



NOVIJA ISTRAŽIVANJA NALAZIŠTA ŠOPOT – CRKVINA

Recent investigations of the Šopot - Crkvina site

Nalazište Crkvina u selu Šopotu kod Benkovca smješteno je na južnoj padini Grubića glavice nedaleko od istoimenog izvora vode i željezničke pruge. Na vrhu brijega Grubića glavice nalaze se ostatci srednjovjekovnog kaštela, a duž cijele južne padine do pristupne ceste vidljivi su i ostatci grobova. Prva istraživanja položaja Crkvina proveo je don Mate Klarić 1928. i 1929. pri čemu je otkrio ostatke crkve i groblja. U ovim su istraživanjima otkriveni čuveni nalazi oltarne ograde s imenom kneza Branimira iz druge polovine 9. stoljeća na osnovi kojih je datirana i crkva (Delonga, Burić 1986: 165). Potaknut ovim iznimnim nalazima Muzej hrvatskih arheoloških spomenika u Splitu pod vodstvom Tončija Burića i Vedrane Delonge proveo je revizijska istraživanja od 1984. do 1986. godine (Delonga, Burić 1984, Burić 1986, Delonga, Burić 1987, Burić 2006). Istraživanja su obuhvatila prostor crkve koja je u potpunosti otkrivena i kon-

The Crkvina site in the village of Šopot near Benkovac is situated on the southern slope of Grubića glavica, not far from the water source of the same name and the railway line. The ruins of a medieval castle can be seen at the top of Grubića glavica hill, and the remains of graves are scattered along the entire southern slope up to the access road. The first investigations of the location of the Crkvina site were carried out by Father Mate Klarić in 1928 and 1929, when he found the remains of the church and the cemetery. In these investigations, the famous finds of the chancel screen



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with the name of Duke Branimir from the second half of the 9th century were discovered, which also served as a basis for dating the church (Delonga, Burić 1986: 165). Encouraged by these exceptional findings, the Museum of Croatian Archaeological Monuments in Split, under the leadership of Tonči Burić and Vedrana Delonga, conducted revision excavations from 1984 to 1986 (Delonga, Burić 1984, Burić 1986, Delonga, Burić 1987, Burić 2006). The research covered the area of the church, which was unearthed in entirety and preserved, as well as the graves that spread around it. The church, which, as we know from historical sources, was dedicated to St. Jerome, is a longitudinal single-nave building with a trapezoidal apse on the eastern side and a narthex on the western side. Its dimensions are 12.5 x 6 m. During the aforementioned research in the 1980s, fragments of pre-Romanesque stone furniture were also found, and the graves around the church were dated to the 13th and 14th centuries based on the finds and burial customs.

The continuation of the further systematic archaeological research was instigated since the site has not been fully explored, and because of the probability that the church, according to its architectural features, might date to the late Middle Ages, and not pre-Romanesque period as assumed by older researchers, and also because of the lack of knowledge about the exact location of the early medieval church. In 2016, the most recent investigations were started by the Regional Museum in Benkovac in cooperation with the Department of Archaeology of the University of Zadar. Three campaigns of



Pogled s juga na Grubića glavicu u Šopotu i lokalitet Crkvina (foto: J. Šučur)
View of Grubića glavica in Šopot and the Crkvina site from the south (photo: J. Šučur)





Položaj crkve i groblja (foto: J. Šučur)
Position of the church and the cemetery (photo: J. Šučur)

zervirana te grobove koji su se prostirali uokolo nje. Crkva, koja je, kako doznajemo iz povijesnih izvora, bila posvećena sv. Jeri, jest longitudinalna jedno-brodna građevina s trapezastom apsidom na istočnoj i narteksom na zapadnoj strani. Dimenzije joj iznose 12,5 x 6 m. Tijekom spomenutih istraživanja 80-ih godina pronađeni su i ulomci kamenog predromaničkog namještaja, a grobovi oko crkve na osnovi nalaza i pogrebnih običaja datirani su u razdoblje 13. i 14. stoljeća.

S obzirom na to da lokalitet nije u potpunosti istražen, kao i vjerojatnost da sama crkva prema arhitektonskim osobinama ipak upućuje na razdoblje kasnog srednjeg vijeka, a ne predromaničke kako su to pretpostavili stariji istraživači te nepoznavanje točnog položaja ranosrednjovjekovne crkve, iniciran je nastavak daljnjih sustavnih arheoloških istraživanja. Godine 2016. započeta su najnovija istraživanja koja provodi Zavičajni muzej u Benkovcu u suradnji s Odjelom za arheologiju Sveučilišta u Zadru te su provedene tri kampanje arheoloških iskopavanja i jedna kampanja geofizičkih istraživanja. Već tijekom 2016. ustanovljeno je da je riječ o dvama horizontima grobova od kojih stariji pripada ranom srednjem vijeku što je potvrđeno nalazima jednojagodnih naušnica, a mlađi vjerojatno potječe iz 13.-14. stoljeća (Čurković 2017).

