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# **Ceramics, People and Places - The Significance of Ceramics for the Study of Social Relations in the Middle Ages**

**Keramika, ljudi i mjesta –  
značaj keramike u proučavanju  
društvenih odnosa u srednjem  
vijeku**

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# CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

## Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024

- 08:30-09:00 Registration
- 09:00-09:20 Opening of the conference, welcome speeches:  
Tatjana Tkalčec  
Marko Dizdar, director of the Institute of Archaeology

## First Morning Session Chair: Katarina Botić

- 09:20-09:40 **Bartosz Nowacki, Ana Konestra, Fabian Welc:**  
Spotting the difference: comparing two late antique coarse ware assemblages from the island of Rab (NE Adriatic, Croatia) through their repertoire, function, and chronology
- 09:40-10:00 **Petra Nikšić:** Pottery with burnished decoration from Lobar as an indicator of continuity rather than change during the Great Migration Period
- 10:00-10:20 **Danijela Roksandić Vukadin:** Keramičko posuđe iz vremena Seobe naroda s područja istočne Hrvatske: o porijeklu i pripadnosti / Migration Period pottery from Eastern Croatia: About origin and affiliation
- 10:20-10:40 **Anita Dugonjić:** Insight into the pottery assemblage of a Germanic settlement at the site Novi Čeminac - Jauhov salaš
- 10:40-11:00 **Mirja Jarak:** On some relations between early medieval ceramic façades and stone sculpture
- 11:00-11:20 Discussion
- 11:20-11:40 coffe break



## Second Morning Session

Chair: Ana Konestra

- 11:40-12:00 **Tomislav Fabijanić, Željko Krnčević:** Keramika s ranosrednjovjekovnog groblja Vaćani – Laluše / Ceramics from early Mediaeval cemetery on Laluše site in Vaćani
- 12:00-12:20 **Petra Jeršek:** A look into the organization of pottery production and vessel standardization on the example of early medieval ceramic grave goods from Kašič
- 12:20-12:40 **Tajana Sekelj Ivančan, Andreja Kudelić, Natali Neral, Ivan Valent:** Archaeometry of ceramics from the second half of the 6<sup>th</sup> and the first half of the 7<sup>th</sup> century in Podravina – case study Torčec and Hlebine
- 12:40-13:00 **Ivan Valent:** Relative cronology vs radiocarbon dating. Example from an Early Medieval pit from Virovitica- Petrovac site
- 13:00-13:20 **Zrinka Mileusnić, Alenka Tomaž:** Podlehnik – medieval village household pottery
- 13:20-13:40 Discussion
- 13:40-15:00 lunch break

## Afternoon Session

Chair: Siniša Krznar

- 15:00-15:20 **Ivana Ožanić Roguljić, Marija Šiša-Vivek, Maja Zeman:** Srednjovjekovne amfore iz Dubrovnika (katedrala Gospe Velike) / Medieval amphorae from Dubrovnik (*Katedrala Velike Gospe - The Assumption Cathedral*)
- 15:20-15:40 **Karla Gusar, Marko Meštrov:** Glazirana keramika iz utvrde Vrana / Glazed pottery from the Vrana fortress
- 15:40-16:00 **Katarina Predovnik:** The social contexts and cultural significance of decorated ceramic tableware in the 14<sup>th</sup>–17<sup>th</sup> century. The evidence from Slovenia
- 16:00-16:20 **Ivana Hirschler Marić, Andrej Janeš:** In mensa civitatis Gara: a preliminary analysis of medieval ceramic finds
- 16:20-17:00 **Vesna Bikić:** Rescue archaeology and pottery studies: Household pottery assemblage from the 11<sup>th</sup>–12<sup>th</sup> century Belgrade
- 17:00-17:20 Discussion
- 17:20-18:00 **Poster Session**



## Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> June 2024

08:30-09:00 Registration

### First Morning Session

Chair: Tena Karavidović

- 09:00-09:20 **Gyöngyi Kovács, Bianka Kovács, Ágnes Kolláth, Zsófia Nádai:** Pottery of Csókakő Castle - Shift and continuity in technologies and styles from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century in the light of historical and social changes
- 09:20-09:40 **Katja Špec:** Pottery-making tradition in the medieval market town of Gutenwerd
- 09:40-10:00 **Andreja Kudelić, Tatjana Tkalčec:** Technological and functional features of late medieval ceramic vessels from the Vrbovec castle in Klenovec Humski (NW Croatia)
- 10:00-10:20 **Valentina Vujeva Hranić:** Analiza keramike iz objekta SJ 433 s kasnosrednjovjekovnog lokaliteta Donji Miholjac – Đanovci / Pottery analysis from the feature SU 433 at the late medieval settlement Donji Miholjac – Đanovci
- 10:20-10:40 **Ana Kovačić, Ahac Šinkovec:** Pits and pots from Ptuj
- 10:40-11:00 Discussion
- 11:00-11:20 coffe break

### Second Morning Session

Chair: Andreja Kudelić

- 11:20-11:40 **Rafko Urankar, Jure Krajšek, Kaja Stemberger Flegar:** Documenting pottery in Zoot: One programme to rule them all
- 11:40-12:00 **Adriana Gašpar:** Ottoman ceramics from Timișoara (Romania), 16<sup>th</sup>–17<sup>th</sup> centuries
- 12:00-12:20 **Ivana Hirschler Marić:** Dining through the new era: Ottoman and Modern ceramic and zooarchaeological evidence from the Chapel of the Magi/Jahja bey's tower in Gorjani
- 12:20-12:40 **Andrej Janeš:** A lid to its pot: the case of the ceramic finds from the Medvedgrad castle



- 12:40-13:00 **Elizabeta Skočibušić, Ana Azinović Bebek:** Modern period pottery (19<sup>th</sup> century) from Barilović Castle – how can social changes be traced on the basis of pottery
- 13:00-13:20 Discussion
- 13:20-13:30 End of Conference, closing speech
- 13:30 **Reception / Domjenak**



**Bartosz Nowacki, Ana Konestra, Fabian Welc**

### **Spotting the difference: comparing two late antique coarse ware assemblages from the island of Rab (NE Adriatic, Croatia) through their repertoire, function, and chronology**

This contribution aims to compare the coarse ware assemblages from two late antique sites located in Lopar, in the northern part of the island of Rab (NE Adriatic, Croatia): the Roman/late antique rural complex at Podšilo Bay and the fortified site on the islet of Lukovac, located in Crnika bay off the eastern coast of Lopar.

