ГЛАСНИК 42

српског археолошког друштва 2026



Током 2021. и 2022. године Народни музеј Србије спровео је прва археолошка истраживања тврђаве Купиник у Срему, једне од најочуванијих средњовековних фортификација у Војводини, која се због, специфичне структуре и положаја сврстава у тзв. водене градове. Први пут се помиње у повељама угарског краља Жигмунда Луксембуршког, крајем 14. века, као „краљевски" град. Током 15. века додељиван је у посед српских деспота и великаша, да би постао и резиденција последњих деспота из лозе Бранковића, потомака деспота Ђурђа Бранковића. Откривене целине и покретни материјал указују на живот у граду у време столовања Бранковића, али не и током 14. столећа. Археолошки су потврђени историјски подаци о разарању тврђаве 1521. године у походу Османлија на Београд, праћеним великим пожаром у коме су урушене спратне конструкције куле са каљевим пећима. Унутар бедема утврђено је више нивоа коришћења и нивелација, као и то да – иако је Купиник изгубио значај војнопограничне тврђаве у одбрани јужних граница Угарске – живот овде није сасвим замро.

(Пећњаци из рушевинског слоја разарања тврђаве 1521. године; фото: Вељко Илић, Народни музеј Србије)

Емина Зечевић
Народни музеј Србије

In 2021 and 2022, the National Museum of Serbia conducted the first archaeological research at the fortress of Kupinik in Srem, one of the best-preserved Medieval fortifications in Vojvodina, classified as a so-called water town due to its specific structure and position. It was first mentioned in charters of the Hungarian king Sigismund of Luxembourg in the end of the 14th century as a "royal" town. During the 15th century, it was granted to Serbian despots and nobles, and became the residence of the last despots from the Branković family, descendants of despot Đurađ Branković. Discovered units and mobile material are indicative of the period of life in the city during the reign of the Branković family, but not during the 14th century. Archaeological evidence confirmed historical data about the destruction of the fortress in 1521 during the Ottoman campaign against Belgrade, followed by a great fire in which tower floor constructions collapsed, with ceramic stoves. Within the ramparts, several usage levels and levelling activities were registered, showing that – even though Kupinik lost its significance as a military-border fortress in the defence of Hungary's southern borders – life here did not completely die out.

(Stove tiles from the fortress from the debris layer destroyed in 1521; photo: Veljko Ilić, National Museum of Serbia)

Emina Zečević
National Museum of Serbia

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THE EARLY IRON AGE HORIZON AT THE SITE OF KAFILERIJA, NEAR ĆUPRIJA

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Abstract: *This paper analyses the archaeological assemblage from the site of Kafilerija, near Ćuprija, recovered during rescue excavations carried out in 2013. Its aim is to define the cultural and chronological characteristics of the earlier occupation horizon on the basis of stratigraphic relations, archaeological features, and the stylistic and typological analysis of the mobile finds. The excavations identified two occupation phases: a more recent phase, belonging to the Roman period, which is not discussed in this study, and an older phase, documented primarily by prehistoric pottery fragments, pits, and floors. The characteristics of the pottery indicate that the settlement was established in the Early Iron Age, most probably during the 10th or the 9th century BC, while the available evidence suggests that this horizon lasted no later than the end of the 8th century BC. Research results contribute to a more precise understanding of Early Iron Age settlement patterns in the Middle Pomoravlje region.*

Keywords: *Kafilerija, Ćuprija, Middle Pomoravlje region, Early Iron Age, pottery, settlement, pits, floors*

Introduction

The site was named after the nearby Veterinary Institution “Napredak” in Ćuprija, which is locally better known as Kafilerija. Until now, the site has not been the subject of a separate study in the archaeological literature; therefore, the data presented in this paper are based on the archaeological material and field documentation kept in the *Horreum Margi* – Ravno Museum in Ćuprija.

The site of Kafilerija had previously been known to the competent museum, but its archaeological potential was confirmed by a field survey conducted between 27 and 29 May 2013. The survey was carried out by specialists from the

Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments in Kragujevac and the local museum. The need for rescue archaeological excavations arose during the implementation of the project "Reconstruction and Modernisation of the Belgrade–Niš Railway Line", which included earthworks on the Gilje–Ćuprija–Paraćin section. Since the planned railway route affected part of the site of Kafilerija, rescue archaeological investigations were carried out under the organisation of the Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments in Kragujevac.[1]

Subsequently, in 2020, the Regional Museum in Paraćin, in cooperation with the Institute of Archaeology in Belgrade, carried out a revision field survey of the site. The aim of this research was to examine the wider area of the site, including an assessment of the natural and geographical suitability of its surroundings for potential palaeoeconomic activities (Milojević et al. 2021).

Geographical and environmental context of the site

The site of Kafilerija is located in the microregion of Veliko Pomoravlje, in the part of the upper Velika Morava basin that administratively belongs to the Municipality of Ćuprija. It is positioned in the southern outskirts of Ćuprija, in the vicinity of the so-called Terko settlement, within the cadastral tract known as Tonja. This is a broad valley plain on the right bank of the Velika Morava, in the zone facing the boundary with the Municipality of Paraćin.

The site itself occupies an area on the terrace plateau of the Velika Morava, which extends from Ćuprija towards Paraćin and which, in geomorphological terms, may be defined as the first Morava terrace, with local elements of proluvial-deluvial deposits. It is a slightly elevated plateau situated between the alluvial plain of the Velika Morava to the west and Karađorđevo Brdo (256 m) and Vezirovo Brdo (308 m) to the east. The terrace extends almost rectilinearly in a north-western/south-eastern direction, along the section between the mouth of the Crnica River in the south and the mouth of the Ravanica River in the north, over a length of approximately 8.5 km.

Today, this terrace lies between 1.3 and 4.5 km from the right bank of the Velika Morava, while below its edge, along almost its entire length, traces of the former dynamic course of the Morava can be observed in the form of oxbow depressions and dry channels. Although this section of the Morava terrace is uninhabited today, archaeological data indicate intensive occupation in the past. According to the results of the 2020 field survey and earlier investigations, 15

[1] The excavations were directed by archaeologist Marko Grković, director of the Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments in Kragujevac. The expert team consisted of Marija Kaličanin-Krstić, archaeologist; Ana Andrijević, archaeologist; Danica Milošević Jović, archaeologist; Sanja Sekulić, civil engineer; and Branko Aleksić, archaeology student.

