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## KASNOANTIČKA NEKROPOLA NJIVICA – OBLOG U RASTOVAČI KOD POSUŠJA

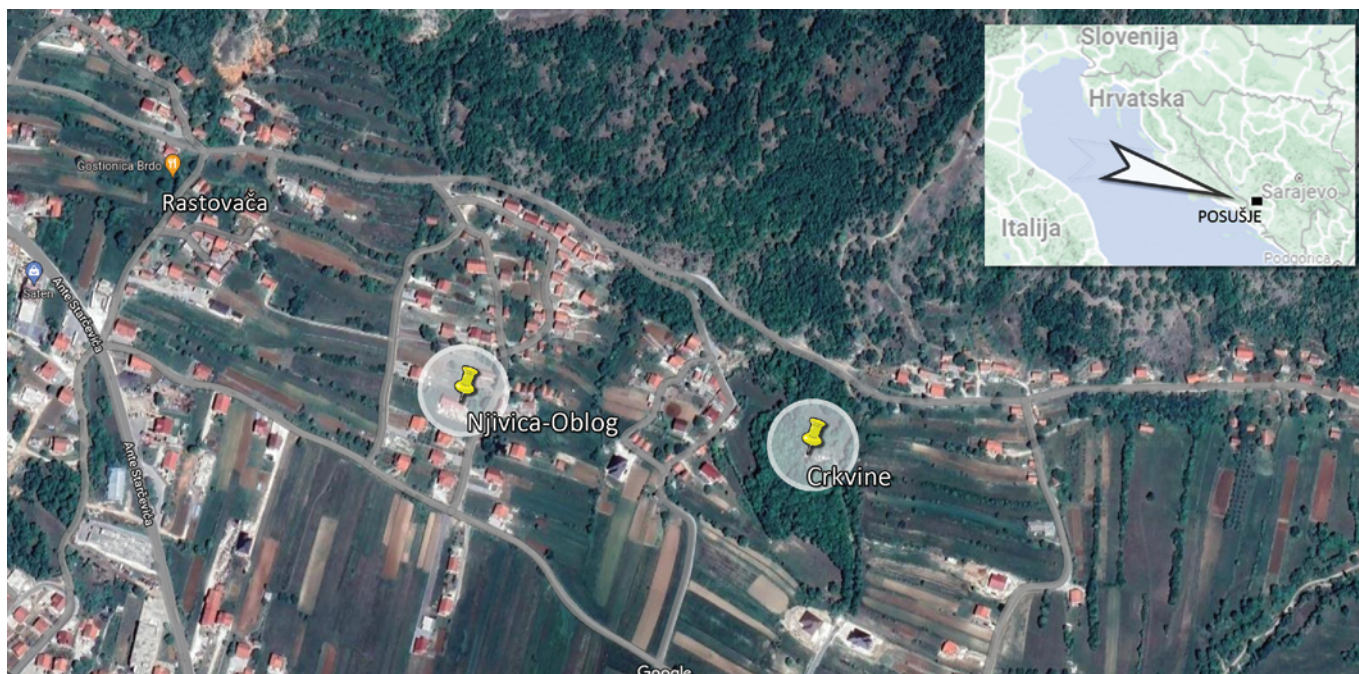
## THE LATE ANTIQUE NJIVICA – OBLOG NECROPOLIS IN RASTOVAČA NEAR POSUŠJE

U selu Rastovača kod Posušja, na položaju Njivice – Oblog, otkrivena je 2013. g. kasnoantička nekropola. Ovim radom biti će analizirani rezultati iskopavanja četiri groba iz kasnoantičkog razdoblja koji su pripadali groblju na redove. Donosimo i slučajni nalaz štitolike pređice, pronađene na Gradini u Koritima kod Tomislavgrada.

**Ključne riječi:** Posušje, Rastovača, Njivice – Oblog, Tomislavgrad, Gradina – Korita, pređice, kasna antika, nekropola

In the village of Rastovača near Posušje, at the Njivice – Oblog site, a Late Antique necropolis was discovered in 2013. This paper will analyse the results of the excavation of four graves from the Late Antique period which are of row cemetery type. The accidental finding of a shield-like buckle, discovered at Gradina in Korita near Tomislavgrad is also presented.

**Key words:** Posušje, Rastovača, Njivice – Oblog, Tomislavgrad, Gradina – Korita, buckles, Late Antique, necropolis



Slika 1. Karta s prikazom mjesta nalaza grobova na položaju Njivica – Oblog i lokalitet Crkvine (Bešlića groblje) s GPS koordinatama  
 Figure 1. Map showing the location of the graves at the Njivica – Oblog site and the Crkvine (Bešlića groblje) site with GPS coordinates  
 priredio / prepared by: Lj. Oreč

### ARHEOLOŠKO-TOPOGRAFSKI OKVIR

Selo Rastovača smješteno je istočno od Posušja na sjevernom rubu Rastovačkog polja, a proteže se u smjeru istok-zapad, dok ga na sjevernoj strani omeđuje brdo Radovanj. Taj je kraj iznimno bogat hrastovom šumom prema kojoj je Rastovača i dobila ime. Plodno tlo Rastovačkog polja te i prostor oko njega omogućavali su stanovništvu da se od davnina bavi stočarstvom i zemljoradnjom pa je taj kraj neprekidno nastanjen već od starijeg neolitika.<sup>1</sup> Područje je Rastovače, kao i cijeli posuški kraj,<sup>2</sup> vrlo siromašno vodom, naročito izvorima i stalnim površinskim tokovima. Na tom području ne nalazimo ni jedan izvor značajnije i stalne izdašnosti.<sup>3</sup> Ipak, zbog svog položaja, Rastovačko je polje kao i čitav posuški kraj, tijekom svoje duge prošlosti predstavljalo poveznicu između priobalja i unutrašnjosti, te je taj prostor otvaralo doticajima Mediterana i Europe (Sl. 1).

