

Eight Balkan Symposium on Archaeometry

3rd—6th October 2022, Belgrade, Serbia

Book of Abstracts

Eight Balkan Symposium in Archaeometry

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CONTENTS

Preface	9
Abstracts	11
Macro-Raman mapping: a new step in Raman spectroscopy of art objects P. Vandenaabeele and A. Rousaki	13
MA-XRF imaging of Greek Antiquities A. G. Karydas, C. Caliri, E. Eleftheriou, K. Tsampa, Th. Gerodimos and D. F. Anagnostopoulos	15
Glass through the Adriatic: an overview E. Gliozzo, F. Giannetti, M. Turchiano and M. Ferri	17
Metallurgy of the Vinča culture: going beyond the 'earliest' and the 'first' M. Radivojević and Th. Rehren	19
Latest analyses on Russian Byzantine frescoes from Novgorod A. R. G. Giunlia-Mair and M. V. Vdovichenko	21
Stable isotope analysis of human bone remains from the North-Thracian <i>dava</i> at Popești (2 nd – 1 st c. BC), in Southeastern Romania N. Palincaș, V. Atudorei, C. A. Simion, M. Mihon, A. Răzvan Petre, C. Mănăilescu and C. Șendroi	23
Radiocarbon dating of animal bones from Vindija and Mujina Pećina caves – can we have an agreement? I. Krajar Bronić, I. Karavanić, A. Sironić, N. Vukosavljević, M. Banda and F. Smith	25
Environmental and Historical Context of the King's Road near Novi Pazar– application of GIS I. Kajtez and V. Vidosavljević	27
Digital mapping and 3D geovisualization in cultural heritage. The Ancient Pylos case study G. Malaperdas and N. Zacharias	29
A Software Tool for Egyptian-Coptic Language A. Kontogianni, T. Ganetsos and E. C. Papakitsos	31
Analysis of Panel Paintings by Clinical Multi-Slice Computed Tomography O. Klisurić, O. Nikolić, A. Spasić, U. Molnar, V. Till and D. Korolija Crkvenjakov.....	33
Preliminary results on the presence, diversity, and dynamics of cellulolytic airborne fungi on the premises of the Archbishop's and Kaptol's Library, and the State	

Archives in Zadar

J. Lončar, M. Šimić, I. Genda and A. Mlikota.....	35
State of conservation and characteristics of constituent materials: case studies of XVIII century Serbian National Theatre building and a Romanian industrial building from the beginning of XX century	
S. Vučetić, H. Hirsberger, B. Miljević, J. Ranogajec, M. Ignat, R. Constantinescu and L. Miu	37
Spectroscopic investigation of the pigments used for the decoration of Early-Neolithic pottery from the region of Pernik, Western Bulgaria	
A. Pirovska, V. Tankova, V. Mihailov and V. Atanassova	41
Multidisciplinary study of Wassily Kandinsky's reverse glass painting	
M. Marić Stojanović, T. Tripković and B. Anđelković	43
Analysis of pigments palette attributes to Theophilus Chatzimichael from wall paintings in the House of Kontos	
K. Romantzi and T. Ganetsos	45
Identification of pigments on the 18 th century iconostasis of St. Peter and Paul church in Sirogojno	
T. Tripković, R. Vasić, A. Lolić and R. Baošić.....	47
Pigments study of the decorative paintings of Dragutin Inkiostri Medenjak in the Titel house by means of Raman spectroscopy	
D. Korolija Crkvenjakov, T. Ganetsos and O. Klisurić	49
HHXRF characterization of pigments on funerary paintings from the Royal Tombs at Aigai, ancient Macedonia	
H. Brecolaki, K. Tsampa, E. Eleftheriou and A. G. Karydas.....	51
Recognizing the Value of Historic Mortars: from a Database to an Exhibition	
E. Nikolić, M. Jovičić, I. Delić-Nikolić, Lj. Miličić, S. Vučetić and J. Ranogajec.....	53
Scientific Investigations at Harappan Hinterlands of Rakhigarhi, Northwest India	
A. Chowdhary.....	55
A multidisciplinary study of Iron Age glass beads from the Cave Coroneia, Boeotia, Greece	
A. Oikonomou, S. Oikonomidis, K. Bataoula, N. Skoumi and A. G. Karydas	57
ICP-LA-MS analysis of Archaic to Hellenistic glass from Thebes, Greece: a contribution to glass studies	
M. Kaparou, A. Oikonomou, V. S. Šelih, J. T. van Elteren and N. Zacharias.....	61
Roman, Late Antique and Early Byzantine glass from Serbia – overview and what comes next	
R. Balvanović.....	63

