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3rd—6th October 2022, Belgrade, Serbia

Book of Abstracts

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CONTENTS

Preface	9
Abstracts	11
Macro-Raman mapping: a new step in Raman spectroscopy of art objects P. Vandenaabeele and A. Rousaki	13
MA-XRF imaging of Greek Antiquities A. G. Karydas, C. Caliri, E. Eleftheriou, K. Tsampa, Th. Gerodimos and D. F. Anagnostopoulos	15
Glass through the Adriatic: an overview E. Gliozzo, F. Giannetti, M. Turchiano and M. Ferri	17
Metallurgy of the Vinča culture: going beyond the 'earliest' and the 'first' M. Radivojević and Th. Rehren	19
Latest analyses on Russian Byzantine frescoes from Novgorod A. R. G. Giunlia-Mair and M. V. Vdovichenko	21
Stable isotope analysis of human bone remains from the North-Thracian <i>dava</i> at Popești (2 nd – 1 st c. BC), in Southeastern Romania N. Palincaș, V. Atudorei, C. A. Simion, M. Mihon, A. Răzvan Petre, C. Mănăilescu and C. Șendroi	23
Radiocarbon dating of animal bones from Vindija and Mujina Pećina caves – can we have an agreement? I. Krajcar Bronić, I. Karavanić, A. Sironić, N. Vukosavljević, M. Banda and F. Smith	25
Environmental and Historical Context of the King's Road near Novi Pazar– application of GIS I. Kajtez and V. Vidosavljević	27
Digital mapping and 3D geovisualization in cultural heritage. The Ancient Pylos case study G. Malaperdas and N. Zacharias	29
A Software Tool for Egyptian-Coptic Language A. Kontogianni, T. Ganetsos and E. C. Papakitsos	31
Analysis of Panel Paintings by Clinical Multi-Slice Computed Tomography O. Klisurić, O. Nikolić, A. Spasić, U. Molnar, V. Till and D. Korolija Crkvenjakov.....	33
Preliminary results on the presence, diversity, and dynamics of cellulolytic airborne fungi on the premises of the Archbishop's and Kaptol's Library, and the State	

Archives in Zadar	
J. Lončar, M. Šimić, I. Genda and A. Mlikota.....	35
State of conservation and characteristics of constituent materials: case studies of XVIII century Serbian National Theatre building and a Romanian industrial building from the beginning of XX century	
S. Vučetić, H. Hirszenberger, B. Miljević, J. Ranogajec, M. Ignat, R. Constantinescu and L. Miu	37
Spectroscopic investigation of the pigments used for the decoration of Early-Neolithic pottery from the region of Pernik, Western Bulgaria	
A. Pirovska, V. Tankova, V. Mihailov and V. Atanassova	41
Multidisciplinary study of Wassily Kandinsky's reverse glass painting	
M. Marić Stojanović, T. Tripković and B. Anđelković	43
Analysis of pigments palette attributes to Theophilos Chatzimichael from wall paintings in the House of Kontos	
K. Romantzi and T. Ganetsos	45
Identification of pigments on the 18 th century iconostasis of St. Peter and Paul church in Sirogojno	
T. Tripković, R. Vasić, A. Lolić and R. Baošić.....	47
Pigments study of the decorative paintings of Dragutin Inkiostri Medenjak in the Titel house by means of Raman spectroscopy	
D. Korolija Crkvenjakov, T. Ganetsos and O. Klisurić	49
HHXRF characterization of pigments on funerary paintings from the Royal Tombs at Aigai, ancient Macedonia	
H. Brecolaki, K. Tsampa, E. Eleftheriou and A. G. Karydas.....	51
Recognizing the Value of Historic Mortars: from a Database to an Exhibition	
E. Nikolić, M. Jovičić, I. Delić-Nikolić, Lj. Miličić, S. Vučetić and J. Ranogajec.....	53
Scientific Investigations at Harappan Hinterlands of Rakhigarhi, Northwest India	
A. Chowdhary.....	55
A multidisciplinary study of Iron Age glass beads from the Cave Coroneia, Boeotia, Greece	
A. Oikonomou, S. Oikonomidis, K. Bataoula, N. Skoumi and A. G. Karydas	57
ICP-LA-MS analysis of Archaic to Hellenistic glass from Thebes, Greece: a contribution to glass studies	
M. Kaparou, A. Oikonomou, V. S. Šelih, J. T. van Elteren and N. Zacharias.....	61
Roman, Late Antique and Early Byzantine glass from Serbia – overview and what comes next	
R. Balvanović.....	63

