

RIMSKA GROBNICA NA LOKALITETU GRUDICE KOD DUKLJE

THE ROMAN TOMB FROM THE GRUDICE SITE NEAR DOCLEA

Lokalitet Grudice nalazi se u naselju Rogami kod Podgorice, nedaleko od ostataka rimskog grada Doclea, na oko 200 m sjeveroistočno od skretanja prema mostu Smokovac. Naziv lokaliteta govori nam da je nekada na ovom mjestu postojalo više manjih humki – „grudica“, kakve je na prostoru jugoistočne nekropole Duklje pominjao Piero Sticotti (Pjero Stikoti) i pod kojima su mještani nailazili na ostatke zidova, ili grobove. Grudice su usljed višedecenijske devastacije lokaliteta izgradnjom naselja vremenom nestale, ali se i dalje veoma često na ovom prostoru prilikom građevinskih i poljoprivrednih radova pronalaze ostaci grobne arhitekture. Tako su krajem juna 2010. godine, prilikom zemljanih radova na imanju porodice Šoškić, vlasnici naišli na masivni kameni blok, po čijem podizanju je ustanovljeno da se radi o grobnici. U trenutku otkrića grobnica je bila netaknuta, međutim vlasnici su nakon otvaranja iz nje izvadili dva staklena predmeta – bocu (sl. 1) i pehar (sl. 2), i pritom neznatno poremetili stanje u unutrašnjosti. Ubrzo je kontaktirana JU Muzeji i galerije Podgorice, te su 30. juna 2010. godine započeta zaštitna arheološka iskopavanja.

Na početku je odmjerena sonda dimenzija 3 x 3,5 m sa namjerom da se njome obuhvati cjelokupan gabarit grobne konstrukcije, a zatim je pristupljeno otkrivanju zidova grobnice do nivoa zdravice. Iskopavanja su trajala šest dana i pružila su sljedeće podatke:

grobna konstrukcija je orijentisana u pravcu sjeveroistok-jugozapad i ima dimenzije cca 260 x 160 x 100 cm

(sl. 3, T. I). Za njenu izgradnju upotrijebljen je kamen obrađen u obliku polustubova približno istog prečni-

The Grudice Site is situated in the Rogami settlement near Podgorica, in the vicinity of the remains of the ancient Roman town of Doclea, 200 metres north-east of the crossroads by Smokovac Bridge. The name of this site indicates that a long time ago there were a lot of small mounds – “grudice” in this place, mentioned in the area of Doclea’s south-eastern necropolis by Piero Sticotti, and under which the remains of walls or tombs were found by local inhabitants.¹ As time went by, the mounds disappeared as a result of devastation of the site by the construction of the settlement, but it is still very common nowadays for the remains of tomb architecture to be found during construction and agricultural work. This was precisely the case when, at the end of June 2010, during earth works on the property of the Soskic family, the owners discovered a huge stone block, and after lifting it up, concluded that they had found a tomb. At the moment of the discovery the tomb was completely intact, however after its opening the owners took out two glass items – a bottle (pic.1) and a cup (pic.2), and slightly disturbed the inner part of the tomb. Soon afterwards, The Museums and Galleries of Podgorica Public Institution was informed and rescue archaeological excavations started on June 30, 2010.²

At the beginning, a trench measuring 3 x 3.5 m was dug, with the purpose of covering the whole dimensions of the tomb construction, and then we commenced unearthing the tomb sides down to the sterile soil. The excavations took six days and the following data was obtained: the tomb orientation was north-east to south-west, and its dimensions cca.

¹ Sticotti, P., *Rimski grad Doclea u Crnoj Gori*, Podgorica, 1999, p 35

² Excavations were published by the Museums and Galleries of Podgorica Public Institution, with contributions from: D. Radović – curator of the Museums and Galleries of Podgorica Public Institution, M. Baković and I. Medenica – archaeologists of the Centre for Archeological Research of Montenegro



ka i različitih dužina, što je jedinstven slučaj kada su u pitanju do sada otkriveni grobovi u Crnoj Gori, a ni sa drugih područja nam nisu poznate analogije. Polustubovi su postavljeni tako da formiraju pravougaonu grobnu komoru dimenzija 188 x 95 cm i na spojevima sa unutrašnje strane su omalterisani. Prelom na polustubu koji formira južni zid grobnice je takođe premazan malterom sa unutrašnje strane, dok je nešto kraći sjeverni polustub „produžen“ davanjem kamena, vjerovatno odlomljenog tokom klesanja i popunjavanjem praznina u sjevernom uglu grobne komore malterom (sl. 4).

Sl. 4. Sjeverni ugao grobnice. Foto M. Baković

Polustub koji zatvara konstrukciju sa jugoistoka je najkraći i samo je djelimično obrađen. Funkciju pokrovnih ploča obavljaju tri polustuba vezana malterom za zidove grobnice, a na kraćim stranama grobnice je dodat po jedan red lomljenog kamena sa ciljem da se spriječi upadanje zemlje u unutrašnjost. Pod grobne komore popločan je sa šest ravnih opeka (tegula).

Sl. 5. Skeletni ostaci u grobnici. Foto M. Baković

U grobnici su se nalazili skeletni ostaci tri pokojnika (sl. 5). Najstarijoj sahrani pripadaju skeletni ostaci brižljivo sakupljeni i složeni na gomilu u sjeverozapadni ugao grobne komore, koje smo označili kao Skelet I (T. II). Nije registrovan nijedan prilog koji bi mogao pripadati ovom pokojniku.