Trace element and Pb-Ag isotope signatures of silver ore deposits of the central Balkans and applications for provenance studies K. J. Westner, M. Vaxevanopoulos, J. Blichert-Toft and F. Albarède.....	65
Metalworking technologies in the 5 th -century AD Carpathian Basin – changes in metal composition, manufacture, technology and decorating techniques V. Mozgai, E. Horváth, A. Mihácz-Pálfi, G. Szenthe, Zs. Hajnal, L. Schilling and B. Bajnóczi	67
Methodological framework for successful written heritage preservation management – operational and material aspects I. Horvat and D. Hasenay.....	69
The application of non-destructive techniques to identify Mycenaean jewels from a chamber tomb in central Greece E. Karantzali, T. Ganetsos, K. Romantzi and N. Laskaris.....	71
Raman and XRF Characterization of Obsidian from Early Eneolithic site Šanac-Izba near Lipolist in Western Serbia N. Marković, B. Tripković and D. Bajuk-Bogdanović	73
Stone biographies. Use-wear and residue analysis of knapped stone artifacts as direct proof of prehistoric processes of past societies A. Petrović, S. Nunziante Cesaro and C. Lemorini.....	75
Pigments Identification: Comparative examination of materials and techniques in the Hermitage Ascension in Pythion of Olympus, Greece. M. Katsantoni and T. Ganetsos	77
Use of resources in Vinča culture: a spectroscopic study of pigments for pottery decoration V. Bogosavljević Petrović, D. Bajuk-Bogdanović, N.M. Koturović, M. Svilar, M. Marić Stojanović and Lj. Damjanović-Vasilić.....	79
Preliminary Investigations of Polychromy of the Late Roman Marble Sculpture – Head of Jupiter from the WHS Gamzigrad-Romuliana, Serbia M. Franković, M. Živić and A. Jelikić.....	81
12th century AD red and yellow fresco pigments from North-Eastern Russia E. Y. Zubavichus.....	85
Analyses of mortars from St. George’s cathedral, Great Novgorod E. Ivanovskaia, A. Vozniak, A. Nosova, L. Sazonova, N. Lebedeva, K. G. Erofeeva	87
Angular resolved XRF and XANES analysis of Attic Black Gloss ceramics C. Caliri, A. G. Karydas, A. Migliori, and F. P. Romano	89
Examination of painting technique and materials of Petar Lubarda’s paintings on paper support V. Jovanović, S. Vučetić, J. M. van der Bergh and J. Ranogajec	91
Eighth Balkan Symposium on Archaeometry, 3 rd —6 th October 2022, Belgrade, Serbia	

Preliminary investigation of the cinnabar origin and use on archaeological findings
from Early Metal Age site in Northwestern Serbia
M. Gajić-Kvaščev, V. Andrić, V. Filipović and A. Bulatović 93

Ores, mines and the making of Late Bronze Age copper in the Lechkumi district of
the South Caucasus, north-west Georgia
R. Chagelishvili, N. Sulava, B. Gilmour, N. Rezesidze, T. Beridze and N. Tatuasvili... 95

Characterization of materials used in an Islamic manuscript from the 18th century
S. Ibragic, A. Alijagic, J. M. Van der Bergh, J. Ranogajec and S. Vučetić 99

AUTHOR INDEX 101

Preface

The biannual meeting of scientist from Balkan countries in the field of Archaeometry - Balkan Symposium on Archaeometry - has matured and established itself well since its first edition held in Ohrid, N. Macedonia (2008). BSA 2 was held in Istanbul, Turkey (2010), BSA 3 in Bucurest, Romania (2012), BSA 4 in Nesebar, Bulgaria (2014), BSA 5 in Sinaia, Romania (2016), BSA 6 in Ljubaljna, Slovenia (2018) BSA 7 in Athens, Greece (2020, online meeting due to Covid-19 pandemics).