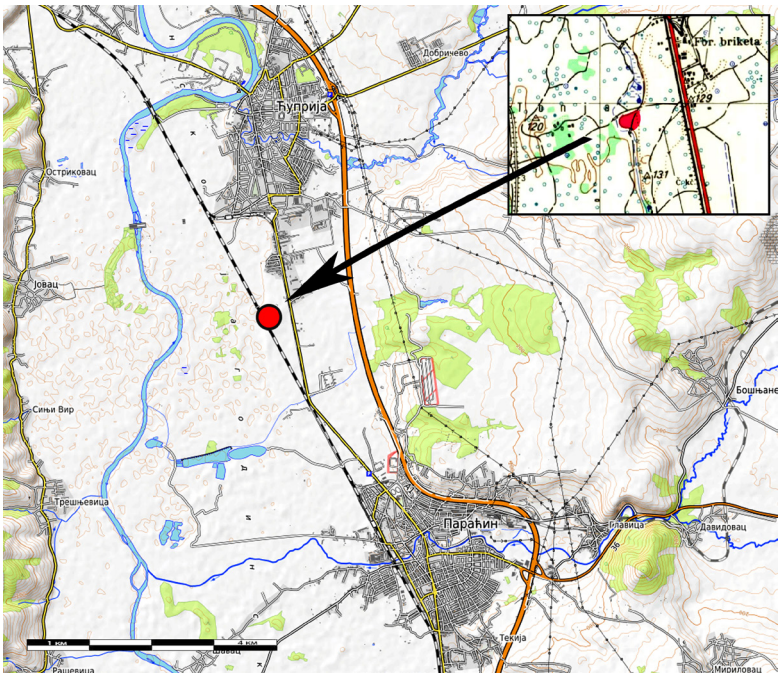

Fig. 1. Topographic position of the site of Kafilerija

Сл. 1. Топографски положај локалитета Кафилерија

sites with material traces dating from the Neolithic to Late Antiquity have been recorded on the terrace plateau (Milojević et al. 2021).

The site of Kafilerija occupies a characteristic position within a relatively uniform valley landscape. It is situated on a projecting terrace promontory covering approximately 2 ha, which was probably once located within the convex bend of a river meander (fig. 1). The remains of ponds and marshy areas, visible until recently and formerly surrounding this plateau, may be interpreted as traces of an earlier riverbed or branch of the Velika Morava. The plateau itself provides a good visual overview of the valley, since it lies at a higher elevation (128.3 m) than the alluvial plain (118.9 m). This elevated position probably offered protection from the immediate effects of river overflow and flooding. In addition, the configuration of the terrain suggests certain natural defensive advantages: the terrace promontory is elevated and surrounded on three sides by water or marshy zones, while easier access was possible only from the eastern side, where it merges with the broader Morava terrace.

If a meander of the Velika Morava did indeed exist in the immediate vicinity of Kafilerija, such a hydrographic setting may have offered considerable fishing potential. In the zones of meander bends, the river current slows down,

creating more favourable conditions for the retention of ichthyofauna, resting areas for fish, and accumulation of food resources; consequently, higher concentrations of fish populations are often recorded in such locations (Sukhodolov 2012; Garcia et al. 2012, 50, 60–63). In addition, parts of a river course with a weaker current and favourable channel configuration could have represented suitable crossing points across larger watercourses. In this respect, the positions of fords, ferry crossings and bridges on the Morava may serve as useful comparative indicators, although they should be regarded as indirect rather than direct evidence of prehistoric communication routes.

Four water sources were recorded along the northern edge of the terrace promontory, which further indicates the favourable character of this microlocation for settlement. Alluvial sediments are also present in the immediate vicinity of the site, including silty-sandy clays that may have been suitable for the production of baking lids and pottery. Quartz was also recorded across the wider area, representing a raw material that could have been used for the production of chipped stone tools. In addition, alluvial deposits in certain geological settings may contain metallic raw materials, such as gold, silver, tin, copper, and magnetite, with river meanders and bends often standing out as particularly favourable zones for their accumulation (Еремија 1980, 304; Els and Eriksson 2006). However, for the time being, there is no confirmation that such resources were present or exploited in the immediate surroundings of Kafilerija. This possibility should therefore be considered only as a geological and palaeoeconomic potential.

No deposits of metallic raw materials are known within the site catchment area, that is to say, within a radius of 5 km. The nearest copper (Cu) deposits are located approximately 20 km north-east of Kafilerija, on the slopes of the Baba and Samanjac mountains, more precisely in the area of the site of Javorac – Obradova Stolica (Veselinović et al. 1970, 45; Вујановић 1978). Occurrences of gold (Au) are associated with the area around the course of the Krčeva River (Vukas 2014), while iron (Fe) deposits have been recorded in the mountain zone of Juhor, approximately 10–15 km from Kafilerija, near the village of Trešnjevica (Dolić et al. 1981; Јанковић 1990, 358, 722–725). However, the possible exploitation of these resources in prehistory has not yet been archaeologically confirmed. In the context of this paper, they should therefore be regarded primarily as potential raw-material resources rather than as demonstrated economic foundations of the settlement.[2]

[2] During the excavations of Momčilov Grad on Juhor, iron slag and iron objects were found, possibly indicating metallurgical activities during the Iron Age and/or Late Antiquity. Such a cautious chronological attribution is necessary because both horizons are documented in the site stratigraphy (Брмболић 1986; Вучковић et al. 2021). The possibility of metallurgical activities in the wider area of Momčilov Grad is further supported by the find of an iron ingot (Милојевић 2023, 278–279, fig. 82).

