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GOMOLAVA IN TIME AND SPACE

International Symposium on the Hundredth Anniversary of the Excavations of Gomolava (1904–2004)

On 12th April 2004, exactly hundred years have passed (1904-2004) since the first research projects in one of the most important archeology localities in the Danube Basin, in the broadest sense of the word, in the Carpatie Basin and in southeast Europe – in Gomolava.

Gomolava has the shape of elliptical hill, the „tell-a“ type, which was formed by millennium deposit of prehistoric and historic dens on the left bank of the Sava, whose material remains were preserved up to nowadays. Because of its very good geographic position, Gomolava represented for few thousands of years very important center for the Danube Basin, Carpatie Basin and southeast Europe.

Mato Vohalski, the museum commissioner of the Archeological Museum in Zagreb, gathered the first archeological material from Gomolava. Being impressed by beauty of the objects he had gathered, he forwarded it to the Archeological Museum in Zagreb, in October 1898.

Various archeological materials stimulated Professor Josip Brunsmid to visit the locality in 1989 and the teacher Mata Valholski and to prepare him for smaller excavations. Researches of Mata Valholski brought good results, so Professor J. Brunsmid decided to try his fortune and to join the first expert excavation on Gomolava.

So, by the end of the nineteenth century Gomolava becomes interesting for the culture public of that time. Professor J. Brunsmid, Ph. D., came to Gomolava on 12th April 1904. That was the first expert excavation, which lasted only for one day, and the first probe was placed on the south slope of hill.

When they started to work, the assistants of Archeology museum in Zagreb couldn't assume that in the second half of the twentieth century long and systematic archeology research will be started right in this place, which will in time

outgrow into significant archeology center in which the archeologists, students of archeology and architecture, as well as others will gather for years, every summer.

So that only in 1953, the hill on the left side of the Sava, on the periphery of today's village Hrtkovci, after long period of time, thanking to Vojvodina's pioneers of archeology of that time, will become big archeology work site. The conservation excavations on Gomolava from 1953 to 1957 was organized and carried out by Museum of Vojvodina in Novi Sad, with the collaboration of other museums in Vojvodina.

From 1965 to 1985, Gomolava gathers many researches again. During the two decades, besides the Yugoslav experts, experts from different European institutions worked on it. In this period the surface of 4400 m² has been explored, and according to that the vertical stratigraphy of the locality of younger Neolith to the full middle Ages (the fifteenth century) has been established.

Systematic explorations lasting for several years on Gomolava gave great contribution for reliable establishing of the time sequence of numerous prehistoric cultures in the Danube Basin, i.e. in Carpatie Basin and in the area of central Balkans. In its cultural layers, housing horizons, necropolis, the influences of developed south and farmer and early metal cultures of Panonnia were meeting. The appearance of imported objects shows developed commercial relations with related cultures inside of Carpatie Basin and the Balkans.

The explorations showed that Gomolava during few millenniums oscillated from the period of progress to the phase of stagnation or regression. It happened to all human settlements that resisted the shadows of oblivion thanking to strongly expressed instinct for survival.

Besides the archeologists, the architects were also engaged on Gomolava together with the

paleo-botanists, zoologists, anthropologists, conservators and photographers. They tried to solve the riddle of the bequeathed messages for the future working with experts for applied and fundamental sciences for decades. These explorations on Gomolava lasting for several years found out that life on Gomolava and its suburb lasted for centuries. The fires that were lit in Stone Age survived up to nowadays. Beside that, the explorations confirmed that the space around Gomolava - its suburb, prehistoric and historic population for millenniums successfully used it for farming, cattle raising, fishing and hunting and they were thought about all the secrets related to processing the copper, bronze, gold and iron.

When the explorations on Gomolava overgrow into complex and long-term project, the work will still be done by the experts of the Museum of Vojvodina in the collaboration with the other cultural and scientific institutions from former Yugoslavia and from abroad. In the exploration of this, extremely important archeology locality were included all museums and institutes in Vojvodina, then National Museum in Belgrade and City Museum of Belgrade. Besides museums, many scientific institutions both in country and abroad were included in this research: Historical Institute in Novi Sad, then Archeology and Balkan Institute in Belgrade, the Department for Archeology on the Philosophical Faculty in Belgrade, Biology-archeology Institute in Groningen, the Department for Archeology of University in Edinburgh, Conservation-restoration Institute in Budapest, as well as Architecture Faculty in Belgrade.

The exploration work on archeology locality of Gomolava was ended in August in 1985. The Museum of Vojvodina in 1986 organized the International symposium on the subject "Gomolava - Chronologie und Stratigraphie der Vorgeschichtlichen und Antiken Kulturen der Donau-niederung und Südosteuropas" (Gomolava – Chronology and Stratigraphy in the Prehistoric and Antique of the Danube Basin and Southeast Europe). The collection of work from the symposium *Gomolava Chronologie und Stratigraphie der vorgeschichtlichen und antiken Kulturen der Donau-niederung und Südosteuropas – Internationales Symposium / Gomolava – Chronology and Stratigraphy in the Prehistoric and Antique of the*

Danube Basin and Southeast Europe – International symposium, editor Nikola Tasić, Jelka Petrović, was published in 1988 under the same title. Besides symposium in the Museum of Vojvodina in Novi Sad, the exhibition about Gomolava was open on which was shown numerous archeology materials together with rich illustrations. The various objects collected from rich cultural layers, supplemented by numerous photographs and illustrations, brought closer the periods of Gomolava that passed by. The exhibit "Gomolava" was also shown in Sarajevo, Belgrade and Ruma.

Besides the collection of work from symposium, in 1988 the first monograph appeared *Gomolava 2 – the Den of Younger Iron Age*, authors B. Jovanović and M. Jovanović. Four years later, in 1992 the monograph *Gomolava 3 - the Roman Period*, authors O. Brukner and V. Dautova-Ruševljan, was published as well. After more than ten years, in 2003 monograph *Gomolava 4 – the Den of Late Neolith*, authors J. Petrović and B. Jovanović came out. It is hard to foresee when next monograph about Gomolava is going to be published.

Along with monographs, the results of exploration were regularly published in professional magazines, publications and catalogues, in the country and abroad. Until now around 80 professional articles and studies have shown. Thanking to that, Gomolava is today mentioned and quoted in all world archeology magazines.

Twenty years after the exploration and after four published monographs in scientific society, there was the need for new conversations about Gomolava and its time.

Under the patronage of Serbian Academy of Science and Art - branch in Novi Sad and Museum of Vojvodina from 24th – 27th November of 2004 the International symposium GOMOLAVA IN TIME AND SPACE has been held in Novi Sad. In that way the first hundred years of Gomolava (1904-2004) had been marked, which, according to the results, were quite fruitful. By the way, Gomolava is of the same age as "Politika", and what is common for them is that they marked the twentieth century in their own way. On the symposium were, together with the professionals from Serbia and Montenegro, colleagues from Hungary, Croatia and Romania, and the results will be published in the collection.