Several Roman structures have been discovered and partially excavated at Podšilo Bay, including a possible utilitarian building as well as the central residential and productive complex of the settlement. These were both re-occupied in the 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> centuries after a period of abandonment. Pertaining to this last phase a rich assemblage of coarse ware vessels was found, along with varied imports from North Africa and the eastern Mediterranean. On the other hand, research at Lukovac has been limited so far and primarily focused on documenting the layout of the fort. Nevertheless, recent trial trenches positioned to intersect the apse of an early Christian church, a cistern and parts of another building yielded an indicative pottery assemblage composed of both eastern Mediterranean imports (amphorae and fine wares) and coarse ware, allowing us to date the contexts in the 6<sup>th</sup>, possibly 7<sup>th</sup> century.

When comparing the coarse ware assemblages from Podšilo Bay and the islet of Lukovac, several differences in the variety of shapes and their dimensions have been observed, which will be tackled here in terms of repertoire, function, and chronology. Results will be compared with similar assemblages from neighbouring areas, such as Istria and northern Italy, in an attempt to comprehend and interpret these indicators through the lens of settlement dynamics and changing social practices.

**Petra Nikšić**

### **Pottery with burnished decoration from Lobar as an indicator of continuity rather than change during the Great Migration Period**

During more than two decades of archaeological excavations at the site of Lobar – Our Lady of the Mountain (Hrvatsko Zagorje County, Northwestern Croatia), a significant number of fragments belonging to the group of pottery with burnished decoration was found, mostly out of archaeological context, but connected to the late antique hilltop settlement. Pottery with burnished decoration is known from



many sites of the Noric-Pannonian area and is usually attributed to the groups of people who arrived to the area during the Great Migration Period. The earliest examples from the northern Pannonian provinces are interpreted as the influence of the Hunnic, Alanic and Ostrogothic *foederati* from the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> century, while the 6<sup>th</sup> century examples from Noricum, Pannonia and Italy are usually attributed to Lombards and Gepids. The situation with this group of pottery finds from Lopor is not that clear. The hilltop settlement in Lopor was not directly connected to the border and military activities and was, first of all, a fortified civilian settlement. The other finds that could be attributed to various groups of non-Roman people are scarce, and the examples of African and Phocaean Red Slip Ware can be dated as late as the first half of the 6<sup>th</sup> century. Furthermore, the fabric of gray fineware and pottery with burnished decoration is the same or very similar. This paper questions the exclusivity of the association of the pottery with burnished decoration with non-Roman groups and presents a possibility that the decoration was executed as the influence of the regional trends of the time on the pots with an already familiar fabric, and not necessarily as a result of drastic social or ethnic changes of the inhabitants of the hilltop settlement in Lopor during the time of the Great Migration Period.

**Danijela Roksanđić Vukadin**

## **Keramičko posude iz vremena Seobe naroda s područja istočne Hrvatske: o porijeklu i pripadnosti / Migration Period pottery from Eastern Croatia: About origin and affiliation**

Migration Period findings from the area of Northern Croatia were until recently linked to the narrower area of Eastern Slavonia and Syrmia, and are known mainly as individual finds from graves or accidental finds without a clear context. Very little was written about the ceramic finds of that period, mostly about fragments of the so-called stamped pottery that appeared in the Late Roman layers in the area of the former Roman town of Cibalae. Through a systematic analysis of Late Roman pottery from Cibalae, the fabrics and groups of pottery associated with Germanic affiliation, in this case Gepids, were singled out, and a reference database of samples for pottery from Cibalae was created. Through archaeometric analyses of ceramics and local clay the assumptions about traditional Roman local production, a unique pottery center and continuity of life in Cibalae until the middle of the 6<sup>th</sup> century, i.e. during the second period of Gepid domination in Second Pannonia, were confirmed. Recent protective excavations in the area of Eastern Slavonia and Baranja (surroundings of Osijek and Beli Manastir) discovered sites with graves and settlement structures that are attributed to the Migration Period and speak of Germanic affiliation without





detailed interpretations. At the site of Herman's vineyard near Osijek, grave with pottery findings indicate an origin from a workshop in Cibalae, a probable Gepid affiliation and their presence in the area of Mursa, which has not been confirmed by archaeological findings so far. This presentation will open questions and present recent theories about the origin, ethnicity, production and distribution of Late Roman and Germanic pottery in the area of the Second Pannonia that is within Croatian territory during the so-called Migration Period.

### **Anita Dugonjić**

## **Insight into the pottery assemblage of a Germanic settlement at the site Novi Čeminac - Jauhov salaš**

A Germanic settlement was discovered at the Novi Čeminac-Jauhov salaš site during a protective archaeological excavation in the Baranja region, which lasted from 2014 to 2015. The settlement includes approximately twenty residential units with accompanying features consisting of pits, channels and postholes. The residential features were mostly square in shape, partially dug into the ground, around 3 x 3 meters of size with postholes (usually three postholes on each of the opposite sides of the feature). Pottery fragments are the most numerous among a large number of different finds. The initial insight into this pottery assemblage reveals a diverse range of production technologies and typologies: from handmade pots to vessels made using fast rotation, from coarse cooking ware to the fine grained tableware, and vessels of the late Roman/late antique forms. Interesting examples are those decorated using the burnishing technique (one of such vessels is decorated with Murga type), as are fragments of glazed pottery. This diversity, observed in pottery discovered among the settlement features, is a common occurrence among the settlements from the 5<sup>th</sup> to the first half of the 6<sup>th</sup> century in Pannonia, and outlines a rather interesting everyday life in a turbulent period.

### **Mirja Jarak**

## **On some relations between early medieval ceramic façades and stone sculpture**

Ceramic façade decoration is a characteristic feature of Byzantine church architecture. Decorative motifs on the exterior of buildings were shaped by specifically arranged bricks on the parts of the walls. There are many studies on Byzantine church façades devoted to regional varieties of ornamentations, motifs and related issues.

