

**INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY
BELGRADE, SERBIA**

1ST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE WITH WORKSHOP

**SCIENCE FOR CONSERVATION
OF THE DANUBE LIMES**

*Mortar Design for Conservation – Danube Roman Frontier
2000 Years After*

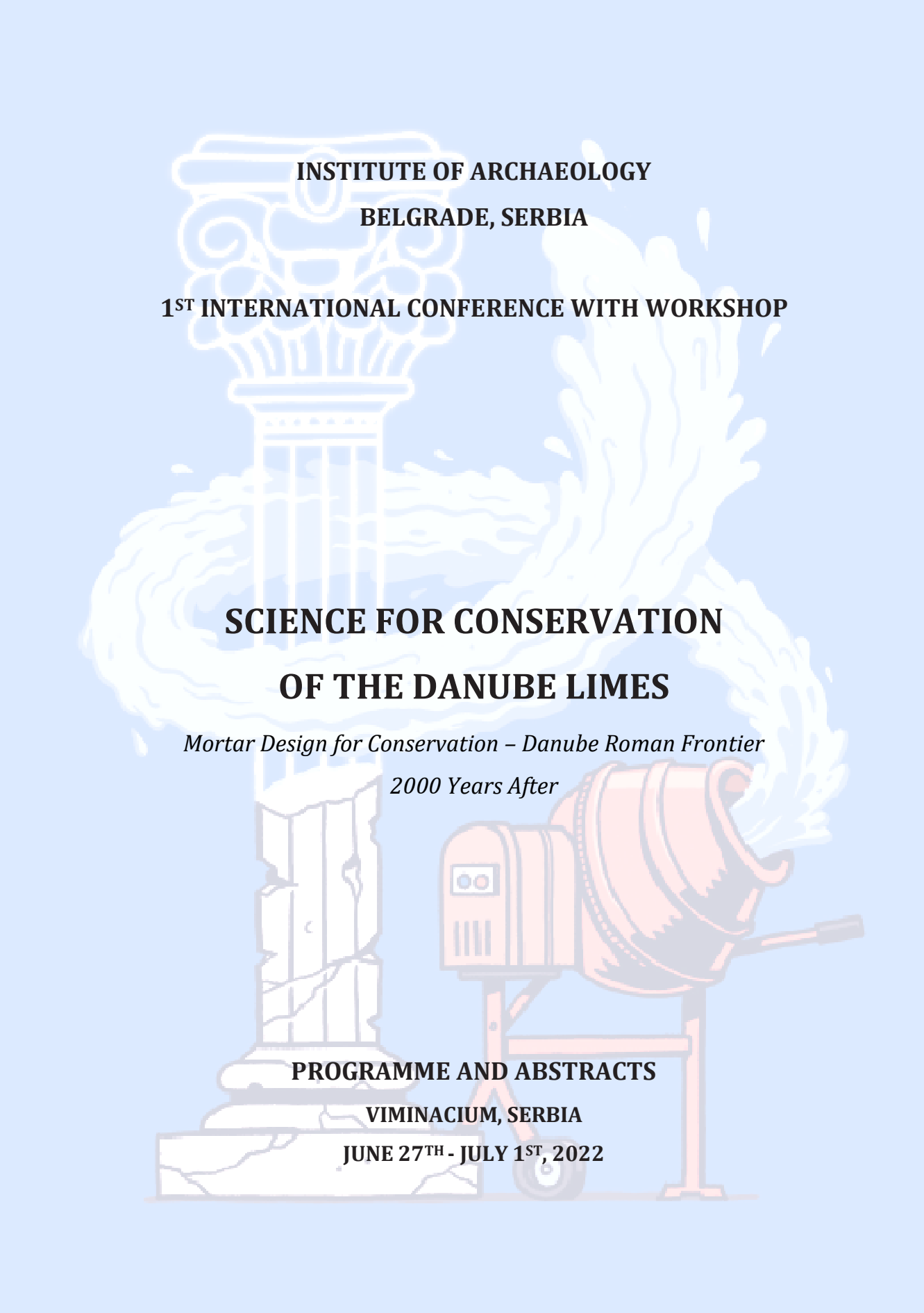


PROGRAMME AND ABSTRACTS

VIMINACIUM, SERBIA

JUNE 27TH - JULY 1ST, 2022





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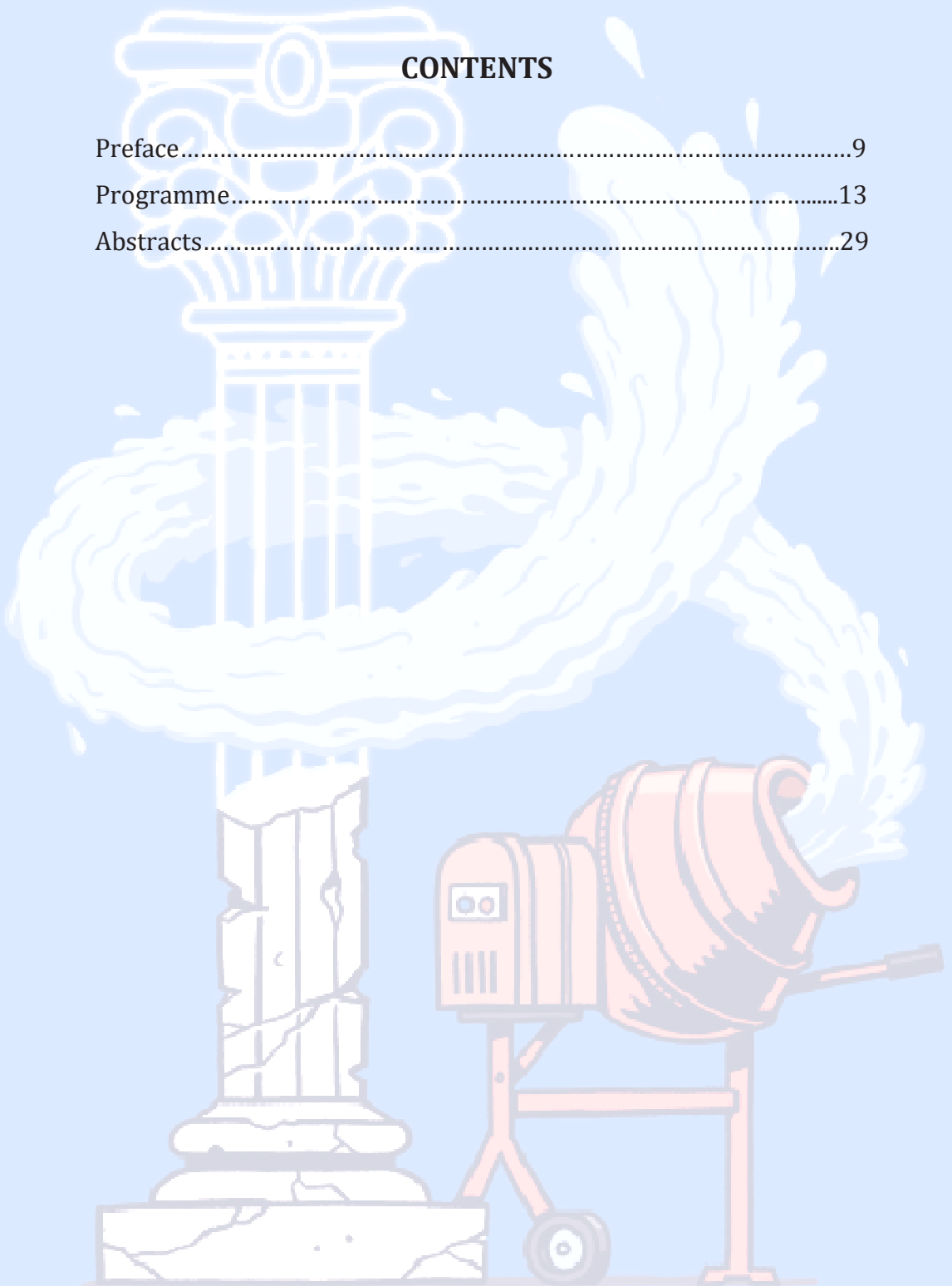
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PREFACE

The dust that a building is transformed into when it becomes a ruin holds precious traces of the past. The hands of an archaeologist will search through it patiently, and find a necklace bead of a woman that lived in it. The hands of an architect will virtually transform the dust into a mortar, brick, or stone. The first profession sees through the unbuilt. The second one builds from it. However, both perform their work by communicating with the sciences.

Throughout history, various components were chosen, measured, and mixed into one of the most complex building composites ever - mortar, whose re-creation is of invaluable importance for architectural conservation. Geologists and chemists will best tell us about its composition. However, sometimes, while excavating a ruined wall, an archaeologist finds a mortar trowel, accidentally left by the past builder. Is this a more valuable trace for revealing the creation of a wall than the binder/aggregate ratio of the mortar used? Can we pick it up and imagine the hands that combined colourful aggregate grains with the earth, gypsum, lime, or cement?

