



Željko Demo, Budimpešta / Budapest, 2017. (snimila B. Smith Demo / photo by B. Smith Demo).

# ŽELJKO DEMO – BIOGRAFIJA / BIOGRAPHY

Maja Bunčić

Željko Demo rođen je 19. 12. 1951. godine u Zagrebu gdje se školovao i radio. Nakon završene klasične gimnazije, 1970. godine upisao je na Filozofskom fakultetu dvopredmetni studij arheologije i latinskog jezika i književnosti. Diplomirao je 1975. godine s temom „Novac germanskih vladara druge pol. 5. do u drugu pol. 6. st. u Numizmatičkoj zbirci Arheološkog muzeja u Zagrebu“. Već iduće, 1976. godine upisao je te potom i završio postdiplomski studij iz antičke i provincijalne arheologije na Odsjeku za arheologiju Filozofskog fakulteta Sveučilišta u Zagrebu, no doktorsku je disertaciju pod naslovom „Nalazi novca istočnogotske države na tlu bivše Jugoslavije“ obranio u lipnju 1992. g. na Filozofskom fakultetu u Ljubljani, pod mentorstvom Petera Kosa.

Cijeli svoj radni vijek, 37 godina staža, proveo je u Arheološkom muzeju u Zagrebu. Na radno je mjesto, kao kustos pripravnik, stupio 25. 6. 1979. godine, a godinu dana kasnije primljen je u stalni radni odnos u zvanju kustosa, dok je stručni ispit položio krajem 1982. godine. U zvanje višeg kustosa napredovao je 1999. godine, a muzejskim savjetnikom postaje početkom 2003. godine. Od 2009. godine do umirovljenja voditelj je Srednjovjekovnog odjela. U zvanje znanstvenog savjetnika za područje humanističkih znanosti, polje arheologija, grana srednjovjekovna arheologija izabran je u lipnju 2012. godine.

Znanstveni interes Demo je usmjerio na područja antičke i kasnoantičke arheologije, osobito na početku karijere, u manjoj mjeri arheologiji vremena seobe naroda te ponajviše na polje ranosrednjovjekovne arheologije. Numizmatičke teme također zauzimaju značajan dio njegove bibliografije, a usmjerene su na antičko, kasnoantičko i ranobizantsko razdoblje s osobitim interesom na monetarnu politiku i novac Istočnih Gota.

Demina predanost istraživačkom radu, temeljitost, erudicija te znatiželja koja ga je vodila k različitim tematikama rezultirali su opsežnom i raznolikom bibliografijom (vidi poseban rad u nastavku) koja se kontinuirano nadopunjuje novim naslovima. U njoj je moguće izdvojiti gotovo sve kategorije radova – knjige/monografije, poglavlja u knjizi, članke u časopisima, članke u

Željko Demo was born on December 19, 1951, in Zagreb, where he was educated, and where he spent his entire working life. After studying at the Classical Grammar School, in 1970 he enrolled in the study of archaeology and Latin language and literature at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Zagreb. He graduated in 1975 with the topic “Coins of the German rulers from the second half of the 5<sup>th</sup> to the second half of the 6<sup>th</sup> century in the Numismatic Collection of the Archaeological Museum in Zagreb”. In the following year (1976), he enrolled in, and then completed, postgraduate studies in ancient and provincial archaeology at the Department of Archaeology of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Zagreb, but defended his doctoral dissertation, titled “Coin Finds of the Ostrogothic State from the Former Yugoslavia” in June 1992 under the supervision of Peter Kos at the Faculty of Arts in Ljubljana.

He spent his entire career of 37 years at the Archaeological Museum in Zagreb. He started working as a trainee curator on June 25, 1979, and the following year he was hired as a curator, while he passed the curatorial exam at the end of 1982. He was promoted to senior curatorship in 1999, and to the position of museum advisor in early 2003. From 2009 until his retirement, he was the head of the Medieval Department. In June 2012 he was elected scientific advisor in the humanities, in the field of archaeology, branch of medieval archaeology.

