

# TAURIANA: ANTIČKO NASELJE U NOV DOJRANU NA CESTI VIA AXIA

## TAURIANA: AN ANCIENT SETTLEMENT ON THE VIA AXIA ROAD, IN NOV DOJRAN

ANDRIANA PETKOVSKA

Uprava za zaštitu na kulturnoto nasledstvo  
Cultural Heritage Protection Office  
Ulica "Pavel Šatev" br. 3  
MKD-1000 Skoplje  
andriana.petkovska@gmail.com

UDK: 904(497.74)652

DOI: 10.15291/archo.5012

STRUČNI ČLANAK / PROFESSIONAL PAPER

Primljeno / Received: 2025-9-9

Prihvaćeno / Accepted: 2025-10-15

### KLJUČNE RIJEČI:

Tabula Peutingeriana,  
antika, rimski period,  
Tauriana, Via Axia,  
antičke cestovne mreže,  
arheološka istraživanja,  
Nov Dojran

Antičko naselje Tauriana, smješteno kod današnjeg Nov Dojrana u Sjevernoj Makedoniji, predstavlja važnu arheološku i povijesnu točku kao jedna od posljednjih postaja na jednom od antičkih cestovnih pravaca u rimskom razdoblju – na cesti Via Axia, čija je trasa dokumentirana na poznatoj karti Tabula Peutingeriana. Trasa Via Axia protezala se od Thessalonice prema sjevernoj granici Rimskog Carstva kroz dolinu rijeke Vardar (antički Axios) još u ranoj antici. Dolina rijeke Vardar služila je kao drevna komunikacijska ruta još od antike, povezujući različite regije i olakšavajući trgovinu, vojne kampanje i kulturnu razmjenu između juga i sjevera, osobito u ranom antičkom razdoblju. Iako za Taurianu ne postoje mnogi pisani izvori, arheološka istraživanja područja Nov Dojrana otkrivaju važne nalaze koji ukazuju na to da je ovo bilo važno naselje s urbanim elementima u razdoblju Rimskog Carstva. Naime, na cijelom prostoru suvremenog naselja Nov Dojran pronađeni su ostaci građevina, nekropole i veliki broj pokretnih nalaza, poput keramike, kovanica i nakita, koji se datiraju u ranorimski i kasnorimski carski period. Ova arheološka svjedočanstva ukazuju da Tauriana nije bila samo tranzitna točka u cestovnoj mreži između različitih dijelova Rimskog Carstva, već i važan urbani centar s ekonomskom i kulturnom funkcijom. Iako, za razliku od drugih antičkih gradova i naselja u Makedoniji, nije detaljno istražena i ostaje u sjeni većih centara, Tauriana predstavlja ključan pokazatelj za razumijevanje regionalne uloge Dojrana u antičko doba, osobito u kontekstu integracije ovog prostora u sustav Rimskog Carstva.

### KEY WORDS:

Tabula Peutingeriana,  
Antiquity, Roman  
period, Tauriana, Via  
Axia, ancient road  
networks, archaeological  
research, Nov Dojran

The ancient settlement of Tauriana, located near present-day Nov Dojran in Macedonia, constitutes a significant archaeological and historical site, identified as the final station on the Via Axia, a Roman-period road documented on the well-known Tabula Peutingeriana. It ran from Thessaloniki towards the northern frontier of the Roman Empire, following the valley of the River Axios (modern-day Vardar), having served as a vital corridor of movement as early as the Hellenistic and early Roman periods. The valley functioned as an important ancient communication and transportation route, facilitating trade, military campaigns and cultural exchange between the southern and

*northern parts of the empire. Although written sources specifically referring to Tauriana are scarce, archaeological excavations conducted in the area of Nov Dojran have revealed significant remains indicating the presence of a developed settlement with urban characteristics during the Roman Imperial period. Throughout contemporary Nov Dojran, remains of architectural structures, necropolises and a large number of movable finds such as pottery, coins, and jewellery have been uncovered. These artefacts are dated to both the early and late Roman imperial periods, confirming the site's long-term occupation and importance.*

*Such archaeological evidence suggests that Tauriana was not merely a transit station along the Roman road network, but rather a local urban centre with economic and cultural relevance. Although Tauriana has not been thoroughly studied (unlike other ancient cities and settlements in Macedonia) and remains somewhat overshadowed by larger urban centres, it nonetheless serves as a key indicator for understanding the regional role of Dojran in antiquity, particularly within the broader context of the integration of this territory into the infrastructure and administrative system of the Roman Empire.*

Istraživanje antičkih cesta i naselja smještenih uz njihovu trasu predstavlja ključno polazište za razumijevanje komunikacijskih, ekonomskih i vojnih strategija Rimskog Carstva. Među mnogobrojnim cestama koje su zabilježene na karti *Tabula Peutingeriana*,<sup>1</sup> važnom kartografskom izvoru iz kasne antike, nalazi se i trasa Via Axia, čime se ističe važnost te prometnice u regiji (sl. 1). Via Axia predstavlja južni krak takozvane ceste Via Militaris (vojna cesta), koji se odvajao od ceste Beograd – Sofija – Konstantinopol kod Niša (*Naissus*) i slijedio tok rijeke Vardar prema jugu do Thessalonice.<sup>2</sup> Ova magistralna cesta bila je prilagođena za kolni promet, za razliku od starijih cesta, koje su se upotrebljavale isključivo za konjski i karavanski prijevoz.<sup>3</sup>

Nekoliko antičkih gradova i utvrda u Makedoniji strateški je pozicionirano duž trase Via Axia. Ti gradovi služili su kao važni administrativni centri i za trgovinu i u kontekstu vojne obrane. U okviru ove trase, postaja Tau-

The study of ancient roads and the settlements along their routes represents a key aspect in understanding the communication, economic and military strategies of the Roman Empire. Among the many roads documented on the *Tabula Peutingeriana* map<sup>1</sup> (a significant cartographic source from Late Antiquity), the route of Via Axia is also depicted, highlighting its importance as a major thoroughfare in the region (Fig.1). The Via Axia represents the southern branch of the so-called Via Militaris (Military Road), which diverged from the main route connecting Belgrade–Sofia–Constantinople at Naissus (modern-day Niš), and continued southward along the Vardar valley towards Thessaloniki.<sup>2</sup> Unlike older paths used primarily for horse or caravan transport, this principal route was adapted to accommodate wheeled traffic, reflecting the infrastructural advance of the Roman road system.<sup>3</sup>

Several ancient cities and fortresses in Macedonia were strategically positioned along the route of Via Axia. These urban centres



SLIKA 1. *Tabula Peutingeriana*, Segmentum VII – K. Miller, mapa s prikazom Makedonije (izvor: <https://www.tabulapeutingeriana.de/tabula.html?segm=6&pic=m>, doradila: A. Petkovska)

FIGURE 1 *Tabula Peutingeriana*, Segmentum VII - K. Miller, map of Macedonia (source: <https://www.tabula-peutingeriana.de/tabula.html?segm=6&pic=m>, adapted by A. Petkovska)

<sup>1</sup> Karta je dobila ime po njemačkom antikvaru Konradu Peutingeru (1465. – 1547.), izvorno je naslikana u 4. stoljeću, a ponovno iscrтана u 13. stoljeću.