Trace element and Pb-Ag isotope signatures of silver ore deposits of the central Balkans and applications for provenance studies K. J. Westner, M. Vaxevanopoulos, J. Blichert-Toft and F. Albarède.....	65
Metalworking technologies in the 5 th -century AD Carpathian Basin – changes in metal composition, manufacture, technology and decorating techniques V. Mozgai, E. Horváth, A. Mihácz-Pálfi, G. Szenthe, Zs. Hajnal, L. Schilling and B. Bajnóczi	67
Methodological framework for successful written heritage preservation management – operational and material aspects I. Horvat and D. Hasenay.....	69
The application of non-destructive techniques to identify Mycenaean jewels from a chamber tomb in central Greece E. Karantzali, T. Ganetsos, K. Romantzi and N. Laskaris.....	71
Raman and XRF Characterization of Obsidian from Early Eneolithic site Šanac-Izba near Lipolist in Western Serbia N. Marković, B. Tripković and D. Bajuk-Bogdanović	73
Stone biographies. Use-wear and residue analysis of knapped stone artifacts as direct proof of prehistoric processes of past societies A. Petrović, S. Nunziante Cesaro and C. Lemorini.....	75
Pigments Identification: Comparative examination of materials and techniques in the Hermitage Ascension in Pythion of Olympus, Greece. M. Katsantoni and T. Ganetsos	77
Use of resources in Vinča culture: a spectroscopic study of pigments for pottery decoration V. Bogosavljević Petrović, D. Bajuk-Bogdanović, N.M. Koturović, M. Svilar, M. Marić Stojanović and Lj. Damjanović-Vasilić.....	79
Preliminary Investigations of Polychromy of the Late Roman Marble Sculpture – Head of Jupiter from the WHS Gamzigrad-Romuliana, Serbia M. Franković, M. Živić and A. Jelikić.....	81
12th century AD red and yellow fresco pigments from North-Eastern Russia E. Y. Zubavichus.....	85
Analyses of mortars from St. George’s cathedral, Great Novgorod E. Ianovskaia, A. Vozniak, A. Nosova, L. Sazonova, N. Lebedeva, K. G. Erofeeva	88
Angular resolved XRF and XANES analysis of Attic Black Gloss ceramics C. Caliri, A. G. Karydas, A. Migliori, and F. P. Romano	90
Examination of painting technique and materials of Petar Lubarda’s paintings on paper support V. Jovanović, S. Vučetić, J. M. van der Bergh and J. Ranogajec	92
Eighth Balkan Symposium on Archaeometry, 3 rd —6 th October 2022, Belgrade, Serbia	

Preliminary investigation of the cinnabar origin and use on archaeological findings from Early Metal Age site in Northwestern Serbia
M. Gajić-Kvašček, V. Andrić, V. Filipović and A. Bulatović 94

Ores, mines and the making of Late Bronze Age copper in the Lechkumi district of the South Caucasus, north-west Georgia
R. Chagelishvili, N. Sulava, B. Gilmour, N. Rezesidze, T. Beridze and N. Tatuasvili... 94

Characterization of materials used in an Islamic manuscript from the 18th century
S. Ibragic, A. Alijagic, J. M. Van der Bergh, J. Ranogajec and S. Vučetić 98

AUTHOR INDEX 100

IL3

Glass through the Adriatic: an overview

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Keywords: ancient glass, Adriatic glass trade, Levantine and Egyptian glass, trade routes

This contribution is based on the archaeometric dataset currently available for the 3rd-10th cen. AD natron-based glass found in Albania, Adriatic Italy, Serbia and Slovenia. The dataset includes over a thousand samples, mainly dated between the 4th and 7th centuries (beads and *tesserae* are excluded).

