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RADOVI ARHEOLOŠKOG ZAVODA
PAPERS OF THE DEPARTMENT
O F A R C H A E O L O G Y

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Klara BURŠIĆ-MATIJAŠIĆ

**BALE I KERAMIČKI MATERIJAL
IZ PALAČE SOARDO-BEMBO
(ISTRAŽIVANJE 2000. – 2003.)**

**BALE AND THE POTTERY FROM
THE SOARDO-BEMBO CASTLE
(RESEARCH, 2000-2003)**

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Tijekom radova na obnovi kaštela Soardo-Bembo u Balamama od 2000. do 2003. g. vršeni su manji zemljani iskopi ispod podova podrumskih prostora. Tada je iz iskopana materijala izbačeno više ulomaka keramike. Veći dio materijala predstavljaju prapovijesni ulomci keramičkih posuda. Iako skromnih primjera baljanska keramika uklapa se u brončanodobnu lončarsku tradiciju poznatih nalaza istarskoga poluotoka. Nekoliko primjera pokazuje srednjovjekovne karakteristike, što odgovara povijesnomu kontinuitetu života unutar naselja koje je od samih početaka moralo zauzimati veći dio uzvisine. Bale imaju dug povijesni razvoj koji započinje naseljavanjem prapovijesnih stanovnika na brdu Monperin. Bale ulaze u područje najbolje sačuvanih, ali i ostacima najbogatijih gradinskih naselja u Istri. Usljedilo je rimsko razdoblje, kada najvjerojatnije veću važnost imaju stambeno-gospodarski kompleksi sagrađeni na agrarno valoriziranu području od Bala do obale mora. Kaštel, Castrum Vallis, nastaje u nemirnim vremenima 5. i 6. stoljeća, kada čini unutrašnji pojas utvrđenja Puljskog agera. Značajnu ulogu svakako je odigrala Venecija, koja je dala presudni pečat u očuvanju integriteta naselja.

Ključne riječi: Istra, Bale, palača Soardo-Bembo, zaštitno istraživanje, keramika, brončano doba

During restoration works at the Soardo-Bembo Castle in Bale from 2000 to 2003, minor earth excavations were conducted below the floors of the cellar rooms. A number of potsherds were removed from the excavated materials at the time. Most were prehistoric pottery. Although the examples are meagre, the Bale pottery fits into the Bronze Age tradition of known finds on the Istrian Peninsula. Several examples exhibit medieval features, which speaks to the historical continuity of life within a settlement that had to occupy much of these heights from the very beginning. Bale has a long history, which began with the settlement of prehistoric people on Monperin Hill. Bale is in an area with the best preserved hillforts in Istria, and the most abundant remains. The Roman era ensued, and this was when residential/economic buildings were constructed in this agriculturally favourable tract from Bale to the seashore. The castle, Castrum Vallis, emerged in the turbulent fifth and sixth centuries, when it formed the internal fortification belt of the Pula ager. Venice certainly played a pivotal role, as it crucially influenced the preservation of the settlement's integrity.

Key words: Istria, Bale, Soardo-Bembo Castle, rescue research, pottery, Bronze Age

UVOD – BALE KROZ VRIJEME

Palača Soardo-Bembo dio je sistema srednjovjekovnoga kaštela u Balama. Središnja arhitektonska cjelina nastala je izgradnjom stambenoga trakta iznad gradskih vrata, između dviju kula iz 14–15. st. (Fabijanović 2005: 50–51; Bradanović *et al.* 2007: 75). Tijekom stoljeća palača je mijenjala namjenu i vlasnike, a najstariji grb pripada porodici Nadal, koja je palačom upravljala od 1400. do 1470. g. (Poropat 2005: 44–45) (sl. 1).



Slika 1. Kaštel Soardo-Bembo (snimila: K. Buršić-Matijašić, 2007).
Figure 1. Soardo-Bembo Castle (photograph: K. Buršić-Matijašić, 2007).

Bale imaju bogat povijesni razvoj. Počeci naseljavanja vrha brda koje se uzdiže iz blage zaravni sežu u prapovijesna vremena. Na stožastoj uzvisini nastalo je prapovijesno naselje gradinskoga tipa. Naselje se nalazilo na brežuljku nadmorske visine 142 m, poznatu kao Monperin, gdje je smješteno današnje mjesto Bale (tal. *Valle*).¹ Prapovijesno naselje

¹ Katastarska općina: Bale (koordinate po Gauss-Krüger: 5404799, 4989224); na talijanskoj topografskoj karti 1:25 000: Valle; na top. karti 1:50 000: Bale, 142 m n/v. Nije utvrđeno zbog čega se položaj naziva Monperin. Moguće je toponim motiviran fiziogeografskim izgledom, odnosno kultiviranim biljem: *perin*, deminutiv od tal. *pera* 'kruška'.

INTRODUCTION – BALE OVER TIME

The Soardo-Bembo Palace is a part of the medieval castle system in Bale. The central architectural unit emerged with the construction of the residential tract above the city gates, between two towers, in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries (Fabijanović 2005: 50–51; Bradanović *et al.* 2007: 75). Over the centuries, the castle changed uses and owners, and the oldest coat of arms belongs to the Nadal family, which administered it from 1400 to 1470 (Poropat 2005: 44–45) (Fig. 1).

Bale has a rich history. The beginnings of settlement atop the hill which rises above the pastoral plain go back to prehistory. A prehistoric hillfort-type settlement emerged on the conical rise. The settlement rested on a hill with an elevation of 142 m above sea level, known as Monperin, the location of today's Bale (Ital. *Valle*).¹ The prehistoric settlement can be recognized on the basis of the settlement's position on the hilltop and in the contours of the present-day settlement, in which a visibly circular layout has been preserved within the medieval walls (Fig. 2).

Although lacking archaeological evidence, it may be assumed that the configuration of the terrain dictated the circular orientation of the streets and walls along terraced lines (Milić 1995: 86). Archaeological artefacts discovered during field excavations in the Soardo-Bembo Palace and digging for infrastructure installations along one of the streets leading from the centre of the town toward the north-east unambiguously testify to the beginnings of habitation at the site of the present-day settlement.² Even though there is no firm evidence of its genesis, Bale exhibits concentric circular growth in the process of its emergence (*Ibid.* 85), while just how much space the prehistoric settlement occupied is quite difficult to ascertain. The pottery was found in the foundations, inside the small medieval town, which does not mean that the prehistoric settlement had extended to the perimeter wall. The pottery may have moved to a secondary position naturally or due to the gradient of the terrain. Since there are no other data on the character of the finds (remains of residential structures or hearths), whether or not they were found in their original position cannot be stated with any certainty. It is possible that during

¹ Cadastral municipality: Bale (Gauss-Krüger coordinates: 5404799, 4989224); on Italian topographic map 1:25,000: Valle; on topographic map 1:50,000: Bale, 142 m AMSL. The reason for the site's name, Monperin, has not been ascertained. The toponym was possibly motivated by its physio-geographic appearance, i.e. orchard cultivation: *perin*, diminutive of the Ital. *pera* or 'pear'.

² B. Bačić, K. Buršić & K. Mihovilić, report from November 1982 in the archives of the Archaeological Museum of Istria in Pula.



Slika 2. Tlocrt Bala s vidljivim kružnim rasterom ulica. Grad okružen visokim bedemom podijeljen je koncentričnom ulicom u dva dijela. Gornjim dominira trg sa zvonikom i pročeljem župne crkve, a donjim palača s ulazom između dvije nekadašnje kule (snimak: ARH STUDIO ART Rovinj).

Figure 2. Ground layout of Bale with visible circular street plan. The town, encircled by a high wall, is divided in two by a concentric street. The upper section is dominated by the square with bell-tower and the façade of the parish church, while the lower section is dominated by the palace with entrance between two former towers (plan: ARH STUDIO ART Rovinj).

prepoznajemo na temelju položaja naselja na uzvisini te u obrisima današnjega mjesta, gdje se unutar srednjovjekovnih zidina sačuvao izrazito kružni tlocrt (sl. 2).

Iako bez arheoloških dokaza, može se predmijevati da je konfiguracija terena uvjetovala kružni tok ulica i zidina po linijama slojnica (Milić 1995: 86). O prvim počecima života na položaju današnjega naselja nedvosmisleno kazuje pokretni arheološki materijal pronađen prilikom terenskog iskopa u palači Soardo-Bembo te u iskopu za infrastrukturu duž jedne od ulica koje od središta mjesta vode prema sjeveroistoku.² Iako nemamo čvrste dokaze geneze, u procesu nastajanja Bale pokazuju koncentričan kružni rast (*ibid.* 85), a koliki je prostor zauzimalo prapovijesno naselje, vrlo je teško suditi. Pronađena keramika nalazila se u temeljima, s unutrašnje strane srednjovjekovnog gradića, što ne znači i da se

erosion of the soil they slid to an artificial barrier: the walls of the medieval town. If the find site is taken as an indisputable fact, then the prehistoric settlement extended over a considerable surface. In the same vein, the existence of residential structures only on the southern, sun-bathed slopes of the hill may be assumed, as here the residents had better shelter from the northern winds. Nonetheless, that the settlement covered a larger surface may be assumed on the basis of the already mentioned fragments of prehistoric pottery found in the infrastructure trench in 1982, as well as the discovery of urn burials documented by Anton Gnirs on the eastern slopes (1925: 145).

Although it had an interesting position, near large centres such as Pula or Rovinj, where major institutions such as the Archaeological Museum of Istria in Pula (previously the Museo Civico and Regio Museo dell'Istria) operated, and the head offices of Società Istriana di Archeologia e Storia Patria in Pula and Poreč, archaeological research was never

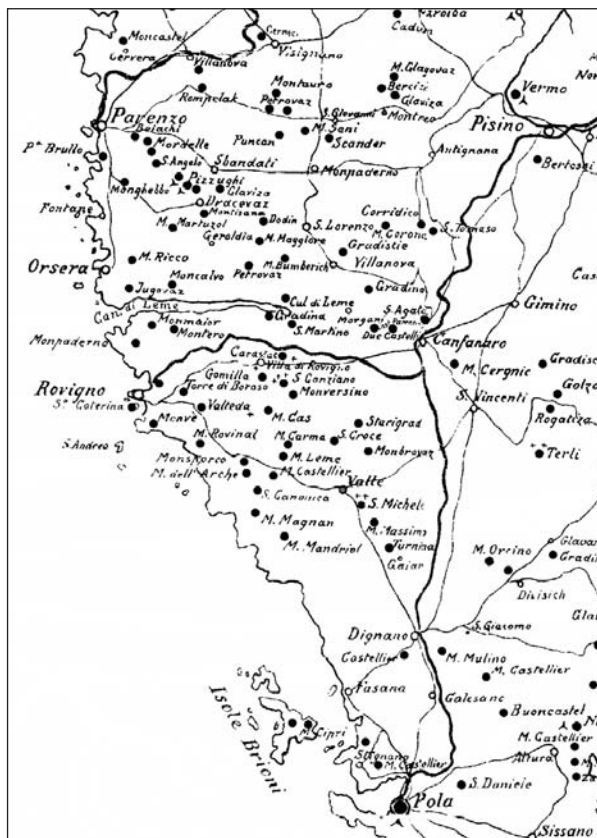
² B. Bačić, K. Buršić & K. Mihovilić, izvještaj od studenoga 1982. u pismohrani Arheološkog muzeja Istre u Puli.

naselje već u prapovijesti protezalo do perimetralnoga zida. Naime keramika se zbog prirodnih okolnosti i nagiba terena mogla naći u sekundarnome položaju. Kako o karakteru nalaza nemamo nikakvih drugih podataka (ostataka stambenih objekata ili ognjišta), ne možemo sa sigurnošću tvrditi da je ona pronađena u prvobitnome položaju. Moguće da se zbog erozije terena slila do umjetne prepreke, odnosno do zidina srednjovjekovnog grada. Ako pak mjesto nalaza uzmemo kao nepobitnu činjenicu, onda se prapovijesno naselje prostiralo na zavidnu prostoru. No isto tako možemo pretpostaviti postojanje stambenih objekata samo na južnim, osunčanim stranama brda, gdje su stanovnici mogli biti bolje zaštićeni od sjevernih vjetrova. Ipak, da se naselje prostiralo i na većoj površini, daju naslutiti već spomenuti ulomci prapovijesne keramike pronađeni 1982. u kanalu za infrastrukturu kao i nalaz žarnih grobova koje je Anton Gnirs dokumentirao na istočnim padinama (1925: 145).

Iako zanimljiva položaja, u blizini većih centara poput Pule ili Rovinja, gdje su djelovale važne ustanove poput Arheološkog muzeja Istre u Puli (prije Museo Civico i Reggio Museo dell'Istria), ili sjedište Società Istriana di Archeologia e Storia Patria u Puli i Poreču, u Balama arheološka istraživanja nisu nikad vršena. No kao topografski podatak Bale su ušle u mnoge monografije ili stručno-znanstvenu literaturu (Škiljan 1980: 16, 26; Marušić 1983: 19; Bekić 1996: 60; Buršić-Matijašić 1998: 192–193: 57; 2007: 205–209). Zanimljivost predstavlja činjenica da lokalitet nije uvršten u pozamašan popis gradinskih naselja Carla Marchesettia iz 1903. g. (sl. 3). Marchesetti Bale spominje, osim kao naseljeno mjesto, samo radi slikovita predočavanja okolnoga neprohodna prostora u kojem se nalaze gradine.³ Sedamdesetih godina 20. st. Boris Bačić Bale je uvrstio u popis lokaliteta Istre za Arheološku kartu Jugoslavije.⁴

Ostaci gradinskoga naselja prepoznaju se u urbanističkome rasteru grada. Grad nastao koncentričnim kružnim rastom okružen je visokim bedemom i podijeljen dvjema koncentričnim ulicama koje su prilagođene konfiguraciji terena. One gradić dijele na dva dijela, što vjerojatno odražava odnos između središnjega platoa gradine i vanjskoga prstena. Unutrašnji prsten (*pars superior*) naglašava najviši

conducted in Bale. Even so, Bale is mentioned as a topographic record in many monographs and other scholarly/research bibliography (Škiljan 1980: 16, 26; Marušić 1983: 19; Bekić 1996: 60; Buršić-Matijašić 1998: 192-193: 57; 2007: 205-209). An interesting fact is that the site was not included in the exhaustive list of hillforts compiled by Carlo Marchesetti in 1903 (Fig. 3). Marchesetti only men-



Slika 3. Dio karte Carla Marchesettia (1903).

Figure 3. Detail of map by Carlo Marchesetti (1903).

tioned Bale as a modern settlement and picturesquely described the surrounding impassable area in which hillforts were located.³ During the 1970s, Boris Bačić placed Bale on the list of Istrian sites for the Archaeological Map of Yugoslavia.⁴

The remains of the hillfort are recognizable in the town's urban layout. The town, which emerged in concentric circles of growth, is surrounded by a high wall and divided by two concentric streets adapted

³ "In queste condizioni si trovano parecchi castelli dei territori di Rovigno e di Valle, la cui esplorazione riesce quindi tutt'altro che piacevole" (Marchesetti 1903: 101) – Mnoge gradine na prostoru Rovinja i Bala nalaze se u takvim uvjetima da obilazak predstavlja neugodno iskustvo.

⁴ B. Bačić, 1971, *Arheološka karta Jugoslavije. Prahistorija*: 350 kartica s obrađenim lokalitetima od paleolitika do željeznog doba u Istri, Kabinet za prahistorijsku arheologiju JAZU, Zagreb.

³ "In queste condizioni si trovano parecchi castelli dei territori di Rovigno e di Valle, la cui esplorazione riesce quindi tutt'altro che piacevole" (Marchesetti 1903: 101) – Many hillforts in the area around Rovinj and Bale are in such conditions, making field inspections thereof an unpleasant experience.

