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## REVIZIJSKA ARHEOLOŠKA ISKOPAVANJA TRIKONHALNE CRKVE U BILICAMA 2016. GODINE

## THE 2016 REVISION EXCAVATIONS OF THE TRICONCH CHURCH IN BILICE

U radu se izlažu rezultati revizijskih arheoloških iskopavanja trikonhalne starokršćanske crkve u Bilicama. Građevina na lokalitetu Dedića punta otkrivena je i otkopana u prvome desetljeću 20. st. i nakon toga nikada nije bila ponovno istraživana. Revizijska istraživanja započeta u jesen 2016. g. trebala bi, stoga, pokazati stanje sačuvanosti starokršćanskoga kompleksa, znanstveno ga obraditi i omogućiti njegovu konzervaciju i prezentaciju. U istraživanjima 2016. g. otkriveni su temeljni zidovi trikonhalne crkve i djelomično zidovi sjeveroistočne i jugoistočne prigradnje. U radu se analiziraju obilježja otkrivene crkvene arhitekture, a dan je i osvrt na pronađene pokretne nalaze (kameni ulomak s profilacijama, keramika i staklo). Prethodno su opširnije izloženi podatci iz arhivskih izvora i spoznaje o lokalitetu u literaturi.

**Ključne riječi:** Bilice, starokršćanska arhitektura, trikonhalna crkva, revizijska arheološka istraživanja

The paper presents the results of the revision excavations of the early Christian triconch church in Bilice. Discovered and excavated in the 1900s on Dedića Punta site, the structure has not been researched ever since. The revision excavations that began in autumn 2016 should therefore establish the condition of this early Christian complex, interpret it scientifically and enable its conservation and presentation. The 2016 excavations revealed the foundation walls of a triconch church and parts of the walls of its northeastern and southeastern additions. This paper analyzes the characteristics of the sacral architecture discovered there, providing also an overview of the movable finds (a stone fragment with moldings, pottery and glass). Evidence from archive sources and the references about the site found in literature are also presented.

**Key words:** Bilice, early Christian architecture, triconch church, revision archaeological excavations



**Slika 1. Bilice, Dedića punta, stanje prije uklanjanja raslinja**

Figure 1. Bilice, Dedića Punta, situation before removal of vegetation

foto / photo: M. Jarak

Nakon više od stotinu godina od otkrića i prvih istraživanja starokršćanskoga kompleksa u Bilicama, na lokalitetu Dedića punta, 2016. godine provedena su revizijska arheološka istraživanja.<sup>1</sup> Istraživanja su trajala dva tjedna i predstavljaju prvu fazu u istraživanju crkve i širega kompleksa kojemu je pripadala.

Iskopavanja 2016. g. provedena su na površini od oko 350 m<sup>2</sup>. Obuhvatila su samo prostor pružanja starokršćanske crkve od vrha apsida do pročelja građevine. Prostor narteksa nije iskopavan u ovoj prvoj kampanji revizijskih iskopavanja na lokalitetu. Starokršćanska sakralna građevina smještena je na razmeđu triju katastarskih zemljišnih čestica: 3661/1, 3661/12 i 3661/8. Te čestice već dugi niz godina nisu obrađivane i s vremenom su prekrivene gustim mediteranskim raslinjem i drvećem, tako da se ostatci zidova starokršćanske crkve prilikom obilaska terena nisu mogli uočiti (Sl. 1, 2). Tek nakon uklanjanja raslinja na dijelu kat. č. 3661/1, što je učinjeno na samom kraju 8. i početkom 9. mjeseca,<sup>2</sup> bilo je moguće jasnije sagledati prostorne odnose i pozicionirati starokršćansku arhitekturu. Približni prostorni odnosi predočeni su inače na planu koji

1 Revizijska arheološka istraživanja u Bilicama proveo je, zahvaljujući potpori Ministarstva kulture, Odsjek za arheologiju Filozofskog fakulteta Sveučilišta u Zagrebu. Iskopavanja su provedena u razdoblju od 26. rujna do 7. listopada 2016. godine, unutar 10 radnih dana. Stručna voditeljica iskopavanja bila je dr. sc. Mirja Jarak, a članovi stručne ekipe dr. sc. Krešimir Filipec, dr. sc. Vendi Jukić Buča, mag. arheo. Petra Nikšić te Katarina Lukić, Marko Skuliber i Sebastijan Stingl, studenti srednjovjekovnoga smjera diplomskoga studija arheologije na zagrebačkome Filozofskom fakultetu. Suradnik u iskopavanjima bio je mr. sc. Željko Krnčević iz Muzeja grada Šibenika. Kao fizički radnici sudjelovali su Mate Protega, Stjepan Škrln, Joso Gracin i Nenad Bilušić. Mjesec dana nakon završetka istraživanja obavljeno je snimanje otkrivenih struktura pomoću drona. Snimanje je proveo Miroslav Vuković, tehničar na Odsjeku za arheologiju Filozofskog fakulteta u Zagrebu.

2 Radove raščišćavanja terena od raslinja provela je i financirala općina Bilice. Općina je također naručila izradu geodetske snimke postojećega stanja na kat. č. 3661/1. Snimak je izradio Mario Mikulandra, dipl. ing. geod. Gosp. Mikulandri te načelniku općine Bilice, gosp. Josipu Čaleti, zahvaljujemo na pomoći bez koje se projekt istraživanja lokaliteta ne bi realizirao u postignutom opsegu.



**Slika 2. Bilice, Dedića punta, stanje prije uklanjanja raslinja s vidljivom nakupinom kamena na položaju u blizini starokršćanske crkve**

Figure 2. Bilice, Dedića Punta, situation before removal of vegetation, with visible pile of stones on location in vicinity of early Christian church

foto / photo: M. Jarak

More than a hundred years after the discovery and first excavations, revision archaeological excavations were carried out at the early Christian complex on Dedića Punta site in Bilice in 2016.<sup>1</sup> The excavations took two weeks, marking the first phase of the research of the church and the complex it had belonged to.

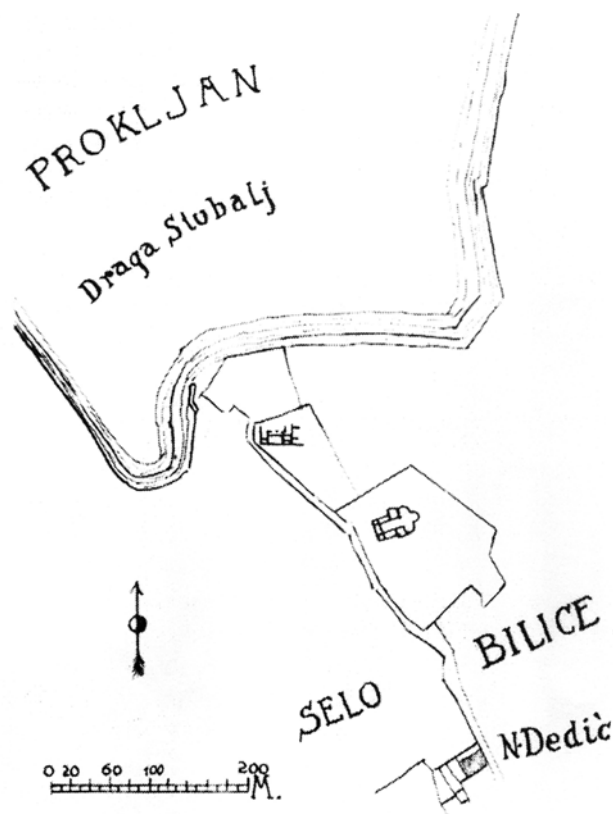
The 2016 excavations comprised an area of approx. 350m<sup>2</sup>, including the space between the top of the apses and the front of the early Christian structure. The narthex was not included in this first revision excavation campaign at the site. The structure lies at the boundary of three cadastral plots: 3661/1, 3661/12 and 3661/8. The plots have not been tilled for a long time and are now covered with dense Mediterranean underbrush and trees. As a result, the remains of the walls of the early Christian church could not be seen during the visit to the site (Fig. 1, 2). Only after the underbrush had been removed on part of the cadastral plot 3661/1 (in the late August and early September)<sup>2</sup> was

1 With a support of the Ministry of Culture, the revision archaeological excavations were carried out by the Department of Archaeology of the Zagreb Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. The excavations took ten working days, between 26 September and 7 October 2016. The excavations were led by Dr. Mirja Jarak and the expert team included Dr. Krešimir Filipec, Dr. Vendi Jukić Buča, Petra Nikšić, M.A. and Katarina Lukić, Marko Skuliber and Sebastijan Stingl, undergraduate students of the Medieval Archaeology at the Zagreb Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. Željko Krnčević, M.A. from the Šibenik City Museum took part in the excavations as an associate. Mate Protega, Stjepan Škrln, Joso Gracin and Nenad Bilušić gave their contribution as laborers. A month after the completion of the excavations, the structures were filmed by a drone operated by Miroslav Vuković, a technician of the Department of Archaeology of the Zagreb Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.

2 The clearing of the terrain was financed and carried out by the Municipality of Bilice. The municipal authorities also ordered a geodetic survey for the cadastral plot 3661/1. It was made by surveyor Mario Mikulandra. We are grateful to Mr. Mikulandra and mayor of Bilice Mr. Josip Čaleti; without their assistance, the site excavation project would not be realized to such an extent.

je načinjen nakon prvih istraživanja crkve početkom 20. st. Na tome planu koji se čuva u Jelićevu arhivu u splitskome Arheološkom muzeju, a objavio ga je Zlatko Gunjača u Izdanju HAD-a iz 1978., shematski je prikazan tlocrt trikonhalne crkve smještene nedaleko od obale Prokljanskoga jezera (Sl. 3). Lokalitet Dedića punta nalazi se na južnoj obali Prokljanskoga jezera, odnosno na području uz južnu obalu (Sl. 4). Od obale jezera teren se blago uzdiže, tako da je uži prostor na kojem je smještena crkva na dominantnome mjestu u odnosu na jezero. Položaj je vrlo pogodan i privlačan za naseljavanje, a prema informacijama iskusnijih poznavatelja zemlje, i posebno dobar za uzgajanje poljoprivrednih kultura. Tu se, dakle, nalaze svi preduvjeti za razvoj naselja u antici i ranome srednjem vijeku, pa je jedan od ciljeva revizijskih arheoloških istraživanja moguće ubiciranje naselja.<sup>3</sup> Na arhivskome planu, zapadno od crkve prema jezeru, ucrtan je put uz koji se, bliže jezeru, nalazi shematski tlocrt rimske vile rustike. I danas se na tome dijelu terena vide tragovi koji upućuju na postojanje ostataka antičke arhitekture. Približna udaljenost starokršćanske crkve od obale Prokljanskoga jezera iznosi oko 100 m. Iako ju nismo precizno izmjerili tijekom provedenih istraživanja, čini se da udaljenost od oko 200 m, koja je navedena na shematskom planu iz Jelićeva arhiva, treba korigirati. Već u objavljenim izvješćima fra L. Maruna navedena je udaljenost kuće N. Dedića od oko 150 m u odnosu na jezero, a položaj starokršćanske crkve je između kuće i jezera, nešto bliže jezeru.<sup>4</sup> Manju udaljenost starokršćanske crkve navodi u novije vrijeme M. Zeman u članku o rimskoj vili u Bilicama.<sup>5</sup> Vila, koja nije revizijski istraživana, nalazi se 30-ak m od obale Prokljana, dok je crkva udaljena od obale oko 80 m.<sup>6</sup> Zanimljivo je da je današnji seoski put, koji prolazi pored starokršćanske crkve i rimske vile, za nekoliko metara pomaknut u odnosu na pravac pružanja s početka 20. st. Stari put, ucrtan na arhivskome planu, bio je nešto dalje od obje arheološke lokacije.<sup>7</sup>

Prvi cilj revizijskih iskopavanja na lokalitetu Dedića punta bio je istražiti stanje sačuvanosti starokršćanske crkve koja je bila otkopana početkom 20. st. u istraživanjima kojima je djelomično, u ime Starinarskoga društva, rukovodio don Petar Kaer. Nažalost, Kaerov izvještaj o istraživanjima predan za objavu u Starohrvatskoj prosvjeti, zbog nepoznatih razloga, nikada nije objavljen. Neobjavljenim i nepotpuno sačuvanim izvještajem služio se Z. Gunjača pri pisanju spomenutoga osvrtu na lokalitet. Danas je i taj nepotpuni izvještaj P. Kaera zagubljen, odnosno u Muzeju



Slika 3. Jelićev arhiv, plan s ucrtanim položajem rimske vile i starokršćanske crkve

Figure 3. Jelić Archive, plan with designated location of Roman villa and early Christian church

preuzeto iz / from: Z. Gunjača, 1978, 71.

it possible to observe the spatial relations and position the early Christian architecture much better. The approximate spatial relations can be seen in the drawing made after the first excavations of the church in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The drawing, kept in the Jelić Archive in the Archaeological Museum Split and published by Zlatko Gunjača in the 1978 issue of the Croatian Archaeological Association's journal, depicts the schematic plan view of the triconch church located near Prokljansko Lake shore (Fig. 3). Dedića Punta site lies near the southern shore of Prokljansko Lake (Fig. 4). As the terrain mildly slopes up from the shore, the area with the church dominates the lake. The position is attractive and favorable for settling and, according to soil experts, optimal for growing field crops. In other words, the area has all the preconditions required for development of settlements in the Antiquity and Early Middle Ages, so one of the goals of the revision archaeological excavations is to identify possible settlements.<sup>3</sup> On the archive drawing

3 Stariji povjesničari su na područje Bilica smještali jedno od starohrvatskih naselja koje izrijekom spominje Konstantin Porfirogenet.