Drugi pokojnik (Skelet II), prilično oštećen u karličnom dijelu, je položen na leđa u opruženom stavu i orijentisan u pravcu sjeverozapad-jugoistok. Uz njegov lijevi bok je položena staklena posuda, od koje smo pronašli samo fragmente (T.V/2), a pripadao mu je i jedan gvozdeni instrument, koji se nalazio uz desni bok pokojnika (T.III/1). Dimenzije instrumenta: dužina 17,2 cm, maksimalna širina oštrice 4 cm,



260 x 160 x 100 cm (pic. 3, T. I). It was constructed with semi-columns of approximately the same diameter and different lengths, which is unique as far as unearthed tombs in Montenegro are concerned, and also we are unfamiliar with any similarities in other areas. The semi-columns were set in such a way that they form a rectangular tomb chamber with dimensions 189 x 100 cm and they are plastered at the corners on the inner side. The break in the semi-column which forms the southern wall of the tomb is also covered with plaster on the inner side, while the slightly shorter northern semi-column is “extended” by the addition of stone, probably broken off during the processing and filling of the spaces with plaster in the northern corner of the tomb chamber (pic. 4).

The semi-column which closes the construction from the south-east is the shortest and is only partially dressed. Three semi-columns that are connected by plaster to the tomb walls have function as covering slabs, and on the shorter sides of the tombs one row of broken stones was added to prevent earth falling into it. The floor of the tomb chamber is covered by six flat bricks (tegulae).

The skeletal remains of three bodies were found in the tomb (pic. 5). The skeletal remains, which had been carefully collected and put in a pile in the north-west corner of the tomb chamber, belong to the earliest funeral, and they are marked as Skeleton I (T. II). No items were registered which could belong to this individual.

The second body (Skeleton II) had been laid on its back, stretched out and was lying in a north-west to south-east direction. The skeleton had been disturbed in the pelvic region. A glass vessel was by its left side, only fragments of which were found (T.V/2) and also one iron instrument was by its right side (T.III/1). Dimensions of the instrument: length - 17.2 cm; maximum width of the blade - 4 cm; thickness of the blade - 0.4 cm; thickness at the tip - 0.18 cm; the handle has a rectangular cross-section of 2.3 x 1.8 cm.

Skeleton III was the best preserved, and probably the last to be buried in the tomb.



debljina oštrice 0,4 cm, na kraju 0,18 cm, drška pravougaonog presjeka 2,3 x 1,8 cm.

Najbolje očuvan i po svemu sudeći posljednji sahranjen u grobnici je Skelet III. Pokojnik je položen na leđa u opruženom stavu, orijentisan glavom prema jugoistoku. Predmeti pronađeni uz njega ukazuju na to da se radi o ženskom skeletu. Ispod lobanje pronađena je koštana igla za kosu dužine 9,8 cm, složene profilacije, ukrašena urezanim geometrijskim motivima (T.III/3). Još jedna lučno zakrivljena koštana igla dužine 17,7 cm nalazila se ispod desnog ramena pokojnice (T.III/2). Na osnovu njenog položaja i dimenzija može se zaključiti da je ova igla bila dio odjeće, ili je pridržavala krajeve tkanine u koju je pokojnica bila umotana prilikom sahrane. Pored glave se nalazila bronzana alka pravougaonog presjeka, prečnika 5,7 cm, debljine 1 mm, ukrašena plastičnim rebrima, moguće ukras/šnala za kosu (T.III/4). Staklena boca i pehar, koje su vlasnici izvadili iz grobnice takođe su pripadali ovom skeletu i na osnovu otisaka u sloju zemlje ustanovili smo da su se nalazili u predjelu lijevog ramena pokojnice. Boca je od zelenkastog stakla, sa cilindričnim vratom, zadebljanim profilisanim obodom i loptastim recipijentom sa uvučenim dnom (sl.1, T.IV/1). Dimenzije: prečnik oboda 3,2 cm, prečnik dna 5 cm, visina 14,7 cm. Konični pehar je takođe izrađen od zelenkastog stakla, ima lijevčasto proširen obod i prstenastu sto-

The body had been laid on its back, stretched out, pointing towards the south-east. The items found around it indicate that it is a woman's skeleton. A bone needle was found under the skull, 9.8 cm in length, with a complex profile and decorated with engraved geometric lines (T.III/3). Another arch-shaped bone needle 17.7 cm in length was found under the right shoulder of the body (T.III/2). According to the position and dimensions, it can be concluded that this needle was part of the clothing, or that it connected the ends of the funerary shroud in which the body was wrapped. There was a bronze iron ring with a rectangular cross-section beside the head, 5.7 cm in diameter, 1 mm thick, decorated with carved ribs, probably a hair ornament (T.III/4). The glass bottle and the cup, which the landowners removed from the tomb, also belonged to this skeleton, and on the basis of the prints in the soil layer, we discovered that they were situated beside the left shoulder of the body. The bottle was made of green glass, with a cylindrical neck, a thick profiled rim and a round body with a pushed-in bottom (pic.1, T.IV/1). Dimensions: diameter of the rim - 3.2 cm; diameter of the bottom - 5 cm; height - 14.7 cm. The conical cup was also made of green glass, with a funnel-like rim and a ring-shaped base (pic.2, T.IV/2). Dimension: diameter of the rim - 7.4 cm; diameter of the bottom - 3.4 cm; height - 10.5 cm.



pu (sl.2,T.IV/2). Dimenzije: prečnik oboda 7,4 cm, prečnik dna 3,4 cm, visina 10,5 cm.