Iako u ovom radu prikazujemo otkrivenu kasnoantičku nekropolu, radi boljeg razumijevanja potrebno ga je upotpuniti pregledom arheoloških lokaliteta razmještenih na području Rastovače. Premda nisu provedena sustavna

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND TOPOGRAPHICAL FRAMEWORK

The village of Rastovača is located east of Posušje on the northern edge of the Rastovačko polje, it stretches in the east-west direction, and it is bordered by the Radovanj hill on the northern side. Rastovača was named after oak (Croatian: *hrast*) because the area is exceptionally rich in oak forest. The fertile soil of the Rastovačko polje and the surrounding area have enabled the population to engage in cattle-farming and agriculture since ancient times, and this area has been continuously inhabited since the Old Neolithic period.<sup>1</sup> The area of Rastovača, as well as the entire Posušje region,<sup>2</sup> is very water-scarce, especially in springs and constant surface flows. We did not find any significant or constantly flowing spring in this area.<sup>3</sup> However, due to its position the Rastovačko polje, as well as the entire Posušje region, presented a link between the coast and the interior during its long history, and this area was exposed to Mediterranean and European influence (Fig. 1).

Although this paper presents the discovered Late Antique necropolis, for better understanding, it is necessary

1 O prapovijesnim lokalitetima na području Općine Posušje vidi P. Oreč 1977, 181–291.  
 2 Pod tim pojmom redovito se podrazumijeva posuška kotlina, koja se proteže od Vranića na istoku do Zavelima na zapadu, od Tribistova na sjeveru do brda iznad Batina i Osoja na jugu.  
 3 V. Jukić 1998, 21–22.

1 On prehistoric sites in the Municipality of Posušje, see P. Oreč 1977, 181–291.  
 2 This term regularly means the Posušje valley, which stretches from Vranić in the east to Zavelim in the west, from Tribistovo in the north to the hills above Batin and Osoj in the south.  
 3 V. Jukić 1998, 21–22.



Slika 2. Crkvina (Bešlića groblje), Rastovača

Figure 2. Crkvine (Bešlića groblje), Rastovača

foto / photo: Lj. Oreč

arheološka istraživanja koja bi rezultirala rasvjetljivanjem povijesti tog kraja, različiti mikrotoponimi i slučajno prikupljeni nalazi otkrivaju značajne arheološke lokalitete.

Potrebno je odmah na početku spomenuti toponim Crkvine koji se zadržao u tradiciji samih mještana, a nalazi se u blizini nekropole na udaljenosti od oko 340 m u smjeru istoka (Sl. 2). Lokalitet je smješten na uzvisini u odnosu na nekropolu, na 651 m n.v., kao prepoznatljiva točka u samom mjestu. Ima oblik ovalnog humka na kojem se nalazi aktivno katoličko groblje. Lokalitet Crkvine u arheološku literaturu ulazi prvi put pod nazivom Bešlića groblje, a spominje ga Š. Bešlagić 1971. g., kad je popisao osam stećaka u obliku ploča. Nadalje, P. Oreč i M. Vego spominju fragment rimskog arhitektonskog ukrasa s akantusovim lišćem koji je sekundarno upotrijebljen za grobnu kapelicu.<sup>4</sup> Prema M. Vegi, u centru sela Rastovače smjestilo se veliko rimsko naselje. Tu tezu potkrepljuje velikim brojem nalaza rimske keramike, građevinskih i profiliranih komada kamena otkrivenih na tom području, a koje je sačuvalo lokalno stanovništvo.<sup>5</sup>

Ostatci rimske utvrde nalaze se na položaju Vučja gradina na Ivoviku, na istočnoj strani brda Radovanj, uz Brinu koja rasijeca brdo od Ivovika do Rastovače na dubini od 20 do 150 m. Kroz Rastovaču i gradinu na Ivoviku prolazio je rimski put (Narona – Bigeste – Gradac – Rastovača – Ivovik – Tribistovo – Rakitno – Blidinje).<sup>6</sup> Gradina je smješтана na kraku brda u vidu kose koja je s južne strane zaštićena okomitom liticom, a sa ostalih strana opasana lučno povijenim suhozidom. Na njoj je pokusna istraživanja proveo P. Oreč, te je utvrdio kulturni sloj

to supplement it with an overview of the archaeological sites located in the area of Rastovača. Although no systematic archaeological research has been conducted that would result in elucidating the history of the area, various micro-toponyms and randomly collected findings reveal significant archaeological sites.

At the very beginning, it is necessary to mention the toponym Crkvine which has remained in the tradition of the locals, and it is located near the necropolis at a distance of about 340 m to the east (Fig. 2). The site is located on an elevation in relation to the necropolis, at 651 m above sea level as a recognizable point in the village. It has the shape of an oval mound with an active Catholic cemetery. The site of the Crkvine appears in the archaeological sources for the first time under the name Bešlić cemetery, and it is mentioned by Š. Bešlagić in 1971 when he listed eight stećak tombstones in the form of slabs. Furthermore, P. Oreč and M. Vego mention a fragment of a Roman architectural ornament with acanthus leaves that was secondarily used for the tomb chapel.<sup>4</sup> According to M. Vego, a large Roman settlement was located in the centre of the village of Rastovača. This thesis is supported by a large number of findings of Roman pottery, building and profiled pieces of stone which were discovered in the area, and preserved by the local population.<sup>5</sup>

