

## FOREWORD BY THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

### *Navigare necesse est: From Prehistory to the Early Middle Ages*

From 1995 to 2011, scientific meetings and symposia of archaeologists from Europe and around the world and experts in related disciplines were held in Pula, Rovinj and Medulin under the continuous patronage of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), with its headquarters in Paris and founded as a specialised institution of the United Nations. The symposia and meetings contributed with their particular topics to a broad advance in archaeological and historical scientific thought, through systematic efforts in presenting part of the oldest cultural and historical heritage, primarily that belonging to Croatia and the Mediterranean. It is precisely in this sense that, in 1994, in my role as minister, and in 1995 as ambassador of the Republic of Croatia to UNESCO, during frequent discussions with the Director-General of UNESCO, Mr. Federico Mayor, and the Director-General for World Heritage, Mr. Mounir Bouchenaki, the idea was formed to found an international research centre for archaeology in Istria (Medulin-Brijuni) that would be able to organise yearly thematic archaeological symposia and to publish in Croatia a newly founded international archaeological review called *Histria Antiqua*. The review, published under the logo of UNESCO, “was to promote even more thoroughly Croatian science in general and particularly Croatian archaeology at European and world universities and scientific institutions” (from the Foreword by the Editor-in-Chief, *Histria Antiqua*, vol. 1/1995, p. 9). What was discussed in Paris was implemented at the proposal of the Rector of the University of Zagreb, Marijan Šunjić, in the Conclusion of the Administrative Council at the first meeting held on 23 December 1994, when the International Research Centre for Archaeology was founded in Medulin. With the help of the appointed International Council (Helmut Buschhausen – Vienna, Vesna Girardi Jurkić – Paris, Emilio Marin – Split, Robert Matijašić – Pula, Ante Rendić Miočević – Zagreb, Isabel Rodà – Barcelona, Guido Rosada – Padua, Francis Tassaux – Bordeaux, and Marin Zaninović – Zagreb), through scientific symposia and with the publishing of symposia articles in the review *Histria Antiqua*, presided over by an international Board of Editors (Vesna Girardi Jurkić, Robert Matijašić, Isabel Rodà, Guido Rosada, Francis Tassaux, and Marin Zaninović), thematic archaeological symposia have been held and have resulted in a significant body of published articles in the annual review, both in Croatian and in other languages. “The twenty issues of the review, published over sixteen years, indicate, as has already been pointed out, the expansive scientific and expert drive behind archaeological discoveries and the well-founded words which interpret distant human history, and which also show the life and course of changes in civilisation” (from the Introduction by the editor, “Materijali”, no. 23/2011, p. 18).

I am glad that, along with this volume of the review, I can announce the completion of the “Bibliography of the Review *Histria Antiqua*, vol. 1/1995 to vol. 20/2011” where the large number of associates and the topics of their published articles can be found.

\* \* \*

This year's issue of the review *Histria Antiqua* under the title “*Navigare necesse est: From Prehistory to the Early Middle Ages*” has drawn together the largest number of associates to date, from Croatia (Cres, Mali Lošinj, Osijek, Poreč, Pula, Rijeka, Zadar, Zagreb, Split, Trogir and Vid) and abroad (Aix-en-Provence, Vienna, Bordeaux, Bologna, Budapest, Calabria, Caransebeș, Dijon, Auxerre, Graz, Lecce, Lyon, Ljubljana, Padua, Prishtina, Skopje, St. Paul – Minnesota, Varna, Tarragona), whose works, following peer review and after being accepted by the editors, are now published. All these articles were conceived and have been guided by the basic idea announced in the Invitation for the symposium: “From its very beginnings, through Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages, humankind has navigated seas, rivers and lakes in order to travel, cross from one continent to another, fish and trade. Stone Age people used simple vessels. The prehistoric vessel, the oldest known, was a dugout made from a hollowed tree trunk (monoxylon), called “ladva” in the Adriatic area. Some 3,000 years BC, the inhabitants of the Eastern Adriatic coast and islands had maritime ties with settlements located on the Western Adriatic coast, and even with some Mediterranean areas. Evidence of fishing has been found on the East Adriatic, such as fish bones and a large number of seashells recovered in different caves at the foot of Mount Učka, on the islands and along the coast. One of the oldest representations of a ship found in Europe comes from the cave of Grapčeva Spilja on the island of Hvar. The image was depicted on a ceramic fragment dated to about 2,700 BC. Simple docking places and moorings for vessels were built on lakes and rivers (the Rhone, the Elbe, the Rhine, the Sava, the Drava, the Danube, the Po and others). The Istri and Liburnians were excellent shipbuilders and renowned seafarers. The Romans even named a type of vessel after the Liburnians, the *liburna*. A

