



ARHEOLOŠKA ISTRAŽIVANJA NA LOKALITETU LJUBLJANA U LJUPČU KOD ZADRA

Archaeological investigations
on Cape Ljubljana in Ljubač
near Zadar

Tradicionalno, svibanj i početak lipnja rezervirani su za studentsku terensku nastavu, a kao i posljednje dvije godine mjesto radnje je Ljubljana (Vujević *et al.* 2023), na samom kraju Ljubačke kose. Odabir pozicija za istraživanje pao je na dvije već poznate lokacije crkava sv. Marije i sv. Marcele.

Sv. Marija je jednobrodna crkva čija je izgradnja započela krajem 14. ili početkom 15. stoljeća (Vujević *et al.* 2023). Tijekom protekle kampanje unutrašnjost joj je istražena u cijelosti, pa su istraživanja usmjerena na okolni prostor, zapadno i južno od ulaza u crkvu. Glavni razlog tomu je pronalazak više različitih struktura pri istraživanju jugozapadnog kuta crkve, stratigrafski preslojenih gradnjom crkve i kronološki starijih od crkve. Preciznije, riječ je o najmanje trima različitim objektima iz različitih razdoblja koja prethode gradnji crkve sv. Marije. Kako je ovo jedino mjesto, na područjima zahvaćenim dosadašnjim iskopavanjem, na kojem se javljaju strukture stratigrafski starije od kasnog srednjeg vijeka, bilo je logično proširiti prostor iskopavanja na mali plato koji se nalazi uokolo crkve ne bi li se uspjele definirati sta-



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Traditionally, May and early June are reserved for student fieldwork practice. For the last two years, the site to investigate has been Ljubljana (Vujević *et al.* 2023), at the very end of Ljubačka kosa. The churches of St. Mary and St. Marcella were chosen for research as locations that have already been known.

St. Mary is a single-nave church whose construction began at the end of the 14th or the beginning of the 15th century (Vujević *et al.* 2023). During the past campaign, its interior was investigated in its entirety, so research was focused on the surrounding area, west and south of the entrance to the church. The main reason for this is the discovery of several different structures during the excavation of the southwestern corner of the church, in terms of stratigraphy overlain by the construction of the church and chronologically older than the church. More precisely, we are referring to at least three different buildings from different periods that precede the construction of the church of St. Mary. This is the only place in the areas encompassed by the excavation so far with structures older than the



Ljubljana (foto/photo: M. Šimičić)



Pogled na crkvu sv. Marije (foto: M. Šimičić)
View of the church of St. Mary (photo: M. Šimičić)





rije faze lokaliteta. Paralelno s iskopavanjem obavljala se i konzervacija ostataka crkve sv. Marije koju provodi tvrtka Travej s ciljem zaštite i prezentacije pronađenog sakralnog objekta.

Da bismo obuhvatili linije rasprostiranja spomenutih zidova, a ujedno iskoristili mogućnosti platoa ispred, za iskopavanje je odabrano područje dimenzija 7 x 10 m, postavljeno tako da obuhvati jugozapadni kut crkve, a samim time i već spomenute ostatke starijih struktura. Površinski sloj sadrži miješani materijal uključujući i dijelove srušene crkve među kojima treba spomenuti ulomke s dviju strana prizmatično obrađenih dovratnika. Unutar sloja također pronalazimo građevinsku keramiku, grubu stolnu i skladišnu keramiku, kao i ulomke kasnoantičke keramike ukrašene reljefnim kanelurama, glazirane *invetriate*, arhajske majolike, engobirane slikane i arhajske gravirane keramike. U istom sloju nađene su srebrna trojagodna naušnica i brončana kružna pojasna kopča. Svi spomenuti nalazi nisu kasniji od 15. stoljeća.

Skidanjem ujednačenih površinskih slojeva dolazimo do površine podijeljene u dva dijela. Plitko ispod površinskog sloja, na sjevernoj polovici istraživačkog prostora, ispred samog ulaza u crkvu nalazi se sloj od nabijene žuto-sive glinaste zemlje ograničen na južnoj strani velikom zidanom grobnicom i stubom od deset pravilno postavljenih kamenja međusobno povezanih žbukom koja se nastavlja na grobnicu. Grobnica i niz kamenja stvorili su ispred ulaza mali plato u hodnoj razini crkve, dok je površina južno od njega očito bila nešto niža.