⁴ B. Bačić, 1971, *Arheološka karta Jugoslavije. Prahistorija*: 350 kartica s obrađenim lokalitetima od paleolitika do željeznog doba u Istri, Zagreb: Yugoslav Academy of Arts and Science, Prehistory Archaeology Section.

dio, koji je na svom istočnom dijelu prepoznatljiv po zaravnjenu terenu ispred župne crkve na kojem je sagrađen zvonik, a u povijesnim vrelima poznat kao Monperin (Marušić 1983: 19; Radossi 1990: 112; Cergna 2006: 13). Treća koncentrična komunikacija nalazi se izvan povijesne matrice grada oko koje se razvilo moderno naselje.

NAZIV

U Balama su se, osim u urbanističkim i arhitektonskim dokazima te materijalnim ostacima, tragovi prohujalih vremena sačuvali i u samu nazivu mjesta. Slojevitost jezične pripadnosti utkana je u današnjem dvojezičnom imenu mjesta: Bale – Valle. Teško je danas, nakon gotovo četiri tisućljeća, očekivati sačuvano ime mjesta njegovih prvih stanovnika, no analizom toponima dolazimo do zanimljivih rezultata. U Istri su već poslovično prepoznata imena mjesta prvih indoeuropskih utemeljitelja gradina poput Buzeta, Labina, Poreča i Roča (Šimunović 2005: 167), a Bale ulaze u krug prostora gdje se hrvatski puk doselivši na istočnu obalu Jadrana susreo, prilagodio ili preuzeo određene toponime. Uz Šišan, Fažanu, Galežanu, Vodnjan i Rovinj u Balama se njeguje istriotski ili istroromanski jezik kao skupina predmletačkih romanskih govora istarskoga poluotoka, koji se očituje i u nazivu mjesta (Filipi 2005: 343).

Kad je riječ o Balama, većina autora spominje postojanje toponima *Castrum Vallis*, u kojemu vide preteču današnjeg imena mjesta (Marušić 1983: 19; Radossi 1990: 106; Foscan 1992: 135–142; Alberi 1998: 1581). *Castrum Vallis* navodno je bila tvrđava koja je na brdu Monperin nastala radi kontrole glavne rimske komunikacije koja je iz Trsta, odnosno Akvileje, prolazeći preko Poreča dolazila do Pule (Cergna 2006). Iako je okolica bogata rimskom arhitekturom (Matijašić 1988: 55–58), u Balama do danas nisu pronađeni antički arhitektonski ostaci, stoga porijeklo imena moramo tražiti u nekom kasnijem razdoblju. Marušić s pravom Bale, odnosno *Castrum Vallis*, vidi kao kaštel nastao *ex novo* u nemirnim vremenima kasne antike, na temeljima prapovijesne gradine (Marušić 1975: 344; 1983: 19). Marušić citira autora P. Antona Mariu di Vicenza, koji je 1880. g. prilikom obnove crkve zabilježio nalaz urni sa spaljenim ostacima pokojnika, kosturne grobove i brončani novac Oktavijana Augusta (Marušić 1983: 20, n. 8), zbog čega ne možemo u potpunosti zanemariti postojanje rimskoga naselja. Postoji nekoliko mišljenja zbog čega je utvrda nazvana *Vallis*. Neki porijeklo imena vide u mnogobrojnim valama koje okružuju uzvisinu, a drugi

to the configuration of the terrain. These divide the town into two, which probably reflects the relationship between the hillfort's central plateau and the external ring. The internal ring (*pars superior*) emphasizes the highest point, which is recognizable in its eastern portion by flattened terrain in front of the parish church, where a bell-tower was built, and which is known in historical sources as Monperin (Marušić 1983: 19; Radossi 1990: 112; Cergna 2006: 13). The third concentric communication route is outside of the historical matrix of the town, around which the modern settlement grew.

NAME

In Bale, the vestiges of long past times are preserved not only in the urban and architectural features and material remains, but also in its very name. The complexity of its linguistic classification is interwoven into today's bilingual place-name: Bale – Valle. Today it is difficult, after almost four millennia, to expect that the name used by its first residents is preserved, but an analysis of toponyms yields some interesting results. In Istria, the place-names of the first Indo-European founders of hillforts such as Buzet, Labin, Poreč and Roč have already been proverbially recognized (Šimunović 2005: 167), while Bale is among those places where the Croatian populace, having arrived in the Eastern Adriatic seaboard, encountered, adopted or assumed certain toponyms. As in Šišan, Fažana, Galežana, Vodnjan and Rovinj, in Bale the Istriot (or Istro-Romance) language is nurtured as a group of pre-Venetian Romance languages of the Istrian Peninsula, which is also reflected in the place-name (Filipi 2005: 343).

When speaking of Bale, most scholars mention the toponym *Castrum Vallis*, in which the predecessor to the current place-name can be recognized (Marušić 1983: 19; Radossi 1990: 106; Foscan 1992: 135–142; Alberi 1998: 1581). *Castrum Vallis* was apparently a fortress which emerged on Monperin Hill in order to oversee the main Roman communication route which led from Trieste and Aquileia, and passed through Poreč on to Pula (Cergna 2006). Even though the surrounding area is rich in Roman architecture (Matijašić 1988: 55–58), no Ancient architectural remains have been found in Bale as yet, so the origin of this name should be sought in some later period. Marušić rightfully saw Bale, or *Castrum Vallis*, as a castle which emerged *ex novo* on the foundations of a prehistoric hillfort in the tempestuous times of Late Antiquity (Marušić 1975: 344; 1983: 19). Marušić cited P. Antonio

smatraju da je uzvisina Monperin mnogo niža od ostalih brda te je zbog toga nazvana *valle*, tal. 'dolina, dol' (Alberi 1998: 1581). Najbliže značenje latinske imenice u nazivu mjesta jest *vallis* (arhaiski *valles*), *is, f.* 'dolina', što bi odgovaralo spomenutu izgledu terena oko naselja, s mnogobrojnim dolinama i vrtačama. S druge strane, mnogo je realnije uzeti u obzir latinsku riječ *vallararis*, adj. (*vallum*) 'nasipni, koja bi imala potporu u utvrđenom punktu ili kaštelu. Slično značenje imaju riječi *vallo*, 1. (*vallum*) 'opkopati palisadama', *vallum, i, n.* (*vallus*) 'palisada, opkop, nasip s palisadama', kao i *vallus, i, m.* 'kolac za utvrdu i opkop palisadama'. Sva tri izraza govore u prilog obrane i utvrđivanja mjesta bilo da se radi o opkopu ili pak ogradi učinjenoj od drvenih kolaca.

Jedan od mogućih razloga nastanka toponima Valle mogao bi se povezati i s prvotnim naseljem na susjednoj uzvisini Sv. Mihovila (sl. 4), u odnosu na koju su Bale u dolini. Naime Sv. Mihovil nalazi se na 207, dok su Bale na samo 142 m n/v. Sv. Mihovil bio je naseljen već tijekom neolitika (Matošević 1996–1997; Zlatunić 2007), a brončanodobno stanovništvo nastanilo se na mnogo nižem brdu, 1 000 m zapadnije. Upravo tu nastaje kaštel, a kasnije i naselje *Castrum Vallis*, sa zadaćom kontrole važne komunikacije na cesti između Pule i Trsta ili nadzora južnoga dijela poluotoka, s bogatim agrarnim potencijalom. Ulaskom čitava istarskoga teritorija u sastav Rimskoga Carstva teritorij *Castruma* postaje važan u gospodarskome životu južne Istre, uključujući i razvijenu zapadnu obalu, gdje počinju nicali važna stambeno-gospodarska imanja. Danas se bogatstvo vidi u arheološkim ostacima arhitekture gospodarskoga karaktera (Matijašić 1998: 180–195, 197) kao i u toponimima Quinziana, Valenziana, Majana, Tuiana itd., koji govore o posjedima važnih rimskih obitelji (Cergna 2006: 17).



Slika 4. Pogled iz Bala na susjedno brdo Sv. Mihovila (snimila: K. Buršić-Matijašić, 2009).

Figure 4. View from Bale of neighbouring Sveti Mihovil Hill (photograph: K. Buršić-Matijašić, 2009).

Maria di Vicenza, who noted the discovery of an urn containing the cremated remains of a deceased person, skeletal graves and a bronze coin of Octavian Augustus during renovation of the church in 1880 (Marušić 1983: 20, n. 8), which is why the existence of a Roman settlement cannot be entirely discounted.

There are also several views as to why the fortification was called *Vallis*. Some see the origin of the name in many vales surrounding the heights, while others believe that since the Monperin rise is lower than the surrounding hills it was called *valle*, Italian for 'valley' or 'vale' (Alberi 1998: 1581). The closest meaning of the Latin noun in the place-name is *vallis* (archaic *valles*), *is, f.* 'valley', which would correspond to the aforementioned appearance of the terrain around the settlement with many valleys and hollows. On the other hand, it would be much more realistic to consider the Latin word *vallararis*, adj. (*vallum*) 'ramparted', which would pertain to a fortified point or castle. Similar meanings are shared by the words *vallo*, 1. (*vallum*) 'surround with palisades', *vallum, i, n.* (*vallus*) 'palisade, entrenchment, embankment with palisades', and also *vallus, i, m.* 'post for fortification and palisade trench'. All three expressions point toward the defence or fortification of a given place, either as a trench or fence made of wooden posts.

One of the possible reasons for the emergence of the toponym Valle may also be linked to the original settlement on the neighbouring rise of Sveti Mihovil (Fig. 4), in relation to which Bale is in a valley. Sveti Mihovil has an elevation of 207 m AMSL, while Bale is only 142 m. Sveti Mihovil had already been settled in the Neolithic (Matošević 1996-1997; Zlatunić 2007), while during the Bronze Age the population inhabited a much lower hill, 1,000 m to the west. It was precisely here that the castle, later the *Castrum Vallis* settlement emerged with the task of controlling major communications on the road between Pula and Trieste or supervising the southern part of the peninsula with rich agrarian potential. The incorporation of the entire Istrian territory by the Roman Empire made the territory of *Castrum* vital to the economic life of southern Istria, including the developed western coast, where major residential and farming estates emerged. Today this wealth is reflected in the archaeological remains of *villa rustica* architecture (Matijašić 1998: 180-195, 197) and in the toponyms Quinziana, Valenziana, Majana, Tuiana, etc., which indicate the estates of important Roman families (Cergna 2006: 17).

As of the year 965, the *Castrum Vallis* castle entered the domain of the Poreč diocese, and until

Od 965. g. kaštel *Castrum Vallis* ulazi u domenu Porečke crkve, a sve do 1332. g., kada pada pod mletačku vlast, pretežito je bio u posjedu akvilejskoga patrijarha. U 17. st. Balama upravlja Tomaso Bembo, čija je obitelj u palači živjela do 19. st. Od g. 1618., poslije braka između Alvisea Bemba i Veronice Soardo, kaštel nosi naziv obiju porodica. Potkraj 16. st. kontinuirano se naseljava hrvatsko pučanstvo (Bertoša 1972; Foscan 1992: 135–142; Fabijanović 2005: 50–51).

ISTRAŽIVANJE

Kaštel Soardo-Bembo ustupljen je na korištenje Zajednici Talijana u Balama, a njegovu obnovu posredstvom Talijanske unije financirala je talijanska Vlada. Radovi su započeli krajem 2000., a trajali su do proljeća 2003. Prema stručnim savjetima Konzervatorskog odjela iz Pule projekt obnove vodio je dipl. ing. arh. Bruno Poropat. Radni tim činili su Ivan Matejčić, Radovan Oštrić i Damir Matošević, koji je kao arheolog pratio iskop u podrumskim prostorijama (sl. 5 i 6).⁵ Dokumentaciju je izradio ARH STUDIO ART iz Rovinja.

Pokretne arheološke nalaze činila je u prvome redu keramika. Pri analizi keramičke građe susrela sam se s nekoliko teškoća. Prije svega to je karakter nalaza (zbog nepostojanja dokumentacije, što je proizlazilo iz poremećenosti slojeva). Drugi razlog proizlazi iz činjenice da su dijagnostički ulomci izvađeni iz konteksta cjelokupna nalaza, zbog čega su oni relativno mali i nije bilo moguće izvršiti rekonstrukciju posuda. Ipak, zbog relativno dobro poznatih sklopova drugih istarskih nalazišta kao i susjednih područja može se, na temelju vremenski osjetljivih ulomaka, izvesti zadovoljavajuća kronologija.

ANALIZA KERAMIKE

Iz iskopa u podrumskim prostorijama palače u Balama sakupljena je veća količina keramičkih ulomaka iz koje su nakon čišćenja izdvojeni karakteristični ulomci koji su predmet ove analize. Njihova vremenska pripadnost određena je temeljem analize formalnih statističkih značajki lončarije (oblik, veličina i ukras posuda) te usporedbom s poznatim sklopovima susjednih ili udaljenih nalazišta.

1332, when it came under Venetian authority, it was mainly a holding of the Aquileian patriarch. In the seventeenth century, Bale was administered by Tomaso Bembo, whose family lived in the palace until the nineteenth century. In 1618, after the marriage of Alvise Bembo to Veronica Soardo, the castle bore the name of both families. By the end of the sixteenth century, Croats continually came here to settle (Bertoša 1972; Foscan 1992: 135-142; Fabijanović 2005: 50-51).

RESEARCH

The Soardo-Bembo castle was placed at the disposal of the Italian Community in Bale, and its restoration was financed by the Italian government by means of the Italian Union. Works commenced in 2000, and they lasted until the spring of 2003. Following the expert advice of the Conservation Department in Pula, the restoration project was led by architect Bruno Poropat. The working team consisted of Ivan Matejčić, Radovan Oštrić and Damir Matošević who, as an archaeologist, superintended the excavation of the cellar rooms (Fig. 5 and 6).⁵ The documentation was compiled by ARH STUDIO ART from Rovinj.

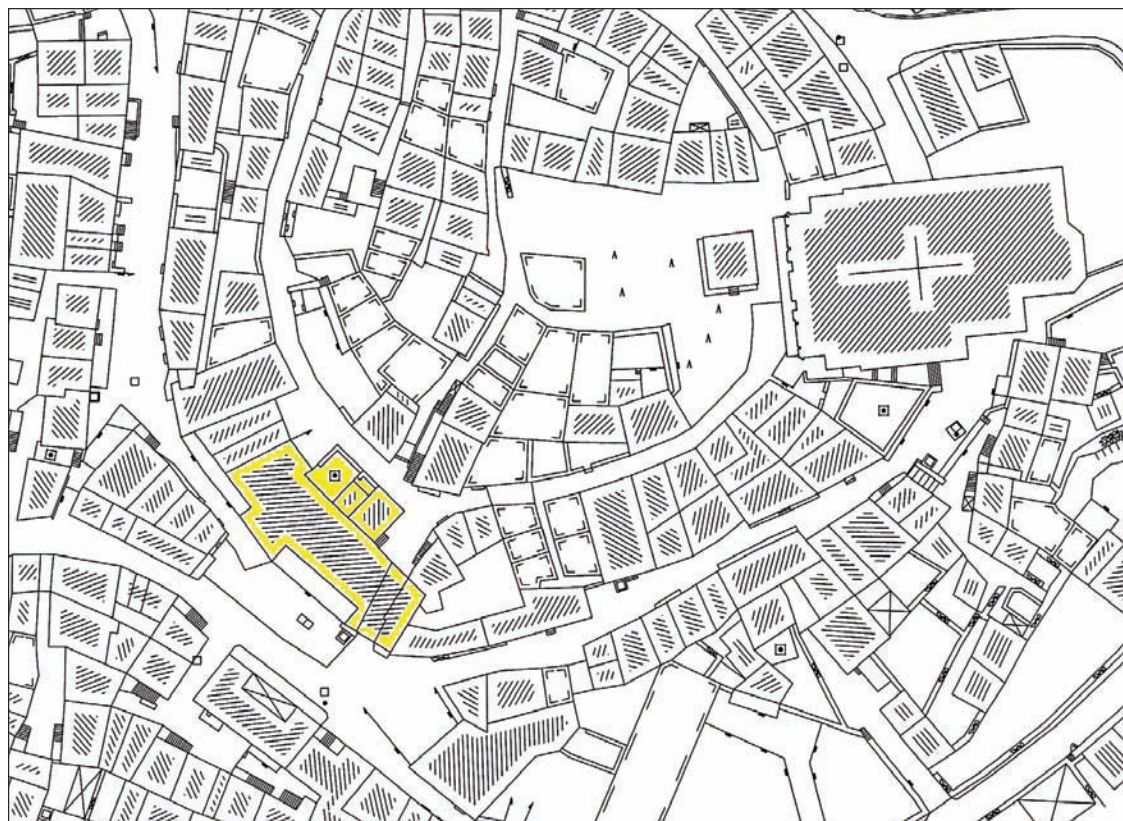
The movable archaeological finds consist primarily of pottery. I encountered several difficulties when analyzing the ceramic materials. Above all, this entailed the character of the finds due to a lack of documentation, which resulted from damage to the layers. The other reason follows from the fact that diagnostic fragments were removed from the context of the entire find, which is why they were relatively small and it was not possible to reconstruct the vessels. Nonetheless, due to the relatively well-known groups of other Istrian sites and the neighbouring areas, it was possible to render a satisfactory chronology based on chronologically sensitive fragments.

