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OBYDLIE NA SÍDLISKU Z OBDOBIA AVARSKÉHO KAGANÁTU V NOVÝCH ZÁMKOCH

Jozef Zábojník – GabrielFusek

A dwelling in the settlement from the period of the Avar kaganate in Nové Zámky

In the Nové Zámky settlement, the Dolný Piritov site (Nové Zámky III), more than 200 settlement objects from the period of the Avar kaganate were explored during three research stages. The paper deals with the characterisation of one dwelling explored in the settlement. It is a sunk earth-house of a rectangular shape, having a clay stove with sunk bottom in the corner. The fragments of ceramics and burnt parts of cupola, being subject of the analytical part of the study, were found in its filling. The heating equipment differs from the other ones known from the territory of the Avar kaganate not only by its being sunk under the floor level, but also by the fact that its cupola was not sunk to the clay block, but was built independently.

Without a detailed evaluation of the whole discovery fund from the settlement, a more detailed dating of the object is not possible. The dating of the excavation site as a whole and its ranking into cultural and civilisation sphere of the Avar Kaganate are proved by the fragments of roasting bells, sherds from the so called yellow ceramics and sporadic sherds from the so called grey ceramics.

VČASNOSLOVANSKÝ SÍDLISKOVÝ OBJEKT ZO ŽDANE

† Július Béreš

The Early Slavonic Settlement Object from Ždaňa

Between the villages of Ždaňa and Škaroš excavation works to place gas pipelines were performed. During the works in the position of Vyšné pole object 1 was disrupted – an earth-house from which southern part of a potentially oval shape and a disrupted heating equipment were revealed. A shard material, fragments of grindstone, daub and animal bones were obtained from the filling. The ceramics from Ždaňa has features which rank it to the Prague type. The production technology of modelling containers was in essence identical with findings in other sites featuring the occurrence of the Prague type ceramics of an archaic form and falling, like in Ždaňa, to the second third of the 6th century. In a more detailed treatise on the earliest Slavonic settlement in eastern Slovakia as part of the upper Tisza River basin we have pointed to the necessity of resolving certain substantial problems (genesis, theory of the autochthonous origin, time and direction of the arrival of Slavs in the northern part of the Carpathian Valley), or partial questions of economic and spiritual life of the newly-arrived Slavonic population. The exploration of early Slavonic objects and finds, so far only in the Košická kotlina (Ždaňa, Nižná Myšľa), has shown that also eastern Slovakia took part in the processes of Slavs’ settling down in the northern part of the Carpathian Valley after the year 470, though still before the arrival of the Avars.

VČASNOSTREDOVEKÁ ZÁSOBNÁ JAMA Z MOSTNEJ ULICE V NITRE

Gabriel Fusek – Marián Samuel

The Early Medieval Supply Ditch from Mostná Street in Nitra

During the 2006 rescue archaeological exploration in the Nitra’s Mostná Street, an Early Medieval settlement object no. 14 was excavated – originally a supply ditch, later on a waste disposal ditch, hollowed out into a cultural layer from the Bronze Age and to the loess subsoil. The backfill contained various archaeological material – a considerable quantity of partly smoked and burnt stones originally making up perhaps a part of a dwelling’s stone oven, animal bones, fragment of the aurochs horn, bronze earring with a couple mouldings, a bronze coiled wire, one Early Medieval ceramic container and ceramic shards from Bronze Age, La Tène Age, and Early Middle Ages. The paper presents results of detailed analyses of the ceramics which proved to be the most suitable in determining the time of the object’s disappearance. The study of fragmentariness indicated that the object contains approx. one tenth of pots specimens, which can be associated with the time of the object’s destruction with higher probability than the small sherds. An earring used within a wide range of time is not a contribution to the object’s dating. According to the analysis of ornaments on the ceramics and their comparison with finds from burial sites and settlements, they fall into the time frame of the turn from the Great Moravian to the post Great Moravian period, probably the first half of the 10th cent. The exploration area within the then settlement structure of Nitra was situated at the northern edge of an unfortified area, from which a part of medieval town was formed later on, in written sources labelled as “civitas”.
NÁLEZ ROHU PRATURA V JAME Z 9.–10. STOROČIA V NITRE

Zora Bielichová – Marián Samuel

The find of aurochs horn in a ditch from the 9th –10th century in Nitra

In the supply/waste ditch from the second half of the 9th cent., or the first half of the 10th cent., a horn extension belonging to a very robust adult individual (bull) of a free-living aurochs (*Bos primigenius*) was found. It is one of the youngest proofs of the aurochs occurrence in Slovakia (the youngest find is from Nitra-Chrenová from the close of the 10th cent., or the beginning of the 11th cent.), which corresponds with the era of the disappearance of aurochs in this part of Europe.

NÁLEZY KERAMICKÝCH FAJOK Z ARCHEOLOGICKÝCH VÝSKUMOV A PROSPEKCIÍ NA SLOVENSKU I.