The main objective is to observe if, despite the significant gaps in the literature for a large part of these territories, the available data are already sufficient to trace preferential glass trade routes from the Levantine or the Egyptian coasts.

Several uncertainties undoubtedly remain regarding the provenance assignment of some samples, however, it is possible to propose some preliminary quantification.

The prevalence of the Egyptian glass groups is apparent:

about 70% of the specimens included in the dataset vs 30% of Levantine-type products. Among the latter, 35% can be dated not later than the 4th century, 55% not later than the 7th and the remaining 10% not later than the 10th.

Among samples assigned to Egyptian groups, only 7% can be dated earlier than the 4th century. On the other hand, most of them (57%) are dated between the 5th and the 7th centuries, while a smaller percentage (28%) cannot be dated later than the 9th century.

So-called "fresh" glass is scarcely represented (only about 10%) by samples dated between the 4th and 7th centuries. The dominant glass groups are the Egyptians in this subset. The average of Cu and Pb calculated for the totality of the examined samples is higher than 1000

ppm, testifying to the wide use of abundant colouring agents.

While bearing in mind that the available data may represent only a tiny percentage of the vitreous

material in the investigated area, these results may already inform of some general trends that have affected the Adriatic imports between the Roman, Late Antique and Early Medieval times.

IL4

Metallurgy of the Vinča culture: going beyond the ‘earliest’ and the ‘first’

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Keywords: Vinca culture, metallurgy, slag, networks, Balkans, aesthetics

Metallurgy of the Vinca culture is currently known as the earliest in the world and dated to the beginning of the 5th millennium BC [1]. Besides the earliest documented copper and lead smelting, tin bronze making emerges at 4650 BC alongside the appearance of gold in the Balkans [2, 3]. These finds demonstrate that the technology of metal making in the Balkans evolved in a dynamic that is different from traditional models of the emergence of metallurgy based on the Near Eastern evidence and points at the necessity to revise current hypotheses on the evolution of Eurasian and global metallurgy.

We present a synthesis of all results to date that address the technology, provenance and circulation of the 5th mill BC Balkan metal with the focus on Vinca culture artifacts. Using modern analytical instruments, we reveal the recipes for

metal making, the role of aesthetics as well as the patterns of cooperation between metal making communities as indicated by networks analyses [4, 5]. In this light, we suggest a novel model for the evolution of metallurgy in Eurasia and beyond.

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IL5

Latest analyses on Russian Byzantine frescoes from Novgorod

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Keywords: wall painting, Russian-Byzantine, frescoes, pigments, mortars, substrates

In this paper, we present the latest data obtained from the analyses of fragments of Russian-Byzantine wall paintings recovered from the architectural excavations carried out in the church of St. George in the Yuriev Princely Monastery built in 1119 at Veliky Novgorod, one of the oldest cities in Russia and UNESCO World site. In the last 7 years, the archaeologists of the Institute of Archaeology of the Russian Academy of Sciences in Moscow excavated the 12th-century layers and extracted a large number of fragments of frescoes, which are extremely important for the reconstruction of the history of Novgorod and the study of Russian-Byzantine art in general.

The pigments employed for the paintings and the painting techniques, with color layers, substrates, and mortars, have been studied and analyzed in the last two

years in the Laboratory of the Institute of Archaeology of the Russian Academy of Sciences. The analytical methods we employed were optical microscopy (OM), X-ray Fluorescence Spectrometry (XRF) and Scanning Electron Microscope with Energy Dispersive Spectrometry (SEM-EDS). OM permits to distinguish between of the superficial painting method, the inclusions in the mortars, the intonaco and intonachino layers and various interesting substrates. XRF was employed to first screening of the fragments and the first pigment identification. The samples were mounted in resins and polished for analysis with SEM-EDS. The analytical data we possess up to now indicate a very classical Byzantine technique with the use of expensive pigments such as lazurite, but also green earth, various types of ochres and mixtures of pigments.

Special care was taken for the identification of the substrates.

