

Trajče Nacev

Winery from the Late Antique town Bargala

UDK: 904:663.28(497.731),,652”

1. *Introduction*

The city of Bargala was founded in the eastern part of modern-day Republic of Macedonia, 17 km in northeastern direction from the modern city of Štip. The city was located at the foot of the Plackovica Mountain and on the right bank of the Kozjačka Reka River. The locals of the near-by village of Goren Kozjak called the site by the name of “Kale”.

The first knowledge on the city is given by R. Grujić¹, who wrote on the existence of archaeological remnants, S. Mihailov² informs us on the church of St. George and I. Venedicov³ reveals the stone block with inscriptions mentioning the city of Bargala. Concerning the contemporary written sources, the Council of Chalcedon's *actae* refer to Bargala as the archbishop see of the Province of Macedonia Prima⁴ and its archbishop Dardanius; then in Hierokles' *Synekdemos*-by the end of the fifth century AD, Bargala belonged to the Province of Macedonia Secunda⁵ and the last reference is in the *vitae* of the 15 Martyrs of Tiberiopolis.⁶

The Late Antique and Early Christian Centre of Bargala was discovered and located by B. Aleksova in the distant year of 1967, when the first archaeological excavations of the *Episcopium* were executed. Since 1995 onwards, the scope of the excavations was widened to include the fortification⁷ and from 2005 onwards, the excavations of the central area introduced a new cultural horizon with the discovery of the City Basilica⁸ and a complex of living quarters.

The wine is one of the oldest and most famous alcoholic beverages known to man on the territory of modern-day Republic of Macedonia, as well as to other regions worldwide. The wine production excelled in regions with suitable climate for

1 Грујић, 1955: 212-215

2 Михајлов, 1949: 4-19

3 Венедиков, 1943: 4-19

4 *Ibid.*, 1948: 82

5 Папазоглу, 1957: 256

6 Алексова, 1967: 74-83

7 Нацев, 2007: ?

8 Нацев и Фрков, 2010: ?

it.⁹ The first known wine production comes from Anatolia in the Third Millennium BC¹⁰ and during the Early Bronze Age wine was produced in the Tell Ta'anek region in Palestine¹¹. Wine was produced in other regions as well, in a time span ranging from the Iron Age to Late Antiquity.

On the territory of Republic of Macedonia, the oldest stone wine presses (Fig. 1) were found on the site of "Gorno Pole", in the vicinity of village of Star Karaorman. Their dating belongs to the Iron Age, in the period between the eighth and the sixth century AD.¹² Several wine presses carved in bedrock are known from the region of Pelagonia¹³, as well as two built with masonry-one dated to the Roman Period¹⁴ and one belonging to the Late Antiquity¹⁵. Two wine presses were found at the site of Stobi, thus they belong in the region of Povardarie (the Valley of Vardar River.)

The wine presses found at the city of Bargala and its winery will be further elaborated in this text and attempts will be made to find the proper analogies among the finds of wine presses and wineries from the Balkans and worldwide.

2. *The Winery*

The wards used for wine production (Fig. 2) were located in the northeastern wing of the Episcopal Residence's living quarters. Up to the second half of the sixth century AD, this section belonged to the luxurious complex of the Episcopal Residence. After the frequent raids of the Avars and Slavs in the second half of the sixth century AD, two thirds of these living quarters were converted into a production section, completed with a winery, a glass workshop, a large bread oven and a *horreum* (a warehouse with 16 *pithoi* for grain storage.) Of the luxurious Episcopal Residence, only the main hall with two smaller wards used for preparing and storing food remained, as well as three wards of the northwestern wing which were used as living quarters.

The winery took three wards of the northeastern wing of Episcopal Residence's living quarters, with the total surface of 152 m² (See Plan 1.) The wards were rendered successively, due to the production process.

2.1. *Ward 1*

The ward is rectangular in shape, with dimensions 5, 75 x 1, 85 m. The ward was built in the middle of the sixth c. AD, with the purpose to receive the grapes after harvesting. The wall dividing Ward 1 and Ward 2 has special openings, used for processing the grapes to the wine presses. The entrance in the ward has not been found and the receiving of the grapes was probably executed over the southeastern wall, which had height of 0, 70 m.

9 The grapevines do not require a specific soil as they require a climate with hot summers and frigid winters. The modern-day Republic of Macedonia has several renowned wine regions: the valley of the Vardar River, the region of Tikveš and the middle stream region of the Bregalnica River, where the Late Antique city of Bargala was situated.