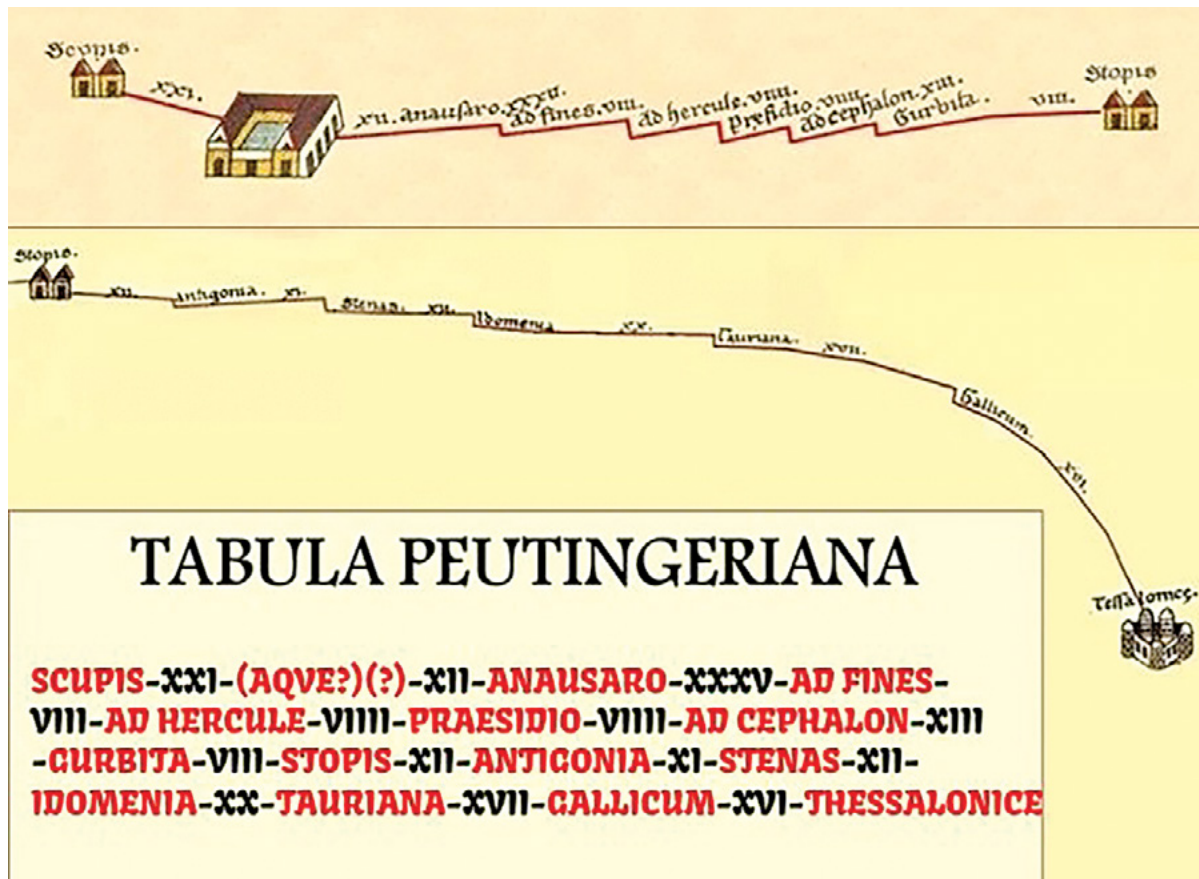
<sup>2</sup> MIKULČIĆ 2002: 36.

<sup>3</sup> МИКУЛЧИК 1982: 54.

<sup>1</sup> The map is named after the German antiquarian Konrad Peutinger (1465 – 1547). It was originally created in the 4th century, then later redrawn in the 13th century.

<sup>2</sup> MIKULČIĆ 2002: 36.

<sup>3</sup> МИКУЛЧИК 1982: 54.



SLIKA 2. Detalj ceste Via Axia prikazan na Tabuli Peutingeriani (izvor: <https://www.tabula-peutingeriana.de/tabula.html?segm=6&pic=m>, doradila: A. Petkovska)

FIGURE 2 Detail of the Via Axia road, shown on the Tabula Peutingeriana (source: <https://www.tabula-peutingeriana.de/tabula.html?segm=6&pic=m>, adapted by A. Petkovska)

riana zauzima važno mjesto, ali dosad je ostala nedovoljno istražena.

Na *Tabuli Peutingeriani* postaja Tauriana za-bilježena je na udaljenosti od 20 rimskih mi-lja od antičkog grada Idomenia (lokalitet Isar, selo Marvinci)<sup>4</sup>: IDOMENIA – XX – TAU-RIANA. S obzirom na geografske korelacije, s velikom vjerojatnošću povezuje se s prostorom suvremenoga Nov Dojrana (sl. 2).<sup>5</sup>

<sup>4</sup> B. Dragojević-Josifovska, uzimajući u obzir brojne arheološke nalaze, predložila je lokaciju grada Idomene na lokalitetu Isar-Kale, u blizini sela Marvinci (Vidi: DRAGOJEVIĆ-JOSIFOVSKA 1976: 63–64); mišljenje dijele F. Papazoglu i drugi istraživači (ЛИЛЧИК АДАМС 2022: 305; FASOLO, LILČIĆ ADAMS u tisku; FASOLO et al. u tisku).

<sup>5</sup> ЛИЛЧИК (АДАМС) 1994: 114–115; ФАСОЛЮ et al. u tisku. Zahvaljujemo profesorima V. Liličiću Adamsu, A. Jakimovskom i autoru G. Treneskom na ustupljenom članku i informacijama za pregled i korištenje u okviru ovog rada; ПИСТОВ 2005: 126; СОКОЛОВСКА 1997: 49.

functioned as important administrative and commercial hubs, as well as key points in the broader context of military defence. Within this network, the station of Tauriana occupies a significant place, yet it has remained insufficiently studied to date.

On the Tabula Peutingeriana, Tauriana is depicted at a distance of 20 Roman miles from the ancient city of Idomenia (identified with the archaeological site Isar, near the village of Marvinci)<sup>4</sup>, with the route marked as: IDOMENIA – XX – TAURIANA. Its location very

<sup>4</sup> Taking into account numerous archaeological finds, B. Dragojević-Josifovska proposed the location of the city of Idomene at the site of Isar-Kale, near the village of Marvinci (See: DRAGOJEVIĆ-JOSIFOVSKA 1976: 63–64). This view is shared by Fanula Papazoglu (PAPAZOGLU 1988: 174–179.), Lilčić Adams V. (ЛИЛЧИК АДАМС 2022: 305; FASOLO, LILČIĆ ADAMS in press; FASOLO et al. in press), and other researchers.

Nedostatak sačuvanih pisanih izvora potaknuo je znanstvenu raspravu o identitetu Tauriane. Identifikacija arheološkog lokaliteta u blizini Nov Dojrana predmet je rasprave u literaturi, utemeljene prvenstveno na interpretacijama antičkih tekstova i ranijim terenskim i kabinetnim istraživanjima. U dijelu literature zastupljeno je mišljenje da se na ovoj lokaciji nalazio antički grad Dober, spominjan u izvorima, pri čemu se pozivaju na zapis Tukidida koji opisujući pohod odriškog kralja Sitalka navodi da je odriška vojska, nakon što je prešla nenastanjenu planinu Kerkine koja razdvaja tračke Sinte od Peonaca, stigla u peonski grad Dober, odakle je započela napad na makedonske gradove Idomen, Gortiniju i Atalantu.<sup>6</sup> Drugi istraživači identificiraju Dober s Dojranom zbog sličnosti prvih dvaju slova u imenima. No prema Tukididu, Dober se nalazio sjeveroistočno od Idomene, prvog makedonskog grada koji je osvojio Sitalk, jer se s vojskom uputio prema jugu spuštajući se s planina u ravnicu. S obzirom na geografsku poziciju Dojrana, koji se nalazi južno od Idomene, nije vjerojatno da je Sitalk prvo osvojio Dober, zatim se uputio prema sjeveru, a potom se vratio prema jugu.<sup>7</sup>

Dodatni argument protiv identifikacije Dobera s Dojranom iznosi F. Papazoglu, koja ističe aspekt koji dosad nije dovoljno razmotren. Naime, iz Tukididova svjedočanstva jasno proizlazi da je Dober bio peonski grad i da se za vrijeme Sitalkove vojne kampanje nalazio izvan teritorija pod makedonskom vlašću. Suprotno tome, unatoč nedostatku direktnih pisanih ili arheoloških dokaza, postoji opravdano mišljenje da je regija oko Dojrana u to vrijeme već bila uključena u makedonsku državu.<sup>8</sup> Zbog navedenih okolnosti, lokalizacija Dobera u području današnjeg Dojrana ne može se smatrati uvjerljivom s aspekta historijsko-geografske analize Sitalkova pohoda.

<sup>6</sup> ПАПАЗОГЛУ 1957: 248.

<sup>7</sup> ПАПАЗОГЛУ 1957: 249.

<sup>8</sup> ПАПАЗОГЛУ 1957: 250.

likely corresponds to the area of modern-day Nov Dojran (Fig. 2).<sup>5</sup>

The absence of preserved written sources makes the precise identity and character of Tauriana a matter of contention. The identification of the archaeological site near Nov Dojran has been the subject of scholarly debate, based primarily on interpretations of ancient texts, as well as academic and field research. Some scholars have proposed that this site is that of the ancient city of Dober, mentioned in historical works, most notably by Thucydides. In his account of the military campaign of the Odrysian king Sitalces, he described how the Thracian army, after crossing the uninhabited Mount Kerkine (which separated the Thracian Sintians from the Paeonians), arrived at the Paeonian city of Dober, from which it launched attacks on the Macedonian cities of Idomene, Gortynia and Atalante.<sup>6</sup> Other researchers, however, have attempted to identify Dober with Dojran, on the basis of the similarity of the first two letters in the names of the two settlements. According to Thucydides, however, Dober was located to the northeast of Idomene, the first Macedonian city conquered by Sitalces. The Odrysian army is described as advancing southwards, descending from the mountains onto the plain. Bearing in mind that Dojran lies south of Idomene (Isar), it would seem highly unlikely that Sitalces would first have taken Dober, then proceeded north, only later to return southwards.<sup>7</sup>

An additional argument against the identification of Dober with Dojran was presented by Fanoula Papazoglou, who drew attention to a consideration that had previously received insufficient scholarly attention. Thucydides' testimony clearly confirms that Dober was a Paeonian city and that, during Sitalces' military campaign, it lay outside the territory un-

<sup>5</sup> ЛИЛЧИК АДАМС 1994: 114–115; FASOLO et al. in press (I would like to thank Professors V. L. Adams, A. Jakimovski, and the author G. Treneski for providing the article and information for review and use within the framework of this work); РИСТОВ 2005:126; СОКОЛЮВСКА 1997: 49.