Some examples of ceramic decoration of the church façades are known in the frame of early-Romanesque architecture at the Adriatic coasts, mostly from the



territories that were close connected to Byzantium. These early-Romanesque ceramic reliefs have already been analysed in the literature, and the fragmentary finds from the eastern Adriatic have been connected to the north Italy workshops. Of the eastern Adriatic ceramic reliefs only fragments from Zadar are recently fully interpreted. In the article a discussion of other fragments is intended based on their iconographic and stylistic similarities with early-Romanesque stone sculpture. It is significant that ceramic reliefs show similarities with early-Romanesque stone sculpture from Nin that has not been precise dated.

**Tomislav Fabijanić, Željko Krnčević**

## **Keramika s ranosrednjovjekovnog groblja Vaćani – Laluše / Ceramics from early Mediaeval cemetery on Laluše site in Vaćani**

The village of Vaćani is located in the Šibenik-Knin County, 10 km northwest of the town of Skradin. The archaeological site at the position of Laluše is situated at the entrance to the village coming from Skradin, near the edge of a fertile field along the state road D56. Several stray archaeological finds and accidental findings of graves were known from the area of the village back from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Among previously known finds, of particular interest is a stone sculpture with three or four heads modelled in relief in which most authors recognize a representation of a Proto-Slavic deity.

The site at the position of Laluše was discovered accidentally in 2010. In four campaigns that have been conducted so far (from 2011 to 2014), eighteen graves were excavated that can be dated to the late 8<sup>th</sup> and the early 9<sup>th</sup> century. Mostly these are stone-lined graves covered with coarse stone slabs, in a NW-SE orientation. Graves 3 and 10 are specific as they contained sarcophagi reused for double burials. Grave 3 contained skeletons of two deceased persons. The most prominent finds from that grave are two pairs of Carolingian spurs. Grave 10 also contained two skeletons with exceptionally important finds such as a Frankish sword and spurs, a gold coin of the Byzantine emperor Constantine V, and a glass bottle, probably of Near Eastern provenance. Most other graves also contained grave goods and finds, usually pottery vessels. To be specific, there are ten vessels found in the graves. These early mediaeval ceramic finds, so far unpublished, will be analysed in the lecture. Interestingly, there was not a single jewellery object in any of the graves.



**Petra Jeršek**

## **A look into the organization of pottery production and vessel standardization on the example of early medieval ceramic grave goods from Kašić**

In cases of absence of more direct evidence for the organization of pottery production, the only remaining option is to try to define it indirectly, by turning to the ceramic products themselves. This is currently the only possibility for the early medieval period in Dalmatia. This paper discusses the intensity of production by examining the possible standardization, i. e., variability of ceramic grave goods from two northern Dalmatian sites, Maklinovo brdo and Razbojine in Kašić. Standard pottery typology is essential and provides a starting point for conducting standardization test, in this case of ceramic pots, which are most commonly found in early medieval funerary contexts. Since the variability of mechanical properties, especially metric parameters, is related to the level of training, skill and experience of the potter, basic metric measurements such as vessel height, rim diameter and maximum diameter of the vessel were considered in this analysis. The degree of standardization was measured using the coefficient of variation (CV) for each of these measurements and then compared at the level of the individual variables and different pottery assemblages. In interpreting the results obtained, particular attention was paid to the relationship between routinization, craft specialization and generally accepted standards for such a simple ceramic form.

## **Tajana Sekelj Ivančan, Andreja Kudelić, Natali Neral, Ivan Valent** **Archaeometry of ceramics from the second half of the 6<sup>th</sup>** **and the first half of the 7<sup>th</sup> century in Podravina – case study** **Torčec and Hlebine**

Extensive archaeological research of medieval settlements in the area of Podravina over a number of years gathered a lot of information about the settlement of the area and the way of life of its inhabitants. This relatively long period in its earliest phase (6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> centuries) was marked by the immigration of the Slavic population to the area with predominantly indigenous, late antique communities. However, the dynamics of settlement, coexistence and integration with the local population, i.e., the issues of social organization in the area continue to be insufficiently studied topics. Namely, the material remains, of which fragments of ceramic vessels predominate, show certain morphological and technological characteristics that indicate at least two different pottery traditions that potentially indicate the presence of several communities.



Through the application of analytical methods, this research will try to determine the characteristics and origin of pottery raw materials as well as the technological features of the production process in order to create the basis for considering the variability in the presented pottery tradition. Such physical features are the product of a series of technological and functional, but also culturally conditioned principles woven into the production process, which represents a very characteristic pottery practice. By studying the technology of production, from the choice of raw materials to the techniques of production, and getting to know the differences in technological choices, a better understanding of the interrelationships of communities with potentially present different pottery traditions will be enabled.

The case study was made on ceramics from two sites – Torčec-Prečno pole I and Hlebine-Dedanovice – both of which show potentially different pottery practices in the period from the end of the 6<sup>th</sup> to the middle of the second half of the 7<sup>th</sup> century. The selected samples belong to kitchen ceramics, i.e. cooking vessels, some of which were made without rotation, and some on the potter's wheel with slow rotation.

**Ivan Valent**

## **Relative cronology vs radiocarbon dating. Example from an Early Medieval pit from Virovitica- Petrovac site**

During 2016 a small-scale preventive excavation was conducted on a multy-layer archaeological site Virovitica – Petrovac. The site is situated in the river Drava plain, on a small tump and its foothill. Of all excavated features only one contained material from Early Medieval period.

The first part of the paper examines the typology, fabric and decorations of the collected Early Mediaeval ceramic pots, presenting their presumed relative datation. Following that, the material is compared with contemporary finds / sites in close proximity and along the lowland of the river Drava, discussing its production and distribution. Relative datation of the material is compared with the obtained radiocarbon date of the filling.

