



RIMSKO IMANJE NA LOKALITETU BENEFICIJ – GUDULIJA, OTOK KORČULA



Roman estate at the site of Beneficij-Gudulija, the Island of Korčula

Beneficij-Gudulija je antički lokalitet smješten na zaravni okruženoj brdima u zaleđu naselja Vele Luke na krajnjem zapadnom dijelu otoka Korčule. U stručnu literaturu prvi put ulazi 1954. godine, kada se objavljuju rezultati arheoloških ekspedicija na otocima Hvaru, Korčuli i Lastovu koje 1951. i 1952. godine provodi akademik Grga Novak (Novak 1954: 46–48). Posjetivši prapovijesni lokalitet Velu spilu, on od lokalnog stanovništva dobiva informacije o nalazima baze i kompozitnog kapitela stupa te dječjih i inih grobova u velikim „žarama“ nakon čega pristupa obilasku te manjem istraživanju lokaliteta Beneficij. Iako o karakteru i obimu tih istraživanja danas ne znamo mnogo, u spomenutom članku sadržano je dovoljno toga da se lokalitet označi rimskodobnim i potencijalnim za daljnje istraživanje. Naime, Novakovim radom utvrđen je ograničeni raster rimske arhitekture među kojom se posebno ističe i danas

Beneficij-Gudulija is a Roman-era site located on a plateau surrounded by hills in the hinterland of the settlement of Vela Luka on the far western part of the island of Korčula. It first entered the professional literature in 1954, in the publication of the results of archaeological expeditions to the islands of Hvar, Korčula and Lastovo, conducted in 1951 and 1952 by academician Grga Novak (Novak 1954: 46–48). Having visited the prehistoric site of Vela Spila, he received information from the local population about the finds of the base and composite capital of a column, as well as children's and other graves in large "urns", after which he began a tour and small-scale excavations of the Beneficij site. Although today we do not know much about the character and scope of those investigations, the mentioned article contains enough to mark the site as a Roman-era



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Položaj lokaliteta Beneficij-Gudulija u zaleđu Vele Luke (foto: L. Frlan)
Location of the Beneficij-Gudulija site in the hinterland of Vela Luka (photo: L. Frlan)

u pejzažu vidljiva cisterna te čitav niz tegula s radio-ničkim pečatima iz ranocarskog doba.

Od navedene godine otkrića, lokalitet Beneficij-Gudulija spominje se u svim radovima povezanim s antičkom topografijom otoka Korčule (Oreb 1972: 130; Radić 2001: 39; Borzić 2007: 121–124), no sve

estate with good potential for further research. Namely, Novak's work revealed a limited raster of Roman architecture, with particularly prominent cistern still visible in the landscape today and a whole series of tegulae with workshop stamps from the early imperial era.

do 2018. na njemu nisu provedena nikakva dodatna arheološka istraživanja. Tada dolazi do širenja Industrijske zone Općine Vela Luka koje radi procjene ugroženosti samog lokaliteta zahtijeva provedbu manjih probnih iskopavanja. Danas su ona poprimila sustavni karakter, a u njima uz Centar za kulturu

Since the aforementioned year of discovery, the Beneficij-Gudulija site has been mentioned in all works related to the ancient topography of the island of Korčula (Oreb 1972: 130; Radić 2001: 39; Borzić 2007: 121–124), but no additional archaeological research has been conducted on it until 2018. At that time, the Industrial Zone of the Municipality of Vela Luka was expanded, which required the implementation of small-scale trial excavations in order to assess the threat to the site. Today, they have taken on a systematic character, and in addition to the Vela Luka Culture Center, the Department of Archaeology of the University of Zadar has been participating in them from the very beginning. Given that the main goal of this paper is to present the results of the latest research campaign from 2024, let us mention that during the previous four campaigns, conducted in 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2023, the general conditions of the archaeological deposits were determined and its individual components were isolated and partially explored. Among them, the cistern mentioned by Novak (*Cistern 1*, dimensions 10 x 5 x min 2 m) stands out in terms of its state of preservation. Its trial trenching in 2018 determined the levels of the original mosaic floor and the subsequent, presumably late antique, leveling of the building. In 2018, 2019 and 2021, the remains of a building to the east, almost connected to the cistern, were also investigated, with which it shares dimensional, technical and therefore probably functional characteristics. *Cistern 2* is preserved only in its foundations, and is specific for a kind of former repurposing of the building, which is suggested by the dry-stone wall reconstruction. Given the state of the archaeological deposits and the rather widely separated late antique, and early modern dating of the small finds found in its context, it is difficult to say anything more specific about the moment of the reconstruction. Furthermore, in 2021, research also began in the foundations of the preserved building leaning against the eastern wall of *Cistern 2*, for which production and storage character is assumed based on



