



THIRD CROATIAN-HUNGARIAN PHD CONFERENCE ON ANCIENT HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY
ELTE, BUDAPEST, 22.03.2019

ABSTRACTS

Filip Budić (University of Zagreb): Some questions about the lack of the Greek interest for the Eastern Adriatic Coast during the Archaic era

While various colonies, either Greek or Phoenician, had been established all over the Mediterranean during the period from the 8th until the end of the 6th c. BC, the Eastern Adriatic coast was almost completely avoided until the venture of the Syracusan tyrant Dionysius the Elder at the beginning of the 4th c. BC. There have been several hypotheses for the long absence of the prominent Greek influence on the Eastern Adriatic coast, most of them plainly emphasizing political and economic circumstances, lack of fertile land and metal ores, weather conditions, etc. A general shortage of archaeological and historical data is an additional problem that aggravates more detailed research. Having in mind some of the methods offered by the historical anthropology of colonialism and consumption, such as the concept of entanglement and hybridity, the main target of the lecture is to present a framework that could help to form a new perspective on the social networks on the Eastern Adriatic coast and a phenomenon of the late Greek colonisation of the area in general.

Domagoj Bužanić (University of Zagreb): Late Roman cavalry equipment in Croatia

Finds of late Roman military equipment in Croatia are relatively small in number. This paper offers a review of the known material that was or can be linked to cavalry usage. These finds are rare and often lacking a larger context despite a proposed presence of cavalry units on the Danube frontier in the 4th century. Better understanding a particular local strategy and the part cavalry had in it, a topic more popular in modern times, depends also on how much we know about its equipment. The goal of this work is to again make the initial step and evaluate what the state of the evidence in regards to late Roman cavalry is at the moment in Croatia.

Czeti István (ELTE, Budapest): Restoring the structure in the story of Philemon and Baucis

In the famous Ovidian story of Philemon and Baucis (Metam. VIII. 611–724.) two gods, Jupiter and Mercury in human form visit the little rustic cottage of a poor old couple, who – while all of their wealthy neighbours violate the sacred duty of hospitality – receives their guests with kindness. The tale can be divided into shorter sections based on the narrative structure of the story, and several interesting parallelisms and analogies can be perceived between these sections. For example in one section the number of fruits, vegetables and other edibles corresponds with the number of the edibles in the other, as well as with the arrangement of divine names in the text. In my presentation I will try to clear up the Ovidian narrative structure of the story and make the necessary emendations of the widely accepted text utilising the most important medieval codices (Vaticanus Palatinus lat. 1669., Marcianus Florentinus 223., Laurentianus 36. 12., Marcianus Florentinus 225., Neapolitanus IV. F. 3.) as well as this supposed structural framework using the philological method of structural analysis.

Fazekas Réka (ELTE, Budapest): Sacrilege in Bona Dea rite. Can this scandal be used for an evidence to testify any aspects of the problems of the Roman Republic?

The main aim of this study is to discover the importance of the Bona Dea sacrilege; which occurred in 62 BC, and the role of the young patrician, Publius Clodius Pulcher in the years of the collapsing Roman Republic. Here I shall represent how we are not able to dispense with the importance of religion, and its' power on the Roman state. At this point we are also able to question ourselves; can an attack against the religion be seen as an assault of the state? In addition, can we examine the Bona Dea scandal as first of all an attack against the state as a clear political concept, or can we agree on the common belief that it was just a young man's foolish mistake? To answer these questions, we have to study the nature of an oligarchic system and of everyday bribery in the Roman society. It is important to consider our ancient sources which give seemingly clear information about Clodius and the Bona Dea sacrilege: the young patrician in a female dress who wanted to see his lover, Caesar's wife Pompeia. I shall examine behind this scene and see if we are able to see Clodius's action as a conscious political concept.

László Krén (ELTE, Budapest): Ctesias' and Megasthenes' *Indica* and the Greek Paradoxography

Since the time of Homer the Greeks have shown a great interest in unnatural and bizarre both in literature and visual art. While these creatures were strictly related to the divine sphere, the historians, geographers and ethnographers of the 5th century BC (Hecataeus, Hellanicus and Herodotus) began to document the *θαύματα* of the contemporary world. These elements were only digressions from the main conceptions of the works. During the 4th century the Knidian physician Ctesias and the Seleucid diplomat Megasthenes wrote two compositions about the mysterious land of India which were innovative and unique in their novelistic language and their focus on the marvels. The aim of present paper is to examine how Ctesias' and Megasthenes' works influenced the later paradoxographers in developing their style and their interest in curiosities.