From the exploitation, transport, and use of raw materials, to the product called mortar, we pass by the people from the past, the quarries, roads, and rivers, we look at the craftsmen working with tools, and observe the investors negotiating with engineers, and the rulers supervising the construction. The four hands from the beginning of the story can combine the chemistry of the red, blue, green, yellow, black, and white mineral grains with the found trowel, and help us revive many

unknown hands from the past. Thus, the research of historic mortars for conservation purposes must not be a purely technical process. Only by understanding the multiple values of a historic building, we can adequately protect it.

The project Mortar Design for Conservation – Danube Roman Frontier 2,000 Years After (MoDeCo2000), funded by the Science Fund of the Republic of Serbia, was created with the sincere intent and great hope that it could help in the future discoveries and preservation of the rich heritage in Serbia from the period of the magnificent Roman Empire, whose Danubian monuments are part of the preliminary list for UNESCO World Heritage. Different researchers and professionals - architects, archaeologists, geologists, chemists, materials scientists, physicists, biologists, restorers, craftsmen, and managers have all made an effort to get closer to the fulfilment of the wish of the project creators.

After sampling and investigating numerous mortars originating from the structures dating to the period from the 1st to the 6th century, many conclusions were made, but challenges for future researchers and conservators also arose, telling us we need to continue our work in the future, in an attempt to gain more knowledge and, thus, preserve our heritage more adequately.

We welcome you to the Viminacium Archaeological Park and the 1st International Conference with Workshop, Science for Conservation of the Danube Limes. With the hope that many new fruitful collaborations between our guest researchers will be developed on this occasion, taking us one step further towards long-term technical

solutions for architectural conservation and civil engineering based on nature, but also to new cognitions about the life of the past people, always for the cause of the preservation of rich world material and immaterial cultural heritage and our planet, we invite you to peruse this publication. All the authors have shown their enormous affection and passionate devotion towards the discoveries of ancient knowledge, advocating its use in the further preservation of the most monumental physical witnesses of the past – buildings, for future generations.

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PROGRAMME

MONDAY, JUNE 27TH

08.30 – 10.00 *Breakfast / Coffee and registration*

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTORY SPEECHES

10.00 – 10.40

MIOMIR KORAĆ, Institute of Archaeology, Director

EMILIJA NIKOLIĆ, Institute of Archaeology, PI MoDeCo2000

DUBRAVKA ĐUKANOVIĆ, Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments
of Serbia Belgrade, Director

JAROSLAV KATONA, Faculty of Technology Novi Sad, University of Novi
Sad, Vice Dean for Finances

10.40 – 11.00 NEMANJA MRĐIĆ, IVANA KOSANOVIĆ, MILICA MARJANOVIĆ

***Danube Limes in Serbia: On the Way to a UNESCO World Heritage Site –
Problems, Challenges and Solutions***

11.00 – 11.20 EMILIJA NIKOLIĆ, MLADEN JOVIČIĆ, IVANA DELIĆ-NIKOLIĆ,

LJILJANA MILIČIĆ, SNEŽANA VUČETIĆ, JONJAUA RANOGAJEC

***Our MoDeCo2000: Results Overview of the Scientific and Research
Project***

11.20– 11.40 *Coffee break with snack*

LECTURES

11.45 - 12.05 MLADEN JOVIČIĆ

Researching Roman Mortars from the Danube Region - Archaeological Perspective of the MoDeCo2000 Project

12.05 - 12.25 SNEŽANA VUČETIĆ, JONJAUA RANOGAJEC, IVANA DELIĆ-NIKOLIĆ, LJILJANA MILIČIĆ, EMILIJA NIKOLIĆ, MLADEN JOVIČIĆ

Design of Compatible Mortars for Conservation Interventions

12.25 - 12.45 EUGEN VAIDA, VERONICA VAIDA, ALEXANDRA TEODOR

The Ambulance for Monuments - Safeguarding Heritage through Community Engagement

12.45 - 13.30 NIGEL COPSEY

Rediscovering Traditional Mortars, part 1

13.30 - 14.30 Lunch break

LECTURES

14.35 - 15.20 NIGEL COPSEY

Rediscovering Traditional Mortars, part 2

15.20- 15.35 Coffee break

LECTURES

15.40 - 16.25 NIGEL COPSEY

Rediscovering Traditional Mortars, part 3

17.00 - 18.30 Viminacium sightseeing

18.30 - 19.30 Dinner

21.00 Viminacium Fest / Theatre festival

(Closing night in the Viminacium amphitheatre with a jazz concert)