POTTERY ANALYSIS

A large quantity of potsherds were gathered from the excavations in the cellar rooms of the palace in Bale, and after cleaning those fragments that are the subject of this analysis were set aside. Their chronological classification was determined by an analysis

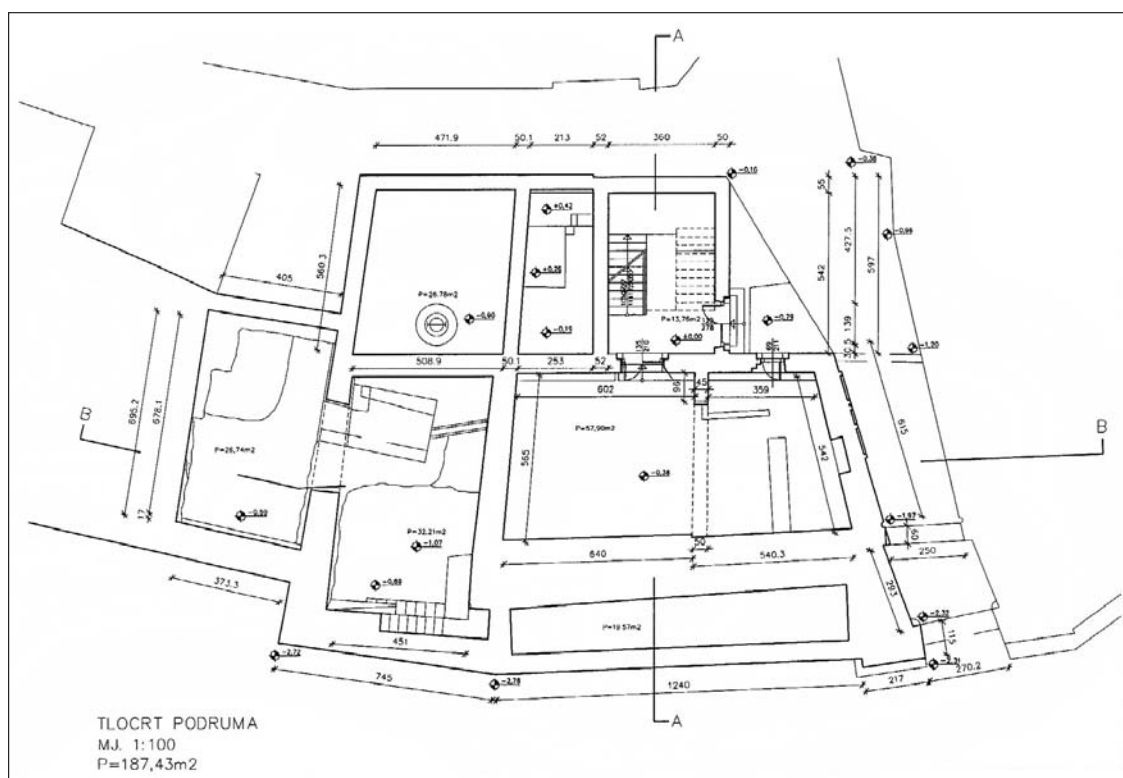
⁵ Zahvaljujem Damiru Matoševiću na ustupanju materijala za obradu koji je pohranjen u Zavičajnom muzeju grada Rovinja.

⁵ I would like to thank Damir Matošević for providing the material for analysis, which are otherwise held in the County Museum in Rovinj.



Slika 5. Obrisu palače Soardo-Bembo u strukturi današnjeg gradića (snimak: ARH STUDIO ART Rovinj).

Figure 5. Contours of Soardo-Bembo Palace in the structure of the present-day town (plan: ARH STUDIO ART Rovinj).



Slika 6. Tlocrt podruma gdje je iskopan arheološki materijal (snimak: ARH STUDIO ART Rovinj).

Figure 6. Layout of cellar where archaeological materials were excavated (plan: ARH STUDIO ART Rovinj).

Razmotreni su samo vremenski osjetljivi ulomci posuda, ulomci oboda i dna, ručki te ukrašeni komadi. Zbog neprimjerena istraživanja kao i poremećaja slojeva tijekom gradnje samoga kaštela materijal nije bilo moguće izdvojiti po slojevima-horizontima. Izdvojeni su sklopovi nalaza s obzirom na vremenski osjetljive ulomke, veličine posuda i njihove tehnološke obrade. Zbog veličine ulomaka i neadekvatne laboratorijske obrade, odnosno neprovedena postupka sastavljanja, rekonstrukcija profila posuda bila je nemoguća.

Svi karakteristični ulomci fotografirani su i nacrtani,⁶ a od metričkih varijabli⁷ izdvojena je samo debljina stijenke izražena u centimetrima.

1. Metričke varijable

Debljina stijenki varira od najtanjeg jednog ulomka od samo 0,3 cm (109) do najdebljih dijelova pladnjeva od 2,1 i 2,3 cm (86 i 87). Od 113 ulomaka njih 25 ima debljinu stijenke od 0,6 cm. Slijede nešto deblji ulomci od 0,7 cm (20 primjera). Sedamnaest ulomaka ima debljinu stijenke od 0,8 cm, a njih 14 ima debljinu 0,5 cm. Debljina stijenke odgovara veličini i namjeni posude. Najdeblje stijenke imaju dijelovi velikih lonaca (4, 6, 9, 11), a najtanju stijenku ima dio srednjovjekovne posude (7). Dvanaest ulomaka ima debljinu od 1 cm, dok se ostale vrijednosti javljaju kod 5 i manje primjeraka. Naravno, ti podaci nisu odlučujući u definiranju veličine i namjene posuda jer debljina stijenke nije uvijek mjerena na istom položaju posude, već ona varira s obzirom na očuvanost ulomka. Tako se debljina stijenke pladnja ne može usporediti s debljinom stijenke posude finije fature u predjelu trbuha posude. Svakako valja računati s time da ulomci debelih stijenki predstavljaju ostatke velikih posuda grube fature, a one tankih manjih posuda fine fature. Stoga u zadanom uzorku veći udio imaju posude tankih stijenki (T. 1–2).

2. Nominalne varijable

Od nominalnih varijabli izdvojeni su oblici posuda (2.1), dijelovi posuda (2.2) te ukrasi (2.3), koje možemo razmatrati kroz tehnike ukrašavanja, ukrasne motive, položaj ukrasnih motiva i obradu površine.

of formal statistical pottery features (shape, size and vessel ornamentation) and comparison with known sets from neighbouring or even more distant find-sites. Only the chronologically sensitive potsherds, rim and base fragments, handles and ornamented pieces were considered.

Due to inappropriate research and damage to the layers during construction of the castle itself, the material could not be distinguished by layers/horizons. Groups of finds were established using chronologically sensitive fragments, the size of the vessels and the technology of their crafting. Due to the size of the fragments and the inadequate laboratory analysis, i.e., the absence of assembly procedures, reconstruction of the vessel profiles was not possible.

All of the characteristic fragments were photographed and sketched,⁶ while among the metric variables,⁷ only thickness of the walls, expressed in centimetres, was used.

1. Metric variables

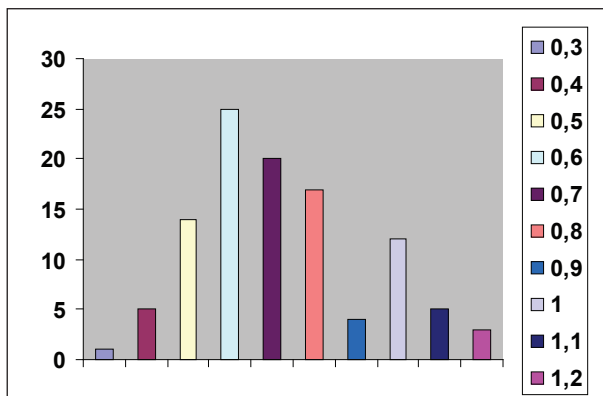
The thickness of the walls varied from the thinnest, a fragment of only 0.3 cm (109), to the thickest parts of platters, from 2.1 to 2.3 cm (86 and 87). Out of the 113 fragments, 25 have a wall thickness of 0.6 cm. These are followed by somewhat thicker fragments of 0.7 cm (20 examples). 17 fragments have a wall thickness of 0.8 cm, while 14 had a thickness of 0.5 cm. The thickness of the walls corresponded to the size and use of the vessel. The thickest walls were on the large pots (4, 6, 9, 11), while the thinnest wall was on a fragment of the medieval vessel (7). 12 fragments had a thickness of 1 cm, while the remaining values appeared on 5 or less fragments. Naturally, these data are not decisive in defining the size and use of the vessels, for the thickness of the walls was not always measured at the same place on the vessels, rather it varied given the state of preservation of a given fragment. Thus, the thickness of the walls on a platter cannot be compared with the wall thickness of a vessel with finer fabric at its belly section. Certainly noteworthy is that the fragments with thicker walls are the remains of large vessels of coarse fabric, while the thin fragments are the remains of small vessels of fine fabric. Therefore, in this sampling thin-walled vessels account for the larger share (Pl. 1-2).

⁶ Materijal je nacrtao Ivo Juričić, kojemu ovom prigodom zahvaljujem.

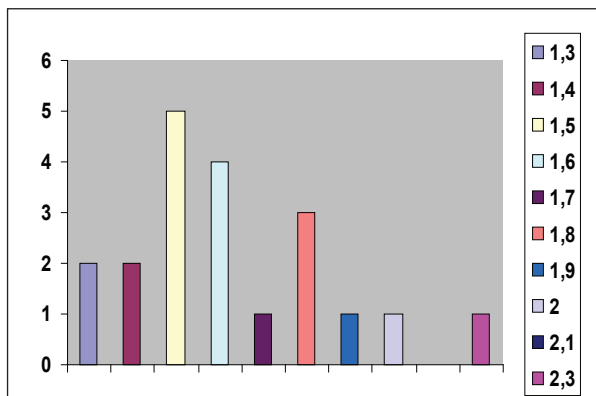
⁷ Metodologija analize keramičkoga materijala prema Forenbahe & Kaiser (2006: 163–223) uključuje metričke varijable (veličina posude, debljina posude, težina u gramima, utrusci u tkivu lončarije te boja površine) i nominalne varijable (oblik posude, dio posude, tipovi glinene mase, tipovi utruska, tehnike ukrašavanja, ukrasni motivi, položaj ukrasnih motiva, obrada površine, pečenje te prisutnost rupa od krpanja posuda).

⁶ The material was drawn by Ivo Juričić, whom I would like to take this opportunity to thank.

⁷ The methodology for analyzing the ceramics according to Forenbahe & Kaiser (2006: 163–223) includes metric variables (vessel size, wall thickness, weight in grams, fillers in the fabric of the clay and surface colour) and nominal variables (vessel shape, vessel part, types of clay mass, filler types, ornamentation technique, decorative motifs, position of decorative motifs, surface rendering, firing and presence of holes from mending of vessel).



Tablica 1. Debljina stijenki.
Table 1. Thickness of walls.



Tablica 2. Debljina stijenki.
Table 2. Thickness of walls.

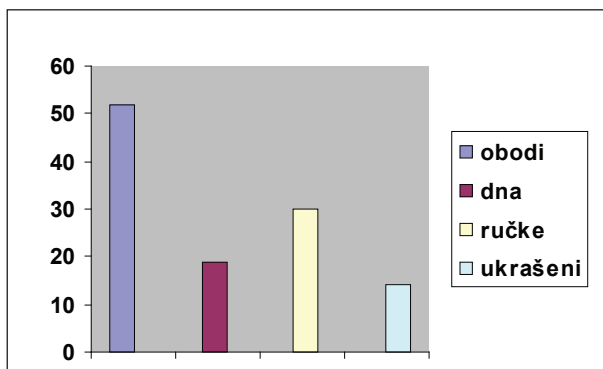
2.1. Oblik posude

Zbog velike razlomljenosti ulomaka vrlo je teško govoriti o oblicima posuda. O oblicima posuda govore samo pojedini sačuvani ulomci. Od 113 komada keramičkih dijelova posuda samo je kod njih 10 bilo moguće djelomično rekonstruirati gornji dio posude (73, 96, 98, 102, 103, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110), a od istoga broja ulomaka kod njih 9 dobiven je promjer stajanje površine posuda (74, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 111, 112, 113).

Prisutni su: veliki lonci (3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 11, 15, 18, 100), plitke zdjele (30, 31), noge tronožaca (89, 91), pladnjevi (86, 87, 88, 90).

2.2. Dijelovi posuda

Među 113 ulomaka prisutni su ovi dijelovi posuda: obodi s 52 primjera, dna s 19 primjera, ručke s 30 primjera te 14 dijelova posuda s ukrasima. Valja napomenuti da ima ulomaka gdje se ručke nalaze na samu obodu posude (40, 49, 73), kao što dijelovi pladnjeva imaju sačuvano dno i obod, zbog čega nije moguće izdvojiti postotak prisutnosti određene varijable (T. 3).



Tablica 3. Dijelovi posuda.
Table 3. Vessel parts.

2. Nominal variables

Of the nominal variables, the vessel shapes (2.1), vessel parts (2.2) and ornamentation (2.3) were distinguished, as these may be observed through the ornamentation technique, decorative motifs, position of decorative motifs and surface rendering.

2.1. Vessel shape

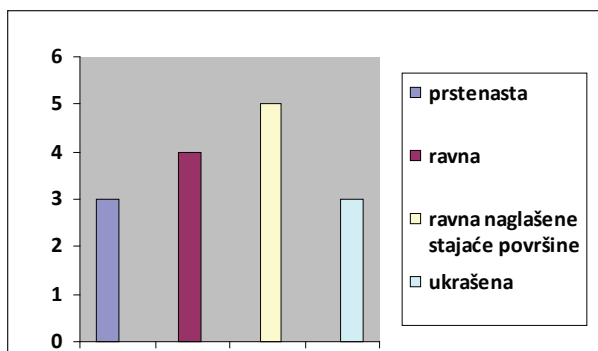
Due to the extremely fractured state of the fragments, it is very difficult to speak of vessel shapes. Only a few preserved fragments indicate the shapes of the vessels. Out of the 113 pieces of pottery, the upper portion of vessels could only be partially reconstructed for 10 of them (73, 96, 98, 102, 103, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110), while for the same number of fragments, the diameter of the standing surface of the vessel could be obtained for 9 of them (74, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 111, 112, 113).

Present are: large pots (3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 11, 15, 18, 100), shallow bowls (30, 31), tripod foot pieces (89, 91), platters (86, 87, 88, 90).

2.2. Vessel parts

Among the 113 fragments, these vessel parts are presents: rims with 52 examples, bases with 19 examples, handles with 30 examples and 14 pieces of vessels bearing ornamentation. Worth noting is that there are fragments on which the handle is at the very rim of the vessel (40, 49, 73), as well as parts of platters with the base and rim preserved, making it impossible to calculate the percentage of presence of a given variable (Pl. 3).

2.2.1. The most numerous are vessel rims, which with 52 examples account for slightly over 46%, and they can be classified based on the curvature and



Tablica 4. Oblici dna.

Table 4. Base shapes.