**Zrinka Mileusnić, Alenka Tomaž**

## **Podlehnik –medieval village household pottery**

Rescue excavations at the site of Podlehnik, in the northeastern part of Slovenia, near the border with Croatia, have revealed predominantly Roman remains and use of the territory, but among these were also remains of the 12 medieval stratigraphical contexts. The content consists chiefly of cooking pottery,



and some small Roman objects reused in the medieval period. These houses' spatial distribution and position were among three excavation sectors, forming a consistent settlement area on the slightly elevated area above the Ptujsko polje. It was located in the isolated area in Rogatnica valley, away from any urban centres. In these contexts slight differences in the pottery types can be detected. Based on the comparative analyses, we have dated most of these cooking pots from the 8<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> centuries. These dates were, in most cases, confirmed by the 14C dates.

### **Ivana Ožanić Roguljić, Marija Šiša-Vivek, Maja Zeman** **Srednjovjekovne amfore iz Dubrovnika (katedrala Gospe** **Velike) / Medieval amphorae from Dubrovnik (*Katedrala Velike*** ***Gospe* - The Assumption Cathedral)**

The project *Discovering the Old Dubrovnik Cathedrals* was initiated in 2018 as an interdisciplinary cooperation of five Croatian institutions on the scientific processing of all small finds from the locality of Dubrovnik Cathedral, excavated in the 1980s. This multi-layered, urban locality shows continuous building activities that culminated after the earthquake of 1667 when the Baroque cathedral was built on the site of two earlier churches: the Romanesque Cathedral and the so-called first church, or the Byzantine Basilica.

The material was found during archaeological research of the locality undertaken after the earthquake in 1979, which remained largely unprocessed and unpublished for a long time. In the first stage of the project (primarily due to the large number of materials and the poor condition in which they were found, the activities were focused on their rescue and sorting and only then on professional processing. During this, the primary processing of stone and glass fragments was started. In contrast, other materials (fragments of wall paintings and metal) are documented or listed and adequately stored (ceramic fragments). The new stage of the project includes scientific processing and is accompanied by a multidisciplinary approach to the material. On this occasion, we present a typological and chronological analysis of the amphora from the site of the Dubrovnik Cathedral. Period 4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> centuries is represented by an amphora of the Spatheion 1 type of North African origin, and amphora fragments for which, based on current knowledge, there are not enough elements for a typological classification. The analysis of ceramic material also established the largest statistical presence on one land site of the so-called Byzantine amphorae. Although at least seven types of Byzantine/Late Byzantine amphorae have been identified, the statistically most represented are the so-called globular amphorae (7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> c.), amphorae type Otranto 1 - 2 (10<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> c.) and Gussenin 3 (12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> c.).

**Karla Gusar, Marko Meštrov**

## **Glazirana keramika iz utvrde Vrana / Glazed pottery from the Vrana fortress**

The site of Vrana is situated 39 km SE of Zadar. It held great importance during the Middle Ages, first as a property of Croatian kings, then Roman Pope, Knights Templars, who built a fortress there, then Hospitallers and from 15<sup>th</sup> century Venetian Republic. The Ottomans conquered Vrana in 1537, which they held until 1647. Archaeological excavations of the Vrana fortress started in 2017 in the entrance area of the complex. Excavations have unearthed numerous finds of coarse as well as glazed pottery. Along with many different finds depicting quotidian life in the Middle Ages, glazed pottery clearly reflects historical, economic and cultural circumstances, which is why we chose it for this analysis. These finds of medieval glazed pottery belong to tableware that can be dated from 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> century. Among them largest part originates from Italian workshops with different types of pottery such as lead glazed one, as well as pottery with layer of slip with painted and/or incised decoration as well as majolica. Spanish majolica or Lustreware is also represented among these finds. Through a detailed analysis of the mentioned ceramic finds, we will try to determine trade and cultural ties as well as economic conditions in the given historical period in the mentioned area.

**Katarina Predovnik**

## **The social contexts and cultural significance of decorated ceramic tableware in the 14<sup>th</sup>–17<sup>th</sup> century. The evidence from Slovenia**

In present-day Slovenia, elaborately decorated pottery intended for serving and consumption of food as well as for display was very rare before the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Imported maiolica and graffita wares from north-eastern Italian workshops predominated, with some Spanish maiolica imported in the late 14<sup>th</sup> and early 15<sup>th</sup> century. Late medieval and early modern local production includes red-painted whiteware and common earthenware vessels, mainly jugs and beakers, with relief decoration by stamping, piercing, pinching, and application; before the later 16<sup>th</sup> century, hardly any white-painted redwares were in use. Local production of polychrome-painted and glazed pottery was introduced in the mid-16<sup>th</sup> century under the influence of Italian imports. This paper will provide an overview of the current state of knowledge on the late medieval and early modern decorated pottery in present-day Slovenia and the neighbouring regions. The social contexts in which these ceramics were used, their possible symbolic meanings and their role in identity formation will be discussed using a relational approach to material culture, viewing artefacts as social agents that form networks of relationships with people, places, and other objects.



**Ivana Hirschler Marić, Andrej Janeš**

## **In mensa civitatis Gara: a preliminary analysis of medieval ceramic finds**

In the area of the medieval fortified settlement of Gora/Gara, a large amount, of ceramic finds, was collected. Since 2018, archaeological excavations have been carried out at the location of Kamenišće in the northwestern part of the settlement where the remains of the earlier parish church and later Dominican friary have been confirmed. Given that the research is still ongoing, a preliminary statistical-typological analysis was performed on the ceramic finds. Most finds belong to coarse ware, usually undecorated. The most numerous are pots, while bowls and lids are less frequent. Tableware is significantly less common. Unglazed ocher ware, frequently decorated with a painted web pattern, and associated with the so-called Buda whiteware group, predominates among it. There are also bell-shaped cups with ribbed bellies, sometimes also decorated with painting or plastic twisted rope, and goblets with plastic rosettes. An interesting group of fragments with incised signs (letters and symbols) also stands out. Fragments of engraved ceramics and majolica from the Apennine peninsula (Veneto, Emilia Romagna) were identified within the tableware. A special group is represented by fragments of construction ceramics: profiled bricks and roof tiles and technical ceramics. In the area explored so far, a distinct dominance of simple cup-shaped and bulbous stove tiles can be observed, with the interesting appearance of the same type of potter's seal on the bottom of three items. The latest ceramic finds in the researched area represent fragments of ceramic vessels and a fragment of a glazed pipe from the time of Ottoman rule over Gora. A unique find is a miniature pyramid-shaped lid, which is preliminarily determined to be Chinese porcelain, possibly a Dehua white porcelain.