10 Gorni, 1996: 133-171

11 Lapp, 1969:12

12 The stone wine presses were discovered by the colleague Mitko Šterjov in 2007, during the project for protective archaeological excavations on the sites endangered by the construction of the water supply system "Zletovica." These stone wine presses are not published before and they are still subjected to scientific research.

13 Миткоски, 1988:

14 Кепески, 1976: 143-157

15 Кепески Л.-К., 2006: 425-439

The great number of finds of glass fragments introduces the possibility that this ward was multifunctional one-during the specific month of the year, it was used for receiving/storage of grapes and the rest of time it was used as an additional space for the glass workshop.¹⁶

2.2. *Ward 2*

This ward also has a rectangular shape, with the dimensions of 7, 15 x 5, 75 m. The ward was entered through a porch, with width of 1, 50 m. It has two levels; the upper level held the two built-in presses in the southeastern wall, while the lower level held stone vessels for collecting the residue. Only one of these vessels is preserved.

The first press (Fig. 5) has rectangular shape and dimensions of 3, 10 x 2, 20 x 0, 20 m. It was located in the northeastern corner of the ward. The second press (Fig. 6) has the same form and dimensions of 2, 60 x 2, 40 x 0, 20 m and it was located in the southeastern corner. Due to the proximity of the entrance and the lack of space because of it, the second press is 50 cm smaller than the first one. The space between the presses has the dimensions of 2, 60 x 1, 20 m. The floor of this space was covered with yellowish, compact clay. The construction method used for the wards is presented on Fig. 7

16 The wards for wine production were found during the archaeological excavations of 2007-2010, under the supervision of Trajče Nacev.

Резиме:**Винаријата од доцноантичкиот град Баргала**

Во Баргала, еден од големите урбани центри со многувековна историја, беше пронајден објект кој укажува на можната продукција на вино. Овој објект се наоѓач во североисточното крило на комплексот за живеење на Епископската резиденција. Се до втората половина на VI-иот век, Епископската резиденција припаѓала на на Епископскиот луксузен комплекс. После фреквентните напади на Словени и Готи во до втората половина на VI-иот век, две третини од комплексот за домување на Епископската резиденција бил пренаменет во производствена единица: винарија, работилница за стакло, голема фурна за леб и *horreum* (просторија со пронајдени 16 сада за складирање на житарки.)

Сето ова укажува дека винскиот регион Брегалница, со одгледувањето на вински лози и производство на вино има континуитет кој почнува од железното време (VIII-VI век) и продолжува низ античкиот и средновековниот период. Денес, во овој регион се продолжува традицијата заа производство на вино, во близина на градот и локалитетот “Баргала-Горно Поле”, како и во селата Горен и Долен Балван, Три Чешми и Загорци. Се истакнуваат и три винарии: ЗИК Црвена Свезда, Имако и Аневски Езмит.

Трајче Нацев



Fig 1. Wine press carved into the rock of the village of Gorno Pole Star Karaorman.



