

PAKOŠĆANE –
CRKVINA,
POSLJEDNJE
POČIVALIŠTE
NA OBALI
VRANSKOOG
JEZERA

Pakošćane –
Crkvina, the final
resting place on
the shores
of Lake Vrana



Lokalitet Crkvina nalazi se na manje od 100 metara udaljenosti od zapadne obale Vranskog jezera, a iako je davno ušao u arheološku literaturu, istraživanja su započela tek 2006. pod vodstvom prof. dr. sc. dr. h. c. Ante Uglešića. Odjel za arheologiju Sveučilišta u Zadru proveo je od tada do 2016. godine trinaest istraživačkih kampanja, a zatim, nakon višegodišnje pauze, od 18. ožujka do 20. travnja 2024. godine četrnaestu arheološku kampanju. Kampanja je financirana sredstvi-

The Crkvina site is located less than 100 meters from the western shore of Lake Vrana, and although it has long been included in archaeological literature, research began only in 2006, led

by full professor Ante Uglešić, Dr. h. c. The Department of Archaeology of the University of Zadar conducted thirteen research campaigns from then until 2016, and then, after a several-year break, the fourteenth archaeological campaign from 18 March to 20 April 2024. The campaign was financed by the Municipality of Pakoštane,



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tane, and took place in the southern auxiliary room, which was subsequently attached to the church.

The site was recorded in the archaeological literature in the 19th century. Don Luka Jelić links the location with the ancient Croatian village of Zablacé and its church of St. Mary, which is mentioned in documents of the 17th and 18th centuries (Jelić 1898: 117; Baraka 2009: 184–185). L. Jelić brings drawings, and in his archive, which is kept in the Archaeological Museum in Split, there are photographs that record the state of the site at the end of the 19th century, so it is evident that the side wall of the nave of the church was preserved at the height of two floors, and the southern half of the apse with the calotte is also visible. When the Department started research in 2006, only a part of the apse with a partially preserved calotte and a small part of the northern perimeter wall of the church was visible on the site. Individual campaigns have focused on specific parts, and the remains identified so far include a single-nave Romanesque church with a semicircular apse at the back and a bell tower at the front, while there are two side rooms next to the church. A large number of graves were also found within and around the architectural remains. Thus, until this year's campaign, 160 graves had been uncovered, most of which were used for multiple burials. The church is clearly separated from the surrounding area by a wall, which means that it is a religious complex that includes a number of unexplored rooms. The church is the only part that has been fully explored, the auxiliary rooms have been partially explored, and outside that area, a smaller part of the complex has been explored. North of the church, walls were found that probably had residential and economic functions, while in the southern part the upper layer of graves was investigated.

Movable finds testify to the late antique horizon (primarily coins, but one should probably also add a wall with square grooves north of the church to this horizon). The early medieval horizon is attested by movable finds (such as fragments of pre-Romanesque interlace decoration) and graves, some of which go under the foundations of the church. However, most of the finds and graves date from the 13th to the 15th centuries, while later horizons are represented by a smaller number of finds (finds of coins dating until the 19th century).

Crkvina na obali Vranskog jezera, u pozadini s druge strane jezera Vrana (foto: J. Šučur)
Crkvina on the shore of Lake Vrana, with the town of Vrana visible on the opposite side of the lake (photo: J. Šučur)





Prostorija istraživana tijekom 2024. godine s prvim slojem grobova ispod popločenja (foto: J. Šučur)
Room excavated during the 2024 season with the first layer of graves beneath the pavement (photo: J. Šučur)



Grob 167, primjer najčešćeg tipa grobova na lokalitetu (foto: J. Šučur)
Grave 167, an example of the most common type of graves at the site (photo: J. Šučur)