Prostorom ispred crkve dominira zidana grobnica s masivnom kamenom poklopnicom, postavljena uz sam ulaz u crkvu s njegove južne strane. Ploča je od obrađenog vapnenca dimenzija 232 x 106 x 17 cm. Slomljena je na zapadnom kraju, a zanimljivo je da je jedino na tom dijelu, otprilike do samog loma, ploča vezana žbukom s konstrukcijom ispod nje. Sve navedeno, u kombinaciji s izrazito velikom masom poklopnice te uz činjenicu da je grobnica korištena za višekratno ukapanje govori da je lom na poklopnici iskorišten da bi se pri novim pokopima uklonio samo dio poklopnice, dio dovoljan da se pokojnik unese u grobnicu, a da bi se nakon vraćanja tog dijela na grob, spojevi dodatno ožbukali. Ploča pokriva zidanu grobnicu ožbukane unutarnjeg lica, a iako duboka, na bočnim zidovima nema vidljivih utora ili istaka za kat. Grobnica je dobrim dijelom pronađena prazna. Tek se na dnu nalazila zapuna od rahle, svjetlosmeđe zemlje iz koje su

late Middle Ages in terms of stratigraphy, so it was logical to extend the excavation area to the small plateau around the church, in order to define the older phases of the site. Simultaneously with the excavation, conservation of the remains of the church of St. Mary was carried out by the Travej company with the aim of protecting and presenting this religious building.

In order to encompass the lines of expansion of the mentioned walls, and at the same time to use the possibilities of the plateau in front, an area measuring 7 x 10 m was selected for excavation, placed in such a way as to include the southwestern corner of the church, and thus the already mentioned remains of older structures. The surface layer contains mixed material, including parts of the demolished church, among which we should mention fragments of doorjambs shaped prismatically on two sides. Inside the layer we also found ceramic building material, coarse tableware and storage pottery as well as fragments of late antique pottery decorated with relief grooves, glazed *invetriata*, archaic majolica, painted pottery with engobe and archaic engraved pottery. In the same layer, a silver three-beaded earring and a round bronze belt buckle were found. All the mentioned finds are not later than the 15th century.

By removing the uniform surface layers, we arrived at a surface divided into two parts. A layer of compacted yellow-gray clay soil was found shallow below the surface layer, in the northern half of the research area, in front of the entrance to the church. This layer was bounded on the southern side by a large stone-built tomb and a step of ten neatly placed stones bound with mortar that continues to the tomb. The tomb and a row of stones created a small plateau in front of the entrance at the walking level of the church, while the area south of it was obviously somewhat lower.

The space in front of the church is dominated by a stone-built tomb with a massive stone lid, placed next to the entrance to the church on its southern side. The slab is made of dressed limestone, with dimensions 232 x 106 x 17 cm. It was broken at the western end, and it is interesting that only in that part, approximately up to the break, the slab is bound with mortar to the structure below it. All of the above, in combination with the extremely heavy lid and the fact that the tomb was used for multiple burials, indicates that the break in the lid

provirivale kosti pokojnika; što onih pronađenih *in situ* što dislociranih. U trima razinama nalaze se cjelovito sačuvani ostatci pokojnika, pokopani u ispruženom položaju na leđima, s rukama uz tijelo. Lubanje i duge kosti položene uokolo svjedoče da je grobnica mjesto pokopa za više od tri pokojnika koliko smo ih pronašli u izvornom položaju. Nalaza gotovo da i nema. Tek je uz lakat desne ruke jednog od pokojnika pronađen ulomak *Krautstrunk* čaše koja se može datirati najranije u 15. stoljeće, ali on se ne može pripisati samom pokopu.

Prostor južno od crkve iskorišten je za groblje. U ovoj kampanji dokumentirana su 32 groba, a prepoznaju se dvije razine pokapanja. Onu gornju čine pokopi vjerojatno iz kasnog srednjeg vijeka. Jednostavni pokopi u zemljanoj raci najčešće nemaju arhitekturu. Tek su na nekoliko grobova ostale sačuvane poklopnice ili se vidi rijetko kamenje stavljeno uz rub grobne jame. Dio grobova bio je označen izbočenim kamenom na zapadnoj strani – učelkom. Pokojnici su položeni u ispruženi položaj na leđima s glavom naslonjenom na potiljak i rukama položenima uz bokove ili savijenim na zdjelici. U grobovima gotovo da i nema nalaza, tek pokoja željezna kopča.