These data are significant for understanding settlement patterns in a regional context, as well as for identifying possible palaeoeconomic strategies of communities from different periods of the past. The Morava terrace, as a contact zone between two areas with different topographic and biogeographic characteristics, probably represented a favourable choice for settlement. Such a position may have enabled the use of different resource zones within the broader settlement area. This may also be considered through the model of a traditional system of spatially organised agricultural exploitation within a village territory, known from the ethnographic past (Вукосављевић 2012, 185–201).

In addition to agricultural advantages, favourable communication conditions were also an important factor in the choice of settlement location. Naturally predisposed points along larger rivers, characterised by a suitable channel configuration and a weaker current, may have been particularly significant, as they facilitated river crossing by means of fords, watercraft, or bridging (Šećković 1976). The local availability of raw materials such as clay, stone, and wood was likewise important for meeting the basic construction and craft requirements associated with the establishment and maintenance of households in the past, as suggested by ethnographic parallels (Филиповић 1951, 39–48; Flannery and Winter 1976; Kramer 1985, 79; Rice 1987, 116–117; Вукосављевић 2012, 333).

Archaeological context of the site

During the rescue archaeological excavations at the site of Kafilerija, an area within a sector measuring 35 × 100 m was investigated. The excavation area was organised as a square grid, oriented north-west/south-east. Along the X axis, the squares were labelled with Cyrillic letters A, B, V, G, D, Đ and E (А, Б, В, Г, Д, Ђ, and Е), with the grid starting at its northern corner. Along the Y axis, the squares were marked with Arabic numerals from 1 to 20, with the numbering running from west to east (fig. 2). Each square measured 5 × 5 m. A total area of 352 m² was excavated and documented within 22 squares.

The first group of squares was investigated in the north-western part of the grid. Excavations were initially carried out in squares D1, E1, G2, Đ2, D3, and E3. After the excavation had reached the sterile subsoil and the stratigraphic and spatial data had been documented, the investigations continued in the south-eastern part of the grid, in squares V18, D18, B20, G20, and Đ20. Since only a very small quantity of archaeological material was recorded in this zone, further excavations towards the south-east were not undertaken.

The work was then redirected towards the central part of the grid, where squares Đ13, G13, E11, D11, V11, A11, Đ9, G9, B9, and E7 were excavated.

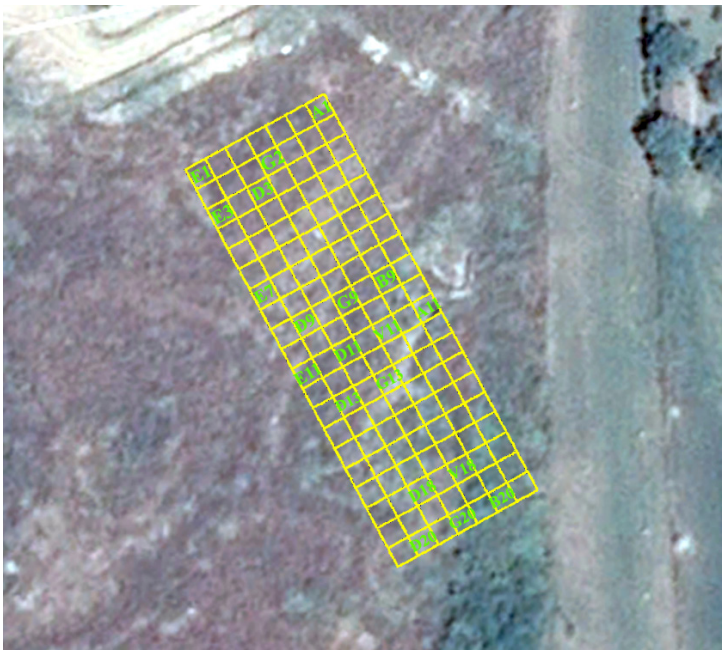

Fig. 2. Square grid at Kafilerija with labelled squares in which archaeological excavations were carried out

Сл. 2. Квадратна мрежа на Кафилерији са именованим квадратима на којима су вршена археолошка ископавања

The last square to be opened was A1, in the north-eastern corner of the grid, with the aim of assessing the quantity of archaeological material and establishing the relationship between this part of the site and other excavated areas.

The highest concentration of mobile archaeological material was recorded in the western part of the grid, where several archaeological features were also documented. Some of these features contained compacted earth floors, while others were distinguished by higher concentrations of pottery, daub, and ash. The lowest point of the cultural layer was recorded in square Ђ2, in pit 3, where a relative depth of 3.30 m was reached in relation to the surface level of the site.

The results of the archaeological research revealed a relatively simple stratigraphic sequence, indicating two occupation horizons at the site of Kafilerija. The earlier horizon may be attributed to the Iron Age, while the later horizon belongs to the Roman period. Both horizons were disturbed to a certain extent: the earlier by Roman-period interventions, and the later by subsequent agricultural cultivation. Judging by the quantity of mobile material and the number of archaeological features, the Iron Age remains represent the more intensive archaeological horizon and may be interpreted as part of a settlement.

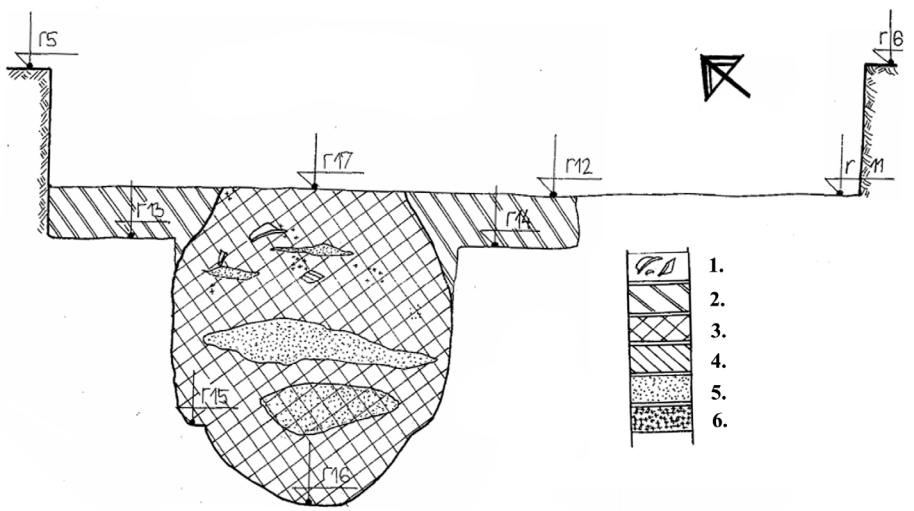

Fig. 3. North-eastern profile of pit 5; 1. pottery; 2. yellow clayey sediment; 3. grey sediment; 4. yellow sediment; 5. ash; 6. charcoal