Vesna Matić (University of Zagreb): Liber or Silvanus? Iconography of the Roman stele from Plate on the island of Brač

The Island of Brač Museum in Škrip, Croatia, holds a nearly completely preserved figural stele with a male figure showing, according to the Museum inventory, a god Dionysus. The stele itself was dated to the 2nd century AD. The monument was found nearby the Roman quarry of Plate, where the largest amount of Roman stone monuments at the island of Brač have been discovered. The stele is composed of a base and the slab. The lower part of the slab is not decorated, while the upper part is featuring a male figure, missing its head, and with strong, zoomorphic legs. The figure is holding a glass in one hand, and a jug with a serpent emerging from it in the other hand. Birds and clusters of grapevines are depicted on the male's torso, and the same ornamental composition is found on the rest of the stele.

The iconography of the stele points to the gods Dyonisus (Bacchus)/Liber and Silvanus, whose cults are well attested on the island of Brač and who often appear together and share many iconographic elements. Presuming that this stele is a product of a local workshop, the paper aims to determine which deity is depicted on the stele and to trace the elements of cult syncretism as well as to propose the possible dating of the stele, based on analogies with similar monuments.

Réfi-Oszkó Dániel (ELTE, Budapest): Treacherous Shields. New informations about a Late Antique relief with the help of the *Notitia Dignitatum*

Among the collection of the Bode-Museum, Berlin, there is a very peculiar Roman relief made of wood, which depicts the liberation of a besieged city. Any existing – same-material – parallel of it is unknown; its dating and place of origin are also controversial, and are still under debate in the academic community.

In my lecture, I make an effort to clarify a few disputed points, and answer some of the subsequent questions: for example, what event is represented on this special work of art, and what was its original function? For this, I shall rely on period artwork, literary sources and archaeological finds, and also on the *Notitia Dignitatum*, an administrative document from roughly the same era, which is connected to this enigmatic relic, and can be surprisingly helpful in revealing some of its secrets.

Dániel Seres (ELTE, Budapest) Argumentation in the *Olynthiacs* of Demosthenes

In 349/8 BC Demosthenes delivered three speeches on the matters of the Olynthians, arguing that the Athenians should send relief forces to Olynthus in order to stop Philip's campaign against the northern Greek city. First, Philip invaded the territory of the Chalcidic League, then he captured the neighbouring settlements, lastly the city of Olynthus was put under siege which fell in the same year and most of the inhabitants were killed or sold into slavery. The purpose of this conference paper is to analyse and categorise the arguments of Demosthenes in these three orations. In this presentation I make an attempt to provide answers to the following questions: Does Demosthenes build upon rational or emotional arguments? How does he portray Philip and his kingdom in these speeches? How realistic are these arguments and portrayals in this political situation? Does he see the affair in its true colours?

Nirvana Silnović (Central European University): Some Aspects of the Production and Dissemination of Mithraic Sculpture in the Roman Province of Dalmatia

Although several monographs have been dedicated to the study of the sculpture of the Roman province of Dalmatia, no comprehensive survey regarding the questions of its production and specific workshops has appeared so far. Therefore, it is the aim of this paper to tackle these questions and to offer some insights into the dynamics of production and dissemination of Roman sculpture in Dalmatia. By focusing on the Mithraic sculpture it will be argued that a high density of sculpture workshops throughout the province must be assumed. Starting with the topographical survey of related sites, the clustering of Mithraic finds in Dalmatia becomes apparent, where several focal points can be recognized. Such polycentric structure of sculpture workshops, already discussed by Peter Noelke on the example of Roman Germania, corresponds to the distribution of Mithraic sculpture centered around the river Gacka valley, the river Neretva valley, the valley of rivers Pliva and Vrbas, the ancient Epidaurum, and Salona, the capital of Dalmatia. The Roman quarry of Dardagan with its connected mithraeum will be also discussed, where the possible evidence of a local workshop exists.