**Vesna Bikić**

## **Rescue archaeology and pottery studies: Household pottery assemblage from the 11<sup>th</sup>–12<sup>th</sup> century Belgrade**

The study of pottery that was obtained in the course of rescue excavations is particularly challenging considering the fragmentary nature of archaeological contexts, and thus the fragmentary nature of pottery assemblage; this actualize issues related to contextualization, the methodology of processing, and interpretation of pottery. Occasionally, rescue excavations yield findings/data that cast doubt on earlier assumptions, and ultimately contribute to in-depth knowledge on medieval households, among other things. Such an example



appeared during rescue excavations in Rajíceva Street (2004–2009). In front of the entrance into the fortress of Singidunum, and above the remains of the street that leads to the castrum gate, a very fragmentarily preserved part of the settlement from the 11<sup>th</sup>–12<sup>th</sup> century was discovered. The discovered cooking pots, although relatively few in number, are very illustrative in terms of technology and morphology. The results gained importance when viewed together with previously discovered findings. We will consider the spatial distribution of pottery in relation to their technological and typological characteristics, in order to re-examine the social processes behind the pottery production styles.

## **Gyöngyi Kovács, Bianka Kovács, Ágnes Kolláth, Zsófia Nádai** **Pottery of Csókakő Castle - Shift and continuity in** **technologies and styles from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the end of the 17<sup>th</sup>** **century in the light of historical and social changes**

The Castle of Csókakő is located about 25 km from Székesfehérvár, the crowning city of the medieval Kingdom of Hungary. The castle was built in the second half of the 13<sup>th</sup> century on the edge of the Vértes mountains. It was owned by royalty and important lords during the Middle Ages and came under Ottoman rule in 1543–1544, which was essentially continuous until 1687. The building's destruction began after the first decades of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

As a result of the systematic excavation in the castle, the area inside the curtain walls is almost completely known. In our paper we will concentrate on the ceramic material unearthed, we aim to show the region's characteristics and the technical innovation from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century in the light of historical and social changes.

In the middle third of the 15<sup>th</sup> century, the castle briefly became a noble residence, which was reflected in the archaeological finds, e.g. in the appearance of imported Western European goods. However, most of the ceramics are local products from the surroundings, where the spread of new technologies is clearly visible and in many cases, the place of production can be identified.

The role of the castle changed in the middle of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, the former aristocratic residence became an Ottoman border fort. The change appears not only in the ethnicity of the garrison, but also in the material culture - by appearance of Ottoman and Balkan type goods in the castle; though in estates belonged to the Csókakő dominion the local pottery production continuously developed.

At the last decades of the 17<sup>th</sup> century a new type local pottery already leads to the folk pottery of the region.





**Katja Špec**

## **Pottery-making tradition in the medieval market town of Gutenwerd**

Today, Otok near Dobrava (Gutenwerd) is a completely disappeared and abandoned medieval urban settlement. It is located along the Krka River in the southeast Dolenjska region in present-day Slovenia. It holds significance in Slovenian archaeology as the first and only systematic research of an abandoned medieval settlement in Slovenia. The topic of this paper discusses the question regarding the tradition of pottery making in Gutenwerd. As for now, we do not have archaeological evidence for the pottery making in Gutenwerd. We presume that there probably was at least one potter's workshop, based on new research that was carried out regarding the local pottery production. This paper will present the study of selected pottery fragments (cooking vessels and tableware) dating from the 12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> centuries and try to identify the tradition of pottery making. It will answer questions such as what kind of technology was used to make vessels, how pottery differed throughout the centuries, whether can we observe the continuation of a certain tradition or whether are there changes in the way pottery was made, and whether can we recognize different potters who had different technological knowledge and skills, which can be seen in the finished products. For this, pottery fragments were first analysed macroscopically, and then selected fragments were analysed using archeometric methods such as thin section petrography and X-ray fluorescence (XRF). Ultimately this paper aims to contribute to the research of the medieval, as well as the early modern pottery in Slovenia. Especially because it uses methods that previously were not used regarding pottery from this period.

**Andreja Kudelić, Tatjana Tkalčec**

## **Technological and functional features of late medieval ceramic vessels from the Vrbovec castle in Klenovec Humski (NW Croatia)**

The castle Vrbovec (lat. *castrum Vrbouch*) is located in the far west of the Hungarian-Croatian Kingdom, i.e. the Kingdom of Slavonia (*Regnum Sclavoniae*), today near Klenovec Humski, a settlement located along the border with Slovenia. Many years of archaeological research have shown that the castle, in addition to its administrative and economic role, also functioned as a noble defence-residential fortress between 13<sup>th</sup> and end of the 15<sup>th</sup> century. The castle-layout consists of a central courtyard with a cistern, a residential part with commercial facilities in



the north and a defence tower in the south. At the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> century, the castle was almost completely destroyed, and a wooden tower was built on the ruins, which enabled life to continue during the first decades of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. However, not much is known about the daily life inside such forts in Croatia.

In this context, the large number of movable finds discovered inside the cistern is very indicative, of which there are especially numerous remains of ceramic vessels, which are estimated to belong to more than 570 pots. It is assumed that these are worn, broken and discarded pottery used during the last stages of life in the castle. Considering technological and functional features of ceramic vessels, this study aims to better understand the technology of production, use and distribution of pottery as one of the indicators of the principle of sustaining life inside the fort.

The paper therefore presents the preliminary results of the mineralogical-petrographic analysis of two groups of cooking pots and a group of tableware. The goal is to establish the composition of the clay pastes used to make such vessels as well as the techniques of their production. In addition, by analysing the wear traces on the vessels surface we will try to establish the intensity and manner of their use. Since technological procedures and morphology directly affect the function of the vessels, a comparative consideration of both parameters will enable better understanding of the potters' technological choices, but also of the manner in which the vessels were used and discarded inside the Vrbovec castle.

