



U POTRAZI ZA CRKVOM SV. ALEKSANDRA: ISTRAŽIVANJE LOKALITETA TKON – POLJANE

In search of the Church of St. Alexander: Investigation of the Tkon - Poljane Site

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Područje Tkona, najjužnijeg naselja na otoku Pašmanu, iznimno je bogato arheološkom i povijesnom baštinom, a zasigurno najpoznatiji kulturno-povijesni spomenik u Tkonu je muški benediktinski Samostan sv. Kuzme i Damjana na Čokovcu (za najrecentniji prilog o Čokovcu s popisom starije literature vidi Baraka Perica, Maletić 2023).

Prostor Poljana nalazi se oko 1,5 km JI od centra mjesta, a vrlo je bogat plodnom zemljom i vodom. Poljane su u literaturi prepoznate kao *ualle Pagnana* što je toponim koji se spominje krajem 11. stoljeća, kada je Petar, opat benediktinskog samostana u Biogradu, tu kupio zemlju *supra ecclesiam sancti Alexandri* (Jakić-Cestarić 1983: 25–30). Već krajem 19. stoljeća Bulić spominje nalaze rimskih zidova i grobova nedaleko od zdenca Šipnata na području Poljana, a zanimljivo je i „iskopavanje“ lokalnog župnika na obližnjoj kamenoj gomili kada je nađen „križ“ (Jakić-Cestarić

The area of Tkon, the southernmost settlement on the island of Pašman, is exceptionally rich in archaeological and historical heritage. Certainly the most famous cultural and historical monument in Tkon is the male Benedictine Monastery of Sts. Cosmas and Damian on Čokovac (for the most recent article on Čokovac with a list of older literature, see Baraka Perica, Maletić 2023).

The area of Poljana is located about 1.5 km SE from the town center, and is very rich in fertile land and water. Poljane are mentioned in the literature as *ualle Pagnana*, which is a toponym mentioned at the end of the 11th century, when Petar, the abbot of the Benedictine monastery in Biograd, bought the land *supra ecclesiam sancti Alexandri* (Jakić-Cestarić 1983: 25–30). Already at the end of the 19th century, Bulić mentions the finds of Roman walls and graves not far



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1983: fusnota 35). Prema usmenoj predaji i recentnijim povijesnim istraživanjima pretpostavilo se da se upravo pod tom gomilom kriju ostatci crkve sv. Aleksandra pape (rimski biskup od 105. do 110.), čije se relikvije uz to čuvaju u župnoj crkvi sv. Tome u Tkonu (Jakić-Cestarić 1983: 27–29). U literaturi se navodi i mogućnost da je riječ o ranokršćanskom lokalitetu (Hilje 2006: 82) što se potkrepljuje i nalazima ranokršćanske kamene plastike koji se čuvaju na Čokovcu, a koji, navodno, potječu s Poljana (Vežić 2005: 107).

Zahvaljujući iznesenom, kao i s obzirom na površinske nalaze antičke/kasnoantičke keramike, ali i zbog povećanih građevinskih aktivnosti na okolnim terenima, sustavna istraživanja gomile na Poljana (k. č. 4812, k. o. Tkon) započela su 2015. pod vodstvom Tomislava Fabijanića te su trajala do 2019. (Fabijanić 2015; 2016; 2017). Prije istraživanja gomila je imala nepravilni izduženi oblik dužine oko 23 m, na najširem je dijelu imala širinu od oko 9 m, a na najvišem je dijelu bila visoka oko 2,5 m. Orijentirana je u pravcu SI-JZ. Spomenutim istraživanjima ustanovljeno je postojanje nekoliko prostorija koje se mogu pripisati antičkoj i/ili kasnoantičkoj vili, ali ne i crkvi.