U grobnici su pronađeni i fragmenti balsamarijuma takođe od zelenkastog stakla, nažalost ne in situ (T.III/5). Dimenzije: prečnik dna 1,7 cm, očuvana visina 4 cm.

Tokom iskopavanja naišli smo na još dva slabije očuvana skeletna groba sa sjeverne i južne strane grobnice, koje smo označili kao Grob I i Grob II (T.I). Oba su orijentisana u pravcu jugoistok-sjeverozapad.

Grob I je djelimično bio oivičen lomljenim kamenom i na osnovu činjenice da naliježe na bočnu stranu grobne konstrukcije, može se zaključiti da je ova sahrana izvršena nakon njene izgradnje. Pored glave pokojnika nalazio se keramički krčag sa jednom vertikalnom drškom, od dosta dobro prečišćene, loše pečene zemlje, crvenkasto-sive boje (T.V/1). Dimenzije: prečnik oboda 6,2 cm, prečnik dna 7 cm, visina 16,4 cm.

Grob II je skoro potpuno uništen tokom izgradnje grobnice. Pokojnik je vjerovatno bio sahranjen u drvenom sanduku, jer su uz njega pronađena dva gvozdena klina (T.V/3).

Pronađeni prilozi su uglavnom hronološki osjetljivi, što nam omogućava precizno datovanje grobni-

The fragments of a balsamarium were found in the tomb, also made of green glass, unfortunately not in situ (T.III/5). Dimension: diameter of the bottom – 1.7 cm; preserved height - 4 cm.

During excavation we found two more skeleton tombs which were less well preserved on the northern and southern sides of the tomb, which we marked as Tomb I and Tomb II (T.I). Both of them were oriented in a south-east to north-west direction.

Tomb I is partially bordered with broken stone, and due to the fact that it lies on the side of the tomb construction, it can be concluded that the funeral was carried out after construction. Beside the head of the body, there was ceramic jar with one vertical handle, made of uncontaminated, but badly-baked earth, greyish-red in colour (T.V/1). Dimensions: diameter of the rim – 6.2 cm; diameter of the bottom - 7 cm; height – 16.4 cm.

Tomb II was completely destroyed during the construction of the tomb. The body was probably buried in a wooden coffin, because two iron wedges were found beside it. (T.V/3).

The items found are chronologically specific, which enables us to date the tomb precisely.

Glass bottles with a spherical body and a profiled

ce. Staklene boce loptastog recipijenta sa profilisanim obodom veoma su čest prilog na nekropolama Duklje. Boce ovog tipa upotrebljavane su za vino, a datuju se u IV v.n.e. Stakleni pehar pripada istom periodu. Identičan pehar pronađen je u grobu br. 4 na jugoistočnoj nekropoli Duklje i datovan je u kraj III – prvu polovinu IV v.

Koštane igle za kosu sa bogatim geometrijskim ukrasima u upotrebi su širom Rimskog carstva tokom IV v.

Na jugoistočnoj nekropoli Duklje keramički krčazi se pojavljuju tek u grobovima iz druge polovine III i u IV v. Krčag iz groba br. 30 veoma sličan onom iz Groba I, izuzev širokih kanelura na vratu, pripada upravo ovom periodu.

Za bronzanu šnalu za sada nisu pronađene analogije, a pronađeni fragment balsamarijuma nije hronološki osjetljiv.

Prilično je teško utvrditi funkciju nekih predmeta vezanih za određena zanimanja. Instrument sličan pronađenom uz Skelet II, ali sa nešto drugačije profilisanom drškom, otkriven je u grobu F 35 na nekropoli u Vanjariju i nije precizno datovan. Na osnovu ostalih predmeta pronađenih u tom grobu iznijeta je pretpostavka da je instrument mogao služiti za čišćenje životinjske kože. Sa druge strane, instrument ovakvog oblika je vrlo lako mogao biti upotrebljavan

rim are very commonly found utensils in the Doclea necropolis. Bottles of this type were used for storing wine, and they date from the 4th century A.D.

The glass cup belongs to the same period. A similar cup was found in tomb no.4 in the south-eastern necropolis of Doclea, and it was dated to around the end of the 3rd and the first half of the 4th century.

Bone hair pins with rich geometric decorations were also in use during the 4th century.

In the south-eastern necropolis of Doclea, ceramic jars can be found in tombs dating from the second half of the 3rd century and the 4th century. The jar from tomb no.30 is very similar to the one from the tomb I, except for wide grooves on its neck, and it belongs to the same period.

It is very hard to conclude anything about the function of some of the items relating to certain occupations. An instrument, similar to the one found beside Skeleton II, but with a different handle profile, was found in tomb F 35 in a necropolis of Vagnari, near Puglia, Italy, but it could not be dated precisely. On the basis of other items found in that tomb, it was assumed that the instrument could serve as an implement for cleaning animal hides. On the other hand it could have easily been used as a tool for fine stone dressing, which seems much more likely in our case.



i kao dljeto za finu obradu kamena, što u našem slučaju djeluje mnogo vjerovatnije.

