



The most significant values
of the cultural and natural heritage

TAOR


(ANCIENT SETTLEMENT - TAURESIIUM)



Kiro Ristov



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FOREWORD

MACEDONIAN CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

Over the past 4.5 million years since the creation of Earth, the ancestor of the modern man, “the wise man - Homo sapiens”, appearing on the African continent 150,000 years before this day, quickly settled throughout the territories of the Middle East, Asia and Europe.

His cultural evolution is recorded in the Republic of Macedonia, as well.

While travelling through the prehistoric era of the Stone Age, the Bronze Age and the Iron Age, as well as the historical epochs of the Antiquity and the Middle Ages, man created civilizations on the soil of the Republic of Macedonia by introducing and using the natural resources. He established the magnificent kingdoms of the Agrianians, Paeonia, Pelagonia, Lyncestis, Macedonia, and the principalities of Deuriopus, Dessaretia and the Penestae.

The Roman Empire, Byzantine, the medieval states - all left a powerful civilizational imprint.

The belief in the natural phenomena, followed by the belief in the many gods, to finally worship our only God - all left indelible cultural traces.

All this enormous cultural and natural heritage of the Republic of Macedonia was subject of the capital project of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia, “Publications of the most significant values of the cultural and natural heritage,” carried out by the Cultural Heritage Protection Office.

130 monographs featuring the Archaeological Heritage, Sacral heritage, the Treasures of the churches and monasteries in Macedonia and the Natural heritage were created.

Macedonia - the high forest land in the heart of the Balkan Peninsula, as the name suggests, furrowed by the deep valleys of the Vardar tributaries and the river Drim, adorned with the blue - green waters of Lake Ohrid, Prespa and Dojran, with the proud giants Kozuv, Shar Mountain, Korab and Jablanica, Selecka Mountain and other mountain ranges, today lights 130 torches of its own, as well as the world's, cultural and natural heritage; a legacy to preserve, use wisely and pass on to future generations of the Macedonian road to eternity.

Prof. Viktor Lilchikj Adams, Ph.D.

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LOCATION

The village of Taor is situated about 20 km southeast from the centre of Skopje, on the left bank of the river Vardar, where the river slips away from the wetland bulrush and enters the Taor gorge. The only connection route of the village is over the bridge of the river Vardar and the village of Oreshani. In Roman times the main road along the valley of the Vardar, which led to Thessalonica from Scupi, via Stobi, was located at the northern foot of the settlement.

The ancient settlement is located on the north-eastern outskirts of the village extending on a high hill that consists of an acropolis and two terraces. The acropolis stands on the south side of the highest and most dominant position of the settlement with a visual clarity over the wider surrounding area. At its southern end, the eastern and western defence wall unite in a tower – Bastion. South of the tower a deep defensive trench was dug, still noticeable on the surface. The first terrace is on the north side of the acropolis, while the



Geographical position of the village of Taor

second terrace is to the north of the first, and represents the suburban area (lower town) of the settlement. There is a small terrace on each of the west and east sides of the settlement. The west terrace is connected to the lower town and it holds the contemporary necropolis of the village of Taor, while the east is on a steeply inclined slope, probably of a defensive function. The terraces are remains of earlier building activities or movable archaeological findings.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH

The first field research of the settlement in Taor was carried out about a hundred years ago by the English explorer, archaeologist and traveller, Arthur Evans. During his stay in the region of Skopje, he visited many ancient settlements. In addition to his visit to the ancient city of Scupi,

he also stopped by the site of Gradishte (Tuli) near the village of Taor, noting initial information regarding the remains and the location of the site. More recently, field research was carried out by T. Tomovski and I. Mikulchikj. By means of surface observations, they made a short initial estimation of the basic data of the settlement.

The Museum of the City of Skopje executed the first archaeological probe excavations of the settlement in the year 2000, by means of which were explored two main probes measuring 5 x 5 m and three control probes of different dimensions, which, depending on the space for subsequent research, were adapted to the configuration of the terrain. The aim of the research was to determine the nature, size and stratigraphy of the settlement.



