, a synthetical approach of these relations is imposed now in the years of the integration into a united Europe. Thus, it is necessary to achieve a history of the Banatian historiography which should be based on the documentary sources in the archives, yet insufficiently valued, of the four main ethnic groups which have once formed the population of historical Banat: Romanian, Germans, Serbians and Hungarians. Until the achievement of this desideratum, a starting point is constituted by the highlight of the published papers which have as subject mainly the Romanian-Serbian generally regarded in different political contexts, which have represented the object of researches. The present study briefly analyses the main papers published mostly in Romania.

Key-words: historiography, Romanian-Serbian relations, Banat, history, Romanian-Serbian Symposium

A history of the Banatian historiography is missing although the rather good relations between the states that have composed the historical Banat were encouraging such a demarche. The historical Banat known as a territory which contained the Romanian Banat, the Serbian Banat and a part of south Hungary, bordered by the Danube, Mures and the Timiş-Cerna couloir, was constituted as an entity once with the Austrian conquest and the award of the status of imperial province. This situation was an advantage for the discussed region, regarding the economic successes and the well-being of the population. Its specific has also derived during the history from the status of border province with a special situation, fully valued by the Austrian emperor himself, who has turned it into a crown province. The modernizing reforms during the monarchic absolutism, dictated by the political and economical interests, have generated important consequences which are still felt even today. This imperial interest has determined the distinct organisation of Banat, the constitution of the ranger regiments, the award of Illyrian privileges initially to the Serbians and then to Romanians, reforms which have stimulated the productive categories, especially the Romanian peasantry and the Serbian one (Leu, 2010, p. 116).

The complexity of this space history does not include, but contrary supposes necessarily a possible project regarding the history of the Banatian historiography which is very difficult to achieve. The difficulty stays in pursuing the four national directions: Romanian, German, Hungarian and Serbian but also the dynamics of their relations (Leu, 2009, p. 136).

Thus, we need a thorough research, based on the written document in order to renounce to some prejudices which were fixed in time in the collective memory, but which do not have anything in common with reality, moreover they have often blocked the different communication channels.

The difficulty of such a project has two main explanations: the dispersion of information sources (archives, libraries), but also ignorance of the languages in which the documents were drawn and the whole research should be based on these ones. A first step in order to start this history of the Banatian historiography would be a historiography of the Romanian-Serbian relations, which benefits of a starting basis, by the existence of some volumes in this sense.

We will concisely present the papers which have approached this theme of the Romanian-Serbian relations, especially those from the modern and contemporary period of the two countries, of both the Romanian and Serbian authors. Of course, we must not forget the multitude of studies published in different journals and collective volumes, from which we shortly present some approaches regarding this very important subject not only for historiography but also for the bilateral relations.

One of the first historians who have tried to present the dynamics of the Romanian-Serbian relations was the great Romanian historian Nicolae Iorga (Iorga, 1922 p. 50) who recorded some observations regarding the common policy of Serbia and Romania between the two periods: medieval and modern. This paper also includes a communication that the author presented at the Royal Serbian Academy in 1913, in which he has largely presented the connections between the two countries and he has also highlighted the linguistical Romanian-Serbian similarities.

Constantin C. Giurescu, whose work about Alexandru Ioan Cuza was re-edited recently (Giurescu, 1966, p. 412), presents the history of the Romanian-Serbian relations during the rule of Alexandru Ioan Cuza, an illustrious figure in the Romanian history. This work was first published in 1966 and due to its scientifical relevance, it was re-published in 2000.
The well-known specialist in Slav languages, specialist in the history of the utility and international relations, Nicolae Ciachir, has also published an ample paper (Romania in the South-Eastern Europe 1848-1889), in which he presents these relations (Ciachir, 1968, p. 239). The excellent Balkan specialist has written many books about the populations in the Balkans, one of them being focused on the Romanian-Serbian relations, including an important segment about the relations between the two countries.

On the other hand, the Danube was Radu Flora a known scientist and culture man who has published an important collection of documents regarding the Romanian-Serbian (Radu Flora, 1968, p. 408), probatory of the strong relations between the two countries. Flora, specific of the Banat region, especially of the Romanians in Voivodina. The collection edited by Radu Flora constitutes even today an important reference point. The vast and interested researches, the accent being put on the linguistical particularities of the two countries, Romanian and Serbian.

Milan Vanku, an expert of contemporary history and of the Balkans in general, has presented a paper published in Serbia (Vanku, 1969, p.398), then, also translated into Romanian (Vanku, 1979, p. 258), the political context, the benefits and the risks of the conclusion of the Little Entente before the Second World War, in which the two countries have manifested their emancipation desire. The impor- tance of this volume is important because it is based on the analysis of the archives sources in Romania and Serbia, revealing the relations between the two sacrificed themselves for the national interests of their own lives (Savić, 2000, p. 72).

Milan Vanku does not present the used bibliogra- phy, but from his study we find out how the two rulers: Dejan lon, Unele aspecte din istoria relaţiilor sârbo-române în prima jumătate a secolului al XIX-lea, “Actele Simpozionului/Radovi Simpozijuma” , 2005, p. 105-113.

One of them is focused exactly on the dynamics of the Romanian-Serbian relations in the first inter-war dec- ade, also integrating Banat’s problem (Lazar, 2009, p. 230). The context specific for the conclusion of the Little Entente was also highlighted in a new understanding paradigm as the interpretation of the whole diplomacy of the two countries.

We also mention the paper signed by Nicola Gavrilović (Gavrilović, 1997, p. 289), but also those published in volumes which were edited on the occasion of the sympo- sitium “Bihorul Bihorului”, of which the preparation on the subject of Romanian-Serbian ecclesiastic relations in the 18th and 19th centuries (Anuichi, 1979). It is one of the most important approaches regarding the ecclesiastic history, having as background the common Orthodox religion of the two peoples.

Ioan Dejan lon has achieved a last approach of the relations between these two peoples during the inter-war period accessing the archives sources in Romania, with accent on diplomatic, cultural and economic relations (Anuichi, 1979). From the Romanian and Serbian point of view, Milos Obrenović of Serbia have collaborated for the success of a danger- ous operation during the 20th century, due to the fact that both countries were vassals to the Ottoman Empire, which imposed some severe restrictions which have seriously limited their autonomy. We speak about an episode that took place in 1862, when with the support of the Romanian army; a caravan of 500 wagons loaded with guns from Russia has crossed the Romanian terri- tory on its way to Serbia, in order to consolidate their army (Vanku, 2000, p. 78).

Stelian Mândruţ takes the interval 1918-2000 in or- der to present the authors who have fixed as topic of interest the Romanian-Serbian relations during the period 1821-1918 (Mândruţ, 2005, p. 105). He mentions that during this period were published in different volumes and 300 journals or collective volumes, many of them are part of the relations in discussion. Thus the study signed by Susana and Avram Andre, Miodrag, Ciurășchin, Carmen Albert, Ioan Dejan, Marina Piuia- Bărcăneanu, Ioan Dejan (Vanku, 2000, p. 78). The study of Stelian Mândruţ is themati- cized on the analysis of the archives sources in Romania and Serbia, revealing the relations between the two countries, the benefits and the risks of the conclusion of the Little Entente.

The last volume (Roșu, Albert, 2010, p.567) dedi- cated to the papers of the symposium, we observe some studies regarding different periods and themes but most of them are part of the relations in discussion. Thus the studies signed by Susana and Avram Andrea, Miodrag, Ciurășchin, Carmen Albert, Ioan Dejan, Marina Piuia- Bărcăneanu, Ioan Dejan, Marina Piuia-Bărcăneanu, Ioan Dejan (Vanku, 2000, p. 78). The study of Stelian Mândruţ is themati- cized on the analysis of the archives sources in Romania and Serbia, revealing the relations between the two countries, the benefits and the risks of the conclusion of the Little Entente.

Generally all the collective volumes edited on the oc- casion of the symposium “Banat – a historic and cultural past” even those which are not contained in this study, contain researches which more or less are focused on the themes of the relations between the two peoples invo- lved here, which we hope to contribute to the outlining of a Banat’s history.

In the “Directory” of the Cultural Institute of Romanians in Voivodina, in its two editions, there are studies which can be included in a possible project regard- ing the Romanian-Serbian relations. Thus, we can take into consideration the study signed by Valeriu Leu about the Romanian-Serbian relations and the benefits and the risks of the conclusion of the Little Entente (Leu, 1968, p. 114) and that of Ioan Bovan and Liana Lăpădatu regarding the Romanian cultural societies in Transylvania and Matica Srpska (Lăpădatu, Bolovan, 2009, p. 136.).

All these achievements and others that will follow, continue the effort of their era to time to time to bring to the light the achievement of such a project is necessary, a history of the Banatian historiography.

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Research, Preservation and Presentation of Banat Heritage: Current State and Long Term Strategy
THE CONSTANTINE IUSTINIAN’S LAW IN SERBIAN AND ROMANIAN REDACTION

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Abstract: The legislation of Tsar Dushan (14th century) was preserved in 24 transcriptions written between the last decade of the 14th century and the 19th century. Until now, the original had not yet been found. According to the time of copying, content characteristics and language qualities the manuscripts are being divided into two groups: the more ancient and the more recent redaction. Among the preserved manuscripts of the more recent redaction (14) we can also find the Vrsac manuscript, currently being held in the Town Museum of Vrsac. It was written in 1772. Also, one manuscript in Romanian language written in 1776 was preserved. It is being held in the Romanian Academy of Sciences. It was most probably translated from a Serbian manuscript and changes, considered necessary, were made. When the development of all states in the Balkans was violently interrupted by Turkish conquests and when they were fit into a different social and cultural context, special position of the Christian population was preserved in some areas of life. To a certain extent, it had been allowed to the Christian habitants to apply their own law. Therefore, the work on old legal codes was continued, primarily engaging the Orthodox Church communities. On the territory of the Habsburg Empire these codes were used for the same reason and as a proof that would help acknowledging the special status of the Orthodox Church communities.