Demo focused his scientific interest on Late Roman and Late Antique archaeology, especially at the beginning of his career, to a lesser degree on the archaeology of the Migration Period, and mainly on early medieval archaeology. Numismatic themes also occupy a significant part of his bibliography. They focus on the Late Roman, Late Antique, and Early Byzantine periods, with a particular interest in the monetary policy and coinage of the Ostrogoths. His dedication to research work, his thoroughness, erudition and curiosity, have all led Demo towards various topics. The result is an extensive and diverse bibliography (see the following paper), which is continuously being supplemented with new titles. It is possible to find in it almost all categories of works: books/monographs, book chapters, articles in jour-

suradnji sa znanstvenicima drugih struka, uredništva stručnih i znanstvenih publikacija, prikaze znanstvenih publikacija, biografije, bibliografije, predgovore, kataloge izložbi i kataloške jedinice, prikaze / obljetnice, publicistiku. Sve je to proisteklo iz marljivog rada na obradi i sređivanju muzejske građe te aktivnog praćenja literature, suradnje i komunikacije s domaćim i stranim kolegama arheolozima.

Rezultate svojih znanstvenih istraživanja redovito je predstavljao i usmenim izlaganjima te rjeđe posterima na znanstvenim skupovima u Hrvatskoj (Zagreb, Šibenik, Split, Zadar, Unešić, Vukovar itd.) i inozemstvu (Tihany, Kraków, Mostar, Novi Sad, Kostolac). Osim na znanstvenim skupovima održao je i nekoliko popularnih i stručnih predavanja te predavanja za studente pri Filozofskom fakultetu u Zagrebu. Također je bio inicijator i surorganizator nekoliko važnih znanstvenih skupova srednjovjekovne tematike – *Hrvatska arheologija i Aachenski mir 812.-2012.* (suradnja s Odjelom za arheologiju Sveučilišta u Zadru; Zadar, 2012.), *Groblja i pogrebni običaji u srednjem i ranom novom vijeku na prostoru sjeverne Hrvatske* (suradnja s Institutom za arheologiju; Zagreb, 2014.), *Zdenko Vinski – život i znanstveni rad* (suradnja s Odsjekom za arheologiju Filozofskog fakulteta u Zagrebu; Zagreb, 2016.).

Priprema i organizacija izložbi također su značajno obilježili muzejski rad Ž. Deme. Autor je nekoliko samostalnih izložbi te koautor, suradnik (odabir građe, kataloške jedinice) ili koordinator više njih. Dvije je izložbe posvetio pojedinačnim lokalitetima. Prva od njih je *Vukovar-Lijeva Bara, povijest jednog arheološkog nalazišta (nalazi, istraživanja, znamenja)*. Obradivši detaljno arheološku i arhivsku građu jednog od najznačajnijih ranosrednjovjekovnih groblja na području kontinentalne Hrvatske, Demo je tu vrijednu građu prvo predstavio u Arheološkom muzeju u Zagrebu 1996. godine, a potom iste godine i u Zadru i u Splitu. Konačno, kada su ostvareni povoljni uvjeti, izložba je 1999. godine postavljena i u Gradskom muzeju Vukovar. Druga izložba *Opatovina – tragovi povijesti izgubljene u sadašnjosti* postavljena u listopadu 2006. godine, prikazala je rezultate arheoloških istraživanja pred zapadnim ulazom u crkvu sv. Franje na zagrebačkoj Opatovini provedenih 2002. godine. Malu, ali vrlo interesantnu autorsku izložbu *Tobolac ranosrednjovjekovnog ratnika – od nalaza do funkcionalne rekonstrukcije* postavio je 2013. g. u svom matičnom muzeju. Predstavljena je idejna rekonstrukcija tobolca zasnovana na koštanim i metalnim ostacima i dijelovima zatvorenih tobolaca iz tri ranosrednjovjekovna groba s nalazišta Lijeva Bara u Vukovaru. *Zlato i srebro srednjeg vijeka u Arheološkom muzeju u Zagrebu* (2014./2015.) posljednja je velika i zapažena izložba Ž. Deme. Bio je to međumuzejski projekt kojemu je cilj bio široj javnosti predstaviti odabrane predmete hrvatske kulturno-povijesne baštine pohranjene u srednjovjekovnim zbirka hrvatskih arheoloških muzeja. To su bili grobni ili skupni nalazi te ostave blaga nastale u vremenu od oko 400. godine do oko 1500. godine. Istovremeno je, krajem 2014. godine, izložba realizirana u tri matična arheološka muzeja - Arheološkom muzeju u Zagrebu, Arheološkom muzeju u Splitu i Arheološkom muzeju – Zadar, dok su tijekom 2015. godine izložbe predstavljene u još dva matična muzeja - Muzeju Slavonije u Osijeku i Arheološkom muzeju Istre u Puli. Projektu *Zlato i srebro srednjeg vijeka matičnih ar-*