Сл. 3. Североисточни профил јаме 5; 1. керамика; 2. жути глиновити седимент; 3. сиви седимент; 4. жути седимент; 5. пепео; 6. гареж

Iron Age archaeological features

The highest concentration of Iron Age finds was recorded in the yellowish-brown soil layer, which lay beneath the greyish-brown surface layer. In stratigraphic terms, this horizon appeared in almost all excavated areas at a depth of 20–40 cm and extended down to the clayey sterile subsoil, reaching a maximum thickness of approximately 60 cm. In most excavated squares, the horizon had been disturbed to a greater or lesser extent, primarily by later Roman-period interventions and subsequent agricultural cultivation.

In several squares – V11, G9, G13, D1, D11, E7, E11, and Đ13 – varying concentrations of daub were recorded within this layer, while floor remains were documented in four squares: G9, G13, D1, and E7. On the basis of the concentration of mobile finds, the presence of daub, floor remains, and cut features, it may be concluded that the 2013 rescue excavations encompassed part of an Iron Age settlement.

Within this horizon, five cut features containing mobile finds attributable to the Early Iron Age were identified. These features were documented as pits 2, 4, 5, 6, and 7. The largest was pit 5, discovered in square D11. It was pear-shaped, with a maximum diameter of 1.4 m. The cut reached a depth of 1.6 m from the base of the third excavation layer, or 2.4 m below the ground surface (fig. 3). The fill consisted mainly of ash, with a smaller quantity of charcoal. The finds include



Fig. 4. Spindle whorl *in situ* in pit 5, sq. D11, photographed from the west

Сл. 4. Пршљенак *in situ* у јами 5, кв. Д11, сликано са запада



Fig. 5. North-western part of pit 4 in square G20, photographed from the north-east

Сл. 5. СЗ део јаме 4 у кв. Г20, сликано са североистока



Fig. 6. Plan view of pit 6, square Đ13, photographed from the south-west

Сл. 6. Основа јаме 6, кв. Ђ13, сликано са југозапада

a conically modelled pot with a very coarse texture, pottery fragments, a spindle whorl (fig. 4), a pyramidal ceramic weight, and a heavily corroded flat iron object that may be a blade fragment.

The remaining pits were considerably smaller. Pit 2 was documented at the level of the sterile subsoil in square D1. It was 110 cm wide and 25 cm deep, and its fill consisted of grey ash-rich soil with pottery fragments. Pit 4, 80 cm in diameter and 60 cm deep, was located in square G20 (fig. 5). It contained only a very small quantity of mobile finds, while its lower part was filled with a larger amount of charcoal. Pit 6, with 95 cm in diameter and 25 cm deep, was discovered in square Đ13 (fig. 6). In addition to a small number of pottery fragments, it contained three stone querns. Owing to its small dimensions and shape, pit 7, located in square G9, was interpreted as a posthole for a wooden post.

In addition to the pits, four other features containing floor remains and daub were identified, probably representing the remains of above-ground house structures. Particularly notable is the feature in square E7, where traces of a compacted-earth floor measuring 5 × 3.2 m were documented. Within this floor area, a well-preserved circular clay installation, with 1.2 m in diameter and made of intensely fired clay, was identified; it appears to have been repeatedly exposed to fire (fig. 7). The presence of charcoal-rich material, ash, and a substantial quantity of fired clay suggests that this circular feature most probably represented the base of an oven or hearth.

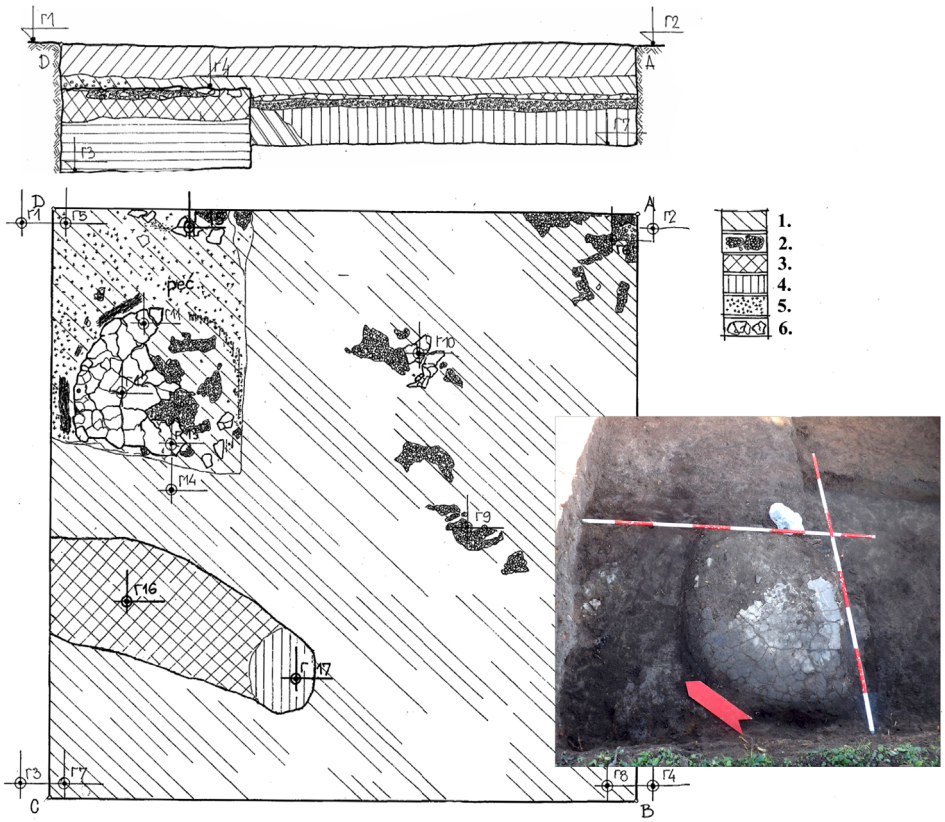

Fig. 7. Sketch plan of square E7 with the north-western profile and a photograph of the fired base of an oven or hearth; 1. yellowish-brown sediment; 2. daub; 3. grey-ashy sediment; 4. dark-brown sediment; 5. charcoal; 6. burnt floor surface