Marián Čurný – Peter Šimčík – Mário Bielich

The finds of ceramic pipes from archaeological explorations and prospections in Slovakia

In the first part of the multi-volume series about finds made of ceramic and other materials from archaeological explorations and prospections in Slovakia, the authors have focused on the evaluation of finds of pipes from archaeological activities of the company Archeológia Zemplín from Michalovce, carried out during the years 2009–2010. Based on a detailed survey of the problem’s treatment, they point to the starting points of the study of pipes at present. At the same time, they introduce a formalised way of the description of pipes and evaluation of the set of finds consisting of 30 pipe finds dated from the 17th to the 20th cent.

ZANIKNUTÝ STREDOVEKÝ HRÁDOK V NITRIANSKEJ STREDE

Výsledky archeologického, architektonicko-historického a geofyzikálneho výskumu

Noémi Pažinová – Martin Bóna – Ján Tirpák

Extinguished Medieval Castle in Nitrianska Streda. Results of Archaeological, Architectural-Historical and Geophysical Research

The aim of the paper is to present the results of archaeological, architectural-historical and geophysical investigations in relation to the dehumidification of masonry foundation of a national cultural monument Lutheran church in Nitrianska Streda (ÚZPF 11276/0). The church is situated on the western edge of the lowland village of Nitrianska Streda, on the left Nitra river bank. Archaeological research conducted by Department of Archaeology in Nitra in 2010 brought to light late medieval and modern period pottery fragments and older architecture. For this reason architectural-historical survey of uncovered architecture followed the research. As the southern continuation of three identified structures were with high probability completely destroyed by the church foundations and crypt, the expected results on the nature of the estate brought the georadar research in the northern neighbourhood of the church. Examined national cultural monument can be after results of the research extended to an archaeological site – extinguished late medieval castle. On this site was in 1748 build the church and in 1811 enriched by a tower. The castle is mentioned in written sources from the second half of the 14th century.

NIEKTORÉ VÝSLEDKY NEDEŠTRUKTÍVNEJ PROSPEKCIE STREDOVEKEJ SAKRÁLNEJ ARCHITEKTÚRY V NITRE

Marián Samuel – Ján Tirpák

Some Results of the Non-Destructive Prospection of Medieval Sacral Architecture in Nitra

The paper presents results of GPR measurements in three sites in the Nitra “Lower Town”. In two cases they included perished medieval sacral architectures (Church of St. Jacob, Church of St. Michal), while the third one is the still standing, and in use, object (Church of St. Stephen). All the mentioned churches fulfilled an important function in the life of the medieval Nitra. However, there are no relevant written sources for any of them, which would provide satisfactory explanation of the time of their origin. In case of the two perished sacral objects (Church of St. Jacob, Church of St. Michal) not even their exact localisation is known. Therefore the aim of the measurements was mainly to verify possibilities how to identify the
architectures and, at the same time, to explore their wider surrounding, with a possibility of detecting the presence of other archaeological objects. The measurement in the area of Svätopluk Square detected the presence of a marked anomaly in places where the tower of St. George’s Church (pulled down in 1882) is assumed to have been standing. Other anomalies which could be associated with the walls of the remaining parts of the church (pulled down in 1786) were not detected. Measurements in the vicinity and in the interior of St. Michael’s Chapel (built in 1739) indicated the presence of older masonry at two areas, probably connected with the perished medieval Church of St. Michael. The measurements carried out in the interior and exterior of St. Stephen’s Church detected the remains of two perished sacristies at the church’s south-eastern side, the existence of a larger crypt in the church’s aisle, foundations of built empor, and indicated the presence of the foundations of the altar mensa.

**ZÁCHRANNÝ VÝSKUM PRI KOSTOLE NARODENIA PANNY MÁRIE VO VEĽKÝCH CHYNDICIACH**

Marián Samuel

The Rescue Exploration at the Church of the Nativity of Virgin Mary in Veľké Chyndice

During a short rescue exploration at the Church of the Nativity of Virgin Mary in Veľké Chyndice reconstruction furrows deepened along the building and its vicinity were documented. New information on the used construction technology and development of the object, consisting of the remains of Roman nave and apsis (13th cent.), Baroque nave (18th cent.) and pre-built tower (20th cent.), was acquired. It was shown that the foundations of the Roman building were built in bricks. Shallow foundations may have been fixed by stone-brick sustaining wall only as late as in Modern Times. There was partial uncovering of a short section of stone-brick foundation wall, remains of the medieval sacristy renovated in Baroque, which made it possible to reconstruct its ground plan. A slightly misaligned sacristy, connected in the east to the apsis and in the west to the Church’s Roman nave, had inner dimensions of 3.33 x 2.62 m. It was found out that the pillars supporting the present nave of the church at the southern and northern side were not built during the Baroque reconstruction, as it has been assumed so far, but they originated later, perhaps at the end of the 19th or the beginning of the 20th cent. The crypt attached to the northern wall of the church’s Baroque nave, probably in the 19th cent., was partially explored. It was shown that the terrain at the southern side of the Roman building was lowered during the Baroque reconstruction (1735–1750) at the latest, which put a part of the Roman foundation wall above the level of the present terrain.

