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2 CONTROLLING AND DOMINATING THE FORTIFIED LANDSCAPE – EARLY CHRISTIAN ARCHITECTURE ALONG THE DANUBIAN LIMES IN SERBIA

Abstract author(s): Jeremic, Gordana (Institute of Archaeology Belgrade)

Abstract format: Oral

During large-scale rescue archaeological researches in the area of the Danubian valley that belongs to present-day Serbia, for the needs of construction works on two large hydro-energetic systems (Đerdap I and II), a large number of archaeological sites from various prehistoric and historical periods was registered. The focus of this paper are military fortifications along the limes, used throughout the entire Antiquity period (1st/2nd–6th/7th century), which had, in their final phases (generally, in the 6th century), a church built within the ramparts, as the dominant edifice of the fortification. Unfortunately, findings with clear Christian traits – liturgical objects and objects of personal piety, have been registered only on very rare occasions, sometimes in secondary use.

Church buildings belonged mostly to the one-nave type and had the baptismal function, and they represented the key point not only of the fortified landscape, but also the wider area, which remains unknown to us today, since the areas outside of fortifications have rarely been researched, and even then only on small scales, and therefore, we are lacking information on the scope and size of the settlements, their pertaining necropolises, as well as the existence of other Christian cult buildings outside of the defended space.

In this paper, we will attempt to deal with questions regarding the relationship between church buildings and structures within the defended space, especially remains of military architecture. Also, during archaeological researches of the final phases of those fortifications important traces of different craft and secondary metallurgical activities were registered as well, bearing witness of the dominant sustainable and self-oriented economy of their inhabitants, with a prevalently civilian character. Important questions will deal with problems of more precise chronologies of the construction and usage of church buildings, until their final collapse, probably in the beginning of the 7th century.

3 THE SPREAD OF ARIANISM IN THE LOWER DANUBE DURING LATE ANTIQUITY: THE CASE OF DACIA RIPENSIS

Abstract author(s): Gargano, Ivan (Université de Lille; PIAC - Pontificio Istituto di Archeologia Cristiana)

Abstract format: Oral

The spread of the religious doctrine formulated by Arius in the 4th century owes its success in large part to its dissemination in Illyricum. This doctrine was at the centre of violent political-religious struggles and major ecclesiastical controversies in the Balkans, because of the passionate rivalries between the members of the Church hierarchy. This important struggle was also due to the geographical position of the peninsula, which was the border between both political parts of the Empire: on the one hand, the West, dominated by the Niceno-Atanasian position, and, on the other hand, the East, more inclined to Arianism.

This paper proposes to study that phenomenon, both from the archaeological and the historical points of view, through the case of Dacia Ripensis. This late Roman province, which territory stretched between present-day Serbia and Bulgaria, has the particularity of having been the very centre of the Arian crisis, while being less studied little less than the other provinces of the region. For example, it is the province of a most well-known historical figure within the Niceno-Arian controversy: Palladius, bishop of Ratiaria.

If Dacia Ripensis was fully involved in the spread of the Arianism in the 4th century, that Christian religion was still practised there in the 5th and 6th centuries, in its variant developed by Bononus of Naissus. The Ariano-Bonosiac “heresy” was even so deeply rooted in this territory that the Emperor Justinian needed to take a legislative action to prevent its spread. The aim of this presentation will be thus to define the historical framework which has favoured the spread of this doctrine in Dacia Ripensis and to analyse the material remains interpreted as archaeological traces linked to the followers of Arius’ “heresy”.

4 CHRISTIANITY AT THE FRONTIERS: THE CASE OF ROMETTA (SICILY)

Abstract author(s): Patti, Daniela (University of Enna)

Abstract format: Oral

During the Late Antiquity, Christianity changes and expands the boundaries and the perspectives of the sacred: it is evident, for instance, in the “sacralization of the borders” by means of suburban sanctuaries.

The sacred spaces are signs and markers in the perception of the physical, symbolic and cultural spaces: therefore we have to study local contexts through the analysis of all the available sources, according to the perspective of global history of the “Landscape Archaeology”.

In Late Antiquity, Sicily becomes one of the privileged places of religious coexistence in the Ancient Mediterranean: Christianity, Paganism, Judaism coexist and interact creating new forms of coexistence that is also reflected in the processing and in reuse of sacred spaces.

A case in point is that of Rometta, in the south eastern part of Island: last frontier of the Byzantine Empire, place of last, heroic and desperate resistance to Islamic domination in AD 965.

Rometta is the last frontier of Byzantine culture in Sicily is highlighted by archaeological evidences related to the Byzantine Church of Jesus and Mary, once known as “Santa Maria Cerei” but also to the rock churches, one of which with several crosses carved in the rock, probably related to an early Christian community.