TUESDAY, JUNE 28TH

07.30 – 09.00 *Breakfast / Coffee*

PRACTICAL WORKSHOP ON LIME MORTARS

09.00 – 13.00 NIGEL COPSEY DEMONSTRATION

Building Experimental Structures of Brick and Stone with Lime Mortar

13.30 – 14.30 *Lunch break*

LECTURES

14.35 – 15.05 VLADICA CVETKOVIĆ, KRISTINA ŠARIĆ

Tuffs of Serbia – What We Need to Know when Characterising Them as Archaeological Raw Material

15.05 – 15.35 KRISTINA ŠARIĆ, SUZANA ERIĆ, VLADICA CVETKOVIĆ,
JOSIP ŠARIĆ, DRAGANA ANTONOVIĆ, VESNA BIKIĆ

Geological Knowledge in Service to Archaeological Investigations: Rock and Ceramic Findings as Examples

15.35 – 15.55 YOTAM ASSCHER, MICHELE SECCO, GIULIA RICCI, SERGIO
TAMBURINI, GILBERTO ARTIOLI (*virtual*)

Evaluation of Ancient Mortars Hydraulicity through the Characterisation of Long and Short-range Crystallinity

15.55 – 16.15 LJILJANA DAMJANOVIĆ VASILIĆ, VESNA BIKIĆ, SRNA STOJANOVIĆ, IVANA RADOSAVLJEVIĆ EVANS, DANICA BAJUK – BOGDANOVIĆ, IVANKA HOLCLAJTNER – ANTUNOVIĆ

Physicochemical Characterisation of the Medieval Pottery Excavated in Serbia

16.15 – 16.35 *Coffee break with snack*

LECTURES

16.40 – 17.00 MARIA STEFANIDOU

Technological Characteristics of Fired Bricks from Roman and Byzantine Period in Greece

17.00 – 17.20 SIMONE DILARIA, CATERINA PREVIATO, JACOPO BONETTO, MICHELE SECCO, ARTURO ZARA, DOMENICO MIRIELLO, RAFFAELLA DE LUCCA, GILBERTO ARTIOLI

Pyroclastic Rocks in the Structural Mortars of Roman Nora (Sardinia). A Green Material for the Production of Sustainable Concretes in Antiquity

17.20 – 17.40 ANNA ARIZZI

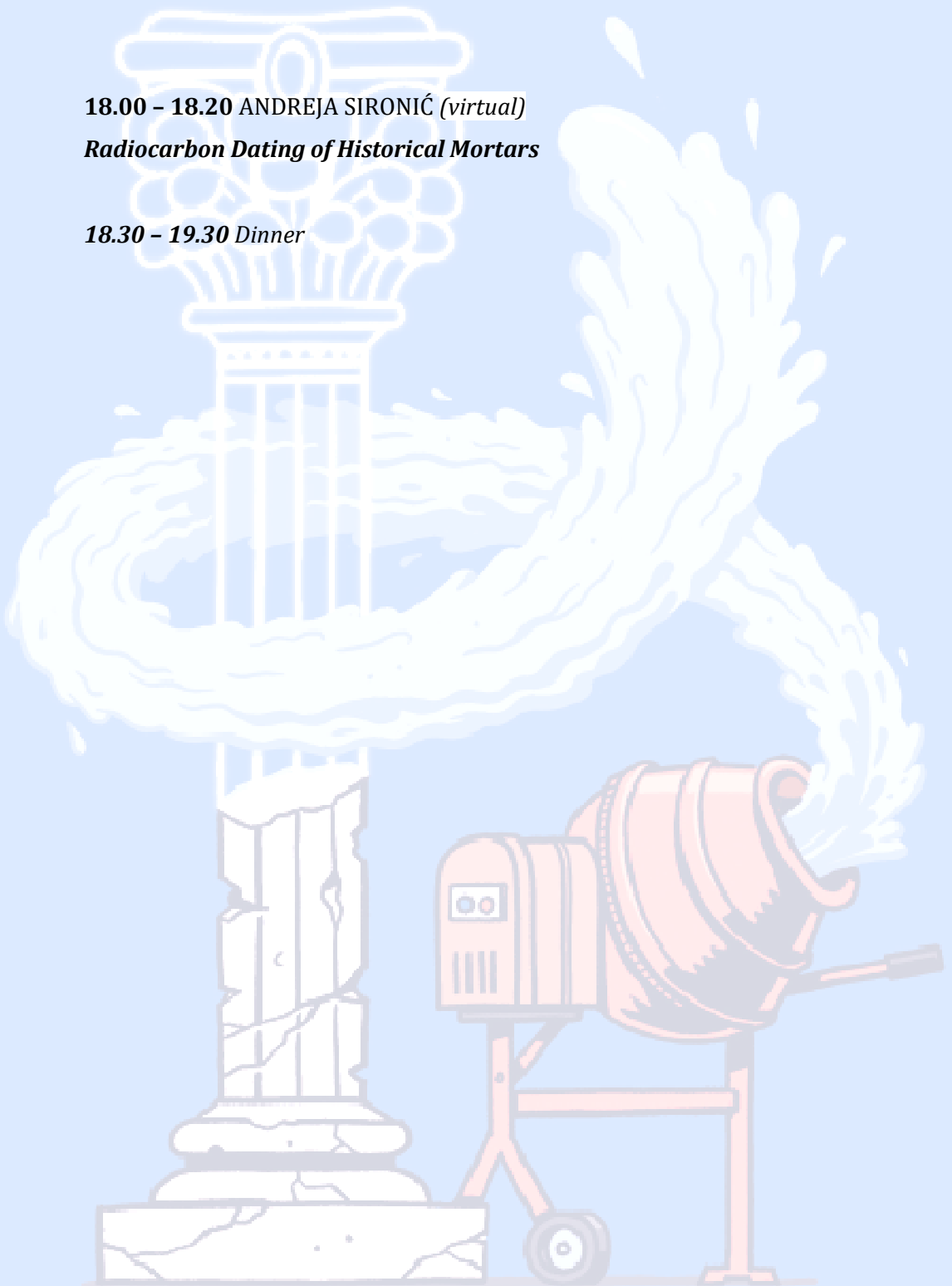
Learning from Historic Mortars: Studies on Lime Manufacturing and Fresco Conservation

