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FRAGMENTI ŠTUKATURE IZ JUGOISTOČNOG UGLA RIMSKOG FORUMA U PULI

FRAGMENTS OF STUCCOWORK FROM THE SOUTHEASTERN CORNER OF THE ROMAN FORUM AT PULA

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U ovom se članku obrađuje devet malih fragmenata profiliranog vijenca od štukature, ukrašenog motivom u obliku zaobljenih listića unutar kojih se nalazi jajoliki ukras. Skroman očuvani dekor pripadao je zidnoj površini, tj. nalazio se na spoju između zida i stropa. Arheološki kontekst nije moguće identificirati, budući da rimska inzula nije u potpunosti istražena te nema podataka o namjeni prostora kojem su navedeni fragmenti pripadali.

This article deals with nine small fragments of a stucco cornice molding decorated with a motif in the shape of small rounded leaves within which is an oviform ornament. This preserved, modest decoration belonged to a wall surface, i.e., it was located at the junction between the wall and the ceiling. The archaeological context cannot be identified because the Roman insula has not been fully explored to date and there are, hence, no data regarding the use of the premises where these fragments originally belonged.

KLJUČNE RIJEČI: rimske štukature, antička Pula, unutarinja dekoracija

KEY WORDS: Roman stuccowork, Roman Pula, interior decoration

Zaštitno arheološko istraživanje u Ulici Sergijevaca br. 1 u Puli obavljeno je krajem 1987. te u dva navrata tijekom 1988. godine (sl. 1). Na površini od 550 m² otkriveni su ostaci antičkih i kasnoantičkih građevina koji pripadaju različitim fazama preuređenja, od kojih najstarija pripada kasnorepublikanskom razdoblju, a najmlađa kasnocarskom¹ (sl. 2). Na ostacima jednostavnog, ukrasnog, profiliranog vijenca od štukature zatečene su oznake "E 4, E 4/5 i E 5", koje se odnose na oznaku kvadranta u kojima su pronađeni (sl. 3), zajedno s fragmentima oslikane žbuke oker žute, crvene, sivkaste i bijele boje te motivima cvijeća i listića na bijeloj podlozi².



Sl. 1 Položaj istraženog sektora u jugoistočnom uglu Foruma
Fig. 1 The position of the explored sector in the southeastern corner of the Forum

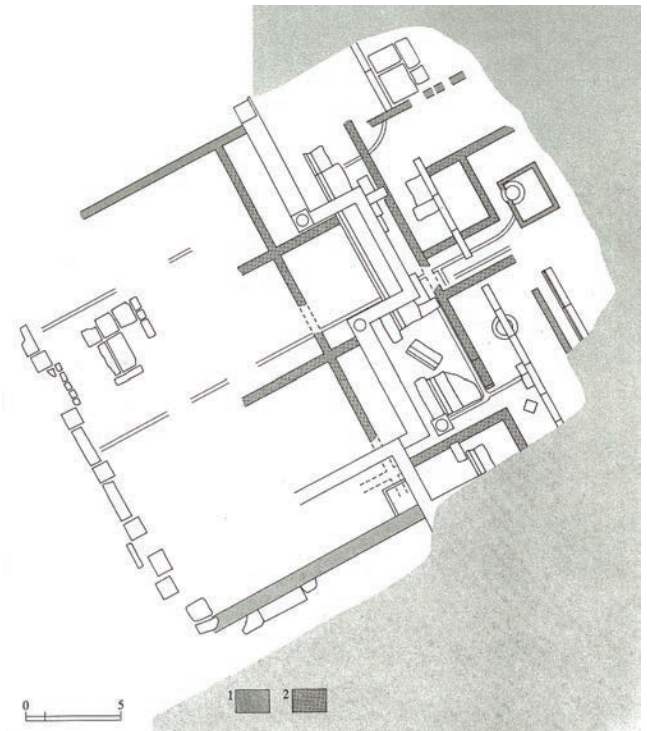
TEHNIČKE KARAKTERISTIKE I SASTAV ŽBUKE

Svih devet pronađenih fragmenata pripadaju zidnoj dekoraciji, budući da je poledina zaglađena te nema tragova trstike (što bi govorilo o stropnoj konstrukciji). Proučavanjem profila najbolje očuvanog primjera (sl. 4) moguće je odrediti položaj ostataka profiliranog vijenca od štukature na gornjem dijelu zidne površine, koji se spaja sa stropom. Makroskopsko promatranje strukture

¹ Bolšec-Ferri, Matijašić 1990, 149-151; za faze razvoja Foruma vidi: Starac 1996, 83, sl. 9-11.

² Fragmenti oslikane žbuke trenutno nisu dostupni za obradu zbog nedostatka prostora.