Сл. 7. Скица основе квадрата E7 са северозападним профилом и фотографијом запечене основе пећи или огњишта; 1. жутомрки седимент; 2. леп; 3. сивопепељасти седимент; 4. тамномрки седимент; 5. гареж; 6. фрагменти запечене поднице

Iron Age ceramic material

The Iron Age finds assemblage consists mainly of pottery fragments, while quern fragments (Pl. III/5–6), chipped stone tools, weights (Pl. III/4), spindle whorls, and objects made of worked animal bone and horn (Pl. III/2–3) are considerably less frequent. The only metal object that can be associated with greater certainty with the Iron Age horizon was discovered in the contact zone of the yellowish-brown soil layer and the sterile subsoil in square Đ2. It is a copper or bronze wire of circular cross-section, with 1–1.5 mm in diameter and 97 mm long, without decorative motifs or other diagnostic details. For this reason,

its original function cannot be determined with certainty, although it may have formed part of a jewellery item or a small functional element.

Most of the Iron Age ceramic assemblage consists of vessel fragments of coarse texture, with unburnished surfaces and inclusions of coarse-grained sand and small stones. These vessels were most often fired in dark brown and reddish tones. They mostly comprise coarse kitchen ware and storage vessels, produced without elaborate technological or surface treatment. Decorative elements are rare and usually consist of one or two applied ornamental bands decorated with incisions, circular impressions, or square impressions. Vessels of medium and fine texture are less frequent, but display greater diversity in form and decoration. This group includes fragments of beakers, cups, and bowls, as well as parts of larger vessels intended for storage or cooking (Pl. I/7–8).

In addition to arched handles of circular or semi-circular cross-section (Pl. I/1, 3–4), vessels also had tongue-shaped, knob-like, strap handles (Pl. I/5–7; Pl. II/19), and horseshoe-shaped handles (Pl. I/2). The rims are most often thickened, straight-cut or obliquely cut, and frequently everted or projecting outwards from the vessel body. In some cases, they are decorated with oblique incisions (Pl. II/11). Thinned rims occur much less frequently and are generally associated with pear-shaped vessels of fine texture (Pl. I/7; Pl. II/12).

Tableware is most frequently represented by slightly biconical bowls with inturned, horizontally faceted rims (Pl. II/2, 7–9), while examples with obliquely faceted rims are less common (Pl. II/5). This bowl type is widely distributed across almost the entire Balkan Peninsula, as well as in the southern parts of Central Europe, from the beginning of the Late Bronze Age to the end of the Early Iron Age (Булатовић 2009). At Kafilerija, the assemblage includes slightly biconical bowls with horizontally or obliquely faceted upper bodies, as well as hemispherical bowls with inturned rims and a single horizontal facet. According to the typology of A. Bulatović, these forms correspond to variants Ia, Ia1, and Ib, which predominate at sites with horizons dated to Ha A2–B3 (Булатовић 2009, 96).

At better investigated sites, such as Bosut, the same forms have been shown to continue to be in use during the Ha C period (Medović i Medović 2010, fig. 70/5, 71/8, 11, 82/6–7, 92/7, 93/4, 94/5, 99/10, 101/8–9, 118/1, 120/8, 124/9, 138/13–15, 148/10, 153/4–5, 14–15, 18). A comparable situation has been observed in the Velika Morava basin, where variants Ia and Ia1 dominate in Iron Age Ia–b layers, corresponding to Ha A2–Ha B2 (Булатовић 2009, 97). The same variants also occur in the Ha B3–Ha C phases, corresponding to the Lanište I and Lanište II – Basarabi phases according to M. Stojić (Стојић 2004, 170–179). At *Mediana*, near Niš, these bowl variants are almost equally represented

in horizons II (Ha A2–B1) and III (Ha B1–B2) (Милојевић 2023, Т. XV/1–2, Т. XVIII/4–5). In the Južna Morava basin, they occur in strata II–IV at Hisar (Ha A2–B1), in horizons III–IV at Kržince (Ha A2–Ha B3), and at the sites of Resulja (Ha A2), Crkvište (Ha B), and Svinjište (Ha B) (Лазић 2005, 149, Т. V/3, VII/10–12, VIII/1–3, XII/1, 2, 4, XIII/1–6; Булатовић 2007, 77–83, 202–208; Булатовић 2009, 98; Булатовић и Капуран 2013, 114–115, Т. I/4–6, II/27–28, III/52, 57, 63; Bulatović and Kapuran 2007, 8, T. I/12). These forms are also attested at sites with Iron Age horizons dated to Ha C1–2, such as Meanište near Ranutovac, where some examples bear a row of square impressions made with a roulette (Булатовић и др. 2016, Т. II/21).

Within the Kafilerija assemblage, particularly diagnostic are a bowl fragment bearing a row of stamped S-shaped ornaments within a facet (Pl. II/2), and a fragment whose belly, below the faceted zone, bears two horizontal rows with the same motif (Pl. II/10). This decorative motif is associated with the developed phase of the Basarabi style and was widely used in vessel decoration from the 8th century BC onwards (Jevtić 1992, 395–396). Apart from pottery, the same ornament was also recorded on a ceramic spindle whorl from Kafilerija (Pl. III/1). Overall, S-shaped ornaments are relatively rare on pottery from Kafilerija and occur in rather archaic forms. It may therefore be assumed that this decorative motif at Kafilerija represents an early phase of its local stylisation, before acquiring a more standardised and recognisable form in the later development of the Basarabi style.