Final years of research



Starting from the following year, 2001, the settlement has been systematically explored, resulting in a higher amount of researched content. The initial systematic research was executed in the north-eastern part of the settlement, where previous probing explorations were the most successful. This part of the settlement represents a gently inclined slope illustrating different levels of cultural layers, which follow the inclined levelling of the terrain. For research purposes, a square net, whose base marked the beginning of the systematic excavations, was placed on the site. In addition to the central zone, research was also directed at outlining the defensive wall and determining the condition of cultural layers and other sections of the settlement.

BUILDINGS (CONSTRUCTIONS)

A building with a colonnade

This building is located on the northeast side of the settlement. The defensive wall represents its north and east wall. It has an east-west orientation, adapted to the gently inclined levelling of the terrain and the alignment of the defensive wall, which are assumed to have been built simultaneously. The building has three sections (rooms) of different sizes and a corridor with an open colonnade toward the atrium of the southern structure. The entrances to all three sections are from the south. The building has the following dimensions: maximum length of 27.70 m and maximum width of approximately 13 m. From the floor level, the walls have been preserved to a height and width of 1 m, built of stone using lime mortar as a binding material. The external walls of the construction, in the entire preserved height, were built by means of brick with lime mortar as binding material, and grouted with the same thickness as the bricks with a width of 0.80 m. The internal partitioning walls were built of stone 1 m wide, plastered on the interior and exterior.



A building with a colonnade (from the west)

The three sections (rooms) have different dimensions. The first section is about 6.30 x 6.30 m (measured by the central axis) on the west side; the second, middle section, is about 8.60 x 8.20 m (measured by the central axis); while the third, eastern section is about 7.70 x 8.90 m (measured by the central axis). In the middle of all three sections are placed four-sided marble blocks of different sizes, functioning as foundations and dug into the floor level. Over these were

placed wooden poles which supported the roof construction. On the wall between the first and the second section was discovered a massive marble pillar that lies on a profiled marble base, which probably serves as an entrance.



Room (section) 1 of the building with a colonnade

The corridor that connects the rooms is located on the front and represents an integral part of the atrium. On the east side it is closed by means of a defensive wall, whereas on the west side, by means of an entrance about 2 m wide, it is linked to the central western part of the settlement. The colonnade that closes the corridor consists of six pillars made of brick, grouted by means of lime mortar with the same thickness as the grout of the brick. Two of them have been excavated up to a height of 0.70 m. All of them have a square base measuring 1 x 1 m, at a distance of 1.90 m from one another. By observing the excavated parts of the columns, during the destruction of the building, it was concluded that in the upper zones they were connected by means of arches while the corners of all columns from all four sides were rounded. Inside the atrium was discovered marble plastic consisting of three pillars with a height of 1.60 m, two bases and three impost capitals without any decorations. Archaeological research carried out in this area revealed that they are part of the colonnade from the storey construction of the building.



Marble plastics discovered in the atrium

A building with an atrium

This building is located to the south of the previous construction, and both constructions are essentially connected in a conceptual whole, though they basically represent two individual and separately built premises. It consists of an atrium area and three sections of different sizes. The entrances to these sections emerge from the space of the atrium, which is situated in the central part. One can enter from the east entrance of the settlement located in the defensive wall. This was a public building, built as an independent entity, and represented an important segment in the life of the settlement.

The walls are built of broken stone bound by means of quality lime mortar, with the interior and exterior plastered. It has an irregular trapezoidal shape, with a north-south orientation, and all sides of different dimensions. The northern side is 24.30 m long, the eastern side is 27.50 m, and the southern is 10.30 m, whereas the western is 20.70 m. On the north side it is enclosed by a colonnade on the north building, whereas from the east side it is enclosed with the defensive wall. Together with the south and the west walls, it forms a single unit adapted to the space it occupies. In order to reduce the gently inclined levelling of the surface, the builder placed it in a deeper foundation compared to the other surrounding buildings, with a height difference of about 0.30-0.60 m. Throughout the entire length, the base of the south and the west wall is 1 m wide toward the outside, maintaining a relative height of 1 m. The walls were built of stone with lime mortar as a binding material, and from this point, in reference to their height, they were built of construction brick with lime mortar as a binding material, grouted with the same thickness as the bricks with a width of 0.80 m.

By means of archaeological research in this area, were discovered sections of walls and short marble columns, marble bases and capitals, and it is assumed that on these two walls were installed double windows - biphora. In the first section was discovered a wall segment that unites two such windows - biphora. On the outside of this section were located individual dwelling houses.