<sup>6</sup> ПАПАЗОГЛУ 1957: 248.

<sup>7</sup> ПАПАЗОГЛУ 1957: 249.



SLIKA 3. Pogled s Nov Dojrana na Dojransko jezero (snimila: A. Petkovska)  
 FIGURE 3 View from Nov Dojran towards Dojran Lake (photo by A. Petkovska)

S druge strane, neki istraživači dovode u pitanje ovu identifikaciju, sugerirajući da je riječ o rimskoj cestovnoj postaji Tauriani, označenoj na *Tabuli Peutingeriani*.<sup>9</sup> N. G. L. Hammond, međutim, postaju Taurianu, zabilježenu na *Tabuli Peutingeriani*, smješta kod Polykastra u Grčkoj.<sup>10</sup>

Prema F. Papazoglu, antička cestovna postaja Tauriana s Peutingerove karte najvjerojatnije se nalazila na zapadnoj obali Dojranskog jezera, jer udaljenosti navedene na *Tabuli Peutingeriani* odgovaraju toj poziciji.<sup>11</sup>

Herodot u svojem djelu *Povijest* (V. knjiga) opisuje jezersko naselje na jezeru Prasijade (Her., V, 16.), zbog čega su brojni istraživači prihvatili mišljenje da je Dojransko jezero u antici nosilo ime *Prasias* (sl. 3).

Iako odsutnost nedvosmislenih arheoloških pokazatelja i precizna prostorna korela-

der Macedonian control. In contrast, there is a well-grounded assumption (notwithstanding an absence of direct written or archaeological evidence) that the region surrounding Dojran had already been incorporated into the Macedonian state at that time.<sup>8</sup> Given these circumstances, the localisation of Dober in the area of present-day Dojran cannot be considered plausible within the framework of a historical-geographical analysis of Sitalces' campaign.

On the other hand, some scholars have questioned this identification, suggesting instead that the site in question may correspond to the Roman road station of Tauriana, which is marked on the *Tabula Peutingeriana*.<sup>9</sup> Nicholas G. L. Hammond, for instance, placed the station of Tauriana, as depicted on the *Tabula Peutingeriana*, near Polikastro in modern-day Greece.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>9</sup> ЛИЛЧИК АДАМС 1994: 114-115; FASOLO et al u tisku; МИКУЛЧИК 1999:269; 2002: 36; РИСТОВ 2005:127-128; СОКОЛОВСКА 1997: 49.

<sup>10</sup> HAMMOND 1972: 172, 178, karta 14.

<sup>11</sup> ПАΠΑЗОГЛУ 1957: 248, bilj. 85.

<sup>8</sup> ПАΠΑЗОГЛУ 1957: 250.

<sup>9</sup> ЛИЛЧИК АДАМС 1994: 114-115; FASOLO et al in press; МИКУЛЧИК 1999: 269; 2002: 36; РИСТОВ 2005: 127-128; СОКОЛОВСКА 1997: 49.

<sup>10</sup> HAMMOND 1972: 172, 178, map 14.

cija s kartografskim i pisanim izvorima otežava proces konačne identifikacije lokaliteta, dosad otkriveni materijalni ostaci s područja Nov Dojrana pružaju relevantnu osnovu za povezivanje ove lokacije s cestovnom postajom Taurianom. Prisutnost arheoloških slojeva s kontinuitetom naseljenosti od rimskoga carskog do ranobizantskog razdoblja dodatno podržava ovu hipotezu, otvarajući mogućnost za daljnju interdisciplinarnu evaluaciju. Prve sustavne bilješke o antičkim ostacima u području Dojrana potječu od N. Vulića, povjesničara, klasičnog filologa, arheologa i profesora koji je u prvoj polovici 20. stoljeća proveo rekognosciranje dojranskog područja. Zabilježio je nekoliko epigrafskih spomenika, od kojih jedan sadržava natpis u dva odlomka na starogrčkom jeziku. Drugi ima oblik torza konja od bijelog mramora.<sup>12</sup> Također je zabilježio spomenik od vapnenca s dva fragmenta: gornji je fragment visine 0,45 m, a donji 0,65 m. Oba su fragmenta širine 0,58 m i debljine 0,18 m. Vulić je naveo da su fragmenti pronađeni ispred crkve u Dojranu,<sup>13</sup> a najvjerojatnije su spomenici zajedno s ostacima hrama otkriveni 1923. tijekom gradnje crkve. Prema tadašnjim navodima mještana, na istom mjestu pronađena je keramička posuda s novcem, koja nije sačuvana, no opisi sugeriraju da su to mogle biti grčke i rimske kovanice.<sup>14</sup> Vulić je evidentirao još jednu nadgrobnu bijelu mramornu ploču sa šest bista raspoređenih u dva reda, visine 0,63 m. U gornjem i donjem središnjem dijelu bile su prikazane žene, a oko njih bili su muškarci.<sup>15</sup>

Počeci arheoloških istraživanja kod Nov Dojrana započeli su u veljači 1951., kada su mještani obavijestili Arheološki muzej i Zavod za zaštitu kulturno-povijesnih spomenika u Skopju da su pri građevinskim radovima pronašli kipove i nekoliko drugih

Conversely, F. Papazoglou had proposed that the ancient road station Tauriana from the Peutinger Map was most likely located on the western shore of Lake Dojran, as the distances given in the map correspond well with that position.<sup>11</sup>

Herodotus, in his Histories (Book V), provided a description of a stilt settlement on Lake Prasias (Her., V, 16), leading many researchers to accept the view that, in antiquity, Lake Dojran was known as Prasias (Fig. 3).

Although the absence of unequivocal archaeological indicators and precise spatial correlation with cartographic and written sources complicates the process of definitively identifying the site, the material remains discovered thus far in the Nov Dojran area provide a relevant basis for associating this location with the Roman road station Tauriana. The presence of archaeological layers indicating continuous habitation from the Roman Imperial through to the Early Byzantine period further supports this hypothesis, opening possibilities for future interdisciplinary evaluation. The earliest systematic notes regarding ancient remains in the Dojran region originate from Nikola Vulić, a historian, classical philologist, archaeologist, and professor, who conducted a reconnaissance of the area in the first half of the 20th century. During his survey, he recorded several epigraphic monuments, one of which bears an inscription written in two passages in Ancient Greek. Another find took the form of a white marble horse torso.<sup>12</sup> Vulić also noted a limestone monument composed of two fragments, the upper measuring 0.45 metres in height, and the lower 0.65 metres, both 0.58 metres wide and 0.18 metres deep. He observed that the fragments were located in front of the church in Dojran and had been found nearby.<sup>13</sup> These monuments, along with the remains of a temple, were most likely uncovered in 1923 during the construction of the present-day church. According to local oral

<sup>12</sup> VULIĆ 1941-48: 45.

<sup>13</sup> VULIĆ 1931: 49, br.114.

<sup>14</sup> ВУЧКОВИЋ-ТОДОРОВИЋ 1952: 165.

<sup>15</sup> VULIĆ 1931: 55.

<sup>11</sup> ΠΑΠΑΖΟΓΛΟΥ 1957: 248, ref. 85.

<sup>12</sup> VULIĆ 1941-48: 45.