Rimska arhitektura na lokalitetu Beneficij-Gudulija s označenim obuhvatom istraživanja u kampanji 2024. (autor: L. Bogdanić)
Roman architecture at the Beneficij-Gudulija site with the indicated scope of research in the 2024 campaign (photo: L. Bogdanić)



... Ostaci rimske arhitekture na lokalitetu Beneficij-Gudulija, kampanja 2024. (foto: I. Borzić)
 ... Remains of Roman architecture at the Beneficij-Gudulija site, campaign 2024 (photo: I. Borzić)

Vela Luka od samog početka sudjeluje i Odjel za arheologiju Sveučilišta u Zadru. S obzirom na to da je glavni cilj ovog rada predstaviti rezultate posljednje istraživačke kampanje iz 2024. godine, spomenimo kako su tijekom prethodnih četiriju, provedenih 2018., 2019., 2020. i 2023., utvrđena opća stanja arheoloških depozita te izolirane i jednim dijelom istražene njegove pojedine sastavnice. Među njima se stanjem očuvanosti ističe još od Novaka spominjana cisterna (*Cisterna 1*, dim. 10 x 5 x min 2 m), čijim su sondiranjem iz 2018. godine utvrđene razine izvorne mozaične podnice te naknadne, pretpostavlja se kasnoantičke nivelacije objekta. Godine 2018., 2019. i 2021. istraženi su i ostatci objekta na istoku gotovo nadovezanog na cisternu, s kojom dijeli dimenzijske, tehničke, a time vjerojatno i namjenske odlike. *Cisterna 2* očuvana je samo u temeljima, a specifična je po svojevrsnoj svojevremenoj prenamjeni objekta koju sugerira suhozidna pregradnja. S obzirom na stanje arheoloških depozita te dosta široko odvojenu kasnoantičku, odnosno ranonovovjekovnu dataciju pokretnih nalaza pronađenih u njezinu kontekstu, o trenutku izvedbe pregradnje teško je nešto konkretnije reći. Nadalje, 2021. godine započelo se s istraživanjem također u temeljima očuvanog objekta naslonjenog na istočni zid *Cisterne 2*, za koji se

small finds, mainly fragments of a pithos and two stone fragments of a facility for processing agricultural products. Finally, the greatest effort in the research so far has been focused on the northern part of the complex, where G. Novak recorded the remains of architecture, and where recent research has established a structural multi-phase structure. It can be simply represented through the initial early imperial existence of the long northern frontal wall of the building, which also included the investigated room with under-floor heating, and the late imperial/late antique negation of the aforementioned infrastructure, accompanied by a new spatial organization and the installation of several open fireplaces.

The most recent excavations from 2024, focused precisely on the last mentioned part of the complex at cad. plot 8967/8, were based on the described picture of the situation. They were carried out in the period from 1 to 12 October, within the framework of Kv. B4-6/C4-6 on an area of about 20 m².¹ After the earlier isolation and re-

¹ The works were funded through the archaeological heritage protection program of the Ministry of Culture and Media of the Republic of Croatia. The members of the research team included Dinko Radić (Vis Heritage Museum), Ivan Mašković, Miroslav Novak and Petar Oreb, students of the Department of Archaeology, and the author of this paper.



... Ostaci rimske arhitekture na lokalitetu Beneficij-Gudulija, kampanja 2024. (foto: I. Borzić)
 ... Remains of Roman architecture at the Beneficij-Gudulija site, campaign 2024 (photo: I. Borzić)

putem pokretnih nalaza, uglavnom ulomaka pitosa te dvaju kamenih ulomaka postrojenja za preradu poljoprivrednih proizvoda, pretpostavlja proizvodno-skladišni karakter. Konačno, najveći angažman u dosadašnjim istraživanjima bio je usmjeren na sjeverni dio kompleksa na kojem je još G. Novak evidentirao ostatke arhitekture, na kojoj je recentnim istraživanjima utvrđena strukturna višefaznost. Nju je jednostavno moguće predstaviti kroz inicijalno ranocarsko postojanje dugoga sjevernog frontalnog zida zgrade, u čijem se sastavu nalazila i istražena prostorija s podnim grijanjem te kasnocarsko/kasnoantičko negiranje spomenute infrastrukture popraćeno novom prostornom organizacijom te instaliranjem nekoliko otvorenih ognjišta.