Atrium – It is located in the central part of the building (construction). It has an asymmetrical four-sided basis which encloses the east entrance of the defensive wall with three walls. All three walls have atrium openings, which are functionally arranged according to the position they occupy tailored to the inclined levelling of the ground. They were built of carved stone and river stone with lime mortar as a binding material, 1 m wide, plastered on the interior and exterior. The northern wall extends in an east-west direction and connects the defensive wall with the west wall. This wall forms part of the previous northern construction. The western wall of the atrium has been completely preserved at many places to a height of the atrium openings. It extends in a north-south direction and connects the north and the south walls. It was built of carved stone and river stone with lime mortar as a binding material. On the atrium are located two entrances to the second and third section, at equal distance from one another. The thresholds were paved and plastered using lime mortar. The sides of the entrances were built of brick with lime mortar as a binding material, and on the ends were placed four-sided pillars connected with arches in the upper sections. The dimensions of the pillars are the same for both entrances, and amount to 1 x 0.70 m. They were built using construction brick, grouted with lime mortar as a binding material with the same thickness as the one used for the bricks. The south wall of the atrium extends from

east to west, and connects the defensive wall with the western wall of the atrium. It was built of carved stone and river stone with lime mortar as a binding material. There is a paved entrance to the southern room, plastered with lime mortar, 1.85 m wide. It is flanked by two pillars measuring 1 x 0.60 m, built of brick grouted with lime mortar, connected by an arch in the upper parts. The sides of the entrance were built of brick with lime mortar as a binding element.

The floor of the entire atrium space was paved with construction brick, but due to subsequent activities only minimal traces remain. Over nearly the entire floor space of the atrium is observed a layer of red earth, a remnant from the floor bricks. According to the numerous roof tile remains found in the vicinity of its walls, it is evident that the building had a roof construction. On the interior of the atrium, beside the west and the south wall, were discovered stone bases for wooden pillars. These were, in fact, six amorphous stones, processed on the upper side and at an equal distance of 1.90 m from one another. They were dug into the floor level and are of identical heights. Their position and height indicate that they served as bases for the wooden pillars that held the roof.



Stone bases for wooden pillars in the atrium



Entrance into the eastern defensive wall

Subsequent building activities of the atrium

– The massive destructions, which probably occurred during the second half of the 6th century, visibly changed the economic position of the population. Life in the settlement did not end, but it continued with reduced intensity. The population was reduced and the inhabitants were forced to fight for their survival. Subsequent archaeological research confirmed that the building activities on this area occurred shortly after the devastation, particularly at the end of the 6th or the beginning of the 7th

century, and significantly disrupted their function. It is only certain that this space was repurposed for other uses. As a result, and in its southeast section, was built an oven with a furnace for baking bread, while the atrium openings on the west and the south walls were closed by a stone wall 0.45 m wide, grouted with mud as a binding material, and on the north side of the atrium was built a massive wall with stairs for access to the defensive wall. These activities include the building of a subsequent grave stela placed on the threshold of the east entrance to the settlement, serving as a staircase.

The oven in the atrium – It was discovered in the inner south-eastern part of the atrium. It forms a trapezoid, with different dimensions of its walls. On the east side was used the defensive wall, on the south side was used the north wall of the first room, whereas the western and northern walls were added additionally and were built of stone with mud as a binding element, with a width of 0.78 m. In the internal, north-eastern corner of the oven, was discovered a storage container (pithos) for the storing of grain. The same type of storage container was found on the outer, northwest corner, which also belongs to the oven, whereas on the internal, south-eastern corner of the oven was discovered a furnace for baking bread. The furnace has a circular shape with a radius of 2.60 m. It has a floor and a dome-like wall above it and is 0.25 m wide at its base. The entire surface of the floor was paved by means of construction brick placed over a rock surface plastered with a layer of 6 cm thick well-purified clay over which the bricks were arranged. The semi-domed wall is preserved only in the lower sections of the oven. It was built of small broken pieces of brick with mud as a binding material, plastered over the stone foundation. On the outside and the inside it was covered with a thick layer of plaster (finely ground brick mixed with well-purified clay). The outside of the oven was reinforced by supporting walls (smaller pieces of stone with mud as binding material) placed at the spots where the furnace was connected to the exterior walls.