2.2.1. Najbrojniji su obodi posuda, koji s 52 primjera čine nešto više od 46%, a mogu se razvrstati prema zakrivljenosti te oblikovanju usne oboda. Najveću kategoriju čine razgrnuti obodi, kratki razgrnuti (4), ali i zasječeni (11, 20, 27).

2.2.2. Prisutno je nekoliko tipova dna posuda: 3 prstenasta (57, 58, 59), 4 ravna (81), 9 ravnih naglašene stajace površine (78, 79, 83, 85, 90, 94) i 3 ukrašena (74, 78, 79). Ukrase čine plitke koncentrične kanelure uz rub dna na koje su okomito postavljene paralelne kanelure (74) (T. 4).

2.2.3 Najviše tipova prepoznato je među ručkama, ipak najviše prisutno u komadima i vrlo rijetko u cijelim primjercima: 2 okrugle (46, 48), 3 trakaste (43, 45, 104), 1 trakasta sedlasta presjeka (34), 5 trokutastih (42, 44, 47, 71, 73), 1 trokutasta sedlasta presjeka (72), 8 trokutastih s pločastim završetkom (33, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41), 3 jezičaste (67, 68, 69), 4 jezičaste s utisnutim središnjim dijelom (64, 65, 66, 70) te 2 ručke posebna oblika (49, 50) (T. 5).

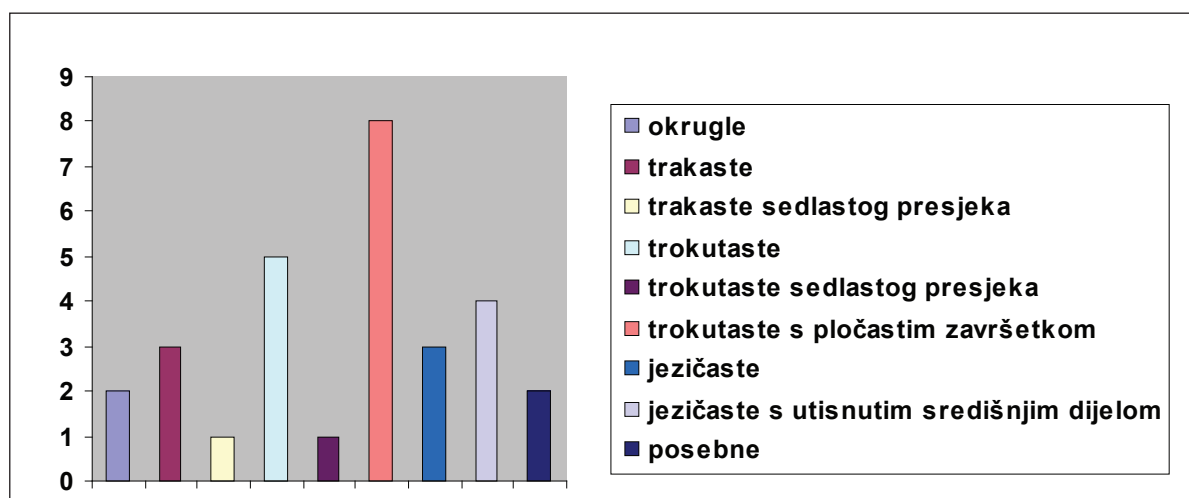
formation of the vessel mouth. The largest category are outwardly drawn rims, short drawn (4) and also oblique (11, 20, 27).

2.2.2. Several types of vessel bases are present: 3 ringed (57, 58, 59), 4 flat (81), 9 flat with prominent standing surfaces (78, 79, 83, 85, 90, 94) and 3 ornamented (74, 78, 79). The ornaments consist of shallow concentric fluting along the edge of the base on which vertically arranged parallel fluting was placed (74) (Pl. 4).

2.2.3 Most types were recognized among the handles, albeit mostly present in pieces and very rarely whole: 2 round (46, 48), 3 ribbon-like (43, 45, 104), 1 with ribbon-saddle cross-section (34), 5 triangular (42, 44, 47, 71, 73), 1 with triangular-saddle cross-section (72), 8 triangular with flattened ends (33, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41), 3 tongue-shaped (67, 68, 69), 4 tongue-shaped with pressed central section (64, 65, 66, 70) and 2 handles with specific shapes (49, 50) (Pl. 5).

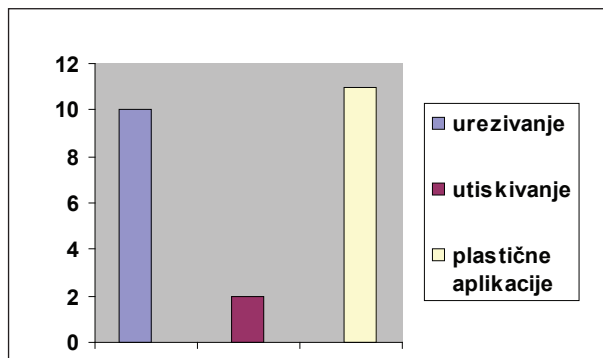
Among the characteristic fragments, the high number of triangular handles with flattened ends is surprising. The flattened end is semi-spherical in shape. If the triangular handles and handles with triangular-saddle cross-section are added to them, then it is notable in this relatively small number of potsherds these account for almost 12.4%.

Here it would be worthwhile to consider tongue-shaped handles, more specifically the direction of the handle in relation to the vessel's base or mouth. Did tongue-shaped handles point upward or downward? Given the vessel fragments on which the rim was preserved in addition to the handle, they should be seen with the handle turned upward. But when their functional value and manner of carrying and



Tablica 5. Vrste ručki.

Table 5. Handle types.



Tablica 6. Vrste ukrasa.

Table 6. Ornament types.

Među karakterističnim ulomcima iznenađuje brojnost trokutastih ručki s pločastim završetkom. Pločasti završetak poluloptasta je oblika. Ako njima pribrojimo trokutaste i trokutaste sedlasta presjeka, onda primjećujemo da na relativno malome broju keramičkih ulomaka one čine gotovo 12,4%.

Ovdje se valja osvrnuti na pitanje jezičastih ručki, odnosno smjer ručke u odnosu na dno, odnosno ušće posude. Je li jezičasta ručka bila postavljena prema gore ili prema dolje? S obzirom na ulomke posuda na kojima je osim ručke sačuvan i obod, valjalo bi ih promatrati s jezičkom okrenutim prema gore. No kad analiziramo njihovu funkcionalnu vrijednost i način prenošenja, odnosno podizanje posude, njihov bi jezičak morao biti okrenut prema dolje.⁸

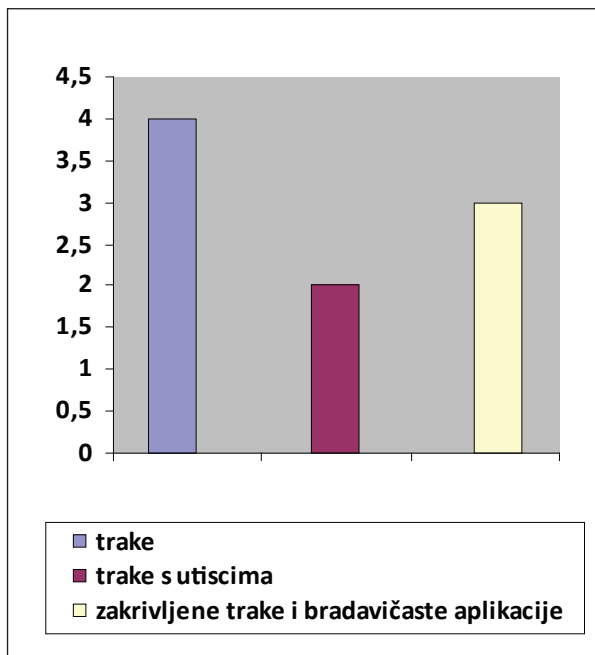
Među ručkama primjećujemo još jednu kategoriju: položaj ručke u odnosu na njezin smještaj. Većina, njih 48, nalazi se na tijelu posude, a 5 dijelova ručki postavljeno je na njihovu obodu (35, 40, 48, 49, 73).

2.3. Ukrašavanje

Zbog malog uzorka nećemo posebno izdvajati tehnike ukrašavanja, ukrasne motive, položaj ukrasa i obradu površine. Među ulomcima iz iskopa prisutne su tri osnovne tehnike ukrašavanja: urezivanjem, utiskivanjem i plastične aplikacije. Urezivanjem su ukrašena tijela posuda pri ramenu posude (53) ili pak njegovih donjih dijelova (75–77). Utiskivanje se javlja na apliciranoj gruboj traci (56, 57) (T. 6).

Najbrojnije su plastične aplikacije u vidu traka (54, 55, 58), traka s otiskom prsta (56, 57), bradavica (59, 60) te kombinacija polumjesečaste trake i bradavičaste aplikacije (61–63). Kod većine sklopova brončanodobnoga materijala ukrašavanje se očituje

⁸ Među keramikom s lokaliteta Vrčin (Buršić-Matijašić 1999) ulomak br. 100 ili pak ulomci s Monkodonje (Buršić-Matijašić 1998) primjeri br. 256, 257, 272.



Tablica 7. Vrste ukrašavanja aplikacijom.

Table 7. Types of ornamentation using appliques

lifting of the vessel is analyzed, their tongues would have to be turned downward.⁸

Among the handles one more category is noticeable: the position of the handle relative to where it is affixed. Most, 48, are on the body of the vessel, while 5 handle parts were placed on the vessel rims (35, 40, 48, 49, 73).

2.3. Ornamentation

Due to the small sampling, ornamentation techniques, decorative motifs, position of ornamentation and surface rendering will not be separately classified. Three basic ornamentation techniques are present among the fragments from the excavation: engraving, impressing and sculpted appliques. Vessels were ornamented by engraving on their bodies at their shoulders (53) or their lower sections (75–77). Impressing appears on an applied coarse band (56, 57) (Pl. 6).

The most numerous are sculpted appliques such as bands (54, 55, 58), bands with finger imprints (56, 57), sculpted wart-like extensions (59, 60) and combinations of crescent-moon bands and wart-like appliques (61–63). In most groups of Bronze Age material, ornamentation also appears through the surface

⁸ Among the pottery from the Vrčin site (Buršić-Matijašić 1999), fragment no. 100, or the fragments from Monkodonja (Buršić-Matijašić 1998), example no. 256, 257, 272.

i kroz obradu površine. Zbog relativno siromašna ukrasa obrade površine u vidu fino polirane vanjske površine (13, 17, 98) ili češljasta ukrasa (29) uzeti su kao pokazatelji intervencije keramičara radi dobivanja efektne proizvoda (T. 7).

DATACIJA

Obradeni materijal možemo svrstati u tri kronološke skupine: brončanodobnu, željeznodobnu i srednjovjekovnu. Kod svih analiza zbog malobrojnosti uzoraka dobivene su samo grube procjene. Kako faktura u datiranju posuda nije presudna, datacija većine ulomaka određena je temeljem karakterističnih elemenata. Najveći broj čine ulomci keramike brončanodobne datacije. Jedan od brojnijih elemenata jesu trokutaste ručke s jezičastom pločicom (33–40). Zbog fragmentiranosti ulomaka samo dva primjera imaju pločicu pričvršćenu uz rub oboda (35, 40). Takve su ručke vrlo česte na nalazištima Istre, ali i izvan nje. One čine najbrojniju skupinu ručki među materijalom s gradina Vrčin i Monkodonja (Buršić-Matijašić 1998: 67; 1999: 118, 132), no zbog karaktera nalaza ta dva lokaliteta nisu dala kronološke podatke. Stratigrafski sigurni podaci potječu s lokaliteta Tršćanskog krasa (gradina Slivia, gradina Elleri), južnih padina Velebita (Vaganačka pećina), konačno gradine Gradac-Turan kraj Koromačna, Karaštak i tumul Maklavun. U spomenutim kompleksima taj tip ručke smješten je u vrijeme kraja ranoga i početak srednjega brončanog doba (Cardarelli 1983; Forenbaher & Vranjican 1985; Mihovilić 1997: 43; Buršić-Matijašić 1997), što je potvrđeno i preliminarnom analizom "novih" nalaza na Monkodonji (Teržan *et al.* 1999: 87). U istu skupinu možemo uvrstiti i jezičaste ručke sa središnjim ulegnućem (64, 65, 66, 70). Kronološki su osjetljivi ulomci tronožaca (98, 91), ukrašeno dno (74) te plastični ukrasi oblika polumjesečaste aplikacije i bradavice (61, 62). Ti elementi javljaju se istovremeno na već spomenutim lokalitetima i čine osnovni keramički repertoar kraja početnog i srednjega brončanog doba. Možda nešto stariji element mogla bi predstavljati dva ulomka keramike grube fature s plastičnim trakama ukrašenima otiscima prstiju (56, 57). Takav se ukras javlja već u eneolitskim slojevima jadransko-zapadnobalkanske regije (Čović 1983: 108) te lokalitetima srednjega brončanog doba Like (Drechsler-Bižić 1983: 254). S obzirom na poznate primjerke Čović istarske stavlja u prvu, inicijalnu fazu početka ranoga brončanog doba (Čović 1983: 121). Plastične trake ukrašene otiskom prsta sporadično se javljaju i kasnije, no

rendering. Due to the relatively meagre ornamentation, surface rendering in the form of finely polished external surfaces (13, 17, 98) or comb-shaped ornaments (29) were taken as indicators of intervention by the potters to obtain effect on the product (Pl. 7).

DATING

The analyzed material may be classified into three chronological groups: Bronze Age, Iron Age and medieval. Due to the small number of samples, only rough estimates were obtained in this analysis. Since fabric is not crucial to the dating of vessels, most fragments were dated on the basis of characteristic elements. Most are potsherds with Bronze Age dating. Among the more numerous elements are triangular handles with tongue-shaped plate extensions (33–40). Due to the fragmentary character of the potsherds, only two examples have plate extensions fastened to the edge of the rim (35, 40). Such handles are very frequent at sites in Istria, but also outside of this region. They account for the most numerous group of handles among the material from the Vrčin and Monkodonja hillforts (Buršić-Matijašić 1998: 67; 1999: 118, 132), but due to the character of the finds, these two sites did not provide any chronological data. Stratigraphically certain data come from the Trieste Carso sites (Slivia hillfort, Elleri hillfort), the southern slopes of Velebit (Vaganačka cave), and finally the hillfort of Gradac-Turan near Koromačno, Karaštak and the Maklavun tumulus. In these complexes, this handle type has been dated to the end of the Early and beginning of the Middle Bronze Age (Cardarelli 1983; Forenbaher & Vranjican 1985; Mihovilić 1997: 43; Buršić-Matijašić 1997), which has been confirmed by the preliminary analysis of "new" finds at Monkodonja (Teržan *et al.* 1999: 87). Tongue-shaped handles with central depression can be classified into the same group (64, 65, 66, 70). The tripod fragments (98, 91), ornamented bases (74) and sculpted forms of a crescent-moon appliqué and wart-like protuberance (61, 62) are chronologically sensitive. These elements appeared simultaneously at the aforementioned sites and they constitute the basic range of pottery of the end of the Early and beginning of the Middle Bronze Age. Two potsherds with coarse fabric and sculpted bands adorned with finger imprints (56, 57) may possibly constitute an older element. Such ornamentation already appeared in the Eneolithic layers of the Adriatic/West Balkan region (Čović 1983: 108) and at the Middle Bronze Age sites of Lika (Drechsler-Bižić 1983: 254). Given the known examples, Čović placed the Istrian

naši primjerci, zbog grube fakture s punjačima od velikih zrnaca kamena, mogli bi biti preteča kasnijem, mnogo finije izvedenu ukrasu (Monkodonja u Buršić-Matijašić 1998, T. 45).

Položaj ukrasnih motiva ulazi u domenu dobro znanih sklopova brončanodobnoga materijala Vrčina, Monkodonje, Gradca-Turna, ali i mnogih drugih slabije obrađenih lokaliteta, poput Magornjaka (Čović 1983: 127; Buršić-Matijašić 1998; 1999; Mihovilić 1997). Primjena elementa traje vrlo dugo, sve do početne faze željeznoga doba u Istri, gdje se kao ukras u kombinaciji s polumjesečastim žlijebom javlja još na nalazištu Limska gradina (Mihovilić 1972: 43).