The decorative repertoire of pottery from Kafilerija also includes a varied group of motifs produced by puncturing. These consist of circular, crescent-shaped, triangular, and square punctate impressions (Pl. I/8; Pl. II/11–15), in some cases set within narrow grooves (Pl. II/11). Comparable puncturing techniques are frequently documented on vessels attributed to the Ha B phase in the Morava region (Stojić 1986, Pls. V/2, XII/5, XIV/1, 7, XVIII/1, XX/6, 8; Стојић 2004, Pls. IX/16, X/7), as well as at sites with later Ha C horizons (Stojić 1986, Pls. XXV/5, XXVII/2, XXX/8; Стојић 2004, Pls. XI/8, 12). Vessels with outer surfaces burnished to a high gloss were also recorded (Pl. I/7).

Particularly significant is a decorative motif consisting of a series of fine oblique incisions made with a toothed tool. On one example, this motif appears as a zigzag pattern within a facet, while two parallel horizontal lines enclose an impressed row of S-shaped ornaments on the belly of the same bowl (Pl. II/9). This type of decoration may be regarded as a possible precursor to the tremolo technique, which developed at the beginning of the 7th century BC, although its wider use probably occurred somewhat later, around the middle of the same century (Jevtić 1992, 348–354, 397; Stojić 1986, 101–102; Стојић 2004, 72–74).

Ornaments consisting of dense oblique incisions, as well as square impressions executed either within grooves or outside them, are already attested within the Ha B phase. In the course of subsequent development, they became one of the characteristic decorative elements in the area of Kosovo, northern Macedonia, and the Vranje–Morava region. On the basis of these motifs, together with other material culture elements, this area has been distinguished in the literature as a separate cultural zone, which by the Ha C phase came to be defined as a distinct cultural group (Srejović 1973; Гарашанин 1988; Васић 1990; Тасић 1998; Bulatović 2007a).

Conclusion

The investigations at the site of Kafilerija, near Ćuprija, have made it possible, for the first time, to gain a clearer insight into a previously unpublished Iron Age settlement horizon on the right bank of the Velika Morava. Although the 2013 rescue excavations were conditioned by the route of infrastructure works and covered only a limited area of the site, the results indicate that this was an archaeologically significant location within the upper Velika Morava basin. It is particularly important to note the fact that the settlement was established on a terrace promontory, in a zone that provided a good overview of the valley, relative protection from flooding, access to water, and the possibility of exploiting different resource zones in the wider surroundings.

The subject of this paper is exclusively the earlier, prehistoric horizon of the site, namely, archaeological features and finds that can be associated with the Iron Age. The later, Roman-period horizon was recorded in the stratigraphy of the site and is relevant for understanding subsequent disturbances and the transformation of the site, but it wasn't analysed separately in this paper. Accordingly, the interpretation, typological and chronological assessment, and cultural-regional positioning are focused primarily on the material from the prehistoric, or Iron Age, context.

The documented archaeological features, primarily pits, floor remains, concentrations of daub, and a structure with traces of intensive burning, indicate that the excavated part of the site may be interpreted as a segment of a settlement, rather than merely as an area of secondary deposition. The finds assemblage, dominated by pottery fragments and supplemented by quern fragments, weights, spindle whorls, chipped stone tools, and objects made of worked bone and horn, points to activities characteristic of everyday household life. In this respect, Kafilerija contributes to a better understanding of settlement organisation and material culture during the Early Iron Age in the Middle Morava region.

The distribution of Iron Age finds and the layout of archaeological features are not uniform across all excavated trenches. The highest concentration of archaeological material and features was recorded in the central part of the excavated area, while their frequency decreases towards the southern, and especially the northern, part of the Morava terrace. The central part of the grid, in fact, encompasses the eastern edge of the terrace promontory, on which the main part of the settlement was probably located. This distribution indicates that the 2013 rescue excavations covered only the eastern periphery of the settlement, while its central part remained outside the expropriation zone.

This circumstance, together with disturbances from later periods and the limited presence of chronologically diagnostic ceramic material in the pits, prevents a more precise differentiation of chronological sequences within the Iron Age horizon. This part of the site stratigraphy may therefore be regarded as a single-layered prehistoric settlement, that is to say, as a horizon in which, on the basis of the available evidence, it is not possible to reliably distinguish several successive occupation phases.

At the same time, the stylistic and typological features of the pottery indicate that occupation at Kafilerija probably extended over a relatively long chronological span. The beginning of this horizon may be broadly assigned to the Ha B2–B3 phases, while certain elements suggest that it may have continued into the initial stage of Ha C1. It should also be taken into account that older vessel forms and decorative elements may have remained in use for some time, alongside newer decorative techniques and motifs. Nevertheless, the archaically rendered S-shaped ornaments and the absence of a developed tremolo technique suggest that the Iron Age settlement at Kafilerija most probably did not continue significantly beyond the end of the 8th century BC.

In a broader regional context, finds from Kafilerija complement the existing picture of settlement in the middle Morava region during the Early Iron Age and underline the importance of terrace locations along major river courses. Although the limited scope of the excavations does not allow for a full reconstruction of the settlement organisation, the available evidence clearly indicates that this area participated in cultural processes linking the Morava region with the wider Central Balkan and Danubian spheres. The particular value of Kafilerija lies in its settlement context, since sites of this kind are essential for understanding household economy, spatial organisation, and cultural-chronological developments during the Early Iron Age. Given that the rescue excavations covered only the peripheral zone of the site, a more complete understanding of its internal organisation, chronology, and function will require further systematic research.

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ХОРИЗОНТ РАНОГ ГВОЗДЕНОГ ДОБА СА ЛОКАЛИТЕТА КАФИЛЕРИЈА КОД ЋУПРИЈЕ

Кључне речи: *Кафилерија, Ћуприја, средње Поморавље, рано гвоздено доба, керамика, насеље, јаме, поднице*

Рад се бави анализом старијег, праисторијског хоризонта налазишта Кафилерија код Ћуприје, који се на основу стратиграфских односа и стилско-типолошких одлика покретног материјала може определити у гвоздено доба. Локалитет је истраживан током заштитних археолошких ископавања 2013. године, спроведених поводом радова на реконструкцији и модернизацији железничке пруге Београд–Ниш. Предмет рада нису били налази из млађег, античког хоризонта, већ искључиво непокретне целине и покретни археолошки материјал који се могу довести у везу са праисторијским, односно гвозденодобним насељем.