The rescue archaeological excavation conducted at Sergijevaca Street No. 1, at Pula, was carried out towards the end of 1987, and on two occasions during 1988 (Fig. 1). On an area covering 550 square meters we unearthed the remnants of Roman and Late Roman structures that belonged to different phases of refurbishment, of which the oldest belonged to the Late Republican period, and the youngest to the Late Imperial period¹ (Fig. 2). On the remnants of the simple, decorative cornice molding made of stucco, we noticed the markings "E 4, E 4/5, and E 5", which refer to the markings of the quadrant where they were discovered (Fig. 3) together with fragments of painted ocher-yellow, red, grayish and white plaster and motifs consisting of flowers and small leaves on a white background².



Sl. 2 Tlocrt istraženog sektora u jugoistočnom uglu Foruma (Bolšec-Ferri, Matijašić 1988.)

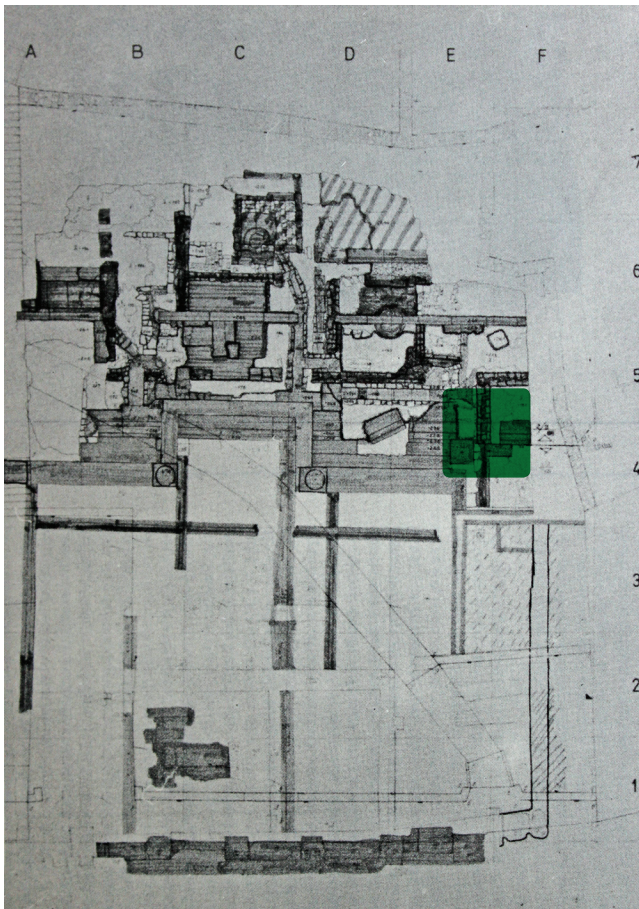
Fig. 2 Ground plan of the explored sector in the southeastern corner of the Forum (Bolšec-Ferri, Matijašić 1988)

TECHNICAL CHARACTERISTICS AND PLASTER COMPOSITION

All nine discovered fragments were part of a wall decoration, since the backside is smooth and there are no traces of reed (which would indicate a ceiling structure).

¹ Bolšec-Ferri, Matijašić 1990, 149-151; development phases of the Forum - see Starac 1996, 83, Fig. 9-11.

² These painted plaster fragments are at the moment not available for research purposes due to lack of space.



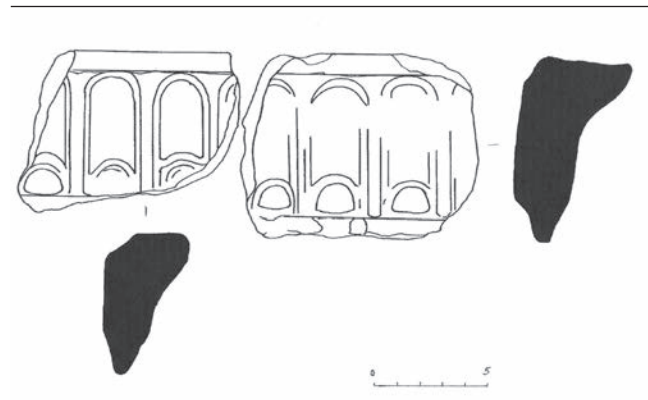
Sl. 3 Lokacija štukature u istraženom sektoru (Bolšec-Ferri, Matijašić 1989.)
Fig. 3 Location of stuccowork in the explored sector (Bolšec-Ferri, Matijašić 1989)

(sl. 5) otkriva da su svi fragmenti raščlanjeni u dva sloja različitog sastava:

- prvi, deblji sloj koji se oslanjao na zid ružičaste je boje, a osim mljevene opeke³ sadrži i sitne primjese smeđe i bijele boje; debljina varira od 1,2 cm na donjem dijelu do 3,8 cm na gornjem, najizbočenijem dijelu vijenca; uzrok tomu jest što navedeni sloj čini i sam profil vijenca te je iz tog razloga debljina sloja različita;
- drugi, tanji sloj, na kojem se nalazi utisnut ukras i obojeni dijelovi, bijele je boje i vrlo fine izrade; debljina varira od 0,2 cm do 1,3 cm.