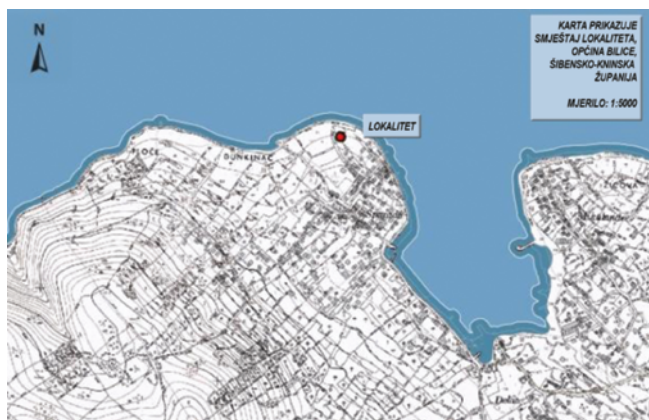
4 L. Marun, 1998, 178.

5 M. Zeman, 2014, 39, sl. 3.

6 Točnu udaljenost crkve treba izmjeriti, pa se za sada može navoditi okvirna udaljenost od 100 m.

7 Na položaj staroga puta upozorio nas je inženjer geodezije Mario Mikulandra, koji je izradio geodetski situacijski nacrt položaja trikonhalne crkve.

3 Earlier historians used to place in the Bilice area one of the early Croatian settlements mentioned by Constantine Porphyrogenitus.



**Slika 4. Bilice, Dedića punta, smještaj lokaliteta na kartografskoj podlozi.**

Figure 4. Bilice, Dedića Punta, location of site on map

HAS nije bio dostupan.<sup>8</sup> O istraživanjima u Bilicama mogu se, ipak, pronaći dosta brojni arhivski podatci koji, cjelovito sagledani, imaju vrijednost i mogu pomoći u provođenju revizijskih arheoloških istraživanja i zaključivanju o lokalitetu. Arhivski izvori čuvaju se, osim u Muzeju HAS, i u splitskome Arheološkom muzeju. U Muzeju HAS dostupne su Bilješke i Notes o Bilicama fra Luje Maruna, Pisma Petra Kaera i nekoliko arhivskih fotografija kamenih spomenika. U Marunovim rukopisima ponavljaju se isti podatci o Bilicama. Zabilješke u Notesu, koje su prilično nečitke, vjerojatno su služile kao predlošci za Bilješke. Sadržaji su uglavnom objavljeni u Starinarskim dnevnicima, gdje prvi spomen bazilike u Bilicama potječe s početka 1904. g.<sup>9</sup> Ovaj datum je zanimljiv, jer prvi sljedeći podatci o crkvi u Bilicama potječu iz 1909. g. Tada, 24. ožujka 1909., L. Marun spominje otkriće crkve u Bilicama kao novost, kao potpuno nov lokalitet.<sup>10</sup> Marun spominje da mu je o otkriću pisao P. Kaer 21. ožujka iste godine te da je riječ o ostatcima crkve na privatnome zemljištu Nikole Dedića. Ostatke su nestručno otkopali sami mještani pa se o lokalitetu treba dalje brinuti i nadzirati iskopavanja. L. Marun posjetio je lokalitet, skicirao tlocrt crkve i nekoliko kamenih spomenika te dogovorio s vlasnikom da će Starinarsko društvo preuzeti nadzor nad arheološkim ostatcima i dalje voditi istraživanja. U trenutku preuzimanja lokaliteta crkva je vjerojatno bila većim dijelom iskopana, jer Marun navodi da su mještani, tijekom rada prekidanoga u više navrata, našli ostatke starokršćanske bazilike duge oko 20 m, sa zidovima koji su bili visoki oko 1,5 m. Spominje i nalaze grobova

there is a path west of the church, running to the lake. By the path, near the lake, a schematic plan view of a Roman villa rustica is outlined. Traces indicating the remains of Roman architecture can still be seen there. The early Christian church lies approximately 100 meters from the Prokljansko Lake shore. Although we did not measure the exact distance, it seems that the distance of approx. 200 meters, designated on the drawing from Jelić Archive, should be corrected. The old reports of L. Marun specify that the house of N. Dedić is some 150 meters from the lake and the early Christian church lies between the house and the lake, somewhat closer to the lake.<sup>4</sup> In her recent paper on the Roman villa in Bilice, M. Zeman puts the church closer to the lake.<sup>5</sup> The villa (that has not undergone any revision excavations yet) lies some 30 meters from the shore of the Prokljansko Lake and the church is some 80 meters away from it.<sup>6</sup> Interestingly, the present-day village path that runs by the early Christian church has been shifted a few meters away from its former route in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The old route, designated on the archive drawing, was a bit further away from both archaeological locations.<sup>7</sup>

The first goal of the revision excavations at Dedića Punta site was to investigate the condition of the early Christian church discovered in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century during the excavations partly led by Father Petar Kaer on behalf of the Antiquarian Society. Unfortunately, due to unknown reasons, Kaer's report on the excavations, was submitted to *Starohrvatska prosvjeta* almanac but was never published. Z. Gunjača referred to the unpublished and incomplete report when he wrote his above mentioned text about the site. Even this incomplete Kaer's report is today lost – or it merely was not available in the Museum of Croatian Archaeological Monuments (MCAM).<sup>8</sup> Still, ample archive information about the Bilice excavations is available in archives. When properly examined, they can be very helpful for the revision archaeological excavations at the site and for conclusions about it. In addition to the MCAM, archive sources are also kept in the Archaeological Museum Split. The material in the MCAM includes the Notes and Notebook of Lujo Marun, letters of Petar Kaer and a few archive photographs of stone monuments. Marun's manuscripts contain identical notes about Bilice. The entries in the Notebook, rather illegible, probably served as an outline

8 Prilikom boravka u Muzeju HAS u proljeće 2017. nisam mogla dobiti na uvid Kaerov izvještaj. Možda se nalazi među još neklasificiranom građom, pa će biti naknadno dostupan. Brojna Kaerova pisma kao i drugu arhivsku građu vezanu uz Bilice, što se čuva u Muzeju HAS, dobila sam na uvid, na čemu zahvaljujem kolegi Anti Jurčeviću.

9 L. Marun, 1998, 130: "Dne, 12. 2. 1904. Saznao sam od M. Živkovića da u Šibenskim Bilicama u Stublju kod Prukljana imaju ruševine neke starinske crkve, koju treba pregledati".

10 L. Marun, 1998, 178-179.

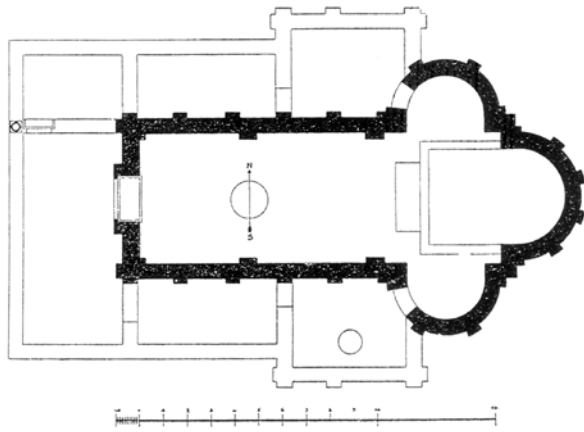
4 L. Marun, 1998, 178.

5 M. Zeman, 2014, 39, fig. 3.

6 The exact distance to the church has yet to be measured, so only an approximate distance of 100 meters can be used for now.

7 Mr. Mario Mikulandra, a surveyor and the author of the geodetic survey of the site of the triconch church, drew our attention to the route of the old path.

8 While working in the Museum of Croatian Archaeological Monuments in spring 2017 I could not have access to the Kaer Report. Maybe it is among the still unclassified materials and will become available later. I did have access to numerous Kaer's letters and other archive materials related to Bilice which are kept in the Museum. I wish to express my gratitude to my colleague Ante Jurčević for enabling me the access to these.



**Slika 5. Bilice, tlocrt starokršćanskog kompleksa prema Ć. M. Ivekoviću**

Figure 5. Bilice, plan view of early Christian complex according to Ć. M. Iveković

preuzeto iz / from: Ć. M. Iveković, 1910, 17.

koje su mještani također otvorili. Ostatci crkve bili su, prije otkrića, pokriveni velikom „gromilom“. Bliže moru nalazila se druga velika „gromila“ koja je pokrivala ostatke rimske vile.

Marunove zabilješke o stanju u kojemu je zatečena crkva prilikom njegova posjeta 1909. g., dopunjava skica tlocrta. Iz te skice moglo bi se zaključiti da mještani ipak nisu sami otkopali cijelu crkvu. Na Marunovu tlocrtu nacrtane su samo dvije apside, a od južne samo početak zida uz središnju, glavnu apsidu. Zidovi broda gotovo uopće nisu nacrtani, kao ni narteks. Također, nema prikaza dograđenih prostorija. Ako tlocrt vjerno predočava izgled crkve, tek u istraživanjima koja su uslijedila otkriveni su svi dijelovi kompleksa starokršćanske crkve.

Daljnja istraživanja tijekom 1909. i 1910. g. nadzirao je P. Kaer, koji ih i spominje u svojim brojnim pismima. Kao što je naveo L. Marun, prvi spomen otkrića crkve u Bilicama nalazi se u Kaerovu pismu od 21. ožujka 1909. g.<sup>11</sup> P. Kaer piše da je u Bilicama neki Dedić pod jednom gomilom otkrio ostatke starokršćanske crkve. U nekoliko pisama iz 1910. g. Kaer spominje kako piše izvještaj o iskopavanjima u Bilicama. Taj je izvještaj, nažalost, zagubljen, pa od P. Kaera, koji je vodio istraživanja starokršćanske crkve, imamo na raspolaganju samo raspršene podatke u sačuvanim pismima. Manjak potpunoga izvještaja posebno se osjeća kada su u pitanju nalazi grobova. Iako se u sačuvanim arhivskim podacima spominju pojedinačni grobovi, bio bi vrlo koristan potpuni plan grobova u odnosu na crkvenu arhitekturu, kao i podatci o eventualnim nalazima u njima.<sup>12</sup>

for the Notes. Their contents were mostly used in Marun's *Starinarski dnevnik* (*Antiquarian Diaries*), where the Bilice basilica is first mentioned in the early 1904.<sup>9</sup> The date is interesting, because the first next information on the Bilice church appears in 1909: on 24 March 1909, Marun mentions the discovery of the Bilice church as something new, as a completely new site.<sup>10</sup> Marun says that P. Kaer wrote him about the discovery on 21 March that year and that the remains of the church were located on the land owned by Nikola Dedić. The excavations had been done by locals in an amateurish way, so the site should be taken care of and excavations should be supervised. L. Marun visited the site, made a sketch of the church's layout and of several stone monuments and agreed with the owner that Antiquarian Society would supervise the archaeological remains and carry out excavations. At the moment of the site's takeover, most of the church was probably excavated because Marun states the locals – who carried out their work with interruptions – found the remains of an approx. 20m-long early Christian basilica, with 1.5m-high walls. He also mentions graves that the locals found and opened. Before the church was discovered, its remains had been covered under a large "cairn". There had been another such "cairn" closer to the sea, covering the remains of the Roman villa.

Marun's notes about the condition of the church during his 1909 visit also contain a sketch of its layout plan. The sketch suggests that the locals did not unearth the entire church after all. Marun's plan contains only two apses and the southern apse consists only of the beginning of the wall next to the central, main apse. The walls of the nave are not in the sketch at all, and neither is the narthex. The additions are not there either. If Marun's sketch faithfully depicts the church, only the excavations that ensued later on could have resulted in the discovery of the entire early Christian church complex.

The following excavations – in 1909 and 1910 – were supervised by P. Kaer. These excavations are frequently mentioned in his letters. As L. Marun says, the discovery of the Bilice church is first mentioned in Kaer's letter of 21 March 1909.<sup>11</sup> P. Kaer writes in it that some local named Dedić found the remains of an early Christian church under a pile of stones. In a few letters in 1910, Kaer mentions that he is writing a report on the excavations in Bilice. The report is, unfortunately, lost; all that is left from P. Kaer, who led the excavations of the early Christian church, are some data scattered in his preserved letters. The absence of a complete report is particularly felt when we talk about

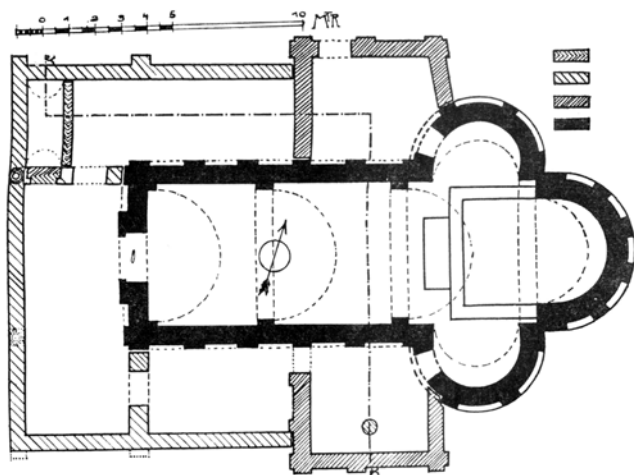
<sup>11</sup> Arhiv Muzeja HAS, Pisma P. Kaera, br. 146, 21. 03. 1909.