Кафилерија се налази на јужној периферији Ћуприје, у делу горњовеликоморавске котлине, на десној обали Велике Мораве. Локалитет је позициониран на благо уздигнутом терасном језичку, површине око 2 ха, који је вероватно био смештен у зони некадашњег меандра или рукавца Велике Мораве. Овакав положај пружао је више насеобинских предности: релативну заштиту од плављења, добар визуелни преглед долине, приступ води, могућност коришћења алувијалних и терасних ресурсних зона, као и потенцијалну контролу локалних комуникација. У ширем окружењу налазишта евидентирани су извори воде, погодне глине, кварц и други природни ресурси, док лежишта металичних сировина у непосредном економском радијусу од 5 км нису потврђена.

Заштитним ископавањима обухваћена је ограничена површина локалитета, организована у квадратну мрежу. Стратиграфска слика показала је постојање два хоризонта насељавања: старијег, гвозденодобног, и млађег, античког. Гвозденодобни хоризонт регистрован је у слоју жутомрке земље, испод површинског слоја, и у већини сонди појављује се на дубини од 20 до 40 цм, достижући максималну дебљину од око 60 цм. Овај хоризонт био је делимично поремећен каснијим античким интервенцијама и култивацијом земљишта.

У оквиру гвозденодобног хоризонта документовани су остаци јама, подница, концентрације кућног лепа и структура са траговима интензивног горења. Посебно се издваја структура у квадрату Е7, са подницом од набијене земље и кружном површином од интензивно запечене глине, која се може тумачити као основа пећи или огњишта. Овакви налази указују да је истражени део локалитета представљао сегмент насеља, а не само зону секундарног депоновања материјала.

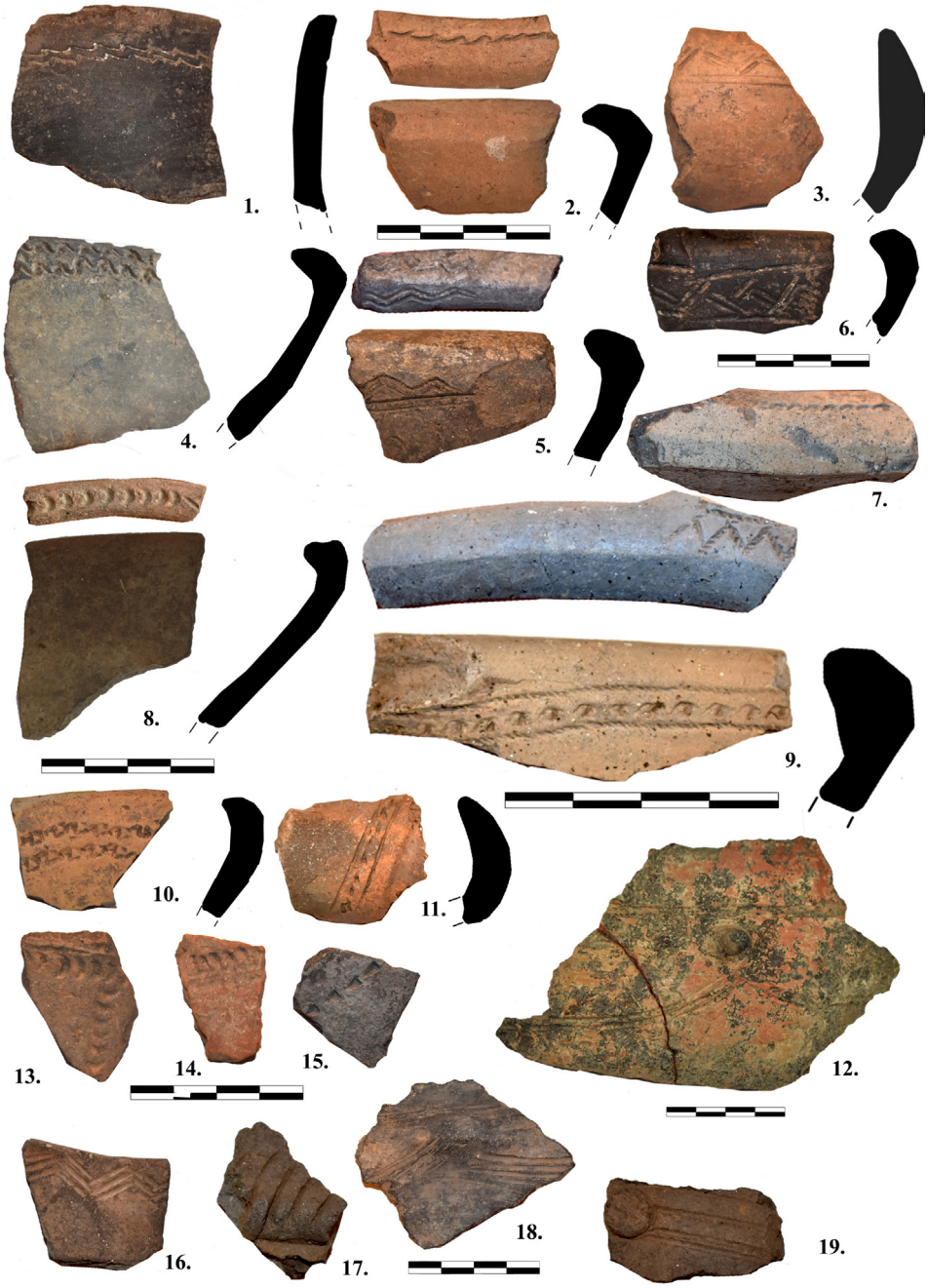
Покретни археолошки материјал највећим делом чине фрагменти грнчарије, док су налази жрвњева, тегова, пршљенака, окресаних алатки и предмета од обрађене кости и рога ређе заступљени. Керамички инвентар обухвата посуде грубе, средње и фине фактуре, међу којима се издвајају кухињско посуђе, посуде за складиштење, пехари, шоље и зделе. Хронолошки су нарочито значајне благо биконичне зделе са хоризонтално или косо фасетираним ободом, као и фрагменти украшени жигосаним S-орнаментима, убодима, урезима и мотивима који могу претходити развијеној тремоло техници.