nals, articles in collaboration with scientists from other professions, editorial work on professional and scientific publications, reviews of scientific publications, biographies, bibliographies, prefaces, exhibition catalogues and catalogue entries, reviews/anniversaries, journalistic texts. All this has resulted from diligent work on the museum material and consultation of current literature, cooperation and communication with domestic and foreign archaeologists.

He has regularly presented the results of his scientific research in oral presentations and, less often, through posters at scientific conferences in Croatia (Zagreb, Šibenik, Split, Zadar, Unešić, Vukovar etc.) and abroad (Tihany, Kraków, Mostar, Novi Sad, Kostolac). In addition to scientific conferences, he has given several popular and professional lectures, and lectures for students at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Zagreb. He was also the initiator and co-organizer of several important scientific conferences on medieval themes: *Croatian Archaeology and the Peace of Aachen 812–2012* (in collaboration with the Department of Archaeology, University of Zadar; Zadar, 2012), *Cemeteries and Funeral Customs in the Middle and Early Modern Ages in Northern Croatia* (in collaboration with the Institute of Archaeology; Zagreb, 2014), *Zdenko Vinski: Life and Scientific Work* (in collaboration with the Department of Archaeology of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Zagreb; Zagreb, 2016).

The preparation and organization of exhibitions has also left a significant mark on the museum work of Željko Demo. He is the author of several individual exhibitions, as well as co-author, collaborator (selection of materials, catalogue entries) or coordinator of several of them. Two of these exhibitions focused on the presentation of archaeological sites. One was *Vukovar-Lijeva Bara, the history of an archaeological site (relics, research, renown)*, for which he studied archaeological and archival material from one of the most important early medieval cemeteries in continental Croatia. This valuable material was first presented in 1996 in the Archaeological Museum in Zagreb, and then in Zadar and Split in the same year. Finally, after conditions had been satisfied, the exhibition was installed in 1999 at the Vukovar Town Museum. The second exhibition, *Opatovina: Traces of History Lost in the Present*, was installed in October 2006. It presented the results of archaeological excavations in front of the western entrance to the church of St. Francis in Opatovina Street (Zagreb) in 2002. In 2013, Demo presented an interesting small-scale exhibition in his mother museum titled *An early medieval warrior's quiver: from find to functional reconstruction*. Based on bone and metal remains and parts of closed quivers from three early medieval graves at the Lijeva Bara site in Vukovar, an ideal reconstruction of the quiver was presented to the public. *The Gold and Silver of the Middle Ages in the Archaeological Museum in Zagreb* (2014/2015) was the last comprehensive and notable exhibition by Željko Demo. It was an inter-museum project, whose goal was to present to the general public selected objects of Croatian cultural and historical heritage stored in the medieval collections of Croatian archaeological museums. These were grave or collective finds and treasure hoards dating from around 400 to around 1500. At the same time, at the end of 2014, the exhibition was presented

heoloških muzeja Republike Hrvatske u realizaciji Arheološkog muzeja u Zagrebu, Arheološkog muzeja u Splitu, Arheološkog muzeja Zadar, Arheološkog muzeja Istre i Muzeja Slavonije dodijeljena je nagrada Hrvatskog muzejskog društva u kategoriji Međumuzejska suradnja za 2016. godinu.

