



Adrián Berta

Excavations on Dombóvár Castle between 2014 and 2016

Dombóvár is located in Tolna County, Hungary. Two medieval castles have been built in the town's history. The first one was mentioned at the beginning of the 14th century, which has been excavated by Zsuzsa Miklós between 1999 and 2001. This older castle and the corresponding area were possessed by the Kőszegi's, a powerful family ruled the western part of the medieval Hungarian Kingdom. Charles I of Hungary took the castle and exchanged it with Peter and Stephen, the sons of Stephen Csák. They were the ancestors of the Dombai family. The Dombai family established a spectacular career and had a remarkable political influence in the Hungarian Kingdom in the second half of the 15th century. The family died out in the 1520's.

At the beginning of the 15th century, the Dombai family built a new castle ca. 1 km south-west from the old one. This castle has been excavated between 2014 and 2016 by the staff of the University of Szeged Department of Archaeology. The whole building had a rectangular layout with a courtyard and mansion on its northern part. After a few decades, it was extended with a hall and a tower in the southern part of the courtyard. At the second half of the same century on the eastern facade, a gothic passageway was built. The last large-scale extension of the castle was probably made in the first two decades of the 16th century. This time, a new outer wall and additional towers were built. During the Ottoman Period (16–17th centuries) it served as a Turkish border fortress. In 1686 Louis William, Margrave of Baden seized the castle and five years later the emperor gave it to Paul I, Prince Esterházy. The castle was destroyed entirely in 1702.

Thursday, 8th June 2017

HALL B, First Afternoon Session, 14:30-16:25

Dejan Crnčević

Kule srednjovjekovnog utvrđenog grada Smedereva. Oblici, kontekst, značenje / The towers of the fortified medieval town of Smederevo: forms, context, meaning

The fortified town of Smederevo represents the last, and after Belgrade, the most monumental work of the fortification architecture of the medieval Serbian state and is one of the most representative ones in south-eastern Europe. Built



on a flat and low river bank, at the confluence of the Jezava and Danube rivers, it meant to be the capital of the medieval Serbian state in the last decades of its independence. It represents a work of a clearly defined urban structure, conceived in two functionally and semantically separate wholes (a fortified rulers' dwellings and a fortified urban settlement), with a suburb. The urban whole, created on a rather large topographically defined triangular piece of land (around 11 ha), was protected by a rather complex defense system consisting of the external and internal ramparts that included no less than 25 towers of intricate construction and monumental dimensions.

As this defense system was executed in several stages of construction, realized during the last decades of Serbian independence as well as during the first decades of Ottoman rule (1428-1479), this paper purports to present the multiplicity of the forms, structures and ways of construction of the towers of the medieval town of Smederevo. Analysis of the technical solutions applied in these fortification elements makes a necessary basis for a more comprehensive understanding of their functions and meanings of which some, aside from being primarily military, are certainly symbolic or even esthetic. Finally, comparative analysis of the applied procedures and conceptual changes in relation to similar architectural works - in the region and in a broader Byzantine cultural area - offers a possibility of a contextual overview within a broader picture of that particular Late Medieval period.

Željko Peković, Kristina Babić

Obrambeni sustavi Vrata od Pila u Dubrovniku / Defensive systems of the Pile Gate in Dubrovnik

For the purpose of a restoration project of the serpentine which enters the City and the restoration of the Pile Bridge, the site was stratified through archaeological research and the medieval defensive systems of the Pile Gate were clearly defined, known from archival data. The Gate changed its position frequently as well as the defensive systems and the access point – the bridge changed its shape and position through several stages.

The most important access point to the historical core, the one side of Pile, changed its positions and shapes quite dynamically. The Wall of the Gate was first mentioned in 1296 It moved in 1319 to the new, western city wall. It got a moat and rampart in 1351, a wooden bridge which was later replaced by a stone one (John of Siena) in 1398. The rampart received two significant upgrades in the middle of the fifteenth century – part of techniques of firearm warfare.

The walls were reinforced in 1460 – 1461. A new, three-arch bridge was built in 1471, with a new rampart – a semicircular revelin. A fort was built on the west end, a smaller revelin for further defense of the access point. Ramparts expanded, the older ones were buried. The Gate was moved a fourth time in 1537, when the