**Valentina Vujeva Hranić**

## **Analiza keramike iz objekta SJ 433 s kasnosrednjovjekovnog lokaliteta Donji Miholjac – Đanovci / Pottery analysis from the feature SU 433 at the late medieval settlement Donji Miholjac – Đanovci**

The Donji Miholjac – Đanovci archaeological site is located on a slightly elevated area in the lowland outskirts of the town of Donji Miholjac (Osijek–Baranja County, Croatia). In 2015, the Institute of Archaeology carried out a protective research on the route of the southern detour of Donji Miholjac. Archaeological research affirmed that the locality has been inhabited since prehistory (the Baden culture and the Lasinja culture), Late La Tene, Antiquity, Early Middle Ages to Late Middle Ages). The largest surface was occupied by the settlement from the Late Middle Ages. Medieval feature SU 433/434, interpreted as remains of a dwelling house, was established on an ancient constructing tradition and it is a part of an above-ground dwelling layout. The building is dated in the 15<sup>th</sup> century by radiocarbon analysis. Most of the archaeological material collected from the SU



433 consisted of fragments of pottery. Most of the pottery fragments belonged to kitchenware, which consisted of pots and lids with rough texture. A smaller number of pots and lids were decorated. Decorations on pottery include wavy lines and horizontal lines, as well as wheel decoration. Beside kitchenware, tableware was also found in a smaller amount. Some ceramic beakers were decorated with a toothed wheel, while the jug handle was painted. The material found in the backfill of the feature indicates residents of a slightly higher social status.

## **Ana Kovačič, Ahac Šinkovec** **Pits and pots from Ptuj**

In the years between 2018 and 2020, extensive excavations took place in the centre of now day Ptuj, which were connected with the complete renovation of the Ptuj market place. As a result, significant new insights into the origins of the mediaeval Ptuj emerged.

In the paper we will focus on pottery finds which we discovered during the excavations. The discussed site with its many closed contexts such as a well, pits and gravel pits, which contained a large quantity of Late Medieval and Early Post-Medieval pottery, represents a good study example. Several whole or almost whole pots have been preserved in the pits, which is a rarity in settlement contexts. Based on pots, the oldest pit dates from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Among the important contexts is the filling of a well in which two whole pots, tallow lamps, a tripod, jugs and other tableware and kitchen ware dating from the 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> centuries were discovered. In addition to the ceramic finds, parts of "Krautstrunk" cups and part of a pipe clay doll were found in the backfill. The richest assemblage of pottery sherds, mostly kitchen ware, was found in a backfill of possible garbage pit. At least 15 bowls and plates made of painted slip-ware and engraved pottery were discovered in the backfill. Most of the painted slip-ware came from Slovenian workshops, while the engraved tableware also included products from Italian centres.

The analysis of pottery finds from Ptuj, therefore makes the site particularly significant for pottery study of Late Medieval early Post-Medieval period, considering that finds and settlement remains at this site are time-limited, spanning from the Grajene stream's bed filling until the construction of Mala Kasarna in late 16<sup>th</sup> century.

**Rafko Urankar, Jure Krajšek, Kaja Stemberger Flegar**

## **Documenting pottery in Zoot: One programme to rule them all**

When one is faced with a seemingly endless amount of pottery sherds fresh from the excavation site, it can be overwhelming. The feeling is no less intense when the sherds need to be catalogued, and even more so if there are several rounds of renumbering the finds, especially if this is done by hand.

While there is no instant solution that would make the issue magically disappear, the rapid advancement of digital technologies has nonetheless found its way into archaeological documentation. Our solution to the database headaches surrounding pottery and other small finds, as well as all fieldwork documentation is Zoot. The homegrown programme is tailored to the needs of excavation and post-excavation documentation, and serves as a solid base for subsequent scientific work. It enables efficient management of the various aspects of archaeological documentation, including going paperless already during excavations. In its core, Zoot is a database interface for entering and retrieving data such as lists, photos, 3D site models, small find details etc. It can also process the data, perform calculations, and prepare exports intended for further processing with more specialised programs. Moreover, it provides a framework for keeping track of and linking all graphical documentation (photos, drawings, models etc.), small finds, and samples with the primary excavation documentation. In addition, it supports the direct retrieval of data for GIS and statistical processing. Most importantly, it is designed to shorten the time of writing reports as it automatically generates catalogues (e.g. of small finds, graves). In this presentation, we will describe its basic structure and functionality, with a focus on processing ceramic small finds and the output Zoot can generate.

**Adriana Gaşpar**

## **Ottoman ceramics from Timișoara (Romania), 16<sup>th</sup>–17<sup>th</sup> centuries**

Timișoara is a city located in the western part of Romania. Its name was first used in 1266 – then it named the settlement and the fortress. After the Ottoman conquest in 1552, the eyalet of Timișoara was founded and lasted for 164 years until 1716 when the fortress entered the administration of the Habsburg Empire.

The most significant archaeological results have been collected during research campaigns carried out in 2006–2015 in the historical center of Temesvar and its surroundings, due to urban interventions in this area.

Following the process of colonization, Islamization, and domination of the Christian



city, the local ceramics changed form and decoration. The Ottomans brought their potters, most of whom were Slaves from the conquered provinces in the Balkans, who influenced the style and techniques of local production of pottery. It was also inspired by the production of very distant regions, some vessel forms are similar not only to those from the contemporary Balkan provinces but also to those from Anatolia which in turn inherited the Byzantine forms. Cooking pots have thinner walls and better-contoured shoulders. Footed bowls and pitchers appeared those with an attached drain tubes and those with filters. Grey ceramic mugs and jugs were made. Handmade clay pans, stove tiles and smoking pipes appeared too. The glazing technique was frequently used in different styles whether simple or sgraffito – with floral decoration or inscription, followed by the technique of painting with brown or reddish paint. We want to present all these discoveries related to the forms and the influences on the common ceramics from Timișoara in our communication.