Iako uz spreman sinopsis i snažnu volju za izlaganjem vrijedne srednjovjekovne zbirke, Ž. Demo je nažalost tek pred odlazak u mirovinu imao priliku posvetiti se dugoočekivanom stalnom postavu, a koji je svečano otvoren na samom kraju 2016. godine. Zbirka je predstavljena kroz četiri cjeline koje su zbog raznih okolnosti tek polovično mogle biti prikazane prema njegovoj idejnoj zamisli. Kada je riječ o stalnim postavima, realizacija je bila potpuna i uspješna u Gradskom muzeju Vukovar. Tamo je početkom 2014. godine otvoren stalni arheološki postav, a autorstvo srednjovjekovnog segmenta potpisuje Ž. Demo (*Vukovar-Lijeve Bara - višeslojno nalazište*, zajedno s D. Balen Letunić – pretpovijest).

Izložba kojoj je Demo posvetio puno truda je *Od nepobjedivog sunca do sunca pravde – Rano kršćanstvo u kontinentalnoj Hrvatskoj* kojoj je bio koautor (uz B. Migotti, A. Rendića-Miočevića, Z. Dukat i Z. Gregla), koordinator, urednik kataloga, autor kataloških jedinica, bibliografije te računalnog sloga. Izložba je u Zagrebu postavljena 1994. godine, a tijekom 1995. i 1996. godine gostovala je u nekoliko muzeja u Hrvatskoj i Sloveniji.

Vrijedno je svakako još spomenuti neke izložbe poput *Na tragovima vremena – iz arheološke zbirke Mateja Pavletića* (2004., Zagreb; 2005. Šibenik i Zadar), *Muzeopis* (1996., Zagreb), *Nacionalna blaga Hrvatske – remek djela Arheološkog muzeja i Muzeja za umjetnost i obrt u Zagrebu* (1991., Arezzo), *Iz riznice hrvatskih muzeja – Arheološki muzej u Zagrebu* (1992., Beč), *Umjetnost i kultura u Hrvatskoj – 5000 godina povijesti iz zagrebačkih muzeja* (1993., Torino), *Kralj Zvonimir – dokumenti i spomenici* (1990., Zagreb) te *40 godina arheoloških istraživanja u sjeverozapadnoj Hrvatskoj* (1987., Zagreb, Bjelovar, Križevci, Varaždin, Čakovec, Kutina) kojima je Demo bio koautor ili suradnik.

Terenska su istraživanja u nešto manjoj mjeri obilježila Demin profesionalni put. Krajem 1970-ih i početkom 1980-ih godina sudjelovao je u istraživanjima i rekognosciranjima na području Koprivnice (u suradnji s Muzejom grada Koprivnice) te bio voditeljem istraživanja na rimskodobnim i srednjovjekovnim lokalitetima Kunovec Breg (1979., 1980., 1981.), Draganovec (1981., 1982.), Starigrad-Kamengrad (1982., 1984.) i Starigrad-sv. Mirko (1983.). Zaštitno istraživanje vodio je Demo 2002. godine na zagrebačkoj Opatovini ispred crkve sv. Franje (uz vanjskog suradnika Z. Markovića). Iako je istraživanje provedeno na vrlo maloj površini, ono je polučilo iznimno vrijednim spoznajama i nalazima za, nedovoljno vrednovanu, srednjovjekovnu arheologiju Grada Zagreba. Istraživanje je rezultiralo tematskom izložbom i monografskom publikacijom. Potom je, u suradnji s Muzejom hrvatskih arheoloških spomenika (M. Zekan) Ž. Demo vodio i istraživanje rano-novovjekovnog groblja u Drinovcima kraj Drniša 2012. godine.

Dugi niz godina sudjelovao je i u uredništvima muzejskih časopisa poput *Situle* (2002.-2015.), *Glasnika Zemaljskog muzeja*

in three leading archaeological museums – the Archaeological Museum in Zagreb, the Archaeological Museum in Split, and the Archaeological Museum in Zadar – while in 2015 the exhibitions were presented in two more important museums: the Museum of Slavonia, in Osijek, and the Archaeological Museum of Istria, in Pula. The project *The Gold and Silver of the Middle Ages from the Leading Archaeological Museums of the Republic of Croatia*, realized by the Archaeological Museum in Zagreb, the Archaeological Museum in Split, the Archaeological Museum in Zadar, the Archaeological Museum of Istria, and the Museum of Slavonia, was awarded the Croatian Museum Society Award in 2016.