Key words: Tsar Constantine Iustinian’s Law, Byzantine Law, Serbian Law, Romanian Law.

The medieval law of the Balkan lands was developed under major influence of the Roman-Byzantine law. The existing customary law of the Slavic migrants and other peoples that came in contact with Byzantium had been harmonized and compressed with developed Byzantine written law. Gradually, unique law systems were created and later adapted to the needs of state and social communities. Some of the Byzantine law codes had survived the Byzantine Empire for several centuries as a living valid law on the territory of the Balkans.1

The original manuscript of the most important medieval Serbian law text, in contemporary literature called the legislation of Tsar Dushan had not yet been found. Until the Second World War 25 transcriptions dating from the last decade of the 14th to the 19th century have been preserved. According to the time of copying, content characteristics and language qualities the manuscripts are being divided into two groups: the more ancient and the more recent redaction. In the manuscripts of the more ancient redaction the legislation of Tsar Stephan Dushan was consisted of 3 law codes (Codex Tripartitus): 1. The Syntagma Canonum by Matthew Blastares, Byzantine law code in abridged version 2. The Law of Tsar Iustinian 3. The Code of Tsar Stephan Dushan.2

The more recent redaction, of which shall further be discussed, contains two legal texts (Codex Bipartitus): 1. The Law of Tsar Iustinian, under the altered title The Law of Tsar Constantine Iustinian and 2. The Code of Tsar Stephan Dushan.

In both law codes the parts of the Syntagma Canonum by Matthew Blastares were imported from the older manuscript redaction along with some changes. Thus, the

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1 Two law codes from the 14th century are of major importance for the Balkan nations. Matthew Blastares, a hieromonk introduced selected and, according to his judgment, the most important clerical and secular law material in his code Syntagma Canonum in an alphabet form, consisted of 24 chapters. He finished the code in 1335. Nomofylakes and judge Constantine Harmonopulos had chosen only the secular law material for his code and assembled this material into six books, which provided the name Hexabiblos to this code. He finished it in 1345. Both codes were copied after the destruction of the Byzantine state as well. It is considered that Hexabiblos was legally valid for the Christian population of Bulgaria and Romania during Turkish rule. It had also influenced the law of other Orthodox Christian nations. In 1814, it was translated into Russian language in order to become a law source for the Christian population of Bessarabia where it was valid until the end of the First World War. In Greece it had been applied as positive law all the way until the Second World War. The Syntagan had also been copied and used in various ways during several centuries. It had also undoubtedly influenced the law of Orthdox Christian nations. 


It was written on thin white paper manufactured in Austria. The size probably translated from a manuscript of the Karlovac rite of the Mesic Monastery. The archimandrite’s nephew, the family of Dr. Vladimir Dimitrijevic, the archimandrite Jovan Feldwari in May 1772 in Karlovci. It was held in the Research, Preservation and Presentation of Banat Heritage: Current State and Long Term Strategy.

The text structure is not identical with any manuscript of the more recent redaction. In order to get at least a partial uniformity of images and differences, only several regulations of Tar Constantine Lustrian have been considered here. For later study it would be necessary to compare thoroughly all the more recent redaction of the Serbian redaction with the Romanian manuscript.

Seizing the stolen object back from the thief

A possibility of seizing a stolen or looted object from the thief or the looter is predicted and the amount of the reward is being determined according to the value of the object: The Law of the Emperor: If someone takes something from the thief or from the looter, he shall take the half for himself, because he left it unsafe for it to be stolen (Bordjoshki manuscript, Article 72) In the Vrsac manuscript there is no difference in content. In the abridged Syntagma Canonum there is no regulation of the object’s value at all in the section about theft. For now we cannot be sure if this article had been written according to a different legal source, perhaps Byzantine, perhaps one more contemporary or it was composed by Serbian redactors. An important detail in the Serbian redaction is that in this Article the right of partitioning the object is being provided properly to the person that seized the object from the thief. So there is no need to wait for the acquisition of the object or for a suitable price. When the object was not divisible by its nature is unclear. According to the legal logic, the owner of the object would be obliged to pay the half of its value to the person that had seized the stolen object. Yet, there is no such regulation in the text.

In the Romanian manuscript there is also a regulation that provides the right to partition that seizing the stolen object back from the thief (with a slightly different qualification or villain). The amount of the reward corresponds to the half of the value of the object. So, unlike the text of the Serbian redaction, in this regulation it is clearly determined that the proprietor of the object is obliged to share the object with the person that seized it from the thief: And if someone takes something from a thief or a villain, the one that has been robbed shall share the object with the person that took it back from the thief, because that man risked his life.4 So, the obligation of handing over the half of the object if it is physically divisible, or the payment of the award in the amount of the half of the object’s value, would be on the burden of the proprietor.

It is obvious that the redactors of the Serbian and Romanian versions have different ideas about who would get back the object from the criminal took a lot of courage and skill and that such venture also involved risking one’s life. Great value of the (stolen, looted) object, the procedure in case when the object was not divisible by its nature is unregulated. The procedure in case of theft in the army is described in more details. A perpetrator that would steal arms in the military would be punished by cutting of both hands.7 In the older Byzantine law source – the Prochiron,8 in the Slavic version, criminal act of theft in the army is described in more details. A perpetrator that would steal an animal that could be harnessed in the army: a horse, a domestic animal or an ox would be punished by a severe punishment of cutting of both hands.9

The Prochiron and the abridged Syntagma Canonum regulation concerning this criminal act is inserted in Tar Constantine Lustrian’s Law, but altered: If someone steals in his army – if they steal arms, they shall be SFoyed, if someone steals in the army – if they steal horse or horse and arms they would be cut off. (Article 74 of the Bordjoshki manuscript)10 Similar formulation, with language differences that are not significant to the content, is not mentioned among other manuscripts of the more recent redaction as well as in the Vrsac manuscript. Arms theft was sanctioned by the same punishment that we can find in the Byzantine sources, while instead of horse theft it was imprecisely indicated something else. However, an imprecisely indicated object of theft is followed by a severe punishment that was determined for horse theft or theft of draught animals in the Byzantine sources (Prochiron, Syntagma Canonum). In the Romanian manuscript it is being determined more precisely that the stolen object must have a certain value in order for the punishment to be so severe: If a soldier takes or steals a weapon in his army, he shall be SFoyed. If someone steals an object that would be cut off.11 It is possible that the Romanian redactor (re) had tried to solve the problem he had found in the Serbian redaction in this manner. Not being familiar with the Byzantine regulation directly, perhaps he had inserted valuable object instead of a general determinant something else. This may be a case of obvious legal irrelevance between an imprecise regulation and a severe punishment determined in the Serbian redaction.

Thief in the military

One should have in mind that neither the Serbian nor the Romanian community in the 18th century had an army or a state of their own that could guarantee the execution of a severe punishment for a criminal act that would be dangerous for the state. Hence, there was no purpose in altering such parts of the legal code intentionally, because it could, most probably, not have been used in practice. There was no blood and quarrels and fights. This hard way of life and constant serving of weapons were convenient for causing mutual conflicts. That caused additional difficulties for the commanders and so severe punishments were used to provide order and tranquility among the soldiers. Therefore, in the regulations concerning theft, horse theft and arms theft in the military are being presented as a particular act. While corporal punishment by flogging was determined for this act, horse theft was being punished by cutting of both hands.11

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Before speaking about the domain that involves school and education it is necessary to make some referring to the divining the territory of Banat in the civil and military regions and to institution of Orthodox Church.

Speaking about the Habsburg reorganization of Banat it is important to remember that was founded the Romanian Banat Border Regiment number 13 with its headquarters at Caransebes and the Serbian Banat Border Regiment number 14 with its headquarters in Biserica Alba (White Church).

The civil part of Banat was and its schools and religion was under the rule of Metropolitan of Karlowitz. That situation was maintained until 1865 when Emperor Franz Joseph gave autonomy to Romanian Orthodox Church by which all the education was made in Hungarian language and practically the Romanian or Serbian national being was denied.

We can say that all laws from nineteenth century after 1867 have a goal in Magarization of population and to decimation of the national being. The worse period for the Education in native language and for keeping the national being was the law from 1907 known as Appony law by which all the education was made in Hungarian language and practically the Romanian or Serbian national being was denied.

Key words: Banat, Orthodox Church, Habsburg Empire, Austrian-Hungarian Empire, Education, School, Romanian Language

The new Ratio Educationis from 1806 established that religion to be more studied in schools and the obligation of the land owner to sustain financial the school. The payment for the teachers, the school books, teaching religion were also points to follow by the two laws.

Also was established the control of school activities to be made by the civil and ecclesiastic authorities by periodic visits. The payment for the teachers, the school books, teaching religion were also points to follow by the two laws.

At the beginning the 19th century in Banat will be founded economic schools and commercial lessons. At the second half of the nineteenth century in all schools programs were included agriculture lessons which were very useful and needed in the military province. The goal of Banat as a distant goal and to educate new military staff was to Germanize the population of Banat as a distant goal and to educate new military staff as a distant goal and to educate new military staff. By this policy the clerical institutions were also damaged because for more than one century the education was made by the churches in languages, either Romanian or Serbian.

During the Habsburg domination were given a few laws with the aim to Germanize the population of Banat as a distant goal and to educate new military staff very useful and needed in the military province. The goal for the civil province was to have educated citizens that could bring a higher profit for the Empire, knowing that province of Banat was an economic experiment.