The remains of a Roman fort are located at the Vučja gradina site on Ivovik, on the east side of the Radovanj hill, along Brina which cuts the hill from Ivovik to Rastovača at a depth of 20 to 150 m. The Roman road (Narona – Bigeste – Gradac – Rastovača – Ivovik – Tribistovo – Rakitno – Blidinje) passed through Rastovača and the Ivovik hillfort.<sup>6</sup> The hillfort is located on the side of a hill in the form of a slope which is protected on the south side by a vertical cliff, and on the other sides by an arched dry-stone wall. P. Oreč conducted experimental research on it, and determined the cultural layer from the Bronze and Iron Ages, the Roman Age and the Middle Ages.<sup>7</sup> In addition, P. Oreč mentions in his field diary from 1971 the Nožinački brig site in Rastovača, where 50 graves were discovered during construction works, probably from period of the Late Middle Ages.<sup>8</sup> He states that the graves were facing in the east-west direction, buried in the ground about 1 m deep with stone tomb architecture and stone tomb covers. Nothing was recovered, except for one preserved wooden box. P. Oreč finally concludes that before the arrival of the Austro-Hungarian authority there were

4 N. Miletić 1964, 46.

5 M. Vego 1964, 46.

6 P. Oreč 1977, 212.

4 N. Miletić 1964, 46.

5 M. Vego 1964, 46.

6 P. Oreč 1977, 212.

7 P. Oreč 1977, 212–213; 1984, 102.

8 In the article "Prapovijesna naselja i grobne gomile (Posušje, Grude i Lištica)" P. Oreč introduces the Nožinački brig site into the professional literature for the first time, describing it exclusively as a prehistoric site, without the mentioned graves. On the Nožinački brig site, see P. Oreč 1977, 187–188; 1988, 272.



Slika 3. Njivice – Oblog, fotografije grobova

foto / photo: T. Bešlić

Figure 3. Njivice – Oblog, grave photographs

brončanog i željeznog doba, rimskog doba i srednjeg vijeka.<sup>7</sup> Osim toga, P. Oreč u svom terenskom dnevniku iz 1971. g. navodi lokalitet Nožinački brig u Rastovači gdje je prilikom izvođenja građevinskih radova otkriveno 50 grobova, vjerojatno iz vremena kasnog srednjeg vijeka.<sup>8</sup> Navodi da su grobovi bili okrenuti u pravcu istok-zapad, ukopani u zemlju oko 1 m s kamenom grobnom arhitekturom i kamenim poklopnicama. Od nalaza nije pronađeno ništa, osim jednog sačuvanog drvenog sanduka. P. Oreč na kraju zaključuje da se prije dolaska Austro-Ugarske na tom mjestu nalazilo 30 – 40 stećaka te da su prilikom izgradnje ceste Posušje – Široki Brijeg 1908. g. stećci dislocirani ili uništeni.<sup>9</sup>

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Na položaju Njivice – Oblog u selu Rastovača kod Posušja u listopadu 2013. g., prilikom gradnje obiteljske kuće, otkrivena je kasnoantička nekropola na redove (Sl. 3).<sup>10</sup> Stručna arheološka istraživanja nisu provedena, ali zahvaljujući intervenciji fra Milana Lončara, ravnatelja muzeja „U kući oca mojega“ u Posušju, koji nam je ustupio pronađeni grobni inventar te informacije o dimenzijama i položaju grobova, doznajemo pojedinosti o samoj nekropoli.<sup>11</sup>

30–40 stećak tombstones on the site, and that during the construction of the road Posušje – Široki Brijeg in 1908 the stećak tombstones were dislocated or destroyed.<sup>9</sup>

### LATE ANTIQUE NJIVICA – OBLOG NECROPOLIS IN RASTOVAČA NEAR POSUŠJE

At the Njivice – Oblog site in the village of Rastovača near Posušje in October 2013, during the construction of a family house, a Late Antique row necropolis was discovered (Fig. 3).<sup>10</sup> Professional archaeological research has not been conducted, but thanks to the intervention of Fr. Milan Lončar, the director of the museum “U kući oca mojega” in Posušje, who granted us the access to the discovered grave inventory, and to information about the dimensions and the location of graves, we learned the details about the necropolis.<sup>11</sup>

In the first phase of the construction, three graves were discovered, and the fourth was discovered in a later phase. The graves belong to a small necropolises type with flat graves in rows (Fig. 4) with the east to west orientation (the head pointing towards west). The graves had no external features. The graves are made of stone and in the form of a chest, which are constructed of vertically placed stone

7 P. Oreč 1977, 212–213; 1984, 102.

8 U članku „Prapovijesna naselja i grobne gomile (Posušje, Grude i Lištica)“ P. Oreč prvi put u stručnu literaturu uvodi lokalitet Nožinački brig, isključivo ga opisujući kao prapovijesno nalazište, bez spomenutih grobova. O lokalitetu Nožinački brig vidi P. Oreč 1977, 187–188; 1988, 272.

9 P. Oreč, 1971, inv. br. 349 (rukopis). U Franjevačkom muzeju „U kući oca mojega“ u Posušju čuva se vrijedna ostavština P. Oreča, koju su donirali njegovi nasljednici.