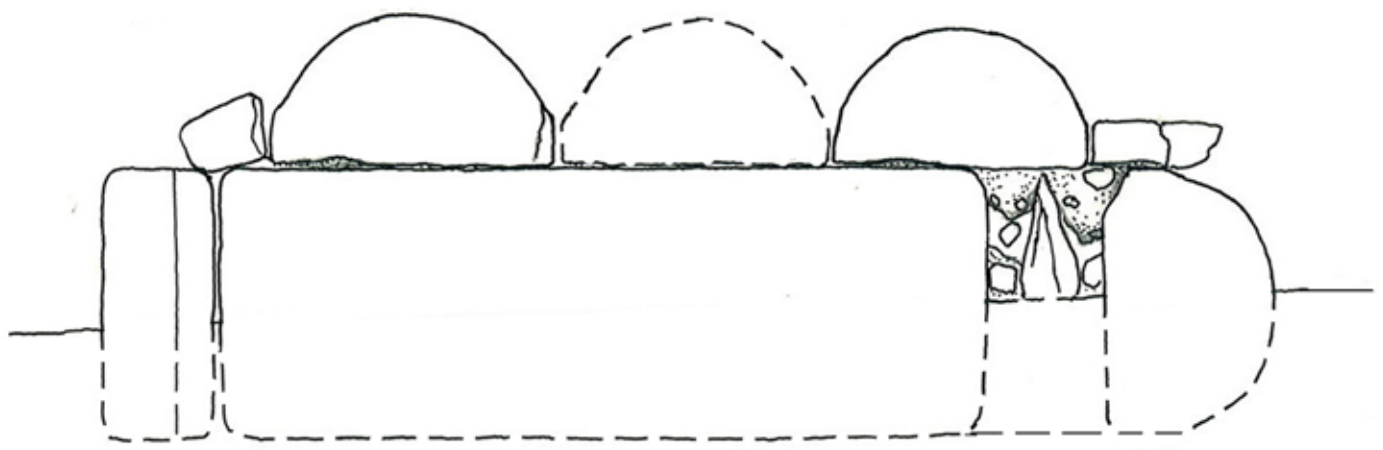
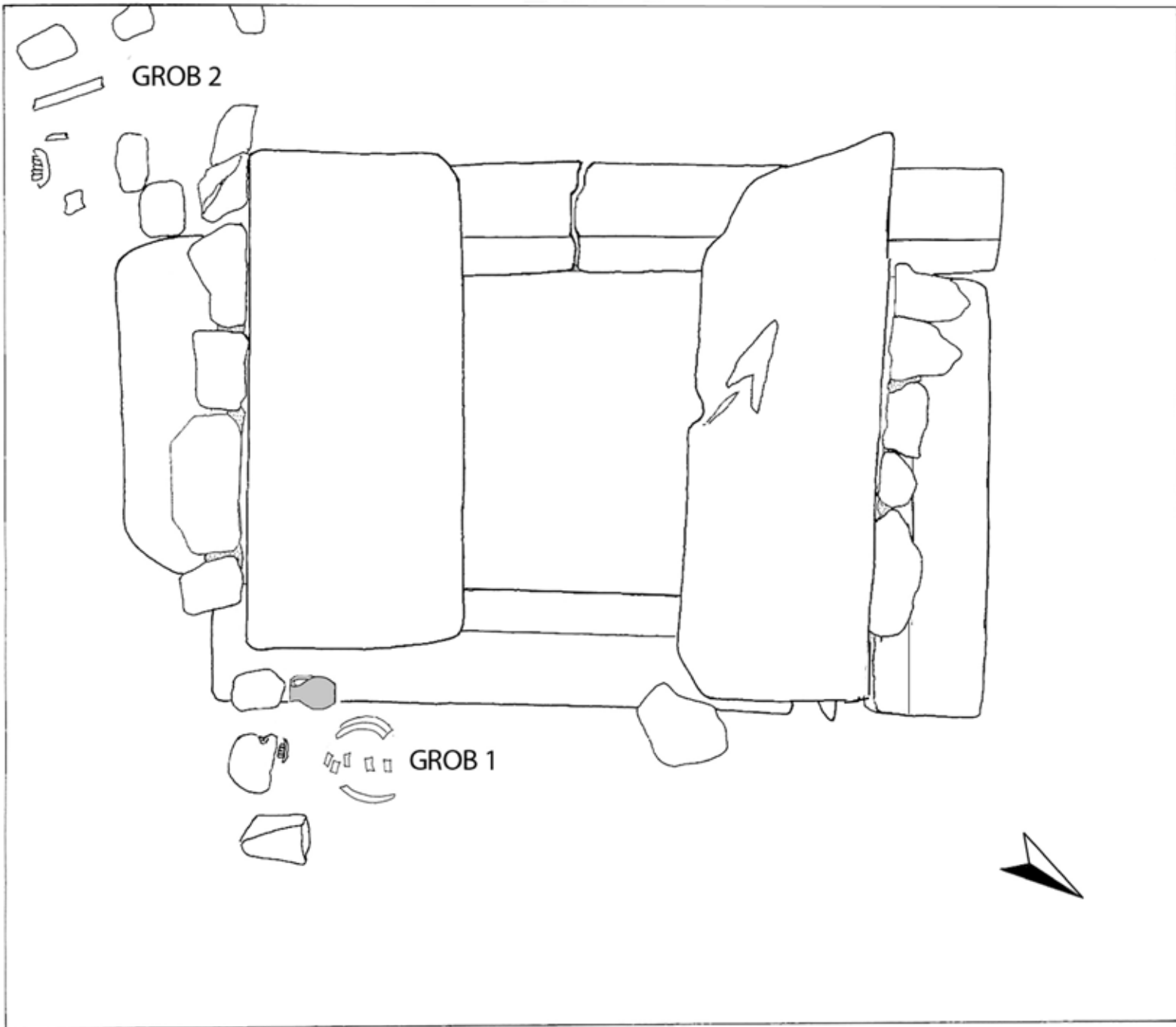
Na osnovu podataka dobijenih u toku istraživanja možemo zaključiti da je u pitanju porodična grobnica u kojoj su obavljene tri sahrane. S obzirom na brojne nesavršenosti grobne konstrukcije, ne bi se reklo da su polustubovi namjenski izrađeni za izgradnju grobnice. Očito je vlasnik raspolagao određenim brojem polustubova, koji iz nekog razloga nisu mogli biti upotrijebljeni u primarne svrhe, pa im je pronađena druga, veoma originalna namjena i postignut čak izvjestan stepen monumentalnosti kada je u pitanju izgled grobnice. Ako uzmemo u obzir posjedovanje polustubova i gvozdeni instrument (klesarsko dljeto) kao prilog, najlogičniji zaključak bi bio da je ovo porodična grobnica jednog imućnog klesara kamena. Za precizno utvrđivanje da li su i u kakvom srodstvu pokojnici potrebno je uraditi DNK analize skeleta, a za sada možemo samo pretpostaviti da je uz klesara sahranjena njegova žena sa bogatim posmrtnim darovima. Na osnovu priloga koje smo uspjeli da datujemo, moguće je ocijeniti da je posljednje sahranjivanje u grobnici obavljeno tokom prve polovine IV v.