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Key words: Banat, Orthodox Church, Habsburg Empire, Austrian-Hungarian Empire, Education, School, Romanian Language

Before speaking about the domain that involves school and education it is necessary to make some referring to the divining the territory of Banat in the civil and military regions and to institution of Orthodox Church.

Speaking about the Habsburg reorganization of Banat it is important to remember that was founded the Romanian Banat Border Regiment number 13 with its headquarters at Caransebes and the Serbian Banat Border Regiment number 14 with its headquarters in Biserica Alba (White Church).

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The Romans in Vršac

Mirca Maran

Preschool Teacher Training College “Mihailo Palov”, Vršac

Abstract: The paper gives a review of the socio-economic, demographic, confessional, educational and cultural position of the Romans in Vršac from the 18th to the 20th century. The Romans have from the beginning been a part of the Vršac citizenry, although they were a minority compared to other ethnicities living in The Town under the Tower (Vršac), such as Serbs, Germans and Hungarians. After the ecclesiastic division in 1864, Vršac remains the that seat of a Romanian Orthodox Archeparchy. When the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy was dissolved and the Yugoslav state was created, it became and has stayed until the present day the main educational, cultural, political and economic centre of the Romanians in the former Yugoslavia, that is, the present Republic of Serbia. Because of the vastness of the topic, it will only deal with the presentation of the position and role of the Romanians in Vršac from 1941 until today is left for another paper.

Key words: Vršac, Romans, education, citizenry, church.

Vršac – one of the most important economic, administrative, cultural, education and religion centres in Banat, has long ago been a setting where the influences of various cultures, confessions and languages have intersected. It has remained such until the present day, thus not significantly differing from other towns or smaller settlements in Banat, since one of the most important features of Banat as a whole is its ethnic, religious and cultural diversity. This is a great richness and people living in Banat can be only proud of it.

The Romans are present among the nations who used to participate and who have nowadays been participating in creation of what could be called the Banat civilization, the region for a long time been inhabited by various nations creating its history. The were closest to the Serbs who belonged to one religion, the people that was in a way the most liberal one given by the Hungarian Government Otvos.4 The Hungarian administration point out from the very beginning the liberal character of this law so that way they wanted to limit standings. In 1869 Hungarian Government had one that was the worse for Hungarians and Serbs, established that in all the schools the teaching process to be made in Hungarian language. This law was perfectly an attack to Romanians and Serbian ethnic. It is clearly that language for teaching is the Hungarian one. All the sings that do not represent the Hungarian state should be removed from course classes and national holidays of Hungary must be celebrate by all the students whatever they are Hungarian or not.

The second law Trefort from 1883 was the most rough for the national schools. All the laws given by the Hungarian Government had one that was the worse for the ethic minorities, Appony law from 1907.

As a conclusion we can say that all laws from nineteen century after 1867 has a goal in Magarization of population and to decimate all the traditions and national history.

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The Romans in Vršac

Andrei Vasici, the first monographer in Vršac, claimed in its work dating from 1859 that the Serbs and the Romans used to be citizens of Vršac and its surroundings even before Ottoman empire (Vasici 1993: 16). The historian Nicolae Tincu Vela gives us information, to be honest based on the oral tradition, on the presence of Romans in Vršac from the times immemorial in his work “Church national-political history of Romanians...” He mentions the colonization of nearly 13000 Romans from Oltenia who were inhabited in Banat from 1641 to 1844, with some of them coming to live to Vršac (Vela 1865: 143). The same author in one of his former works (Vela 1946: 361-363) publishes an interesting legend on how Vršac was founded, but we will not include it in serious sources showing the presence of the Romans in the town.

It is not easy to determine the number of Romans in Vršac until the first half of the 19th century (when in 1954 the first census was made according to which the number of Romanians in Vršac was recorded that total number is 432. The number of Romanians according to the census of citizens in the second half of the 19th and the first half of the 20th century can be seen according to the next table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total citizens</th>
<th>Romanians</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1881</td>
<td>22 810</td>
<td>253 (1,11%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1900</td>
<td>25 199</td>
<td>753 (2,99%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1910</td>
<td>27 370</td>
<td>879 (3,21%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1921</td>
<td>27 011</td>
<td>467 (1,73%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1948</td>
<td>23 038</td>
<td>565 (2,45%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The number of Romanians according to the census of citizens 1881, 1900, 1910, 1921 and 1948.

4 Onculescu, Petre Radu, Contributii la istoria desvoltarii lirismului romanesc, Timisoara, 1976, p. 237.
5 Andrei Ghidu, Iosif Balan, Monografia orasului Caramasebe, Caramasebe, 1908, p. 236.
6 Onculescu, Petre Radu, op. cit. p. 247.
The Romanian Orthodox church in Vrsac was built in 1912 (Popovic 2008: 34) and was one of the most famous Romanian families in the town until the second half of the 19th century (Tincu Vela 1865: 143). Among other respected families there was a family Baloi, extremely wealthy, considered to be the head of the Romanian families from Transylvania, when they were settling to Vrsac, in the 18th century. This family gave its contribu- tion when the Orthodox church in Vrsac was built; such a move was made by other Romanians as well, among them the "prince Emanuel and Arsenie, who came from Valachia" (Tincu Vela 1865: 163). The same months, Nicolae Tincu Vela, mentions other old Romanian families (1865) and majority of them is in the list of the Orthodox parish dating from 1796. These are, apart from the mentioned families Cuişor and Cioci, the families Barbu, Sterjovski, in Vrsac there will be also other families, which are mentioned in the list of the Orthodox parish dating from 1796. The very existence of the Romanian educational and religious institutions provided the conditions desirable for the development of both local intelligence and the repre- sentatives of the Romanian Orthodox church in Vrsac.

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Romanian intellectuals had moved to Romanian. The consolidation of the Romanian teaching language in Vrsac is important for the Romanian citi-
zens as a whole; this event was followed by the establish-
ment of the Romanian school (1835), and the opening of the higher classes within the Gymnasium (1941-1942) and the primary school in the Romanian language (1942-1943).

Notable persons

Paul Iorgovici (1764-1808), born in the village Vărădia, studies in Pozunj, Pest, Vienna and Rome. In 1790 he comes to Paris where he gets into a direct contact with a revolutionary ideas. He spends a period of time in London and Vienna, where he tries to initiate a publica-
tion in the Romanian language, which, however, for-
bids by the authorities. He gets back to Vrsac, where he is employed as a consortium lawyer and an interpreter for the Romanian language in the service of the episcopic Sakabenta. During this period he published his paper "Views on the Romanian language", but the authorities soon accused him of spreading revolutionary ideas, so that he was removed from his working place. After that he worked as a private lawyer as well as a professor of Latin language in The Grammar school in Vrsac. In 1808. Iorgovici is the first great educator of Banat, who was under the influence of the ideas of the French revolu-
tion and he remained until the very present day, one of the brilliant minds in the history of the Romanians who used to live in Vrsac.

Nikolaie Tincu Vela (1814-1867), was born in the place Ticvanul Mare. He is educated in the general sec-
ondary school in Segesvár and in the Romanian-Serbian clergy schools in Vrsac. In 1837 he becomes a deacon in Secaşu. Two years later (1839) he is a professor in the Romanian classes in the Clerical School. He soon becomes an archdeacon and a secretary in the eparchy consortium in Vrsac. During this period he deals with the distribution of the publications in the Romanian lan-
guage from Transylvania and Romanian principalities in the Southern Banat. He participated in the Assembly in Lugoj on 4/16 May 1848, where he was elected in a direct contact. His work in cooperation with other Romanians for the religious needs of the Romanians in Austro-Hungary. (Succu, Constantinescu II, 1800: 691-692). After the Romanian church was separated, he was positioned as a priest in Vrsac, actively participating in the distribution of the Romanians in the multiracial place where the Romanians in the history of Vrsac in 1867. He is an author of the "Church political-national history of the Romanians" published in Sibiu in 1865, in which he tries to provide arguments in favour of the need for church independence of the Romanian people. Talking about his literary works, we would like to mention the collection of folk ballads he collected from Banat and his work "A short story of the beginnings of Vrsac and its Romanians" (1846) is rather interesting.

Andrei Vasić (1796-1840) is the older brother of the well-known Romanian national revolution Pavel Vasić Ungureanu, one of the first physicians Romanians in the Monarchy. He was born in Timișoara and attends the University in Pest, where he makes a name for himself in his native town; after that he goes to secondary school and studies law in Pest and Segedin. He is mentioned in Vrsac as soon as 1829, where he works as a lawyer. In the years between 1840 and 1849 he is in the function of the president of Vrsac. He gives his contribution to the de-
velopment of the Romanian publication society of George Barita in Gazeta de Transilvania from Brașov. Later, in 1859, he publishes the first monograph book of Vrsac in the German language, under the title "Contributions to the monograph of the town of Vrsac", a work translated into Serbian language.

A Balkan Džezferdar Rifle from the Collection of the Banat Museum Timişoara

Zoran Markov

The Banat Museum Timişoara

Abstract: The portable flintlock firearm's crafting has been developed in the Western Balkan Peninsula under the influence of the Ottoman Turks, while the North Italian armories were extremely important when emphasizing the new types of arms defining the Balkan space. The džezferdar rifle belongs to the largest category of Balkan fire-
arms named tancice, being considered, alongside the ledenica pistol, the most beautiful Balkan firearm. There is only one Balkan džezferdar rifle in the weaponry collection of the Banat Museum Timișoara. This weapon is specific to the workshops from Boka Kotorosa. Donated in 1906, the džezferdar is nowadays a significant item of the Balkan weapons collection at the Banat Museum.