**Ivana Hirschler Marić**

## **Dining through the new era: Ottoman and Modern ceramic and zooarchaeological evidence from the Chapel of the Magi/ Jahja bey's tower in Gorjani**

During 2015 and 2018, the Croatian Conservation Institute conducted archaeological excavation of the interior and surroundings of the Chapel of the Magi in Gorjani. The present-day chapel was originally built around the middle of the 16<sup>th</sup> century as a multi-story tower with a residential-defensive function. After the Reconquest in 1687, the tower underwent several unsuccessful adaptations until its final conversion into the Chapel of the Magi in 1837. Most of the ceramic finds from the Ottoman phase were found in the fill of the large pit of the waste-sewage system, but some of the finds show a late medieval influence. One shard is defined as the so-called Balkan ceramics and appears alongside characteristic new forms such as ceramic pipes, glazed bowls, glazed stove tiles and gray ceramics. The use of the object by the Ottoman crew is undoubtedly confirmed by the results of zooarchaeological analysis. The fragments of ceramic roof tiles found at the site contradict the written sources which claim that the roof was made of shingles. The ceramic finds in the interior come from the backfill layers above the original floor level on the ground floor. Fragments that belong to the Ottoman phase are only sporadic in these layers, but among them the find of a ceramic whistle stands out, and the results of the zooarchaeological analysis also show a significantly different picture. Among the ceramics, glazed ware dominates, and fragments of ceramic pipes help in



dating these layers. In addition to the typological-chronological analysis of the finds presented in this paper, it is planned to carry out chemical analyzes on the selected samples.

**Andrej Janeš**

## **A lid to its pot: the case of the ceramic finds from the Medvedgrad castle**

Medvedgrad castle is located on the southern slopes of Medvednica mountain, north of Zagreb. It was the center of renovation works from 1979 to 1990s, with archaeological excavations conducted from 1979 to 1984. These excavations were conducted with the clearance method of excavation, mostly disregarding the stratigraphy of the site. A large number of finds have been collected, predominantly shards of ceramic vessels. This paper will focus on ceramic finds that were found during those excavations. Due to the lack of the field documentation, the circumstances of the mentioned finds were unknown. The photo archive of the restoration works was used to locate the exact area of provenance inside the castle. In this manner it was possible to locate the area of origin in the northern part of the castle.

The finds are comprised mostly of kitchen ware and stove tiles. Due to the lack of any data concerning the stratigraphic record, the finds had to be analyzed by means of analogies. The analysis suggests that the finds are temporally homogeneous, mostly belonging to the 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> century. By combining the data from the restoration work archives and the ceramic analysis it can be presumed that the area in question was used actively during the late medieval/early modern period, as has been suggested by the first researchers. With all its shortcomings the method of combining ceramic analysis with the data from the restoration work archives can be used in interpreting finds from non-stratified excavations. However, all of this highlights the importance of the use of the stratigraphic method during excavations and renovation works on sites such as medieval castles.

**Elizabeta Skočibušić, Ana Azinović Bebek**

## **Modern period pottery (19<sup>th</sup> century) from Barilović Castle – how can social changes be traced on the basis of pottery**

This paper will present the pottery of Barilović Castle, which belongs to the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. This period is characterized by the changes within the Castle itself, with the replacement of the military administration (abolition of the Military Frontier) and the establishment of a civilian administration (seat of the district, municipal offices, school). These social changes can be traced



based on the change in the pottery material itself. Pottery presented in this paper is table pottery, more precisely imported English and Czech porcelain, as well as imported English stoneware decorated with the transfer printing technique. It is obvious that the Castle's inhabitants were influenced by the contemporary European trends of imports from Western and Central Europe. However, in addition to foreign imports, locally produced pottery is also used, namely the stoneware of the Krapina manufactory. It is more difficult to follow the mentioned changes on the kitchen pottery, especially considering that those are types that have been used continuously since the modern era (16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries onwards), and some are still used today. Considering that all this pottery material was found in the collapse layer that was created in 1943 when the Partisans set fire to the Barilović Castle and represents a closed unit, the data obtained from the research is precious and enables safe dating.

## POSTERS:

**Krešimir Filipec**

### **Fragments of the pottery from the backfills of graves around the Church of Our Lady of Mountain in Lobar – case analysis**

Fragments of pottery from the backfills of graves belong to an extremely important archaeological material that raises many questions, especially in a long-term and layered cemetery such as the one around the Church of Our Lady of Mountain in Lobar (Majka Božja Gorska, Lobar). Very fragmented fragments are found in graves, disturbed or destroyed graves and even in layers of burials that are common in this and generally other cemeteries around the church with long continuity. Some bear witness to the situation they found themselves in, digging over and within the older layers, while others testify to the circumstances that occurred during the funeral at a precisely defined time. Their number, position and relationships provide answers to very important questions related to the current circumstances, economic conditions, possibilities and, in general, the level of development of the region. Primarily they contribute to chronological discussions, and classical analysis of form and material can provide information on quantity, quality, provenance and patterns. The church was one of the central points around which people gathered in the Middle Ages. Local people and foreigners met there, it was used especially during pilgrimages, and people traded, marketed, made merry, eat and drank around it. You had to cross the cemetery to get to the church, and some of the everyday items ended up in the graves. Their greater or lesser number at a certain time must also be explained, because their absence can testify to the dying out or cessation of certain activities. Small fragments of pottery in a not so attractive milieu such as a grave burial seem to provide more information than would sometimes be expected.

**Kristina Jelinčić Vučković, Bartul Šiljeg**

### **Provenance of ceramic finds from Korintija (questions of trade and local economy)**

The archaeological zone Korintija, Bosar-Sokol is situated on the easternmost part of the island of Krk, facing the Velebit Channel. The Korintija fort lies on the northern part of the highest peak (129 m) on the Sokol peninsula. The Sokol peninsula is connected to the island by the Bosar isthmus, and separated from the island by two coves: Vela Luka and Mala Luka. It comprises the fortress from Byzantine period on a hill and settlement in the Mala Luka bay standing underneath





it. The investigations have shed a more comprehensive light on the archaeological zone whose centers are the late antique settlement in Mala Luka and the Korintija fort, which played a role in the maintenance of the important maritime route from Senj to Osor, as well as the coastal routes towards Rijeka.