Vrijedne ruke i zdrava leđa? (foto: J. Šučur)
Skilled hands and healthy backs? (photo: J. Šučur)





ljiva je i južna polovina apsida s kalotom. Kada je Odjel započeo istraživanja 2006. godine, na lokalitetu je bio vidljiv samo dio apsida s djelomično sačuvanom kalotom i malen dio sjevernoga perimetralnog zida crkve. Pojedine kampanje bile su usredotočene na određene dijelove, a zasad definirani ostatci obuhvaćaju jednobrodnu romaničku crkvu s polukružnom apsidom na začelju i zvonikom na pročelju, dok se uz crkvu nalaze dvije bočne prostorije. Unutar arhitektonskih ostataka i oko njih pronađen je i velik broj grobova. Tako je do ovogodišnje kampanje otkriveno 160 grobova od kojih je većina korištena za višekratno ukapanje. Od okolnog prostora Crkvina je jasno odvojena ogradnim zidom, što znači da je riječ o sakralnom kompleksu koji obuhvaća još niz neistraženih prostorija. Sama je crkva jedini dio koji je u potpunosti istražen, pomoćne su prostorije dijelom istražene, a izvan tog prostora istražen je manji dio kompleksa. Sjeverno od crkve pronađeni su zidovi koji su vjerojatno imali stambene i gospodarske funkcije, dok je na južnom dijelu istražen gornji sloj grobova.

Pokretni nalazi svjedoče već o kasnoantičkom horizontu (prije svega novac, ali tom horizontu vjerojatno treba pridodati i jedan zid s kvadratnim utorima sjeverno od crkve), ranosrednjovjekovni horizont posvjedočen je pokretnim nalazima (kao što su ulomci predromaničkog pletera) i grobovima, od kojih neki idu pod temelje crkve. Ipak većina nalaza i grobova potječe iz vremena od 13. do 15. stoljeća, dok su kasniji horizonti zastupljeni manjim brojem nalaza (nalazi novca idu do 19. stoljeća).

Najnovija kampanja usredotočila se na južnu pomoćnu prostoriju pravokutnog oblika s polukružnom apsidom, unutrašnjih dimenzija 5,6 x 3,78 m (Uglešić, Gusar 2014: 225). Jednim je vratima povezana s brodom crkve, a do razine popločanja istražena je u četvrtoj kampanji 2009. godine. Tada je uočeno da se u apside nalazi sloj žbuke u kojem su vidljivi otisci kamenog popločanja, koje je mjestimično bilo očuvano u ostatku prostorije, a na mjestima gdje ga nije bilo uočavali su se u slojevima ispod ljudski osteološki ostatci te su istražena dva groba (grobovi 5 i 6). Godine 2024. odlučeno je da se nastavi s istraži-

The latest campaign focused on the southern auxiliary room, rectangular in shape with a semicircular apse, and internal dimensions of 5.6 x 3.78 m (Uglešić, Gusar 2014: 225). It is connected to the nave of the church by a door, and was explored up to the level of the paving in the fourth campaign in 2009. At that time, it was noticed that there was a layer of plaster in the apse in which the impressions of the stone paving were visible, which was preserved in places in the rest of the room, and in places where it was not, human osteological remains were observed in the layers below, and two graves were explored (graves 5 and 6). In 2024, it was decided to continue the exploration of

vanjem upravo tih grobova i slojeva ispod popločanja prostorije, što je obilježilo cijelu istraživačku kampanju.

Naime, možemo reći kako su istražena dva sloja grobova, a ukopi se nastavljaju i dalje u dubinu. Definirano je 12 dodatnih grobova (5a, 161 – 171), od kojih je većina istražena u cijelosti usprkos složenoj stratigrafskoj situaciji, dok je dio istražen djelomično. Naime, gotovo cijela površina prostorije premrežena je različito orijentiranim grobnicama građenima od različitog kamena i kamenih ploča, koje u cijelosti ili djelomično omeđuju pokojnike, od kojih većina nije u anatomski ispravnom po-

these graves and the layers below the paving of the room, which marked the entire research campaign.

We can say that two layers of graves were explored, and the burials continue further in depth. Twelve additional graves (5a, 161 – 171) were defined, most of which were explored in full despite the complex stratigraphic situation, while some were explored partially. Namely, almost entire surface of the room is covered with differently oriented tombs built of various stones and stone slabs, which completely or partially enclose the deceased, most of which are not in the anatomically correct position but are dislocated bones of a number of the deceased. Thus,