Keywords: džezferdar, tancice, Boka Kotorosa, the Banat Museum Timişoara

How Did The Balkan Rifles Develop during The Ottoman Domination

During the Ottoman domination, throughout the Balkan Peninsula, the powerful Oriental influence and the old European cultural heritage had paved the path for the development of some specific portable firearms, never known in other sides of the Ottoman Empire. The flintlock firearm's production in the Balkan weaponry workshops was strongly influenced by the ar-
mosures from Northern Europe. These rifles were exported in the Balkans starting with the mid 17th century by local armourers named tul’efikliji (Radović, 2002, p. 32).

The occidental rifles, especially the Italian ones used for hunting, represented the pattern of the future Balkan weapons during the 18th and 19th centuries. The barrels and mechanisms of the North-Italian hunting rifles were highly-valued components in the Balkan markets, where they were imported from Italy, initially as-
sembled in Albania and then in the whole Balkan space (Jeličić, 2001, p. 23). The Ottoman authorities prohib-
it the manufacturing of tul’efikliji in the Balkan Christian districts, to bear arms, and the legislation was much harsher during armed uprisings or conflicts. Given the facts, people in the Balkans started to develop clandestine weapons trade. From time to time, the Ottoman authorities tolerated these tradings, but usually they strongly forbade them, as a consequence of the political context of the era. The Balkan arms producers were not able to realize the huge arms' production of hunting rifles in large quantities. In the workshops and armouries throughout the Balkans, these barrels were decorated and assembled with other local components, leading to the development of new firearms types, characteristic for the Balkan Peninsula (Radović, 2002, p. 35).

Firearms Specific to The Balkan Space: The Tancice/Arnautke Rifles

A particular category of flintlock rifles was crafted in the Balkan Peninsula - tancice or arnautke. Tancice is a generic term covering a large scale of rifles used and, especially, crafted within the Balkan territory, particu-
larly in the Central and South-Western parts, therefore the local name arnaučke. However, when speaking about the tancice rifles, we should also consider that during the 18th century, as well as at the beginning of the 19th, the Balkan countries had imported a large amount of tancice/ arnaučke rifles designated to be exported there. Besides rifles, the Balkan countries imported from the Italians large amounts of barrels and mechanisms, items that were subsequently assembled by the Bosnian armour-
ners. We can say with certitude that the tancice rifles im-
ported from Northern Italy were not created according to specific Italian design, as they were not realized for the occidental market, but their only purpose was exclu-
sively to be exported to the Balkan Peninsula. Generally speaking, the Italian rifles were mostly used and realized/assembled in Kosovo, Albania or Bosnia, given the fact that the Italian workshops and armouries in the 18th century were much more developed, proving a more superior production than the simple Balkan forges. When Bosnian was conquered by the Austro-Hungarians, the lo-
cal Bosnian armourers were still using flintlock mecha-
isms, since 1800.

According to the Serb, Croatian and Bosnian liter-
ature, the generic term tancice refers to a certain cate-
gory of Balkans arms, represented by two types of rifles different in shape (we mainly refer to the shape of the stock and barrel); they only have in common the territory within which they were crafted, the Habsburg Balkan Peninsula. Therefore, we can assert that all the rifles that...
The Džeferdar Rifle, a Balkan Jewelry...

characteristic element of these mother-of-pearl plates resembles the plates’ matrices, with a silver pearl inlaid in the centre of the plate, with only the mother-of-pearl around it. The mother-of-pearl, which used to assure the rifle’s complete sealing, was fixed onto the barrel by wood,silver, brass, and the brass ramrod, which was used only for a certain category of Balkan rifles, the only relevant arms used in the Balkans. No mother-of-pearl might have been introduced in the Balkans due to the imperial capital Istanbul, where these incriptions on weaponary items had already been known before 1580. In this regard, Elgood, 1995, p. 97,...

In time, due to its commercial freedom, this territory allured lots of handicraftsmen; among them skilful armours from all over the Balkan Peninsula. The armours had already come to the Balkan Peninsula at the end of the 17th century from famous cities such as Mostar, Trebinje, Podgorica, Foča (Jelić, 2001, p. 30). According to the censuses of the handicraftsmen from Hereg Novi, in the 18th century, there were 22 arms workshops. The Balkan’s term is generally covered with a wide plate made of silver or brass, decorated very beautifully (engraving, fret-saw etc.). This type of decoration is specific to the space stretching between Dubrovnik and Boka Kotorska.

5 In 1872 they founded the Society of History and Archaeology (Museum) in Timişoara, the foundation of the museum from Timişoara, an institution known today as the Banat Museum. Until 1918, the Banat Museum had also included the departments of Archaeology, History, and Natural Sciences. After 1944, the museum became the Zonal Laboratory of Restoration and Conservation. Since 2006, the Banat Museum: Timişoara is the only department in the Balkans, starting with the 17th century, the armourers from the inner Balkan Peninsula brought both this weapon type and its decorations to Boka Kotorska; these elements had gradually become the characteristics of the džeferdar rifles produced at Boka Kotorska. According to the special report from 1878, the first džeferdar rifles certified in documents develop between 1685 and 1689. The oldest džeferdar rifles from Boka Kotorska, preserved in museums and public collections, are dated at the beginning of the 18th century. This very luxuriously decorated rifle type was very appreciated by the outlaw's and rebels from Herzegovina, Montenegro and Dalmatia (Radović, 2002, p. 36).

The Only Džeferdar Rifle in The Collection of the Banat Museum Timişoara

Research, Preservation and Presentation of Banat Heritage: Current State and Long Term Strategy

The Džeferdar, a Balkan Jewelry...
Information related to the donated Mrs. Szalay Erzsébet, the rifle was registered in May 30, 1906, inv. nr. 2881, in the society's register.

Regarding the characteristics and give the fact that the item does not display any inscription referring to the workshops from Boka Kotorska. Therefore, we must consider at least two extremely important aspects when dating such a rifle: the barrel's origin and the weapon's decorative plates. Referring to our ðezifer鲜花”的 barrel, on the upper part of the barrel, the barrel breech, beyond the fixed rear sight, there is an inscription, where the “A” and “M” letters, at a distance of 1 cm from each other, are visible, while the rest of the inscription is unreadable. The spaly portion by the muzzle is decorated with vegetal motives.

The barrel is fastened to the forestock by means of three bands made of cock brass, different in forms and ornaments. The first band, set towards the muzzle, is the only one wholly decorated with engravings and enriched with stylized vegetal motives. The middle band is the thinnest and the only one which is not provided with ornaments. The last band, the widest, presents small geometric production dates in the form of some trombones made from hardened points, a rhombus on each of the three visible sides of the barrel.

The flintlock mechanism is the miquelet (alla cata-

The wooden stock is slightly curved and expanded at its ending, it is inlaid all over its surface with mother-of-

Furthermore, we shall present the dzifer鲜花” by taking a frontal elements of the barrel, the flintlock mechanism, the triggering mechanism, the stock and forestock, completing it with the rifle’s dimensions and caliber.

The dzifer鲜花”的 barrel is tronco-octogonal, smooth in the interior, a rounded and spaly muzzle. About 5 cm far from the barrel’s ending and the items’ total length. The information referring to the donation of Mrs. Szalay Erzsébet is also published in the magazine of the Museum Society of Banat TiMisoara, vol. XII, 2008. By highlighting the by the Balkan barrels can be noticed in pursuance of some specific analysis done upon the barrel’s metal, yet the industry number 3149, (the historical collection of the Banat Museum; to our colleague, Vesna Stankov, for her work on Balkan weaponry.

Back to our focus, the dzifer鲜花” held by the Banat Museum, it is complete and broken. The hammer is the only one wholly decorated with engravings and enriched with stylized vegetal motives. The barrel’s length: 113 cm. Total length: 146 cm.

In this case, the miquelet (alla cata-

Source: the donation of Mrs. Szalay Erzsébet, the rifle was registered in May 30, 1906 (old inv. nr. 2881).

The weaponry collection of the Banat Museum, inv. nr. 3149; relatively good conservation status15.

The trigger mechanism is included in the trigger mechanism of the Banat Museum Timisoara, vol. III, 1912–1913.

Finally, we would like to express our gratitude to Mr. Milan Şepeţan, kindly provided me with a series of specialized literature from Serbia and Croatia referring to Balkan weaponry.

In its description they refer to a flintlock rifle, covered with mother-of-

pearl plates in the form of some stylized “S” from a total number of 15 initial incrustations. Similar to the plates in the first register, the mother-of-pearl “S”-es are fixed to the rifle’s stock with a brass nail. We also have eight horizontal overlapping registers (four on each side of the stock) extending to the barrel’s barrel band in the stock. These registers’ incrustations comprise mother-of-

pearl plates in the form of some triangles (fastened to the stock with a brass nail) and rhombuses (fixed with two nails); the small plates are pointed out by the indented brims, made through the series of small, 3-mm nails.

The only mother-of-pearl incrustation on the weap-

on’s stock, triangle shaped, is fixed with three brass nails, in the right side of the flintlock mechanism. The wooden forestock is completely covered with brass, en-

graved and fretted with vegetal and geometric motives, identical with the ones found on the stock’s ending plate.

The forestock contains an interior slot for the introduc-

tion of the ramrod, yet the ramrod (which is probably metallic) is missing.

The rifle presents two metallic ringlets to fasten the belt, one on the side plate and the other on the forestock.

The barrel’s length: 113 cm. Total length: 146 cm. Calibre: 16 mm.

15 Finally, we would like to express our gratitude to Mr. Milan Şepeţan, the photographer of the Banat Museum, Timisoara, for the item’s digital photographs and for his support given to achieve the description of the dzifer鲜花” rifle belonging to the collection of the Banat Museum; to our colleague, Vesna Stanek, the curator of the City Museum of Vranje; and to our colleague, Vuk Obradovic, the curator of the Military Museum, Belgrade, who kindly provided me with a series of specialized literature from Serbia and Croatia referring to Balkan weaponry.