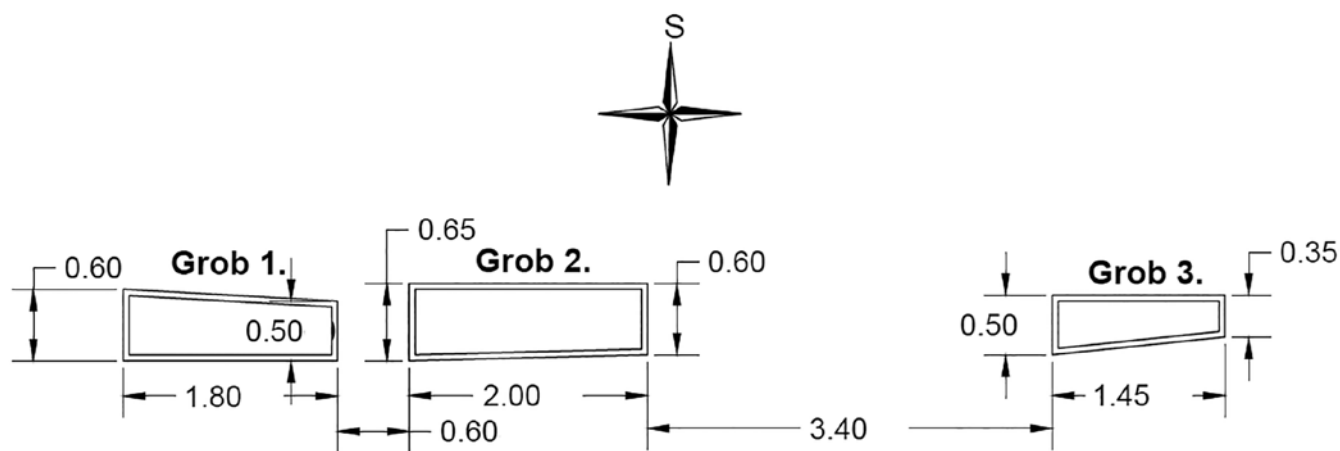
10 U ovom radu prvi put iznosimo podatke o novootkrivenoj nekropoli u Rastovači. Nekropola se nalazi na 624 m nadmorske visine s GPS koordinatama lokacije N43°28.054' E17°20.949'. Grobovi su pronađeni sjeverozapadno od kuće Tomislava (Jozina) Bešlića, na samom rubu temelja spomenute kuće, na dubini između 65 i 110 cm.

11 Pronađeni nalazi danas se čuvaju u Franjevačkom muzeju „U kući oca mojega“ u Posušju. Kao autori prvog stalnog postava obradili smo i smjestili pored ovih nalaza iz Rastovače i ostale vrijedne arheološke nalaze s područja Općine Posušje, a koji su do 2015. g. bili dijelom privatnih zbirki. Ovim putem

9 P. Oreč, 1971, inv. no. 349 (manuscript). The Franciscan Museum “U kući oca mojega” in Posušje preserves the valuable legacy of P. Oreč, donated by his heirs.

10 In this paper, for the first time, we present data on the newly discovered necropolis in Rastovača. The necropolis is located at 624 m above sea level with GPS coordinates of the location N43°28.054' E17°20.949'. The graves were found northwest of the house of Tomislav (Jozina) Bešlić, on the very edge of the foundations of the aforementioned house, at a depth of between 65 and 110 cm.

11 The findings are kept today in the Franciscan Museum “U kući oca mojega” in Posušje. As the authors of the first permanent exhibition, in addition to these findings from Rastovača, we processed and placed other valuable archaeological findings from the area of the Municipality of Posušje, which until 2015 were a part of private collections. We would like to thank many colleagues, institutions and many enthusiasts and collectors who helped us in various ways and provided archaeological material for the installation of the first permanent exhibition in the Municipality of Posušje.



Slika 4. Njivica – Oblog, tlocrt grobova: 1 – 3, rekonstruirano na temelju dobivenih podataka

Figure 4. Njivica – Oblog, the ground plan of the graves: 1–3, reconstructed on the basis of the obtained data

izradio / made by: Lj. Oreč

U prvom zahvatu građevinskih radova otkrivena su tri groba, a u daljnjem tijeku radova i četvrti. Pripadaju tipu malih nekropola s ravnim grobovima na redove (Sl. 4) i s orijentacijom istok-zapad (glava na zapadu). Grobovi nisu imali nikakvih vanjskih obilježja. Riječ je o grobovima s kamenom grobnom arhitekturom u obliku sanduka, koji su načinjeni od okomito postavljenih kamenih ploča s kamenim pokrovom, izuzev groba 4 koji je osim skromnije kamene arhitekture u odnosu na prethodna tri groba imao i pokrov načinjen od tegula u „obliku krova kuće“. Grobne konstrukcije uglavnom imaju zemljanu podlogu, jedino što grob 2 ima popločano dno. U svim otkrivenim grobovima ukapan je po jedan pokojnik, ali ostali smo uskraćeni za informaciju o položaju pronađenih nalaza u grobu.

#### OPIS GROBOVA

**Grob 1;** dimenzije: oko 180 cm dužine, na zapadnoj strani gdje je glava pokojnika širok je oko 60 cm, a na istočnoj oko 50 cm. Priloga u grobu nije bilo.

**Grob 2;** nalazi se oko 60 cm istočno od groba 1. Dimenzije: oko 200 cm dužine, na zapadnom dijelu gdje je glava pokojnika širok je 65 cm, a na istočnom 60 cm. Sjeverna okomita kamena ploča postavljena je u jednom komadu, a dno je groba popločano.

Nalazi:

1. željezni nož, djelomično sačuvan, s odlomljenim trnom za nasad drške. Vel.: duž. 7,2 cm, šir. oštrice 1,5 cm, težina: 6 g. (Sl. 5)

slabs with a stone cover, except for the grave 4, which, in addition to more modest stone architecture compared to the previous three graves, had a cover made of tegulae in the shape of “a house roof”. The grave constructions mostly have an earthen base, except for the grave 2 which has a paved bottom. Each of the discovered graves was the burial ground for a single deceased person, but we were deprived of the information on the exact position of the findings discovered in the grave.

#### THE DESCRIPTION OF THE GRAVES

**Grave 1;** dimensions: about 180 cm long, 60 cm wide on the west side where the head of the deceased is positioned, and about 50 cm wide on the east side. There were no additions in the grave.

**Grave 2;** it is located about 60 cm east of grave 1. Dimensions: about 200 cm long, 65 cm wide on the western side where the head of the deceased is positioned, and 60 cm wide on the eastern side. The northern vertical stone slab was laid in one piece, and the bottom of the grave was paved.