**PETROGRAFICKÁ ANALÝZA STA VEBNÉHO MATERIÁLU Z VÝSKUMU KOSTOLA NARODENIA PANNY MÁRIE VO VEĽKÝCH CHYNDICIACH**

Ján Jahn – Marián Samuel

Petrographic analysis of building material from the exploration of the Church of the Nativity of Virgin Mary in Veľké Chyndice

During the rescue exploration of the Church of the Nativity of Virgin Mary in Veľké Chyndice (Nitra district) were taken ten samples of rocks, which had been used as building material in various stages of its construction and historical development. Their petrographic characteristics were defined by macroscopic analysis, and, subsequently, possible provenance of the rocks was verified. From the oldest Roman part of the church (13th cent.) built with bricks comes the sample of stone lining of a portal made of rhyolite, or rhyodacite, and brought from the mountains of central Slovak neovulcanites, i.e. from the distance of 30–50 km. The remains of the portal’s threshold are from red organogenic limestone, coming probably from the quarries at the village of Tardos in Hungary. These quarries of “red marble”, at 70 km crow-fly distance, had been used already by the end of the 12th cent. and in Middle Ages supplied an extensive territory of the Kingdom of Hungary. Two other samples, obtained from the stone-brick foundations of a perished medieval sacristy, were determined as ignimbrites taken from a quarry in the 20 km distant Obyce. It was found out that for the foundations of the Baroque annex building (18th cent.) were exclusively used the crinoid limestones, quarried in the cadastre of a nearby (10 km) village of Kolíňany. The cover of a crypt, attached in the 18th cent., or in the 19th cent., to the northern wall of the Baroque aisle, was made of the pyroxenic andesite. Its closest occurrences are known from the quarries with historical mining at Machulince (16 km) and Obyce (20 km) in Pohronský Inovec, to a lesser degree also in Kozmálovské vršky (15–20 km). Samples were also taken from three different parts of a gravestone of the local priest G. Alapy (+1746). It was found out that the gravestone’s cross was made of crystalloclastic ashy tuff, with a probable source of the raw material being central Slovak neovulcanites, situated in a wider vicinity of Banská Štiavnica (the Štiavnica stratovolcano, approx. 50 km). The upper and lateral part of the gravestone is made of crystalloclastic sand tuff, also coming from Middle Slovak neovulcanites (the Štiavnica stratovolcano and its marginal parts).
PRÍSPEVOK K TOPONYMII ZÁHORIA Z HĽADISKA ARCHEOLOGICKÉHO A HISTORICKO-INGVISTICKÉHO

Robert Bača

Paper on the toponymy of Záhorie region from the standpoint of archaeology, history and linguistics

The study deals with toponymy of the most western part of Slovakia – Záhorie – which represents (creates) the border with Czech Republic. The names of the villages and their terrain parts show that the region was situated in a marshy environment. The living conditions in this area were preferred by the Slavs rather than the Hungarians. The main orientation thoroughfares were the rivers: Danube, Morava, Myjava and their tributary streams. The archaeological researches and surveys have testified the plentiful Slav settlements from the beginning of the 6th cent. AD. Most of the village and terrain names inform us of the Christian and Pagan cults of our ancestors.

ARCHEOLOGICKÉ NÁLEZISKÁ NA GOOGLE EARTH

Ivan Kuzma

Archaeological sites on Google Earth

A possibility to use satellite images has become, especially in recent years, great aid for the discovery of new sites. The introduction of Google Earth by Google search engine in 2004 was thus a significant turn in their use by general public. On the one side the general public welcomed its introduction with enthusiasm, on the other side it faced considerable criticism because it allows to get information about classified military and other strategic objects or territories. A similar situation took place also in archaeology, when publishing of archaeological sites provoked many discussions concerning their safety and protection, though one can say that pros prevail over cons.

Google Earth is playing more and more important role in the discovery of new sites, for example, in the territories where even professional archaeologists do not have a possibility to find another way of obtaining aerial images (original satellite images are relatively expensive, lacking georeferencing and rectification, and being without proof that exactly in them one happens to see something). Thus the use of Google Earth has already brought excellent results in several parts of the world. It could be said that only in Slovakia it has helped discover several hundreds of new sites and their number is on the increase.

The identified facts include a wide scale of excavation sites and features from various periods, from small independent objects up to extensive hill-forts. What was captured on satellite images in fact appears the same as in classic aerial prospection from low flying sports planes. Thus the same principles hold there, one of them being the repeated documentation of excavation sites. In more cases than during direct prospection they may be recent features or even geological manifestations of various forms, which confirms the inevitability to draw in interpretation first of all on the comparison of several images.

The paper does not aspire to be a detailed presentation of archaeological sites and features (300 sites were selected - http://www.cevnad.sav.sk/aktuality.html#2_1) observable on Google Earth, either already verified or potential. It rather wants to point to possibilities and various obstacles during a search for them. It will be therefore interesting to observe how many of the mentioned sites and features, as well as other ones, will be clearly marked, after a detailed verification, as archaeological.