Druga razina grobova je nešto starija i vjerojat-

was used to remove only a part of the lid during new burials, a part sufficient to bring the deceased into the tomb, and that after returning that part to the grave, the joints were additionally plastered. The slab covers a stone-built tomb with a plastered inner face, and although it is deep, there are no visible grooves or protrusions for another floor on the side walls. The tomb was found empty for the most part. Only at the bottom was a fill made of loose, light brown earth, from which the bones of the deceased protruded; some of them found *in situ* and some dislocated. At three levels, there are completely preserved remains of the deceased, buried in an extended position on their back, with their arms next to their bodies. The skulls and long bones lying around testify that the tomb was burial place for more than three deceased people which we found in their original position. There are almost no finds. A fragment of a *Krautstrunk* beaker was found next to the elbow of the right arm of one of the deceased, which can be dated to the 15th century at the earliest, but it cannot be attributed to the burial.

The area south of the church was used for a cemetery. In this campaign, 32 graves were documented, and two burial levels were recognized.



... Trojagodna naušnica (foto: K. Gusar)
... Three-beaded earring (photo: K. Gusar)





Pogled na crkvu sv. Marcele (foto: M. Šimičić)
View of the church of St. Marcella (photo: M. Šimičić)

no je povezana s ranim srednjim vijekom. Iako je i dalje riječ o jednostavnim ukopima u zemlju, veći dio pronađenih grobova na ovoj razini ima grobnu arhitekturu od klesanog i amornog kamenja. U jednom od grobova uz lubanju su pronađene karičice i grozdolike naušnice kakve se javljaju u grobljima bjelobrdske kulture 10. i 11. stoljeća (Tomičić, 2019, 78-111). Iako u trenutku pisanja rada još nisu poznati rezultati radiokarbonskih analiza, činjenica da ovi grobovi uništavaju dijelove suhozidne arhitekture, te da je u arhitekturu jednog od grobova inkorporiran dio predromaničke grede s natpisom kakav se može datirati u polovicu 9. stoljeća, daje određeni *terminus post quem* za same pokope.

Druga pozicija ovogodišnjih iskopavanja povezana je s crkvom sv. Marcele. Već smo u protekloj kampanji utvrdili postojanje dviju faza. U ranijoj fazi crkva sv. Marcele ima jednu polukružnu apsidu na

The upper one consists of burials probably from the late Middle Ages. Simple burials in earth pits usually have no stone elements. Only a few graves have preserved lids or one can see rare stones placed along the edge of the grave pit. Some of the graves were marked with a protruding stone on the western side (*"učelak"*). The deceased are laid in an extended position on their back with the head resting on the nape of the neck and the hands on the sides or bent on the pelvis. There are almost no finds in the graves, only some iron buckles.

The second level of graves is somewhat older and is probably related to the early Middle Ages. Although these are still simple burials in the ground, most of the graves found at this level have grave structure made of dressed and amorphous stones. In one of the graves, next to the skull, circlets and

istoku, dok je poslije oltarni prostor crkve produžen i proširen, pri čemu su dodane tri polukružne apside. Na poziciji nastavljamo gdje smo stali, točnije, na troapsidalnom prostoru crkve sv. Marcele u kojem smo u protekloj kampanji dosegli razinu grobova. No sudeći prema nalazima pronađenima u trima već istraženim takvim grobovima, niz masivnih ploča koje su služile kao poklopnice samih grobova nisu dio originalnog poda crkve, nego pokopi pronađeni ispod njih pripadaju posljednjoj fazi korištenja crkvenog prostora.

Razine samih ploča blago variraju, dio njih je utonuo, a dio je raspucan, što utječe na varijacije u visini poda. To može biti posljedica i različitih postdepozicijskih faktora, no isto tako može pokazivati da niti u vremenu kada su grobovi podignuti nije bilo potrebno da ploče budu u idealnoj ravnini. Zanimljivo je što dio kamenih ploča, uz poprečnu stranicu, ima

grape-shaped earrings were found, typical of the cemeteries of the Bijelo Brdo culture of the 10th and 11th centuries (Tomičić, 2019, 78-111). Although at the time of writing this paper the results of the radiocarbon analyses had not been known, the fact that these graves destroyed parts of the dry stone wall architecture, and that a part of a pre-Romanesque architrave with an inscription that can be dated to the middle of the 9th century was incorporated into the structure of one of the graves, gives a certain *terminus post quem* for the burials themselves.

The second position of this year's excavations is related to the church of St. Marcella. In the previous campaign, we have already established the existence of two phases. In the earlier phase, the church of St. Marcella had one semicircular apse in the east, while later the altar area of the church was extended and expanded, adding three semicircular apses. We continued at the position where we left off, more precisely in the three-apsidal area of the church of St. Marcella, where we reached the level of the graves in the previous campaign. But judging by the finds from three such graves that have already been explored, a series of massive slabs that served as covers for the graves are not part of the original floor of the church, but the burials found under them belong to the last phase of the use of the church space.