Findings:

1. an iron knife, partly preserved, with a broken handle thorn. Size: length 7.2 cm, blade width 1.5 cm, weight: 6 g (Fig. 5)

2. bronze buckle, casting. The frame is oval. The point of the prong bends and stretches over the frame. The prong has a shield-shaped base, and in the middle, there is an incised sign in the shape of the Roman number *IV* or the monogram *N* which is bordered by a double row of circles. Two incised lines run parallel from the top and through the middle of the prong. The frame is decorated with a series of indented dots on the upper edge which are not found on the axis of the prong. Size: 2×3 cm, prong length 2.7 cm, frame thickness 0.5 cm, prong axis thickness 0.3 cm, weight: 15 g (Figs. 6–7)

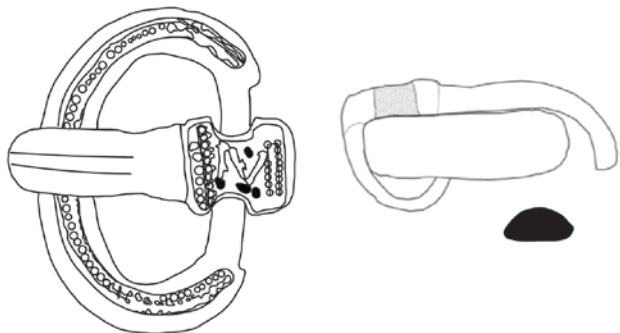


Slika 5. Njivica – Oblog, željezni nož; grob 2

crtež i foto / drawing and photo: Lj. Oreč



Figure 5. Njivica – Oblog, iron knife; grave 2



Slika 6. Njivica – Oblog, brončana pređica sa štitolikom bazom trna; grob 2

Figure 6. Njivica – Oblog, bronze buckle with a shield-like prong; grave 2

crtež / drawing: Lj. Oreč



Slika 7. Njivica – Oblog, brončana pređica; grob 2

Figure 7. Njivica – Oblog, bronze buckle; grave 2

foto / photo: Lj. Oreč



Slika 8. Njivica – Oblog, novčić cara Valensa ili Valentinijana?; grob 2

Figure 8. Njivica – Oblog, a coin of Emperor Valens or Valentinian?; grave 2

foto / photo: Lj. Oreč

2. brončana pređica, lijevanje. Alka je ovalnog oblika. Vrh trna savija se i prelazi preko alke. Trn ima štitoliku bazu, a u sredini je urezan znak u obliku rimskog broja *IV* ili monogram *N* koji je omeđen dvostrukim nizom kružića. Od samog vrha i sredinom trna protežu se paralelno dvije urezane linije. Alka je na gornjem rubu ukrašena nizom udubljenih točkica, ali ih nema na osovini trna. Vel.: 2 × 3 cm, duž. trna 2,7 cm, deb. alke 0,5 cm, deb. osovine trna 0,3 cm, težina: 15 g. (Sl. 6–7)

3. coin, Roman, 16–17 mm, 2 g, Emperor Valentinian (364–375) or Valens (364–378)?<sup>12</sup> (Fig. 8)

4. fragments of an iron object of an unknown purpose. (Fig. 9)

12 I would like to thank Mate Ilkić, PhD, for the analysis of the coin.

3. novac, rimski, 16 – 17 mm, 2 g, Car Valentinijan (364. – 375.) ili Valens (364. – 378.)<sup>12</sup> (Sl. 8)

4. fragmenti željeznog predmeta nepoznate namjene. (Sl. 9)

**Grob 3;** nalazi se oko 3,40 m istočno od groba 2. Dimenzije: oko 145 cm dužine, širina na zapadnom dijelu kod glave oko 50 cm, a na istočnom dijelu 35 cm. Priloga u grobu nije bilo.

**Grob 4;** u drugom zahvatu građevinskih radova otkriven je još i četvrti grob za koji smo dobili sljedeće informacije: nalazi se na dubini od 110 cm, dug je 140 cm, dubina samog groba iznosi 35 do 40 cm, a udaljen je oko 13,50 m zapadno od groba 3. Ima siromašniju kamenu grobnu arhitekturu od prethodno pronađenih, ali u ovom je slučaju, na grobu bila i „poklopnica u obliku krova kuće“ zbog čega se vjerojatno radi o grobu pod tegulama. Priloga u grobu nije bilo.

U razgovoru s lokalnim stanovništvom doznajemo da su prilikom gradnje objekata pronalazili i druge grobove na tom području. Nažalost, izostala su zaštitna arheološka istraživanja, a razlog tome je nepostojanja institucije koja bi bila nadležna za arheološka iskopavanja na području Županije Zapadnohercegovačke. Nadamo se da će buduća arheološka istraživanja na tom lokalitetu obogatiti dosadašnje znanje o kasnoantičkom razdoblju Posušja.

## ANALIZA GROBNIH NALAZA

Prikupljeni podatci koje smo podastri, kao i pronađeni nalazi u grobu 2, ipak su dovoljni za okvirno kronološko određenje nekropole na Njivicama. Analizom grobnog fundusa došli smo do zaključka da je riječ o groblju na kojem je pokapano kasnoantičko autohtono stanovništvo. Upravo je predica sa štitolikom naglašenom bazom trna, pronađena u grobu 2, presudan čimbenik za kronološku determinantu nekropole Njivice – Oblog (Sl. 6–7).