<sup>12</sup> Iz Bilica potječu nalazi ranosrednjovjekovnog nakita, bez detaljnijih podataka o mjestu nalaza. Usp. M. Petrincec, 2009, 87.

<sup>9</sup> L. Marun, 1998, 130: "Date: 12 February 1904. I have learned from M. Živković that there are some ruins of an ancient church in Šibenske Bilice in Stubalj near Prukljan that should be investigated".

<sup>10</sup> L. Marun, 1998, 178-179.

<sup>11</sup> MCAM Archives, letters of P. Kaer, no. 146, 21 March 1909.



**Slika 6. AMS, Jelićev arhiv, tlocrt starokršćanskog kompleksa u Bilicama.**

Figure 6. AMS, Jelić Archive, plan view of early Christian complex in Bilice



**Slika 7. AMS, Jelićev arhiv, fotografija trikonhalne crkve na lokalitetu Dedića punta u Bilicama.**

Figure 7. AMS, Jelić Archive, photo of triconch church at Dedića Punta site in Bilice

Iz arhivskih podataka očito je da je crkva u Bilicama uglavnom istražena tijekom 1909. g. I nakon što je Starinarско društvo preuzelo istraživanje, iskopavanja su obavljali mještani, uz nadzor i obilasku P. Kaera. Treba spomenuti i dolazak Ć. M. Ivekovića, koji je izradio tlocrt crkve (Sl. 5).<sup>13</sup> Taj je tlocrt, uz tlocrt u Jelićevu arhivu, sve do početka revizijskih istraživanja crkve u Bilicama 2016. g., predstavljao osnovu za proučavanje starokršćanske arhitekture otkrivene u Bilicama.



**Slika 8. AMS, Jelićev arhiv, detalj fotografije trikonhalne crkve u Bilicama.**

Figure 8. AMS, Jelić Archive, photo of Bilice triconch church, detail

the grave finds. Although individual graves are mentioned in the preserved archive sources, a complete layout of graves juxtaposed with the church architecture would be very useful, and so would the information on grave finds, if any.<sup>12</sup>

The archive sources indicate that the church in Bilice was mostly investigated in 1909. The locals kept carrying out the excavations even after the Antiquarian Society had taken the site over, but now under the supervision and regular visits of P. Kaer. We should mention here the arrival of Ć. M. Iveković, who made the plan view of the church (Fig. 5).<sup>13</sup> This plan view, together with the one in Jelić Archive, served as the basis for studying the early Christian structure in Bilice until the beginning of the revision excavations in 2016.

Important archive sources on the early Christian site in Bilice can be found in Jelić Archive in Archaeological Museum Split.<sup>14</sup> Being the amplest, this information is the most often used in scientific literature.<sup>15</sup> It includes drawings, photographs and manuscripts. Of the drawings, we should mention here a few copies of the church plan view, some even with dimensions designated by a pen. It is the drawing that Z. Gunjača reproduced.<sup>16</sup> The revision excavations have shown that the drawing faithfully renders the structure of the architectural complex (Fig. 6). The Archive also contains a few unpublished drawings (plan views, sections,

12 Some early medieval jewelry was found in Bilice, but the exact location of the finds is not known. Cf. M. Petrinc, 2009, 87.

13 L. Marun, 1998, 182, 23 May 1909.

14 Jelić Archive IX/2.

15 The archive sources were used in particular by Z. Gunjača, M. Zorić and A. Mišković. Jelić's evidence, particularly the accurate plan view of the church, was very helpful for the 2016 revision excavations.

16 Z. Gunjača, 1978, 72.

13 L. Marun, 1998, 182, Dne, 23. 5. 1909.

Važni arhivski podatci o starokršćanskoj lokalitetu u Bilicama nalaze se u Jelićevu arhivu u splitskoj Arheološkom muzeju.<sup>14</sup> Ti su podatci najvažniji i najviše su korišteni u znanstvenoj literaturi.<sup>15</sup> Dijele se na crteže, fotografije i tekstove u rukopisu. Među crtežima osobito se ističe tlocrt crkve u nekoliko primjeraka, pa i s brojnim, olovkom naznačenim mjerama. Taj je crtež reproducirao Z. Gunjača<sup>16</sup> i, kako su pokazala revizijska istraživanja, vjerno predočava strukturu arhitektonskog kompleksa (Sl. 6). U Arhivu se čuva i nekoliko neobjavljenih crteža (tlocrti, presjeci, idejna rekonstrukcija).<sup>17</sup> Na crtežu rekonstrukcije crkva je prikazana s dogradnjama, a na zapadnoj strani rekonstruiran je otvoreni trijem. Prostor svetišta između apside pokriven je bačvastim svodom. Od drugih crteža treba spomenuti prikaze nekoliko kamenih spomenika koji su pripadali crkvi.

Pored u literaturi objavljenih fotografija lokaliteta, u Jelićevu arhivu nalazi se i nekoliko neobjavljenih fotografija. Različite fotografije omogućavaju uvid u karakteristike zidanja (Sl. 7, 8, 9). Primjerice, na fotografijama su vidljivi zidovi crkvene lađe sačuvani u visini čovjeka i građeni od uslojenih redova kamena s vrlo malim međurazmacima. Zid glavne apside ima znatno urušeno vanjsko lice, što je zanimljiv podatak s obzirom na zatečeno stanje zida glavne apside u revizijskim istraživanjima 2016. g. (Sl. 10).

Jedna arhivska fotografija s dijelovima crkvenoga namještaja iz Bilica na dva je mjesta izrezana.<sup>18</sup> Treba napomenuti da se i u Muzeju HAS čuva nekoliko zanimljivih arhivskih fotografija koje svjedoče o kvaliteti crkvenoga namještaja iz Bilica.

U sačuvanom rukopisu o istraživanjima u Bilicama L. Jelić iznosi zapažanja o različitim fazama izgradnje, o izgledu i sastavu podnica, o baptisteriju koji je naknadno ukopan u jugoistočnom aneksu. Rukopis je znatno kraći od objavljenoga teksta iz 1912.

Jelićev objavljeni članak na talijanskoj jeziku jedan je od najvažnijih radova o kompleksu u Bilicama.<sup>19</sup> Naime, u članku su detaljno opisani ostatci crkve, a dan je osvrt i na ulomke crkvenoga namještaja. Kako je tijekom kasnijih desetljeća kompleks prekriven zemljom i raslinjem, istraživači koji su se zanimali za crkvu u Bilicama služili su se Jelićevim podacima i tlocrtom iz njegova arhiva. Na načelnoj



**Slika 9. AMS, Jelićev arhiv, detalj fotografije trikonhalne crkve u Bilicama.**

Figure 9. AMS, Jelić Archive, photo of Bilice triconch church, detail

a conceptual reconstruction).<sup>17</sup> The reconstruction drawing depicts the church with additions and an open portico is reconstructed on its western side. The sanctuary between the apses is covered with a barrel vault. Of other drawings, we should mention here the depictions of a few stone monuments that belonged to the church.

In addition to the photographs of the site published in literature, Jelić Archive includes some unpublished photographs. Various photographs reveal the characteristics of the structure (Fig. 7, 8, 9). For example, they show the walls of the church's nave, preserved to the height of an average person and made of layered rows of stones with very small spacing between. The outer face of the wall of the main apse is rather caved in, which is interesting given the condition of this wall at the beginning of the 2016 revision excavations (Fig. 10).

An archive photograph of parts of Bilice church furnishings has been cut in two places.<sup>18</sup> We should mention here that the MCAM also keeps several interesting archive photos witnessing the quality of the church furnishings from Bilice.

In a manuscript on the excavations in Bilice, Jelić gives his observations about various phases of the construction, the appearance of the floors and their material, the baptistery subsequently buried in the southeastern annex. The manuscript is much shorter than the text published in 1912.

14 Jelićev arhiv IX/2.

15 Arhivske su podatke posebno koristili Z. Gunjača, M. Zorić i A. Mišković. Kod revizijskih istraživanja crkve 2016. g. Jelićevi podatci, osobito precizan tlocrt crkve, predstavljali su značajan oslonac.

16 Z. Gunjača, 1978, 72.

17 Autor je G. Tamino. Sačuvano je njegovo pismo s popisom crteža i cijenama. Vidljivo je da svi crteži s popisa nisu sačuvani među dokumentima u Jelićevu arhivu.

18 Prema komentaru Arsena Duplančića, voditelja biblioteke Arheološkoga muzeja, fotografiju je izrezao još L. Jelić. Kada su mu trebale fotografije pojedinih spomenika, znao ih je izrezati iz većih cjelina. Manjkavu fotografiju nedavno je objavila A. Mišković, 2015, 11, sl. 12. Na uvidu u Jelićev arhiv zahvaljujem kolegi A. Duplančiću.

19 L. Jelić, 1912, 69-80.

17 Their author is G. Tamino. His letter with a list of drawings and prices has been preserved. Clearly not all the drawings from the list have been preserved in the documents in Jelić Archive.

18 According to Arsen Duplančić, head of the library of the Archaeological Museum, the photograph was cut by L. Jelić himself. When he needed photographs of certain monuments, he would cut them out from photographs presenting different monuments. The mentioned incomplete photograph was recently published by A. Mišković, 2015, 11, fig. 12. I would like to express my gratitude to my colleague A. Duplančić for enabling me to have access to Jelić Archive.



**Slika 10. Bilice, Dedića punta, zidovi središnje i sjeverne apside presječeni suhozidom**

Figure 10. Bilice, Dedića Punta, walls of central and northern apses cut by drywall

foto / photo: M. Jarak

razini posebno su važna Jelićeva zapažanja o trima fazama u izgradnji kompleksa, od kojih najstariju predstavlja trikonhalna crkva.<sup>20</sup> Jelić je u radu dosta pažnje posvetio i specifičnim plutejima s monogramima. Predložio je njihovu rano-srednjovjekovnu dataciju, što je danas, zahvaljujući boljemu poznavanju završne faze kasnoantičke skulpture, sigurno prekasna datacija. Pri tome treba naglasiti da su monogrami i dalje tajnoviti kao i u Jelićevo doba, ali za dekoraciju i način klesanja ornamentalnih motiva na glavnim ploham pluteja, danas imamo pouzdano i precizno datirane analogije.<sup>21</sup> U komparaciji s nešto ranijim osvrtom na bilički kompleks Č. M. Ivekovića,<sup>22</sup> Jelićev tekst je sadržajniiji, a grafički prikaz kompleksa koji se sačuvao u njegovu arhivu točniji je od tlocrta u Ivekovićevu radu. Nakon tih prvih radova, koji

Jelić's article, published in Italian, is one of the most important papers about the Bilice complex.<sup>19</sup> It gives a detailed description of the church's remains and it also includes comments on the fragments of the church furnishings. As the complex was covered with earth and vegetation in the decades that followed, the researchers interested in the Bilice church used Jelić's data and the plan view from his archive. In principle, particularly important are Jelić's observations about three phases of the construction of the complex, the oldest among them being the triconch church.<sup>20</sup> Jelić also paid much attention to the specific monogrammed plutei. He proposed they should be dated to the Early Middle Ages. Today, owing to our more thorough knowledge of the final phase of the Late Antiquity sculpture, we are positive that the plutei should be dated to an earlier period. We should also point out that, while the monograms remain secretive as in Jelić's time, we now have reliably and accurately dated analogies for the decorations and the execution of ornamental motifs on the main surfaces of the plutei.<sup>21</sup> Compared to the somewhat

20 L. Jelić, 1912, 69-80.

21 Ukrašavanje glavne plohe pluteja iz Bilice usporedivo je s dobro datiranim namještajem iz južne crkve u Srimi. Usp. D. Maršić, 2005, 89-122. O povezanosti namještaja iz Bilica i Pridrage sa Srimom usp. A. Mišković, 2015, 16.

22 Č. M. Iveković, 1910, 16-19.

19 L. Jelić, 1912, 69-80.

20 L. Jelić, 1912, 69-80.

21 The ornaments on the main surface of the Bilice plutei can be compared with the ones on the accurately dated church furnishings in the southern church in Srima. Cf. D. Maršić, 2005, 89-122. For connections between church furnishings from Bilica and Pridraga and Srima, cf. A. Mišković, 2015, 16.



su se pojavili ubrzo po iskopavanju sakralnoga kompleksa u Bilicama, kompleks je i kasnije dotican u literaturi, o čemu je detaljniji prikaz dao Z. Gunjača koji je Bilicama posvetio veću pažnju. Vidljivo je da je lokalitet pobuđivao interes ne samo zbog otkrivenih arheoloških ostataka nego i kao moguća lokacija starohrvatskoga naselja iz popisa Konstantina Porfirogeneta.<sup>23</sup> Među autorima koji su u ranije vrijeme pisali o Bilicama nalaze se F. Šišić, Ć. Truhelka, V. Novak, Lj. Karaman i drugi.<sup>24</sup> Rad Z. Gunjače, pored ukazivanja na raniju literaturu, sadrži i tlocrte i fotografije iz Jelićeva arhiva i predstavlja važno uporište za vrednovanje lokaliteta i njegovu daljnju obradu.