Pronalazak grobova na ovom prostoru, kako je već istaknuto, nije jedinstven slučaj, o čemu svjedoči i sam naziv lokaliteta. U susjednom dvorištu primijetili smo jednu pravougaonu i dvije okrugle kamene urne rimske provenijencije, postavljene kao ukras ispred lokalnog kafića. Nedaleko odavde prilikom pravljenja podloge za mjesno igralište, prije nekoliko godina, otkrivena je jedna zidana grobnica, o čemu tada nisu obaviještene nadležne institucije, a u blizini tog mjesta se nalazi i jedan cipus. Otkriće velike grobnice i još dva groba u njenoj blizini na ovako malom prostoru ukazuje na ispravnost teze o postojanju, pored zapadne i jugoistočne, još jedne - sjeverne nekropole Duklje na ovom potezu, koja sudeći po do sada prikupljenim podacima obuhvata plato sjeverno od grada ka mostu Smokovac. Potvrdu ovakvog mišljenja dala bi dalja istraživanja, koja je nažalost teško vršiti zbog skoro potpune devastacije lokaliteta izgradnjom saobraćajnica i porodičnih kuća. Ipak, treba naći sredstva i način za nastavljanje istraživanja i iskopavanja, jer bi nam ona nesumnjivo pružila dragocjene podatke o jednom od najvećih i najznačajnijih gradova rimske provincije Dalmacije i njegovim stanovnicima.

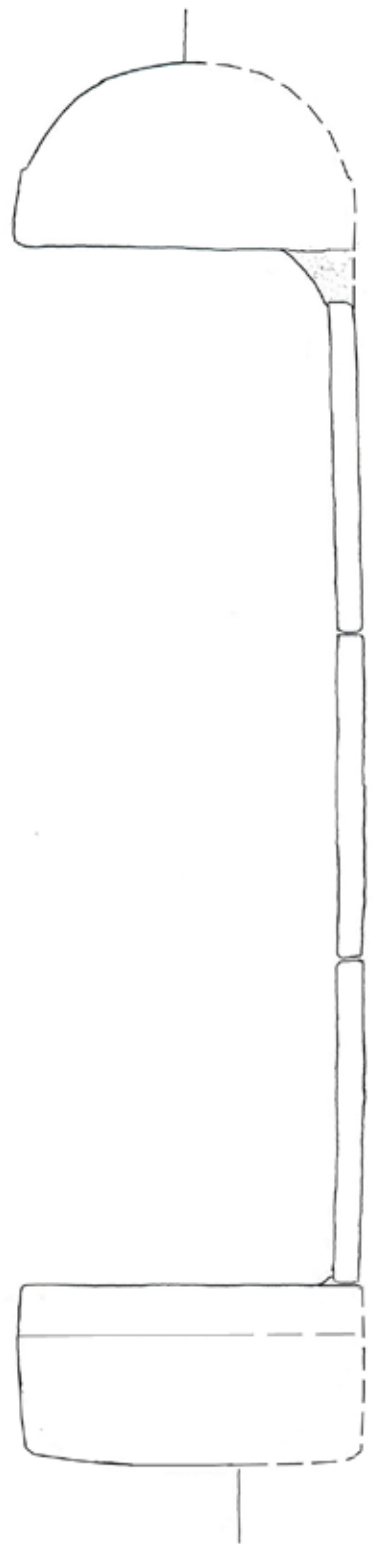
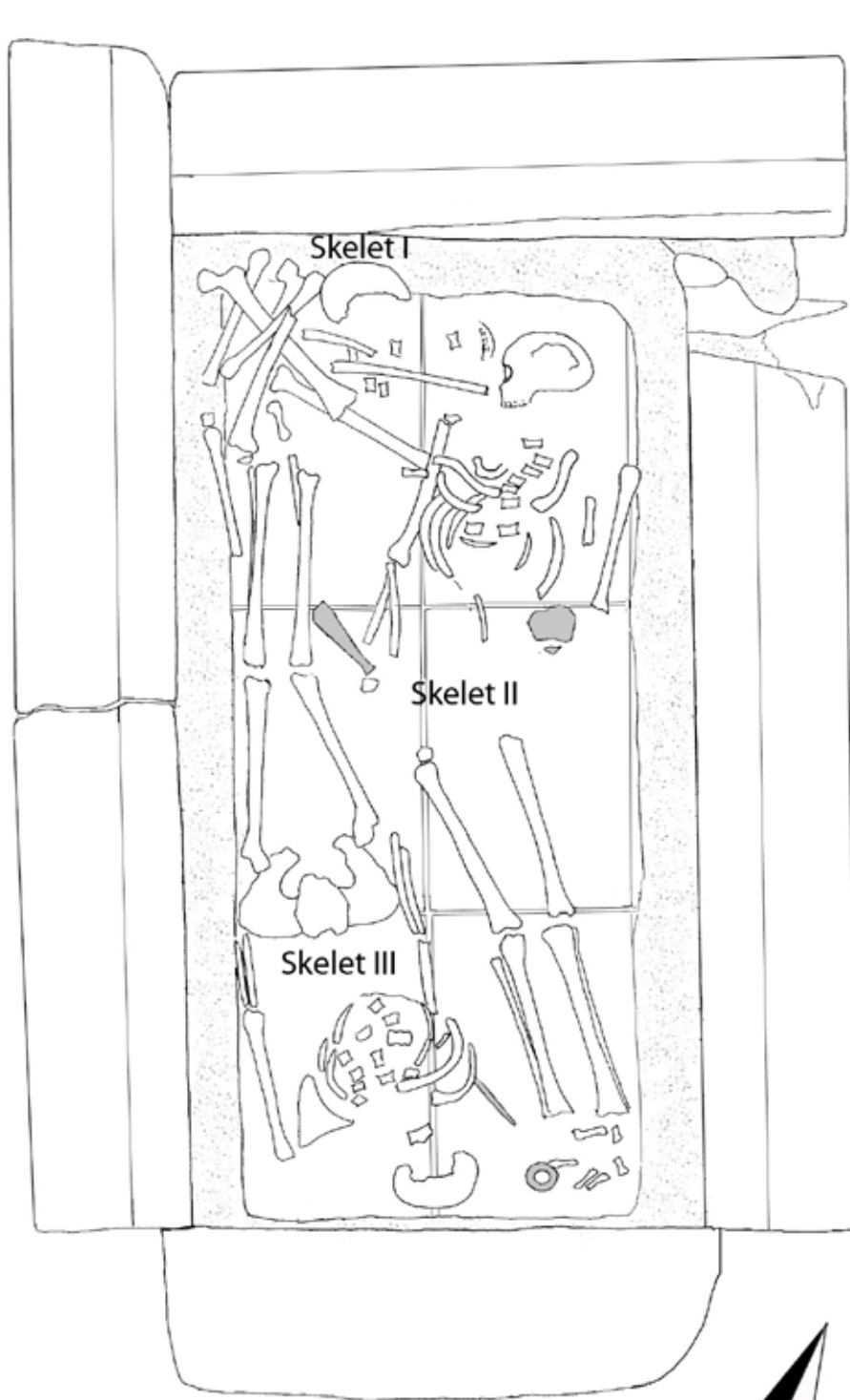
Analogies for the bronze hair ornament still have not been found, while the discovered fragment of balsarium is not chronologically sensitive.