Kanelurama ukrašena dna i donji dijelovi posude karakteristika su srednjega brončanog doba istarskih nalazišta kao što su Gradac-Turan kraj Koromačna (Mihovilić 1997: 44, T. 3: 6, 7) i Monkodonja (Teržan *et al.* 1999, sl. 39: 1; 40: 14; 41: 13; 44: 4), kao i onih Tršćanskog krasa (Cardarelli 1983, Tav. 17: 159). U istu grupu može biti uvršten tip ručke s pločastim završecima (50). Kod talijanskih autora nazivaju se *prese con attacchi a piastra* (*ibid.* sl. 17, 134) ili tip s krilcima na gradini Gradac-Turan, koji se nastavlja i u kasnijoj fazi kasnoga brončanog doba (Mihovilić 1997: 44–45, T. 2: 3; T. 5: 6)

Keramika željeznoga doba zastupljena je s tri primjera (103–105). Izdvojeni su zbog karakteristične fakture izrađene od gline pomiješane s velikim postotkom sitno usitnjena kalcita. Fakturom se ističe br. 103 s crno poliranim površinama, gdje je na vanjskoj površini taj sloj jako oštećen. Tri su ulomka oboda posuda, a četvrti ulomak predstavlja jezičastu ručku s jedva primjetnim utiskom prsta. Dva ulomka predstavljaju dijelove razgrnutih oboda, među kojima se ističe br. 103, koji bi mogao predstavljati cilindrični vrat posude. Vanjska stijenka vrlo je lagano zakrivljena, dok unutrašnja ima izrazito zakrivljenje. Sličnost možemo tražiti u šalicama iz Nezakcija (Mihovilić 2001, T. 82: 24; 83: 15), ili u posudi inv. br. P/29988 (*ibid.* T. 84: 13), ili pak u gornjim dijelovima zdjela iz Kaštelira-Valarona kraj Nove Vasi (Sakara Sučević 2004, tip 2.2b). Na temelju sačuvanih ostataka teško je govoriti o tipovima lonaca. Zbog slabo poznatih naseobinskih željeznodobnih keramičkih kompleksa u Istri, naposljetku zbog neznatna i "neatraktivna" uzorka iz Bala, teško je izreći konačni sud.

Posljednju skupinu čine ulomci srednjovjekovnih posuda, koje su u odnosu na željeznodobne nešto brojnije. Lončarija je zastupljena sa šest gornjih dijelova (102, 106–110) i tri ravna dna (111–113), od kojih dva s jedva naglašenom stajaćom površinom,

artefacts in the first, initial phase of the beginnings of the Early Bronze Age (Čović 1983: 121). Sculpted bands adorned with finger imprints appeared sporadically even later, but the examples here, due to their coarse fabric with clay filler consisting of large stone grains, may be the predecessors to later, much more finely rendered ornaments (Monkodonja in Buršić-Matijašić 1998, Pl. 45).

The position of the decorative motifs enters the realm of the well-known sets of Bronze Age material from Vrčin, Monkodonja, Gradac-Turan, and many other less analyzed sites such as Magornjak (Čović 1983: 127; Buršić-Matijašić 1998; 1999; Mihovilić 1997). The application of elements endured for a considerable time, until the initial phases of the Iron Age in Istria, where they still appeared as ornaments in combination with crescent-moon grooves at the Lim hillfort site (Mihovilić 1972: 43).

Bases and lower vessel sections adorned with fluting are characteristic of the Middle Bronze Age at Istrian sites such as Gradac-Turan, near Koromačno (Mihovilić 1997: 44, Pl. 3: 6, 7) and Monkodonja (Teržan *et al.* 1999, Fig. 39: 1; 40: 14; 41: 13; 44: 4), as well as those of Trieste Carso (Cardarelli 1983, Tav. 17: 159). The handle type with plate-extension ends may be placed in the same group (50). Italian scholars refer to this as *prese con attacchi a piastra* (*Ibid.* Fig. 17, 134) or the barbed type at the Gradac-Turan hillfort, which continued into the late phase of the Late Bronze Age (Mihovilić 1997: 44–45, Pl. 2: 3; Pl. 5: 6)

Iron Age pottery is present in three examples (103–105). They are distinguished by the typical fabric made of clay tempered with a high percentage of finely ground calcite. The most distinguished fabric is no. 103, with black polished surfaces, on which this layer is highly damaged on the external surface. There are three fragments of vessel rims, while the fourth fragment is a tongue-shaped handle with a scarcely visible finger imprints. Two fragments are pieces of outwardly drawn rims, notably no. 103, which may in fact belong to a cylindrical neck. The external wall was very lightly curved, while the internal wall exhibits very obvious curvature. Similarities may be sought in the cups from Nesactium (Mihovilić 2001, Pl. 82: 24; 83: 15), or in the vessel inv. no. P/29988 (*Ibid.* Pl. 84: 13), or even in the upper sections of the bowl from Kaštelir-Valaron near Nova Vas (Sakara Sučević 2004, type 2.2b). Based on the preserved remains, it is difficult to speak of pot types. It is difficult to make a definitive assessment due to the poor knowledge of Iron Age settlement pottery in Istria, and ultimately due to the negligible and "unattractive" samples from Bale.

The last group consists of fragments of medieval vessels, which are somewhat more numerous in

odnosno udubljenjem od lončarskog kola. Ulomci su pretežno sive boje, keramike tankih stijenki i s primjesom sitna vapnenca. Gotovo na svim ulomcima jasno se razaznaju sitne koncentrične crte kao ostatak izrade na lončarskom kolu. Svi obodi imaju zaobljene rubove. Najzanimljiviji je ulomak br. 10, ukrašen jednoprutom valovnicom. Ta posuda ulazi u grupu koju čini posuđe lošije kvalitete tankih stijenki (Juroš-Monfardin 1987: 219, Tab. 6: 1). Dijelovi su to lonaca razvrnutih rubova, a riječ je o keramici koja je uz fino posuđe izrađeno u tehnici majolike u upotrebi tijekom 15. st.⁹

BALE U PROSTORU

Bale su nastale na prostoru s najviše prapovijesnih ostataka u Istri. To je valovit ravnjak koji se proteže od južnih obronaka Limskog kanala do Pule. Taj prostor ima jedinstvene karakteristike koje su se odrazile na intenzivno naseljavanje tijekom prapovijesti. Okolica Bala bogata je prapovijesnim, antičkim, kasnoantičkim i srednjovjekovnim nalazištima (Radossi 1981–1982; Marušić 1983; Matijašić 1988: 55–60; Matejčić & Jurković 2002; Buršić-Matijašić 2007: 205–232).

Povoljna geološka struktura, karakteristike tla i klima razlozi su zbog kojih se Bale i njihova okolica ističu po brojnosti gradinskih ostataka. Iako na prostoru Bala nema prirodnih vodotoka, nedostatak voda tekućica potaknuo je skupljanje i korištenje vode iz prirodnih, odnosno umjetnih skupljališta. Okolica Bala obiluje lokvama,¹⁰ a čovjek je od rana zidao cisterne ili pak bunare. Danas je situacija dijelom i različita jer svakako valja uzeti u obzir promjene koje su slijedom prirodnih procesa nastupile tijekom tisućljeća. O prisutnosti vode sigurno govori toponim *Fontanella* (tal. *fontanella*, f. 'vodoskok', odnosno *fonte*, f. 'izvor, vrutak, vrelo') u sklopu nalazišta Monkaštel, istočno od Bala, a Boris Bačić na lokalitetu Skačota, južno od Golaša zabilježio je prisutnost "kultnog mjesta" posvećenog izvoru vode.¹¹ Izvori se nalaze na sjevernoj i

comparison with those from the Iron Age. Pottery is represented by six upper sections (102, 106–110) and three flat bases (111–113), of which two have barely prominent standing surfaces, i.e., a depression made by the potter's wheel. The fragments are generally grey, while the ceramic is thin-walled with fine limestone temper. On almost all of these fragments, tiny concentric lines are visible as traces of rendering on the potter's wheel. All rims have rounded edges. The most interesting is fragment no. 10, which is adorned with a single-stalk wave pattern. This vessel belongs to the group consisting of vessels of poorer-quality thin walls (Juroš-Monfardin 1987: 219, Plate 6: 1). These are pots with outwardly drawn rims, and they were used during the fifteenth century together with fine ware made using the majolica technique.⁹

BALE IN ITS SETTING

Bale emerged in an area with the most prehistoric remains in Istria. This is a rolling plain extending from the southern foothills of Lim Bay to the city of Pula. This area has unique features which are reflected in its intense settlement in prehistory. The Bale environs are replete with sites dating to prehistory, Antiquity, Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages (Radossi 1981–1982; Marušić 1983; Matijašić 1988: 55–60; Matejčić & Jurković 2002; Buršić-Matijašić 2007: 205–232).

A favourable geological structure, soil characteristics and the climate are all reasons why Bale and its surroundings are notable for the considerable number of hillfort remains. Even though the Bale area has no natural watercourses, the lack of flowing water spurred the collection and use of water from natural or artificial catchments. The Bale environs have an abundance of ponds,¹⁰ and people have built cisterns or wells since a very early period. Today the situation is somewhat different, for it is certainly worthwhile to take into consideration the changes which occurred over the millennia as a result of natural processes. The presence of water

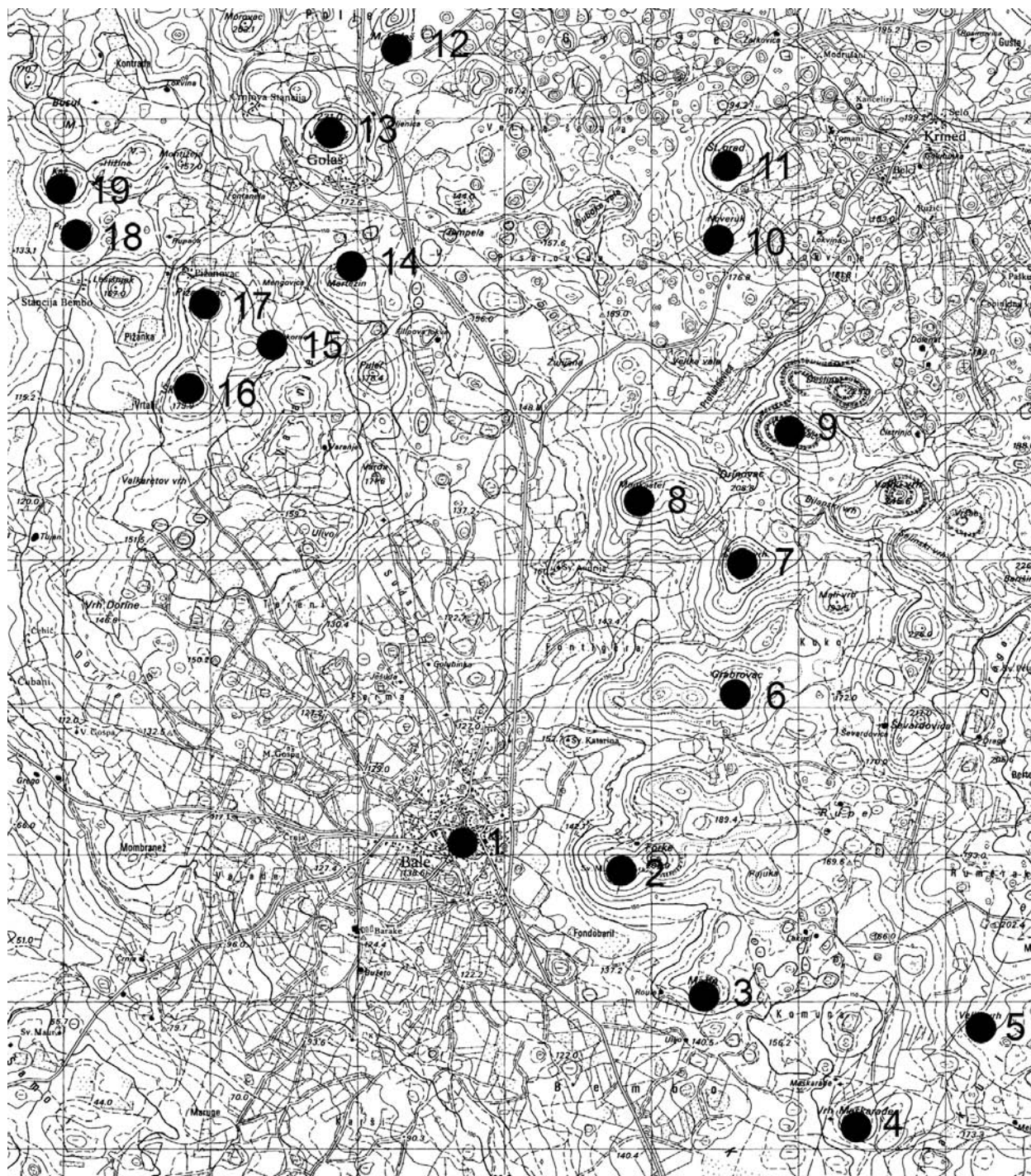
⁹ Zahvaljujem ovom prilikom Fini Juroš-Monfardin na korisnim savjetima u vezi s datacijom tog tipa keramike.

¹⁰ U podnožju gradine Mažin nalazi se danas nekoliko lokava: na jugu Ulija (Lago di Olivo), na zapadu Roule (Lago delle Rovole), Lago degli Alberi na sjeveru i Lakuci (Lacuzzi) na sjeveroistoku. S južne i zapadne, na udaljenosti od oko 1 km od Bala, nalaze se lokve Bužeto, Črnja, Grego i nešto udaljeniji Tujan.

¹¹ Boris Bačić u izvještaju pismohrane Arheološkog muzeja Istre u Puli (br. 719, 12. travnja 1973).

⁹ I would like to take this opportunity to thank Fina Juroš-Monfardin for her useful advice in dating this pottery type.

¹⁰ There are several ponds at the foot of the Mažin hillfort today: Ulija (Lago di Olivo) to the south, Roule (Lago delle Rovole) to the west, Lago degli Alberi to the north and Lakuci (Lacuzzi) to the north-east. Ponds named Bužeto, Črnja, Grego and the slightly more distant Tujan are located approximately 1 km to the south and west of Bale.



Karta. Prapovijesna nalazišta Bale i okolice: 1. Bale, 2. Sv. Mihovil, 3. Mažin, 4. Maškerade, 5. Veliki vrh (195,0), 6. Grabrovac (201,2), 7. Črnjin vrh, 8. Monkaštel, 9. Grabrovac (244), 10. Novi Grad, 11. Stari Grad, 12. Mali Golaš, 13. Veliki Golaš, 14. Mrvazin, 15. Monkorno, 16. Skacota, 17. Pižanovac, 18. Pudarica, 19. Kaž (izradila: mag.ing.arch. Mara Matijašić).

Map. Prehistoric sites at Bale and its environs: 1. Bale, 2. Sveti Mihovil, 3. Mažin, 4. Maškerade, 5. Veliki vrh (195,0), 6. Grabrovac (201,2), 7. Črnjin vrh, 8. Monkaštel, 9. Grabrovac (244), 10. Novi Grad, 11. Stari Grad, 12. Mali Golaš, 13. Veliki Golaš, 14. Mrvazin, 15. Monkorno, 16. Skacota, 17. Pižanovac, 18. Pudarica, 19. Kaž (author: mag.ing.arch. Mara Matijašić).

južnoj strani brda Sv. Mihovil (Zlatunić 2007: 268). Nasuprot Balama, s istočne strane, nalazi se uzvisina Sv. Mihovil, Sv. Mićel, 201 m n/v (karta: 2).¹² Prapovijesno gradinsko naselje¹³ bilo je smješteno na stožastoj uzvisini koja se s istočne strane sedlastim uzvišenjem spaja sa susjednom uzvisinom. Brdo se nalazi na važnu strateškom položaju, a prapovijesno naselje valoriziralo je pogodne prirodne karakteristike. Naselje je bilo smješteno na središnjem platou i dvjema terasama. Na najvišem dijelu nalaze se ostaci crkvice posvećene Sv. Mihovilu koja je bila sagrađena na ostacima benediktinskoga samostana.¹⁴ Do posljednjega desetljeća 20. st. na lokalitetu nisu vršena arheološka ispitivanja. Fragmentarni podaci dobiveni su analizom površinski sakupljena materijala (Buršić-Matijašić 2007: 209–211). Posljednjih dvadesetak godina u više navrata vršena su manja arheološka istraživanja.¹⁵ Položaj na vrhu Sv. Mihovila valoriziran je kontinuitetom života od srednjega neolitika, kako svjetovnim životom prapovijesnih zajednica tako i sakralnom-religioznom dimenzijom, izgradnjom crkve i samostana Sv. Mihovila.