Predicama se nazivaju uporabni predmeti čija je funkcija vezana za remenje, i to u najvećem broju slučajeva na odjeći, ali i obući. Predice su služile kopčanju remena koji su imali funkciju opasača, ali i vješanju vrećica i torbica na opasač. Česta je zajednička pojava predica i željeznih noževa, kao i u ovom slučaju, što ukazuje na mogućnost upotrebe metalnih predica za pričvršćivanje korica noževa za opasač.<sup>13</sup>

Tipološko-stilskom analizom i usporedbama s pronađenim predicama na području nekadašnje provincije Dalmacije, utvrdili smo da je taj oblik baze trna karakterističan za predice 6. i ranog 7. st., s težištem na drugoj polovini 6. st. i neposredno nakon 600. g.<sup>14</sup> Vrh trna koji prelazi preko alke jedna je od osnovnih osobina predica i

**Grave 3;** it is located about 3.40 m east of grave 2. Dimensions: about 145 cm long, about 50 cm wide in the western part where the head is positioned, and 35 cm in the eastern part. There were no contributions in the grave.

**Grave 4;** a fourth grave was discovered in the second phase of the construction work, for which we received the following information: it is located at a depth of 110 cm, it is 140 cm long, the depth of the grave is 35 to 40 cm, and it is located about 13.50 m west of grave 3. It has poorer stone tomb architecture compared to previously found graves, but in this case the grave also had a “cover in the form of a house roof”, and it is probably a grave under tegulae. There were no additions in the grave.

In a conversation with the local population, we learned that they found other graves in the area during the construction of the buildings. Unfortunately, there were no rescue archaeological research due to the lack of an institution that would be responsible for the archaeological excavations in the West Herzegovina County. We hope that the future archaeological research at this site will enrich the current knowledge about the Late Antique period of Posušje.

## THE ANALYSIS OF GRAVE FINDINGS

The collected data that we presented, as well as the findings discovered in grave 2, are still sufficient for a rough chronological determination of the necropolis in Njivice. By analysing the grave fundus, we came to the conclusion that this cemetery was the burial ground for the local population of the Late Antique period. The buckle with the accentuated shield-shaped prong base, found in grave 2, is the decisive factor for the chronological determination of the Njivice – Oblog necropolis (Figs. 6–7).

Buckles are useful objects whose function is related to belts, and in most cases to clothes, but also footwear. The buckles were used for fastening of the waist belts, but also for hanging bags and purses on the belt. Buckles and iron knives often appear together, as in this case, which indicates the possibility of using metal buckles for the fastening of knife-sheaths to belts.<sup>13</sup>

Through typological and stylistic analysis, and comparisons with buckles found in the former province of Dalmatia, we determined that this type of prong base is characteristic of buckles from the 6<sup>th</sup> and early 7<sup>th</sup> century, with a focus on the second half of the 6<sup>th</sup> century and immediately after 600 AD.<sup>14</sup> The point of the prong that stretches over the frame is one of the basic features of buckles and belt buckles during the period of migration.<sup>15</sup> If we take all this into account, as well as the contributions found only in grave 2, we would have

12 Na pomoći pri analizi novčića zahvaljujem dr. sc. Mati Ilkiću.

13 T. Fabijanić 2004, 54.

14 Z. Vinski 1991, 12.

13 T. Fabijanić 2004, 54.

14 Z. Vinski 1991, 12.

15 T. Fabijanić 2004, 54.



Slika 9. Njivica – Oblog, fragmenti željeznog predmeta nepoznate namjene; grob 2  
 Figure 9. Njivica – Oblog, fragments of an iron object of an unknown purpose; grave 2

foto / photo: Lj. Oreč

pojasnih kopči vremena seobe naroda.<sup>15</sup> Ako bismo sve to uzeli u obzir, kao i priloge koji su pronađeni samo u grobu 2, morali bismo govoriti o nešto širem vremenskom rasponu ukapanja na nekropoli Njivice – Oblog od ranije navedenog, pogotovo ako je dolazilo do prekida pokapanja na pojedinim dijelovima nekropole. Pri datiranju

to talk about a somewhat longer time span of burials in the Njivice – Oblog necropolis than previously mentioned, especially if there was an interruption of burials in certain parts of the necropolis. When it comes to dating the burials in the necropolis, we determined a somewhat broader chronological definition. It would seem that the only common rule of all the graves in the Njivice necropolis is the manner of burial in graves with architecture, which was an old tradition for this area.

15 T. Fabijanić, 2004, 54.



pokapanja na nekropoli, opredijelili bismo se za nešto šire kronološko određenje. Svim grobovima na nekropoli na Njivicama izgleda da je jedino zajedničko pravilo način ukopa u grobove s arhitekturom, a koje ima dugu tradiciju na ovom području.

Štitolika baza trna na pronađenoj predici jedan je od najpopularnijih načina oblikovanja baze trna i u provinciji Dalmaciji i diljem Europe, a koja se osim na predicama vrlo često javlja i na pojasnim kopčama. Pređice s naglašeno štitolikim bazama (ali i one s nenaglašeno štitolikim bazama) postaju omiljene i kod raznih germanskih naroda npr. Langobarda, Vizigota, Franka, Gepida itd. Upravo je taj podatak iznimno zanimljiv, posebno u svjetlu činjenice da štitolike baze trna nedostaju na kasnoantičkim kopčama što ukazuje na veliki germanski udio u širenju tog načina izrade. Važno je spomenuti da se štitolike baze trna ne susreću kod Istočnih Gota jer oni sredinom 6. st. nestaju s povijesne scene.<sup>16</sup>

S obzirom na raširenost tog načina oblikovanja baze trna, broj poznatih analognih primjera jako je velik, pa će se navesti samo neki, i to s područja provincije Dalmacije. Osam predica i jedan trn potječu s nekropole Knin – Greblje, sedam je primjeraka naglašene varijante – evidentirano u grobovima 5, 7, 107 i 120 (dva primjerka), a izvan grobnih cjelina pronađeni su predica i trn (bez alke). Dvije su pređice pronađene na položaju Split – Manuš, i to u sarkofagu 3 i uz grob 13, a po jedna na lokalitetima Kašić – Galvčurak, Bisko – Škalje i Salona. Grobni su nalazi predica iz groba 34, s nekropole Rakovčani – Bošnjica voće i predica iz groba 57, s nekropole Gradina – Korita.<sup>17</sup> Brončana predica s Njivica ima izvjesne sličnosti u načinu ukrašavanja s brončanom pozlaćenom predicom pronađenom u grobu 107 na nekropoli Knin – Greblje, a oblikom i dimenzijama najbliža je brončanoj predici pronađenoj na položaju Split – Manuši, u sarkofagu 3. Podrijetlo pređice treba tražiti u domaćim radionicama u Dalmaciji.