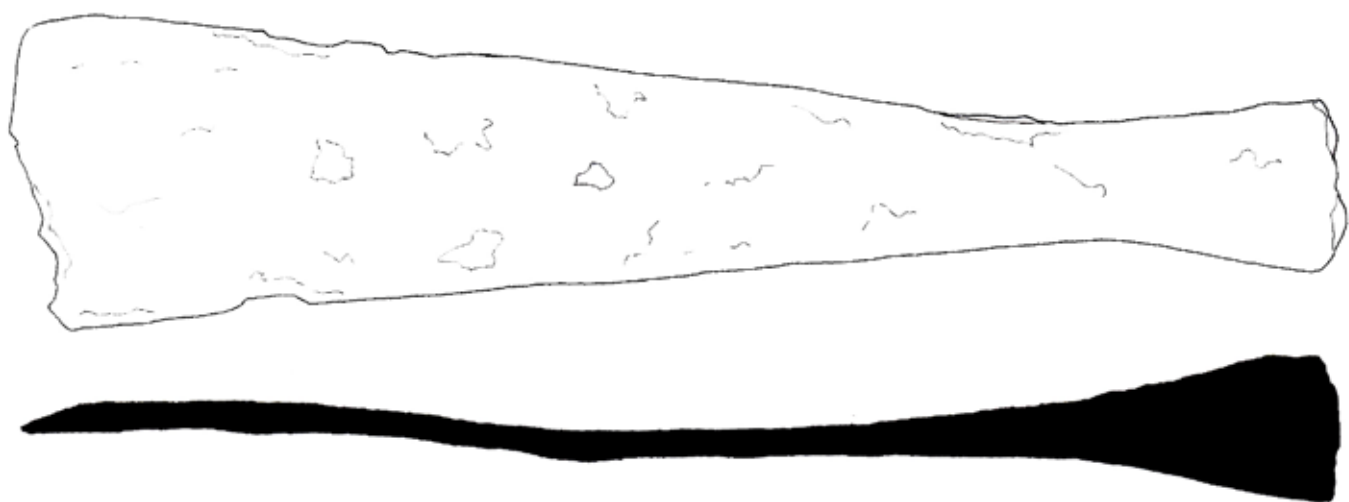
On the basis of facts gained during the research, we can conclude that this is a family tomb where three funerals were carried out. Because of numerous imperfections in the tomb construction, it cannot be concluded that the semi-columns were originally made for tomb construction. It is obvious that the owner had a certain number of semi-columns, which were not used for their primary purpose, for some unknown reason, so another purpose was found, and it was a very inventive purpose, and a certain degree of monumentality was achieved when the look of the tomb is concerned. If we take into account the fact that they owned items such as semi-columns and an iron instrument (stone-cutting tool), the logical conclusion would be that this family tomb was the property of a rich stonecutter. For a precise establishment of whether the skeletons were those of relatives, it is necessary to do DNA analysis on the skeletons, and for now we can only assume that along with the stonecutter, his wife was also buried with rich funerary gifts. On the basis of the items, it is possible to conclude that the last funeral in the tomb was performed during the first half of the 4th century.