<sup>13</sup> VULIĆ 1931: 49, no.114.

spomenika. Tada je ekipa Arheološkog muzeja u Skopju konstatirala ostatke građevina s desne strane rijeke Toplec u blizini Dojranskog jezera, gdje je pronađen kip muškarca od bijelog mramora, visine 1,50 m, bez glave i ruku, odjevena u hiton i himation.<sup>16</sup> Na istom mjestu otkriven je oštećeni nadgrobni reljefni medaljon iz 2./3. stoljeća, kao i oštećeni korintski kapitel.<sup>17</sup> Prema ovim nalazima može se zaključiti da je na ovom mjestu postojalo svetište s hramom.<sup>18</sup>

Godine 1960. Arheološki muzej u Skopju pod vodstvom profesorice B. Aleksove proveo je arheološka iskopavanja u Nov Dojranu u cilju utvrđivanja prostora na kojem se nalazilo antičko i ranosrednjovjekovno naselje, na kojem su kasnije izgrađene kuće sela Nov Dojran. Pritom se pretpostavlja da je većina objekata antičkoga naselja bila srasnjena sa zemljom i vjerojatno u velikoj mjeri uništena.<sup>19</sup> Ustanovljeno je da je velik dio antičkih građevina, kao i pokretni arheološki materijal, tijekom izgradnje novih kuća bio raznesen ili uništen. Također, provedena su sondažna iskopavanja u nekoliko dvorišta, gdje su otkriveni pojedini objekti koji su bili oštećeni ili ugrađeni u novije građevine.<sup>20</sup> U ovim arheološkim istraživanjima pronađena je ranokršćanska bazilika s trobrodnom dispozicijom, polukružnom apsidom i kolonama između brodova. Pod bazilike bio je prekriven bijelim mramornim pločama, raspoređenima u polja koja su formirala križ.<sup>21</sup> Bazilika je otkrivena u samom Dojranu, sjeverno od glavne ulice, između današnjih kuća, i datirana je u razdoblje cara Justinijana. Osim bazilike, pronađena je i jednobrodna crkva s malim predvorjem i grobovima, koji su datirani u 9./10. stoljeće.

Godine 1967. Nacionalna ustanova Zavod

testimony, a vessel containing coins was also found at the same location. Although the vessel was not preserved, the description suggests the coins may have been of Greek or Roman origin.<sup>14</sup> Additionally, Vulić documented another white marble funerary stele, 0.63 metres in height, featuring six busts arranged in two rows. The central figures on both upper and lower rows depict female individuals, flanked by male figures.<sup>15</sup>

The initial archaeological researches in Nov Dojran were prompted in February 1951, when local residents informed the Archaeological Museum, and the Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments in Skopje about the discovery of a statue and several other monuments during construction work. A team from the Archaeological Museum in Skopje subsequently confirmed the presence of architectural remains on the right bank of the Toplec River, near Lake Dojran. Among the finds was a fragmentary marble statue of a male figure clad in a chiton and himation, carved from white marble, measuring 1.50 metres in height and missing its head and arms.<sup>16</sup> At the same location, an inscribed funerary relief medallion, dated to the 2nd–3rd century, and a damaged Corinthian capital were also uncovered.<sup>17</sup> These finds suggest the presence of a sanctuary complex, probably including a temple.<sup>18</sup>

In 1960, under the direction of Professor B. Aleksova, the Archaeological Museum in Skopje conducted systematic excavations in Nov Dojran. The aim was to define the spatial extent of the ancient and early medieval settlement over which the modern village of Nov Dojran had been constructed.<sup>19</sup> It was presumed that a large portion of the ancient urban structures would have been levelled or

<sup>16</sup> ВУЧКОВИЋ-ТОДОРОВИЋ 1952: 166.

<sup>17</sup> ВУЧКОВИЋ-ТОДОРОВИЋ 1952: 167.

<sup>18</sup> ЛИЛЧИЋ АДАМС 2001: 285.

<sup>19</sup> АЛЕКСОВА 1960: 136.

<sup>20</sup> АЛЕКСОВА 1960: 136.

<sup>21</sup> АЛЕКСОВА 1960: 136; МИКУЛЧИЋ 1999 :269.

<sup>14</sup> ВУЧКОВИЋ-ТОДОРОВИЋ 1952: 165.

<sup>15</sup> VULIĆ 1931: 55.

<sup>16</sup> ВУЧКОВИЋ-ТОДОРОВИЋ 1952: 166.

<sup>17</sup> ВУЧКОВИЋ-ТОДОРОВИЋ 1952: 167.

<sup>18</sup> ЛИЛЧИЋ АДАМС 2001: 285.

<sup>19</sup> АЛЕКСОВА 1960: 136.

za zaštitu spomenika kulture i Muzej Strumica otkupila je i dokumentirala mramorni torzo koji je dopremljen iz Dojrana. Fragment predstavlja torzo muškarca odjevenog u tuniku i naboranu službenu togu, izrađen od kvalitetnoga fino-zrnatog bijelog mramora. Kip je djelomično oštećen – nedostaju glava, dijelovi ruku i noge – što upućuje da je isklesana iz jednoga monolitnog mramornog bloka. Plastično istaknuto desno koljeno pod draperijom, sa savijenom desnom nogom i težinom na lijevoj, potvrđuje klasičnu pozu oratora, dok savijena desna ruka ispružena naprijed identificira kip kao *togatus* – službenu rimsku figuru odjevenu u tuniku i togu. Nabore toge i tunike karakteriziraju duboki i složeni reljefi, dok je stražnja strana jednostavnije obrađena.<sup>22</sup> Prema stilskim i kronološkim obilježjima, ovaj se kip može datirati u razdoblje od kraja 2. do početka 3. stoljeća. Ovaj primjerak predstavlja jedan od rijetkih otkrivenih kipova oratora na teritoriju Republike Sjeverne Makedonije te predstavlja važan dokaz prisutnosti portretnog kiparstva pod rimskim utjecajem u regiji.<sup>23</sup>

Na sjevernoj obali Dojranskog jezera utvrđeno je postojanje kasnoantičkog naselja, gdje su otkrivene prostorije popločane mramorom, ostaci dekorativne plastike, skulpture i terakote te rimska keramika i građevinski materijal.<sup>24</sup>

Kod lokaliteta Toplec, 1,79 km sjeverozapadno od crkve sv. Jurja u Nov Dojranu, pronađeni su ostaci građevina s nalazima iz rimskog razdoblja. Profesorica i akademkinja B. Aleksova zaključila je na temelju nalaza iz 1960. da se na ovom prostoru u antici i ranobizantskom razdoblju prostiralo veliko naselje koje se nastavilo razvijati i u srednjem vijeku. I. Mikulčić zabilježio je da se na lokalitetu Slanec nalaze ostaci antičkog hrama, gdje su grobovi s nalazima iz razdoblja od 2.

significantly destroyed during later habitation. The investigations revealed that many ancient buildings, along with movable archaeological material, had indeed been dispersed or destroyed through the construction of contemporary houses. Test trenches were excavated in several private courtyards, where partially preserved structures (often reused or incorporated into newer buildings) were identified.<sup>20</sup> Among the most significant discoveries was an early Christian basilica, with a three-aisled interior, a semicircular apse, and columns dividing the aisles. The floor was paved with white marble tiles, arranged in fields forming a cross-shaped design.<sup>21</sup> The basilica was discovered in the central part of Dojran, north of the main street, between modern houses, and was dated to the Justinianic period. In addition, a single-nave church with a small narthex and associated burials dated to the 9th–10th century was also discovered.

In 1967, the National Institution for the Protection of Cultural Monuments and Museum of Strumica acquired and documented a marble torso brought from the Dojran area. The fragment represents the torso of a male figure dressed in a tunic and richly draped official toga, carved from high-quality fine-grained white marble. The statue is partially preserved (missing the head, parts of the arms, and the lower legs), indicating that it was sculpted from a single monolithic marble block. The plastically accentuated right knee beneath the drapery, with the right leg bent backward and the body weight resting on the left leg, reflects the classical contrapposto stance characteristic of Roman statuary. The bent right arm, extended forward, further supports the identification of the figure as a *togatus*: a formal Roman representation of a citizen or orator clad in a tunic and toga. The deep, complex folds of the toga and tunic, especially on the front, exhibit a high level of craftsmanship, whereas

<sup>22</sup> АНАНИЕВ 1990-1991: 128-129.

<sup>23</sup> АНАНИЕВ 1990-1991: 130.

<sup>24</sup> АЛЕКСОВА 1960: 137.

<sup>20</sup> АЛЕКСОВА 1960: 136.