Na temelju sastava žbuke može se zaključiti da svi fragmenti iz jugoistočnog ugla Foruma pripadaju jednoj cjelini. Bijeli plastični materijal u kojem je ostvarena reljefna dekoracija može se odnositi na vapno ili gips. U našem slučaju nije napravljena kemijsko-mineraloška analiza žbuke, stoga nije moguće sa sigurnošću potvrditi jesu li fragmenti profiliranog vijenca izrađeni na bazi vapna ili gipsa. Uobičajena žbuka za izradu ukrasa

³ Vitruvius, VII, 4. Mljevena opeka prisutna je u vlažnim prostorima budući da pečena opeka ima hidraulična svojstva.



Sl. 4 Crtež i presjeci štukature E 5 (izradila: M. Petrović)
Fig. 4 A drawing and cross-sections representing stuccowork E 5 (author: M. Petrović)



Sl. 5 Prikaz strukture štukature E 4 (fotografija: D. Bulić)
Fig. 5 A depiction of the structure of stuccowork E 4 (photography: D. Bulić)

By studying the profile of the best-preserved specimen (Fig. 4), it was possible to determine the position of the remnants of the stucco cornice molding as belonging to the upper section of a wall surface, adjacent to the ceiling. A macroscopic observation of the structure (Fig. 5) revealed that all fragments were made of two layers, each of which has a different composition:

- the first, thicker layer that was laid on the wall is pink, and besides ground brick³ it also contains small admixtures of brown and white. The thickness varies from 1.2 cm in the lower section, up to 3.8 cm in the upper, most protruding section of the cornice. The reason for this is that the aforementioned layer forms the molding of the cornice, hence the layer thickness varies;

- the second, thinner layer that bears the impressed decoration as well as the painted sections is white in color and has a very fine texture. Its thickness varies from 0.2 cm to 1.3 cm.

³ Vitruvius, VII, 4. Ground brick is present in humid rooms because fired brick has hydraulic properties.

od štukature u rimskoj tradiciji temelji se na vapnu, kako navodi Vitruvije: *in hisque minime gypsum debet adminisceri* (Vitr., VII, 3), dok se manji broj primjera odnosi na upotrebu gipsa⁴. Kad je riječ o gipsu, Plinije ističe suprotno mišljenje te kaže: *usus gypsi in albariis, sigilliis aedificiorum et coronis gratissimus* (Plin., NH 36, 61). Navedeni podaci iznose na vidjelo činjenicu, barem što se tiče rimskog svijeta, da postoje poteškoće u jednoznačnom definiranju štukature kad je u pitanju vrsta materijala od kojeg su izrađeni⁵.

OPIS FRAGMENTATA

Dimenzije fragmenta s oznakom E 5⁶:

1 a: visina 5,1 cm, dužina 7,25 cm, debljina 2,1 cm (sl. 6/1a)

1 b: visina 6,2 cm, dužina 8,25 cm, debljina 2,5 cm (sl.6/1b)



Sl. 6 Profilirani ukrasni vijenac štukature E 5 (fotografija: D. Bulić)
Fig. 6 Decorative stucco cornice molding E 5 (photography: D. Bulić)

Dva fragmenta ukrasnog profiliranog vijenca od štukature E 5 koja su nekoć činila cjelinu (sl. 6) donose motiv zaobljenih listića koji su na donjim dijelovima očuvali ukras jajolikog oblika, blago ispupčen te okružen lukovima. Na jajolikim oblicima (*ovulima*) i zaobljenim listićima vidljivi su tragovi oker boje koja je s vremenom izbledjela, a čija je uloga, pored estetske, bila i isticanje reljefnosti. Veličina jajolikog ukrasa varira od 0,90 cm do 1,1 cm, što govori o nedostatku preciznosti prilikom izvođenja dekoracije. Ispod ukrasa drugog vijenca, na ostatku profilirane letvice (sl. 6/1b) vidljivi su tragovi crne boje (širina potpuno očuvana:

⁴ Frizot 1977, analizirao je 70 galo-rimskih primjera te zaključio da je vapno bilo prisutno u svim primjerima, osim u dva slučaja u kojima je bio prisutan gips.

⁵ Daniele 2000, 325-335, navodi uzroke neslaganja Vitruvija i Plinija te citira razne autore koji su se bavili navedenom tematikom.

⁶ Sve navedene mjere su nepotpune, budući da niti jedan dio nije sačuvan u cijelosti.