Uočavajući važnost samog toponima Crkvine koji se nalazi u blizini kasnoantičke nekropole, potrebno je razriješiti logične veze između tih dviju pojava. Nameće se zaključak da se vjerojatno na tom mjestu nalazila kasnoantička bazilika obližnjeg naselja. Međutim, pretpostavka o postojanju te građevine na Crkvinama ne može se sa sigurnošću potvrditi zbog nepostojanja arheološkog materijala koji bi se pouzdano mogao vezati za nju. Evidentno je da su onemogućena bilo kakva arheološka iskopavanja na tom lokalitetu zbog aktivnog groblja, ali možda će novi nalazi bolje osvijetliti ovdje postavljeno pitanje, koje se još ne može riješiti zbog pomanjkanja potrebnih podataka.

The shield-shaped prong base on the discovered buckle is one of the most popular ways of shaping the prong base in the province of Dalmatia and throughout Europe, and which, in addition to buckles, often occurs on belt buckles. Buckles with accentuated shield-like bases (but also those with unaccentuated shield bases) became popular with various Germanic peoples, such as the Lombards, the Visigoths, the Franks, the Gepids, etc. This information is extremely interesting, especially in light of the fact that shield-like prong bases are missing from the Late Antique buckles which indicates a large German influence on the spread of this method of manufacturing. It is important to mention that the shield-like prong bases are not found in the Ostrogoths because they disappeared from the historical scene in the middle of the 6<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>16</sup>

Given the prevalence of this method of shaping the prong base, the number of known similar examples is very large, so only a few from the province of Dalmatia will be listed. Eight buckles and one prong originate from the Knin – Greblje necropolis, seven specimens of the accentuated variant were recorded in graves 5, 7, 107 and 120 (two specimens), and a buckle and a prong (without the frame) were found outside the graves. Two buckles were found at the Split – Manuš site, in sarcophagus 3 and next to the grave 13, and single buckles were found at each of the Kašić – Galvčurak, Bisko – Škalje, and Salona sites. The grave findings include: a buckle from the grave 34, from the Rakovčani – Bošnjica voće necropolis, and a buckle from the grave 57, from the Gradina – Korita necropolis.<sup>17</sup> A bronze buckle from Njivice has certain decorative similarities with the bronze gilded buckle found in the grave 107 in the Knin – Greblje necropolis, and its shape and dimensions are closest to the bronze buckle found at the Split – Manuša site in sarcophagus 3. The origin of the buckle should be sought in local workshops in Dalmatia.

Noticing the importance of the Crkvine toponym, which is located near the Late Antique necropolis, it is necessary to resolve the logical connections between these two phenomena. The conclusion is that a Late Antique basilica of a nearby settlement was probably located there. However, the assumption about the existence of such building in Crkvine cannot be confirmed with certainty due to the lack of archaeological material that could be reliably linked to it. It is obvious that any archaeological excavations at that site have been prevented due to an active cemetery, but perhaps new findings will shed more light on the issue raised here which cannot be resolved yet due to the lack of necessary data.

16 T. Fabijanić 2004, 69.

17 Z. Vinski 1991, 17–19; T. Fabijanić 2004, 66–67.

16 T. Fabijanić 2004, 69.

17 Z. Vinski 1991, 17–19; T. Fabijanić 2004, 66–67.



Slika 10. Gradina – Korita, Tomislavgrad, brončana pređica

foto / photo: Lj. Oreč

### ZAKLJUČAK

U ovom radu donosimo rezultate istraživanja koja su se odvijala 2013. g. na lokalitetu Njivice – Oblog gdje su pronađena četiri groba. Novootkriveni grobovi vjerojatno su dio veće kasnoantičke nekropole na redove. Od pronađenih nalaza posebno se ističe pređica s naglašenom štitolikom bazom trna, pronađena u grobu 2, koja se uglavnom javlja kod autohtonog kasnoantičkog stanovništva. Pređica nam je omogućila okvirnu kronološku determinaciju nekropole. Jedna od njezinih zanimljivosti svakako je urezani znak na bazi trna koji podsjeća na rimski broj *IV* ili se pak radi o monogramu *N*. Različiti autori smještaju taj tip pređice u 6. i početak 7. st. Također, u radu donosimo i slučajni nalaz pređice sa štitolikom bazom trna s lokaliteta Gradina – Korita kod Tomislavgrada, za koji vezujemo i prva sustavna istraživanja kad su u pitanju grobovi i nalazi iz razdoblja kasne antike na području Hercegovine.

Potrebno je naglasiti da nam je u tom procesu zaštitnih istraživanja, kao nažalost, i u svakom drugom procesu koji se dotiče zaštite materijalnog kulturnog dobra i spriječavanja daljnje destrukcije, na području Općine Posušje, ali i šire, nedostajala potpora zapravo nepostojećih institucija. Suštinu zaštitnih aktivnosti, osim stručno-znanstvenog konteksta, čini i zakonitost djelovanja i financijski potencijal. Veliki nedostatak takvog kadra potencira prepuštanje ovakvih slučajeva samo i isključivo volji i brizi pojedinaca.

Nadamo se da ćemo ovim našim skromnim radom doprinjeti daljnjem, sustavnom istraživanju spomenutih nekropola, a koje će u budućnosti biti omogućeno radom i zalaganjem državnih i lokalnih institucija.