Ubrzo nakon Z. Gunjače, o crkvi u Bilicama pisao je N. Cambi unutar sintetičkoga članka o trikonhalnim crkvama na istočnome Jadranu.<sup>25</sup> Trikonhalna jednobrodna crkva svrstana je u članku u užu podskupinu zajedno s crkvama u Pridrazi i Sutivanu na Braču. Te tri građevine imaju međusobno povezane konhe na čijim se zidovima s vanjske strane nalaze plitke lezene. Po dvije lezene na spojevima konhi stvaraju privid uglova među konhama. Crkve su datirane u 6. st., a u razmatranju o genezi trikonhalne forme N. Cambi istaknuo je utjecaj iz istočnih, bizantskih područja. Zanimljiva su njegova opažanja o prilagođenosti trikonhalnoga oblika različitim liturgijskim funkcijama, što je jedan od razloga češće pojave trikonhalnih građevina u 6. stoljeću.

Potkraj prošloga stoljeća crkva u Bilicama objavljena je u dvjema sintezama posvećenim ranokršćanskoj arhitekturi u Dalmaciji. U knjizi B. Migotti Bilice su prvi lokalitet među razmatranim lokalitetima između Krke i Cetine.<sup>26</sup> Trikonhalna crkva datirana je u 2. pol. 6. st., a na temelju podataka o srednjovjekovnim grobovima autorica je pretpostavila kontinuitet korištenja crkve u ranome srednjem vijeku. Objavljeni tlocrt je iz Jelićeva arhiva. Crkva u Bilicama predstavljena je i u opsežnome djelu P. Chevalier o starokršćanskim crkvama Dalmacije. U svojoj osnovi datirana je u 6. st., a aneksi u nešto kasnije vrijeme. Ponovo je objavljen tlocrt iz Jelićeva arhiva.<sup>27</sup>

O lokalitetu u Bilicama opširnije je pisala M. Zorić u neobjavljenome magistarskom radu.<sup>28</sup> Autorica se osobito pozabavila radovima Ć. M. Ivekovića i L. Jelića te je raspravljala o mogućim fazama u izgradnji kompleksa. Njezin je osvrt na lokalitet vrlo koristan i upućuje na otvorena pitanja vezana uz sakralni kompleks.

Sličnoga je karaktera poglavlje o Bilicama u knjizi A. Uglešića.<sup>29</sup> Autor je, naime, nastojao dati cjelovitu sliku sakralnoga kompleksa u Bilicama, uz osvrt na raniju literaturu. Na temelju

earlier Ć. M. Iveković's text on the Bilice complex,<sup>22</sup> Jelić's text is more substantial and the drawing of the complex preserved in Jelić's archive is more accurate than the plan in Iveković's paper. After these first papers, published soon after the sacral complex in Bilice had been excavated, other descriptions of the complex appeared in the literature, particularly the one by Z. Gunjača, who paid large attention to Bilice. The site clearly aroused interest, not just because of the archaeological remains discovered there, but also as the possible site of an early Croatian settlement mentioned in the list of Constantine Porphyrogenitus.<sup>23</sup> The early authors who wrote about Bilice include F. Šišić, Ć. Truhelka, V. Novak, Lj. Karaman and others.<sup>24</sup> In addition to references to earlier literature, the work of Z. Gunjača includes the plan views and photographs from Jelić's archive and is of great importance for evaluation of the site and its further analysis.

Soon after Z. Gunjača, N. Cambi wrote about Bilice in his synthetic article on triconch churches in the eastern Adriatic.<sup>25</sup> The article classified this triconch single-naved church into a subgroup together with the churches in Pridraga and Sutivan on the island of Brač. These three structures have interconnected conchs with shallow pilaster-strips on the outer sides of their walls. The two pilaster-strips located on each joint between the conchs create an illusion of corners between them. The churches are dated back to the 6<sup>th</sup> century AD. As regards the origin of the triconch form, N. Cambi underlined the influence from eastern, Byzantine region. He made interesting observations about how adapted to various liturgical functions the triconch form was, which is one of the reasons of the frequent construction of triconch structures in the 6<sup>th</sup> century.

Late in the last century, the Bilice church was published in two syntheses dedicated to the early Christian architecture in Dalmatia. Bilice is the first of the sites between the Krka and Cetina rivers that B. Migotti discusses in her book.<sup>26</sup> The triconch church was dated in the second half of the 6<sup>th</sup> century AD. Based on the information about the medieval graves, the author presumed the church had been in continuous use in the Early Middle Ages. The plan view published in the book is from Jelić Archive. The Bilice church was also presented in P. Chevalier's comprehensive work on the early Christian churches of Dalmatia. The author dates the basic part of the church to the 6<sup>th</sup> century and its annexes to a somewhat later period. The plan view from Jelić Archive is used once again.<sup>27</sup>

23 Z. Gunjača, 1978, 73. O toj problematici i interesu povjesničara usp. i M. Zorić, 2001, 24.

24 Z. Gunjača, 1978, 73, 78-79.

25 N. Cambi, 1984, 45-54.

26 B. Migotti, 1990, 3.

27 P. Chevalier, 1995, Tome 1, 144-146; Tome 2, Pl. XXVII, fig. 1.

28 M. Zorić, 2002, 24-31.

29 A. Uglešić, 2006, 34-38.

22 Ć. M. Iveković, 1910, 16-19.

23 Z. Gunjača, 1978, 73. For the related subject and the interest of historians, cf. also M. Zorić, 2001, 24.

24 Z. Gunjača, 1978, 73, 78-79.

25 N. Cambi, 1984, 45-54.

26 B. Migotti, 1990, 3.

27 P. Chevalier, 1995, tome 1, 144-146; tome 2, Pl. XXVII, fig. 1.

dostupnih podataka zaključio je o upitnosti prepoznavanja krstionice u jugoistočnome aneksu te je ona izostavljena na modificiranome tlocrtu kompleksne crkve. Uglešić je zaključio da je cijeli kompleks vjerojatno dovršen do početka 7. st., a o njegovu kontinuitetu u kasnije vrijeme govore podatci o nalazima srednjovjekovnih grobova.

Na kraju ovoga sažetog pregleda literature o crkvenoj arhitekturi u Bilicama treba spomenuti prisutnost lokaliteta i u najnovijim radovima, čak i opširnije posvećenim našem lokalitetu. U radu o trikonhalnim crkvama u Dalmaciji P. Vežića, Bilice imaju značajno mjesto.<sup>30</sup> Autor posebno argumentira tezu o prvotnim samostalnim ranokršćanskim trikonhosima, koji nešto kasnije prerastaju u višefunkcionalne kompleksne sakralne strukture. U nedavno objavljenom radu A. Mišković posebno je analiziran odnos trikonhalnih crkava u Pridrazi i Bilicama.<sup>31</sup> Pored već ranije uočene srodnosti dviju građevina, autorica je pružila uvid u neobjavljene nalaze kamenih spomenika i dodatno analizirala podudarnosti između dvaju lokaliteta. U još jednom nedavno objavljenom članku, onome M. Zeman, u središtu je zanimanja rimska vila u Bilicama, u neposrednoj blizini crkve.<sup>32</sup> Prostorna povezanost profane vile i sakralnoga kompleksa upućuje na međuodnos, čije je proučavanje potencirano i postojanjem brojnih drugih primjera slične povezanosti antičke profane i sakralne arhitekture.<sup>33</sup>

Iz arhivskih podataka i literature jasno je da su se uz sakralni kompleks u Bilicama nalazili i grobovi, kako antički tako i srednjovjekovni. U prvoj kampanji revizijskih iskopavanja 2016. g. nije pronađen nijedan grob. To je razumljivo, jer su istraživanja bila ograničena na glavne zidove crkvene lađe i apsida i nije ni skinut sloj humusa iz prostora lađe, a narteks nije istraživao kao ni okolni prostor oko crkve. Pri nastavku započetih revizijskih iskopavanja realno je očekivati nalaze grobova na širem području oko crkve. Što se tiče proučavanja crkvene arhitekture, najznačajniji su arhivski podatci i prvi objavljeni radovi L. Jelića i Č. M. Ivekovića. L. Jelić je u opširnijem tekstu dao osvrt na karakteristike crkvene arhitekture. U njegovu arhivu sačuvan je precizan tlocrt trikonhalne crkve s aneksima i razlučenim fazama gradnje. Taj crtež poslužio je kao orijentir pri provođenju revizijskih iskopavanja i u mnogim detaljima pokazao se točnim i pouzdanim. Drugi tlocrt crkve nalazi se kod Ivekovića. Detalji oba tlocrta i njihov odnos naspram danas sačuvanih ostataka, bit će razmatrani nakon dovršenja iskopavanja crkve, jer u prvoj kampanji prostor crkve nije do kraja istražen. Iz pregleda literature jasno je da je crkva konstantno bila predmetom zanimanja brojnih autora, a zbog nedostatka potpune objave, mnoga pitanja ostala su otvorena.

M. Zorić wrote comprehensively about the Bilice site in her unpublished M.S. thesis.<sup>28</sup> Having particularly focused on the works of Č. M. Iveković and L. Jelić, the author discussed possible phases of the construction of the complex. Her text about the site is very useful and tackles some open questions about this sacral complex.

The chapter on Bilice in A. Uglešić's book is of a similar nature.<sup>29</sup> The author tried to present a complete picture of the sacral complex in Bilice, while commenting on the earlier literature. Based on the available evidence, he concluded that the baptistery identified in the southwestern annex was questionable, so he omitted it from the modified plan view of the church. Uglešić concluded that the entire complex was probably completed by the early 7<sup>th</sup> century. As for the continuity of its later use, it is reflected in the finds from the medieval graves.

At the end of this short overview of the literature on the Bilice sacral architecture, we should mention the references to the site in some recent works, including rather comprehensive ones. Bilice occupies an important place in the paper on the triconch churches in Dalmatia by P. Vežić.<sup>30</sup> The author particularly makes his case for a thesis on the original autonomous early Christian triconchs which later grew into multifunctional complexes of sacral architecture. In her recently published paper, A. Mišković particularly analyzes the relation between the triconch churches in Pridraga and Bilice.<sup>31</sup> In addition to the already established similarity of the two structures, the author also presents the so far unpublished finds of stone monuments and additionally analyzes the identical characteristics of the two sites. Another recently published article, the one by M. Zeman, focuses on the Roman villa in Bilice in the immediate vicinity of the church.<sup>32</sup> The spatial connection of the profane villa and sacral complex indicates an interrelation. Numerous other similar examples of the connection between the profane and sacral architectures of the Antiquity constitutes an additional reason for studying this connection.<sup>33</sup>

Based on the archive sources and literature, it is clear that there were graves next to the Bilice sacral complex, both from the Antiquity and from the medieval period. The fact that no graves were found in the first campaign of the revision excavations in 2016 is understandable because the excavations were limited to the main walls of the church's nave and apses. Not even the humus layer was removed from the space inside the nave and the narthex and the area around

30 P. Vežić, 2011, 27-66.

31 A. Mišković, 2015, 7-20.

32 M. Zeman, 2014, 35-45.

33 O problematici usp. P. Vežić, 2005, *passim*.

28 M. Zorić, 2001, 24-31.

29 A. Uglešić, 2006, 34-38.

30 P. Vežić, 2011, 27-66.

31 A. Mišković, 2015, 7-20.

32 M. Zeman, 2014, 35-45.

33 For this subject, cf. P. Vežić, 2005, *passim*.



**Slika 11. Bilice, Dedića punta, zidovi trikonhosa s recentnim suhozidom**

Figure 11. Bilice, Dedića Punta, triconch walls with recent drywall  
foto / photo: K. Filipec

Dragocjeni nalazi koji su pronađeni na lokalitetu bili su predmetom i posebnih istraživanja, primjerice zagonetni monogrami na plutejima kojima su se bavili epigrafičari. Ako se ovome pridoda ubikacija starohrvatskoga grada na područje Bilica, jasno je da su postojali važni razlozi za poduzimanje revizijskih istraživanja. Arhitektura crkve je s vremenom sakrivena gustom vegetacijom i čak je i njezin točan položaj pomalo padao u zaborav. Iako su svi raniji autori koji su pisali o crkvi ukazivali na njezino značenje u okviru proučavanja kasnoantičke i ranosrednjovjekovne arhitekture, sama arhitektura nije bila u dovoljnoj mjeri proučena i s njezinim iskopavanjem i prezentacijom bit će moguće utvrditi odnose između zidova te provjeriti navode starijih autora o različitim fazama pojedinih dijelova sakralnoga kompleksa. Već sada, nakon provedene prve kratke kampanje od samo 10 radnih dana, može se konstatirati, što je, nažalost, očekivano, da su zidovi crkve sačuvani u maloj visini i da su mnogo neznatniji od visoko sačuvanih zidova vidljivih na starim fotografijama iz Jelićeva arhiva (Sl. 11, 12).

