

SVETI IVAN U
STIVANJEM
POLJU NA
DUGOM
OTOKU

Church of St. John
in Stivanje polje on
Dugi otok



Telašćica je mnogo toga, a između ostalog i jedinstvena uvala, najveća prirodna luka u Jadranskom moru. Kažu da ime potječe od latinskog naziva *tre lagus* što znači 'tri jezera', a sastoji se od triju dijelova koji su međusobno odvojeni suženjima. Morfogenetski su ta tri dijela krške ponikve koje su pod more dospjele prije desetak tisuća godina završetkom posljednjega ledenog doba (Uvala Telašćica 2025; O parku 2025). No u nastavku uvale nalaze se krška polja koja nisu dospjela pod more, poput Dugog, Gmajnog ili Stivanjeg polja, a koja čuvaju tragove ljudskih aktivnosti od prapovijesti do danas.

Stivanje je polje dobilo ime po crkvi sv. Ivana koja se nalazi uz sjeveroistočni rub polja, a podignuta je nad ostacima rimskoga gospodarskog zdanja. Znamo to još od početka 50-ih godina 20. stoljeća, kada je Ivo Petricioli proveo pokusno, a poslije, 1956. i 1957. godine, i sustavna istraživanja (Petricioli 1987). Od 2016. godine Odjel za arheologiju Sveučilišta u Zadru u suradnji s Parkom prirode *Telašćica* provodi sustavna istraživanja crkve i njezina okoliša, a 2024. godine provedena je sedma istraživačka kampanja.

U prvoj kampanji istraživanje je obuhvatilo prostor sjeverozapadno od crkve i predvorja, a rezultiralo je otkrićem dijelova rimskoga gospodarskog sklopa ispod crkve te dva vremenska horizonta ukopa – kasnoantičkog/rano-srednjovjekovnog i kasnosrednjovjekovnog. U drugoj kampanji 2017. godine istražen je prostor predvorja crkve gdje veći dio zauzimaju ostatci hipokausta. U kampanji 2018. godine istražena je prostorija u kojoj se ložilo (*praefurnium*). Godine 2019. istraživačka se kampanja usredotočila na dva dijela: prostor broda i apside crkve te prostor s vanjske strane sjeverozapadno od crkve, a isti je prostor istraživani nakon dvogodišnje pauze 2022. godine. Završetak istraživanja tog dijela uslijedio je tek 2023. godine, zbog velikog broja srednjovjekovnih grobova ukopanih u slojeve od površine pa sve do podova rimskodobnoga gospodarskog sklopa (Šučur, Petešić 2024).

Sedma kampanja 2024. godine provedena je od 21. svibnja do 1. lipnja, a najvećim je dijelom financirana sredstvima Ministarstva kulture i medija Republike Hrvatske, te sredstvima javne ustanove Park prirode *Telašćica*, uz sufinanciranje od Općine i Turističke zajednice Sali. Voditelj istraživanja bio je doc. dr. sc. Jure Šučur, a zamjenica voditelja Jona Petešić, dipl. arheologinja. Članove stručne ekipe sačinjavali su: dokumentaristica Nikolina Čuk te

One of Telašćica's many faces is that of a unique bay, the largest natural harbor in the Adriatic Sea. It is said that the name comes from the Latin *tre lagus*, meaning 'three lakes', and consists of three parts separated by narrowings. Morphogenetically, these three parts are karst sinkholes that were submerged about ten thousand years ago at the end of the last ice age (Uvala Telašćica 2025; O parku 2025). However, in the continuation of the bay there are karst fields that were not submerged, such as Dugo, Gmajno and Stivanje polje, which preserve traces of human activity from prehistoric times to the present day.

Stivanje polje was named after the church of St. John, which is located on the northeastern edge of the field and was built over the remains of a Roman farming estate. This has been known since the early 1950s, when Ivo Petricioli conducted trial excavation and later, in 1956 and 1957, also systematic research (Petricioli 1987). Since 2016, the Department of Archaeology of the University of Zadar, in cooperation with the Telašćica Nature

Park, has been conducting systematic research on the church and its surroundings, and in 2024 the seventh research campaign was carried out.