Oven with a furnace for baking bread

Rooms (sections) - The first room of the building is the largest. It is located south of the atrium, has a trapezoidal shape and carries the entire width of the building. It is oriented east-west and covers an area of 7.60 m in width, with a greater length on the north wall of 14.20 m, and a smaller length on the south wall of 10.30 m.



Entrance into Room (section) 1 (the building with an atrium)

In its interior was discovered a massive fragment of the southern wall in its original position. It represents a part of the wall or a pillar uniting two windows - biphora, consisting of a brick construction with quality lime mortar as a binding element, grouted with the same thickness as the brick. The pillar is 2 m high and 0.80 m wide. Along its length, were preserved the left and right arch of the biphora, whereas the central part displays the clearly preserved style of masonry. From the top ceiling base to the bottom floor base, including the arches in the triangular area of the pillar, were designed two friezes which represented part of the plastic facade decoration. The first frieze was placed in the upper section, whereas the second one in the bottom section. The frieze in the upper zone consisted of seven smaller standing triangles and six lying flat in-between, built of broken brick and filled with lime mortar on the interior. The frieze in the lower zone consisted of three large triangles filled with lime mortar on the interior. The pillar was part of the south wall of the building. In its vicinity were discovered two small marble pillars and elements of two other pillars, three bases and three capitals.



Fragment of a wall between two biphora (the building with an atrium)

The other two rooms were located on the west side of the building. The entrance to both is on the east side, and one can enter using the atrium. The second room has a rectangular base and covers an area of 7.20 x 3.80 m, while the third room has an almost four-sided base and covers an area of 3.80 x 4 m. They were built in a specific manner with atrium openings on the east side toward the atrium. Only the entrances to the rooms have columns on the sides which end in an arch connected to the roof construction, and are built of construction brick with lime mortar as a binding element.



Room 2 of the building with an atrium



Section 3 of the building with an atrium

In the interior were discovered fragments of pottery, mostly kitchen pottery, as well as fragments of large storage vessels (pithoi), a stone handmill, coins, a bronze cross and other finds. Among them, the finding of a fragment of the mouth from a large storage container (pithos) found in the second room arouses particular interest, which bears an embossed seal observing the monogram of Emperor Justinian I (527-565). These finds led to a conclusion that the specified rooms were public premises open for the daily needs of locals during the 5th and 6th century.

The roof was reinforced by wooden poles placed on large amorphous stones that served as bases arranged in front of their entrances to the atrium. Inside the rooms was found a significant concentration of construction debris consisting of tiles, building stone and construction brick, also including numerous remains of the roof construction. Under this pile of debris, at the height of the floor level to the northern half of the second room, was discovered a sewage pit.



A space for the drainage of water (between two buildings)

The space between the two buildings on the west side was used for the drainage of storm water via the west wall. It was built in the wall in the form of a small opening with a vaulted upper section and a size of 0.30 x 0.50 m. By means of this opening, the storm water from the western part of the settlement through the atrium was directed toward the eastern entrance of the defensive wall. South of the building was discovered an identical opening for the drainage of storm water, built in the defensive wall, with a space for the separation of wastewater in front of it.



Separation and drainage of storm water

House 1

It is located west of the building with an atrium, at a distance of about 1.10 m. On the north side is its border with House 3, at a distance of about 1.70 m, and on the south side at about 1 m. According to the position it occupies, it is oriented east-west. Only a section of the east wing of the House was discovered. It was built of broken stone and flat stones with mud as a binding element. The discovered part of the house has dimensions of 4.80 x 1.80 m. The east wall was completely excavated, while the north and the south only partially. The walls are 0.70-0.80 m wide, preserved in an area of about 1 m from the foundation.

During the destruction of the house, construction debris composed of many fragments of the roof construction was discovered in its interior. It included remains of wooden beams from the roof construction, roof tiles, as well as construction brick and stone combined with earth. The interior and exterior of the walls was plastered by using mud. In the middle of the excavated area of the house, inside the construction debris, was discovered a marble pillar (meno) and a capital, which belong to the western wall of the building with an atrium.

In the interior of the excavated part of the house were discovered fragments of pottery, mostly kitchen pottery, fragments of storage vessels (pithoi), items for everyday use, coins and more. All these finds suggest that the house existed between the 4th to the end of the 6th century.