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from the Šipnata well in the Poljana area, and the “excavation” of the local priest on a nearby stone mound when a “cross” was found is also interesting (Jakić-Cestarić 1983: footnote 35). According to oral tradition and more recent historical research, it was assumed that exactly this mound hides the remains of the church of Pope St. Alexander I (Roman bishop from 105 to 110), whose relics are also kept in the parish church of St. Thomas in Tkon (Jakić-Cestarić 1983: 27–29). The literature also mentions the possibility that it is an early Christian site (Hilje 2006: 82), which is also supported by the finds of early Christian stone sculpture preserved in Čokovac, which allegedly originates from Poljana (Vežić 2005: 107).

Thanks to the above, and with regard to the surface finds of Roman/late antique pottery, but also due to increased construction activities in the surrounding areas, systematic research of the stone mound in Poljana (cadastral plot 4812, cadastral municipality Tkon) began in 2015 under the leadership of Tomislav Fabijanić and continued until 2019 (Fabijanić 2015; 2016; 2017). Before the excavation, the mound had an irregular elongated shape, about 23 m long, about 9 m wide at the widest part, and about 2.5 m high



..... Gomila prije početka istraživanja 2015. (foto: T. Fabijanić)
 The mound before the beginning of investigations in 2015 (photo: T. Fabijanić)



..... Drenažni kanal u koji je ugrađen dio antičkog (?) stupa (foto: T. Fabijanić)
 Drainage channel with an embedded part of a Roman-era (?) column is (photo: T. Fabijanić)



lja: Luka Bogdanić). U istraživanjima su sudjelovali studenti Domagoj Marić, Monika Špoljarić, Lucija Topolko i Josip Sučić. Financijska sredstva osiguralo je Ministarstvo kulture i medija RH.

Sama istraživanja započela su u južnom dijelu *prostorije 1*. Na tom je mjestu iz prethodnih kampanja ostao neiskopani dio urušenja, a pri njegovu uklanjanju potvrđeno je da objekt ima najmanje dvije faze. Naime, ispod sloja žbuke koji se doima poput podnice nalazi se sloj gareži pomiješan s ostatcima tegula. Ispod tog se sloja nalazi sloj smeđe zemlje bogat sitnim ulomcima antičke i kasnoantičke keramike, a na tom je mjestu otkriven i

at the highest part. It was oriented in the NE-SW direction. The aforementioned investigation established the existence of several rooms that can be attributed to a Roman-era and/or late antique villa, but not to a church.

The excavations continued from October 9 to 23, 2023 (leader: Tomislav Fabijanić; deputy leader: Luka Bogdanić). Students Domagoj Marić, Monika Špoljarić, Lucija Topolko and Josip Sučić participated in the excavations. Financial resources were provided by the Ministry of Culture and Media of the Republic of Croatia.

The research began in the southern part of *room*



Rimska uljanica (foto: L. Bogdanić)
Roman oil-lamp (photo: L. Bogdanić)



nastavak drenažnog kanala čiji je dio bio i ostatak tijela antičkog (?) stupa. Teza o najmanje dvjema fazama lokaliteta potvrđena je i istraživanjem u *prostoriji 3*. Na dubini od cca 20-30 cm ispod prethodno otkrivene podnice zabilježeni su ostatci one starije, a ujedno je otkriven i sjeverni zid *prostorije 3* koja je bila reducirana na način da je na stariji zid bio „prilijepljen“ novi. Na ovom je mjestu uz sam temelj zida pronađena rimska uljanica iz 1. stoljeća.

7. In that place, an unexcavated part of the collapse layer remained from previous campaigns, and when it had been removed, it was confirmed that the structure has at least two phases. Namely, under the layer of plaster, which looks like a floor, there was a layer of gravel mixed with the remains of tegulae. Below that layer was a layer of brown soil rich in small fragments of Roman and late antique pottery, and in that place a continuation of the drainage channel was discovered, part of which was a fragment of the shaft of a Roman-era (?) column. The thesis of at least two phases of the site was also confirmed by investigation in *room 3*. At a depth of approx. 20-30 cm below the previously discovered floor, the remains of the older floor were recorded, and at the same time, the northern wall of *room 3* was also discovered, which was reduced in such a way that a new wall was “glued” on the older one. In this place, next to the foundation of the wall, a Roman oil lamp from the 1st century was found.