In the first campaign, the research covered the area northwest of the church and its vestibule, and resulted in the discovery of parts of the Roman farming complex beneath the church and two burial horizons – Late Antique/Early Medieval and Late Medieval. In the second campaign in 2017, the area of the vestibule of the church was explored, mostly occupied by the remains of the hypocaust. In the 2018 campaign, the room where the fire was lit (*praefurnium*) was explored. In 2019, the research campaign focused on two areas: the nave and apse of the church, and the outer area northwest of the church. The same area was explored again after a two-year break in 2022. The completion of the research of this part did not follow until 2023, due to the large number of medieval graves buried in layers extending from the surface down to the floors of the Roman-era farming complex (Šučur, Petešić 2024).

The seventh campaign was carried out from May 21 to June 1, 2024. It was primarily financed by the Ministry of Culture and Media of the Republic of Croatia, and by the public institution





izv. prof. dr. sc. Karla Gusar s Odjela za arheologiju Sveučilišta u Zadru. Dio stručnih, kao i fizičke radove obavili su studenti Sveučilišta u Zadru Ivana Josić, Agata Karan, Kristina Valjan, Martin Kuzman, Eugen Fritz Prgomet, Fran Mlinarić i Ivan Mašković. Nakon tri godine istraživanja sjeverozapadno od cr-

Telašćica Nature Park, with co-financing from the Municipality and the Sali Tourist Board. The research leader was assistant professor, Jure Šučur, PhD, and the deputy leader was archaeologist Jona Petešić. The members of the research team were: field photographer Nikolina Čuk and associ-



Dva horizonta ukapanja istražena u ovogodišnjoj kampanji (foto: J. Šučur)
Two burial horizons explored in this year's campaign (photo: J. Šučur)



ate professor Karla Gusar, PhD, from the Department of Archaeology of the University of Zadar. Part of the professional works and manual labor was carried out by students of the University of Zadar: Ivana Josić, Agata Karan, Kristina Valjan, Martin Kuzman, Eugen Fritz Prgomet, Fran Mlinarić and Ivan Mašković.

After three years of investigation northwest of the church, this year's campaign focused on the opposite side – the area southeast of the nave, from the *praefurnium* eastward along the side wall of the church. The *praefurnium*, the room where the fire was lit to heat the air for the hypocaust, was largely explored in 2018, but not in its entirety. The excavation area was expanded to fully define the southeastern wall, and digging

Istraživački tim tijekom iskopavanja (foto: J. Šučur)
Research team during excavation (photo: J. Šučur)





kve, ovogodišnja kampanja usredotočila se na suprotnu stranu, prostor jugoistočno od broda, od *praefurniuma* prema istoku uz bočni zid crkve. *Praefurnium*, prostorija u kojoj se ložilo kako bi se zagrijao zrak za hipokaust, najvećim je dijelom istražena 2018. godine, ali ne u cijelosti. Proširen je prostor iskopa kako bi se u potpunosti definirao jugoistočni zid, a kopanjem uz crkvu pronađen je i preostali, sjeveroistočni zid, te je zatim cijela prostorija istražena do matične stijene. Tijekom kampanje istražena su četiri nova groba. U višim slojevima istražena su dva dječja groba s kamenim pločama koje su činile grobnu arhitekturu (Grob 53, Grob 56), orijentacije sjever-jug. Radiokarbonska analiza uzorka iz groba 56 potvrdila je da pripada najmlađem sloju ukapanja – 14. stoljeću, kada su datirani i brojni grobovi istraženi na suprotnoj strani crkve. Analizu je obavio Vilnius Radiocarbon u laboratoriju Accelerator Mass Spectrometry i s 95,4 % vjerojatnosti datirana je smrt djeteta u razdoblje između 1290. i 1397. godine (FTMC-KP22-2).

U nižem sloju, pored sjeveroistočnog zida *praefurniuma* istražena su dva groba odraslih pokojnika čiju grobnu arhitekturu čine kamene ploče, žbuka i tegule (Grob 54, Grob 55). Grobovi su orijentirani sjeveroistok-jugozapad. U grobu 55 nisu pronađeni ostatci pokojnika, dok je u grobu 54 definiran jedan pokojnik u ispruženom položaju s glavom na jugozapadnoj strani groba i rukama uz tijelo.

