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*Dr. Dušan Duje Jelovina*

*This volume of the Starohrvatska prosljeta is dedicated to our outstanding archaeologist, Dr. Dušan Duje Jelovina, a retired Museum and Scientific Advisor and the former Director of the Croatian Archaeological Monuments Museum of Split, on the occasion of his 75 birthday. This way, with some delay, his Museum colleagues and close collaborators, friends and admirers, express their respect and gratitude for his long work and the dedication that he produced in managing the Museum, where he spent remarkable forty years of continuous work.*

*Dušan Jelovina was born on 1 June, 1927 in Knin, where he completed his primary and grammar-school education. He completed the studies of archaeology at the College of Arts and Sciences at Zagreb in 1954. He first employed in 1955 as an Assistant-Curator of the Croatian Archaeological Monuments Museum and then joined National Archaeological Institute of Split. He won his master's degree in 1965 at the College of Arts and Sciences at Ljubljana, and the doctoral degree at the College of Arts and Sciences at Zadar. From 1977 to 1986, he headed the Croatian Archaeological Monuments Museum where he then, as well as later on, till his retirement in 1993, worked as a Scientific and Museum Advisor.*

*In his professional, Jelovina committed himself dominantly to researching the material culture of early-medieval cemeteries in Dalmatia, to have produced a significant contribution to this particular chapter of the Croatian medieval archaeology.*

*It appears that the circumstances of his life very early determined his scientific dedication of an archaeologist-medievalist. Namely, with his father, Ivan Jelovina, an ardent staff of the Croatian Antiquities Museum (since 1955: the Croatian Archaeological Monuments Museum of Split), and the then young museum curator Stjepan Gunjača, already as a boy, in Knin, he got in direct touch with old-Croatian monuments stored in the Museum, housed in the Knin Fortress. From the very first year of his studies, he participated all archaeological researches performed by the Croatian Archaeological Monuments Museum and the National Archaeological Institute: comprehensive excavations of the old-Croatian church of Sv. Spas (St. Salvator) and the large medieval cemetery in the Cetina in 1947-1948, the revision excavations of Biskupija in 1950-1952, and the protective research and recognition works of the upper flow of the Cetina, in the area that*

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was to become the present Peruća reservoir. This early zeal and longing for field work never left Jelovina in his long dealing with archaeology. Very close, and almost thirty years long, contact with the Academy Member, Stjepan Gunjača, enabled the young archaeologist Jelovina a faster joining the flows of the archaeological profession, acquiring basic skills and practical field experiences that Gunjača, one of the Croatian most proliferate field researchers, could provide him with. This makes clearer the Jelovina's subsequent dedication to field work, an exceptionally important component of his future scientific work and an immeasurable contribution to the archaeology in Croatia.

There were numerous researches of medieval cemeteries performed by the Croatian Archaeological Monuments Museum all over the Central and the North Dalmatia, from the Zrmanja to the Krka and the Cetina rivers, that Jelovina actively participated or headed. He independently explored several important medieval cemeteries in Ravni Kotari and the Knin and Cetina region, that nowadays make the basis for studying an important segment in the material culture of the Croats from the early till the late Middle Ages: Razbojina and Drače in Kašić near Zadar (1956), Biljani Donji near Zadar (1959-1963), the old-Croatian cemetery on Spas Hill in Knin (1977-1982), and five medieval cemeteries at one of the largest medieval archaeological sites in Croatia - Bribir near Skradin (1959-1974). Jointly with his colleague, Željko Rapanjić, he performed revision excavations of the royal sacral complex of Gospa od Otoka in Solin, and with Dasen Vrsalović of Sveta Marta (St. Martha) in Bijaći, at the end of the 1960s and the beginning of the 1970s.

This rich field-archaeological work is best followed through the data gathered in his professional and scientific bibliography, that is published on this occasion. To be particularly emphasised here is the Jelovina's expedience in publishing the archaeological information obtained in field excavations. This is the large number of papers and articles that he regularly contributed to *Starohrvatska prosvjeta* - his home institution's bulletin specialised in medieval topics, which achieved a significant betterment and new scientific level in the 1950s and the 1960s, while edited by Stjepan Gunjača.