<sup>21</sup> АЛЕКСОВА 1960: 136; МИКУЛЧИЌ 1999: 269.

do 4. stoljeća smješteni uz naselje, ali nema tragova bedema.<sup>25</sup> Prema Mikulčiću, Tauriana se nalazila u starom dijelu Nov Dojrana, gdje su ispod današnjih kuća otkriveni objekti javne kupelji i ranokršćanske bazilike s mozaikom i mramornim ukrasima datiranim u 5./6. stoljeće te kuće koje se protežu na površini od približno sedam do osam hektara.<sup>26</sup>

Otpriblike kilometar jugozapadno od naselja Nov Dojran, na dominantnom uzvišenju poznatom kao vrh Kula (332 mnv), evidentirani su arheološki ostaci kasnoantičkog utvrđenog naselja.<sup>27</sup> Naselje, okruženo kamenim zidom sa žbukom, obuhvaća površinu od približno 0,6 ha i datira iz razdoblja od 3. do 6. stoljeća. Na površini su pronađeni fragmenti keramičkih posuda i pitosi.<sup>28</sup> S obzirom na strateški položaj i karakteristike, može se zaključiti da je utvrda služila za nadzor i kontrolu obalnog puta koji je vodio prema Solunu.<sup>29</sup>

Pri zaštitnim arheološkim istraživanjima u veljači 1998., koje je proveo Narodni muzej u Gevgeliji, u području Dojrana otkriveni su brojni uništeni rimski grobovi. U okviru tih istraživanja konstatirana su i oštećenja arheoloških lokaliteta Manastir i Karaula.<sup>30</sup> Lokaliteti Manastir i Karaula, smješteni u urbanoj jezgri Dojrana, predstavljaju nekropole iz rimskog razdoblja. Prva nekropola datira iz 3./4. stoljeća, a druga iz razdoblja od 1. do 3. stoljeća.<sup>31</sup>

Na oba lokaliteta evidentirani su različiti tipovi grobnih konstrukcija, uključujući krovove s dvije vode od tegula, zidane grobnice od mramornih spolija, opeke i kamene obloge s mramornim pločama te i kamene

the back of the statue is more summarily treated, a typical feature of statues intended for frontal display. The formal pose and drapery style place the figure within the typology of Roman official portraiture, emphasising civic status and public function.<sup>22</sup> Given its stylistic and chronological features, the statue can be dated to the late 2nd to early 3rd century AD. This example represents one of the rare surviving depictions of an orator discovered on the territory of the Republic of North Macedonia and constitutes a significant piece of evidence for the presence of Roman-influenced portrait sculpture in the region.<sup>23</sup>

On the northern shore of Lake Dojran, a Late Antique settlement was identified. Excavations there uncovered rooms paved with marble, remains of decorative sculpture, statues, terracotta objects, Roman pottery and a substantial amount of building material.<sup>24</sup>

At the site of Toplec, located 1.79 km northwest of the Church of St George in Nov Dojran, remains of structures with finds from the Roman period were discovered. On the basis of findings from her 1960 research, Professor B. Aleksova concluded that in antiquity and the Byzantine period, a large settlement extended across this area, continuing to develop into the medieval period. Professor dr. I. Mikulčić noted that at the site of Slanec there were remains of an ancient temple, where burials from the 2nd–4th century were found near the settlement, although no traces of fortification walls were present.<sup>25</sup> According to Mikulčić, the ancient settlement of Tauriana is located within the old part of Nov Dojran, where archaeological investigations beneath the modern settlement have uncovered the remains of a public bath, an early Christian basilica with mosaic flooring and marble decorations dated to the 5th–6th centu-

<sup>25</sup> МИКУЛЧИЌ 1999: 269-270. Autor ne daje nikakve informacije o mjestu. Lokalitet nije poznat u literaturi. Pretpostavlja se da je Mikulčić mislio na lokalitet Toplec.

<sup>26</sup> МИКУЛЧИЌ 1999: 269-270; 2002: 307.

<sup>27</sup> МИКУЛЧИЌ 2002: 307.

<sup>28</sup> ВИНЧИЌ, ИВАНОВСКИ 1999: 102.

<sup>29</sup> МИКУЛЧИЌ 2002: 307.

<sup>30</sup> СЛАМКОВ, ГУШЕВ 2005: 189.

<sup>31</sup> СЛАМКОВ 2012: 47.

<sup>22</sup> АНАНИЕВ 1990-1991: 128-129.

<sup>23</sup> АНАНИЕВ 1990-1991: 130.

<sup>24</sup> АЛЕКСОВА 1960: 137.

<sup>25</sup> МИКУЛЧИЌ 1999: 269-270. The author does not provide data regarding the precise location. The site is not well-known in the literature. I assume that Mikulčić was referring to the site of Toplec.

grobnice sa crvenom žbukom. Također su prisutni ukopi u uskim rovovima pokriveni kamenim pločama, slobodni ukopi u zemlji i kremacije. Orijehtacija grobova varira; četiri su groba orijentirana sjever – jug, a ostali imaju orijentaciju istok – zapad s minimalnim odstupanjima. Dva su ukopa kremacije, a ostali su inhumacije.<sup>32</sup> Od svih grobnih konstrukcija izdvaja se grob 2, koji predstavlja grobnicu s izraženim dimenzijama. U njezinoj konstrukciji upotrijebljeni su dijelovi jednog ili dvaju ranorimskih sarkofaga atičkog tipa, u kojima su otkriveni bogati grobni prilozima.<sup>33</sup> Grobnica je konstruirana od sekundarno prerađenih arhitektonskih mramornih elemenata, dijelova starijeg sarkofaga atičkog tipa. Mramorni spoliji povezani su vapnenom žbukom unutar grobne komore, koja je zatvorena s dvije pokrovne ploče također spojene žbukom. Svi korišteni elementi izrađeni su od finoga bijelog mramora. Pokrovne su ploče nivelirane i stabilizirane mramornim fragmentima raspoređenima oko komore. Na sjevernoj pokrovnoj ploči uočene su dvije kružne metalne petlje sa četvrtastim presjekom, olovom ugrađene u mramor, koje su služile kao mehanizam za podizanje ploče pri kasnijim pogrebima.<sup>34</sup> Pronađena kamena ploča, razbijena na pet fragmenata, pripadala je sarkofagu, a slični ukrasi mogu se pronaći na brojnim sarkofazima iz Rima (Muzej Torlonia).<sup>35</sup>

U samom Nov Dojranu i njegovoj neposrednoj okolini identificirano je nekoliko lokaliteta iz antičkog razdoblja. Naime, moderno naselje izgrađeno je na ruševinama antičke naseobine, koja je postojala na zapadnoj obali Dojranskog jezera (sl. 4).

Na cijelom prostoru današnje naseobine otkriveni su ostaci građevina, grobovi i bogati pokretni nalazi: keramika, kovanice i nakit, koji potječu iz kasnorimskog i rano-

ry AD, as well as residential structures, extending over an area of approximately 7–8 hectares.<sup>26</sup>

Approximately 1 kilometer southwest of Nov Dojran, on a prominent elevation known as the Kula peak (at 332 metres above sea level), archaeological remains of a Late Antique fortified settlement have been recorded.<sup>27</sup> The site, enclosed by a stone wall bonded with mortar, covers an area of around 0.6 hectares and has been dated to the period between the 3rd and 6th centuries CE. Surface finds include fragments of ceramic vessels and pithoi.<sup>28</sup> Given its strategic position and architectural characteristics, it is plausible to interpret this fortification as serving a surveillance and control function over the coastal route leading toward Thessaloniki.<sup>29</sup> During preventive archaeological excavations conducted in February 1998 by the National Museum of Gevgelija in the region of Dojran, several destroyed Roman graves were discovered. As part of this investigation, damage was also documented at the archaeological sites Manastir and Karaula.<sup>30</sup> These two sites, located within the urban core of present-day Dojran, represent necropolises from the Roman period. The Manastir necropolis has been dated to the 3rd–4th century CE, while the Karaula necropolis belongs to an earlier phase, from the 1st to 3rd century CE.<sup>31</sup> Various types of funerary architecture were recorded at both sites, including pit graves covered with double-pitched tile roofs, built tombs constructed with marble spolia, bricks or stone and lined with marble slabs, as well as stone-built graves coated internally with red plaster. Additionally, identified were narrow trench burials covered with stone slabs, simple inhumations in earth and cremation burials. The orientation of the graves varies: four graves were aligned north–south, while the majority exhibit an east–west

<sup>32</sup> СЛАМКОВ, ГУШЕВ 2005: 206.

<sup>33</sup> СЛАМКОВ, ГУШЕВ 2005: 207.

<sup>34</sup> СЛАМКОВ, ГУШЕВ 2005: 189.

<sup>35</sup> ЛИЛЧИК АДАМС 2001: 289.

<sup>26</sup> МИКУЛЧИК 1999: 269-270; 2002: 307.

<sup>27</sup> MIKULČIĆ 2002: 307.

<sup>28</sup> ВИНЧИК, ИВАНОВСКИ 1999: 102

<sup>29</sup> MIKULČIĆ 2002: 307.

<sup>30</sup> СЛАМКОВ, ГУШЕВ 2005: 189.

<sup>31</sup> СЛАМКОВ 2012: 47.