House 1 (from the northeast)

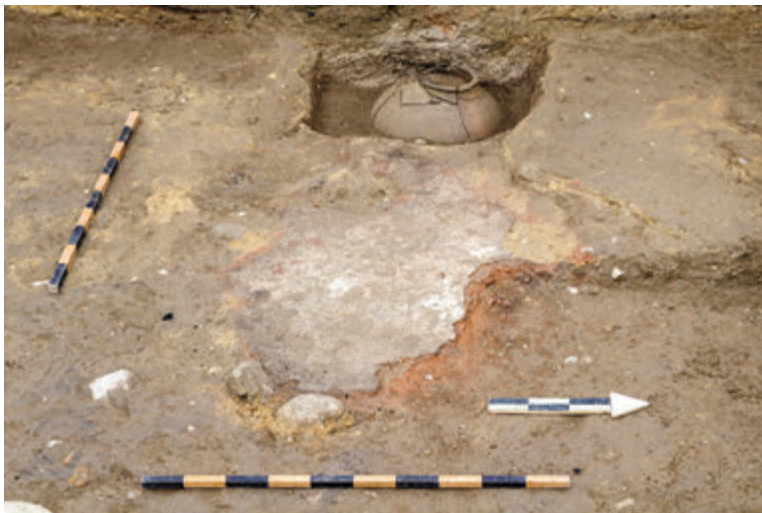
House 2

It is located west of the building with an atrium, at a distance of about 1.20 m, in an east-west direction. Only the east part of the house was discovered. On the north side is its border with House 1, at a distance of about 1 m, while on the south side is its border with House 4. The east wall was completely excavated, whereas the north and south walls were discovered only partially and it is difficult to determine their length. The width of the interior is 4.40 m. The walls were built of river stone and partially carved stone with mud as a binding element. For the purpose of levelling, at the base of the walls were incorporated broken fragments of construction brick and a roof tegula. The walls were 0.80 m wide at the base, while at the upper parts they narrowed to 0.70 m. Considering that the western part of the house has not been excavated yet, we do not know its full length, or any rooms it might contain.

To the level of the floor in the interior, was discovered an enormous concentration of construction debris consisting of construction stone, roofing tegula and fragmented construction brick. However, very few fragments of pottery and metal objects were discovered. Beyond the walls of this house, the construction debris is significantly reduced, indicating that the walls and the roof construction collapsed in its interior during destruction.



The floor of House 2 and a storage container built in it



Storage container built in the floor of House 2

The floor is covered with light yellow purified clay over a tightly pressed gravelish ground, which served as a foundation. In the middle of the west side of the house was discovered a storage container (pithos) dug into the floor. In addition to the pithos, fragments of pottery, as well as coins, elements of building constructions and other finds were discovered in the house indicating that the house was active in the period from the 4th-6th century until the time of the last destruction.

House 3

It is located west of the building with an atrium, at a distance of about 1 m, and north of House 1, at a distance of about 1.70 m. In House 3, the eastern side of two rooms was partially discovered, and according to its position, it has a north-south orientation. Its length has been completely excavated, and amounts to 5.20 m, whereas the width of the north side is 0.80 m, and the width of the south is 1.60 m. There is a partitioning wall down the middle separating the two rooms. The walls are 0.80 m wide in the lower foundation sections, and 0.70 m wide in the upper



House 3 (from the northeast)

sections. They were built of broken stone with mud as a binding element. In its interior was excavated a considerable quantity of construction debris consisting of construction stone, roof tile and construction brick combined with earth. The floor was covered with well-purified light yellow clay on the firmly pressed gravelish earth. Due to the small dimensions of this house were excavated fewer finds of pottery fragments, coins and other finds which suggest that this house existed between the 4th and the end of the 6th century.

House 4

It is located southeast of House 2 and west of House 8. It has been partially excavated during field research in the year 2000. It has been completely excavated by means of further research, and together with House 5, it forms an integral unit representing a house with two rooms. In subsequent research, the two rooms of the house were treated as separate entities, and will thus be presented. The area of the house has an irregular, almost trapezoidal base, with dimensions of about 3.80 x 4.40 m (measured by the central axis), while the walls are 0.70-0.75 m wide. The walls were built of broken stone with mud as a binding material, whereas, in the lower foundation parts were used larger pieces of broken stone, and smaller pieces in the upper parts. The walls were built in a typical manner, whereas the facades were built first, on the outside and inside, with smaller pieces of stone and mud as a binding means in-between.