The finding of tombs in this region, as was mentioned before, was not an isolated case, as the name of the site itself signals. We noticed one rectangular and two round stone urns of Roman origin in the next yard, set up as a decoration in front of a local café. Not far from here, during the construction of a local sports field a few years ago, one tomb was broken through (however the responsible institutions were not informed at a time) and there was a tombstone (cipus) close to that place. The discovery of a large tomb and two graves near it in this small region points towards the correctness of the thesis of existence of, besides the western and south-eastern necropolises, a northern necropolis in Doclea too, which, according to the collected data, covers an area north of the city towards Smokovac Bridge. This opinion would be confirmed by more excavations, which are unfortunately difficult to perform due to the almost complete devastation of the site by the construction of roads and houses. Still, we should find a way and means to continue excavations and research, because that would certainly reward us with precious facts about one of the largest and most important cities of the Roman province of Dalmatia and its inhabitants.

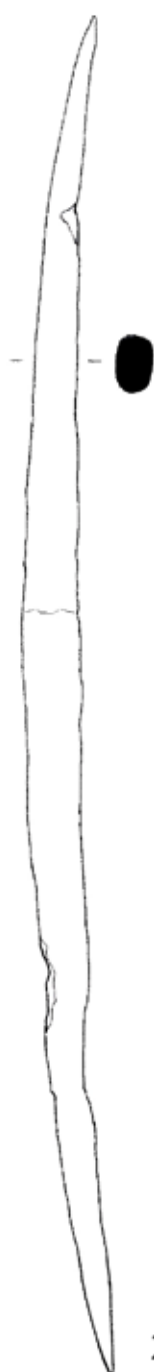


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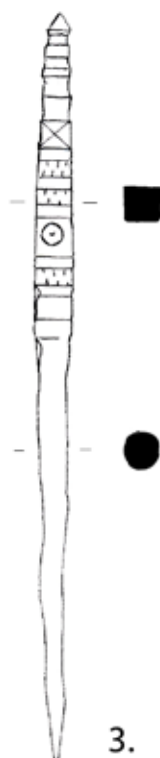




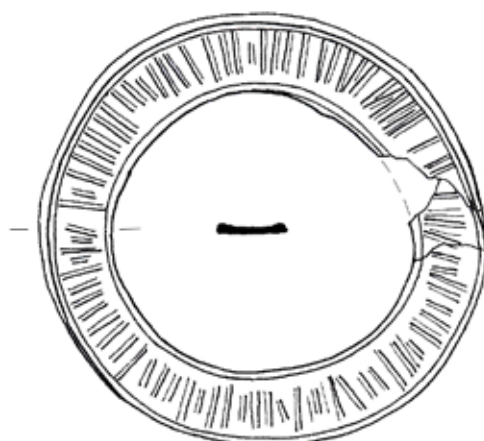
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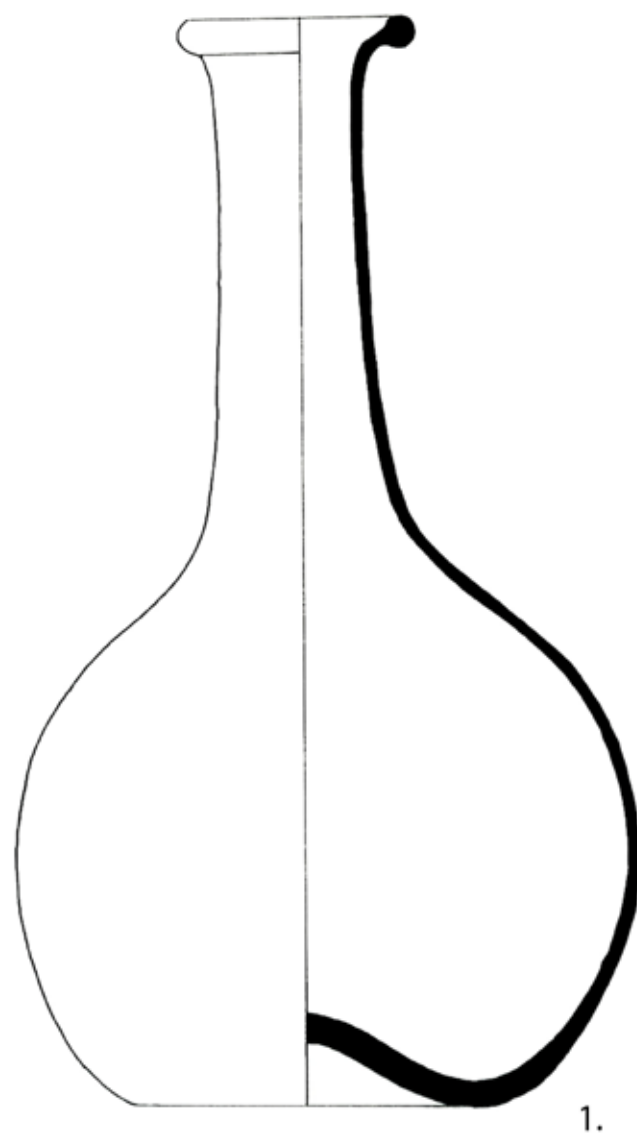