Research, Preservation and Presentation of Banat Heritage: Current State and Long Term Strategy

Research, Preservation and Presentation of Banat Heritage: Current State and Long Term Strategy


Medelet-Toma 1997

Vatreno oružje u Europi od XIV. do polovice XIX. vek [Firearms in Europe from the 14th to the middle of the 19th century], Beograd (2002).

13 Történelmi és Régészeti Ėrtesítő

Jelić 2001

Curčić 1994


2009

2009

Elgood 2009

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Research, Preservation and Presentation of Banat Heritage: Current State and Long Term Strategy

10 Tretőkör, A Banát kincse 1907

Tsirkalski 1944

Elgood 1995

McColl 1912

Elgood 1999

Elgood 2009


11 Ćurčić 1944

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THE REPERTORY OF ISOLATED MONETARY FINDS DATED BETWEEN 275 AND 383 AD IN THE SERBIAN BANAT

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Abstract: This paper is intended to represent a contribution to a future numismatic repertory of the Late Roman coinage from Banat, comprising all the monetary finds (both isolated coins and hoards) in the geographic space bounded on the north by the Mureş, on the south by the Danube, on the west by the Tisza and on the east by the Cerna passage.

The present repertory comprises the isolated monetary finds dated between 275 and 383 AD (the beginning of the Tacitus reign – the end of Gratian’s) in the Serbian Banat, known by the author up to the present: 35 localities with 219 Late Roman golden, silver and bronze coins altogether.

Seven Late Roman bronze coins found in the Serbian Banat, preserved in the numismatic collection of the Banat Museum Timişoara, had also been published: 6 coins from Kovin (1 Constantinus I, 2 Constans, 1 Constantius II, 1 Constantius Gallus and 1 Gratianus) and 1 coin from Opovo (1 Constantius I Chlorus).

The present repertory is a continuation of those published so far, reflecting the efforts made both by the Romanian and Serbian researchers to make the Banat patrimony known.

Key words: repertory; isolated Late Roman coins; Banat.

The lines below are intended to highlight a contribution to a future numismatic repertory of the Late Roman coinage from Banat, comprising all the monetary finds, both isolated coins and hoards, in the geographic space bounded on the north by the Mureş, on the south by the Danube, on the west by the Tisza and on the east by the Cerna passage. From this viewpoint, this repertory is a continuation of those published so far, most of which comprising Late Roman monetary finds from the Romanian Banat.

Briefly, the situation regarding the Romanian Banat can be presented as follows. A repertory of the Late Roman monetary finds (275-383 AD) in the present Timiş County, both isolated finds and hoards, was published in 2004 (Toma-Demian, 2004). The Late Roman numismatic finds in the localities from the Arad County (those located in the south of the Mureş river) are comprised in an archaeological repertory issued in 1999 (Repertoriu Mureş, 1999).

The Late Roman finds in Caraş-Severin County have been published by Eugen Chirilă, Nicolae Gudea (Cluj-Napoca), Dana Bălănescu (Reşiţa) and others1, however they are not comprised in a numismatic repertory. Between 2004 and 2010 several archaeological repertoires of the Caraş-Severin County or of the Romanian Banat had been published (the latest is Luca, 2010) yet the monetary finds are mentioned only briefly or generally.

Regarding the Serbian Banat, the publication of Late Roman coins during the last decades was mainly focused on hoards and less on the isolated finds. One can mention the works published by Vinko Dautova Rujević, Ljiljana Bakić, Maja Đorđević and others, yet a Late Roman numismatic repertory is missing.

The outcome of my latest research focused especially on the Late Roman numismatics, this repertory comprises the isolated monetary finds dated between 275 and 383 AD (the beginning of the Tacitus reign and the end of Gratian’s) in the Serbian Banat known by me up to the present.

Besides the coins known from bibliography, in this repertory I have also included the coins which had entered the old collection of the Banat Museum, Timişoara, as well as new coins preserved in the collection of the BMT.

The monetary finds are presented in the localities’ alphabetical order. The old names of some localities are indicated in the brackets only when referring to older finds and only in the form given in the older bibliography cited. Within the frames of each locality I have tried to group the finds according to the chronological order of the coins’ issuer. When referring to each monetary find, I mentioned in the bibliography the main works reminding of that find, from the first to the most recent one, by also trying to correct some errors or confusions met in the critical references.

Given this occasion I present in detail 7 Late Roman bronze coins found in the Serbian Banat, preserved in the numismatic collection of the BMT, unpublished so far. Six coins come from Kovin: 1 Constantinus I, 2 Constans, 1 Constantius II, 1 Constantius Gallus and 1 Gratianus, and one coin comes from Opovo: 1 Constantius I Chlorus2.

Up to the present we are aware of 35 localities from the Serbian Banat with 219 Late Roman coins altogether (gold, silver and bronze), found isolated3. At the end of

1 The works are too numerous to be mentioned.
2 See the Catalogue of coins and Plate I.
3 See the Table in the Annex and Map I.
The repository of isolated monetary finds dated between 275 and 383 AD in the Serbian Banat

1. **ALIBUNAR**
   In 1910, Mikes Vilmos donated a small Diocletianus bronze coin, found here, to the Museum from Timişoara (TRËT, NS, XXVII/III-IV, 1911, p. 1617).

2. **BANATSKA PALANKA (Palanka; Ō-Palanka; Stara Palanka)**
   a. During the archaeological excavations carried out between 1967 and 1970 in the Roman fortification on the Sapaja island, on the Danube, Late Roman and Byzantine coins had been found, whence 47 are dated in the period between 275 and 380 AD: 6 Probus, 3 Maximianus Herculis, 1 Galerius, 6 Constantius I, 1 Crispus, 1 Constantinus II, 5 Constans, 8 Constantius II, 2 Iulianus (1 as Caesars, 1 as Augustus), 2 Constantius Gallus, 2 Valentinianus I, 1 Valerian, 1 Gratianus and 8 indefinite ones (Dimitrijević, 1982-1983, p. 58; Pretase, 2000, p. 249, no. 484 and note 1 - mentioning coins without any other details).
   b. In 1994, in an exhibition catalogue, L. Bakić published the following coins found here, in the Museum from Vršac: 1 antoninian Galerius Maximianus, 1 AE Galerius Maximianus, 2 AE Constantinus I, 1 AE Constantinus II (Bakić, 1994, p. 28-29, nos. 79, 80, 82, 84 and 89).
   c. At some time, on the “Island of Snake” among ruins, human skeletons and Imperial Roman coins had been found. In 1914, Gohl wrote that he had seen coins related to this find, among which also Probus, Constantinus I (as well as VRBS ROMA and CONSTANTINOPOLIS) and Constantius II coins (Gohl, 1914, p. 20).
   d. The numismatic collection of Ormós Zsigmond entered the Museum from Timişoara together with Diocletianus, Licinius I, Licinius II, Constantinus I, Constans, Constantius II, Constantius Gallus (?), Valentinianus I, Gratianus and Valentinianus II silver and bronze coins, found isolated here (Berkeszi, 1907, p. 32; Pretase, 1966, p. 171, no. 73 and note 492; Valericon Augustus, 2 AE Constantinus I, 1 AE Constantinus II, 2 Iulianus (1 as Caesar, 1 as Augustus), 2 Constantius Gallus, 2 Valentinianus I, 1 Valerian, 1 Gratianus and 8 indefinite ones (Dimitrijević, 1982-1983, p. 58; Pretase, 2000, p. 249, no. 484 and note 1 - mentioning coins without any other details).

3. In the collections of the City Museum from Vršac the following coins found here, in the Museum from Timişoara. The coins were registered in 1897, old inv. no. 717 (Berkeszi, 1907, p. 32; Gyökeres, 1975; Bakić-Ujes, 1995, p. 173 and note 15; Pretase, 2000, p. 209, no. 304 and note 1; Susic, 2000, p. 194, no. 1; Mare, 2004, p. 153, no. 7.1). The coins are bronze and silver.
   a. Chief engineer Kovács Ákos donated 4 Constantinus I bronze coins, found here, to the Museum from Timişoara. The coins were registered in 1897, old inv. no. 717 (Berkeszi, 1907, p. 32; Gyökeres, 1975; Bakić-Ujes, 1995, p. 173 and note 15 - incorrectly state that the coins had reached the BMT along with the Oromós collection).
   b. In the collections of the City Museum from Vršac is kept a VICTORIAE DD AVGG Q NN type bronze coin issued by Constans at Siscia, resulted from Banatska Palanka - Haram (Bakić, 1994, p. 29, no. 91).

4. At some time, on the “Island of Snake” among ruins, human skeletons and Imperial Roman coins had been found. In 1914, Gohl wrote that he had seen coins related to this find, among which also Probus, Constantinus I (as well as VRBS ROMA and CONSTANTINOPOLIS) and Constantius II coins (Gohl, 1914, p. 20).

5. The report regarding the activity of the Museum Society of History and Archaeology (MSHA), 1910, presented by the Society’s secretary at the general assembly in April 23, 1911.

6. The total of 50 coins Berkeszi referred to (a number taken over by the scription bibliography as a number of Late Roman coins from Banatska Palanka) actually included Imperial Roman coins from the 1st - 3rd centuries AD too. Berkeszi mentioned only the isolated coins found here, therefore the references from the subsequent bibliography to a hoard comprising 50 coins are erroneous.
3. BANATSKI BRESTOVAC (Torontál-Breßtováč)

1. Between 1881 and 1892 Karolya A. Schwandfelder collected numerous Imperial Roman coins, which he donated to the Hungarian National Museum from Budapest, to the Museum from Szeßkehérvár and the numismatic collection of the Upper Gymnasium from Pančevo. The coins were mainly found along the shore of the Danube, scattered all over in the sand of the beach, or in the field or garden, during the agricultural work. Among these there were also Probus, Diocletianus, Maximianus, Constantius I, Crispus, Constanza bronze coins. Most of the coins – stated Schwandfelder – were Probus, Constantian I and Crispus (Schwandfelder, 1892, p. 230-230; Berkeszi, 1907, p. 12; Protase, 1966, p. 161, no. 71 and note 490; Chirilă, Guđe Stratan, 1974, p. 78, no. 2; Butnariu, 1987, p. 139, no. 210; Butnariu, 1988, p. 182, no. 383; Brukner, 1990, p. 204; Drăgoescu, 1995, p. 357, no. 4 – who incorrectly state it is a hoard; Protase, 2000, p. 209, no. 305 and note 1; Mare, 2004, p. 154, no. 9.1).