Tijekom 2023. nastavljena su istraživanja započeta tijekom prethodnih kampanja na prostoru zapadno od crkve.¹ Kako su iskopavanja direktno nastavljena na ona koja je provodio MHAS, korištena je ista kvadratna mreža s kvadratima veličine 4 x 4 m. Prostor istraživanja obuhvatio je četiri kvadrata, u kojima su dijelom otkriveni i grobovi koje su prije locirali ili istražili T. Burić i V. Delonga. Većina grobova ima kamenu arhitekturu od lomljenih ploča ili uslojenog neobrađenog kamena rađenu u tehnici suhozida. Donji sloj, stariji sloj grobova ukopan je većinom u zdravicu, a arhitektura im se sastoji od poklopnica koje čine lomljene

¹ Voditelj istraživanja bio je Marin Čurković iz Zavičajnog muzeja u Benkovcu, zamjenik Karla Gusar s Odjela za arheologiju Sveučilišta u Zadru, a članove stručne ekipe činili su Jure Šučur, Marina Šimičić i Kristina Horvat s Odjela za arheologiju, Mate Čurković iz Zavičajnog muzeja u Benkovcu, arheolozi Ana Karadole i Šime Vrkić te studenti arheologije Sveučilišta u Zadru: Noa Franin Pečarića, Duje Galić, Ivana Josić, Fran Mlinarić, Miroslav Novak, David Sartori, Eugen Fritz Prgomet i Barbara Vujković.







kamene ploče, obložnice su rađene od okomito postavljenih ploča, a i dno groba im je popločano, poput, primjerice, dječjeg ukopa u grobu 67. Najviše vremena posvetilo se istraživanju groba koji je pronađen u kampanji iz 1986. godine. Riječ je o velikoj kamenoj konstrukciji koja je bila prekrivena velikom količinom amornog i priklesanog kamenja. Nakon skidanja kamenja utvrdila se veća kamena konstrukcija od priklesanog kame-

archaeological excavations and one campaign of geophysical research were carried out. Already in 2016, it was established that there are two horizons of graves, the older of which belongs to the early Middle Ages, which was confirmed by the findings of single-beaded earrings, and the younger horizon probably dates to the 13th-14th centuries (Ćurković 2017).

In 2023, excavations started during previous cam-



Grob 70 (foto: M. Ćurković)
Grave 70 (photo: M. Ćurković)



SOPOT CRKVINA
KV 61
GR 67 SI65, 67
13/10/2023

Grob 67 (foto: M. Šimičić)
Grave 67 (photo: M. Šimičić)

paings continued in the area west of the church.¹ As the excavations continued directly onto those conducted by MHAS, the same square grid with squares of 4 x 4 m size was used. The research area included four squares, in which were some graves previously located or investigated by T. Burić and V Delonga. Most of the graves have stone structure of broken slabs or layered unworked stones made in the dry stone wall technique. The lower and older layer of graves is mostly dug in the sterile soil, and their structure consists of lids made of broken stone slabs, the lining made of vertically placed slabs, and the bottom of the grave is also paved, for example, the child's burial in grave 67. Most of the time was devoted to investigating the grave found in the 1986 campaign. It is a large stone structure that was covered with a large quantity of amorphous and roughly dressed stones. After removing the stones, a larger stone structure was uncovered, made of

¹ The leader of the research was Marin Ćurković from the Regional Museum in Benkovac, Karla Gusar from the Department of Archaeology of the University of Zadar was the deputy, and the members of the research team were: Jure Sućur, Marina Šimičić and Kristina Horvat from the Department of Archaeology, Mate Ćurković from the Regional Museum in Benkovac, archaeologists Ana Karadole and Šime Vrkić and archaeology students of the University of Zadar Noa Franin Pečarica, Duje Galić, Ivana Josić, Fran Mlinarić, Miroslav Novak, David Sartori, Eugen Fritz Prgomet and Barbara Vujković.





nja posloženog „na nož“. Unutar nje je pronađen grob 70, prekriven većim kamenim pločama, a obložnice su također načinjene od amorfnog kamena položenog „na nož“, unutar kojeg je nađen kostur odrasle osobe orijentacije zapad-istok. Kao i u ostalim otkrivenim grobovima, u ovoj kampanji nisu zabilježeni nalazi, no uočeno je da se ispod njega nalazi stariji grob koji tek treba istražiti te da grob 70 pripada mlađoj fazi groblja. Nalazi u ovogodišnjoj kampanji su malobrojni, a odnose se na manji ulomak predromaničke plastike ukrašen motivom kuke ili pasjeg skoka koji je identičan ukrasu koji se nalazi na oltarnoj gredi s imenom kneza Branimira koja je pronađena u prvim istraživanjima 1928. godine. Također je otkriven rano-srednjovjekovni pojasni jezičac/okov, kao i ulomci tegula te manja količina srednjovjekovne grube keramike, staklenih i metalnih predmeta.

roughly dressed stones arranged vertically. Grave 70 was found inside the structure, covered with larger stone slabs, and the coverings were also made of amorphous stones placed vertically, inside which was a skeleton of an adult, oriented west-east. As in the other discovered graves, no finds were recorded in this campaign, but it was noticed that there is an older grave under it that has yet to be explored, and that grave 70 belongs to the younger phase of the cemetery. The finds in this year's campaign are few, and refer to a small fragment of pre-Romanesque sculpture decorated with a hook or running-dog pattern, which is identical to the decoration on the altar beam with the name of Duke Branimir, found in the first excavation in 1928. An early medieval belt strap end/fitting was also recovered, as well as fragments of tegulae and a small quantity of medieval coarse pottery, glass and metal objects.

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