Based on the composition of the plaster it can be concluded that all fragments from the southeastern corner of the Forum belong to one whole. The white plastic material used for the decorations in relief can be either lime or gypsum. In our case a chemical-mineralogical analysis of the plaster was not made. It is hence impossible to confirm with any degree of certainty whether the fragments of the molded cornice were made on the basis of lime or gypsum. Based on Roman tradition, the typical plaster for making stucco ornaments was based on lime, as was mentioned by Vitruvius: *in hisque minime gypsum debet adminisceri* (Vitr., VII, 3), whereas only a small amount of specimens were made by using gypsum⁴. As for gypsum, Pliny is of the opposite opinion and states: *usus gypsi in albariis, sigilliis aedificiorum et coronis gratissimus* (Plin., NH 36, 61). These data reveal that there are difficulties, at least as far as the Roman world is concerned, when making a generalization about stucco with respect to the composition of the material it is made of⁵.

DESCRIPTION OF THE FRAGMENTS

Measurements of the fragments bearing the mark E 5⁶:

1 a: height 5.1 cm, length 7.25 cm, thickness 2.1 cm (Fig. 6/1a);

1 b: height 6.2 cm, length 8.25 cm, thickness 2.5 cm (Fig. 6/1b).

The two fragments of a decorative cornice molding made of stucco, marked E 5, which once formed a whole (Fig. 6), depict a motif of small rounded leaves that in their lower sections preserved an oviform decoration that is slightly protruding and encircled with arches. On the oviform shapes (*ovoli*), and on the small rounded leaves, there are traces of ocher, which became pale with time. The ocher color had not only an aesthetical role but it also served to accentuate the relief quality of the decorations. The oviform decorations vary in size from 0.90 cm to 1.1 cm, which illustrates a lack of precision during the making of the decoration. Underneath the decorations of the second cornice, on the remains of a small molded lath (Fig. 6/1b), there are visible traces of black (fully preserved width 0.55 cm). It can be assumed that the decorative motifs were made with the help of

⁴ Frizot 1977 analyzed 70 Gallic-Roman specimens and concluded that lime was present in all specimens except in two, where gypsum was used.

⁵ Daniele 2000, 325-335, states the reasons for the disagreement between Vitruvius and Pliny in this respect, and quotes different authors that studied the issues at hand.

⁶ All stated measurements are incomplete because not a single section has been preserved in its entirety.

0,55 cm). Moguće je pretpostaviti da su dekorativni motivi izvedeni uz pomoć kalupa koji je utisnut na zid ili postoji mogućnost da je smjesa izravno ulijevana u kalup, koji je s unutrašnje strane bio podijeljen na dva dijela. Na stražnjoj strani vijenca vidljivi su tragovi zaglađivanja, što pokazuje da je površina zida bila zaglađena zidarskim alatom te da je kalup utisnut dok je žbuka bila još svježja (sl. 7). Gornja ispupčena površina vijenca (sl. 6/1b) ima vidljive tragove otiska prsta preko čitave sačuvane površine, koji su nastali tijekom izvođenja radova na štukaturi, najvjerojatnije prilikom otklanjanja letve koja je bila postavljena iznad kalupa, budući da je gornja površina profiliranih vijenaca glatka.

Dimenzije fragmenata s oznakom E 4⁷:

1 a / visina 6,1 cm, dužina 8,5 cm, debljina 2,9 cm (sl. 8/1a)

1 b / visina 5,7 cm, dužina 5,8 cm, debljina 3,2 cm (sl. 8/1b)

1 c / visina 4,3 cm, dužina 4,1 cm, debljina 2,1 cm (sl. 8/1c)

Ostaci profiliranog vijenca E 4 (sl. 8) po načinu dekoracije i izrade nalikuju prethodnom, samo što je u ovom slučaju sačuvan i donji dio, koji je obojen crnom bojom, neravnomjerno nanesenom u tankom sloju. Tri fragmenta polikromnog vijenca štukature (sl. 8) imaju sačuvane ostatke ukrasa u obliku zaobljenih listića. Ukrasi su svijetle, oker boje, blago uvučeni na donjem te ispupčeni na gornjem dijelu. Niti jedan ukras nije sačuvan u cijelosti. Ispod motiva se nalazi profilirana letvica širine 0,55 cm. Sačuvan je i donji dio uvučene profilirane letvice crne boje čija širina (u potpunosti očuvana na dva fragmenta) varira od 2,0 cm (sl. 8/1 b) do 2,3 cm (sl. 8/1 a). Na donjem dijelu profiliranog vijenca (sl.8/1a) nalaze se tri jajolika ukrasa unutar motiva zaobljenih listića. Od prvog su sačuvani obrisi, dok su drugi i treći jajoliki ukrasi oštećeni. Na fragmentu (sl. 8/1c) sačuvan je motiv zaobljenih listića u donjem dijelu te djelić uvučene profilirane letvice obojen crnom bojom, neravnomjerno nanesenom. Ostali ukrasi odlomljeni su lijevo, desno i gore. Poledina je zaglađena.