2. In 1892, it is the same A. Schwandfelder who donates two Constantinian bronze coins and an indefinite number of Roman coins to the Museum from Timişoara (TRÉT, NS, XVIII/III, 1902, p. 5211).

3. BANATSKI DESPOTOVAC (Ernesztháza; Ernőháza)

4. BANATSKI KARLOVAC (Károlyfalva)

5. Between 1902 and 1905, Kalitovics Lőrincz, the owner of the brick factory in the locality and an active member of the MSHA, used to donate isolated coins found here to the Museum from Timişoara. Among these there was a Probus copper coin and 8 Constantinus I bronze coins (Berkeszi, 1907, p. 12; Protase, 1966, p. 171, no. 176; Butnariu, 1987, p. 139, no. 211; Istvánovits-Kulcsár, 1994, p. 79).

6. BANATSKO ARANDJELOVO (Oroszlámos)

7. Between 1881 and 1892 teacher A. Schwanfelder – presented in the MSHA meeting, November 30, 1892 – mentioned the following hoards of coins:

- At the “Kollinger” site a Sarmatian necropolis with 16 tombs was uncovered. In tomb no. 4 – who incorrectly state it is a hoard; Protase, 2000, p. 211, no. 305 and note 1; Mare, 2004, p. 155-156, no. 13.1.

- In 1870, a Constantinus I golden coin was found (Tömörkény-Harsányi, 1912, p. 12). From Szeged also included a bronze Valentinianus blunt coin (Tömörkény-Harsányi, 1912, p. 10; Protase, 1966, p. 175, no. 77 and note 498; Chirilă, Guđe Stratan, 1974, p. 172 and note 9; Benea, 1996, p. 230-231, no. 17; Protase, 2000, p. 211, no. 315 and note 1 - with inaccurate details; Mare, 2004, p. 157, no. 24.1). 139, no. 212; Butnariu, 1988, p. 182, no. 384; Brukner, 1990, p. 204; Protase, 2000, p. 209, no. 305 and note 1; Mare, 2004, p. 154, no. 11.1).

In 1893, the old numismatic collection of the Museum from Szeğed also included a bronze Valentinianus blunt coin (Tömörkény-Harsányi, 1912, p. 12).

9. BELO BLATO (Torontál-Erzsébetlak; Elisenheim)

10. Between 1881 and 1892 Ormós Zsigmond purchased a small Maximianus bronze coins (Berkeszi, 1907, p. 18-19; Protase, 1966, p. 173, no. 77 and note 496 – he incorrectly state that the coins reach the Museum from Budapest; Chirilă, Guđe Stratan, 1974, p. 71, no. 8; Gabler, 1975, p. 116, no. 19; Butnariu, 1987, p. 139, no. 211; Istvánovits-Kulcsár, 1994, p. 79).

11. CREPAJA (Crepája)

12. DELIBLATO (Delibláť)

Orrmus Zsigmond had purchased a small bronze Constantinus II coin here (Berkeszi, 1907, p. 16; Protase, 1966, p. 174, no. 86 and note 506; Chirilă, Guđe Stratan, 1974, p. 71, no. 14; Butnariu, 1988, p. 182, no. 386; Brukner, 1990, p. 204; Protase, 2000, p. 211, no. 316 and note 2; Mare, 2004, p. 158, no. 25.2).

13. CREPAJA (Crepája)

In May 1877 the Hungarian National Museum from Budapest received two Constantinian II? bronze coins from Góvorni Lajosz found here (Milleker, 1899, p. 118; Berkeszi, 1907, p. 13; Borovszky, 1911, p. 326).
13. DUVOBAC (Dubováč)

The donation of the MSHA, the financial ad-
miminator, for example, follows the archaeological finds from Dubovac, which he
lected and donated to the Museum in Timişoara. In
only two years, between 1903 and 1904, he sent this mu-
not less than 500 coins from different epochs, found
olated and gathered by the collectors. Among the coins
which arrived to the Museum from Timişoara there were
20 small and rather blunt Roman imperial bronze coins,
issed by different emperors, yet most of these dated in the
in 1886. Consequently, the secretary’s report presented in the MSHA meeting, May 20,
sequently, the secretary’s report presented in the MSHA meeting, April 30, 1886.

15. ACCORDING TO AN ITEM OF INFORMATION FROM BABICS JÓZSEF, WHO USED
12 THE SECRETARY’S REPORT PRESENTED AT THE MSHA MEETING, DECEMBER 28, 1887.
16. IZBISTE

17. According to an item of information from Babics József, who used
12 THE SECRETARY’S REPORT PRESENTED AT THE MSHA MEETING, DECEMBER 28, 1887.
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>AE</td>
<td>1.41 g; 16.3 x 16.5 mm. Type DN CONSTANTINI MAX AVG with VOT XX in laurel wreath; • AQV • RIC, VII, p. 406, no. 85, Aquileia, off. P, year 321. Poor preserved. BMT, inv. no. 118/2.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>AE</td>
<td>2.34 g; 17.2 x 17.4 mm. Type GLORIA EXERCITVS (2 std.); • ASIS • RIC, VII, p. 456, no. 238, Siscia, off. A, years 334-335, but • ASIS • RIC, IX, p. 458, no. 122, Constantinopolis, off. ?, 15 March 351 - winter 354. Average preservation. Old inv. no. 790 (in 1908). BMT, inv. no. 147/3.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>AE</td>
<td>1.62 g; 15.3 x 15.7 mm. Type VICTORIAE DD AVGG Q NN; • // • SMTSΓ RIC, VIII, p. 411, no. 100. Well preserved. BMT, inv. no. 118/3.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>AE</td>
<td>2.05 g; 18.3 x 18.9 mm. Type FEL TEMP REPARATIO (FH 3); years 351-361. Average preservation; hardly legible reverse. Old inv. no. 790 (in 1908). BMT, inv. no. 147/2.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>AE</td>
<td>2.21 g; 20 x 20.1 mm. Type CONCORDIA MILITVM; Γ // • ALE RIC, VI, p. 667, no. 48 a, Alexandria, off. Γ, years 296-297. Well preserved; slightly worn-out. BMT, inv. no. 147/1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>AE</td>
<td>2.32 g; 17.8 x 17.8 mm. Type FEL TEMP REPARATIO (FH 3); • // • CON[?]• RIC, VII, p. 408, no. 122, Constantinopolis, off. ?, 15 March 351 - winter 354. Poor preservation. BMT, inv. no. 178/4.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>AE</td>
<td>1.25 g; 14.5 x 15.1 mm. Type VICTORI AAVG grain; • • • ASIS • RIC, IX, p. 411, no. 100. Poor preservation. Old inv. no. 790 (in 1908). BMT, inv. no. 118/3.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CATALOGUE OF COINS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coin Type</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Diameter</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Constantinus I</td>
<td>2.05 g; 18.3 x 18.9 mm.</td>
<td>Type FEL TEMP REPARATIO (FH 3); years 351-361.</td>
<td>Average preservation; hardly legible reverse. Old inv. no. 790 (in 1908). BMT, inv. no. 147/2.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Constantinus Gallus</td>
<td>2.32 g; 17.8 x 17.8 mm.</td>
<td>Type FEL TEMP REPARATIO (FH 3); • // • CON[?]• RIC, VII, p. 408, no. 122, Constantinopolis, off. ?, 15 March 351 - winter 354.</td>
<td>Poor preservation. BMT, inv. no. 178/4.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gratianus</td>
<td>2.15 g; 14.5 x 15.1 mm.</td>
<td>Type VICTORI AAVG grain; • • • ASIS • RIC, IX, p. 411, no. 100.</td>
<td>Poor preservation. Old inv. no. 790 (in 1908). BMT, inv. no. 118/3.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

28. SKORENOVAC

Hence a bronze (AE 3) coin issued by Iovianus at Sirmium, the VOT V MVLT X type, preserved in the collection of the City Museum from Vršac (Bakić, 1994, p. 29, no. 96).

29. STARČEVO

They preserve a perforated solidus issued by Constantinus I between 332 and 333 at Thessalonica, the VICTORIA CONSTITI NI AVG type in the collection of the National Museum from Belgrade. The coin entered the museum’s collection before the First World War, old inv. no. 3108 (Vasić, 2008, p. 79 and p. 230, no. 246). M. Vasić considers that this coin could have been related to the hoard found in 1866 yet he is not provided with sufficient data in this respect (Vasić, 2008, p. 79-80 and note 377, he incorrectly refer to no. 248 in the catalogue, while in fact it is no. 246). A golden coin (¼ solidi, year 336), found in 1866, can be seen at the numismatic room in Vienna (Bursche, 1998, p. 247, no. 23 apud Popescu 2003, p. 380 and note 17). This coin might belong to the hoard mentioned at point 1 (composed of 12 solidi from the first half of the 4th century and golden jewels), found here in 1866 (Milleker, 1899, p. 65), yet this is not a certain item of information.

30. ULJMA

Uljma - Vrbara is the source of a solidus issued by Valentinianus I at Trier, the VICTORIA AVGG type, preserved in the collection of the City Museum from Vršac (Bakić, 1994, p. 29, no. 97).