The pottery that will be discussed was found during survey and excavations, Institute of archaeology in 2004 and 2007 in the settlement area of Mala Luka. Since the fortress and settlement is dated in Early Byzantine period, pottery from the same period was expected but pottery analysis showed presence of minor presence of earlier finds as well.

The archaeological findings at Korintija contribute to our understanding of the economic activities in the region, highlighting the importance of maritime routes and local production in sustaining the settlement's economy during the Late Antiquity.

### **Ana Konestra**

## **Pottery from the Bribir – Štale cemetery excavation. A contribution to the knowledge of Medieval pottery of the Vinodol Valley (NE Adriatic, Croatia)**

In 2021, the Institute of Archaeology conducted a rescue excavation on the southwest segment of the cemetery at Štale, located just outside the Medieval fortified settlement of Bribir in the Vinodol Valley (northeastern Adriatic, Croatia). The excavation uncovered around 90 graves, most of which had subsequent depositions and other post-burial disturbances due to the intense use of the area for burial. Therefore, the actual number of buried individuals is believed to be higher.

Radiocarbon dating of the earliest and latest phase of burial suggests that this part of the cemetery was in use between the late 11<sup>th</sup> and the 15<sup>th</sup> century. This dating is supported by the discovered jewellery, the virtually only find associated with the burials.

During the excavation, sherds of pottery were found within the infill of several graves and in the sediment into which they were dug. They indicated the presence of several types of mostly pots and lids, while several sherds were indicative of impressed decorations on the pots' walls. Tableware was found very sporadically. The presence of these sherds could not be linked to the graves themselves, as no fully preserved vessels were found associated with any of the deceased. Moreover, during the period discussed here, pottery was no longer used as grave goods. Therefore, the reason for its presence within the cemetery remains unclear. However, since pottery of the High and Late Middle Ages in the Vinodol valley is so far known

only from the excavations at Badanj Fort and in lesser number at Lopar Fort, it brings new evidence for the circulation of coarse ware in the NE Adriatic. In fact, analogies seem to indicate its relation to areas of Istria, NE Italy, Slovenia and the Alpine area.

**Antonia Kovač**

## **Distribution of Otranto type 2 amphorae with special reference to the eastern Adriatic coast**

This poster delves in trade and circulation of the Otranto 2 type Byzantine amphorae along the eastern Adriatic coast, underscoring the evolution of maritime trade containers during the High Middle Ages. It presents an examination of the Otranto 2 amphorae, which emerged as one of dominant forms in the southern Adriatic, notably from the latter half of the 11<sup>th</sup> to the late 12<sup>th</sup> century. This period witnessed a significant influx of Byzantine and Sicilian glazed ceramics, paralleled by the evolution of smaller-capacity amphorae designed for more localized or specialized trade. The Otranto 2 amphora, with its distinctive ovoid body, short conical neck, and ribbed handles, and a capacity of 10-15 liters, reflects a broader trend towards the diversification of trade goods and the adaptation of trade practices to accommodate these changes. Its widespread distribution, extending from Southern France and Italy to the Adriatic and Dalmatian coasts, Serbia, Albania, Greece, Constantinople, and Black Sea, illustrates the extensive trade networks of the period and highlights the evolving roles of key maritime traders, including those from Italy, southern Norman, Venice, and Dubrovnik, in the regional trade dynamics.

**Branka Marciuš, Martina Matijaško**

## **Medieval archaeological heritage surrounded by Bistrec stream**

In 2016, during a field survey following a gas pipeline route, archaeological finds from the Middle Ages were discovered north of Donji Vidovec in Međimurje, more precisely in Bistrečko polje (Bistrec field). Shortly afterwards, trial excavations were carried out which resulted in finding of a refuse pit containing a large amount of fragmented pottery, animal bones, baked soil and charcoal fragments dating from Early to High Middle Ages. This indicated the existence of an archaeological site in the area (Bistrečko polje I). During the fall of the same year, a field survey of the entire Bistrec field was carried out resulting in the discovery of two new archaeological sites with movable finds dating to the Middle Ages, namely Bistrečko polje II in south-eastern and Bistrečko polje III in the western part of the area. Trial excavations conducted in 2018 and 2019 at both sites revealed several buried structures with fillings



containing fragmented pottery, animal bones, baked soil and daub. Based on these findings a settlement dating to 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> century, i.e. High Middle Ages, was assumed.

The archaeological sites of Bistrec field were also subject of geophysical research, namely ground-penetrating radar and magnetometer measurements, which were used to establish anomalies with potential archaeological character at all three locations.

### **Marija Mihaljević, Ana Pavleković Žeruk**

## **Kitchen pottery from the site of St. Ivan Trnava- Gornji Bogičevci**

The site St. Ivan Trnava is located southeast of Gornji Bogičevci in the Brod-Posavina County. It is located in a lowland area near the streams Dračevac and Starče. The fort was a land holding held by Knights Hospitallers around the area of Psunj. St. Ivan Trnava is a type of lowland fortress, surrounded by two moats filled with water. Archaeological excavations have been conducted by the City Museum of Nova Gradiška and Marija Mihaljević, Ph.D. since 2014. This poster will present kitchen pottery from clearly defined stratigraphic units, which will be accompanied by radiocarbon dating.

### **Branka Milošević Zakić**

## **Early medieval heavy glazed pottery (*ceramica a vetrina pesante*) from Sipar (Umag)**

During systematic research at the site of Sipar, within the cultural layers of the Late Antique and Early Medieval settlement of *Sipparis*, several fragments of Early Medieval glazed pottery (Italian: *ceramica a vetrina pesante*) with applied decoration have been found. This type of pottery had not been discovered in Istria until recently or had gone unnoticed. A similar fragment of the same type was recently discovered about twenty kilometers away at the site of Stancija Blek – Tarovec (Tar – Vabriga). The fragments from Sipar, though few in number, belong to different closed-form tableware. The production of this type of pottery is associated with two production centers in Italy. The first is Rome, where this type of pottery is called *Forum ware*, and the second, in northern Italy, most likely in the area between the Venetian lagoon and Ravenna. Finds of this pottery are partially associated with church liturgical use and are characteristic of the existing Byzantine world in the new Carolingian environment of the late 8<sup>th</sup> and throughout the 9<sup>th</sup> century.



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