*serilia* type of ship was also used. Both peoples crossed the Adriatic and developed intensive trade with settlements on the Italian coast, particularly with Picenum and Apulia, and in Greece, North Africa and the Mediterranean”.

Articles published in this volume of the yearly review speak of maritime communications on the Adriatic, the Mediterranean, the Atlantic and the Black Sea. They talk of antique and medieval navigation and sailing, mythological conceptions and religion, the veneration of water divinities, maritime shrines and symbolism, secrets of the seafarers, concepts of navigation in the prehistoric Adriatic cultures, epigraphic testimonies related to navigation, antique lighthouses, Roman ports and harbours, port installations, Roman naval bases, the role of maritime villas in coastal navigation, transport and trade via the seas, rivers and lakes, naval combats, shipwrecks and underwater archaeological sites (especially in Istria and Dalmatia).

The articles may be grouped into those that deal with the Croatian Adriatic area (with numerous rich underwater archaeological sites) and those that present the results of investigations conducted in the wider European area, especially regarding the Garonne, Loire, Rhine, Po, Sava and Danube rivers. Special attention is also drawn to recent underwater finds (*Novitates*).

Croatian scientists present Adriatic Sea routes, maritime navigation and connections, ports and harbour installations, Roman naval bases and defence systems in the Adriatic from the Early to the Late Middle Ages. Navigation and trade are also discussed, involving a wider Croatian inland area and the related rivers (Sava, Drava, Danube, Kupa, Mura and Neretva), while individual articles indicate the presence of antique underwater evidence and finds in the Adriatic.

Foreign associates present in their articles navigation in the Stone Age, discuss the transport of marble by river, navigation on the Danube, overseas trade to Brigetio, trade connections between Dacia and Istria, imported Proconnesian marble in Varna and trade across the Adriatic between south Italy and Macedonia. Among general topics related to maritime history and mythology, particular attention should be paid to the articles on the role of the Octavian navy during the war with the Illyrians and on the voyage by boat of the Phrygian goddess Magna Mater from Pergamon to Rome. There are also discussions about little known questions related to navigation and ports along the Atlantic coast in Antiquity, and about the trade of marble by sea and river in Hispania. Particularly significant are the contributions related to the Venetian lagoon, the result of the continuous evolution of still-water and navigable canals. These contributions show the importance of the reconstruction of the lagoon landscape. Antique and medieval Mediterranean lighthouses should also be mentioned.

It is highly relevant that some of the articles are signed by both Croatian and foreign associates and institutions which demonstrate a new trend in international cooperation in investigation projects at home and abroad. This can particularly be noted when it comes to a body of articles related to underwater archaeology in the Adriatic, which indicates a more modern (and technically better equipped) approach to archaeological discoveries with meticulous archaeological results and a more systematic approach to synthesis in a scientific field of work.

As is customary, in the role of Editor-in-Chief of this volume of the review, I wish to thank all associates who submitted their articles in time for print and to all reviewers, while special thanks go to close associates who, through their personal enthusiasm and *pro bono* work, have prepared this extensive publication for print.

I should also like to thank the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports of the Republic of Croatia for its financial support through the years, which, unfortunately, and I hope only temporarily, we did not receive this year due to a negative opinion of the Commission for Publishing. I believe that the general scientific and international significance of the review *Histria Antiqua* will be acknowledged, and that the continuity of publishing at the international level (an exchange conducted with 397 institutions in Croatia and abroad) will be recognized, so that opinion will change and financial support will be extended for the publishing of this review. Without this important financial assistance from the budget reserved for science, it will be very difficult to publish this review in time for the symposium in Pula. The print layout has been carried out with the help of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Croatia, for which we are duly grateful.

Editor-in-Chief  


Professor Vesna Girardi Jurkić, Ph.D.  
Scientific and Museum Advisor

Pula, August 2012