House 4 and House 5 (front)

This house is in the immediate vicinity of House 8, at a distance of the width of a street or an alley of about 1.20-1.60 m. There was basically a connection road where rainwater from the northern hill of the settlement ran and gathered in a specially designed chamber (with dimensions of 2.70 x 1.40 m) placed on the interior of the rampart, and south of the building with an atrium, wherefrom by means of the efflux opening in the rampart it was transported out of the settlement. In this context it can be suggested that the roof tegulae were probably vertically placed on the exterior of the eastern wall of the house in order to protect it from the storm waters running nearby.

The movable archaeological finds which represent the inventory of House 4 include numerous fragments of ceramic pots, scales and weights for scales, an iron cross and other metal finds which, by no means, determine its chronological belonging between the 4th and 6th century. In addition to other coins, a small depot of coins dating from the end of the 6th century was discovered in the house.

House 5



House 4 during research

The section marked as House 5 is a subsequent stage of House 4, additionally built onto the south side, using the same partitioning wall. This, in fact, represents the same house, but in two phases of construction. House 4 and House 5 are a working title of an integral construction with two sections. This, basically, enabled detailed information regarding the construction which was technically separated into two units.

The house has been fully excavated to the floor level, but due to the inclined levelling of the ground, the walls have relatively shallow foundations compared to those of the previous construction, placed over compacted clay earth. The base is almost rectangular with dimensions of about 4.60 x 2.20 m. The walls were built of broken stone with mud as a binding means, with a width of around 0.70-0.75 m. It is



House 5 and House 4 during research

oriented in accordance with the previous room, in an east-west direction, with the entrance from the west side. The entrance is very wide and probably closed with a large double door, which is assumed to have served as an auxiliary section or an area for the cattle (barn).

Under the layer of debris composed of construction stone, fragments of construction brick and roofing tegulae combined with earth were discovered which enable the determining of its origin. The excavated finds include fragments of pottery, coins, a scale with weights, and tools for agricultural activity dating from the 4th- 6th century. On the eastern half, next to the entrance to the room, was discovered a sewage pit with a diameter of 1.25 m. Research showed that the pit is about 1.10 m deep, up to the floor level, which is paved with smaller pieces of stone. The finds of the pit included fragments of pottery, animal bones and iron nails in addition to the smaller pieces of construction stone, fragments of roof tegulae, as well as fragments of construction brick.

House 6

It is located south of House 5 and west of House 7, with a north-south orientation and a rectangular base. It has two sections and has been fully excavated to the floor level. The northern section has dimensions of about 4.80 x 3.30 m, whereas the south is 5.70 x 4.10 m. The entrances to both sections are from the east side.

The northern room was built using a type of a smaller flat stone with lime mortar as a binding element,

whereas the southern room, which belongs to a latter stage, was constructed of larger pieces of broken stone with mud as binding material. In both rooms the width of the walls is about 0.75 m.



House 6 (from the south)



The north room of House 6 during research

Inside the house was excavated a large concentration of construction debris, mostly composed of the collapsed roof construction (roof tegulae), which fell after the fire in the inner part of the house, as well as construction stone and pale yellow compact clay-earth combined with earth.

After the removal of construction debris in the northern room, the floor level was registered only in a few places. After the demolition of



Construction element to strengthen the east side of House 6

the roof and parts of the walls, the floor was almost entirely destroyed. It was covered with a layer of well-purified light yellow clay over the floor substructure consisting of tightly compacted earth. The findings in this room included a fireplace with a chimney on the west wall and a storage container (pithos) north of it, though in a fragmented condition. The fireplace consisted of larger pieces of stone, equal in size and arranged in an oval, in whose interior were discovered remains of charred trees.