After defining the situation in *room 3*, excavation of the mound continued in the direction of the sea where the terrain obviously descends towards the sea, so at the moment it is not clear whether the villa extends in that direction as well. In that part of the site, a series of dry stone wall constructions were found, which are most likely the remains

Pogled na lokalitet po završetku istraživanja (brojke su radne oznake prostorija koje se spominju u tekstu) (foto: L. Bogdanić)
View of the site after the completion of the investigations (numbers are the working designations of the rooms mentioned in the text) (photo: L. Bogdanić)



Nakon definiranja situacije u *prostori* 3 nastalo se s iskopom gomile u pravcu mora. U tom se pravcu teren očito spušta prema moru pa u ovom trenutku nije najjasnije prostire li se vila i u tom pravcu. U tom dijelu lokaliteta utvrđen je niz suhozidnih konstrukcija koje su najvjerojatnije ostatci zidova koji su tijekom povijesti mogli omeđivati samu gomilu.

Od pokretnog materijala pronađenog 2023., osim mnoštva ulomaka keramike antičkih i kasnoantičkih odlika među kojima je posebno zanimljiv ulomak tegule s natpisom koji započinje slovima LE[--], ističe se šest komada antičkih brončanih novčića preliminarno datiranih od 2. do kraja 5. stoljeća (vremensku atribuciju numizmatičkih nalaza

of walls that could have bounded the mound throughout history.

Small finds found in 2023 include numerous fragments of pottery dating to Roman period and Late Antiquity, among which a particularly interesting fragment of a tegula with an inscription beginning with the letters LE[---], but also six pieces of ancient bronze coins preliminarily dated from the 2nd to the end of the 5th century (chronological attribution of numismatic finds was determined by Mato Ilkić).

As part of the research, a field survey of the wider area around the remains of the villa was also carried out. No traces were observed on the sur-

odredio je Mato Ilkić).

U sklopu istraživanja obavljen je i terenski pregled šireg prostora uokolo ostataka vile. Na okolnim parcelama nisu uočeni tragovi koji bi indicirali postojanje arhitektonskih objekata, a na svježej uzoranoj zemlji vrlo su rijetki sitni ulomci keramike. Međutim, na položaju udaljenom cca 70 m od vile, uz samo more, otkriveni su ostatci zidanih struktura koji se doimaju poput kasnoantičkih grobova. Nažalost, nikakva iskopavanja na tom mjestu trenutno nisu moguća jer bi uklanjanjem zemlje i raslinja došlo do urušavanja profila i uništenja arhitektonskih ostataka. S obzirom na postojanje grobova te u skladu s navodima u literaturi (Nedved

rounding plots that would indicate the existence of architectural structures, and there are few tiny pottery sherds on the freshly plowed land. However, at a location approximately 70 m from the villa, next to the sea, the remains of stone-built structures were discovered, which look like late antique graves. Unfortunately, no excavations are currently possible at that location, because the removal of soil and vegetation would cause the profile to collapse and the architectural remains to be destroyed. Considering the existence of graves and in accordance with the references in the literature (Nedved 1990: footnote 97), perhaps the church of St. Alexander could



Šire područje lokaliteta s označenim mjestom istraživanja (žuto) i položajem na kojem se uočavaju grobovi i ostatci arhitekture (crveno) (foto: L. Bogdanić)
Wider area of the site with marked research area (yellow) and the position where graves and architectural remains can be seen (red) (photo: L. Bogdanić)



... Istraživačka ekipa (foto: T. Fabijanić)
... Research team (photo: T. Fabijanić)

1990: fusnota 97), možda se upravo na ovom mjestu nalazila crkva sv. Aleksandra, ali o tome se ne može ništa pouzdanije reći bez dodatnih istraživanja.

have been located here, but nothing more about it can be said with certainty without additional research.

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