Demo had the opportunity to focus on the design and installation of the long-awaited permanent exhibition only shortly before retiring, at the very end of 2016, even though he had a synopsis ready and had, for some time, been willing to present the valuable medieval collection to the public. Based on his conceptual idea, the collection is presented through four units, but they have only partially been displayed, due to various circumstances. With respect to the permanent exhibitions in which Demo was involved, the one in the Vukovar Municipal Museum was completed at the beginning of 2014, when a permanent archaeological exhibition was opened. The author of the medieval segment is Ž. Demo (*Vukovar-Lijeve Bara: a multi-layered site*, together with D. Balen Letunić – prehistory). Finally, Demo was very engaged in the preparation of the exhibition *From the Invincible Sun to the Sun of Justice: Early Christianity in Continental Croatia*, which he co-authored with B. Migotti, A. Rendić-Miočević, Z. Dukat and Z. Gregl. He was also in charge of coordination of this exhibition, and also edited and copyedited the accompanying catalogue, for which he wrote catalogue entries and composed the bibliography. The exhibition opened in Zagreb in 1994, and during 1995 and 1996 was displayed in several museums in Croatia and Slovenia.

Demo was a co-author of, or collaborator on, other exhibitions which are worth mentioning: *In the Footsteps of Time: from the archaeological collection of Matej Pavletić* (2004, Zagreb; 2005, Šibenik and Zadar), *Museopis* (1996, Zagreb), *National Treasures of Croatia: Masterpieces of the Archaeological Museum and the Museum of Art and Crafts in Zagreb* (1991, Arezzo), *From the Treasury of Croatian Museums: Archaeological Museum in Zagreb* (1992, Vienna), *Art and Culture in Croatia: 5000 Years of History from Zagreb Museums* (1993, Turin), *King Zvonimir: Documents and Monuments* (1990, Zagreb) and *40 Years of Archaeological Research in Northwestern Croatia* (1987, Zagreb, Bjelovar, Križevci, Varaždin, Čakovec, Kutina).

Field research has characterized Demo's professional path to a somewhat lesser degree. In the late 1970s and early 1980s he participated in excavation and field survey in the Koprivnica area (in collaboration with the Koprivnica Municipal Museum) and directed excavations at the Roman and medieval sites of Kunovec Breg (1979, 1980, 1981), Draganovec (1981, 1982), Starigrad-Kamengrad (1982, 1984), and Starigrad-St. Mark (1983). Demo conducted rescue excavations in 2002 in Zagreb's Opatovina Street in front of the Church of St Francis (with an

u Sarajevu (2010–2015.) te *Vjesnika Arheološkog muzeja u Zagrebu* (2009.–2016.). Svoj je stručni doprinos ostvario i kao član raznih povjerenstava pri Hrvatskom muzejskom vijeću, Muzejskom dokumentacijskom centru te Ministarstvu kulture kao i u upravnim vijećima muzeja (MHAS). U razdoblju od 2004. do 2006. godine obavljao je dužnost matičara prve razine za arheološke muzeje i arheološke zbirke u RH.

Nadalje, kao mentor, komentor ili član povjerenstva za obrane magistarskih i doktorskih teza sudjelovao je u provođenju poslijediplomskih studija na Odsjeku za arheologiju i Odsjeku za povijest na Filozofskom fakultetu u Zagrebu od 2003. sve do umirovljenja 2016. godine te na CEU u Budimpešti (1999.). Također je mentorirao i buduće kolege muzealce prilikom polaganja ispita za stručno zvanje kustosa. Od 2007. do 2013. Ž. Demo bio je suradnik na projektu Instituta za arheologiju *Srednjovjekovno naseljavanje sjeverne Hrvatske u svjetlu arheoloških izvora*, voditeljice Tajane Sekelj Ivančan odobrenom od Ministarstva znanosti i obrazovanja (tada Ministarstvo znanosti, obrazovanja i sporta).