The levels of the slabs vary slightly, some of them are sunken and some are cracked, which affects the variations in floor height. This may be a consequence of various post-depositional factors, but it may also indicate that even at the time when the graves were erected, it was not necessary for the slabs to be in an ideal plane. It is interesting that some of the stone slabs have a vertically placed stone along the transverse side, which resembles *"učelak"*, or a grave marker. Both situations indicate that such an arrangement could not function at the time of the use of the apsidal space as a sacral part, which in turn opens up the possibility of interpretation that the apsidal space in the last phase of use could have been turned into a kind of burial chapel.

Only the peripheral segments have been preserved of the original floor of the church from the





okomito postavljen kamen. Nešto što podsjeća na učelak, ili oznaku groba. Obje situacije pokazuju da takav raspored nije mogao funkcionirati u vrijeme korištenja apsidalnog prostora kao sakralnog dijela, što pak otvara mogućnost tumačenja da je apsidalni prostor u posljednjoj fazi korištenja mogao biti pretvoren u svojevrsnu grobnu kapelu.

Od originalnog poda crkve iz vremena kada je apsidalni prostor služio izvornoj, sakralnoj namjeni, sačuvani su tek rubni segmenti po kojima zaključujemo da je crkva imala pod popločan manjim kamenim blokovima i opekama. Iz ove faze potje-

time when the apsidal space served its original, sacral purpose. These segments suggest that the church had a floor paved with smaller stone blocks and bricks. The three altars, the pedestals of which were found in the apses, probably originate from this phase, as well as the narrow stoup found along the southern wall. The stoup was made of an old column.

As for the graves, excavations in the three-apsed part of the church of St. Marcella showed at least two burial levels. The upper one consists of the aforementioned tombs under massive stone



Uklanjanje grobnih ploča (foto: M. Šimičić)
Removal of grave slabs (photo: M. Šimičić)



ču vjerojatno i tri oltara, čija su postolja pronađena u apsidama, kao i uska škropionica pronađena uz južni zid, za čiju je izradu reupotrijebljen stariji stup.

Što se tiče samih grobova, iskopavanja u troapsidalnom dijelu crkve sv. Marcele pokazala su najmanje dvije

slabs; all erected in a similar way, with only slight variations. In all graves, there is usually a twenty-centimeter thick layer of sandy soil under the large stone slab, in which small fragments of human bones are scattered. They are accompanied by finds from various time periods, as well as parts of the church furnishings. Similar parts or decorative elements of the church (fragments of arches, columns, etc.) were used as spolia in the construction of the tombs.

Grave architecture with a rectangular floor plan, made of unworked stones, stone slabs or spolia is usually found beneath the layer of sandy soil. It is filled with a layer of dark-brown loose soil in which we find dislocated human bones or the remains of the deceased in their original position. The ritual is uniform. The deceased are laid in an extended position, in the west-east direction, with the head to the west. The position of the arms varies, although the most common variant is that the arms were crossed on the chest or pelvis.

In this uniform horizon of burials, only one tomb stands out, and it is a large stone-built single-floor tomb found in the middle of the space. But the finds in it, as well as the fact that it had spolia in its construction, testify that it also belongs to the same burial horizon.

The finds in the graves can be divided into two groups. The first consists of those found in the highest layer of graves together with dislocated bones. Among them, spherical buttons, two-part double-loop clasps ("ažule") and beaded earrings dominate, and the finds mostly belong to the Mid-

Istraživanja crkve sv. Marcele (foto: M. Šimičić)
Archaeological investigations of the church of St. Marcella (photo: M. Šimičić)





razine pokapanja. Gornju čine spomenute grobnice pod masivnim kamenim pločama; sve podignute na sličan način, uz tek blage varijacije. Kod svih grobova ispod velike kamene ploče u pravilu se nalazi dvadesetak centimetara tanki sloj pjeskovite zemlje u kojoj su razbacani sitni ulomci ljudskih kostiju. Njih prate i nalazi iz različitih vremenskih razdoblja, kao i dijelovi arhitekture crkve. Slični dijelovi ili ukrasni elementi crkve (ulomci luka, stupova i sl.) javljaju se i kao spolije u arhitekturi samih grobnica.

