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## SUMMARY

### STARČEVO CULTURE FINDINGS IN OSIEK AS THE CONTRIBUTION TO THE FURTHER KNOWLEDGE THE OLDEST SETTLING EASTERN SLAVONIA

Stratified prehistorical, antique and mediaeval settlement was discovered accidentally in 1987 during excavation of trenches for municipal installations in the western part of Osijek - Retfala. Protective archeological research has been performed under the supervision of J. Šimić from The Museum of Slavonia - Osijek and then the remains of the settlement from Neolithic, Bronze and Iron period have been found. During 1994. archeological probing was organized again at the same location under supervision of J. Šimić, who discovered remains of prehistorical and antique settlements, and in the lowest level the fragments of Starčevo ceramics, which suggest the beginning of settling at today's are of Osijek in the early Neolithic (circa 5000 years BC).

Settlement of Starčevo culture in Retfala was built on slightly oval elevation on the right bank of the Drava. Its shape and size can not be estimated yet, but it is sure that they lived in sod-houses which are significant for all phases of this culture's development in Croatia. Fragments of vessels found, ornamented with canelated barbotine, give time extent within classical (developed) phases of Starčevo culture (from linear B to spiraloid B level). The settlement in Retfala is the farthest in the west of three settlements in a row on the right bank of Drava (Osijek, Sarvaš, Aljmaš) which are a continuation of further seven settlements (two in Erdut, three in Vukovar, Vučedol and Bapska) on the right bank of the Danube river.

In Eastern Slavonia we know about 15 settlements, while in Northern Croatia, from Bjelovar in the West to Eastern border of Croatia at the Danube, there are 60 Starčevo localities (Supplement 1 and 2). As a rule these settlements have been built next to natural communications - on the elevated littoral areas of water-flows. Wide low-lying rivers the Danube, the Sava, and the Drava, characteristic to their course slowed down, connected the settlement of early Neolithic, not only among themselves, but with other Pannonian areas of this part of Europe. Topographic characteristics of Starčevo settlements point out to some regularities at the choice of the location which was conditioned by optimal possibilities of feeding, cultivation, hunting, cattle breeding and fruit gathering. All Starčevo settlements were built next to water flows, which enabled some basic life conditions: drinkable water, irrigation, fish catch, the choice of river stones for stone tools, making and possibility of merchant connections. These settlements were never isolated and were close to each other (3-5 km), grouped in a line, and in wide river brook valleys next to water communications. In northern Croatia, although the first finds of Starčevo culture were found in Vukovar some hundred years ago, the evidence of 60 Starčevo settlements is a result of more intensive research within the last twenty years. In the area recognized in detail, the row of settlements has been found, unlike in the third of Slavonia where we do not have any information yet (Supplement 1). One of the difficulties in finding the traces of Starčevo settlements is their chronological position in the lowest stratum (at multi-stratum localities), and if there is only one stratum, they are mostly covered with 60-90 cm layer of sterile soil.

The analysis (Supplement 2) shows the following statistical data:

- 32 localities (53%) were found during ground tours, and 30 localities (50%) were found accidentally during construction works, at the depth more than 60 cm.

In the area of Slavonia and Baranya, which is extremely rich in archeological localities (circa 2.000 registered prehistorical, antique and medieval finding places) the range of archeological research is still pretty poor:

- 7 localities (11%) have been probed, while in 13 (22%) the more extensive archeological research has been performed
- all 60 localities (100%) are the settlements, while only one (1%) showed the remains of necropolis
- at 23 localities (38%) only Starčevo settlements have been found, which suggest the abating of existing location with appearance of new cultures
- at 31 localities (52%) the remains of various cultures were found, which followed Starčevo culture, and at 6 localities (10%) the tell has been found.

Past archeological researches enabled chronological orientation for only 32% of Starčevo settlements: 7 settlements are inserted into linear A phase, 4 into linear B, 4 into linear C, 3 into garlandoid, 3 into spiraloid A, 4 into spiraloid B. Out of 41 localities, one could be inserted into linear A phase, 3 localities into linear B, 7 localities into linear C and 3 localities into spiraloid B.

Chronological division of Starčevo culture in northern Croatia was first worked out in detail by S. Dimitrijević (Dimitrijević, 1969, 37-40; 1979, 241-252); monochrom, linear A, linear B, girlandoid, spiraloid A, spiraloid B final. Archeological research in western part of Slavonia during the last ten years discovered a special style of painted ceramics (Minichreiter, 1996, 7-22) and enabled separation of a special linear C phase (Minichreiter, 1992, 20-onward) into which the other localities of western Slavonia, which

were considered to belong to the final phase, could be inserted. We suppose that Starčevo culture in northern Croatia, after linear B phase, developed in each of the three Slavonian regions (western, central and eastern) in its special way. In the eastern Slavonia linear B follows linear A, then girlandoid and spiraloid A and B. In the central Slavonia the latest finds in Požega basin (Minichreiter and Sokač Štimac, 1994, 36-37) suggest the possibility of larger period of linear A or one of its variants. In western part of Slavonia the finds in Pepelano (Minichreiter, 1990, 17-40) suggest another characteristic of regional development and enable separation of this style into linear C phase, lasting longer and partly is parallel with spiraloid A in eastern Slavonia. Analysis of the age and lasting of certain phases, which we still determine according to their style characteristics, is still missing when research and chronological combinations of Starčevo culture is concerned.

Continuous discoveries of Starčevo culture settlements in northern Croatia suggest the great population density in this area during early Neolithic. It is proved by data on the number of settlements in Bosnia, Serbia, Voivodina and southern Hungary.

There are 4 localities discovered in Bosnia (Marijanović, 1988, 166-167), 83 in Serbia at the area of 66.855 km<sup>2</sup> - 1 locality to 805 km<sup>2</sup> (Garašanin, 1979, 115-117; Trbuhović and Vasiljević, 1983, 1-99; Srejević, 1988, 48-49, 51-111). In Voivodina 25 localities have been discovered at the area of 21.506 km<sup>2</sup> - 1 locality to 860 km<sup>2</sup> (Garašanin, 1979, 115-117; Srejević, 1988, 48-49, 51-111). In the southern Hungary there are 15 Starčevo localities registered (Kalicz, 1990, 117; 1994, 87 and 94). In northern Croatia, at the area of 12.506, there are 60 localities registered, 1 locality at 208 km<sup>2</sup>, which suggests that southern Pannonian area among the Danube, the Sava and the Drava rivers had the greatest population density of an early Neolithic.