17.40 – 18.00 MICHELE SECCO SIMONE DILARIA, GIULIA RICCI, ENRICO GARBIN, SERGIO TAMBURINI, YOTAM ASSCHER, GILBERTO ARTIOLI, CATERINA PREVIATO, JACOPO BONETTO

Novel Scientific Perspectives on Ancient Pozzolanicity

18.00 – 18.20 ANDREJA SIRONIĆ (virtual)
Radiocarbon Dating of Historical Mortars

18.30 – 19.30 Dinner



WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29TH

International Danube Day

07.30 - 09.00 *Breakfast / Coffee*

LECTURES

09.00 - 09.20 IVAN BOGDANOVIĆ

Roman Construction Techniques Used on the Viminacium Amphitheatre

09.20 - 09.40 FLORIAN MATEI-POPESCU

New Archaeological Excavations at the Drobeta Military Amphitheatre

09.40 - 10.00 JASMINA POPOVIĆ RUSIMOVIĆ

Restoration of Ram Fortress

EXCURSION

10.15 - 11.20 Viminacium – Golubac Fortress

11.30 - 12.30 Golubac Fortress Tour

12.40 - 13.45 Golubac Fortress - Golubinje

14.00 - 17.00 Hiking to viewpoint Ploče and back (lunch package at the top)

17.15 - 19.05 Golubinje – Ram Fortress

19.15 – 20.30 Ram Fortress tour

20.30 – 21.10 Ram Fortress – Viminacium

21.10 – 22.10 *Dinner*



THURSDAY, JUNE 30TH

07.30 – 09.00 *Breakfast / Coffee*

PRACTICAL WORKSHOP ON LIME MORTARS

09.00 – 13.00 NIGEL COPSEY DEMONSTRATION

Testing Conservation Mortar Mixtures on a Part of an Authentic Structure

13.30 – 14.30 Lunch break

LECTURES

14.35 – 15.05 IOANNA PAPAYIANNI

Analysis of Ancient Mortars from Roman Monuments in Northern Greece. Design and Application of Compatible Repair Mortars

15.05 – 15.25 SLAVICA VUJOVIĆ, RASTKO VLAJKOVIĆ

Holism as a Framework for Understanding and Preserving Heritage – the Example of the Cultural Landscape of Bač

15.25 – 15.45 BURCU TAŞCI ÖZDEMİR, HASAN BÖKE (*virtual*)

Raw Material Characterisation of Roman Mortars in Western Anatolia (Turkey)

15.45 – 16.05 ALEKSA JELIKIĆ

Lime Kiln. The Divine Crucible

16.05 – 16.25 LJUBOMIR JEVTIĆ
Ceramic Building Materials of Viminacium

16.25 – 16.45 *Coffee break with snack*

LECTURES

16.50 – 17.10 ANA RADIVOJEVIĆ
The Role of Brick in the Late Antique Architecture of the Central Balkan Roman Provinces

17.10 – 17.30 IGOR BJELIĆ
Construction Methods Applied to the Structures of the Trajan's Bridge over the Danube

17.30 – 17.50 BOJAN POPOVIĆ
Reconsidering the Archaeological Site of Glamija – Rtkovo, Serbia