Na opisanu sliku stanja naslonjena su i najnovija istraživanja iz 2024. godine, usmjerena upravo na posljednje spominjani dio kompleksa na kat. č. 8967/8. Ona su provedena u razdoblju od 1. do 12. listopada, i to u okviru Kv. B4-6/C4-6 na površini od oko 20 m².¹ Nakon već ranijeg izoliranja i uklanjanja sloja sastavljenog uglavnom od pločastog kame-

¹ Radovi su financirani kroz program zaštite arheološke baštine Ministarstva kulture i medija Republike Hrvatske, a osim potpisnika rada u njima su sudjelovali još i Dinko Radić (Zavičajni muzej grada Visa) te Ivan Mašković, Miroslav Novak i Petar Oreb, studenti Odjela za arheologiju Sveučilišta u Zadru.

moval of a layer consisting mainly of flat stones and terracotta roofing material (*tegulae* and *imbrices*), the remains of two parallel walls were revealed, the positioning of which can be linked to the architecture from Novak's plan, which was then clearly visible on the surface of the terrain. The wall lying further south was opened to a length of 2.50 m, its width was about 0.65 m, and it was built in a rather rustic manner of vertically and obliquely laid blocks bound with plaster. Three meters from it to the north, a second parallel masonry structure was discovered, explored to a length of slightly more than 5.50 m. It was built of amorphous stone blocks with finely executed faces with abundant use of orange-red plaster, obviously of hydrostatic properties. Excavations have revealed that it forms the southern base of a series of rooms arranged along the northern edge of the entire complex, three of which were partially explored in this year's excavations. In the northeastern part of the trial trench, only part of Room 1 was explored, the bottom of which consisted of a solid compact floor made of angular stones and plaster. Two square pylons, one found in the middle of the uncovered part of the structure and the other





nja i terakotnoga krovnog materijala (tegula i imbreksa) na vidjelo su izašli ostatci dvaju paralelno građenih zidova, čije se pozicioniranje u prostoru može dovesti u vezu s arhitekturom s Novakova plana, tada očito vidljivom na površini terena. Južnije položen zid otvoren je u dužini od 2,50 m, širina mu iznosi oko 0,65 m, a građen je dosta rustično od okomito i koso položenih blokova vezanih žbukom. Na tri metra od njega prema sjeveru otkrivena je druga paralelna zidana konstrukcija istražena u dužini nešto većoj od 5,50 m. Građena je od amorfnih kamenih blokova s fino izvedenim licima uz obilno korištenje žbuke narančasto-crvene boje, očito hidrostatskih odlika. Iskopavanjima je utvrđeno kako ona čini južnu osnovu niza prostorija složenih uz sjeverni rub čitavog kompleksa, od kojih su njih tri dijelom istražene i ovogodišnjim iskopavanjima. Na sjeveroistočnom dijelu sonde istražen je samo dio Prostorije 1, čije je dno činila čvrsta kompaktna podnica izrađena od uglatog kamenja i žbuke. Dva kvadratna pilona, jedan otkriven po sredini otkrivenog dijela objekta te jedan na njegovu južnom zidu upućuju na naknadno preoblikovanje prostora, čije vrijeme te namjenu tek treba utvrditi. Dalje na zapadu nalazi se u cijelosti istražena Prostorija 2 s dnom izvedenim žbukanom loše očuvanom

on its southern wall, indicate a subsequent remodeling of the space, the time and purpose of which have yet to be determined. Further to the west is Room 2, which has been fully explored, with a floor made of plastered, poorly preserved floor. Subsequent interventions in this building are also visible in the stone-built structure leaning against its northern enclosure wall. The next in the series of rooms is Room 3, the western parts of which were discovered during research in 2018 and which actually represents a building with underfloor heating. Its original walking surface has not been determined because the entire room was repurposed in late antiquity, when the empty space in which the hypocaust suspensions made of square terracotta bricks were located was filled with construction rubble, which included blocks of mosaic floors, plastered wall lining, roof structures and other materials. The dynamic history of this complex is also suggested by the late antique tomb wedged at the junction of Room 1 and Room 2. It has an irregular rectangular shape, its dimensions are 132 x 65 cm, it was built of amorphous stone slabs, with the larger ones used as lids. Judging from the remains found, the tomb was used for the burial



... Kasnoantička grobnica na kontaktu Prostorije 1 i Prostorije 2, kampanja 2024. (foto: I. Borzić)
... Late antique tomb at the junction of Rooms 1 and 2, campaign 2024 (photo: I. Borzić)