As early as a young museologist of the Croatian Archaeological Monuments Museum of Split, Jelovina ardently set to sort and establish a new inventory of the archaeological metalware, both those originating from the old (Knin) museum collection and the new acquisitions from the Museum's researchers. Namely, the often movings of the Museum from its initial location in Knin, and then in Sinj, Klis and several inadequate locations in Split, inevitably effected the condition in which the collection was. The unarranged collection was to be put in an order and systematised, and the metal objects were to be classified, as a precondition of any serious study. Jelovina started this work ardently, contributing several years of persistent work to the task. Jelovina summarised the results obtained by systematisation of the large collection of medieval jewellery, as a matter of fact, the largest such collection in Europe, but

also of weapons, equestrian equipment and tools, along with his already remarkable experience and knowledge gained by exploring medieval cemeteries, in his doctoral thesis *Kronologija hrvatskih grobalja na teritoriju između rijeka Zrmanje i Cetine* (The Chronology of Old-Croatian Cemeteries Between the Zrmanja and the Cetina Rivers). The importance of the studied issues to studying of the material culture of the Croats in the Middle Ages, especially of the early-medieval archaeological heritage, 9th to 12th centuries, is best confirmed by the interest expressed by the expert and wider public in publishing of this work as a separate monograph titled *Starohrvatske nekropole na području između Zrmanje i Cetine* (The Old-Croatian Necropolises Between the Zrmanja and the Cetina), published by the then editorial house Čakavski sabor (the present Književni krug) of Split in 1976. Namely, following the synthesis of the old-Croatian art by Ljubo Karaman, *Iz kolijevke hrvatske prošlosti* (From the Croatian History's Cradle), of 1930, and the Karaman's publications of excavations of the early-medieval cemeteries of Solin, Mravince and Majdan, the Duje Jelovina's book of 1976 was the first synthetic work that at one place provided the insight into the archaeological materials and the Old-Croatian sepulchral typology of the Northern and the Central Dalmatia.

In this book, as well as in the papers published in *Starohrvatska prosvjeta*, there are evident essential methodological determinations that would follow up the work of Duje Jelovina as an archaeologist and a medievalist. Namely, the book has remained the starting scientific and archaeological manual, an inexhaustible source of data on medieval sites and finds, useful to the archaeologists-medievalists in their daily work. It also remains the synthesis of his interpretations of the old Croatian history, viewed through the phenomenon of the Old-Croatian cemeteries and archaeological finds originating from them. Although recent finds somewhat changed his theories and opinions, Duje Jelovina is still a scientist exceptionally familiar with the issues of medieval cemeteries and the rules of the field work related to them.

Besides dealing with research programmes of importance for the cultural identity and scientific development of the medieval archaeology for over forty years, Jelovina also headed an institution, the Croatian Archaeological Monuments Museum of Split, emphasising the particular role of this institution as the leading factor in the field of studies of the national archaeological heritage. In the attempt to develop the Croatian Archaeological Monuments Museum, that he headed eight years, 1974-1986, according to the determined scientific-exploration concepts, he acted towards three clearly set goals: relationship to the research and field work, to the publishing activities, and to the museological dignity of the Museum, defending it against the waves of profane commercialisation of the heritage and protecting its basic values.

In accordance with such ideas, and after a ten years' pause, he started the 3rd series of *Starohrvatska prosvjeta*, to stay the bul-

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letin's editor till his retirement, in the meantime having gathered as contributors to the ten published volumes (vol. 11-20) numerous esteemed national and foreign medievalists. Jelovina has also initiated publishing the Museum's new editions titled *The Catalogues and the Monographs*, to be the author of the first one of them, *Mačevi i ostruge karoliškog obilježja u Muzeju hrvatskih arheoloških spomenika (Swords and Spurs of Carolingian Features in the Croatian Archaeological Monuments Museum)*, 1986. Having in mind also a better education of the wider public and popularisation of the heritage, in 1990 Jelovina published the monograph *Starohrvatsko kulturno blago (Old-Croatian Cultural Treasures)*, a representative, illustrated monograph.

In 1977, the archaeologist Jelovina was awarded the Split City Award and the Slobodna Dalmacija Award for particular contribution to studies of the old-Croatian culture, and in 1986 the Pavao Ritter Vitezović Award, the highest Croatia's award for the development of museum practices. The crown of his collection of high recognitions is the Life Achievement Award, awarded by the Croatian Archaeological Society in 2003.

In the Croatian Archaeological Monuments Museum, Dušan Jelovina has left deep and valuable traces. All of us who have grown and developed with Dr. Jelovina shall benefit from his field work memories and experiences and his bibliography, valuable foundations without which any further studies of the archaeological heritage of the Croats in the long centuries of their medieval history would have certainly been incomplete.

Dedicating this volume of *Starohrvatska prosvjeta* to Dr. Jelovina, on this occasion, too, we wish him a long life rich with pleasures, expecting from him a few more valuable advices during our meetings in our and his Museum, to which he has remained deeply emotionally related.

Mr. Vedrana Delonga