Dimenzije fragmenata s oznakom E 4/5⁸:

1 a / visina 5,8 cm, dužina 7,9 cm, debljina 5,4 cm (sl. 9/1a)

1 b / visina 5,0 cm, dužina 6,1 cm, debljina 2,3 cm (sl. 9/1b)

a mold that was then impressed onto the wall, or else the mixture was poured directly into a mold that was divided in two sections from the interior side. Visible on the back side of the cornice are traces of smoothing, which not only shows that the surface of the wall was smoothed using masonry utensils, but also that the mold was impressed while the plaster was semi-dry (Fig. 7).



Sl. 7 Profilirani ukrasni vijenac štukature (fotografija: D. Bulić)
Fig. 7 Decorative stucco cornice molding (photography: D. Bulić)

The upper, protuberating surface of the cornice (Fig. 6/1b) bears visible traces of fingerprints that can be seen across the entire preserved surface, which were made during the execution of the stucco decorations, most probably during the removal of the lath that was placed above the mold, because the upper surface of the cornice moldings is smooth.

Measurements of the fragments bearing the mark E 4⁷:

1 a: height 6.1 cm, length 8.5 cm, thickness 2.9 cm (Fig. 8/1a);

1 b: height 5.7 cm, length 5.8 cm, thickness 3.2 cm (Fig. 8/1b);

1 c: height 4.3 cm, length 4.1 cm, thickness 2.1 cm (Fig. 8/1c).



Sl. 8 Profilirani ukrasni vijenac štukature E 4 (fotografija: D. Bulić)
Fig. 8 Decorative stucco cornice molding E 4 (photography: D. Bulić)

⁷ Sve navedene mjere su nepotpune, budući da niti jedan dio nije sačuvan u cijelosti.

⁸ Sve navedene mjere su nepotpune, budući da niti jedan dio nije sačuvan u cijelosti.

⁷ All stated measurements are incomplete because not a single section has been preserved in its entirety.

1 c / visina 3,3 cm, dužina 2,7 cm, debljina 2,4 cm (sl. 9/1c)

1 d / visina 3,2 cm, dužina 2,5 cm, debljina 2,4 cm (sl. 9/1d)



Sl. 9 Profilirani ukrasni vijenac štukature E 4-5 (fotografija: D. Bulić)
Fig. 9 Decorative stucco cornice molding E 4-5 (photography: D. Bulić)

Četiri fragmenta ukrasnog profiliranog vijenca od štukature E 4/5 po načinu dekoracije i tehnici izvedbe identični su prethodno opisanim primjerima. Motivi zaobljenih listića djelomično su sačuvani na gornjem dijelu ukrasnog vijenca (sl. 9/1a), dok su na preostala dva fragmenta (sl. 9/1c; 9 /1d) vidljivi samo u tragovima. Obris jajolikog ukrasa unutar motiva zaobljenog listića na donjem dijelu profiliranog vijenca s dijelom dna uvučene letvice sačuvani su na jednom fragmentu (sl. 9/1b), dok se crna boja uvučene letvice, prisutna na prethodno navedenim primjerima, u potpunosti oljuštila.

Zajednička karakteristika svih prikazanih primjera reljefne štukature je upotreba ograničene palete boja, koja se svodi na bikromatsku igru svijetle oker i crne. Debljina slikarskog sloja razlikuje se s obzirom na vrstu boje. Oker boja je u boljem stanju očuvanosti budući da je nanosena u gustom sloju na još svježju žbuku te je slikarski sloj deblji, dok je crna boja nanosena u tanjem sloju, neravnomjerno, vidljivim potezima kista, a također na svježju žbuku, premda je u jednom slučaju (sl. 9/1b) nanosena *a secco*, budući da se boja oljuštila.

DATAČIJA

Jednostavan motiv zaobljenih listića koji se ponavlja, izveden u štukaturi vrlo je rasprostranjen, kako navodi Riemenschneider (Riemenschneider 1986, 504), što se može uočiti iz brojnih očuvanih primjera, npr. Sosandrine terme iz Baja (*Baiae*), prostorija A 1 (Ling 1999, 27, fig. 3 (no. 2)), datacija 40. posl. Kr. ili 50. posl. Kr., prostor B (Ling 1999, 33, fig. 4), datacija 60. posl. Kr. do 80. posl. Kr., prostorija u obliku slova L, datirana u sredinu razdoblja vladavine Antonina (138. – 192.) (Ling 1999, 43, fig. 9, Pl. XIII b); paneli s prikazom Erosa iz rimske gospodarske kuće (*villa rustica*)