Pri iskopavanju crkve praćene su stratigrafske jedinice i bilježeni položaji pokretnih nalaza. Ovo su osnovne

the church were not examined then. It is realistic to expect that graves will be found in the area around the church once the revision excavations are reassumed. As regards analyzing the sacral architecture, the most important for it are the archive sources and the first papers published by L. Jelić and Ć. M. Iveković. In a comprehensive text, L. Jelić presented the characteristics of the sacral architecture. An accurate plan view of the triconch church, with its annexes and with distinctive phases of the construction, can be found in his archive. This drawing was used as a visual clue during the revision excavations and turned out to be accurate and reliable in many details. The second plan view of the church can be found at Iveković. The details of both plans and their applicability to the current condition of the remains will be analyzed after the excavations at the church are completed, because the area around it was not completely explored during the first campaign. The overview of literature shows that the church has permanently been the object of interest of many authors, but many questions have remained open as no complete presentation of the church has been published. The precious finds from the site even required special analyses – for example, the mysterious monograms on the plutei that were studied by epigraphy experts. Add to this the possible identification of an early Croatian city in the area, and it becomes why the revision excavations were important. The church's architecture had gradually become overgrown with thick vegetation and even its exact location



**Slika 12. Bilice, Dedića punta, zidovi trikonhosa**

Figure 12. Bilice, Dedića Punta, triconch walls

foto / photo: K. Filipec

dimenzije iskopane arhitekture: dužina crkve od vrha središnje apside do ulaza – 19,6 m; širina broda – 7 m; širina zajedno s bočnim prostorijama (sjeveroistočnim i jugoistočnim aneksom) – 16,35 m. Orijentacija crkve: sjeveroistok-jugozapad (Sl. 13). Orijentacija odgovara prikazu na crtežu iz Jelićeva arhiva, dok je Ivekovićev tlocrt orijentiran točno u smjeru istok-zapad, što se pokazalo nevjerodostojnim.

was almost forgotten. Although all the earlier authors who wrote about it underlined its importance for the research of the Late Antiquity and early medieval architecture, its architecture as such has not been sufficiently researched. Once it is excavated and presented, we will be able to establish the interrelations between its walls and verify the earlier authors' claims about various phases of individual parts of the sacral complex. Even now, after a campaign of only ten days, we can say that the preserved height of the church's walls is much lower than the one seen in the old photographs from Jelić Archive, what is unfortunately expected (Fig. 11, 12).

During the excavation, the stratigraphic units and positions of movable finds were recorded. These are the basic dimensions of the unearthed architecture: church's length from top of central apse to entrance – 19.6m; width of nave – 7m; width together with lateral premises (northeastern and southeastern annexes) – 16.35m.

Orientation: northeast – southwest (Fig. 13). The church's orientation corresponds with the one shown on the drawing from Jelić Archive. Iveković's plan view, on

**Slika 13. Tlocrt crkve, visine**

Church plan view, heights designated

izradio / made by: M. Vuković





**Slika 14. Bilice, Dedića punta, obzidana kružna struktura**

Figure 14. Bilice, Dedića Punta, lined round structure

foto / photo: K. Filipec

Otkriveni temeljni zidovi trikonhalne crkve zidani su od lomljenaca uz obilnu upotrebu žbuke. Nešto veći komadi kamena slagani su uz vanjski i unutrašnji rub zida, dok je između njih punjenje od manjeg, različito lomljenog kamena. Vapnenac je sivkaste boje, a žbuka bijela. Slične strukture su zidovi dvaju aneksa, sjeveroistočnoga i jugoistočnoga. Kod spoja tih aneksa s bočnim apsidama, jasno se vidi da su njihovi zidovi prislonjeni uz zid apsida, što odgovara ranijim zapažanjima iz vremena prvoga istraživanja crkve. U jugoistočnome aneksu, točno na mjestu na kojemu je ucrtana na Jelićevu tlocrtu, otkrivena je obzidana plitka udubina kružnoga oblika – pretpostavljena krstionica, odnosno dio krstioničke instalacije (Sl. 14). Zidovi dviju prigradenih prostorija nisu u cijelosti otkopani. Od sjeveroistočnoga aneksa otkopani su temelji sjevernoga i istočnoga zida. U sljedećoj fazi istraživanja ispitat će se stanje sačuvanosti zapadnoga zida toga aneksa. Što se tiče druge prigradnje na sjevernoj strani crkve, tzv. sjeverozapadnoga aneksa, stanje na terenu upućuje na nestanak temelja zidova te strukture. To područje još treba detaljnije istražiti.

Temelji zidova jugoistočnoga aneksa sačuvani su u različitoj visini. Istočni zid sačuvao se u jednome redu kameanja u odnosu na podnicu. Zapadni zid sačuvan je u trima redovima. Južni zid aneksa nije iskopan. Prigradnja koja se nalazila na zapadu u odnosu na jugoistočni aneks još nije istražena, kao ni narteks na zapadnoj strani crkve.

Otkriveni temelji triju apsida pružaju impresivnu sliku. Preko temelja sjeverne i središnje apsida danas se pruža recentni suhozid, koji će zbog konzervacije i prezentacije crkve trebati ukloniti. Manji dijelovi zida tih dviju apsida nalaze se zapadno od suhozida gdje se pružaju temelji treće, južne apsida i broda crkve. Veći dio dviju apsida fizički je odvojen od cjeline starokršćanskoga kompleksa, što na terenu daje manjkav pogled na cjelinu otkrivenih zidova. Kod zračne snimke arhitekture, suhozid gotovo ne remeti

the other hand, has an east – west orientation which has turned out to lack credibility.

The foundation walls of the triconch church are made of crushed stones with plenty of plaster. Larger stones were laid out along a wall's outer and inner edges and smaller stones, crushed in different ways, were used for the filling between them. Limestone is greyish and plaster is white. The walls of two annexes – the northeastern and southeastern one – have similar structures. In the places where the annexes meet the lateral apses, it is clearly visible that their walls lean against the apse walls, which corresponds with the observations made during the first excavations of the church. In the southeastern annex, exactly on the place where it is depicted on Jelić's plan, a circular shallow lined recess was discovered – probably a baptistery, that is, part of the baptismal font (Fig. 14). The walls of the two added rooms have not been excavated entirely. Of the northeastern annex, the foundations of the northern and eastern walls have been excavated. In the next phase of the research, the condition of the western wall of that annex will be examined. As for the other addition, the one on the northern side of the church (the so-called northwestern annex), the current situation at the site indicates that the foundation of the walls of this structure do not exist anymore. This area requires further research.

The preserved foundations of the walls of the southeastern annex reach various heights. Only a single row of stones has remained of the eastern wall in relation to the floor. Three rows of the western wall have been preserved. The southern wall of the annex has not been unearthed yet. The addition that used to be to the west of the southeastern annex has not been explored yet and neither has been the narthex on the church's western side.

The foundations of three apses are impressive. A recent drywall stretches across the foundations of the northern and central apses. The drywall will have to be removed in order to enable conservation and presentation of the church. Small parts of the walls of these apses stretch to the west of the drywall, where the foundations of the third (southern) apse and the nave extend. Large portions of the two apses are physically separated from the rest of the early Christian complex, thus affecting the completeness of the view of it. On aerial photos, the drywall almost does not affect the completeness of the triconch church and the partially excavated foundations of its additions (Fig. 15).

The walls of the main apse have been preserved to the level of the apse floor. The floor is partly preserved on both sides of the drywall. One of its parts is well preserved. Colors vary, but ocher and brown shades prevail. Floors have also been discovered on other places inside and outside the foundations of the church's walls and additions. These floors have been recorded as separate stratigraphic units (Fig. 16).



cjeloviti izgled trikonhalne crkve s djelomično iskopanim temeljima prigradnji (Sl. 15).

Zidovi glavne apside sačuvani su do nivoa podnice u apside. Podnica se djelomično sačuvala s obje strane suhozida. Jedan dio je dobro sačuvan. Boje variraju, ali uglavnom se opažaju oker i smeđe nijanse. I na drugim mjestima unutar i izvan iskopanih temelja zidova crkve i prigradnji, otkrivene su podnice koje su popisane kao zasebne stratifске jedinice (Sl. 16).

Bitno obilježje crkve u Bilicama prema Jelićevu, ali i Ivekovićevu tlocrtu, predstavljaju lezene na vanjskom plaštu broda i apside i na unutrašnjem licu broda. U odnosu na precizniji Jelićev tlocrt, današnje zatečeno stanje govori o točnosti staroga tlocrta (Sl. 17). Kako zidovi crkve još nisu u potpunosti otkopani i očišćeni, zaključci o sačuvanosti lezena za sada se izostavljaju. Dužina onih koje su jasno vidljive varira u rasponu od nekoliko centimetara, od 52 do 60 cm. Najveću dužinu od 63 cm ima istak s unutarnje strane sjevernoga zida broda. On je, u odnosu na zid broda, izbočen za 29 cm. Mjerna jedinica kojoj približno odgovaraju sačuvane dimenzije lezena je rimska stopa. Normu za dužinu činile su dvije rimske stope, a za širinu (debljinu) 1 stopa. Širina sjevernoga zida broda zajedno s lezenom na vanjskome licu iznosi oko 80 cm, bez lezene oko 55 cm. Širina zida središnje, glavne apside, iznosi 95 cm. Visina otkopanih zidova je različita, a prosječno iznosi oko 50 cm. Zidovi središnje i sjeverne apside nešto su viši.

Lezene su organski povezane sa zidovima na kojima se nalaze. Nasuprot tome, zidovi aneksa samo su prislonjeni uz

**Slika 15. Bilice, Dedića punta – pogled iz zraka**

Figure 15. Bilice, Dedića Punta, aerial view

snimio / photo: M. Vuković

An important feature of the Bilice church, on both Jelić's and Iveković's drawings, are the pilaster-strips on the outer face of the nave and apses and on the inner face of the nave. Compared to the more precise Jelić's plan, the current situation tells about accuracy of the old ground plan (Fig. 17). As the church walls have not been excavated and cleaned completely yet, the conclusions about the condition of the pilaster-strips will have to wait for the time being. The lengths of the visible pilaster-strips range vary from 52 to 60cm. The cantilever on the inner side of the nave's northern wall is the longest one, reaching 63cm and projecting 29cm from the nave wall. The preserved dimensions of the pilaster-strips roughly correspond to Roman foot. Two Roman feet were a standard for the length and one foot was a standard for the width (thickness). The width of the nave's northern wall together with the pilaster-strip is approx. 80cm and without the pilaster-strip approx. 55cm. The width of the central, main apse's wall is 95cm. The walls excavated so far have various heights, but on average they reach approx. 50cm. The walls of the central and northern apses are somewhat higher.

The pilaster-strips are organically connected with the walls they are on. Unlike them, the annex walls are merely



**Slika 16. Bilice, Dedića punta, segment podnice**  
Bilice, Dedića Punta, floor segment

foto / photo: K. Filipec

zidove bočnih apsida. Kako su se unutar prigradenih prostori-ja našle i lezene na vanjskoj strani zida crkvenoga broda, očito su prostorije dozidane nakon što je crkva već bila u funkciji.<sup>34</sup>

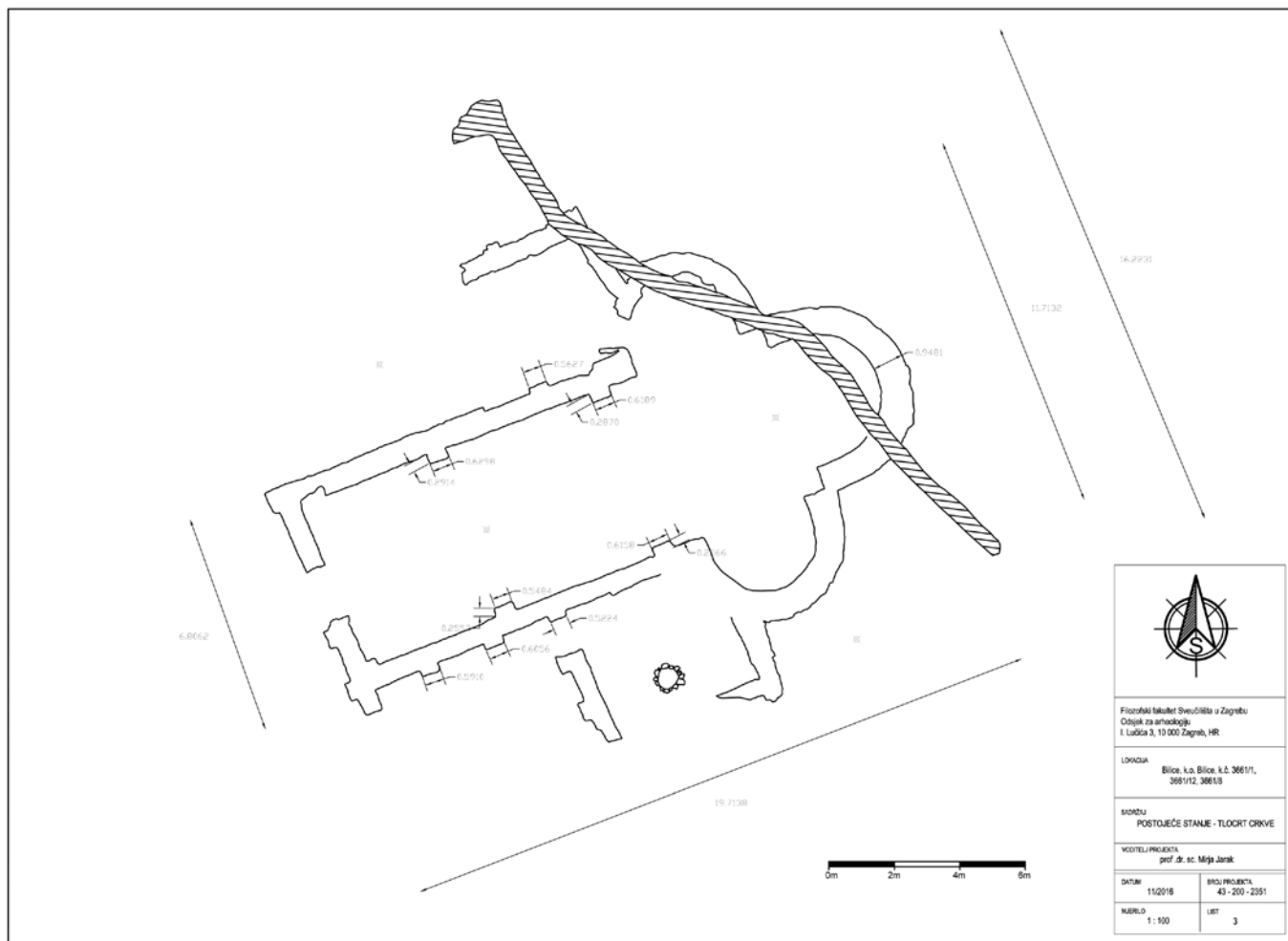
Osobit pečat lokalitetu daje ranije spomenuti suhozid. Upravo ispod suhozida razabirali su se, prije početka iskopavanja, ostatci kasnoantičkoga zida crkve, što je pomoglo pri određenju točnoga položaja crkve. Pružanje suhozida preko zidova dviju apsida – sjeverne i središnje

leant against the walls of the lateral apses. As the pilaster-strips on the outer side of the nave wall ended up inside the additions, clearly the additions must have been built after the church had already been in operation.<sup>34</sup>