Fig 2. Winery Bargala

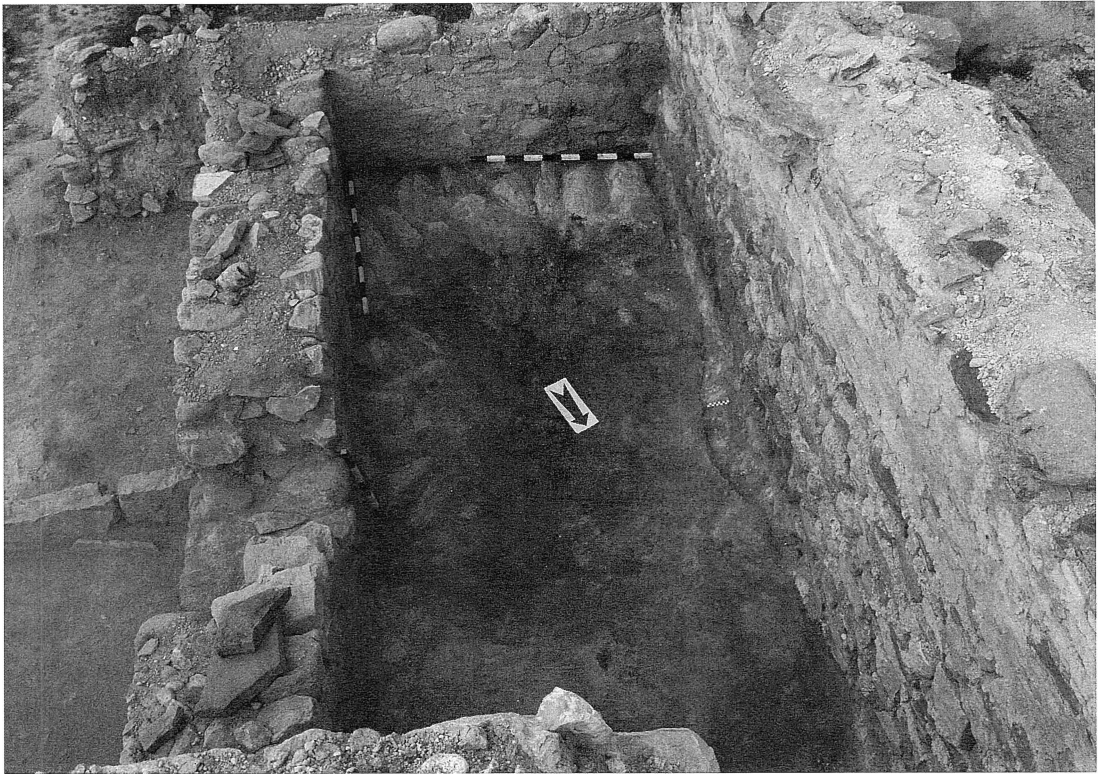


Fig 3.Room 1

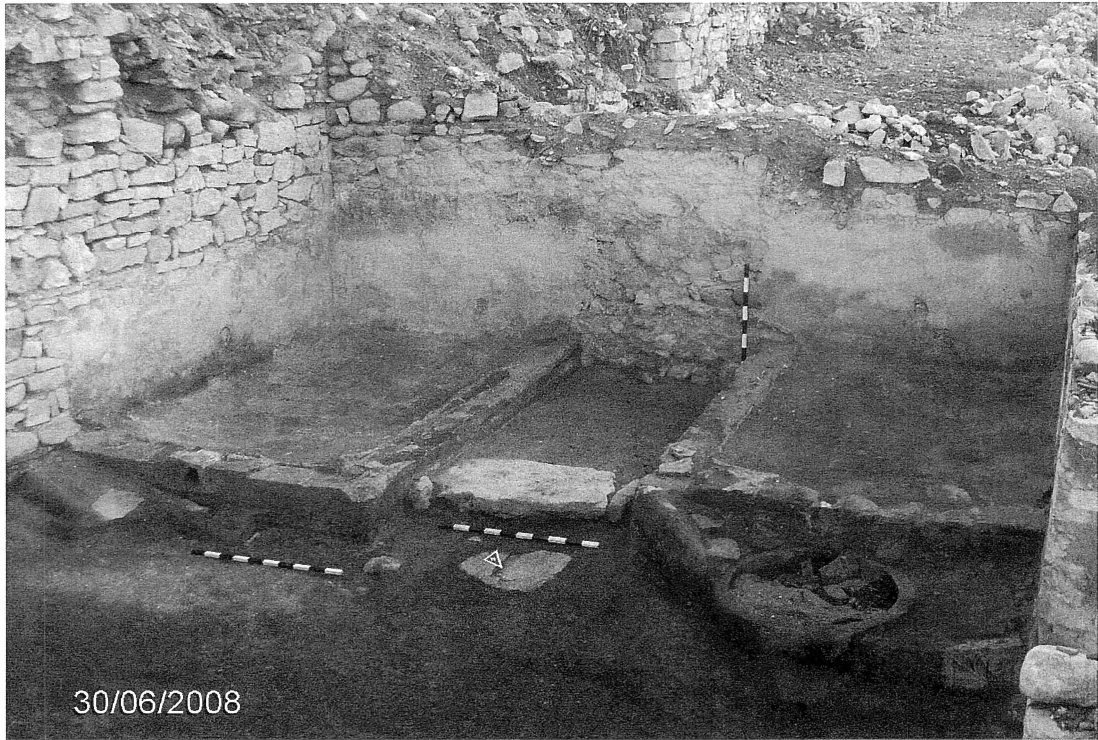


Fig 4.Room 2, wine presses



Fig 5. Wine press 1



Fig 6. Wine press 2



Fig 7.Substruction wine presses in the room 2

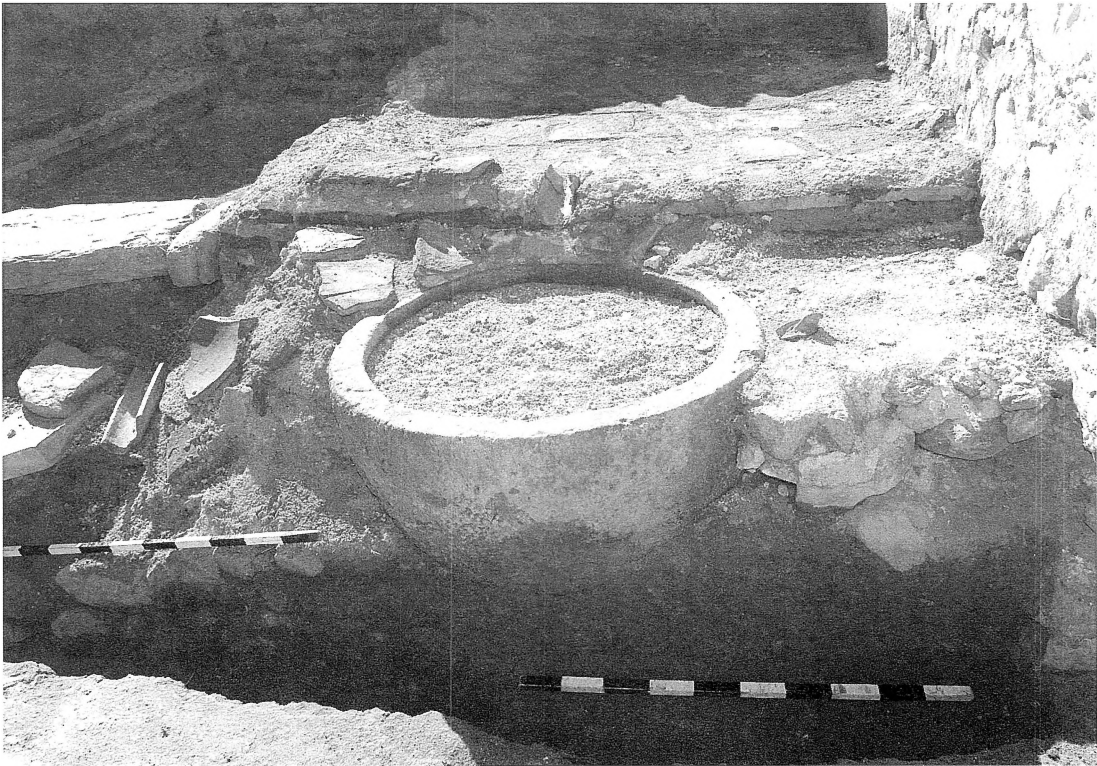


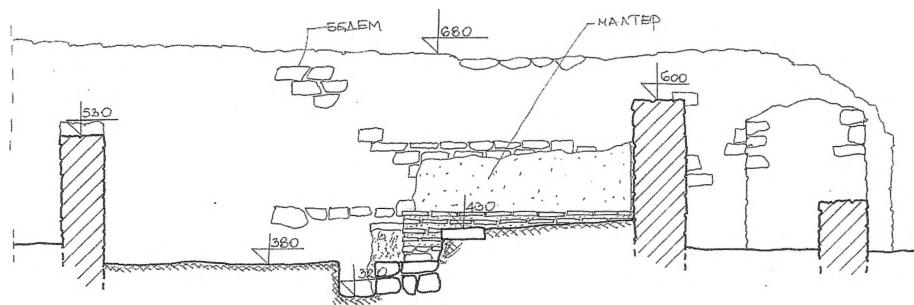
Fig 8 Stone bowl sediment collector



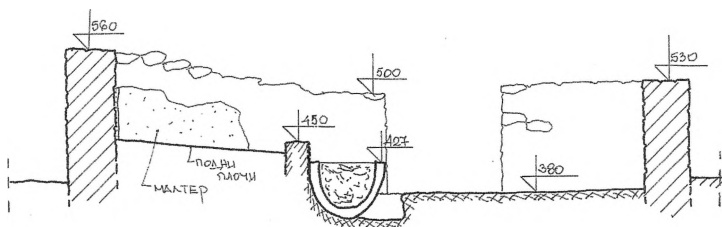
Fig 9.Room 3



Fig 10. th Amphora from the area of the village Zagorci.



ПРЕСЕК 1-1



ПРЕСЕК 2-2

Национална установа Завод за заштита на спомениците на културата и Музеј - Штип			
ПРОЕКТ: Археолошки истражувања на археолошки локалитет БАРГАЛА - ЕТИСКОПИЈУМ			
ОПИС: Северниот дел од станбен комплекс - ВИНАРИЈА - Пресеци 1-1, 2-2			
раководител: д-р Трпчо Нацев археолог советник		соработник: д-р Лубица Кљаскова виш конзерватор	
размер 1:50	дата 04.2011	лист бр.4	состав по истражување 04.2011.

Draw. 1.

Pl. I.