S obzirom na arhitekturu (tegule i žbuka), položaj (s vanjske strane prostorije rimskodobnog zdanja) i orijentaciju koja je u skladu s orijentacijom objekta (sjeveroistok-jugozapad s glavom na jugozapadnoj strani groba) pretpostavljeno je kako su grobovi 54 i 55 nastali još dok je vila bila u funkciji. Navedeno je potvrdila radiokarbonska analiza koja je dala raspon od 255. do 286. (16,4 %) odnosno 326. do 424. (79,1 % vjerojatnosti; FTMC-KP22-1). Dakle, najvjerojatnije u 4. ili 5. stoljeće. Time se na lokalitetu otkrio još jedan, dosad najraniji, horizont ukopa, koji korespondira s vrhuncem života na ovome gospodarskom sklopu, barem sudeći po dosad analiziranim pokretnim nalazima. Pokretni nalazi sastoje se od brojnih ulomaka kasnoantičke keramike, školjaka, fragmenata ljudskih i životinjskih osteoloških ostataka, manje brojnih ulomaka stakla i metalnih predmeta. Među njima izdvajaju se nalazi dijela fibule (snažno profilirana fibula, kraj 1. – sredina 2. st.), te pet kovanica, od kojih je prije konzervacije bilo moguće determinirati dvije (AE3 Valentinijana I. i njegova brata Valensa; te Gracijana) koje potječu iz druge polovine 4. stoljeća.

alongside the church uncovered the remaining northeastern wall, and the entire room was then explored to bedrock. Four new graves were examined during the campaign. In the upper layers, two children's graves with stone slabs that formed the burial architecture (grave 53, grave 56), oriented north-south, were investigated. Radiocarbon analysis of the sample from grave 56 confirmed that it belongs to the youngest burial layer – the 14th century, which is the time span to which numerous graves investigated on the opposite side of the church were also dated. The analysis was carried out by Vilnius Radiocarbon in the Accelerator Mass Spectrometry laboratory and with 95.4% probability, the child's death was dated to the period between 1290 and 1397 (FTMC-KP22-2).

In the lower layer, next to the northeastern wall of the *praefurnium*, two graves of adult individuals were explored, constructed of stone slabs, plaster and tegulae (grave 54, grave 55). The graves are oriented northeast-southwest. No remains of the deceased were found in grave 55, while in grave 54 one deceased was identified in an extended position with the head on the southwestern side of the grave and arms by the body.

Given the architecture (tegulae and plaster), the position (on the outside of the room of the Roman building) and the orientation that is in line with the orientation of the buildings (northeast-southwest with the head on the southwestern side of the grave), it was assumed that graves 54 and 55 were made while the villa was still in use. This was confirmed by radiocarbon analysis, which gave a range of 255 to 286 (16.4%) and 326 to 424 (79.1% probability; FTMC-KP22-1), thus most likely dating to the 4th or 5th century. This revealed another, the earliest, burial horizon at the site, which corresponds to the peak of activity on this farming complex, at least judging by the small finds analyzed so far. The movable finds consist of numerous sherds of Late Antique pottery, shells, fragments of human and animal osteological remains, and less numerous sherds of glass and metal objects including the finds of a fibula fragment (strongly profiled fibula, late 1st – mid-2nd century), and five coins, two of which are particularly interesting: AE3 of Valentinian I and his brother Valens; and Gratian) dating from the second half of the 4th century.



Hipokaust i *praefurnium* po završetku istraživanja (foto: J. Šučur)
Hypocaust and *praefurnium* upon completion of research (photo: J. Šučur)



Istraživanje groba 54 ili – koliko je potrebno arheologa da očisti jedan grob (foto: K. Valjan)
Grave 54 excavation or – how many archaeologists does it take to clean one grave? (photo: K. Valjan)





Sali, miris i okus gostoprimstva (foto: N. Čuk)
Sali, the smell and taste of hospitality (photo: N. Čuk)

Sasvim će se sigurno istraživanja na ovome višeslojnom lokalitetu i dalje nastaviti, otkrivajući nove detalje iz prošlosti Telašćice i iznoseći na svjetlo dana opipljive tragove nekadašnjeg života na ovom dijelu Dugog otoka, stvarajući na taj način sponu između prošlosti i sadašnjosti.

Research at this multi-layered site will certainly continue, revealing new details from the past of Telašćica and bringing to light tangible traces of former life in this part of Dugi otok, thus creating a link between the past and the present.

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