In the southern room, in addition to the parts of light yellow earth, a thick layer of pure lime mortar was used as a floor level. The layer of lime mortar, which served as a floor level, was also used as a basis for the foundation of the west wall of the room. It was primarily used as a fundamental basis for the western wall and was for the purpose of levelling of the area and stabilization of the wall to reduce the natural, very inclined levelling of the surface in this area. As a means for stabilization of the house and its protection against torrential waters, was used a small constructive part added on the east side of the central, common wall of the house. It has a four-sided base and was built of stone with mud as a binding material on the north, east and south side, while on the west side it is an integral part of the eastern wall of the house. The outside walls have a facade, while the inside is filled with stone combined with clay and earth. This was, in fact, a construction element which served to tame the storm waters flowing from the high southern slope.

The excavated finds from the house include numerous pottery fragments, coins and metal items of which the most specific are several knives, lead weights for scales, a sickle and other finds, which determine the purpose and character of the house and chronologically place it in the period from the 4th to the end of the 6th century. An interesting fact is the group find of twenty differently sized fishing hooks discovered in the northern room and the storage container (pithos) in the southern room.

House 7

It is located just south of the entrance to Tower 2 of the defensive wall. The house has been fully excavated to the floor level. It consists of two rooms, independent of each other, connected to the route of the defensive wall in a north-south direction. The north room is larger and with an almost four-sided base with dimensions amounting to 3.70 x 3.80 m, whereas the south has a rectangular base and represents a subsequent addition with dimensions of 4.10 x 2.50 m.

The walls of the house were built of stone with mud as binding material, with identical widths amounting to 0.70 m, preserved to a height of about 0.30-0.60 m. Inside the walls were inserted smaller fragmented pieces of the roof tegulae or fragments of construction brick for the purpose of levelling of the surface which provides the stability. The corners of the walls were built of larger pieces of carved stone. The entrance to the northern room is from the north, whereas the



House 7 (from the southwest)

entrance to the southern room is from the west side. The west wall of the north room was built by means of a so-called "inclined track", executed of construction brick in a single row - on the inside and outside of the wall. The interior of the wall was filled with smaller stones and broken brick, with mud as a binding element. The central wall between the rooms was built in two phases, retaining the same width as the others. It was initially built by means of stone with mud as a binding means, while the subsequent additions over the old remains were built by means of construction brick with lime mortar as a binding element. The reconstruction of this wall probably occurred when the southern room was added.



Storage containers buried in the floor of House 7

Inside the house was discovered a large concentration of construction debris, consisting of stone, lime mortar, construction brick and roof tegulae combined with earth, which represents the final destruction of the house. In its southwest corner were discovered two storage vessels (pithoi) dug into the floor level, covered with fragmented parts of tiles.

The movable archaeological finds in the house include fragments of pottery vessels, coins and other metal items, indicating that, before its destruction, it was actively used in the period from the 4th to the end of the 6th century and early 7th century, when its additions were built. After the destruction, the house was never reconstructed.

House 8

It is located north of House 7 and east of House 4. There is one room with a size of 3:40 x 5.90 m and a corridor on the west side, 1.50 m wide. The walls were built of different sizes of carved stone with mud as a binding element. The west and the south walls are 0.70 m wide, while the north wall, which is also used for the space for separating in front of the opening for the drainage of storm water, is 0.90 m wide. The rampart of the settlement serves as the eastern wall.



House 8 (from the northeast)

In the interior of the house was discovered construction debris of the walls and the roofing construction. It consists of stone and construction brick which also includes a smaller percentage of roof tegulae. Among them were also found fragments of a larger storage container - pithos. One enters the house, first through the corridor of the small square in front of Tower 2 of the defensive wall, through the threshold with two steps, of the same width as the corridor. The western wall, which

closes the corridor, is 0.50 m wide, while its foundation has an equal height with the floor level of the corridor. The floor of the corridor was paved with fragmented pieces of construction brick layered over the well-purified light yellow clay, which served as a base.

The floor in the room is lower by about 0.25 m compared to one in the corridor. It is coated with a layer of well-purified light yellow clay, with a thickness of about 2-3 cm. In the northeast corner of the house was discovered a fragmented storage container (pithos), whereas in the southern corner was discovered a fireplace, containing a considerable concentration of ashes. Further research focused on the northern half of the house. Another floor surface was discovered at a depth of about 0.30 m. The floor was preserved on a very small area next to the north wall. It was covered with a layer of well-purified light yellow clay with a thickness of about 2-3 cm. Inside the filled space between the earlier and the latter floor of the house were discovered a few finds, which included pottery fragments and several bronze coins dating from the 4th century. It was composed of tightly compacted earth combined with smaller stones and fragmented pieces of roofing tile and construction brick.