The above mentioned drywall leaves a particular imprint on the site. It was underneath this very drywall that the remains of the church's Late Antiquity wall had first been spotted, before the excavations began. As the dry-wall extends across the walls of the northern and central apses, the research area had to be divided in two basic sectors. Sector 1, west of the drywall, contains most of the church's architecture and the investigated areas of its

**Slika 17. Bilice, Dedića punta, tlocrt zatečenog stanja**  
Figure 17. Bilice, Dedića Punta, situational plan view

izradio / made by: M. Vuković



34 O tome se i ranije, na temelju starih tlocrta, zaključivalo u literaturi, a sačuvani ostatci iskopani pri revizijskim istraživanjima 2016. potvrđuju takva razmišljanja.

34 This was also discussed in the earlier literature, based on old view plans. The remains discovered during the revision excavations in 2016 confirm such conclusions.

– uvjetovalo je podjelu istraživane površine na 2 osnovna sektora. U sektoru 1, zapadno od suhozida, nalazi se najveći dio arhitekture crkve i istražene površine njezinih prostorija. U sektoru 2 nalazi se veći dio zida središnje apside i dio njezine podnice te dio zida sjeverne apside. U prvoj istraživačkoj kampanji nije se poduzelo uklanjanje suhozida jer za to nije bilo ni vremena ni osobitih razloga.

Na prostoru otkrivene sonde, u oba sektora, evidentirane su različite stratigrafske jedinice. Ukupno ih je izdvojeno 20. Stratigrafska jed. 1 označava sloj humusa pokriven travom i drugim raslinjem. Debljina sloja humusa, koji je prekrivao cijelu površinu sonde, varira od 1 do oko 15 cm. Pod stratigrafskom jedinicom 2 označeni su svi zidovi trikonhalne crkve, inače zasebno numerirani kao zidovi od 1 do 7. Najveći broj zasebnih stratigrafskih jedinica dodijeljen je ostacima podnica na različitim mjestima unutar i izvan zidova crkve. Određeni broj stratigrafskih jedinica odnosi se na druge otkrivene strukture. Tako stratigrafsku jedinicu 12 čine zidovi sjeveroistočnoga aneksa, a SJ 15 zidovi jugoistočnoga aneksa. Kružni probij („krsionica“) kroz podnicu jugoistočnoga aneksa, obzidan kamenjem povezanim žbukom i sa žbukom podnicom, označen je kao SJ 17. Posljednja stratigrafska jedinica, br. 20, kamen je živac otkriven izvan prostorije 7, tj. izvan jugoistočnoga aneksa. Unutrašnjost trikonhalne crkve podijeljena je, zbog preciznije dokumentacije, na pet prostorija. Još tri prostorije izdvojene su unutar zidova aneksa crkve. Pored prostorija sjeveroistočnoga i jugoistočnoga aneksa, treća prostorija označava područje jugozapadnoga aneksa.

Prostor crkve snimljen je, tijekom zadnjih dana rada na terenu, totalnom stanicom. Uz tako dobivene podatke, zadnju fazu istraživanja 2016. godine predstavlja snimanje lokaliteta dronom.

Tijekom iskopavanja pronađen je određeni broj pokretnih arheoloških nalaza. Riječ je o nalazima ulomaka keramičkih posuda, ulomcima tegula i ulomcima stakla. Uz to su evidentirana 2 željezna čavla i nekoliko obrađenih ulomaka kamena. Jedan kameni ulomak sa sačuvanim profilacijama svakako je vezan uz kasnoantičku crkvu te njegov pronalazak budi optimizam u pogledu budućih istraživanja i mogućih nalaza.

Pronađeni kameni ulomak (kamen je sivkasti vapnenc) s ostacima dekoracije odlomljen je i oštećen, a djelomično i sekundarno obrađen (Sl. 18). Dimenzije su: visina – 29,5 cm, širina – 16 cm, debljina – 19 cm. Ulomak je pronađen s unutarnje strane južnoga zida crkvenoga broda. Na izvorno obrađenoj strani vidljivo je nekoliko dekorativnih elemenata. Na završnome užem dijelu stranice sačuvanoga ulomka vidljiv je ostatak četvrtastoga uklesanog polja. Iznad toga plitko uklesanoga polja nekoliko je centimetara ravne površine, a zatim se pojavljuje blago profilirano zaobljenje. Iznad zaobljene profilacije su dvije paralelne uklesane linije, a zatim je površina ulomka ravna. Na tome ravnom, glatkom završetku ulomka, s jedne je

premises. Sector 2 contains most of the central apse wall, part of the apse's floor and part of the wall of the northern apse. The drywall was not removed during the first excavation campaign because neither there was time for it nor there were particular reasons for it. In the trench made, in both sectors, various stratigraphic units were recorded. A total of 20 stratigraphic units were separated. Stratigraphic Unit 1 refers to the humus layer covered with grass and other vegetation. The thickness of the humus layer, which used to cover the entire surface of the trench, ranges from 1cm to approx. 15cm. Stratigraphic Unit 2 includes all the walls of the triconch church, otherwise separately numbered from 1 to 7. Most of the separate stratigraphic units were assigned to the remains of the floor in various places inside and outside the church walls. Some stratigraphic units also refer to other structures that have been discovered. For example, Stratigraphic Unit 12 includes the walls of the northeastern annex and SU 15 includes the walls of the southeastern annex. The circular puncture (“baptismal font“) in the southeastern annex floor, lined with stones joined together by plaster and with a plastered floor, is designated as SU 17. The last stratigraphic unit, SU 20, is the bedrock discovered outside the room 7 (the southeastern annex). To document it more accurately, the interior of the triconch church was divided into five rooms. Three more rooms were marked within the annex walls. Besides the rooms in the northeastern and southeastern annexes, the southwestern annex was designated as a separate room. In the final days of the campaign, the church was surveyed with a total station (tacheometer). Besides the total station survey, the last phase of the 2016 excavations included recording the site by a drone.

The excavation resulted in a number of mobile archaeological finds. These were pottery fragments, tegulae fragments and glass fragments. Two iron nails and a few carved stone fragments were also recorded. One stone fragment with preserved moldings certainly has to do with Late Antiquity church, so its finding raises hopes that other finds will result from future excavations.

The stone fragment (greyish limestone) was broken off; it had traces of decorations on itself and part of it was subsequently dressed (Fig. 18). Its dimensions are: height – 29.5cm, width: 16cm; thickness: 19cm. The fragment was found inside the nave's southern wall. The originally worked side contains several decorative elements. On the narrow end of the tapering fragment, remains of a carved square field can be seen. Above this shallow carved field lies a few centimeters of a smooth surface followed by a slightly molded round form. Above the round molding two parallel lines are carved and then follows a flat area. On one side of this final, flat and smooth part, a subsequently made oval perforation can be seen. It is certainly part of an early Christian monument that underwent subsequent dressing.





**Slika 18. Bilice, Dedića punta, ulomak kamenog spomenika s profilacijama**

Figure 18. Bilice, Dedića Punta, fragment of stone monument with moldings

foto / photo: M. Jarak

strane sekundarno izrezana ovalna perforacija. Svakako se radi o dijelu starokršćanskoga spomenika koji je naknadno obrađivan.

Od ostalih navedenih nalaza brojnošću se ističu ulomci keramičkih posuda i tegula, koji su pronađeni na svim dijelovima terena. Ni na jednome se ulomku tegule nije nalazio pečat. Kod ulomaka keramičkih posuda, pored pojedinačnih fragmenata, bilo je i nalaza većega broja fragmenata koji će se u daljnjoj obradi proučiti i eventualno spojiti. Nije bilo nalaza cjelovitije sačuvanih posuda. Jedna skupina fragmenata sigurno se može pripisati amfori. Riječ je o većoj amfori, o čemu svjedoči polovično sačuvana ručka. Fragmentarna ručka i ostali ulomci koji su pripadali amfori svijetlo crvene su boje, blago narebrene površine. Nakon njihova detaljnijega pregleda bit će moguće preciznije određenje oblika i datacija amfore. Nalazi ulomaka keramičkih posuda na lokalitetu starokršćanske bazilike u Bilicama općenito imaju različita obilježja. Pojedini ulomci i skupine ulomaka razlikuju se bojom, debljinom stjenki i drugim detaljima. Ovdje se može izdvojiti nekoliko zanimljivih fragmenata koji pokazuju raznolikost keramičkih nalaza na lokalitetu.<sup>35</sup>

Jedan fragment ima obilježja grube kasnoantičke keramike. Ulomak je malen (dužina – 5 cm, visina – 3 cm, debljina – od 2 do 6 mm), ali morfološki zanimljiv i s prepoznatljivom dekoracijom (Sl. 19; T. I, 2). Mali dio ulomka, sam vršak, lagano se izvija prema van. Riječ je o gornjemu dijelu posude s početkom izvijenoga oboda. U presjeku je vidljiva gruba faktura sa zrcima primjesa. Boja ulomka je siva, tamnijih i svjetlijih tonova. Na vanjskoj površini ističe se jednostavna dekoracija koju čine paralelne, ali nepravilno postavljene

Of other finds, particularly numerous are fragments of pottery and tegulae. The fragments were found on all parts of the site. None of the tegula fragments contained stamps. In addition to individual pottery fragments, there were also multiple fragments of vessels that will be analyzed and, possibly, reconnected. None of the vessels were found whole. A group of fragments can positively be attributed to an amphora. It was a larger amphora, given the size of the semi-preserved handle. The fragmented handle and other fragments that belonged to the amphora are of light red color and their surface is slightly ribbed. Their detailed analysis will enable establishing the shape of the whole amphora and dating it. Generally, the pottery fragments found at the site of the early Christian basilica in Bilice have various features. Individual fragments and groups of fragments have distinctive colors, wall thicknesses and other details. We can single out here several interesting fragments that reflect the diversity of pottery finds at the site.<sup>35</sup>

A small fragment has the features of the coarse Late Antiquity pottery. Although small (5cm long, 3cm high, 2-6mm thick), it has an interesting morphology and distinctive decorations (Fig. 19; Pl. I, 2). Small part of the fragment – its top – is slightly curved outward. It is the upper part of a vessel with the beginning of a flared rim. The section shows a coarse fabric with grains of admixtures. The fragment is of greyish color, with darker and lighter shades. A plain decoration can be seen on the outer surface: parallel but irregularly places furrows carved with some instrument. A prominent groove can be seen on the transition to the curved part. On the inner surface, thin lines executed on a potter's wheel can be seen.



**Slika 19. Bilice, Dedića punta, ulomak keramičke posude**  
Bilice, Dedića Punta, fragment of ceramic vessel

foto / photo: M. Jarak

35 O nekim obilježjima keramike razgovarali smo tijekom istraživanja, a pronalazak kasnoantičke grube keramike posebno je zapazila Petra Nikšić.

35 Some of the features of the pottery found were discussed during the excavations. Petra Nikšić paid particular attention to the finds of the Late Antiquity coarse pottery.

brazde, izvedene nekim instrumentom. Na prijelazu u mali, izvijeni dio, istaknutiji je žlijeb. S unutarnje strane razabiru se tanke linije, tragovi izrade na lončarskome kolu.

Oblikom, dekoracijom i sastavom gline, ulomak pripada kasnoantičkoj gruboj keramici.<sup>36</sup> Ta je keramika od 4. do 7. st. široko rasprostranjena, ne samo u Dalmaciji nego i u susjednim područjima izvan Hrvatske. U Bilicama je, osim opisanoga fragmenta, predstavlja još jedan mali ulomak, koji se razlikuje bojom i dekoracijom.

Ulomak je smeđe boje, s primjetnim primjesama u sastavu gline. Sačuvan je sličan dio posude kao i kod prethodnoga primjerka: dio stjenke koji se u vrhu izvija prema van (Sl. 20; T. I, 1). Fragment ima sačuvanu visinu i širinu od oko 4,5 cm, debljinu od 5 do 9 mm. Dekoraciju čine paralelne, plitke linije. Paralelne linije nalaze se i na unutarnjoj plohi stjenke.