На основу стилско-типолошке анализе керамике, почетак гвозденодобног хоризонта на Кафилерији може се оквирно везати за фазе Ha B2–B3, уз могућност трајања до почетне етапе Ha C1. Ипак, због ограничене површине истраживања, поремећене стратиграфије и малог броја затворених целина са индикативним материјалом, није могуће издвојити више унутрашњих хронолошких секвенци. Налазиште Кафилерија стога представља значајан прилог познавању насеобинске организације, свакодневних активности и културно-хронолошких процеса раног гвозденог доба у средњем Поморављу.



Pl. I Ceramic material from the site of Kafilerija recovered during the 2013 rescue excavations (collection of the *Horreum Margi* – Ravno Museum in Ćuprija)

Т. I Керамички материјал са локалитета Кафилерија пронађен током заштитних истраживања 2013. године (Збирка музеја „Horreum Margi" – Равно у Ћуприји)



Pl. II Ceramic material from the site of Kafilerija recovered during the 2013 rescue excavations (collection of the *Horreum Margi* – Ravno Museum in Ćuprija)

Т. II Керамички материјал са локалитета Кафилерија пронађен током заштитних истраживања 2013. године (Збирка музеја „Horreum Margi" – Равно у Ћуприји)



Pl. III Special finds from the site of Kafilerija recovered during the 2013 rescue excavations (collection of the *Horreum Margi* – Ravno Museum in Ćuprija)

Т. III Посебни налази са локалитета Кафилерија пронађени током заштитних истраживања 2013. године (Збирка музеја „Horreum Margi" – Равно у Ћуприји)

УПУТСТВО АУТОРИМА

Рукописи се предају на српском језику у ћириличкој верзији писма (са подршком Serbian Cyrillic) или неком од широко распрострањених европских језика (енглеском, немачком, француском, италијанском, руском). Уколико се рукопис предаје на српском језику, аутор је дужан да приложи и резиме на енглеском језику. Уколико се рад предаје на страном језику, треба да садржи и резиме на српском језику. Потписи испод слика и кључне речи треба да буду на српском и на енглеском језику уколико је основни текст на српском или енглеском, односно на српском и на основном језику текста уколико је основни текст француски, немачки и др. Речи, наводи и наслови писани на неком од страних језика треба да буду написани у свом изворном облику.

Чланци који се предају редакцији ***Гласника Срӣскоӣ археолошкоӣ друштва*** треба да се припреме тако да садрже следећим редоследом: наслов, име и презиме аутора са афилијацијом, сажетак (апстракт), кључне речи, основни текст, захвалницу или напомемну (није обавезна), библиографију, резиме (посебан документ), графичке прилоге (посебни документи), наслови и текстуални садржај илустративних прилога (посебан документ) и контакт податке (посебан документ). Сви фајлови који се предају треба да садрже име аутора у називу фајла, на пример: petrovic-tekst.doc, petrovic-slika1.jpg, и слично.

Рукописи ће бити примљени само уколико су писани и опремљени у складу са наведеним правилима. Редакција ће вратити на дораду текстове који нису припремљени у складу са правилима. Сваки од приспелих радова редакција ***Гласника Срӣскоӣ археолошкоӣ друштва*** проследиће анонимним рецензентима. Редакција одлучује о категоризацији позитивно оцењених рукописа, у складу са критеријумима наведеним у важећим актима о уређењу научних часописа Министарства просвете, науке и технолошког развоја Републике Србије.

Радови се предају у дигиталној форми, на адресу sad.glasnik@gmail.com.

Цело Упутство се налази на сајту *Гласника Срӣскоӣ археолошкоӣ друштва*: https://arheologija.rs/en/jsas-about-the-journal/

GUIDELINES FOR THE AUTHORS

The manuscripts are submitted in the Serbian language in the Cyrillic version of the script (with Serbian Cyrillic support) or in some of the widespread European languages: English, German, French, Italian, Russian. If the manuscript is submitted in Serbian, the author is required to enclose a résumé in English. If the author submits the work in a foreign language which is not his or her native language, it is required to state the name of the translator, or the press corrector who prepared the version of the text in a foreign language. Besides, key words, résumé, and captions below the illustrations in Serbian should be added to the works written in a foreign language. Words, quotations and titles written in any of the foreign languages should be written in their original form.

The articles submitted to the editorial board of the *Journal of the Serbian Archaeological Society* should contain, in the following order: title, name of the author with the affiliation, summary (abstract), key words, body text, bibliography, acknowledgements (not required), résumé (separate file), graphical appendices (separate files), list of illustrations and textual content of illustrative annexes (separate file) and contact details (separate file).

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УРЕЂИВАЧКА ПОЛИТИКА

Часопис *Гласник Српског археолошког друштва* је покренут 1984. као научно-стручно гласило Српског археолошког друштва и посвећен је свим темама из области археологије и сродних дисциплина које су укључене у археолошка истраживања (антропологија, архитектура, етнологија, историја уметности, историја, геологија итд.). У њему се објављују оригинални, претходно необјављени радови (оригинални научни радови, прегледни радови, кратка саопштења, извештаји с ископавања, осврти, критике, прикази, библиографије, биографије значајних археолога, некролози). *Гласник Српског археолошког друштва* излази једном годишње. У *Гласнику Српског археолошког друштва* објављују се радови на српском, енглеском, немачком, француском, италијанском и руском језику.

Часопис *Гласник Српског археолошког друштва* је доступан у режиму отвореног приступа. Чланци објављени у часопису могу се бесплатно преузети са сајта часописа и користити у складу са лиценцом Creative Commons – Autorstvo-Nekomercijalno-Bez prerada (https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/).

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The process of submitting papers, peer reviews and publishing is free of charge.

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