The Eight Balkan Symposium on Archaeometry (BSA 8) will be held for the first time in Serbia, from the 3rd — 6th 2022, in Belgrade. The Hall of the Rectorate of the Belgrade University, the Kapetan Mišina Mansion, will host forty-one oral and poster presentations from across the Balkans and beyond. It is our pleasure to greet not only scientist from Balkan countries, but also from Belgium, Cyprus, France, Georgia, Hungary, India, Italy, Russia, UK, fifteen countries in all. We do hope that this trend will continue in the future.

Due to its unique geographical position of bridge between Europe and Asia Minor, Balkans has often played an important role in the evolution of civilizations. The settlement of Europe by Paleolithic hunters-gatherers, then Neolithic farmers, the invention of copper

metallurgy or the formation of the Europe's first great Bronze Age societies are some of the examples. The Balkans was a birthplace of Classical Greece and Hellenism, the core of the Late Roman Empire and the long-lasting Byzantine Empire. It is a bridge over which people, culture, ideas and objects travelled from the East to Europe and vice versa. Cultural heritage of the Balkans is huge, yet not fully apprehended nor analyzed. To understand it better is to become aware of our common cultural heritage in all its diversity and beauty. To this goal, we are aiming this scientific conference.

The Symposium focuses on the major topics of Archaeometry: analytical methods, organic and inorganic materials, dating methods, computer science and imaging techniques, conservation and restoration, geophysics and Geographic Information System applications, multidisciplinary investigations, and management in cultural heritage. The focus is on the Balkans and investigation of its cultural heritage, but topics relating to other areas are also present.

Head of the Organizing
Committee of the BSA 8

Roman Balvanović

Abstracts

OR15

Recognizing the Value of Historic Mortars: from a Database to an Exhibition

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A human hand is always woven into the building material, whether it only participated in the exploitation of the stone or shaped the earth into a block. However, archaeological excavations rarely detect building materials as valuable, being recorded only as unified elements that form an architectural context or mediums that carry an inscription or a trace of use [1]. Mortar Design for Conservation - Danube Roman Frontier 2000 Years After - MoDeCo2000 is a project conducted as a connection between archaeometry and conservation science, exploring the Roman mortars through the intertwining of the desire to learn about the construction activities and lives of ancient people

along the Danube in today's Serbia and the goal of preparing new materials that will preserve the built remains of these activities for the future. There are few collections of samples of historical materials worldwide, and they rarely occupy special places in museum depots or exhibitions [2]. On the other hand, databases of building materials are becoming increasingly important for conserving monuments [3, 4]. About 120 samples of lime mortars belonging to buildings dating from the 1st to the 6th century AD were collected during the MoDeCo2000 project. A database containing the results of the mortars' characterization and proposals for the creation of compatible conservation

mixtures was made, marking the beginning of the formation of a database of building historical materials found in Serbia, available to scientists and experts, as well as the collection exhibited for the museum public. In this way, the project tries to contribute to a wider recognition of the importance of building materials research, especially mortar, which was created in the human attempt to make a bonding material, mostly using reachable natural resources, which should be easy to use and durable, but also, in many cases, very aesthetically pleasing.

Acknowledgments This research was supported by the Science Fund of the Republic of Serbia, PROMIS, #6067004, MoDeCo2000.