**Slika 20. Bilice, Dedića punta, ulomak keramičke posude**

Figure 20. Bilice, Dedića Punta, fragment of ceramic vessel

foto / photo: M. Jarak

Finiju keramiku predstavlja mali ulomak oboda posude (Sl. 21; T. I, 3). S visinom i širinom manjom od 2 cm, ulomak je zanimljiv i zbog pripadnosti rubnome dijelu posude i zbog tragova premaza. Sačuvan je istaknuti obod (deb. oko 4 mm) i uvučeni dio stjenke (deb. oko 2 mm). Boja je crvenkastosmeđa.

Na lokalitetu su pronađeni i ulomci stakla. Kako je riječ o manjem broju ulomaka, u cijelosti su obrađeni i uvršteni u ovaj rad.<sup>37</sup>

Tijekom istraživanja bazilike u humusnom su sloju na više položaja, najčešće uz njezine zidove te u zapuni udubine u prostoriji P7 („krsionica“), pronađeni ulomci stakla

By its shape, decoration and clay composition, the fragment belongs to the Late Antiquity coarse pottery.<sup>36</sup> This type of pottery was in wide use in Dalmatia and in the neighboring regions outside Croatia between the 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> centuries AD. Besides this fragment, another small fragment found in Bilice represents this type, although it has a different color and decoration.

This other fragment is of brown color and has visible admixtures in the clay composition. Similar part of the vessel like in the above case has been preserved: part of the wall curving outward at the top (Fig. 20; T. I, 1). The fragment is approx. 4.5cm high and wide and 5-9mm thick. It is decorated with shallow parallel lines which can also be found on the inner surface of the wall.

Finer pottery is represented by a small fragment of a vessel rim (Fig. 21; T. I, 3). Less than 2cm high and wide, it is interesting because it belongs to the peripheral part of a vessel and has traces of a coating. A prominent rim (approx. 4mm thick) and a recessed part of the wall (approx. 2mm thick) have been preserved. The color is reddish-brown.



**Slika 21. Bilice, Dedića punta, ulomak keramičke posude**

Figure 21. Bilice, Dedića Punta, fragment of ceramic vessel

foto / photo: M. Jarak

Some glass fragments were found at the site, too. As their number is small, all of them are analyzed in this paper.<sup>37</sup>

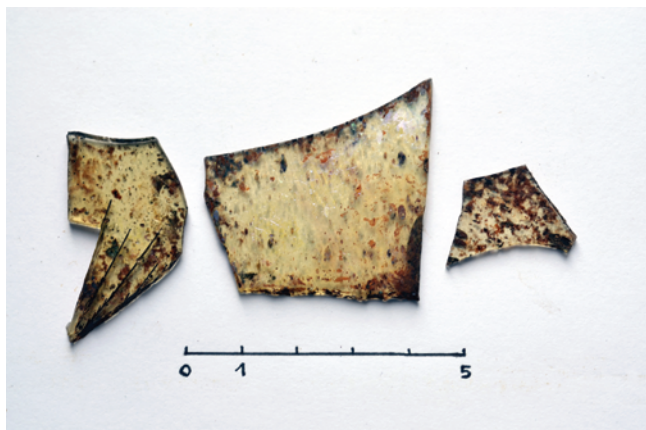
During the excavations at the basilica, on several positions in the humus layer, usually along the walls and in the backfill of the recess in room P7 (the “baptismal font”), fragments of glass were found. Morphologically, typologically and in terms of dating, they can be divided into three

36 Ima sva obilježja kasnoantičke grube keramike o kojoj usp. S. Ciglenečki, 2000, 60-145; K. Gusar – D. Vujević, 2012, 159-160. Drugu literaturu citiraju navedeni autori.

37 Ulomke stakla analizirala je V. Jukić Buča, koja je autorica osvrta na staklo u ovome radu.

36 It has all the features of the Late Antiquity coarse pottery. Cf. S. Ciglenečki, 2000, 60-145; K. Gusar – D. Vujević, 2012, 159-160. Other literature is quoted by these authors.

37 The glass fragments were analyzed by V. Jukić Buča, who is also the author of the glass-related part of this paper.



**Slika 22. Ulomci prve grupe staklenih nalaza**  
Figure 22. Fragments from first group of glass finds

foto / photo: V. Jukić Buča

koji se morfološki, tipološki i datacijski mogu podijeliti na tri grupe – ulomci prozorskoga stakla, ulomci posuda i ulomci posuda novijega datuma.<sup>38</sup>

Prvoj grupi pripada najveći broj ulomaka. Radi se o ulomcima ravne površine koji se mogu uže grupirati prema skupinama. Ulomci sivkaste boje debljine manje od 1 mm (Sl. 22, posljednji, Sl. 23, mali središnji ulomak), od kojih se neki spajaju po liniji loma (Sl. 24, središnji ulomci), a navedenima je prema strukturi vrlo sličan ulomak debljine oko 1mm prozirne sivkastozelene boje (Sl. 25), pripadaju prvoj skupini. Druga skupina obuhvaća ulomke debljine oko 1 mm zelene boje (Sl. 22, prvi ulomak, Sl. 24, ravni zeleni ulomci, Sl. 26). U treću skupinu okupljeni su deblji ulomci zelenkaste boje, protkani nečistoćama i mjehurićima zraka te naknadno obrađenih rubova; dva su oblikovana prema geometrijskim oblicima kvadrata (Sl. 23, pravokutni ulomak), odnosno trokuta (Sl. 27, 28), dok je jedan nepravilnoga oblika (Sl. 22 u sredini). Četvrtoj skupini pripadaju dva prozirna ulomka debljine 2 mm, od kojih se na većemu ulomku uočava linija tamnosmeđe boje ispod očuvanoga ruba (Sl. 23, najveći ulomak i ulomak paralelno uz mjerku).

Općenito se ravni ulomci stakla tumače dijelovima prozora, a takvi su ulomci tankoga stakla prve skupine, kao i malo deblji ulomci koji pripadaju drugoj skupini. Maleni ulomci sa specifično obrađenim rubovima treće skupine vrlo su slični ulomcima pronađenim na području glavne crkve kasnoantičkoga crkvenog kompleksa visinskoga naselja na lokalitetu Tonovcov grad.<sup>39</sup> Takvi rubovi, izgledom slični rubovima obrađenih kamenih alatki, dobiveni su obradom staklarskim kliještima. Nakon što

groups: window pane fragments, vessel fragments and Modern Age vessel fragments.<sup>38</sup>

Most of the fragments belongs to the first group. These are flat-surface fragments that can be further classified into subgroups. The first subgroup includes greyish fragments less than 1mm thick (Fig. 22 – the last fragment; Fig. 23 – the small fragment in the middle), some of which can be connected along their breaking lines (Fig. 24 – fragments in the middle). In terms of structure, similar to them is the approx. 1mm-thick fragment of transparent greyish-green color (Fig. 25). The second subgroup includes fragments approx. 1mm-thick and of green color (Fig. 22 – the first fragment; Fig. 24 – flat green fragments; Fig. 26). The third subgroup includes thicker fragments of greenish color, containing impurities and air bubbles, with subsequently worked edges. Two of them are square (Fig. 23 – the rectangular fragment) and triangular (Fig. 27, 28), respectively, and one has an irregular shape (Fig. 22 – in the middle). To the fourth subgroup belong two transparent fragments which are 2mm thick. The larger of the two contains a line of dark brown color under the preserved edge (Fig. 23 – the largest fragment and the one parallel with the measuring line).



**Slika 23. Ulomci prve grupe staklenih nalaza**  
Figure 23. Fragments from first group of glass finds

foto / photo: V. Jukić Buča

Generally, flat glass fragments are interpreted as parts of window panes. Such are the thin glass fragments from the first subgroup and the somewhat thicker fragments belonging to the second subgroup. The small fragments with edges worked in a specific way that belong to the third group are very similar to the fragments found in the main church of the Late Antiquity church complex of a

38 Zbog aktualnosti njihove prezentacije, ulomci stakla oprani su vodom i osušeni, ali nisu stručno očišćeni i konzervirani, pa njihove karakteristike nisu u potpunosti uočljive.

39 T. Milavec, 2015, 88.

38 The glass fragments have been washed in water and dried in order to be presented, but they have not been properly cleaned up and conserved. As a result, their characteristics are not fully visible.

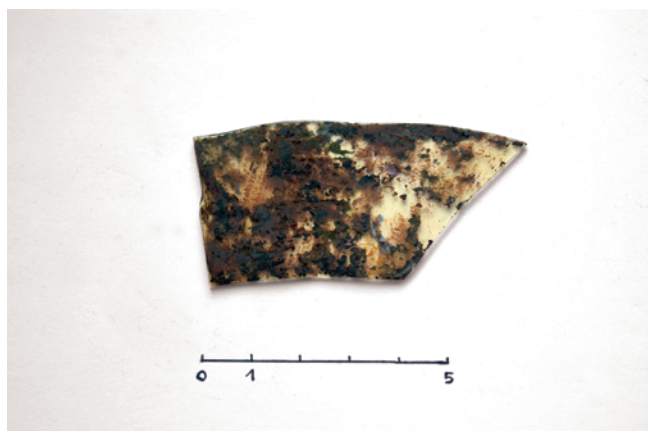


**Slika 24. Ulomci prve grupe staklenih nalaza**

Figure 24. Fragments from first group of glass finds

foto / photo: V. Jukić Buča

je postignut željeni oblik, ulomci bi se postavljali u međusobne odnose s obzirom na određeni uzorak. Trokutasti ulomak jedini ima sačuvane originalne dimenzije i sve sačuvane rubove, od kojih je jedan zaobljen i formiran tijekom izrade, dok su druga dva naknadno obrađena. S obzirom na to da je jedna stranica kvadratnoga ulomka odlomljena, može se zaključiti da nije obrađena jer je obradom ostalih stranica postignut željeni oblik pravokutnika poprilično jednakih dimenzija, ali mogao je nastati i oštećenjem izduženoga pravokutnog oblika. Ulomci s lokaliteta Tonovcov grad povezuju se s ulomcima obojanoga stakla crkve u Sionu, Sous-les-Scex u Švicarskoj, oblikovanim u geometrijske oblike te datiranim u razdoblje 5. i 6. stoljeća, zbog čega se smatraju početcima



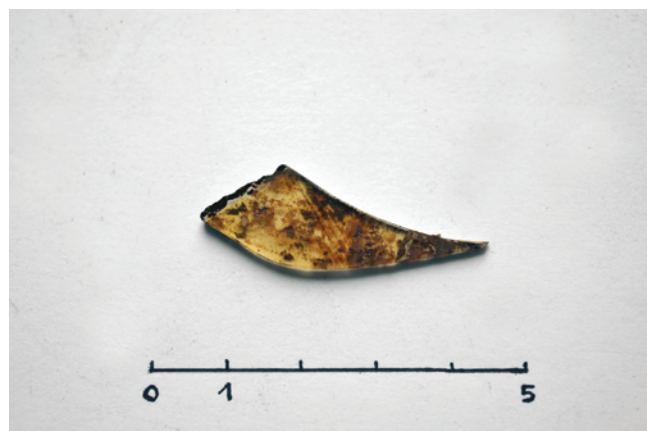
**Slika 25. Ulomak prve grupe staklenih nalaza**

Figure 25. Fragment from first group of glass finds

foto / photo: V. Jukić Buča

high-altitude settlement on the Toncov grad site.<sup>39</sup> Such edges, resembling the edges of worked stone tools, were obtained using glazier's pliers. After the desired shape would be made, the fragments would be placed against each other depending on the pattern. The triangular fragment is the only one with all the original dimensions and edges preserved. One edge was rounded and formed during the glassmaking process and the other two were worked subsequently. As one side of the square fragment is broken off, we can assume it was not worked because the desired rectangular shape of rather identical dimensions was attained by working the remaining sides; however, it could have also been made by damaging an elongated rectangular shape. The fragments from the Toncov grad site are associated with the fragments of colored glass of the church in Sion, Sous-les-Scex in Switzerland, formed in geometric patterns and dated to the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> centuries AD – considered the earliest examples of stained-glass windows in the Late Antiquity.<sup>40</sup> We should also mention that the subsequent working of glass-pane edges is typical for mirror-making, although it is not likely that these fragments should be interpreted in such way given the context.<sup>41</sup>

As no traces of plaster were found on the flat glass fragments nor any metal (lead) frames were found during excavations, we cannot specify how exactly the glass was fit in the windows or how did the windows look. An exception here is the large fragment from the fourth subgroup, the one with a brown line preserved under the edge. The line could be a result of fitting the glass fragment into a (wooden/metal) frame. Due to their texture and thickness, we can assume that the fragments from



**Slika 26. Ulomak prve grupe staklenih nalaza**

Figure 26. Fragment from first group of glass finds

foto / photo: V. Jukić Buča

39 T. Milavec, 2015, 88.

40 C. M. Kessler – S. Wolf – S. Trümpler, 2005; T. Milavec, 2015, 88.

41 Š. Perović, 2011, 32-33.