As far as the mode of decoration and execution are concerned, the remnants of the cornice molding E 4 (Fig. 8) resemble the previous one, only that in this case the lower section was likewise preserved, which was painted in black in a thin, unevenly applied layer. Three fragments of the polychrome stucco cornice (Fig. 8) feature the preserved remnants of a decoration in the shape of small rounded leaves. The decorations are light ochre in color, and they are slightly retracted in the lower section, and protuberant in the upper. Not a single decoration was preserved in its entirety. Located underneath the motif is a small molded lath 0.55 cm wide. The lower section of a small, drawn in, black molded lath was likewise preserved (preserved in its entirety on two fragments), whose width varies from 2.0 cm (Fig. 8/1b) to 2.3 cm (Fig. 8/1a). On the lower section of the cornice molding (Fig. 8/1a) are three oviform decorations that are within a motif representing small rounded leaves. Only the contours of the first of these oviform decorations were preserved, while the second and third were damaged. The fragment (Fig. 8/1c) has a preserved motif featuring small rounded leaves in its lower section, as well as a section of a small, retracted, molded lath that was unevenly painted in black. The other decorations to the left, right and above were broken off. The back side has been smoothed.

Measurements of the fragments bearing the mark E 4/5⁸:

1 a: height 5.8 cm, length 7.9 cm, thickness 5.4 cm (Fig. 9/1a);

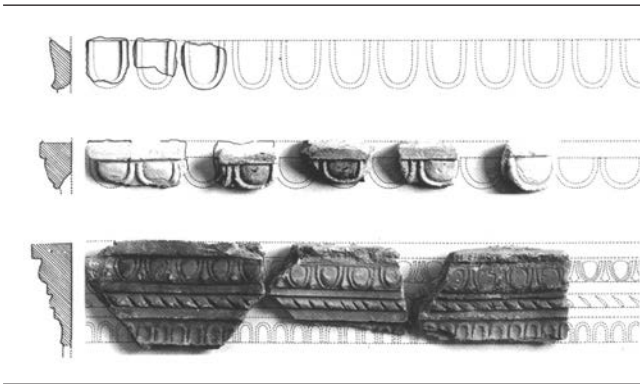
1 b: height 5.0 cm, length 6.1 cm, thickness 2.3 cm (Fig. 9/1b);

1 c: height 3.3 cm, length 2.7 cm, thickness 2.4 cm (Fig. 9/1c);

1 d: height 3.2 cm, length 2.5 cm, thickness 2.4 cm (Fig. 9/1d).

Four fragments of a decorative cornice molding made of stucco, bearing the mark E 4/5, are identical with the previously described specimens as far as mode of decoration and execution technique are concerned. The small rounded leaves motifs are partially preserved on the upper section of the decorative cornice (Fig. 9/1a), whereas only traces thereof are visible on the remaining two fragments (Fig. 9/1c; 9/1d). The contours of an oviform decoration within the small rounded leaf motif on the lower section of the cornice molding, together with a section of the base of the retracted lath, were

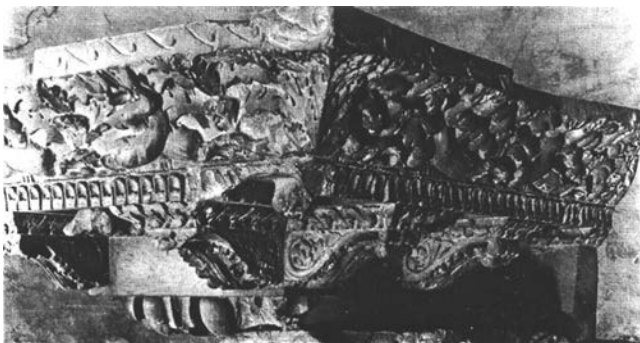
⁸ All stated measurements are incomplete because not a single section has been preserved in its entirety.



Sl. 10 Primjeri štukatura iz Emona (Plesničar-Gec 1998.)

Fig. 10 Stuccowork specimens from Emona (Plesničar-Gec 1998)

kod Petrara, uokvireni motivom zaobljenih listića, I. st. posl. Kr. (Donati 1998, fig. 34 i 35); stropna dekoracija u sobi R u Kući pozlaćenih kupida u Pompejima VI 16, 7, treća četvrtina prvog stoljeća (Ling 2006, 87, fig. 90); *Domus Aurea* u Rimu, strop prostorije 129 (tzv. sala Hektora i Andromahe) (Baldassarre, Pontrandolfo, Rouveret, Salvadori 2006, 219-221) datiran u 64. - 68. posl. Kr.; Meleagrova kuća, fragment gornjeg dijela zida tablinuma, Pompeji VI 9, 2 (Baldassarre, Pontrandolfo, Rouveret, Salvadori 2006, 258) između 62. posl. Kr. i 79. posl. Kr.; svodovi u grobnicama A 1 i A 2, Fondo Fraja, Pozzuoli (Blanc 2001, 112, fig. 4; 113, fig. 6, 7, 8), druga polovica I. st. posl. Kr. U susjednoj Sloveniji, u Emoni, kuća X, soba 20 imala je ukras na donjem dijelu profiliranog vijenca od štukature u obliku zaobljenih listića (Plesničar-Gec 1988, 249), druga polovica drugog stoljeća (sl. 10, a, c). Drugi, također vrlo rasprostranjen, jednostavni ukras koji se pojavljuje na sačuvanim fragmentima od štukature iz jugoistočnog ugla Foruma u Puli, jajolikog je oblika (*ovuli*) te imitira ornament prisutan u grčkoj kamenoj arhitekturi (Ling 1999, 12). Sačuvani su brojni primjeri, od kojih se navode samo neki, npr.: vila Farnesina (Ling 2006, 46, fig. 46), svod sobe D, 20. god. prije Kr.;



Sl. 11 Fragment kamenog vijenca iz Flavijeve palače (Strong 1990.)