By means of further research in this area, in the northwest and the northeast corner of the room were found bases for beams indented into the floor, with a diameter of about 0.35-0.40 m, and depth of about 0.40-0.50 m. Considering their location, it is assumed that the beams were used as bases for supporting the roof construction.



Openings for wooden poles in House 8

In addition to the numerous fragments of pottery as part of the inventory in the house were also discovered bronze coins and other movable metal finds, which chronologically determine it to the period from the 4th to the 6th century.

DEFENSIVE WALL (RAMPART)

The defensive wall was excavated in a length of about 70 m from the east and about 5 m from the north side. Its width is 1.60 m. It was built of large pieces of carved stone and massive flat stones, modified to the facade appearance, while the middle part is filled with smaller stones with lime mortar as a binding element. It encompasses the entire perimeter around the central part of the settlement and the suburban area on the north side.

On its northeast corner was discovered a defensive tower of a rectangular shape, with dimensions of 4.30 x 2.70 m, and walls of 1 m in width. From this point, the defensive wall continues southward reaching the north terrace of the acropolis and ends on the highest and most dominant point, uniting with the western defensive wall into a strong tower - Bastion. About 22 m south of the corner tower, inside the rampart, was discovered an entrance to the settlement, with a width of 1.70 m. On the exterior of the entrance were placed small extensions in the form of notches, which follow the entire height of the edge and served for the positioning of a wooden door. The threshold was paved with stone and covered with mortar. In the entrance was discovered a marble tombstone (stela) with dimensions of 2.10 x 0.80 x 0.25 m in a secondary position. It is linked with the subsequent activities of the settlement to serve as an additional threshold for the entrance.

The second tower on the eastern section of the defensive wall was discovered 32 m from the entrance and about 56 m south of the first corner tower. It is an external defensive tower with dimensions amounting to 4.45 x 3.35 m. The width of all three walls is 1 m. The entrance to the tower is placed on the interior of its central part. Left from the entrance was discovered a remnant of a wall with a rectangular base of 1.35 x 1.65 m, built of construction brick with lime mortar as a binding element grouted with the same thickness as the tile. At about 2.5 meters north of the first wall remnant was excavated another one with a rectangular base, with almost identical dimensions, which amounted to 1.35 x 2.00 m, but built of broken stone with lime mortar as a binding element. Their position indicates that they represent remains of a staircase that served to access the highest parts of the defensive wall.



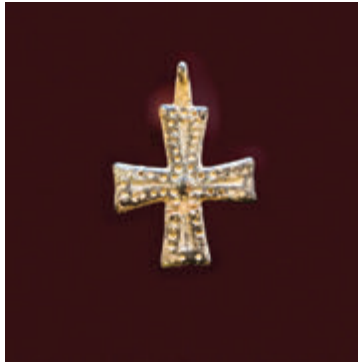
Remains of stairs for access to the higher sections of Tower 2

In addition to fragments of the defensive wall discovered on the east side, parts of it were also excavated in the northern and western part of the settlement by means of probing of the terrain. On the north side it was discovered by exploring the probes 2/09, 2A/09 and 3/09, whereas on the west side of the settlement it was discovered by exploring the probes 5/08, 6/08 and 4/10.

RESEARCH FINDINGS



A cross (lead)



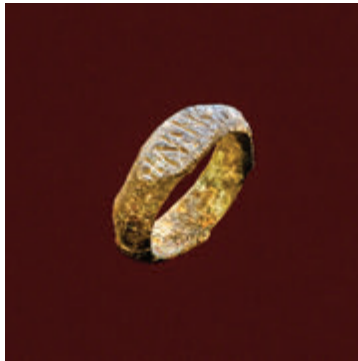
A cross (bronze)



An earring (bronze)



A ring (bronze)



A ring (bronze)



A buckle (bronze)



A buckle (bronze)



A lamp (ceramic)



Scales (bronze)



A key (iron)



A sickle (iron)



A helmet (iron)



A capital (marble)



A base (marble)



A pillar (marble)



A shield boss (umbo)



A fragment of a pithos with an embossed seal of Justinian I



An embossed seal with the monogram of Justinian I

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