17.50 – 18.10 TINO LELEKOVIĆ
How to Present the Ancient City of Aelia Mursa

18.10 – 18.30 HELENA HIRŠENBERGER, SNEŽANA VUČETIĆ, JONJAUA RANOGAJEC
Cross-disciplinary Collaboration in Conservation Projects – Managing Key Challenges

18.30 – 19.30 *Dinner*

FRIDAY, JULY 01ST

07.30 – 09.00 *Breakfast / Coffee*

LECTURES

09.00 – 10.30 BRANKO ORBANIĆ

Traditional Lime Production and its Application on the Monuments of Culture – Experience from the Work on Ancient Monuments

10.30 – 10.50 *Coffee break with snack*

LECTURES

10.55 – 11.15 MAJA FRANKOVIĆ, VESNA MATOVIĆ, NEVENKA NOVAKOVIĆ

Intrinsic Properties of the Limestone Used in the Belgrade Fortress and their Influence on Degradation Processes

11.15 – 11.35 DRAGANA GAVRILOVIĆ

Analyses of the Pigments and Plasters on the Examples of Roman Wall Paintings from Sirmium and Viminacium

11.35 – 11.55 MARIA ARGIROVA, GERGANA KABAKCHIEVA, DENITSA YANCHEVA, BISTRA STAMBOLIYSKA, NIKIFOR HARALAMPIEV, DIETER FISCHER, ALBENA LEDERER

Pigment Identification in the Mural Decoration from the Roman City of Ulpia Oescus by Vibrational Spectroscopy and SEM-EDS Analysis

11.55 -12.15 NIKOLA UNKOVIĆ, ŽELJKO SAVKOVIĆ, MILOŠ STUPAR,
ALEKSANDAR KNEŽEVIĆ, IVICA DIMKIĆ, MILICA LJALJEVIĆ GRBIĆ
***Fungal Proliferation on Fresco Painting: Deterioration of Mortar and
Painted Layer***

12.15 - 12.35 IVAN VANJA MARTINOVIĆ
***Benefits and Limits of DRMS Technology in the Purpose of Designing
Repair Mortars by Drilling Resistance Criterion***

12.35 - 12.50 *Coffee break with snack*

LECTURES

12.55 - 13.15 MARKO NIKOLIĆ, ENA TAKAČ, JELENA ŠČEKIĆ
***Contemporary Approaches to the Revitalisation, Presentation and
Promotion of Cultural and Natural Heritage of the Part of the Roman
Limes - Case Study of the Late Antique Tomb in Brestovik***

13.15 - 13.35 SILVANA BLAŽEVSKA, ANGELA PENCHEVA (*virtual*)
***Master Conservation Plan for the Archaeological Site of Stobi: Goals and
Outcomes***

13.35 - 13.55 BOJAN MILJEVIĆ, ALENKA MAUKO PRANJIĆ, SERGEY E.
KICHANOV, SNEŽANA VUČETIĆ
***Computed Tomography as a Tool for Non-destructive Investigation of
Cultural Heritage Materials' Inner Structure***

13.55 - 14.15 ROMAN BALVANOVIĆ, PERICA ŠPEHAR, DRAGANA SPASIĆ-
ĐURIĆ, OLIVERA MILOVIĆ, MIHAILO MILINKOVIĆ

***Roman, Late Antique and Byzantine Window Glass from 3rd - 6th Century
in Serbia: Chemical Characteristics, Compositional Groups and
Provenance***

14.15 - 14.30 *Closing of the event*

14.30 - 15.30 *Lunch*

SPECIAL GUEST OF THE WORKSHOP

NIGEL COPSEY, Stonemason and Building Conservator

Starting out as a dry-stone waller in Cornwall, Nigel trained after 1989 as a stonemason and carver at Weymouth College, working largely thereafter in the conservation industry across the south and south-west of England, as well as travelling widely in the USA, working and advising upon building conservation projects in Vermont, New York City and Nebraska as well as in Granada, Andalusia, and, more recently, in British Columbia and Alberta, Canada.

Nigel was consultant stonemason for the Irish Hunger Memorial project in Battery Park City, New York, 2001. Since 2001, Nigel has worked extensively as a consultant and practitioner in the field of building conservation and repair in North Yorkshire on a wide range of vernacular and high status buildings, as a building conservation consultant for the Fitzwilliam Estate in Malton, 2003-2010, designing, specifying and executing major repair projects on a wide range of historic buildings within the town, as well as researching, designing and specifying a number of building repair and conservation projects on behalf of Natural England, most recently at Scampston Hall.