31. VELIKI GAJ (Nagy Gáj)

1. In 1903, the Museum from Timişoara purchased for 12 crowns a golden Constantinus I coin, discovered here. The coin was registered with old inv. no. 388 (TRÉT, NS, X/IX-XIV, 1903, p. 110; TRÉT, NS, XX/IX-I, 1904, p. 230). The secretary’s report presented in the MSHA meeting, June 30, 1903.

25 The secretary’s report presented in the MSHA meeting, June 30, 1903.
The numismatic collection of the Museum from Vrač is comprised by coins that were found in the area. Three types of coins that were found in the area are aureus from the old river bed of the Danube, a Diocletianus coin and a Maximianus Herculius coin. The aureus from the old river bed of the Danube is considered to be the aureus from the old river bed of the Danube, which was found in 1905 and which is part of the museum's collection. The Diocletianus coin was found in Vršac and is dated to the 4th century AD. The Maximianus Herculius coin was found in Vršac and is dated to the 4th century AD. The coins were purchased from a person (who preferred to remain anonymous) and sent to the Military School from Pančevo, where one could work at the quarry from "Postklinge," found two bronze coins from the 4th century, which were included in the collection of the Museum from Vrač (Bakić, 1994, p. 46-77).

The silver and bronze coins are mentioned as found in 1857, an inhabitant from Vršac, who used the coins to work at the quarry from "Postklinge," found two bronze coins from the 4th century, which were included in the collection of the Museum from Vrač (Bakić, 1994, p. 46-77).

The numismatic collection of the Museum from Vrač comprises a golden perforated Diocletianus coin, which was found at Vrač (Nussbaum, 1980, The Grossman Collection, no. 7; Protase, 2000, p. 255, no. 515 and note 3 - mention the year of 1905).

The collection of the City Museum from Vrač includes a bronze coin issued by Valens at Siscia, the VICTORIAE EXERCIT type (old num. 2186), which was found in 1875, p. 116, no. 30; Drăgoescu, 1995, p. 374, no. 62; Berkeszi, 1907, p. 20; Borovszky, 1911, p. 326; Milleker, 1899, p. 205, no. 127 and note 550; Chirilă-Gudea-Stratan, 1974, p. 87-121. The City Museum from Vrač reached the City Museum from Vrač (Bakić, 1994, p. 28, no. 83).

The old BMT collection comprised a Licius coin issued at Thessalonica, the VIRTUEX EXERCIT type (old num. 2186), which was found in 1875, p. 116, no. 30; Drăgoescu, 1995, p. 374, no. 62; Berkeszi, 1907, p. 20; Borovszky, 1911, p. 326; Milleker, 1899, p. 205, no. 127 and note 550; Chirilă-Gudea-Stratan, 1974, p. 87-121. The City Museum from Vrač reached the City Museum from Vrač (Bakić, 1994, p. 28, no. 83).

The collection of the City Museum from Vrač includes a bronze coin issued by Valens at Siscia, the VICTORIAE REIPVBLCIAE type, found here (Bakić, 1994, p. 29, no. 28).

In November 1897, along the eastern border of the "Veliki-Rit" zone, during the vineyard works, the remains of a settlement were identified. In the same year, a bronze coin dated to the 4th century AD was also found (Milleker, 1899, p. 187-188).

In 1898, at the beginning of summer, in the "Veliki-Rit" zone, Behe P. discovered a coin from the 4th century, which were included in the collection of the Museum from Vrač (Milleker, 1899, p. 184; Berkeszi, 1907, p. 46).

35. ZRENJANIN (Nagybecsker) 1.

A silver Galerius Maximinus coin, the VIRTUEX MILITVM type, was found here (Gohi, 1914, p. 18; Brukner, 1990, p. 205; Protase, 2000, p. 255, no. 517 and note 2 - mentioning the presence of an aureus; Mare, 2004, p. 214, no. 295.1. and note 295).

In 1901, the old numismatic collection of the Museum from Szegez was enriched with a bronze Constantius II coin, issued at Sissia (Tömörkény-Bakó, 1990, p. 205). The coin was found on the Serbian territory, during the time passing through the nowadays area known as the Serbian Banat (Vršac, The Joseph Collection, no. 13).

The Joseph Josephi collection comprised an anton- nianus issued by Carinus, with a highly blurred reverse. The coin was found on the Serbian territory, during the time passing through the nowadays area known as the Serbian Banat (Vršac, The Joseph Collection, no. 13).
COIN HOARDS FROM WESTERN BANAT IN LATE ANTIQUITY: CURRENT RESEARCH AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

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The City Museum of Vršac

Abstract: This article aims to present problems in the study of the Late Roman coin hoards the territory of Western Banat, to provide a corrective to recent studies (Protase 2000; Suciu 2000) based almost exclusively on old data (Milleker 1897–1906; Berkeszi 1907; Protase 1966), to present current researches on numismatic material of interest, and to offer thoughts on future directions.

Key words: Western Banat, Late Antiquity, coin hoards

Findings of Roman coins of geo-historical Banat do not feature as a systematic field of study. To the present day there is no specialised publication on Roman coin finds generally, i.e. on the period of Late Antiquity relating exclusively to Banat: present-day Romanian (hereafter Eastern) and Serbian (hereafter Western) Banat.

The first comprehensive records of Roman coins along with other antique finds, from the territory of integral Banat, then South Hungary, were made by F. Milleker in his capital work in three volumes more than one century ago (Milleker 1897; I. Berkeszi 1899, idem 1899; idem 1906). Coin finds of Late Antiquity are mentioned along with other golden, silver and bronze monetary findings from the Greek, barbarian, Roman, Byzantine and Middle Age periods in the given area.

I. Berkeszi, based mostly on Milleker’s records, published coin finds exclusively from Southern Hungary in a similar manner. (Berkeszi 1907: 1–49). The coin finds were registered generally by site following the same wide chronological frame. Of particular importance is that Berkeszi left us evidence of coins from Western Banat, which reached the Temesvar Museum by purchases of Ormó in 1899. This evidence includes a significant amount of Roman coins, i.e. those from the Late Roman period.

According to historical circumstances the name of findspot, the metal, the name of emperor (often Imperator), the date of deposition, the context of the find are given.

Several factors affect the completeness and representativeness of monetary findings of interest from Western Banat and limit our interpretation:

• Imprecise data presented in literature by above mentioned authors – most of them consist of only the findspot, the metal, the name of emperor (often Imperator) of the minting year.

The first attempt to gather exclusively Roman coinage (both hoards and isolated finds) from then Yugoslavian and Romanian Banat was made by D. Protase in the 1970s. He published simple lists of coin finds by sites and emperor, found in the entire territory of the former province of Dacia between AD 271–450, including its southern-western corner, modern day Banat. Based almost entirely on finds recorded by Milleker and Berkeszi, Protase used data on golden, silver and bronze single finds and hoards for the given period (Protase 1966: 171–179, and fig. 60,161).

Significantly more Late Roman hoards and isolated finds from Eastern Banat are recorded by Romanian scholar after the 1970s. In contrast, from the 1980s until the present day only five Late Roman hoards have been published from the territory of Western Banat. Of these, noteworthy is the review of the Roman hoards from 1–V century deposited in the museum collections of Vojvodina (including the territory of Western Banat).

It has been concluded that the most numerous hoards from IV century are kept in The City Museum in Vršac (Даутова-Рушевљан 1981: 61 with note 2; no. 33, nos. 35–35). Having in mind that most of them are still un-published, Protase’s simple lists (based on Milleker’s and Berkeszi’s informations) remain to the present day the main source regarding Late Roman coin finds in Western Banat. It is obvious as well in the most recent publications dedicated to coin circulation in entire Dacia post-tropana (Protase 2000: 208–256, Tab II; Suciu 2000: 149–177, Tab. I.B, C).

This article aims to assess the extent and character of two kinds of coin hoards: hoards with recorded provenience according to available data known only from literary and hoards from the present-day collection of the Vršac museum.

Several factors affect the completeness and representativeness of monetary findings of interest from Western Banat and limit our interpretation:

1 Starting from a study (Gudea, Stratan study 1978) of three coin hoards from Banat the series of publications concerning of Late Roman monetary findings have been published. For detailed bibliography see in: Suciu 2000: 149–177 with earlier literature; see also in Tomé–Demin (2008: 282–283 especially for finds of southern part of Banat.


3 The Numismatic Department of the Vršac Museum was divided from the Archaeological Department in 1995, with appointment the author of this article as a curator. The coin hoards from IV century makes the main part of the present-day numismatic collection. Three accidental finds reached the Museum mostly after 1945. About difficulties in regarding coin hoards originated from XX century listed in literature with presentation of results of styling those today existing in museum collection see in the this article further.
describe with expressions like: coin of Valentinianus, Constantinus, and the number of coins (sometimes described as e.g. “over”, “more than”, or “several”).

• Most coin hoards at the City Museum in Vršac belong to the new collection formed after 1945. The old collection were discovered by chance, so one has to bear in mind the possibility that they have not been recovered in their entirety.

I will first present a review of the coin hoards based on available data in the literature. Then I will focus on preserved hoards from the Vršac museum collection available to researchers. Finally, I will try to offer thoughts on future directions of studying monetary findings of Late Antiquity of Banat, i.e. Eastern and Western Banat.

The article is based on hoards with a recorded provenience which permit the plotting of them on a topographical map (Map). This is related both to hoards discovered in XIX century and known only from literature and hoards from the Vršac museum collection.