**Slika 27. Ulomak prve grupe staklenih nalaza**  
Figure 27. Fragment from first group of glass finds

foto / photo: V. Jukić Buča

izrade vitraja u razdoblju kasne antike.<sup>40</sup> Također, iako u ovom slučaju, s obzirom na kontekst, nije vjerojatno da bi im pripadali, treba spomenuti da je naknadna obrada rubova staklenih ploča karakteristična i za one namijenjene izradi ogledala.<sup>41</sup>

Na ravnim staklenim ulomcima nisu pronađeni tragovi žbuke niti su tijekom istraživanja pronađeni metalni (olovni) okviri pa nije moguće zaključiti na koji su način stakla bila uglavljena u prozorski otvor, kao ni kako su prozori izgledali. Iznimka je veći ulomak četvrte skupine s očuvanom smeđom linijom ispod očuvanoga ruba, čiji bi se nastanak mogao povezati s uglavljivanjem ovoga ulomka u (drveni/metalni) okvir. Zbog teksture i debljine, može se pretpostaviti da ulomci četvrte skupine vjerojatno potječu iz kasnijega razdoblja, dok je za sve ostale ulomke, s obzirom na kontekst te poveznice sa slovenskim lokalitetom Tononcov grad, moguća datacija u razdoblje kasne antike.

Druga grupa obuhvaća ulomke posuda. Očuvan je vrlo mali ulomak neravno zaobljenoga ruba otvora promjera 3 cm, svijetlo plave boje, koji u svojoj strukturi sadrži sitne mjehuriće zraka (Sl. 29). Radi se o rubu grla boce, vjerojatno forme Isings 103 ili njezine derivacije 129, kakve su se proizvodile od trećega stoljeća do sredine petoga.<sup>42</sup> Boce ovoga tipa imaju dugačak vrat koji se gotovo neznatno sužavao prema, najčešće neobrađeno, rubu, dok im je tijelo okruglo. Okrugle boce s dugim vratom izrađivale su se i u kasnijim razdobljima. Izniman i cjelovito sačuvan primjerak ovakve boce pronađen je kao prilog unutar groba 322, u okviru starohrvatskoga groblja na Ždrijacu u Ninu, datiran u razdoblje 6. i 7. stoljeća, a takve su se boce proizvodile u Torcellu tijekom 7.



**Slika 28. Ulomak prve grupe staklenih nalaza**  
Figure 28. Fragment from first group of glass finds

foto / photo: V. Jukić Buča

the fourth subgroup probably originate from a later period. As for all the other fragments, they could be dated to the Late Antiquity since they can be associated with the Slovenian site Toncov grad.

The second group includes glass vessel fragments. A very small fragment of an unequally rounded rim of an opening has been preserved. It has a 3cm-diameter and is of light blue color. Tiny air bubbles can be seen in its structure (Fig. 29). It is the rim of the neck of a bottle, probably Isings 103 or its derived form 129, manufactured from the 3<sup>rd</sup> century to the mid-5<sup>th</sup> century AD.<sup>42</sup> The bottles of this type have a long neck that very slightly tapers toward the (usually unworked) edge and their body is round. Round



**Slika 29. Ulomak druge grupe staklenih nalaza**  
Figure 29. Fragment from second group of glass finds

foto / photo: V. Jukić Buča

40 C. M. Kessler – S. Wolf – S. Trümpler, 2005; T. Milavec, 2015, 88.

41 Š. Perović, 2011, 32-33.

42 C. Isings, 1957, 121-122, 159.

42 C. Isings, 1957, 121-122, 159.



**Slika 30. Ulomak druge grupe staklenih nalaza**

Figure 30. Fragment from second group of glass finds

foto / photo: V. Jukić Buča

i 8. stoljeća.<sup>43</sup> Boca je izrađena tehnikom puhanja, a blaga zadebljanost i zaobljenost oboda dobivena je naknadnim zagrijavanjem na vatri. Na području Dalmacije (Bribir, Zadar) i Dubrovnika poznati su nalazi venecijanskih stolnih boca tipa *inguistare*, dugačkoga vrata i globularnoga tijela, koje su izrađivane od kraja 13. stoljeća pa sve do, uz određene preinake, 17. stoljeća.<sup>44</sup> Proizvodile su se u kalupu u muranskim radionicama, a u Dubrovniku su se proizvodile tijekom 15. stoljeća.<sup>45</sup> S obzirom na veličinu ulomka, nije ga moguće sa sigurnošću tipološki odrediti ni precizno datirati.

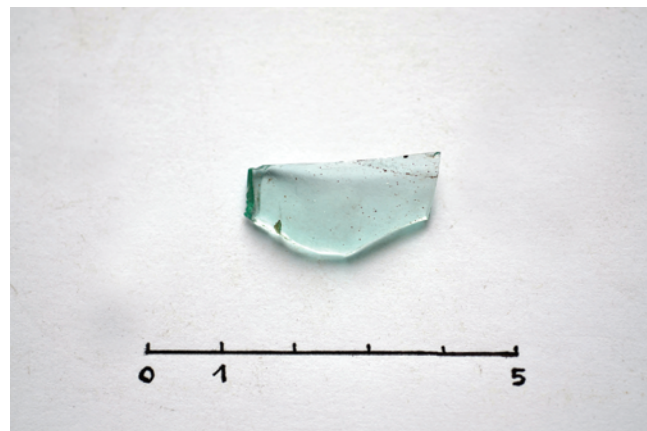
Mali ulomak maslinastozelene boje sa sitnim mjehurićima zraka pripadao je zaobljenome tijelu posude čiji se oblik ne može razaznati (Sl. 30). Slične strukture je i ulomak tijela tipološki nedefinirane posude prozirnoga stakla svijetloplave boje, s primjesama mjehurića na konveksnom dijelu površine (Sl. 31). Malo veći ulomak maslinastozelene boje nema u svojoj strukturi mjehuriće zraka, ali je njegova vanjska (konveksna) površina neravna te pripada tijelu posude čiji se oblik ne može razaznati (Sl. 24, prvi slijeva gore).

Prevladavaju žućkaste, plavkaste i zelenkaste nijanse, specifične za stakla u kojima su prisutni željezovi oksidi, odnosno prirodno obojena stakla.<sup>46</sup> Za obje navedene grupe (prozorsko staklo i ulomci posuda) može se ustvrditi da dobro vidljiva struktura ulomaka sadrži mjehuriće zraka. Ovakvo je staklo specifično za razdoblje kasne antike, ali staklo s primjesama mjehurića proizvodilo se i tijekom kasnijih razdoblja, kao što se, primjerice, može primijetiti na

bottles with long necks were also manufactured in later periods. An exceptional and intact specimen of such a bottle was found as part of grave goods in Grave 322 in the early Croatian cemetery on Ždrijac site in Nin. It was dated to the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> centuries. Such bottles were manufactured in Torcello in the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> centuries.<sup>43</sup> The bottle was made using glassblowing technique and the slightly thickened and rounded rim was obtained by subsequent heating on fire. In Dalmatia (Bribir, Zadar) and Dubrovnik, finds of Venetian tableware bottles of *inguistare* type are known. They had long necks and globular bodies and were manufactured from the late 13<sup>th</sup> century to – with some modifications – the 17<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>44</sup> They were made in Murano workshops using casts. In Dubrovnik they were made in the 15<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>45</sup> Due to the size of the fragment, we cannot positively establish its typology or date it accurately.

The small olive-green fragment with tiny air bubbles belonged to the round body of a vessel the exact shape of which cannot be identified (Fig. 30). The fragment of the body of a typologically unidentified light-blue transparent glass vessel with bubbles on the convex part of its surface has a similar structure (Fig. 31). Another olive-green fragment, slightly larger, does not contain air bubbles in its structure but its outer (convex) surface is uneven. It belongs to the body of a vessel the shape of which cannot be discerned (Fig. 24 – top left).

Predominant are the yellowish, bluish and greenish shades, typical of the glass containing ferric oxides – the naturally stained glass.<sup>46</sup> For both groups (window glass



**Slika 31. Ulomak druge grupe staklenih nalaza**

Figure 31. Fragment from second group of glass finds

foto / photo: V. Jukić Buča

43 Š. Perović, 2010, 42-46, 49. O grobu br. 322 i nalazima v. J. Belošević, 1980, 128-129; 2007, 416; R. Jurić, 2000, 304-307.

44 Z. Buljević, 1998, 150; V. Delonga, 1988, 103; A. Gasparetto, 1975, 147; M. Pešić, 2006, 119.

45 V. Han, 1981, 79.

46 I. Lazar, 2003, 22.

43 Š. Perović, 2010, 42-46, 49. For Grave No. 322 and related finds, see J. Belošević, 1980, 128-129; 2007, 416; R. Jurić, 2000, 304-307.

44 Z. Buljević, 1998, 150; V. Delonga, 1988, 103; A. Gasparetto, 1975, 147; M. Pešić, 2006, 119.

45 V. Han, 1981, 79.

46 I. Lazar, 2003, 22.



**Slika 32. Ulomci treće grupe staklenih nalaza**

Figure 32. Fragments from third group of glass finds

foto / photo: V. Jukić Buča

staklenim posudama iz 16. st., pronađenim na potopljenome brodu kod Gnalića.<sup>47</sup>

Treću grupu čine ulomci pronađeni u zapuni udubine u prostoriji P7 ("krstionica") (Sl. 32). Pronađena su dva ulomka – ulomak tijela posude tamne maslinastozelene boje, čiste strukture i glatkih površina, bez specifičnih obilježja te prozirni ulomak, također čiste strukture i glatkih površina, s tri paralelene ugravirane linije. Vjerojatno se radi o novovjekovnim ulomcima.<sup>48</sup> U zapunu su najvjerojatnije dospjeli prilikom zatrpavanja prvotno istraženoga područja bazilike početkom 20. stoljeća.

Ulomci stakla s lokaliteta Dedića punta u Bilicama kod Šibenika izuzetno su malih dimenzija pa njihovu tipološkom određenju treba pristupiti s rezervom. Ulomci se ne mogu preciznije tipološki odrediti uz pomoć stratigrafije, s obzirom na to da se radi o revizijskim istraživanjima koja su obuhvatila površinske iskope uokolo ranije poznate bazilike. Zbog konteksta u kojemu su pronađeni, a riječ je o lokalitetu na kojemu je crkva sagrađena u kasnoantičkom razdoblju, kao i uočljivih karakteristika samoga stakla, ulomci prve dvije grupe mogu se datirati u razdoblje kasne antike, ali treba uzeti u obzir da se staklo sličnih karakteristika proizvodilo i u kasnijim razdobljima.

and vessel fragments) we can say that the well-visible structure contains air bubbles. Such glass is typical of the Late Antiquity, although glass with bubbles was also manufactured in later periods, as we can see, for example, in the 16<sup>th</sup>-century vessels found on the Gnalić shipwreck.<sup>47</sup>

The third group includes the fragments found in the backfill of the recess in room P7 ("baptismal font") (Fig. 32). Two fragments were found – one belonging to the body of a dark olive-green vessel of a clean structure and with smooth surfaces without distinguishing features, and a transparent one, also of clean structure and with smooth surfaces, with three parallel lines engraved. These are probably Modern Age fragments.<sup>48</sup> Most likely they ended up in the backfill when the original early 20<sup>th</sup> century excavations of the basilica were filled in.

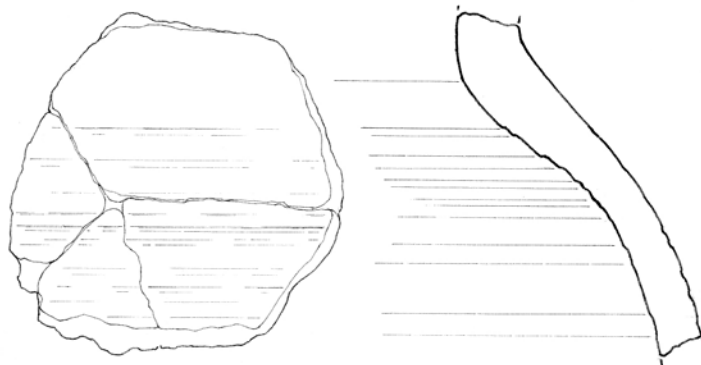
The glass fragments from Dedića Punta site in Bilice are very small, so their typology cannot be established positively. Stratigraphy does not help here because these are the revision excavations that included surface digs around the already known basilica. Due to the context they were found in (the site where the church had been built in Late Antiquity) and their visible characteristics, the fragments belonging to the first two groups could be dated to Late Antiquity, but we should keep in mind that glass of similar characteristics was manufactured in later periods, too.

47 I. Lazar – H. Willmott, 2006; B. Štefanac, 2011, 22.

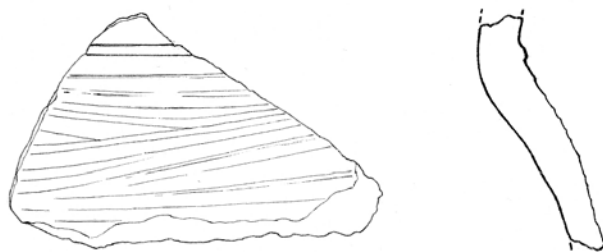
48 W. Van den Bossche, 2001.

47 I. Lazar – H. Willmott, 2006; B. Štefanac, 2011, 22.

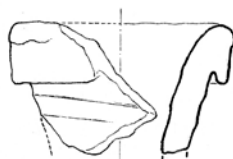
48 W. Van den Bossche, 2001.



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1-3 / 1-3

crtež / drawing by: M. Rončević





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