Ispod sloja pjeskovite zemlje javlja se u pravilu grobna arhitektura pravokutnog tlocrta, slagana od neobrađenog kamenja, kamenih ploča ili spolija. Nju ispunjava sloj tamnosmeđe rahle zemlje u kojem od početka pronalazimo dislocirane ljudske kosti ili ostatke cjelovitih pokojnika u izvornom položaju. Ritus je ujednačen. Pokojnici se polažu u ispruženi položaj, u smjeru zapad-istok, s glavom na zapadu. Položaj ruku varira, iako je češće varijanta da su ruke bile prekrížene na prsima ili zdjelici.

U ovom ujednačenom horizontu pokapanja tek se jedna grobnica razlikuje, a riječ je o velikoj zidanoj grobnici na kat pronađenoj po sredini prostora. No nalazi u njoj, kao i činjenica da je u svojoj konstrukciji imala spolije, svjedoče da i ona pripada istom horizontu pokapanja.

dle Ages. Their stratigraphic position and archaeological context is a consequence of the destruction of older graves during the construction of large tombs.

The second group consists of finds related to the *in situ* deceased, which mostly come from the Modern Period, among which we find common jewelry such as plain rings, rings with a decorative bezel and signet rings, but there are also rare finds of bronze bracelets composed of small links and extended front plates with relief decoration. Parts of the costume such as buttons, buckles and shoe fittings also belong to the same period. The most numerous finds are devotional artifacts such as rosaries, medals and crosses. There is also a large quantity of bone and glass beads that could have been part of rosaries and jewelry.

In terms of stratigraphy, the lowest burial level was found below the mentioned tombs, and due to the depth of the tombs, more precisely the depth of the construction works when the tombs were made, these burials were preserved only in segments and in smaller parts of the space, in places where the bedrock was somewhat lower. This horizon is marked by simple burials in earth pits. Later devastation of the graves caused by the construc-

Nalaze u grobovima možemo podijeliti u dvije skupine. Prvu čine oni nađeni u najvišem sloju grobova zajedno s dislociranim kostima. Među njima prevladava kuglasta dugmad, dvodijelne dvopetljaste kopče (ažule) te naušnice s jagodama, a nalazi najvećim dijelom pripadaju srednjem vijeku. Njihov stratigrafski položaj i arheološki kontekst posljedica je uništenja starijih grobova pri gradnji velikih grobnica.

Drugu skupinu čine nalazi povezani s *in situ* pokojnicima koji uglavnom potječu iz novog vijeka, među kojima nalazimo uobičajen nakit poput vitica, prstenja s ukrasnom krunom i pečatnjaka, no zabilježeni su i rijetki nalazi brončanih narukvica sastavljeni od malih karika te proširene prednje pločice s reljefnim ukrasom. Istom vremenu pripadaju i dijelovi nošnje kao što su dugmad, kopče i okovi za obuću. Najbrojnije nalaze čine devocionalije unutar kojih se javljaju krunice, medaljice i križevi. Također je prisutna velika količina koštanih i staklenih perli koje su mogle činiti dio krunica, ali i nakita.

Stratigrafski najniža razina pokapanja pronađena je ispod navedenih grobnica, a zbog dubine grobnica, točnije dubine građevnih zahvata pri gradnji samih grobnica, ovi pokopi ostali su sačuvani tek u segmentima, i to na manjim dijelovima prostora, na mjestima gdje je matična stijena bila nešto niža. Ovaj horizont obilježavaju jednostavni pokopi u zemljanu raku. Kasnije devastacije grobova nastale gradnjom mlađih grobnica poništile su većinu tragova, ali izgleda da ovaj horizont nema arhitekturu. Također za sada nisu pronađeni nalazi koji bi upućivali na vrijeme pokapanja. No, s obzirom na nedostatak arhitekture, možemo ih povezati sa središnjim horizontom pokopa na istraženom dijelu groblja sjeverno crkve sv. Marcele koji možemo datirati u početak kasnog srednjeg vijeka. Vjerojatno je riječ o grobovima iz istog konteksta, koji su povezani sa starijom fazom crkve sv. Marcele i nekropolom koja se širi izvan same crkve na okolne platee (Vujević *et al.* 2023).

tion of younger tombs obliterated most of the traces, but it seems that graves from this horizon do not have stone structure. Also, so far, no finds have been recovered that would indicate the time of the burial. However, given the lack of stone elements, we can connect them to the central burial horizon in the explored part of the cemetery north of the church of St. Marcella, which can be dated to the beginning of the late Middle Ages. It is likely that these are graves from the same context, which are related to the older phase of the church of St. Marcella and the necropolis that extends beyond the church to the surrounding plateaus (Vujević *et al.* 2023).

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Students of archaeology (photo: Ž. Miletić)
Archaeology students (photo: Ž. Miletić)