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AUTHOR INDEX

- Albarède, F. 65
Alijagic, A. 99
Anagnostopoulos, D. F. 15
Anđelković, B. 43
Andrić, V. 93
Atanassova V. 41
Atudorei, V. 23
Bajnóczi, B. 67
Bajuk-Bogdanović, D. 73, 79
Balvanović, R. 63
Banda, M. 25
Baošić, R. 47
Bataoula, K. 57
Beridze, T. 95
Blichert-Toft, J. 65
Bogosavljević Petrović, V. 79
Brecoulaki, H. 51
Bulatović, A. 93
Caliri, C. 15, 89
Chagelishvili, R. 95
Chowdhary, A. 55
Constantinescu, R. 37
Damjanović-Vasilić, Lj. 79
Delić-Nikolić, I. 53
E. Eleftheriou 15. 51
Erofeeva, K. G. 87
Ferri, M. 17
Filipović, V. 93
Franjić, A. 59
Franković, M. 81
Gajić-Kvaščev, M. 93
Ganetsos, T. 31, 45, 49, 71, 77
Genda, I. 35
Gerodimos, Th. 15
Giannetti, F. 17
Gilmour, B. 95
Giumlia-Mair, A. R. G. 21
Gliozzo, E. 17
Hajnal, Zs. 67
Hasenay, D. 69
Hirszenberger, H. 37
Horvat, I. 69
Horváth, E. 67
Ianovskaia, E. 87
Ibragic, S. 99
Ignat, M. 37
Jelikić, A. 81
Jovanović, V. 91
Jovičić, M. 53
Kajtez, I. 27
Kaparou, M. 61
Karantzali, E. 71
Karavanić, I. 25
Karydas, A. G. 15, 51, 57, 89
Katsantoni, M. 77
Klisurić, O. 33, 49

- Kontogianni, A. 31
Korolija Crkvenjakov, D. 33, 49
Koturović, N. M. 79
Krajcar Bronić, I. 25
Laskaris, N. 71
Lebedeva, N. 87
Lemorini, C. 75
Lolić, A. 47
Lončar, J. 35
Malaperdas, G. 29
Mănăilescu, C. 23
Marić Stojanović, M. 43, 79
Marković, N. 73
Migliori, A. 89
Mihácz-Pálfi, A. 67
Mihailov V. 41
Mihon, M. 23
Miličić, Lj. 53
Miljević, B. 37
Miu, L. 37
Mlikota, A. 35
Molnar, U. 33
Mozgai, V. 67
Nikolić, E. 53
Nikolić, O. 33
Nosova, A. 87
Nunziante Cesaro, S. 75
Oikonomidis, S. 57
Oikonomou, A. 57,61
Palincaş, N. 23
Papakitsos, E. C. 31
Petrović, A. 75
Pirovska, A. 41
Radivojevic, M. 19
Ranogajec, J. 37, 53, 91, 99
Răzvan Petre, A. 23
Rehren, Th. 19
Rezesidze, N. 95
Romano, F. P. 15, 89
Romantzi, K. 45, 71
Rousaki, A. 13
Sazonova, L. 87
Schilling, L. 67
Şendroiou, C. 23
Simion, C. A. 23
Sironić, A. 25
Skoumi, N. 57
Smith, F. 25
Spasić, A. 33
Sulava, N. 95
Svilar, M. 79
Szenthe, G. 67
Šelih, V. S. 61
Šimić, M. 35
Šmit, Ž. 59
Tankova, V. 41
Tatuasvili, N. 95
Till, V. 33

Topić, N. 59
Tripković, B. 73
Tripković, T 43,47
Tsampa, K. 15, 51
Turchiano, M. 17
Van der Bergh, J. M. 91, 99
Van Elteren, J. T. 61
Vandenabeele, P. 13
Vasić, R. 47
Vaxevanopoulos, M. 65
Vdovichenko, M. V. 21
Vidosavljević, V. 27
Vozniak, A. 87
Vučetić, S. 37, 53, 91, 99
Vukosavljević, N. 25
Westner, K. J. 65
Zacharias, N. 29, 61
Zubavichus, E. Y. 85
Živić, M. 81

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