Nekoliko stotina metara južnije nalazi se Mažin, 175,3 m n/v (karta: 3),¹⁶ koji predstavlja impozantno prapovijesno gradinsko naselje kružnog oblika sa središnjim platoom i dvjema koncentričnim terasama. Na više mjesta moguće je pratiti

is certainly indicated by the toponym Fontanella (Ital. *fontanella*, f. 'fountain', or *fonte*, f. 'fountain-head, spring, wellspring') within the Monkaštel site complex, east of Bale, while Boris Bačić recorded the presence of a "sacred site" dedicated to a water source at the Skačota site, south of Golaš.¹¹ Springs are located on the northern and southern side of Sveti Mihovil Hill (Zlatunić 2007: 268).

Opposite Bale, to the east, is the hill called Sveti Mihovil, Sveti Mićel (St. Michael), 201 m AMSL (map: 2).¹² The prehistoric hillfort¹³ was located on a conical rise which is connected to the neighbouring peak by a saddle-shaped rise to its east. The hill stands at a vital strategic point, and the prehistoric settlement took advantage of these favourable natural features. The settlement was located on the central plateau, with two terraces. The remains of the small Church of St. Michael, built on the remains of a Benedictine monastery, are at the highest point.¹⁴ Until the final decade of the twentieth century, no archaeological examinations were conducted at the site. Fragmentary data were obtained by analysis of materials gathered on the surface (Buršić-Matijašić 2007: 209-211). Over roughly the past two decades, archaeological research was conducted on several occasions.¹⁵ The position atop Sveti Mihovil was continually used since the Middle Neolithic, both as a profane site

¹² Katastarska općina: Bale (5405791, 4988893); tal. top. karta 1:25 000: M. S. Michele delle Forche; top. karta 1:50 000: Sv. Mihovil, 207; karta Carla Marchesettia (1903): S. Michele; Boris Bačić (1971): Sveti Mihovil – kota 206; karta Marije Škiljan (1980): 324. S. Michele (Sv. Mihovil) (207) (Marchesetti 1903; Škiljan 1980).

¹³ U bližoj okolici (Marchesetti 1892: 258) i na susjednoj uzvisini nalaze se ostaci prapovijesnih tumula (Schiavuzzi 1908: 97; Matošević 1996–1997: 1). Danas, najizrazitija gromača nalazi se na susjednoj uzvisini Forke, 206 m n/v (Bekić 1996: 60, r. br. 62).

¹⁴ Sv. Mihovil kraj Bala bio je jedan od 24 benediktinska samostana u Porečkoj biskupiji (Ostojić 1965: 147–148).

¹⁵ Godine 1991. Kristina Mihovilić pratila je iskop za potrebe telekomunikacije, a 1992. Damir Matošević vrši manje zaštitno istraživanje. U iskopu sonde veličine 5 m², visine 160 cm, nije prepoznata okomita stratigrafija, a provedenom tipološkom analizom materijala ustanovljen je slijed života na uzvisini od srednjega neolitika (danilska kultura) do ranoga brončanog doba (metličasta keramika) (Matošević 1996–1997: 15). Romuald Zlatunić tijekom srpnja i kolovoza 2006. izvršio je arheološka istraživanja na dvjema lokacijama unutar gradinskoga kompleksa (Zlatunić 2007: 268–271) kojima je potvrđeno postojanje života na brdu od neolitika do brončanoga doba. Sporadični nalazi antičkog i srednjovjekovnog materijala kao i spomenuti samostan i barokna kapelica govore u prilog tomu da je položaj zauzimao važno mjesto ovoga dijela jugozapadne Istre, u neposrednoj blizini sigurno značajnijih Bala.

¹⁶ Katastarska općina: Bale (5406354, 4988074); tal. top. karta 1:25 000: M. Masino, 176; top. karta 1:50 000: 176; karta Carla Marchesettia (1903): M. Massimo; Boris Bačić (1971): Masin – kota 151; karta Marije Škiljan (1980): 325. M. Massimo (Veliki Verh) (196) (Marchesetti 1903; Škiljan 1980).

¹¹ Boris Bačić in a report held in the archives of the Archaeological Museum of Istria in Pula (no. 719, 12 April 1973).

¹² Cadastral municipality: Bale (5405791, 4988893); Ital. top. map 1:25,000: M. S. Michele delle Forche; top. map 1:50,000: Sveti Mihovil, 207; map by Carlo Marchesetti (1903): S. Michele; Boris Bačić (1971): Sveti Mihovil – point 206; map by Marija Škiljan (1980): 324. S. Michele (Sv. Mihovil) (207) (Marchesetti 1903; Škiljan 1980).

¹³ Remains of prehistoric tumuli can be found nearby (Marchesetti 1892: 258) and on the neighbouring hill (Schiavuzzi 1908: 97; Matošević 1996–1997: 1). Today, the most prominent stone mound is located on the neighbouring rise, Forka, 206 m AMSL (Bekić 1996: 60, no. 62).

¹⁴ Sveti Mihovil next to Bale was one of twenty four Benedictine monasteries in the Poreč Diocese (Ostojić 1965: 147–148).

¹⁵ In 1991, Kristina Mihovilić supervised the excavations for the needs of telecommunication infrastructure, while in 1992, Damir Matošević conducted a minor rescue excavation. No vertical stratigraphy was discerned in the excavation of a test trench of 5 m² and 160 cm high, while a typological analysis of material ascertained a sequence of habitation on the rise from the Middle Neolithic (Danilo culture) to the Early Bronze Age (broomed pottery) (Matošević 1996–1997: 15). During July and August 2006, Romuald Zlatunić conducted archaeological research at two points inside the hillfort complex (Zlatunić 2007: 268–271) by which he confirmed the existence of life on the hill from the Neolithic to the Bronze Age. Sporadic finds of material from Antiquity and the Middle Ages, as well as the aforementioned monastery and Baroque chapel back the hypothesis that this site was an important place for this part of south-west Istria, in the immediate vicinity of the certainly more significant Bale.

suhozidne bedeme, a na sjevernoj strani, na donjoj terasi, uz gradinski bedem nalaze se dva polukružna zida, koji možda predstavljaju ostatke kuća. S istočne strane nalaze se ostaci ulaza u gradinu. Mažin je nedovoljno valorizirano nalazište, gdje su sakupljeni samo površinski nalazi, u prvom redu keramike koja pokazuje brončanodobne karakteristike (Marchesetti 1903: 102; Schiavuzzi 1908: 99; Marušić 1983, sl. 4: 18; Bekić 1996: 59, r. br. 60; Buršić-Matijašić 2007: 211–212).

Nešto južnije nalazi se vrh Maškerade, 173,5 m n/v (karta: 4).¹⁷ Uzvisina je gotovo pravilna kružnoga tlorisa. Bačić je tu prepoznao naselje gradinskoga tipa iako bi po svom izgledu moglo predstavljati ostatke impozantna tumula (Marušić 1983, sl. 4: 19; Buršić-Matijašić 2002; 2007: 222–225).

Ostaci prapovijesnoga naselja nalaze se na Monkaštelu, 232 m n/v (karta: 8),¹⁸ izrazitoj uzvisini sjeveroistočno od Bala. Svojim položajem dominira širom okolicom i jedna je od malobrojnih uzvisina koja se iz daljine ističe prostranim zaravnjenim vrhom. Svojim položajem ističe se u krajoliku i sigurno je imala važnu ulogu u vizualnoj komunikaciji ovoga dijela Istre. Monkaštel se prostire na dvije uzvisine, dok treća, sjeverna, nosi naziv Fontanella. Zbog imena *Fontanella*, te zbog postojanja korita suhoga potoka može se pretpostavljati postojanje bogata izvora koji je to značajno naselje opskrbljivao pitkom vodom. Teren se sa zapadne strane terasasto spušta prema Balama, a terase su učvršćene potpornim zidovima. Zbog položaja, vidljivih građevinskih elemenata (zidovi, nasipi, okomito usađeni blokovi) te zavidne veličine (približno 300 × 100 m) nalazište sigurno predstavlja izazov budućih istraživanja (Bekić 1996: 62, r. br. 68; Buršić-Matijašić 1998: 192–193: 60, r. br. 68; 2007: 215–216).

Nedaleko od Monkaštela nalazi se brdo Grabrovac, 244 m n/v (karta: 6),¹⁹ gdje je na temelju površinskih nalaza keramičkih ulomaka ustanovljeno postojanje prapovijesnoga gradinskog naselja iz brončanog i starijeg željeznog doba (Marchesetti 1903: 102; Škiljan 1980: 58, 63; Marušić 1983, sl. 4: 8; Bekić 1996).

for prehistoric communities and as a sacred place, through the construction of the church and then monastery dedicated to St. Michael.

Several hundred meters southward is Mažin, 175.3 m AMSL (map: 3),¹⁶ which is an imposing prehistoric hillfort of circular shape consisting of a central plateau and two concentric terraces. Stacked stone defensive walls can be discerned at several points, while on the northern side, on the lower terrace, there are two semi-circular walls along the hillfort rampart which may be the remains of an abode. The remains of the hillfort's entrance are on the eastern side. Mažin is an insufficiently explored site, at which only surface finds have been gathered, mainly pottery which shows Bronze Age features (Marchesetti 1903: 102; Schiavuzzi 1908: 99; Marušić 1983, Fig. 4: 18; Bekić 1996: 59, no. 60; Buršić-Matijašić 2007: 211–212).

Maškerade peak, 173.5 m AMSL (map: 4)¹⁷ is somewhat farther south. The rise has an almost regular circular layout. Bačić recognized a hillfort-type settlement here, although judging by its appearance it may constitute the remains of an imposing tumulus (Marušić 1983, Fig. 4: 19; Buršić-Matijašić 2002; 2007: 222–225).

The remains of a prehistoric settlement are at Monkaštel, 232 m AMSL (map: 8),¹⁸ a prominent rise north-east of Bale. It dominated the wider surrounding area by virtue of its position, and it is one of a few rises that is recognizable from afar by its spacious, flattened peak. It stands out in its landscape, and it certainly played a vital role in the visual communication of this part of Istria. Monkaštel extends over two rises, while the third, northern one, is called Fontanella. Based on the name *Fontanella*, and the existence of a dry stream bed, one may assume the existence of a rich spring that supplied this important settlement with water. The terrain on the western side descends toward Bale in terraces, and these terraces are reinforced by supporting walls. This position, the visible remains of construction elements (walls, embankments, vertically installed blocks) and the enviable size (approximately 300 × 100 m) of the site certainly constitute challenges for future research

¹⁷ Katastarska općina: Juršići (5407376, 4987196); tal. top. karta 1:25 000: M. Mascherade, 135.

¹⁸ Katastarska općina: Bale (5405922, 4991443); tal. top. karta 1:25 000: Mamoluzo; top. karta 1:50 000: 232.

¹⁹ Grabrovac, Monbrovac 244; katastarska općina: Bale (5406904, 4990877); tal. top. karta 1:25 000: Mombrovac; top. karta 1:50 000: Grabrovac, 244; karta Carla Marchesettia (1903): Monbrovac; Boris Bačić (1971): Mombrovac – kota 244; karta Marije Škiljan (1980): 319. Monbrovac (Grabrovac) (Marchesetti 1903; Škiljan 1980).

¹⁶ Cadastral municipality: Bale (5406354, 4988074); Ital. top. map 1:25,000: M. Masino, 176; top. map 1:50,000: 176; map by Carlo Marchesetti (1903): M. Massimo; Boris Bačić (1971): Masin – point 151; map by Marija Škiljan (1980): 325. M. Massimo (Veliki Verh) (196) (Marchesetti 1903; Škiljan 1980).

¹⁷ Cadastral municipality: Juršići (5407376, 4987196); Ital. top. map 1:25,000: M. Mascherade, 135.

¹⁸ Cadastral municipality: Bale (5405922, 4991443); Ital. top. map 1:25,000: Mamoluzo; top. map 1:50,000: 232.

Zapadno od Krmeda nalaze se dvije, sedlasto spojene uzvisine. Sjevernija, Stari grad, 232,7 m n/v (karta: 11), uzvisina je na kojoj se nalaze ostaci prapovijesnoga naselja.²⁰ Južnija, zvana Novim gradom (karta: 10), predstavlja ostatke grobnih humaka.²¹ Iako se na gradini, osim površinskih pregleda terena, nisu vršila arheološka istraživanja, gradinski ostaci dobro su vidljivi (Marchesetti 1903: 102; Bačić 1954–1957; Škiljan 1980: 16, 58, 63; Marušić 1983: sl. 4: 3; Bekić 1996: 64, r. br. 78; Buršić-Matijašić 1998: 192–193: 63; 2007: 217–218). Važan lokalitet u blizini Bala predstavlja nalazište Kaž, 171,6 m n/v (karta: 19),²² koje se nalazi nešto sjevernije od stаницije Bembo. Dobro su vidljivi središnji plato i tri koncentrična bedema koja odvajaju dvije terase. Na istočnoj strani ističe se kameni nasip, a na gornjem platou iznad i ispod glavnoga platoa nalaze se kamene gomile koje najvjerojatnije predstavljaju ostatke prapovijesnih kuća. Na gradini su manja istraživanja proveli Carlo Marchesetti, Bruna Forlati Tamaro i Boris Bačić. Istraživanjima su izolirani ostaci prapovijesnih kuća četvrtasta tlocrta i veća količina prapovijesnih keramičkih ulomaka (Marchesetti 1903: 99; Battaglia 1926: 45, fig. 1).²³ Upravo keramički ulomci omogućili su preliminarnu dataciju nalazišta u srednje brončano doba, odnosno vrijeme prije pojave žarnih nekropola (Cardarelli 1983: 104; Gabrovec & Mihovilić 1987: 319). U neposrednoj blizini gradine primijećeni su ostaci nekropole s tumulima (Lonza 1977: 62).

Ostaci još jednoga prapovijesnoga gradinskog naselja smješteni su sjeverno od Bala nedaleko od stаницije Golaš. Uzvisina Veliki Golaš, na 231 m n/v,²⁴ pravilna je kružnog oblika sa središnjim platoom i dvjema koncentričnim terasama odvojenim bedemima. Osim površinskoga pregleda na lokalitetu nisu vršena arheološka istraživanja (Marušić 1983, sl. 4: 2; Bekić 1996: 63, r. br. 75; Buršić-Matijašić 1998: 192–193: 51; 2007: 219–220).

²⁰ Katastarska općina: Bale (5406517, 4993734); tal. top. karta 1:25 000: M. Castelvechio, 231; top. karta 1:50 000: St. Grad, 231; karta Carla Marchesettia (1903): Starigrad; karta Marije Škiljan (1980): 313. M. Castelvechio (Stari Grad) (321) (Marchesetti 1903; Škiljan 1980).

²¹ Na uzvisini Novi grad nalazi se više kamenih gromača promjera od 12 do 18 m, sačuvane visine od 0,50 do 2 m. Godine 1954. Boris Bačić izvršio je manje istraživanje otvarajući grobni sanduk koji se sastojao od kamenih ploča dimenzija 190 × 48 cm (Bačić 1954–1957: 18–21).

²² Katastarska općina: Bale (5401998, 4993578); tal. top. karta 1:25 000: Moncas; top. karta 1:50 000: Kaz, 172; karta Carla Marchesettia (1903): M. Cas; karta Marije Škiljan (1980): 312. Moncas (Kaz) (172) (Marchesetti 1903; Škiljan 1980).