SLIKA 4. Položaj Tauriana u Nov Dojranu i arheološko nalazište Toplec (izvor: Google Earth Pro, doradila: A. Petkovska)

FIGURE 4 The position of Tauriana in Nov Dojran and the archaeological site of Toplec (source: Google Earth Pro, adapted by A. Petkovska)

bizantskog razdoblja. Pronađeni su ostaci ranokršćanske bazilike i kamene plastike. Osim ostataka ranokršćanske bazilike, u Nov Dojranu pronadjeni su i vrijedni stariji nalazi, koji ukazuju na slojevitú stratigrafiju. Posebno se izdvaja pronadjeni masivni lijevani brončani uteg u obliku biste dječaka visine 9 cm datiran u 3. st. pr. Kr. (sl. 7).<sup>36</sup> Oči su izrađene od srebra, a zjenice su vjerojatno ispunjene staklenom pastom. Ta tehnika ukazuje na visok stupanj izrade i težnju ka naturalističkom prikazu. Na vrhu glave oblikovano je prstenasto uho za pričvršćivanje, što govori o praktičnoj funkciji. Glava nosi jasne oznake antičke skulpture, kosa je gusta i pažljivo modelirana, a iznad nje stoji pobjednička vrpca, element koji zajedno s formalnim stilskim karakteristikama povezuje ovu skulpturalnu formu s djelima kruga kasnoklasičnog kipara Lizipa.

Izvanredan primjer brončanog utega iz 3. st. pr. Kr., kao i skupni nalaz novca iz ranoga antičkog razdoblja na lokalitetu Červikan-

orientation with minor deviations. Two of the graves contained cremated remains, whereas the others were inhumation burials.<sup>32</sup> Among the burial structures, Tomb 2 stands out as a large and prominent tomb. Its construction incorporated parts from one or two early Roman sarcophagi of the Attic type, and within it, rich grave offerings were discovered.<sup>33</sup> The tomb was constructed using architectural marble spolia, which were secondarily repurposed elements originating from an earlier Attic-type sarcophagus. The marble components were bound together with lime mortar, forming the structure of the burial chamber, which was sealed with two cover slabs, also joined with lime mortar. All utilized elements were of fine-grained white marble. The cover slabs were carefully levelled and stabilized using marble fragments, which were placed externally around the entire perimeter of the chamber to ensure structural integrity. On the northern cover slab, two iron lifting rings with a square cross-section are visible; they

<sup>36</sup> СОКОЛОВСКА 1980: No 332.

<sup>32</sup> СЛАМКОВ, ГУШЕВ 2005: 189.

<sup>33</sup> СЛАМКОВ, ГУШЕВ 2005: 207.



SLIKA 5. Glinena svjetiljka s lokaliteta Manastir, 3. – 4. st. (preuzeto iz: СЛАМКОВ 2012: 45)

FIGURE 5 Clay lamp from the the Manastir site, 3rd-4th century (after СЛАМКОВ 2012: 45)



SLIKA 6. Zlatni prsten s lokaliteta Manastir, 3. – 4. st. (preuzeto iz: СЛАМКОВ 2012: 45)

FIGURE 6 Golden ring, from the the Manastir site, 3rd-4th century (after СЛАМКОВ 2012: 45)



SLIKA 7. Brončani uteg – bista mladića, 3. st. pr. Kr. (preuzeto iz: СОКОЛОВСКА 1980: br. 332)

FIGURE 7 Bronze weight bust of a young man, 3rd c. BC (after СОКОЛОВСКА 1980: No 332.)

were embedded in the marble using lead and likely served as a lifting mechanism to allow reopening of the chamber for subsequent burials.<sup>34</sup> A found slab, broken into five fragments, belonged to a sarcophagus, with similar decorations that can be found on multiple sarcophagi from Rome (Mus. Torlonia).<sup>35</sup>

Within Nov Dojran itself and its immediate surroundings, several sites from the ancient period have been identified. In fact, the village is built over the ruins of an ancient settlement that existed on the western shore of Lake Dojran (Fig. 4).

Across the entire area, remains of structures, graves, and rich movable finds such as ceramics, coins, and jewellery have been discovered, dating from the Late Roman and Early Byzantine periods. In addition to the remains of an Early Christian basilica, excavations at Nov Dojran have also revealed significant earlier finds, indicating a stratified archaeological sequence. Among these, a particularly notable discovery is a bronze weight dated to the 3rd century BCE, identified as a solid cast bust of a boy, with a height of 9 cm<sup>36</sup> (Fig. 7). The eyes are crafted from silver, while the pupils were likely inlaid with glass paste, a technique that reflects a high level of craftsmanship and a clear tendency toward naturalistic representation. At the top of the head, a ring-shaped suspension loop is integrated into the casting, indicating its functional use as a weight. The head bears stylistic features consistent with Classical Greek sculpture: the hair is thick and carefully modelled, and is encircled by a victory ribbon (taenia). This specific attribute, along with other formal and stylistic characteristics, connects the piece to the artistic circle of the Late Classical sculptor Lysippos.

The remarkable bronze weight, together with the hoard of coins from the Early Hellenistic period discovered at the site of Červi-

<sup>34</sup> СЛАМКОВ, ГУШЕВ 2005: 190.

<sup>35</sup> ЛИЛЧИК АДАМС 2001: 289.

<sup>36</sup> СОКОЛОВСКА 1980: No 332.

sko Polje, gdje je pronađeno 100 komada makedonskog novca kovana u Amphipolisu, Peli i Solunu, među kojima jedan novac kralja Filipa V. se danas čuvaju u Arheološkom muzeju u Zagrebu.<sup>37</sup> Predstavljaju relevantne materijalne dokaze o postojanju naselja na ovom području već u predrimskom razdoblju.

Na lokalitetu Manastir, koji zauzima čitav središnji prostor suvremenog naselja, posebno uz put prema Starom Dojranu, utvrđeni su ostaci temelja građevina, bazilike, arhitektonske plastike, grobova s dvoslivnom krovnom konstrukcijom od tegula te brojni arheološki predmeti (keramika, kovanice, nakit) i skulpturalna plastika (sl. 5 i 6).

Na ovom mjestu, u blizini obale jezera, na blagom uzvišenju, prvi su put 1924./1925. zabilježeni brojni nalazi koje su iskopali mještani pri građevinskim radovima. U tom razdoblju arheolog i numizmatičar B. Saria primijetio je dvije mramorne ploče s prikazom ljudskih figura bez natpisa, a također je zabilježio i nekoliko pronađenih kovanica (jedan brončani novčić datiran iz vremena Teodozija I. s reversom: *Reparatio reipublicae* i jedan srebrni novčić) te zaključio da se na lokalitetu nalaze i drugi nalazi i da je ovdje postojao grad/naseobina.<sup>38</sup> Lokalitet je uništen iskopavanjem kanalizacijskih kanala radi priključenja središnjega gradskog područja na kolektorski sustav Dojranskog jezera.<sup>39</sup> Prema dosadašnjim saznanjima, pretpostavlja se da je riječ o arheološkim ostacima antičkog naselja Tauriane.<sup>40</sup> Kilometar i pol sjeverozapadno od antičke gradske jezgre Tauriane, na sjeverozapadnoj obali jezera, na lokalitetu Toplec, pronađene su terme iz rimskog razdoblja. U zoni termalnih izvora otkriveni su ostaci arhitektonske plastike od

kansko Pole (which included 100 Macedonian coins minted in Amphipolis, Pella and Thessaloniki, among them a coin of King Philip V) constitute important material evidence indicating the existence of a settlement in this area during the pre-Roman period. These finds are currently housed in the Archaeological Museum in Zagreb<sup>37</sup> and further substantiate the hypothesis of continuous habitation in the region from the Hellenistic era onward.

At the Manastir site, which occupies the central area of the modern settlement, especially along the road leading to Old Dojran, remains of building foundations, a basilica, architectural sculptures, graves with tegulae (roof-tile) constructions arranged in a double-pitched fashion, and numerous archaeological artifacts (ceramics, coins, jewellery), as well as sculptural elements, have been recorded. (Figs. 5 - 6).

Near the lakeshore, atop a small elevation, a significant number of artifacts were first noted during 1924–1925, when locals unearthed them during construction work. At that time, the archaeologist and numismatist B. Saria observed two marble slabs featuring human figures but without inscriptions. He also noted several discovered coins: one bronze coin dated to the reign of Theodosius I (reverse: *Reparatio Reipublicae*) and a silver coin. This led him to the conclusion that this site contained additional discoveries and that a city or settlement once existed here.<sup>38</sup> The site was destroyed due to the excavation of sewage channels for connecting the central urban area to the collector system of Lake Dojran.<sup>39</sup> Current scholarly evidence suggests that the archaeological remains belong to the ancient settlement of Tauriana.<sup>40</sup> At 1.5 km northwest of the ancient urban core of Tauriana, on the northwestern shore of the lake, Roman-era thermae were discovered at the

<sup>37</sup> ВИНЧИЌ, ИВАНОВСКИ 1999:102

<sup>38</sup> SARIA 1925: 163.

<sup>39</sup> СЛАМКОВ, ГУШЕВ 2005: 190.