Fig. 11 A fragment of a stone cornice from the Flavian palace (Strong 1990)

preserved on a single fragment (Fig. 9/1b), while the black paint on the retracted lath, which is present on the previously mentioned specimens, peeled off completely. The common characteristic of all presented stucco specimens is that they feature a subtle palette that boils down to a bichrome interplay between light ocher and black. The thickness of the painted layer varies based on the kind of color. Ocher is better preserved because it was applied in a dense layer on semi-dry plaster, which makes the painted layer thicker. The black paint was applied unevenly in a somewhat thinner layer with visible brush strokes, likewise on semi-dry plaster, even though on a single specimen it was applied *a secco* (Fig. 9/1b), as the paint peeled off.

DATING

The simple motif representing small rounded leaves, which repeats itself, was very widely used for stuccowork, as was pointed out by Riemenschneider (Riemenschneider 1986, 504), and it can be thus observed on a large number of preserved specimens: e.g., *Thermae of Sosandra* from *Baia*, Hall A 1 (Ling 1999, 27, Fig. 3 (No.2), dated 40 or 50 CE, Hall B (Ling 1999, 33, Fig. 4), dated 60 - 80 CE, L-shaped Hall, dated to the middle of Antoninus' period (138-192) (Ling 1999, 43, Fig. 9, Pl. XIII b); the panels featuring a depiction of Eros from the Roman *villa rustica* near Petraro, which are framed with a motif consisting of small rounded leaves, 1st century CE (Donati 1998, Fig. 34 and 35); ceiling decoration from Room R in the House of Gilded Cupids at Pompeii VI 16, 7, third quarter of the 1st century (Ling 2006, 87, Fig. 90); *Domus Aurea* at Rome, the ceiling of Hall 129 (so-called Hall of Hector and Andromache) (Baldassarre, Pontrandolfo, Rouveret, Salvadori 2006, 219-221), dated 64-68 CE; House of Meleager, fragment of the upper section of the tablinum wall, Pompeii VI 9, 2 (Baldassarre, Pontrandolfo, Rouveret, Salvadori 2006, 258), dated between 62 CE and 79 CE; arched ceilings in grave vaults A 1 and A 2, Fondo Fraia, Pozzuoli (Blanc 2001, 112, Fig. 4; 113, Fig. 6,7,8), second half of 1st century CE. In neighboring Slovenia, at Emona, House X, Room 20 featured a decoration on the lower section of a stucco cornice molding, which was in the form of small rounded leaves (Plesničar-Gec 1988, 249), second half of the 2nd century (Fig. 10, a, c). Another decoration that was likewise very common and simple, which appears on preserved stucco fragments unearthed in the southeastern corner of the Forum at Pula is oviform (*ovoli*) and imitates an ornament present on stone architectural elements from Greece (Ling 1999,

grobnica Z ispod crkve sv. Sebastijana u Rimu, druga polovica drugog stoljeća (Blanc 2001, 116, fig. 12); Merkurove terme iz Baja, prostorija C (Ling 1999, 37, fig. 6 (no. 2)), razdoblje Hadrijana (117. - 138.) ili rano razdoblje Antonina; geografski najbliži poznati primjer je iz *Emone*, kuća X, soba 20, druga polovica drugog stoljeća (Plesničar-Gec 1988, 249), (sl. 10, b). Motiv zaobljenog listića unutar kojeg se nalazi jajoliki oblik nije pronađen u štukaturi, već na fragmentu kamenog vijenca s floralnim ornamentima iz Flavijeve palače, kasno I. st. posl. Kr. (Strong 1990, 127), (sl. 11). U



Sl. 12 Ulomak kamenog vijenca (Starac 2006.)
Fig. 12 A fragment of a stone cornice (Starac 2006)



Sl. 13 Ulomak kamenog vijenca (Starac 2006.)
Fig. 13 A fragment of a stone cornice (Starac 2006)