²³ Boris Bačić u svibnju 1970. izvršio je manje istraživanje ostataka prapovijesnih kuća "radi dobivanja materijala za izradu prapovijesnog postava muzejske zbirke".

²⁴ Katastarska općina: Bale (4503833, 4993940); tal. top. karta 1:25 000: M. Calvo; top. karta 1:50 000: 231, Golaš.

(Bekić 1996: 62, no. 68; Buršić-Matijašić 1998: 192–193: 60, no. 68; 2007: 215–216).

Not far from Monkaštel is Grabrovac Hill, 244 m AMSL (map: 6),¹⁹ where, based on surface finds of potsherds, the existence of a prehistoric hillfort of the Bronze and Early Iron Ages has been ascertained (Marchesetti 1903: 102; Škiljan 1980: 58, 63; Marušić 1983, Fig. 4: 8; Bekić 1996).

West of Krmed there are two saddle hills. The more northerly one, Stari grad, 232.7 m AMSL (map: 11), is a hill with the remains of a prehistoric settlement.²⁰ The more southerly hill, called Novi grad (map: 10), contains the remains of grave mounds.²¹ Although no archaeological research, except surface inspections, were conducted at the hillfort, its remains are quite visible (Marchesetti 1903: 102; Bačić 1954–1957; Škiljan 1980: 16, 58, 63; Marušić 1983: Fig. 4: 3; Bekić 1996: 64, no. 78; Buršić-Matijašić 1998: 192–193: 63; 2007: 217–218).

An important site near Bale is the site called Kaž, 171.6 m AMSL (map: 19),²² which is somewhat farther north of Stаницija Bembo. The central plateau and three concentric ramparts separating two terraces are clearly visible. A stone embankment stands out on the eastern side, while on the upper plateau above and below the main plateau there are stone mounds which are probably the remains of prehistoric dwellings. Carlo Marchesetti, Bruna Forlati Tamaro and Boris Bačić conducted minor research at the hillfort. Research work has isolated the remains of prehistoric dwellings with rectangular ground plans and a high quantity of prehistoric potsherds (Marchesetti 1903: 99; Battaglia 1926: 45, Fig. 1).²³ It is precisely these potsherds which allow for a preliminary dating of the site to

¹⁹ Grabrovac, Monbrovac 244; cadastral municipality: Bale (5406904, 4990877); Ital. top. map 1:25,000: Mombrovac; top. map 1:50,000: Grabrovac, 244; map by Carlo Marchesetti (1903): Mombrovac; Boris Bačić (1971): Mombrovac – point 244; map by Marija Škiljan (1980): 319. Mombrovac (Grabrovac) (Marchesetti 1903; Škiljan 1980).

²⁰ Cadastral municipality: Bale (5406517, 4993734); Ital. top. map 1:25,000: M. Castelvechio, 231; top. map 1:50,000: St. Grad, 231; map by Carlo Marchesetti (1903): Starigrad; map by Marija Škiljan (1980): 313. M. Castelvechio (Stari Grad) (321) (Marchesetti 1903; Škiljan 1980).

²¹ The Novi grad hill has several stone mounds with diameters from 12 to 18 m, with preserved heights from 0.50 to 2 m. In 1954 Boris Bačić conducted limited research, opening a grave cist consisting of stone slabs with dimensions of 190 × 48 cm (Bačić 1954–1957: 18–21).

²² Cadastral municipality: Bale (5401998, 4993578); Ital. top. map 1:25,000: Moncas; top. map 1:50,000: Kaz, 172; map by Carlo Marchesetti (1903): M. Cas; map by Marija Škiljan (1980): 312. Moncas (Kaz) (172) (Marchesetti 1903; Škiljan 1980).

²³ In May 1970, Boris Bačić conducted limited research into the remains of the prehistoric dwellings "in order to obtain materials for the set-up of the museum's prehistoric collection."

Pored poznatih lokaliteta na kojima su vršena arheološka istraživanja ili je samo površinskim pregledom terena ustanovljeno postojanje prapovijesnih naselja gradinskoga tipa u okolici Bala postoji čitav niz brda s dvojbenim nalazištima: Črnjin vrh (223,0 m n/v, karta: 7),²⁵ Grabrovac (201,2 m n/v, karta: 9),²⁶ Pižanovac (190,9 m n/v, karta: 17),²⁷ Škačota (173,9 m n/v, karta: 16),²⁸ Pudarica (karta: 18).²⁹ S južne strane Bala zbog konfiguracije terena prevladavaju ostaci antičkih lokaliteta (Matijašić 1988, tab. 10), dok se oni prapovijesni nalaze na uzvisinama uz morsku obalu (Buršić-Matijašić 2008: list 8 – Rovinj).

ZAKLJUČAK

Povijest na prostoru Bala vrlo je dugačka i zamršena, a povijest života na vrhu Monperin polako se otkriva arheološkim, arhitektonskim i povijesnim istraživanjima. Materijal dobiven arheološkim istraživanjima u podrumu palače tijekom rekonstrukcije kaštela od 2000. do 2003. g. svakako rasvjetljava najstarija razdoblja. Iz materijala izbačena iz iskopa izdvojeni su ulomci keramičkih posuda. Elementi keramičkoga posuda kako u Balama tako i drugdje širom Istre tijekom prapovijesti dio su važna faktora života jedne prapovijesne zajednice konzumiranja hrane bilo da se radi o njezinu čuvanju, spremanju ili samu činu hranjenja ili pijenja. O kulturi prehrane kroz prapovijest može se govoriti temeljem paleoekoloških, geoarheoloških istraživanja, analize izrađevina od cijepana kamena, zooarheoloških podataka kao i analize keramičarskih proizvoda. Tehnika i strategija prikupljanja podataka na našim nalazištima znatno varira, stoga rezultati mogu biti različito interpretirani. Zbog toga prilikom donošenja zaključaka valja biti na oprezu. U istraživanjima u Balama izostali su brojni podaci, zbog čega o najstarijim tragovi-

the Middle Bronze Age, at the time prior to the appearance of Urnfield necropolises (Cardarelli 1983: 104; Gabrovac & Mihovilić 1987: 319). The remains of a necropolis with tumuli were observed in the immediate vicinity of the hillfort (Lonza 1977: 62). The remains of another prehistoric hillfort are situated north of Bale not far from Stancija Golaš. The Veliki Golaš plateau, at 231 m AMSL,²⁴ has a regular circular shape with a central plateau and two concentric terraces separated by ramparts. Besides a surface inspection, no archaeological research was conducted at the site (Marušić 1983, Fig. 4: 2; Bekić 1996: 63, no. 75; Buršić-Matijašić 1998: 192-193: 51; 2007: 219-220).

Besides the known sites at which archaeological research has been conducted or the existence of hillfort-type settlements has been ascertained by field inspections, there are a series of hills in Bale's surroundings with possible sites: Črnjin vrh (223,0 m AMSL, map: 7),²⁵ Grabrovac (201,2 m AMSL, map: 9),²⁶ Pižanovac (190,9 m AMSL, map: 17),²⁷ Škačota (173,9 m AMSL, map a: 16),²⁸ Pudarica (map: 18).²⁹ Sites dating to Antiquity are predominant to the south of Bale due to the configuration of the terrain (Matijašić 1988, plate 10), while prehistoric sites are at elevations along the sea-coast (Buršić-Matijašić 2008: sheet 8 – Rovinj).

CONCLUSION

The history of the Bale area is very long and complicated, and the history of life on the Monperin hilltop is slowly being revealed through archaeological, architectural and historical research. The material obtained by archaeological research in the cellar of the palace during its restoration from 2000 to 2003 have certainly illuminated the oldest peri-

²⁵ Katastarska općina: Bale (5406612, 4990989); tal. top. karta 1:25 000: M. Grande, 223; top. karta 1:50 000: 223 (Gnirs 1925: 107; Bekić 1996: 62, r. br. 67; Buršić-Matijašić 2007: 226).

²⁶ Katastarska općina: Bale (5406570, 4990122); tal. top. karta 1:25 000: M. Crepazzo, 202; top. karta 1:50 000: Krepaz, 203 (Gnirs 1925: 107; Bekić 1996: 61, r. br. 66; Buršić-Matijašić 2007: 226).

²⁷ Katastarska općina: Bale (5402953, 4992740); tal. top. karta 1:25 000: M. Pisana; top. karta 1:50 000: Pižanovac, 191 (Marušić 1983, sl. 4: 5; Bekić 1996: 62, r. br. 72; Buršić-Matijašić 2007: 230).

²⁸ Katastarska općina: Bale (5402809, 4992097); tal. top. karta 1:25 000: M. Squaccota 178 (Bekić: 1996: 62, r. br. 70; Buršić-Matijašić 2007: 228-229).

²⁹ Katastarska općina: Bale (5402085, 4993220); tal. top. karta 1:25 000: La Podariza, 153 (Bekić 1996: 63, r. br. 74; Buršić-Matijašić 2007: 230-231).

²⁴ Cadastral municipality: Bale (4503833, 4993940); Ital. top. map 1:25,000: M. Calvo; top. map 1:50,000: 231, Golaš.

²⁵ Cadastral municipality: Bale (5406612, 4990989); Ital. top. map 1:25,000: M. Grande, 223; top. map 1:50,000: 223 (Gnirs 1925: 107; Bekić 1996: 62, no. 67; Buršić-Matijašić 2007: 226).

²⁶ Cadastral municipality: Bale (5406570, 4990122); Ital. top. map 1:25,000: M. Crepazzo, 202; top. map 1:50,000: Krepaz, 203 (Gnirs 1925: 107; Bekić 1996: 61, no. 66; Buršić-Matijašić 2007: 226).

²⁷ Cadastral municipality: Bale (5402953, 4992740); Ital. top. map 1:25,000: M. Pisana; top. map 1:50,000: Pižanovac, 191 (Marušić 1983, Fig. 4: 5; Bekić 1996: 62, no. 72; Buršić-Matijašić 2007: 230).

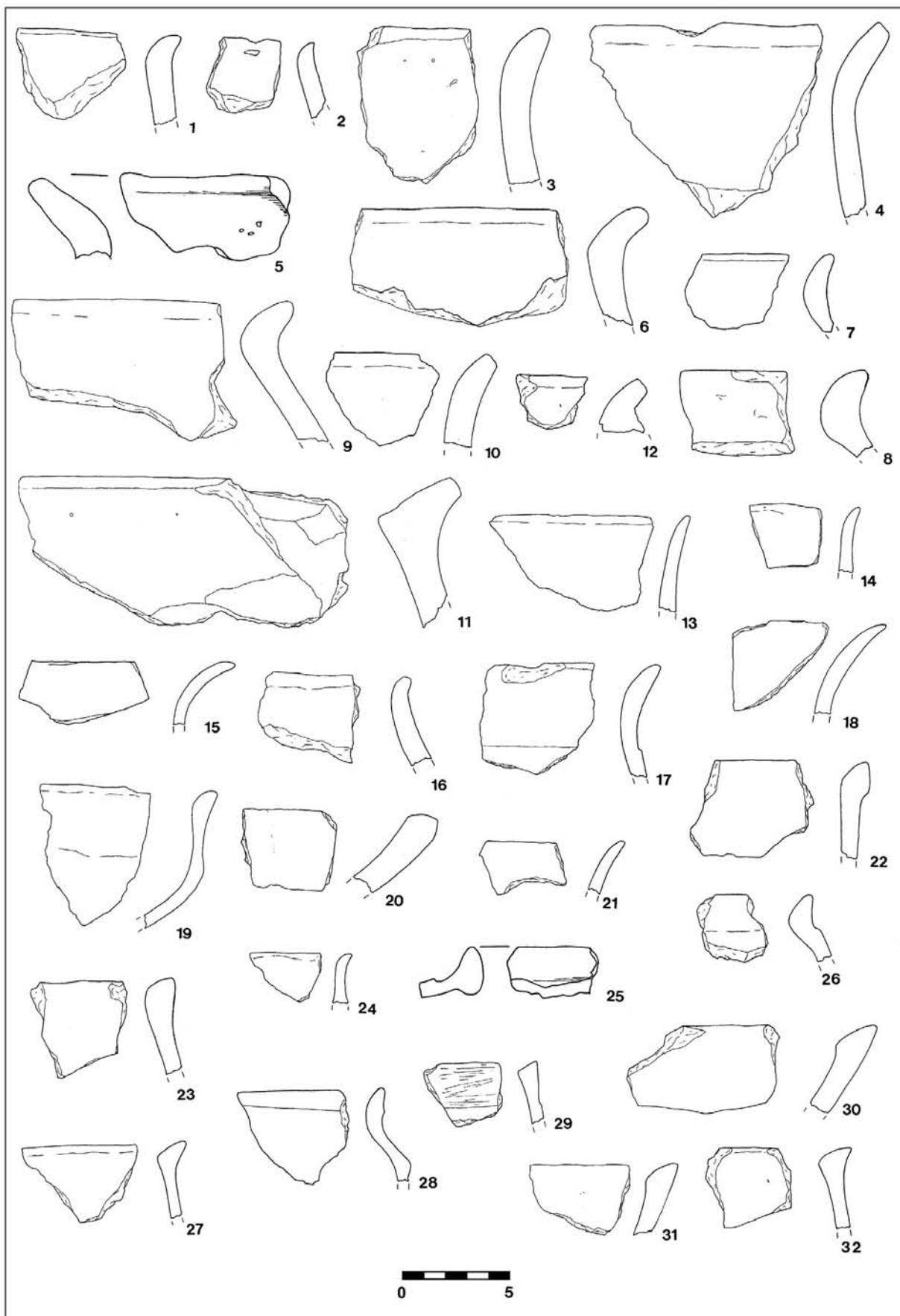
²⁸ Cadastral municipality: Bale (5402809, 4992097); Ital. top. map 1:25,000: M. Squacciota 178 (Bekić: 1996: 62, no. 70; Buršić-Matijašić 2007: 228-229).

²⁹ Cadastral municipality: Bale (5402085, 4993220); Ital. top. map 1:25,000: La Podariza, 153 (Bekić 1996: 63, no. 74; Buršić-Matijašić 2007: 230-231).