<sup>40</sup> ЛИЛЧИЌ АДАМС 1994: 114-115; FASOLO *et al.* u tisku; МИКУЛЧИЌ 1999: 269; РИСТОВ 2005: 127-128; СОКОЛОВСКА 1997: 49.

<sup>37</sup> ВИНЧИЌ, ИВАНОВСКИ 1999: 102

<sup>38</sup> SARIA 1925: 163.

<sup>39</sup> СЛАМКОВ, ГУШЕВ 2005: 190.

<sup>40</sup> ЛИЛЧИЌ АДАМС 1994: 114-115; FASOLO *et al.* in press; МИКУЛЧИЌ 2000: 269; РИСТОВ 2005: 127-128; СОКОЛОВСКА 1997: 49.

mramora (stupovi i kapiteli). Po površini se susreću fragmenti keramičkih posuda i građevinskog materijala.<sup>41</sup>

Naselje, prema površinskim ostacima, možemo locirati na zapadnoj periferiji Nov Dojrana i izvan njega, prema uzvišenju poznatom pod toponimom Poljana.<sup>42</sup> Na zapadnoj periferiji suvremenog naselja, na lokalitetu Školo, otkriveni su ostaci ranokršćanske bazilike (6. stoljeće).

Tauriana dosad nije bila u fokusu prethodnih istraživača, osim u kontekstu prijedloga za njezinu lokaciju, koji ipak nisu bili potkrijepljeni odgovarajućim pristupom. Mnogi antički ostaci, stupovi raznih građevina, ploče i dekorativni elementi i danas krase dvorišta stanovnika Nov Dojrana i svjedoče o bogatoj povijesti grada te i dalje ostaju na tom mjestu – gdje povijest čeka da posredstvom arheologije bude otkrivena, zabilježena i potvrđena. Dosadašnji, ovdje citirani podaci predstavljaju ozbiljan temelj arheoloških informacija koje ukazuju na brzo rađanje jednog antičkog urbaniziranog naselja u ranorimskom carskom periodu, s kontinuiranom egzistencijom do kasne antike ili ranobizantskog 6. stoljeća u starom dijelu Nov Dojrana. Naselje je osmišljeno u skladu s vojnim i administrativnim principima, što upućuje na dvostruku funkciju prostora u rimskom urbanizmu. Predstavljalo je važnu posljednju postaju smještenu na dislociranoj trasi magistralne ceste koja je u ranoantičko doba povezivala Idomenu (Marvinci) s Gortinijom (Vardarski Rid, Gevgelija). Pod utjecajem političkih i ekonomskih interesa, rimska administracija marginalizirala je postojeći put prema gradu Peli i uspostavila novu komunikacijsku trasu koja se protezala od Idomene (Marvinci) preko Tauriane (Nov Dojran) do Soluna. Druga strateška svrha naselja kod Nov Dojrana bila je uspostava kontrole nad cestovnom trasom koja se kretala uz sjever-

Toplec site. In the area of the thermal springs, remnants of marble architectural elements (columns and capitals) were found. Fragments of ceramic vessels and construction materials are scattered across the surface.<sup>41</sup> On the basis of surface remains, the settlement can be located on the western periphery of Nov Dojran and beyond, towards the elevation known as Poljana.<sup>42</sup> In the same part of the modern settlement, at the Shkolo site, remains of an Early Christian basilica (6th century) were discovered.

Tauriana has not been the focus of previous researchers, except in the context of proposals for its location, which have not, however, been supported by an adequate approach. The numerous ancient remains adorning the courtyards of Nov Dojran's residents still testify to the city's rich history, yet the various architectural columns, decorative plaques, and elements remain, in a place where history awaits, through archaeology, to be uncovered, recorded and confirmed. The findings cited here constitute a solid core of archaeological information, indicating the rapid emergence of an urbanised settlement in the Early Roman Imperial period, with a continuous existence until Late Antiquity or the Early Byzantine 6th century AD in the old part of Nov Dojran. The settlement was planned according to military and administrative principles, indicating the dual function of the space within Roman urbanism. It represented an important roadside station located along a rerouted section of the main road which, during the early antique period, connected Idomenae (Marvinci) with Gortynia (Vardarski Rid, Gevgelija). For political and economic reasons, the Roman administration downgraded the existing road towards the city of Pella and established a new communication route extending from Idomenae (Marvinci), through Tauriana (Nov Dojran), towards Thessaloniki. The second strategic purpose of the settlement near Nov Dojran was to control the road run-

<sup>41</sup> АЛЕКСОВА 1960: 138.

<sup>42</sup> СЛАМКОВ 2012: 47.

<sup>41</sup> АЛЕКСОВА 1960: 138.

<sup>42</sup> СЛАМКОВ 2012: 47.

nu obalu Dojranskog jezera, preko područja današnjeg sela Nikolić, u smjeru doline rijeke Strume (*Strymon*). Nedostatak dokaza o obrambenom zidu ne isključuje njezin status grada, osobito ako se uzme u obzir da su neke cestovne postaje razvijale urbane centre sa specifičnom funkcijom. Prema iznesenim saznanjima, smatra se da se antička cestovna postaja Tauriana (T. P.) s velikom vjerojatnošću nalazila na lokalitetu Nov Dojran (Manastir/Polin).<sup>43</sup>

## ZAKLJUČAK

Antička cestovna postaja Tauriana, smještena na području današnjega Nov Dojrana u Sjevernoj Makedoniji, predstavlja važan element ceste Via Axia, dijela rimske prometne mreže dokumentirane na *Tabuli Peutingeriani*, koja je povezivala jug i sjever Rimskoga Carstva. Ova prometnica, koja je slijedila dolinu rijeke Vardar (antičkog Axiusa), služila je kao ključni koridor za trgovinu, vojne operacije i kulturnu razmjenu još od antičkoga doba. Od postaje Tauriane cesta je otvorenim terenom nastavljala prema jugu, duž zapadne obale Dojranskog jezera, te je preko cestovne postaje Galik (*Gallicum*), zabilježene na Peutingerovoj karti (današnji Kukush – Kilkis), stizala u Solun (*Thessalonica*).

Arheološki i povijesni podaci prikupljeni s područja suvremenoga Nov Dojrana nedvojbeno upućuju na postojanje istaknute urbane cjeline s obilježjima rimske cestovne postaje i regionalnog centra – s velikom vjerojatnošću identificirane kao antička Tauriana, navedena na *Tabuli Peutingeriani* na udaljenosti od 20 rimskih milja od Idomene (Idomeni), koja se nalazi na lokalitetu Isar kod sela Marvinci. Podudarnost udaljenosti između Marvinaca i Nov Dojrana s navede-

ning along the northern shore of Lake Dojran (through the area of the modern-day village of Nikolić) towards the valley of the River Strymon. The lack of evidence for defensive walls does not exclude its status as a town, especially considering that some roadside stations developed into urban centres with specific functions. On the basis of the presented data, I consider that the ancient roadside station Tauriana (T.P.) was very likely located at the site of Nov Dojran (Manastir / Polin).<sup>43</sup>

## CONCLUSION

The ancient roadside station Tauriana, located near where today stands Nov Dojran in Macedonia, represents a significant element of the Via Axia, a part of the Roman road network documented on the *Tabula Peutingeriana*, connecting the southern and northern parts of the Roman Empire. This route, running along the valley of the River Vardar (ancient Axius), had served as a key corridor for trade, military operations and cultural exchange since antiquity. From Tauriana, the road continued southwards along the western shore of Lake Dojran and, via the roadside station *Gallicum* (Galich), marked on the *Peutinger Map* (modern-day Kilkis), reached Thessaloniki.

Archaeological and historical data from the territory of modern Nov Dojran unequivocally indicate the existence of a significant urban entity characterised as a Roman roadside station and regional centre, very likely identified as the ancient Tauriana listed on the *Tabula Peutingeriana*, at a distance of 20 Roman miles from Idomenia (Idomeni), located at the Isar site near the village of Marvinci. The correspondence of the distance between Marvinci and Nov Dojran with the recorded 20 miles is one of the key arguments for the spatial identification of Tauriana with Nov Dojran.

<sup>43</sup> Ime Polin, poznato najstarijim stanovnicima Nov Dojrana, vjerojatno potječe od riječi *polis* – grad.

<sup>43</sup> The name Polin, familiar to the oldest inhabitants of Nov Dojran, probably came from the term *polis* – city.

nih 20 milja predstavlja jedan od ključnih argumenata za prostornu identifikaciju Tauriane s Nov Dojranom.