Katarina Šprem – Robert Matijašić (Juraj Dobrila University of Pula): Stone as a resource in Istrian antiquity

It can be argued that stone has been one of the most important kinds of raw material during most of human existence. Even though the information about provenance or source location of raw stone material found on archaeological sites can tell us a lot about societies and economies of the period in question, this type of research isn't often in the focus of archaeology. Istria is a geographically relatively enclosed region with geological surface deposits that allow for different raw stone material exploitation. The oldest surface deposits in Istria are from Jurassic period, followed by Cretaceous deposits and so on. This lecture is going to present the geological map of Istria, as well as the research history of surface deposits and quarries that could have been used as building material during antiquity.

Our future research is aimed at sampling quarry sites, as well as other primary and secondary deposits of different raw material in the Northern Adriatic that may have been used in antiquity of Istria, in order to obtain a relevant reference base for provenance studies.

Tóth Gergely (ELTE, Budapest): Human sacrifices in the Roman Republic.

Roman people rejected all forms of human sacrifice and ritual murders, nonetheless, they sometimes used them: for a dead's soul, for the victory of the state or to prevent dangers or any disasters. That's why they organized gladiator games in the early times, they sacrificed outlanders, they ritually murdered Vestal virgins and murdered hermaphrodite children. At first sight there are no connections among these rituals, but it is not really true because there is one very important common thing in these cases: Romans believed that they did not commit these sacrifices. The logic was that gladiators killed each other, Vestal virgins and outlanders were buried alive, so Romans did not kill them. Therefore, the Roman Empire treated itself more advanced than Gaul civilization.

Jura Triplat (University of Zagreb): Changing Landscape and Changing Perspective: Cetina Valley and Roman Presence

Cetina river valley in the south of Croatia constitutes a large part of the hinterland of the middle Dalmatian region. The valley itself is known to have been populated since Neolithic if not earlier, and throughout the history has remained continually populated with various

groups of people most notably because of the river valley with large fertile karstic fields and the major importance of this area as a traffic and communication hub which links mountainous hinterland with coastal area. Therefore, movement and change are important features which defines Cetina valley, while the landscape study offers an intrinsic insight into this change.

Over the last four years, CeVaS project (Cetina Valley Survey) has been exploring prehistoric settlement patterns and necropolis in form of burial mounds which extensively covers most of the valley. Henceforth, a large area has been surveyed using both extensive and intensive survey methods, and several mounds have been excavated over the course of time.

While the main features of prehistoric landscape had been hillforts and burials mounds, changes in landscape during the Roman presence in the area have not only encompassed new features in landscape such as bridges, military camps, roads etc. but also more extensive changes of the whole society, most notably the change in social relations, different economic principles, literacy, trade, bureaucracy, and more intensive resource exploitation.

Since the author of this paper deals primarily with hillfort and landscape research of the valley, this paper will be regarding hillforts intertwining with the valley's changing landscape and accompanying shifts in perspective during late prehistory and particularly during and after the Roman conquest in 1st century BC. Since that transition must have had a strong impact on the local population, we are curious to explore if that transition, which encompasses both landscape and perspective changes, had any impact on hillforts such as, for example, a shift in its economic substance, building elements, supporting landscape features, and finally their demise.

Vágási Tünde (ELTE, Budapest): *Iovi Optimo Maximo Dolicheno et Heliopolitano*.
Collective altars to Syrian town deities in Pannonia

From the last decade of the 2nd century AD, at the end of the markomannic wars, a large number of Oriental populations settle down in Pannonia, who brought the worship of their native gods with them. As a result of the wars, religious demands change to spread these Syrian cults, so in the first third of the 3rd century, the most characteristic feature of the province's religious life were precisely those cults. The special susceptibility of Pannonia to the oriental, especially to the Syrian ones shows the only form of dedication which was typical of the province that is related to the military. It is a concerted dedication to the Jupiters of the two Syrian towns, Doliche and Heliopolis. The synthesis of the oriental mystery cults is a common feature not just in Pannonia but in the other parts of the empire. I would like to find an answer to the question, to what purpose did the common altar have the two interpreted gods as Jupiter?