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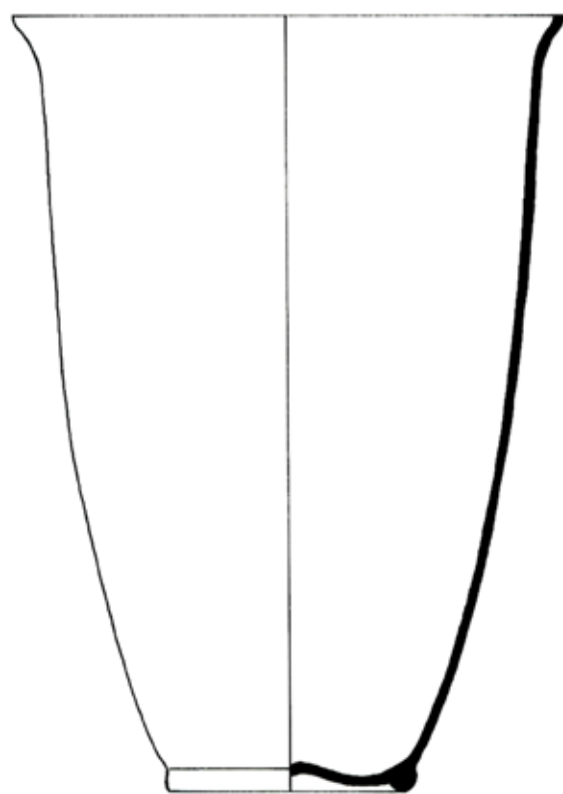


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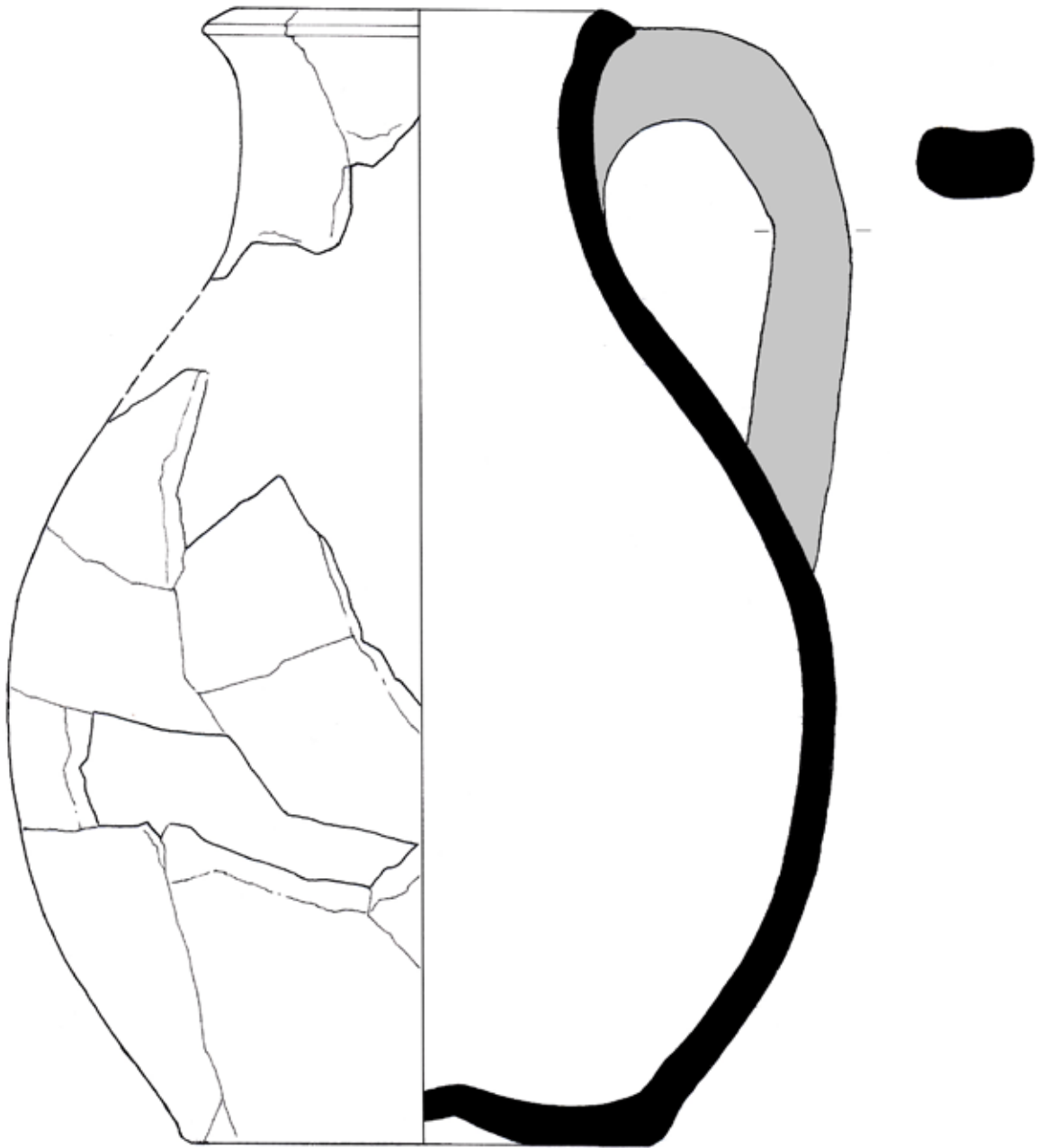


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