Otkrivene arheološke strukture, poput termi na lokalitetu Toplec, ranokršćanskih bazilika s trobrodnom i jednobrodnom dispozicijom, gradskih objekata s ostacima mozaičnih podova, arhitektonske plastike, kapitela, skulptura i nadgrobnih ploča, svjedoče o postojanju organizirane i funkcionalne urbane strukture s javnim, religijskim i stambenim sadržajima. Pronađene brončane i srebrne kovanice (uključujući i makedonski novac kovan u Amfipolisu, Peli i Solunu), kao i ranoantički brončani uteg u obliku biste datiran u 3. stoljeće pr. Kr., upućuju na ranu gospodarsku aktivnost na tom prostoru koja započinje još u predrimskom razdoblju. Posebno je važno postojanje dviju nekropola (lokaliteti Manastir i Karaula), datiranih u razdoblje od 1. do 4. stoljeća, s raznovrsnim grobnim konstrukcijama i bogatim priložima, među kojima se nalaze i dijelovi ranorimskih sarkofaga antičkog tipa, što upućuje na prisutnost lokalne elite i određeni stupanj urbane kulture. U kontekstu rimske infrastrukture i urbanizma, Tauriana je predstavljala strateški pozicioniranu cestovnu postaju s dvostrukom funkcijom: s jedne strane služila je kao točka logističke potpore, a s druge strane kao regionalno gospodarsko i religijsko središte, s kontinuitetom života od 1. stoljeća do kasne antike, točnije do 6. stoljeća. Nedostatak obrambenih zidina ne negira njezinu urbanost, imajući u vidu činjenicu da su se rimska naselja unutar cestovne mreže često razvijala u urbane entitete bez obrambene arhitekture.

Stoga, na temelju geografske korelacije s povijesnim izvorima, stratigrafskog kontinuiteta, arhitektonskih ostataka i materijalne kulture, s visokim stupnjem znanstvene vjerojatnosti može se tvrditi da Nov Dojran predstavlja ostatke antičke Tauriane, što čini ključni argument za reafirmaciju ovoga lokaliteta u znanstvenoj literaturi kao važne

The uncovered archaeological structures, such as the thermal baths at the Toplec site, early Christian basilicas with three-aisled and single-nave layouts, urban buildings with mosaic floor remains, architectural sculpture, capitals, sculptures and tombstones, testify to the existence of an organised and operational urban fabric with public, religious and residential functions. The discovered bronze and silver coins (including Macedonian coins from Amphipolis, Pella and Thessaloniki), as well as the early antique bronze weight in the shape of a bust, dated to the 3rd century BCE, indicate early economic activity in the area, which had begun in the pre-Roman period. Particularly important is the presence of two necropolises (the Manastir and Karaula sites), dated from the 1st to the 4th centuries CE, featuring diverse burial constructions and rich grave goods, including parts of early Roman sarcophagi of Attic type, implying the presence of a local elite and a certain level of urban culture. In the context of Roman infrastructure and urbanism, Tauriana represented a strategically positioned roadside station with a dual function: on one hand, serving as a logistics support point, and on the other, as a regional economic and religious centre with continuous habitation from the 1st century until late antiquity, specifically until the 6th century CE. The absence of defensive walls does not negate its urban character, given that Roman settlements within the road network often developed into urban entities without defensive architecture. Therefore, on the basis of geographical correlation with historical sources, stratigraphic continuity, architectural remains and material culture, it can be stated with a high level of scholarly certainty that the site of Nov Dojran represents the remains of ancient Tauriana. This serves as a key argument for reaffirming this site in the academic literature as an important node in the Roman communication and administrative network of the province of Macedonia. Simultaneously, the findings highlight an urgent need for

točke u rimskoj komunikacijskoj i administrativnoj mreži provincije Makedonije. Istodobno, rezultati upućuju na hitnu potrebu za sustavnim, interdisciplinarnim istraživanjima u cilju rekonstrukcije cjelokupne povijesne dinamike ove urbane cjeline u kontekstu rimske i ranobizantske geopolitike.

systematic, interdisciplinary research to reconstruct the full topography and historical dynamics of this urban centre within the context of Roman and early Byzantine geopolitics.

*Translation and proof-reading:  
ETNOtrend d.o.o.*

## LITERATURA / REFERENCES

- АЛЕКСОВА, Б., 1960, Комплекс ископавања у Нов Дојрану, *Arheološki pregled*, 2, 135–138.
- АНАНИЕВ, Ј., 1990–1991, Едно мермерно торзо од музејот во Струмица, Зборник на трудови, 10–11, 128–131.
- DRAGOJEVIC JOSIFOVSKA, B. 1976, Idomenai, Idomenae, u: *Tabula Imperii romani, Naisus – Dyrrhachion – Scupi – Serdica – Thessalonike, Sectio K34*, Ljubljana: Slovenska akademija znanosti in umetnosti, 63–64.
- FASOLO, M., LILČIĆ ADAMS, V. u tisku/in press, Tra Danubio ed Egeo: la via Axia e il controllo del territorio dalla Protostoria al Medioevo, rad predstavljen na *VIII Congresso di topografia antica in memoria di Giovanni Uggeri, 14 – 15 – 16 Giugno 2023*, Ferrara.
- FASOLO, M., LILČIĆ ADAMS, V., JAKIMOVSKI, A., TRENESKI, G. u tisku/in press, Via Axia u antičkoj epohi u, *Macedoniae acta archaeologica* 27.
- HAMMOND, N. G. L. 1972, A History of Macedonia, vol. I: *Historical geography and pre-history*, Oxford.
- ЛИЛЧИЌ (АДАМС), В. 1994, Античка патна мрежа, Археолошка карта на Република Македонија, Том. I, Скопје: Makedonska akademija na naukite i umetnostite, 112–118.
- ЛИЛЧИЌ (АДАМС), В., 2001, Македонскиот камен за боговите, христијаните и за живот по животот, Скопје: Makedonska civilizacija, 283–293.
- ЛИЛЧИЌ АДАМС, В. 2022, Македонската стратегија Пајонија, u/in: Пајонија и Пајонците, Скопје: Filozofski fakultet, 295–366.
- МИКУЛЧИЌ, И. 1982, *Старо Скопје со околните тврдини*, Скопје: Makedonska knjiga.
- МИКУЛЧИЌ, И. 1999, *Антички градови во Македонија*, Скопје: Makedonska akademija na naukite i umetnostite.
- MIKULČIĆ, I. 2002, *Spätantike und frühbyzantinische Befestigungen in Nordmakedonien: Städte, Vici, Refugien, Kastelle*, München: Beck'sche Verlagsbuchhandlung.
- ПАПАЗОГЛУ, Ф. 1957, *Македонски градови у римско доба / Les cités macédoniennes à l'époque romaine*, Скопје: Жива Антика, посебна издања, књ. 1. / *Antique vivante monographies* no 1.
- PARAZOGLU, F. 1988, *Bulletin de correspondance hellénique Supplément XVI: Les villes de Macédoine a l'époque Romaine*, Athènes-Paris: Ecole Française d'Athènes.
- РИСТОВ, К. 2005, Делницата Stenae-Tauriana на Tabula Peutingeriana, *Macedoniae acta archaeologica* бр. 16, 125–148.
- SARIA, B. 1925, Археолошке белешке (Дојран), *Starinar, Knj. 3* (1924/1925), 163.
- СЛАМКОВ, Е. 2012, Антички период, *Археолошки водич – Гевгелиско Валандовски регион*, Гевгелија: Фондација за локален развој и развој на информациски технологии 30–47.
- СЛАМКОВ, Е., ГУШЕВ Ѓ. 2005, Римски гробови од Дојранско, *Macedoniae Acta Archaeologica*, Vol. 16, 189–209.
- СОКОЛОВСКА, В. 1997, Пајонија во светлината на поновите проучувања /Paionia in the Light of the Latest Research, *Македонско наследство /Macedonian heritage*, бр.5/ no. 5, Скопје.
- СОКОЛОВСКА, В. 1980, *Археолошкото богатство на СР Македонија: Каталог*, Скопје: Arheološko društvo SR Makedonije – Arheološki muzej Makedonije, No. 332.
- ВИНЧИЌ, Ж., ИВАНОВСКИ, М., 1999, 16. Нов Дојран, Манастир, *Археолошка карта*

на Република Македонија, Том 2, Скопје: Мakedonska akademija na naukite i umetnostite, 102.

ВУЧКОВИЋ-ТОДОРОВИЋ, Д. 1952, Неколико археолошких предмета крај Дојранског Језера у *Muzeji* 7, Београд: Српског музејског друштва, 164–167.

VULIĆ, N. 1931, Antički spomenici u Srbiji, *Spomenik*, LXXI. Drugi razred 55/1931, Београд: Српска кралјевска академija.

VULIĆ, N. 1941–1948, Antički spomenici naše zemlje, *Spomenik*, XCVIII/77, Београд: Српска академija nauka.