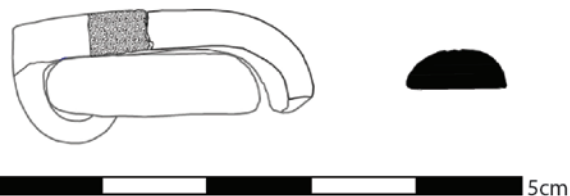


Figure 10. Gradina – Korita, Tomislavgrad, bronze buckle

### CONCLUSION

This paper presents the results of research conducted in 2013 at the Njivice – Oblog site where four graves were discovered. The newly discovered graves are probably part of a larger Late Antique row necropolis. A single buckle stands out amid the findings; it was discovered in grave 2, it has an accentuated shield-like prong base which mainly occurs amongst the Late Antique local population. The buckle provided us with a rough chronological determination of the necropolis. One of its curiosities is certainly the engraved sign on the prong base, reminiscent of the Roman numeral *IV* or the monogram *N*. Various authors place this type of buckle in the 6<sup>th</sup> and early 7<sup>th</sup> century. The paper also presents the accidental finding of a buckle with a shield-like prong base from the Gradina – Korita site near Tomislavgrad, which is linked to the first systematic research on graves and findings from the Late Antique period in Herzegovina.

It should be emphasized that this process of rescue archaeological research, as well as any other process involving the protection of material cultural property and prevention of further destruction, in the Municipality of Posušje and beyond, lacked the support of the essentially non-existent institutions. The essence of rescue activities, apart from the professional-scientific context, is the legality of actions and the financial potential. The enormous lack of such facilities emphasizes the relinquishing of such cases only and exclusively to the will and care of individuals.

We hope that with this modest work we will contribute to further, systematic research of the mentioned necropolises, which will be enabled in the future by the work and commitment of the state and local institutions.

## DODATAK

Prilikom terenskog pregleda 2013. g. pronađena je još jedna brončana pređica sa štitolikom bazom trna na položaju JZ dijela Gradine u Koritima kod Tomislavgrada.<sup>18</sup>

Brončana pređica, lijevanje. Alka je ovalnog oblika i ukrašena je nizom udubljenih točkica, a na jednak je način ukrašen i trn te njegova baza. Vrh trna savija se i prelazi preko alke. Trn ima štitoliku bazu. Vel. 1,9 × 3 cm, duž. trna 2,5 cm, deb. alke 0,5 cm, deb. osovine trna 0,3 cm, težina 16 g (Sl. 10).

Na lokalitetu Gradina – Korita izvršena su u tri navrata arheološka istraživanja. Pod vodstvom Zdravka Marića 1968. g. izvršena su zaštitna arheološka istraživanja, a u iduće dvije kampanje pod vodstvom Nade Miletić provedena su sustavna arheološka istraživanja 1970. i 1976. g. Tada je istražena površina od 820 m<sup>2</sup> te je sveukupno pronađeno 86 grobova. Ta nekropola uklapa se u tipove rano-srednjovjekovnih naseobinskih grobova na redove.<sup>19</sup>

Najveći broj otkrivenih nalaza pripada ukrasnim i uporabnim dijelovima nošnje, a rjeđi su nakitni ili utilitar- ni predmeti. Tom prilikom u grobu 57 pronađen je samo jedan primjerak neukrašene pređice sa štitolikom bazom trna.<sup>20</sup> Zbog većeg broja željeznih omega-kopči pronađenih na nekropoli Gradina – Korita, pojedini autori smatraju vrlo vjerojatnim da je u blizini postojao radionički centar u blizini.<sup>21</sup>

N. Miletić grobne nalaze iz Korita datira u vrijeme nakon bizantsko-gotskog rata (536./537. g.).<sup>22</sup>

## APPENDIX

During the site inspection in 2013 another bronze buckle with a shield-shaped prong base was found at the position of the SW part of Gradina in Korita near Tomislavgrad.<sup>18</sup>

Bronze buckle, casting. The frame is oval in shape and decorated with a series of concave dots, and the prong and its base are decorated similarly. The top of the prong bends and passes over the frame. The prong has a shield-like base. Size: 1.9×3 cm, prong length 2.5 cm, frame thickness 0.5 cm, prong axis thickness 0.3 cm, weight: 16 g (Fig. 10).

Archaeological excavations have been carried out on three occasions at the Gradina – Korita site. Under the leadership of Zdravko Marić in 1968, protective archaeological excavations were carried out, and in the next two campaigns under the leadership of Nada Miletić, systematic archaeological excavations were carried out in 1970 and 1976. At that time, an area of 820 m<sup>2</sup> was excavated and a total of 86 graves were found. This necropolis fits into the type of row graves pertaining to early medieval settlements.<sup>19</sup>

Most of the findings belong to the decorative and functional parts of the costume, and jewellery or utilitarian items are less common. On that occasion, a single specimen of an undecorated buckle with a shield-shaped prong base was found in grave 57.<sup>20</sup> Due to the large number of iron omega-buckles found in the Gradina – Korita necropolis some authors consider it very likely that there was a workshop centre nearby.<sup>21</sup>

N. Miletić dates the grave findings from Korita to the period after the Byzantine-Gothic war (536/537).<sup>22</sup>

18 Zahvaljujemo kolegi Stipanu Dilberu koji nam je ustupio nalaz i dao informacije potrebne za objavljivanje.

19 N. Miletić 1978, 141.

20 N. Miletić 1978, 155, 175.

21 T. Fabijanić 2004, 101.

22 N. Miletić 1978, 141–204.

18 We thank our colleague Stipan Dilber for providing us with the findings and the information needed for the publication.

19 N. Miletić 1978, 141.

20 N. Miletić 1978, 155, 175.

21 T. Fabijanić 2004, 101.

22 N. Miletić 1978, 141–204.

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