A committed SPAB-member, Nigel is also a professionally accredited conservator-restorer and determined advocate for the thoroughgoing use of traditional materials in the care and repair of old buildings, and a leading advocate for the routine use of traditional

earth-lime and hot mixed lime mortars for most applications, working with Historic England, Historic Environment Scotland and CADW and international partners in the delivery of practical training and education regarding the informed use of traditional quicklime mortars for the like for like and compatible repair of historic buildings. In recent years, Nigel has worked closely with the North York Moors National Park, educating and upskilling builders and professionals regionally in the use of like-for-like traditional mortars.

A Research Associate of the Department of Archaeology, University of York, Nigel regularly delivers hot mixed earth and lime mortars and traditional skills training and led the Practical Skills module for the MA Conservation Studies 2012-2018. Nigel has a BA (Hons) in Political Science from the University of York, a PGDip in Building Conservation from Bournemouth University, and an MA (by research) awarded by the University of York in 2019, for his critical review of historic texts, thinking and craft practice in the preparation and use of lime (and earth-lime) mortars.

Nigel has contributed to several volumes of the recently published Historic England Practical Conservation series. He has published a book on the subject of Traditional Mortars (2019) as well as a review of Historic Literature on Lime and Lime Mortars (HES Technical Paper 30 (2019).

www.nigelcopsey.com

www.maltonbuildingsgroup.com

www.hotmixedmortars.com



ABSTRACTS



OUR MODECO2000: RESULTS OVERVIEW OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND RESEARCH PROJECT

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Project *Mortar Design for Conservation - Danube Roman Frontier 2000 Years after (MoDeCo2000)* deals with mortars used from the 1st to the 6th century AD along the part of the Danube frontier that is situated in the territory of today's Serbia and whose monuments form the UNESCO tentative list "Frontier of the Roman Empire - Danube Limes in Serbia". The mentioned territory was a provincial area in the Roman period, and the construction activities that happened in this part of the empire were not particularly interesting to the international scientific community dealing with Roman architecture. The aim of this project is to gain knowledge of ancient mortar technology in this area, to allow conclusions to be made about building activities, the exploitation and use of raw materials, as well as the everyday life of the people on the frontier. After interpreting the results obtained in laboratories of testing historical materials, the project is making compatible mixtures of mortars for the future conservation of the Limes monuments, using local raw materials, but also improving the properties of these mortars with different additions.

Mortar is a composite that can carry a large amount of information about the moment in which it was created, the skill of those who created it, and the conditions of the time during which it lasted. Different combinations of the same local raw materials have led to different mortar mixtures. The results of research during the project were often a surprise, and interesting findings were obtained not only where we expected them, as is the case with the famous

Trajan's Bridge, but also in many other buildings. However, the landscape of Viminacium, as a unique cultural-historical and natural entity along the Danube River, which we can roughly observe from the mouth of the Morava River to the village Ram, is a space about which we have the most knowledge and from which we have gained the most research experience. Its value for this type of research is its wide time period of interactions humans developed with their surroundings, which left the remains of buildings in it. From the ancient and early Byzantine Viminacium, through the medieval fortresses, to monasteries and traditional village houses built using Roman building materials and later industrial facilities, this area provides us with material remains for a wide variety of research. The samples of mortar are some of the most interesting remnants of this kind, which can be connected with the life of this region through the centuries, through the exploitation and availability of raw materials and traces of their wider distribution. Targeted sampling of mortars from the 12th and 15th centuries and their comparison with samples from the period from the 1st to the 6th century during the project proved to be extremely important in this sense.

Will we be able to characterise all the components of the sampled mortars in the future? The answer is certainly no, but it is important to note that this project is a big step in the research of historical building materials in Serbia. Lime, river sand, crushed stone and brick have always been visually recognisable in mortars of this territory and, in most cases, they were probably the only mortar

components. However, the possibility of using natural materials with pozzolanic properties on the territory of Serbia in the Roman period has not been fully investigated, and deposits of natural pozzolanic materials in Serbia have not been recognised as places of historic exploitation. Following this project, it would be justified to make an attempt to research this topic further but, first, it is necessary to investigate the role of these materials in mortars we have already sampled through the project, and whose analysis led us to this idea, as well as to explore their reactions with other components of mortars, and the possibilities of the formation of different minerals in the mortars themselves due to different reactions and external conditions.

Today, one step away from the end of the project, the work on the research of Roman mortars of the Danube Limes has shown the exceptional scope and importance of the topic of ancient building materials for a large number of fields of science. Accordingly, to our satisfaction, the project covered a much larger number of research aspects than was originally conceived. The previous experience of the associates of the Institute of Archaeology in the research of Roman monuments of the Danube Limes was crucial in the selection of monuments for sampling, with great professional help from the associates of scientific and cultural institutions. However, although mostly humanities questions have guided and directed this multidisciplinary project, their answers depend entirely on properly selected and combined analyses of engineers and researchers in the natural sciences, in the "ocean" of possibilities offered by modern

equipment and laboratory techniques.