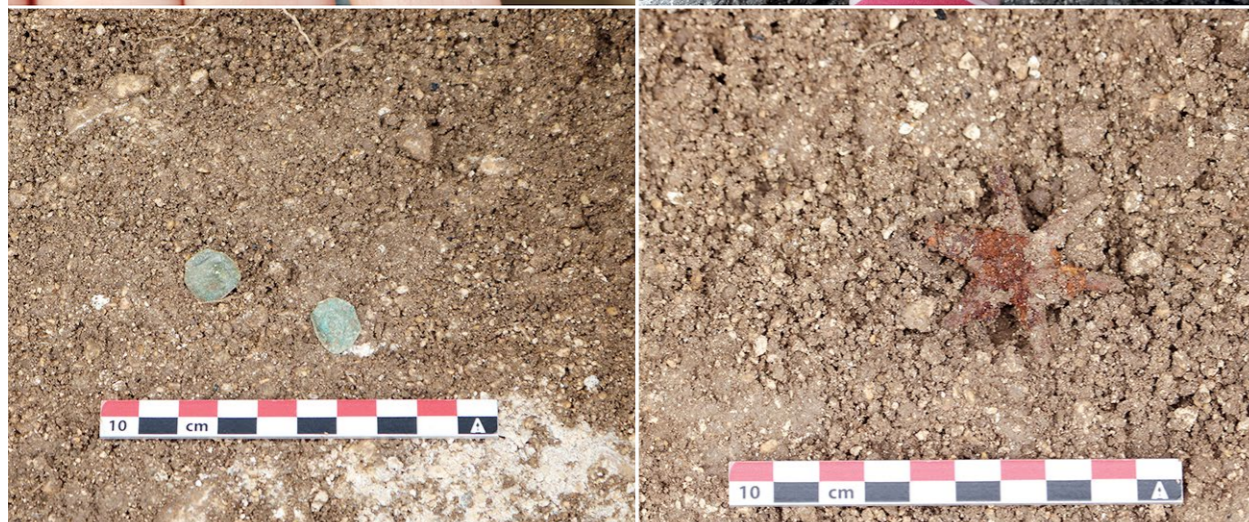


Brojni grobovi na gotovo cijeloj površini prostorije (foto: J. Šučur)
Numerous graves covering almost the entire surface of the room (photo: J. Šučur)





Grob – gdje počinje, a gdje završava? (foto: M. Šimičić)
A grave – where does it begin and where does it end? (photo: M. Šimičić)



Primjeri pokretnih nalaza iz kampanje (foto: M. Šimičić, K. Gusar)
Examples of small finds (photo: M. Šimičić, K. Gusar)

ložaju, već je riječ o dislociranim kostima mnogih pokojnika. Tako su u grobu 163 iznad nogu *in situ* pokojnika, uz ostale kosti, pronađeni ostatci bar još osam lubanja. Grobovi su orijentirani sjever-jug ili istok-zapad, a brojni osteološki ostatci pokojnika pronalazeni su i izvan grobne arhitekture.

Pokretni nalazi pronalazeni u zapuni grobova i izvan grobova su isti – novac, nakit (vitice i prstene), čavli, olovni utezi, ulomci keramičkog i staklenog posuđa. Izdvajaju se nalazi željeznog ključa i okova vrata, ulomci keramičkih figura (glave i nogu), ulomak brončanog zvona, tanka mramorna ploča s dijelom natpisa na objema stranama i ulomak veretona. Databilni nalazi potječu iz razdoblja kasnoga srednjeg vijeka, te se preliminarno mogu datirati od 14. do 16. stoljeća.

Rezultati ovogodišnje kampanje samo dodatno potvrđuju činjenicu da je Crkvina lokalitet iznimne arheološke, povijesne i kulturne vrijednosti, u nacionalnim, ali i u europskim okvirima.

in addition to other bones, the remains of at least eight skulls were found in grave 163, above the feet of the deceased *in situ*. The graves are oriented north – south or east – west, and numerous osteological remains of the deceased were also found outside the tomb structure.

The movable finds recovered from the grave fill and outside the graves are the same – coins, jewelry (plain and more elaborate rings), nails, lead weights, fragments of ceramic and glass vessels. More interesting finds include the finds of an iron key and door fittings, fragments of ceramic figures (heads and legs), a fragment of a bronze bell, a thin marble slab with part of an inscription on both sides and a fragment of a speartip (*vereton*). The datable finds date to the Late Middle Ages, and can be preliminarily dated to the time span from the 14th to the 16th century.

The results of this year's campaign only further confirm the fact that Crkvina is a site of exceptional archaeological, historical and cultural significance, both nationally and in European terms.

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