

ANNUAL REPORT: STOBI FIELD SCHOOL 2016, REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

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Building A on the last day of the excavation campaign

The Stobi 2016 Field School Project was held between the 28th of June and the 23th of July, 2016 for 7th year in a row as a result of the long term collaboration between NI Stobi and the Balkan Heritage Foundation (BHF) (recently joined by Queen's University, Canada and IFR, USA) at the ancient Roman site of Stobi in Macedonia. The participants from different countries in the world (Canada, USA, India, China and France) were involved in the process of excavation and finds processing, as great opportunity to learn the basics of archaeological fieldwork and the history of Macedonia in Antiquity. Besides that, the program included course on surveying and photogrammetry held by Dr. George Bevan, associated professor at Queen's University, Canada. As previous year, the team and the participants were accommodated at NI Stobi cabins, located next to the site.

The excavations in 2016 continued in the area between the two ancient buildings: the so-called "Prison" and the Theodosian Palace. The research goal was to uncover the full extent of the building which was discovered in 2015. As indicated in last year's report, the building is located at the corner between two pebbled streets and the whole context belongs to the last urban phase of Stobi from the second half of the 6th century AD. The excavations in 2015 revealed just the western half of the building to the level of the destruction of the walls.

In 2016 the destruction layer was fully exposed inside the four outer walls of the building which is named Building A. Only one room in the southwest corner of the building, marked as room 1, was fully exposed to the floor level. Also, the destruction layer resting on the

two streets was removed and their surface was exposed. The excavations in the rest of Building A were stopped at the level of destruction as the work in that area was slower due to the documentation and removal of later features and structures such were two modern trenches (World War I and Excavations in 1920s) and a fill with stones from the medieval period. The uncovered finds, mainly in the layer of collapsed mud bricks included pottery sherds, glass fragments, bronze and iron objects and animal bones. Although the floor levels have not been reached, at the end of the excavations in 2016, the sequence of construction of Building A and the number of the rooms is almost clear.

The complete excavation and the documentation were done by the students who participated in the project with the guidance of three supervisors from NI Stobi. The focus of the instructors was to teach the students how to conduct methodological excavations, and at the same time how to document and analyze the revealed archaeological remains and finds. The results of the excavations will be published (in *Antiquities of Stobi Magazine*) as soon as the Building A is fully uncovered and documented.

Parallel to the field school Dr. George Bevan conducted a photogrammetry documentation and research project recording both ongoing field school excavations and the neighboring Theodosian palace. Its results are expected by the spring of 2017. Based on them the 2017 field school program will include introduction to photogrammetry documentation for students related exactly to the specific excavation area of Stobi.