U okviru raznolikih muzejskih aktivnosti obavio je brojne ekspertize i procjene pojedinačnih predmeta ili pak zbirke, a neke su od njih rezultirale i otkupom za muzejski fondus.

Tu se svakako treba spomenuti i mnoštvo recenzija članaka i monografija, ali i stalnih postava, sudjelovanje u medijima povodom tekućih izložbi ili drugih događanja s kojima je bio povezan, promocije knjiga i zbornika, kao i nebrojene konzultacije s kolegama i studentima, koje je gotovo svakodnevno vodio o raznim temama s područja srednjovjekovne arheologije ili pak numizmatike.

Željko Demo umirovljen je krajem 2016. godine na svoj 65. rođendan. Umirovljenje dakako nije značilo prekid u njegovom stručnom i znanstvenom radu. Nastavio je pratiti muzejske izložbe, razna događanja i predavanja kolega, rado je nastavio s konzultacijama i razgovorima o aktualnim arheološkim temama te je kao cijenjeni srednjovjekovac i autoritet za pojedine teme i dalje traženi recenzent. Pa iako u posljednje vrijeme okolnosti nisu dozvoljavale uobičajena stručna okupljanja gdje bismo zasigurno kolegu Demu mogli susresti, on trag i dalje ostavlja sustavno objavljujući rezultate svojih istraživanja, uglavnom, iako ne isključivo, na polju numizmatike.

associate, Z. Marković). The excavations covered a small area, but nevertheless yielded valuable insights and findings for the insufficiently evaluated medieval archaeology of Zagreb. The excavation resulted in a thematic exhibition and a monographic publication. Later, in collaboration with the Museum of Croatian Archaeological Monuments (M. Zekan), Željko Demo also directed the excavations of the early modern age cemetery in Drinovci, near Drniš, in 2012.

For many years he was a member of the editorial boards of museum journals, such as *Situla* (2002–2015), the *Gazette of the National Museum in Sarajevo* (2010–2015?), and the *Journal of the Archaeological Museum in Zagreb* (2009–2016). Demo's professional contribution is also significant through his acting as a member of various commissions at the Croatian Museum Council, the Museum Documentation Centre and the Ministry of Culture, as well as a museum's governing board (MHAS). From 2004 to 2006, he was the central officer ('matičar' in Croatian) for archaeological museums and archaeological collections in the Republic of Croatia. Furthermore, as a mentor, co-mentor or member of the committee for the defence of master's and doctoral theses, he participated in postgraduate studies at the Department of Archaeology and the Department of History at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Zagreb from 2003? until his retirement in 2016, and at the CEU in Budapest (1999). He also mentored future fellow museologists for the professional title of curator. From 2007 to 2013, Demo was a researcher on the Institute of Archaeology's project *Medieval Settlement of Northern Croatia in the Light of Archaeological Sources*, led by Tajana Sekelj Ivančan and approved by the Ministry of Science and Education (then the Ministry of Science, Education and Sport).

As part of various museum activities, he undertook numerous expertises and evaluations of individual archaeological objects or collections. Some of those artefacts were afterwards purchased by the Museum. Of other current work it is worth mentioning his numerous reviews of articles, monographs and permanent exhibitions. Furthermore, he participated in the media regarding exhibitions or other events with which he was associated; he was engaged in promotions of books and conference proceedings; and he held countless consultations with colleagues and students almost on a daily basis on various topics in the field of medieval archaeology or numismatics.

Željko Demo retired at the end of 2016 on his 65<sup>th</sup> birthday. Retirement, of course, did not mean that his professional and scientific work had finished. He continued to visit exhibitions, various events, and the lectures of his colleagues. He also gladly continued to hold consultations and discussions on current archaeological topics; and, as a respected medievalist and authority on certain topics, he is still highly regarded as a reviewer. So, although circumstances have lately not allowed the usual professional gatherings, where we could otherwise certainly meet our colleague Željko Demo, he continues to leave his mark by systematically publishing the results of his research, mostly, though not exclusively, in the field of numismatics.