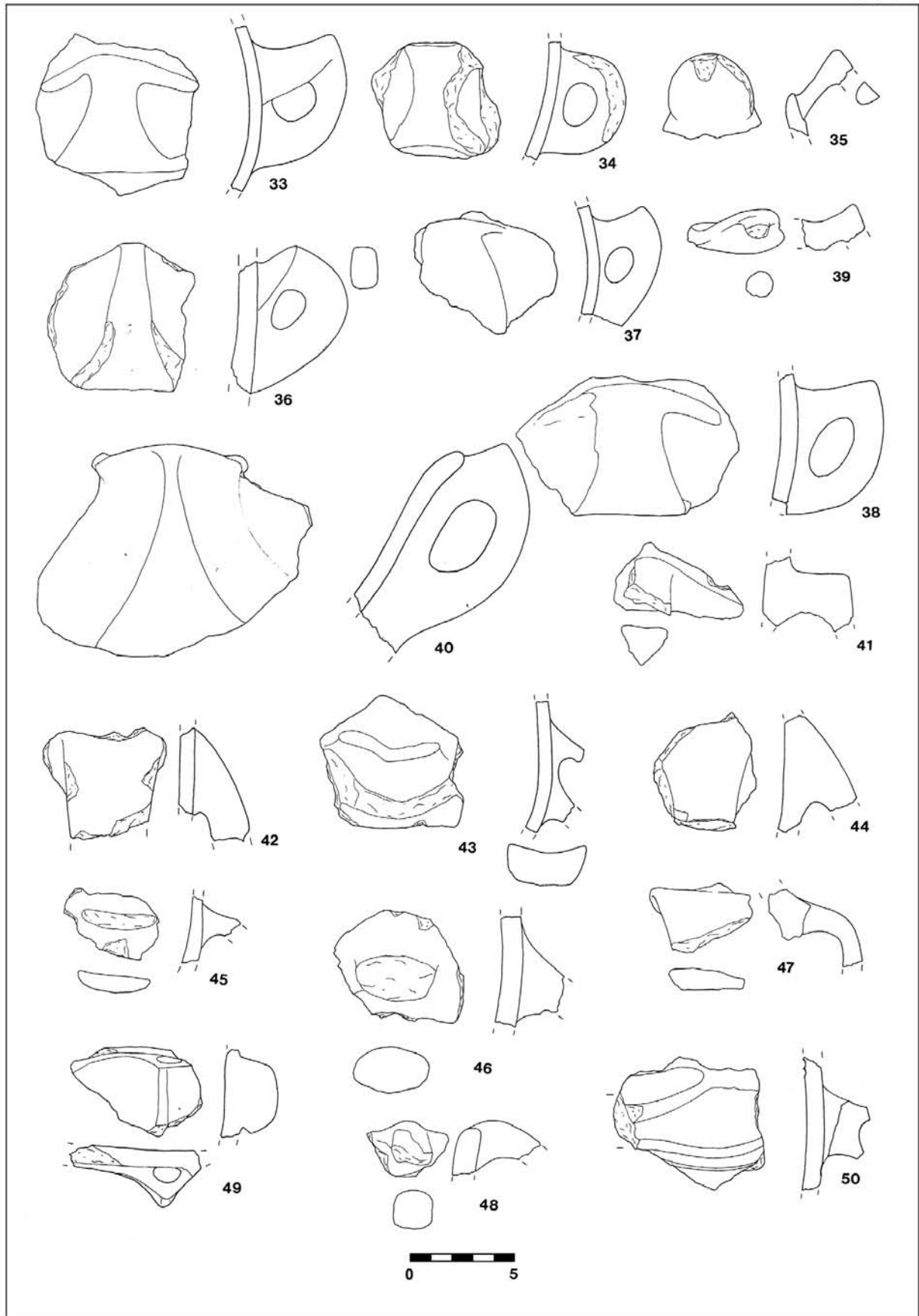
ma života možemo govoriti samo na temelju analize malog uzorka keramičkih ulomaka posuda. Posude su uglavnom većih dimenzija i vrlo je malo primjera koji bi govorili u prilog pojedinačnom konzumiranju obroka. Usporedbom s već znanim skupovima u Istri i izvan nje ustanovljena su tri kronološka sloja, odnosno tri vremenska perioda izrade i upotrebe keramičkoga posuđa. Najstariji ulomci pripadaju brončanom dobu, slijede oni željeznodobne datacije, a treću skupinu čini desetak srednjovjekovnih ulomaka. Zbog male istražene površine i stoljetnoga kontinuiteta života na istome položaju nije moguće govoriti o obliku stambenih objekata. Nemoguće je suditi i o načinu njihova korištenja kao i o njihovu međusobnom odnosu prema perimetralnom zidu i komunikacijama unutar naselja. O antičkome razdoblju u Balama znamo tek po škrtim povijesnim izvorima, a nemirnim vremenima kasne antike možda dugujemo njegov naziv *Castrum Vallis*. Venecijansko razdoblje ostavilo je duboka traga u strukturi stanovništva kao i u izgledu današnjega mjesta, u kojemu možemo prepoznati prapovijesne obrise naselja.

ods. Fragments of ceramic vessels were isolated in the fill from the excavations. Elements of ceramic vessels both in Bale and elsewhere throughout Istria in prehistory were a vital factor in the life of any prehistoric community for food consumption, whether for its storage, preparation or the actual act of eating or drinking. The culture of food through prehistory may be discussed on the basis of palaeoecological and geoarchaeological research, analysis of knapped lithics, zooarchaeological data and analysis of ceramic products. The techniques and strategies for data gathering at these sites vary considerably, so the results may be variously interpreted. Thus, caution must be exercised when drawing conclusions. In the research in Bale a lot of information is missing, so that the oldest traces of life may be discussed on the basis of analysis of a small sampling of ceramic vessel fragments. The vessels generally had larger dimensions and there are very few examples that would indicate individual consumption of meals. Based on a comparison with the already known groups in Istria and beyond, three chronological layers were ascertained, or rather three chronological periods for the production and use of ceramic vessels. The oldest fragments date to the Bronze Age, followed by those from the Iron Age, while the third group consists of roughly ten medieval fragments. Due to the small researched surface and the centuries of continuous life at the same site, it was impossible to ascertain the shape of the residential structures. It was also impossible to assess the manner of their use and their position with reference to the perimeter wall and communications inside the settlement. All that is known of Bale in Antiquity is derived from meagre historical sources, while the name *Castrum Vallis* perhaps says the most about the turbulent times of Late Antiquity. The Venetian period left a deep trace on the population structure and the appearance of the present-day settlement, in which the prehistoric contours of the settlement may be discerned.

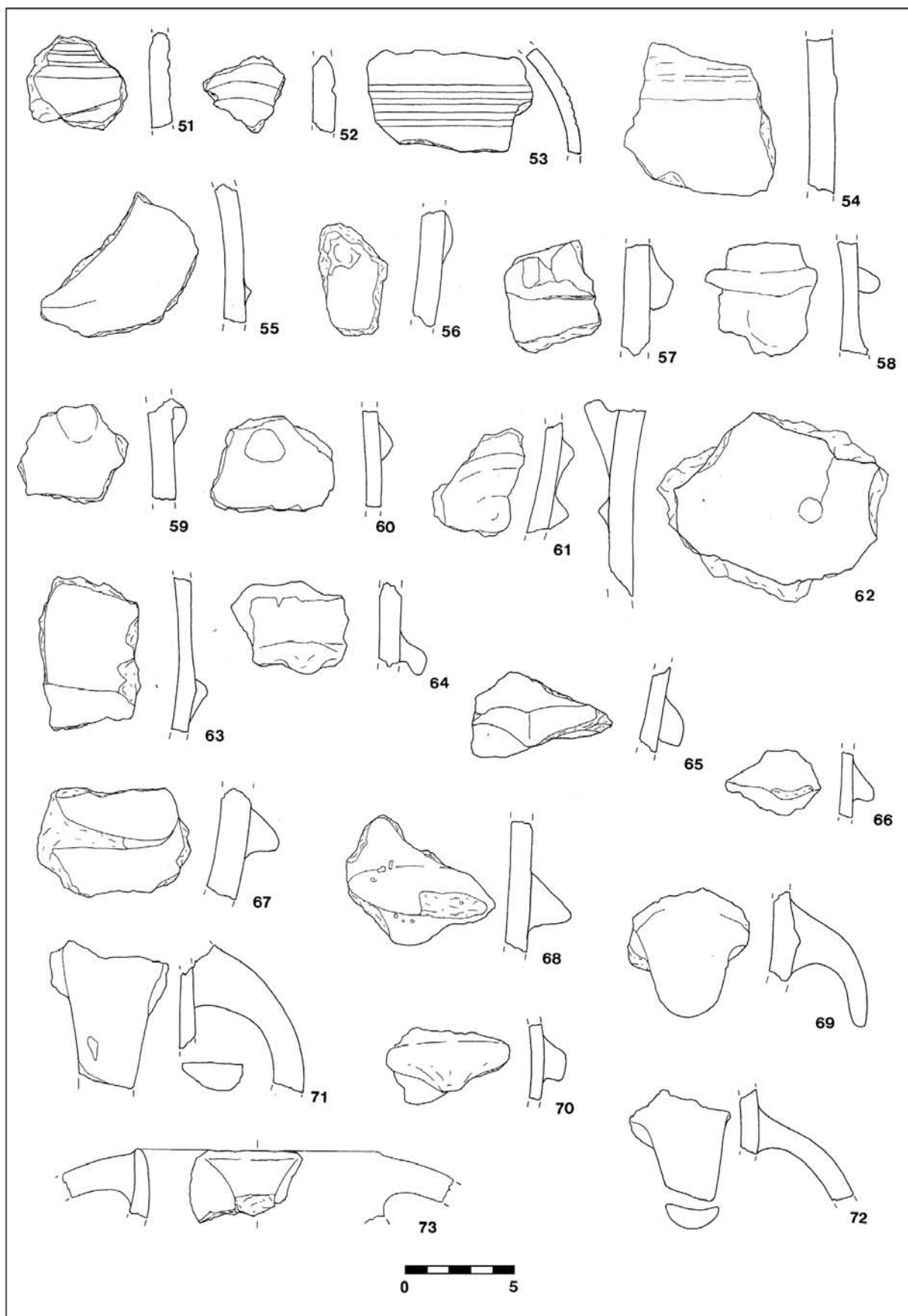
T. 1



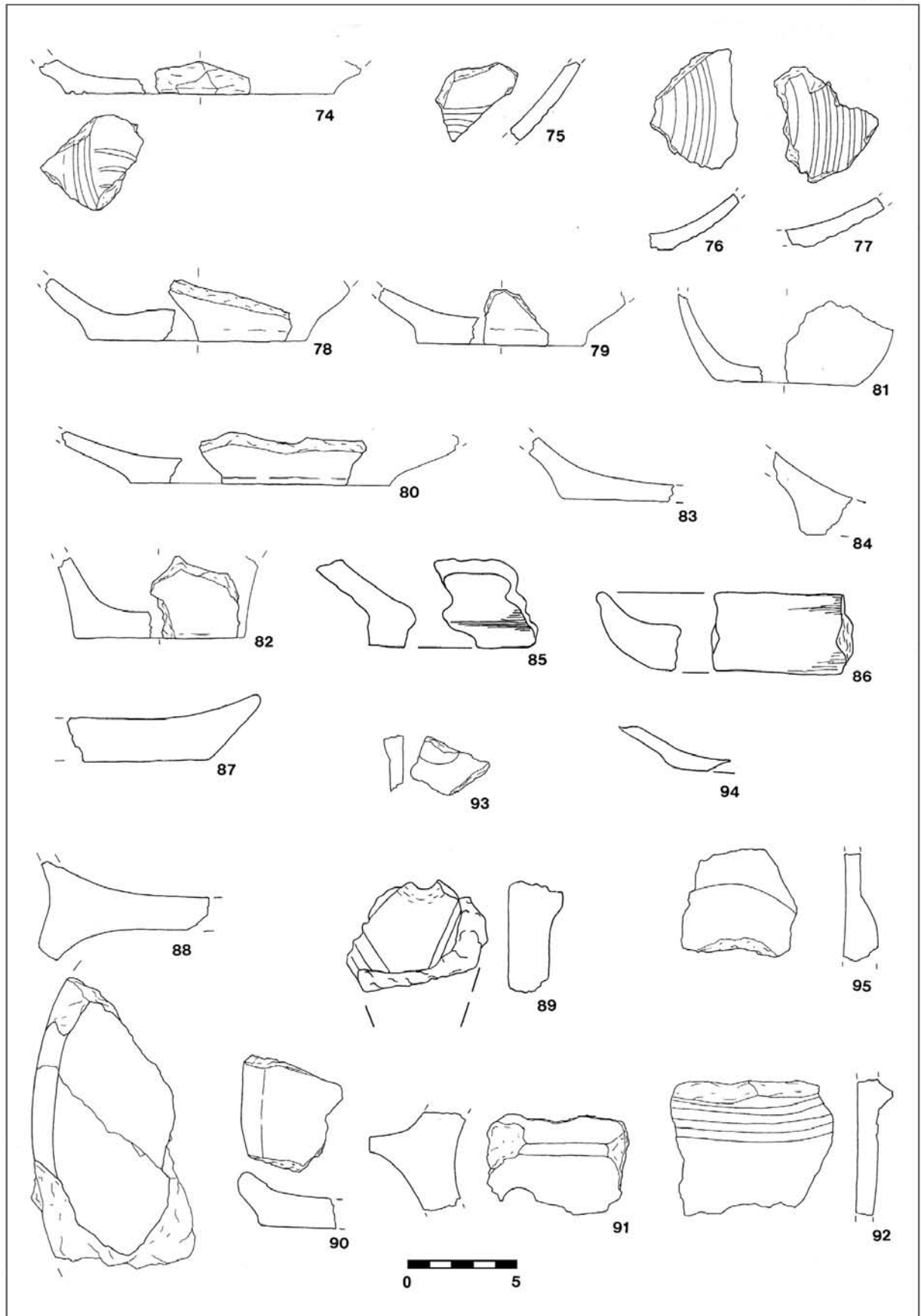
T. 2



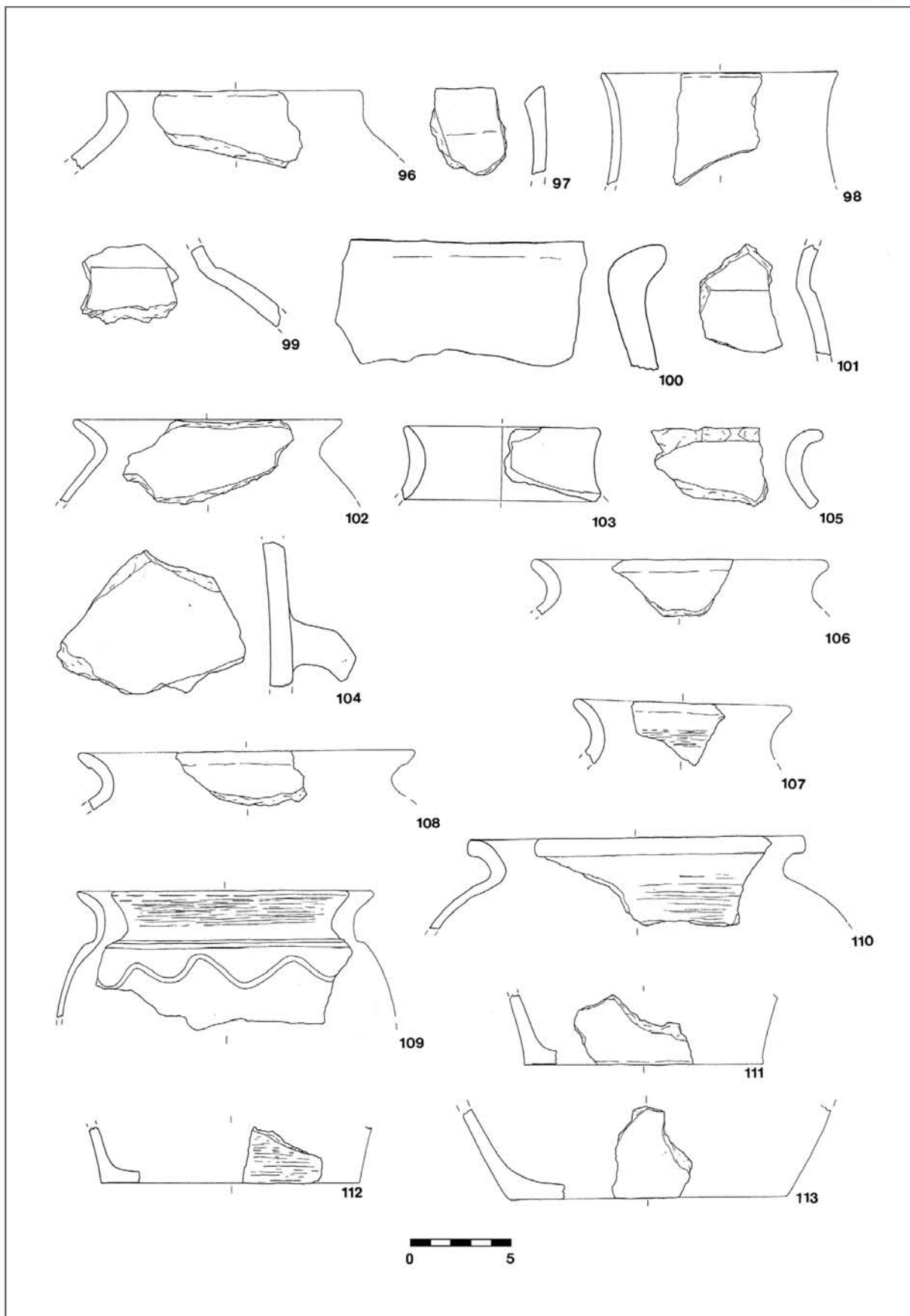
T. 3



T. 4



T. 5



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