After researching historical mortars and interpreting the results in order to make numerous trial conservation mixtures, the time will come when the selected, tested and proven ones will actually be applied during the conservation works on the monuments themselves. It is certain that then, through the contact of this material with the hands of modern masters, who will revive our research in that way, a new world of issues related to the technology of production and the methods of using mortars for the creation of Roman buildings on the territory of today's Serbia will be entered.

Keywords – Roman mortar, Danube Limes, raw materials, characterisation of materials, historical building

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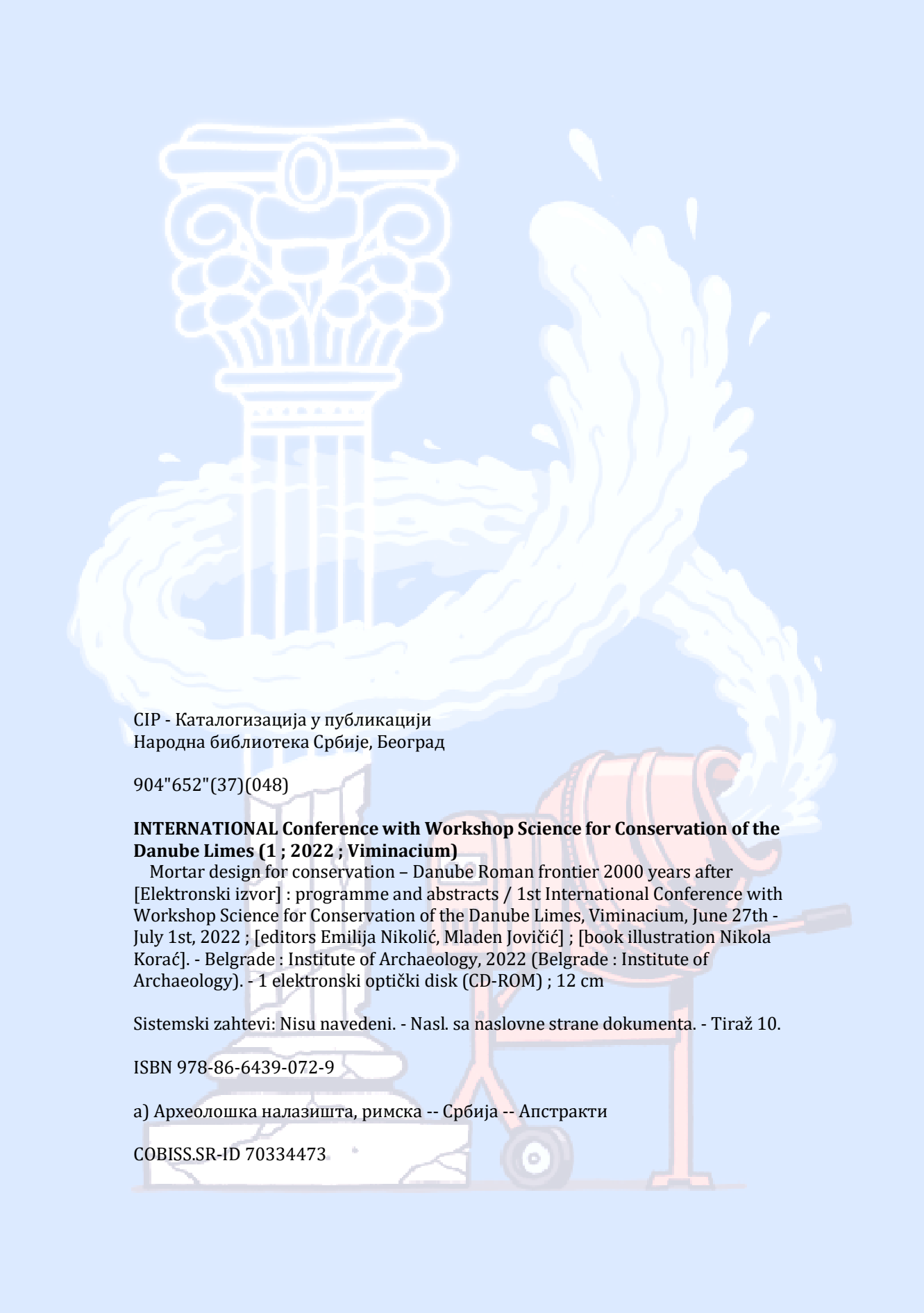
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