

## **THE SLAVS OF 6<sup>th</sup> TO 7<sup>th</sup> CENTURY - ONE DISMEMBERED NATION**

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(Abstract not available)

## **MEDIEVAL SETTLEMENT NEAR BY VELIKA GORICA - SITE ŠEPKOVČICA**

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This paper deals with medieval horizon explored in multi-layered locality of Šepkovčica near by Velika Gorica during conservation archeological excavations on the route of the future highway Zagreb - Sisak, which took place from November 2006 to July 2007. Turopolje, the lowland area south of Zagreb, is an archeologically rich area where traces of various types of settlements have been found - ranging from prehistoric periods, exceptionally abundant Ancient Roman times to the period of Middle Ages and the Modern Age. Similar situation can be found in the site of Šepkovčica which covers an area of over 50 000 m<sup>2</sup>, where we can see the prehistoric settlement layer (Lasinja Culture), the cemetery from the roman period - (Noric-Pannonian grave mound), the ancient settlement layer, the remains of the road and architecture as well as the medieval settlement which existed in the 11<sup>th</sup> century (confirmed by AMS c14 analysis, but also with the archeological finds).

Since the research is still in progress and its results have not been fully analyzed yet, this paper mainly focuses on the ground-plan disposition of the archeological units and it aims to interpret the spatial relations within a settlement. The explored medieval settlement covers an area of more then 15 000 m<sup>2</sup> and it contains, so fare, more then 600 settlement objects, (mostly bases for columns, a few semi dwelling pits, numerous waste holes of different sizes, a few smaller fire places, draw well...). What we are dealing with here is a rural settlement of the open type which was built on an eolian sandy foundation. It is placed on a slightly raised terrace of river Sava, probably with stream flows on the surface and in the area which was once rich with oak forest. The soil in the waste holes is very dark and it contains a large amount of animal bones and sherds of pottery decorated with carved wavy or horizontal lines. In addition to that, 2 annulets with S-loop have been found as well as the fragment of the cast grape-shaped earring, which is typical of the 11 century repertoire.

That old settlement in the locality of Šepkovčica had a view overlooking medieval settlement at Kaptol in Zagreb with the old pre-Tatar cathedral and it probably gravitated to the center of diocese and market town, which is less than 20 km by air.

The greatest benefit of the "large scale" archeology on the highways, is the overall view of the spatial organization of settlement and at the same time it expands the archeological knowledge of medieval settlements in the south of Pannonia.

## **Session title: MIDDLE/UPPER PALAEOOLITHIC TRANSITIONAL TIME IN EURASIA: CULTURAL-HISTORICAL, ANTHROPOLOGICAL, PALAEOECOLOGICAL AND ADAPTATION PROCESSES OF THE SPAN 50-30 KYR BP.**

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