According to the studies, the Church of Jesus and Mary is the most visible evidence of Byzantine architecture in Rometta; actually, the latest archaeological research carried out on site by the scholar Giacomo Scibona, with the discovery of the Byzantine cemetery (built by the Church) and of foundations of the narthex, would allow us to reconsider the chronology. The news data suggest that the Church may have been built before, in the 6th century also on the basis of the comparison with inscribed cross churches type, known in the Greek East in the Late Antiquity.

5 CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS ON LIGHTING DEVICES FROM THE PROVINCE OF SCYTHIA

Abstract author(s): Radu, Petcu (DANUBIUS Project, ANR / I-SITE ULNE / Museum of National History and Archeology at Constanta) - Petcu-Levei, Ingrid (Museum of National History and Archeology at Constanta)

Abstract format: Oral

Depending on the context in which lighting devices are found, as well as their decoration, it is possible to understand more about their use in liturgical context. Lamps and other lighting devices were important religious objects, because of the sacred character of light, both for the living and the dead, connecting them to faith, for its protective power. Therefore, we know that light was central to some pagan rituals, as offerings in temples or in funerary rites being well known. In Christianity, light has also been symbolically and functionally tied to religious ceremonies. The lighting devices used in churches were considered as owned by the whole community as well as other religious regalia. Moreover, they were destined to attest to the importance of religion within society and were, therefore, fashioned in precious materials. Relying on the research made within the Lille (France)-based DANUBIUS Project (ANR / I-SITE ULNE), this poster intends to analyse that phenomenon from the point of view of the territory of the province of Scythia, in which we can identify two different lighting systems with Christian symbols: the first and most common being the oil lamp made from clay or rarely from bronze; second, the suspended lighting devices for glass candles.

361 CROSS-DISCIPLINARY APPROACHES IN ARCHAEOMETALLURGY. PART 2

Theme: 5. Theories and methods in archaeology: interactions between disciplines

Organisers: Saage, Ragnar (University of Tartu) - van der Stok, Janneke (University of Amsterdam; Metals Inc.) - Neiß, Michael (Uppsala University) - Jouttijärvi, Arne (Heimdal-archaeometry) - Wärmländer, Sebastian (Stockholm University)

Format: Regular session

Archaeometallurgy is a multidisciplinary field populated by researchers of varying backgrounds. Some researchers have their background in science or engineering, and focus on scientific analysis of metallurgical samples. Others prefer an experimental approach, trying to reconstruct ancient techniques and technologies through practical work. And some have their background in the humanities or social sciences, trying to understand metal objects and metal-working from a theoretical or cultural history point of view, or fit them into historical narratives. While all these approaches are valuable in themselves, the most useful archaeometallurgical research is often obtained when two or more approaches are combined. This typically requires different specialists to meet and collaborate – i.e. networking among researchers.

In this discussion session we welcome papers on ancient metalworking in a broad sense concerning the temporal and spatial frameworks, yet with focus on methodologies to cross-disciplinary archaeometallurgical research. We particularly welcome papers that can stimulate discussions on how the same research material can be studied from different angles. One can think of ways to make analytical techniques more accessible and comprehensible to non-engineers or how to integrate social perspectives when investigating ancient metalworking.

ABSTRACTS

1 TO THE QUESTION OF THE DISPUTED PROBLEMS OF THE HISTORY OF THE BLACK METAL

Abstract author(s): Zavyalov, Vladimir - Terekhova, Natalia (Institute of Archaeology Russian Academy of Sciences)

Abstract format: Oral

The greatest importance of iron in the history was noted by many thinkers. The interest of researchers in the history of the discovery and development of ferrous metal is quite reasonable. However, a number of problems are still debatable. These are the reasons for the transition from bronze to iron, the role of meteoritic iron in the formation of the iron industry.

There are several hypotheses regarding the reasons for the transition from bronze to iron: “environmental” (reduction of fuel reserves), “economic” (reduction of tin supply), “technological” (discovery of processes to improve the mechanical properties of ferrous metal). Each of these theses raises a number of criticisms. We would like to offer an alternative hypothesis. In our opinion, the decisive factor in the transition from the bronze industry to the iron industry was the discovery and development of methods for producing metallurgical iron (bloomery process). Convincing evidence of the beginning of the production of metallurgical iron could be considered the appearance of large forms objects of ferrous metal. We may give an example famous finds from Anatolia, which date back to the second half of the 3rd millennium BC. Thus, precisely this time can be considered the beginning of the development of ferrous metallurgy.

One of the most interesting problems is the question of meteoritic iron role in the discovery of the method of metallurgical produc-