... Kompozitni kapitel s lokaliteta Beneficij-Gudulija, Centar za kulturu Vela Luka (foto: I. Borzić)
... Composite capital from the Beneficij-Gudulija site, Vela Luka Culture Center (photo: I. Borzić)

podnicom. Naknadne intervencije i u ovom objektu vidljive su u zidanoj konstrukciji naslonjenoj uz njegov sjeverni ogradni zid. Sljedeća u nizu prostorija jest Prostorija 3, čiji su zapadni dijelovi otkriveni istraživanjima iz 2018. godine i koja zapravo predstavlja objekt s podnim grijanjem. Njezina izvorna hodna površina nije utvrđena jer je čitava prostorija prenamijenjena još u kasnoj antici, kada je i građevinskom šutom, u čijem se sastavu nalaze blokovi mozaičnih podnica, žbukane zidne oplate, krovne konstrukcije i drugog, ispunjena praznina u kojoj su se nalazile suspenzije hipokausta izvedene od kvadratnih terakotnih opeka. Dinamičnu povijest ovog kompleksa sugerira i kasnoantička grobnica uglavljena na kontaktu Prostorije 1 i Prostorije 2. Ona ima nepravilan pravokutni oblik, dimenzije joj iznose 132 x 65 cm, građena je od amorfnih kamenih ploča, s tim da su one iskorištene kao poklopnice bile većih dimenzija. Prema pronađenim ostacima grobnica je poslužila za ukapanje jedne mlađe osobe, a 14C analize datiraju je u sredinu i drugu polovicu 6. stoljeća.

Zaključno se može naglasiti kako se i ovogodišnjim istraživanjima rimskoga rezidencijalno-gospodarskog kompleksa na lokalitetu Beneficij-Gudulija doprinijelo proširivanju spoznaja o njegovoj

of a young person, and 14C analyses date it to the middle and second half of the 6th century.

In conclusion, it can be emphasized that this year's research of the Roman residential and economic complex at the Beneficij-Gudulija site has contributed to expanding knowledge about its spatial organization and components, as well as the chronological parameters of its use. Its architectural plan is gradually being completed, which is currently dominated by two series of buildings, the southern one with two cisterns and a presumed production and storage unit, and the northern one with much smaller rooms initially connected to the residential part of the complex. Remains of architecture visible at places in an area slightly smaller than 0.4 ha suggest that this plan will be completed significantly with further excavations, with the proviso that monitoring the already clearly visible differences in the architecture and purpose of the initial early imperial and all subsequent phases of its use will play a major role in its final definition. In this regard, we would like to mention that this year's research also yielded a relatively small amount of movable material, which confirms the duration of this complex in the period from the 1st to at least 6th century,





prostornoj organizaciji i sastavnicama te kronološkim parametrima njegova korištenja. Postupno se upotpunjuje njegov arhitektonski plan u kojem za sada dominiraju dva niza objekata, onaj južni s dvjema cisternama i pretpostavljenom proizvodno-skladišnom jedinicom te sjeverni s mnogo manjim prostorijama inicijalno povezivim sa stambenim dijelom kompleksa. Mjestimično vidljivi ostatci arhitekture na prostoru nešto manjem od 0,4 ha sugeriraju kako će se daljnjim iskopavanjima ovaj plan umnogome upotpunjavati, s tim da će za njegovo konačno definiranje veliku ulogu imati prae-nje već i sada jasno vidljivih razlika u arhitekturi i namjeni inicijalne ranocarske te svih onih kasnijih faza njegova korištenja. U vezi s tim navedimo kako je i ovogodišnjim istraživanjima pronađena relativno mala količina pokretnog materijala koji potvrđuje trajanje ovog kompleksa u razdoblju od 1. do barem 6. stoljeća, s tim da je sama lokacija bila iskorištavana i prije, tijekom neolitičkog razdoblja, ali i poslije, tijekom novog vijeka. Među materijalom prevladavaju keramički nalazi različitih kategorija predmeta, tehnički i tipološki svojstveni različitim vremenskim i provenijencijskim okvirima. Tomu se pridodaje i stakleni inventar, među kojim se radi kurioziteta mogu spomenuti ulomci prozorskog stakla te kasnoantičkih lampi. Zaključimo kako je ovdje predmetni lokalitet vrijedan istraživanja jer umnogome širi spoznaje o tipskom primjeru rimskodobne naseljenosti otoka Korčule.

with the location itself being used both before, during the Neolithic period, and after, during the modern era. Among the material, ceramic finds of various categories of objects predominate, technically and typologically characteristic of different time and provenance frames. There is also the glass inventory, among which fragments of window glass and late antique lamps can be mentioned as a curiosity. Let us conclude that the site in question is worth researching because it greatly expands knowledge about a typical example of Roman-era settlement on the island of Korčula.

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