12). There are numerous preserved specimens, out of which we mention but a few, e.g.: Villa Farnesina (Ling 2006, 46, Fig. 46), the arched ceiling of Room D, 20 BCE; grave vault Z underneath St. Sebastian at Rome, second half of the 2nd century (Blanc 2001, 116, Fig. 12); Thermae of Mercury from Baia, Hall C (Ling 1999, 37, Fig. 6 (No. 2)), Hadrian's period (117-138), or early Antoninus' period; geographically closest is the known specimen from *Emona*, House X, Room 20, second half of the 2nd century (Plesničar-Gec 1988, 249), (Fig. 10, b). The small, rounded leaf motif within which is an ovoid form was not discovered in stuccowork but rather on a fragment of a stone cornice featuring floral ornamentation, which was unearthed in a Flavian palace, late 1st century CE (Strong 1990, 127), (Fig. 11). In the Archaeological Museum of Istria at Pula there are fragments of sepulchral monuments made of Prokonnessos marble, which feature a motif representing small leaves having pods (Starac 2006, 115), dated into the last third of the 1st century CE, or, to the beginning of the 2nd century CE (Fig. 12, 13). Located in the Franciscan monastery at Pula is the lower section of a rectangular sepulchral monument that besides other motifs also features a motif with small leaves having pods, which could be dated into the first half of the 2nd century CE (Starac 2006, 122), (Fig. 14). Dating stucco cornice remnants on the basis of stylistic characteristics, and comparing them with motifs found on stone monuments enables us to date these fragments towards the end of the 1st century CE, or, the beginning of the 2nd century CE.



Sl. 14 Donji dio pravokutnog nadgrobno spomenika (Starac 2006.)
Fig. 14 The lower section of a rectangular sepulchral monument (Starac 2006)

Arheološkom muzeju Istre u Puli nalaze se ulomci nadgrobnih spomenika od prokoneškog mramora s motivom mahunastih listića (Starac 2006, 115), datirani u posljednju trećinu I. st. posl. Kr. ili na početak II. st. posl. Kr. (sl. 12, 13). U franjevačkom samostanu u Puli nalazi se donji dio pravokutnog nadgrobnog spomenika koji pored ostalih motiva ima i motiv s mahunastim listićima, koji bi se mogao datirati u prvu polovicu II. st. posl. Kr. (Starac 2006, 122), (sl. 14). Datirajući ostatke vijenaca od štukature na osnovi stilističkih karakteristika te uspoređujući ih s motivima na kamenim spomenicima, moguće je te fragmente smjestiti na kraj I. st. posl. Kr. ili početak II. st. posl. Kr.

ZAKLJUČAK

Treba naglasiti da nedostatak sigurnog komparativnog materijala kao i malobrojnost fragmenata ne omogućavaju precizniju dataciju fragmenata profiliranog vijenca od štukature iz jugoistočnog ugla Foruma u Puli, ukrašenog jednostavnim motivom u obliku zaobljenih listića unutar kojih se nalazi mali jajoliki ukras. Zasigurno će obrada oslikane žbuke, koja je pronađena zajedno sa štukaturom, pružiti jasniju sliku o razdoblju kojem pripadaju fragmenti profiliranog vijenca koji su se nalazili na spoju između zida i stropa. Što se tiče kvalitete izrade, ona ne zaostaje za primjerima iz ostalih rimskih centara, budući da su sačuvani motivi zaobljenih listića i jajolikih oblika u donjem dijelu vijenca izvedeni pažljivo, premda postoje male nepravilnosti. Kad je u pitanju veličina jajolikih oblika, ona varira od 0,90 cm do 1,1 cm. Isto tako, poštuje se pravilo koje navodi Vitruvije (Vitr., VII, 2): da vijenci moraju biti lagane strukture i umjerene profilacije. Jednostavan izbor motiva zaostaje za primjerima iz rimskih centara, ali sačuvani ulomci doprinose boljem poznavanju rada majstora štukature u rimskoj koloniji Poli.

CONCLUSION

It should be stressed that due to a shortage of sound comparative materials, and the small number of fragments, we are not able to make a more precise dating of the stucco cornice molding fragments from the southeastern corner of the Forum at Pula, which are decorated with a simple motif in the shape of small, rounded leaves, located within which is a small oviform ornament. A close examination of the painted plaster that was unearthed together with the stucco fragments will surely provide a clearer picture concerning the dating of the cornice molding fragments that were originally located at the junction between the wall and the ceiling. As regards quality of execution, it can be said that it in no way lags behind when compared with specimens from other Roman centers, inasmuch as the preserved motifs featuring small, rounded leaves, and ovoid forms in the lower section of the cornice, were carefully executed, even though there are slight imperfections. As regards size, the ovoid forms vary from 0.9 to 1.1 cm. The rule cited by Vitruvius (Vitr., VII, 2) has likewise been respected, whereby cornices must have a light structure and moderate molding. The simple choice of motifs certainly lags behind the specimens from other Roman centers, but these preserved fragments contribute to a better understanding of the work performed by craftsmen specializing in stucco at the Roman colony of Pola.

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