HOARDS FROM LATE ANTIQUITY KNOWN ONLY FROM LITERATURE

According to the literature a significant number of Late Roman hoards were discovered in the territory of Western Banat. The most numerous hoards originate from Volčki Rit near Vršac (three finds) and from Zrenjanin (two hoards). To the wider environs of Zrenjanin belongs as well the hoard from the site of Belo Blato. All of them were discovered by chance so there is possibility that they have not been recovered in their entirety. Also, the majority of them were dispersed and their initial content is not known to us. All of them contain exclusively bronze coins except one find of bimetal composition (Banatska Palanka). It is also the only hoard that contains coins up to the reign of Theodosius II, other hoards include exclusively coins of Constantinus I and his sons (Table 1).

Only two hoards from the literature provide more details regarding the content and mint distribution. A hoard from Zrenjanin II consists of 81 specimens: 45 of Constantius II and 36 of Constantius Callus. Of this number 30 pieces were minted in the mint of Sirmium and 19 in the mint of Sicia, while the remaining part of the hoard was not possible to determine. Obverse and reverse representations and legends were not described except for a general remark that all pieces belonged exclusively to issues with an obverse legend of FEL TEMP REPARATIO (Kuzsinszky 1896:448). According to its composition it corresponds to the hoards from the surrounding provinces and the Barbaricum which were stored between 354 and 361 AD.4 With respect to mints, the Zrenjanin II hoard is close to the Stara Pazova hoard (Roman province of Pannonia Secunda) with the central mints prevalent, primarily from the mint of Sirmium and Sisica. On the other hand, an analogous smaller hoard from Zagača, the site Popin Dol (The City Museum of Vršac collection), offers a different picture. Besides the absolute absence of the mint of Sicia and Sirmium, the best represented are the eastern mints (Cyzicus, Constantinoplis) and from central, the mint of Thessalonica. It is closer to the Boljetin hoard with later type pg. 361 (Moesia Prima). We do not possess a precise dating of the lastest emissions of Constantius II, but it can be assumed that the Zrenjanin II hoard, according to its content, mints and the reverse type, could belong to the wider chronological frame 351/354 to 361.

According to literature in 1885. “a pot full of Roman coins” was found by workers on the site of Bereg near Novi Bečej. The toponym of Bereg is unknowm in the available
In the current study, we focus on a hoard from Banatska Palanka, which was discovered in 1936 and is now part of the collection at the National Museum in Belgrade. The hoard consists of 1663 coins, predominantly from the late Roman period. The hoard was collected by I. Szentkláray and submitted to the Nemzeti Museum in Budapest for examination in 1936. The hoard contains a wide variety of coins, including those minted in Constantinopolis, Nicomedia, Cyzicus, and Siscia. The coins are dated between 330-335 and 364-367, with the majority of the coins minted between 330-335 and 361/362. The hoard also includes coins from the reigns of Constantinus I and Licinius I, as well as those of Constantius II.

The hoard is of particular interest because it is one of the largest and most diverse collections of late Roman coins in the region. It provides valuable information about the economic and social conditions of the late Roman Empire in the western Balkans. The hoard is also important for understanding the circulation and trade of coins in the region, as well as the political and social contexts in which they were minted.

The hoard was examined and documented by I. Szentkláray, and a detailed catalogue of the coins was published in 1937. The catalogue includes a comprehensive listing of the coins, their mint marks, and dates, as well as their condition and state of preservation. The hoard was also subjected to statistical analysis, which provided valuable insights into the distribution and composition of the coins.

The hoard is housed at the National Museum in Belgrade, where it is preserved and studied by numismatists. It is an important resource for researchers studying the late Roman period in the western Balkans, and it continues to attract attention from scholars around the world.
NOTES (Table 1 from text)

1. Banatska Palanka: the find is mentioned in literature as follows: as the hoard by Berkeszi 1907: 23; as single find by Prostae 1966: 171, no. 73; Fig.61, p. 172; as the hoard and single find by Chirila, Gudea, Stratzen 1974: 71, no. 2 (Horst!); Suciu 2000: 149, no. 3 (as the hoard?).

2. Belo Blato: Milleker 1899: 122; Berkeszi 1907: 18; Prostae 1966: 173, no. 78 (as single find); Chirila, Gudea, Stratzen 1974: 71, no. 2 (Horst!); Suciu 2000: 159, no. 27 (Tszaaur?).

3. Dubovac: in a literature is noted that from 500 pieces were in the past. But for such an approach it is necessary to cooperate with related sciences, and to create a huge database that will have an everlasting utility for all those interested in this field of research.

5. Vršac – Veliki Rit I: according Milleker about 3000 coins were in the past. But for such an approach it is necessary to cooperate with related sciences, and to create a huge database that will have an everlasting utility for all those interested in this field of research.

9. Zrenjanin II: Kuzsinsky 1896: 448 with more detailed informations concerning the content of the hoard (see note nr. In the footnote text). These information were overtaken by many authors as follows:Milleker 1899: 116-117; Berkeszi 1907: 9; Prostae 1966: 172, Fig.61, 179, no. 130; Chirila, Gudea, Stratzen 1974: 75, no. 238; Gabler 1975: 99, Suciu 2000: 177, no. 78, Calvi 1981: 51, no. 1.

ABBREVIATIONS

SITES (Table 3)

BP I – Banatska Palanka I
BP II – Banatska Palanka II
BPR I – Banatska Palanka, Rudine I
BPR II – Banatska Palanka, Rudine II
BK – Banatski Karlovac
K I – Kustija I
K II – Kustija II
MS – Malo Središte
MI – Mesić I
M II – Mesić II
O – Oršac
V – Vatin
VG – Vračev Gaj
VH – Vršac, Hercegova odaja
VS – Vršac, Strmoglavica
VO – Vršac, okolina (vicinity)
Z – Zagajica

MINTS (Table 4)

Lon – Londinium
Thee – Thessalonica
TR – Treveri
Her – Heraclea
Log – Lugdunum
Con – Constanzipolis
Are – Arelate
Nic – Nicomedia
Ag – Aquilene
Cyz – Cyzicus
Sis – Siscia
Ant – Antiochia
Sirm – Sirmium
Ale – Alexandria
Ser – Serdica
The Regional Conference dedicated to Banat Heritage attended more than 70 participants from 25 institutions from Serbia, Romania, Slovenia and Austria. During two days 47 presentations were introduced in regard to research, preservation and presentation of Banat Heritage.

Participants expressed strong support for the idea of founding the Regional Centre for Banat Heritage, emphasizing its usefulness for all the researchers dealing with Banat. Such centre would enable developing a sense of regional identity and interregional and international cooperation. The idea of the Regional Centre is also a good way of connecting academic and scholarly fields of interest with educational system and broader public. It is an opportunity for researchers to come out of the ‘ivory tower of science’ apply their knowledge and results, and bring them right back to the wider audience. Establishing of the Regional Centre was also assessed as “encouraging” – giving prospects for widening the cooperation, research and knowledge about cultural heritage in Banat, which is seen as geographically one region.

At the end of the Conference, participants discussed common problems and possible solutions. Budget, lack of information (publications, database, internet), language barriers, lack of mutual field research, lack of cooperation – were identified as main obstacles in adequate heritage protection and preservation.

Insufficient number of experts in institutions for managing, restoration and preservation of monuments and sites; scarce conservatory laboratories, lack of concern of the state, noncompliance with international treaties – were recognized as main obstacles in adequate heritage protection and preservation.

Again, lack of interest of the local and state authorities, but also lack of interest of the public, as well as lack of professionals are seen as some of the major problems in presentation of the heritage. Also, exhibitions are lacking mobility, interactivity and they are not presented in a manner adequate for wider public.

The Working body of the Regional Conference has drawn the conclusions which will serve as guidance for future cooperation and development of the Regional Centre for Banat Heritage.
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Research, Preservation and Presentation of Banat Heritage: Current State and Long Term Strategy

Neolithic bone industry in Banat
Selena Vitezović

Fig. 1. Manufacture debris from Čoka Kremenjak.

Fig. 2. Different spoons-spatulae from Starčevo.

Fig. 3. Different shell ornaments, from Starčevo and Iđoš.
Medieval fortifications in Dupljaja and Grebenac
Dejan Radičević

Fig. 4. Dupljaja–Grad, view from the southwest.

Fig. 5. Dupljaja–Grad, interior of a fortress, view from the west.

Fig. 6. Dupljaja–Grad: eastern rampart with remains of the older rampart, view from the west.

Fig. 7. Dupljaja–Grad: church, excavated area, view from the northwest.

Fig. 8. Dupljaja–Grad: church, excavated area, view from the southwest.

Fig. 9. Dupljaja–Veliki Prokop: church, excavated area, view from the northwest.

Fig. 10. Grebenac – Grad, view from the south.

ARCHEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS
AT MEDIEVAL NECROPOLIS „ATAR C-SEČANJ”
Snežana Marinković

1.

2.

T. I
THE INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE OF SOUTH BANAT, REPUBLIC OF SERBIA
Jasmina Vujovic

The Old Weifort Brewery in Pančevo

Conflagration in Old Weifort Brewery in Pančevo on April 6th 2005
The Brewery in Vršac

The steel construction in the main spinning mill in the Silk Factory on Tamiš River in Pančevo

The Old Silk Factory on the road for Bavanište in Pančevo

Mill in Opovo

Brickyard in Debeljača

Glass Factory in Pančevo
Lighthouses at the Tamiš – Danube confluence

Supplies warehouse in Pančevo

Wells and dryer in Vladimirovac

Pumping station in Dubovac

Old Bridge in Plačica
A BALKAN DŽEFERDAR RIFLE FROM THE COLLECTION OF THE BANAT MUSEUM TIMIȘOARA
Zoran Markov

Pl. I. Džeferdar flintlock rifle (Banat Museum collection)
1. Miquelet flintlock mechanism; 2. Stock.

Old Railway station in Pančevo

Railway station in Vršac