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AUTHOR INDEX

- Albarède, F. 65
 Alijagic, A. 99
 Anagnostopoulos, D. F. 15
 Anđelković, B. 43
 Andrić, V. 93
 Atanassova V. 41
 Atudorei, V. 23
 Bajnóczi, B. 67
 Bajuk-Bogdanović, D. 73, 79
 Balvanović, R. 63
 Banda, M. 25
 Baošić, R. 47
 Bataoula, K. 57
 Beridze, T. 95
 Blichert-Toft, J. 65
 Bogosavljević Petrović, V. 79
 Brecolouki, H. 51
 Bulatović, A. 93
 Caliri, C. 15, 89
 Chagelishvili, R. 95
 Chowdhary, A. 55
 Constantinescu, R. 37
 Damjanović-Vasilić, Lj. 79
 Delić-Nikolić, I. 53
 E. Eleftheriou 15, 51
 Erofeeva, K. G. 87
 Ferri, M. 17
 Filipović, V. 93
 Franjić, A. 59
 Franković, M. 81
 Gajić-Kvaščev, M. 93
 Ganetsos, T. 31, 45, 49, 71, 77
 Genda, I. 35
 Gerodimos, Th. 15
 Giannetti, F. 17
 Gilmour, B. 95
 Giumlia-Mair, A. R. G. 21
 Gliozzo, E. 17
 Hajnal, Zs. 67
 Hasenay, D. 69
 Hirszenberger, H. 37
 Horvat, I. 69
 Horváth, E. 67
 Ianovskaia, E. 87
 Ibragic, S. 99
 Ignat, M. 37
 Jelikić, A. 81
 Jovanović, V. 91
 Jovičić, M. 53
 Kajtez, I. 27
 Kaparou, M. 61
 Karantzali, E. 71
 Karavanić, I. 25
 Karydas, A. G. 15, 51, 57, 89
 Katsantoni, M. 77
 Klisurić, O. 33, 49

- Kontogianni, A. 31
Korolija Crkvenjakov, D. 33, 49
Koturović, N. M. 79
Krajcar Bronić, I. 25
Laskaris, N. 71
Lebedeva, N. 87
Lemorini, C. 75
Lolić, A. 47
Lončar, J. 35
Malaperdas, G. 29
Mănăilescu, C. 23
Marić Stojanović, M. 43, 79
Marković, N. 73
Migliori, A. 89
Mihácz-Pálfi, A. 67
Mihailov V. 41
Mihon, M. 23
Miličić, Lj. 53
Miljević, B. 37
Miu, L. 37
Mlikota, A. 35
Molnar, U. 33
Mozgai, V. 67
Nikolić, E. 53
Nikolić, O. 33
Nosova, A. 87
Nunziante Cesaro, S. 75
Oikonomidis, S. 57
Oikonomou, A. 57,61
Palincaş, N. 23
Papakitsos, E. C. 31
Petrović, A. 75
Pirovska, A. 41
Radivojevic, M. 19
Ranogajec, J. 37, 53, 91, 99
Răzvan Petre, A. 23
Rehren, Th. 19
Rezesidze, N. 95
Romano, F. P. 15, 89
Romantzi, K. 45, 71
Rousaki, A. 13
Sazonova, L. 87
Schilling, L. 67
Şendroiou, C. 23
Simion, C. A. 23
Sironić, A. 25
Skoumi, N. 57
Smith, F. 25
Spasić, A. 33
Sulava, N. 95
Svilar, M. 79
Szenthe, G. 67
Šelih, V. S. 61
Šimić, M. 35
Šmit, Ž. 59
Tankova, V. 41
Tatuasvili, N. 95
Till, V. 33

Topić, N. 59	Vidosavljević, V. 27
Tripković, B. 73	Vozniak, A. 87
Tripković, T. 43,47	Vučetić, S. 37, 53, 91, 99
Tsampa, K. 15, 51	Vukosavljević, N. 25
Turchiano, M. 17	Westner, K. J. 65
Van der Bergh, J. M. 91, 99	Zacharias, N. 29, 61
Van Elteren, J. T. 61	Zubavichus, E. Y. 85
Vandenabeele, P. 13	Živić, M. 81
Vasić, R. 47	
Vaxevanopoulos, M. 65	
Vdovichenko, M. V. 21	

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