

1.03 Kratki znanstveni prispevek

UDK 911.375.3(497.4Novo mesto)"653"

Prejeto: 29. 8. 2018

**Katarina Udovč**

mag., Zavod za varstvo kulturne dediščine Slovenije, Center za preventivno arheologijo, Poljanska cesta 40, SI-1000 Ljubljana  
E-pošta: katarina.udovc@zvkd.si

## Arheološke raziskave dopolnjujejo zgodovino Novega mesta

### IZVLEČEK

V članku bomo predstavili podatke o razvoju Novega mesta, ki smo jih v zadnjem tisočletju odkrili z arheološkimi raziskavami. Na najvišjem delu okljuka in od pozne bronaste dobe naprej poseljenem Kapiteljskem hribu smo odkrili skromne, vendar do zdaj edine sledi zgodnesrednjeveške naselbine (9.–10. stoletje), znotraj območja današnjega Novega mesta. Ob njegovem jugovzhodnem vznožju na Cvelbarjevi ulici pa smo izkopali najdbe iz 15. stoletja, ki so zaenkrat časovno najbližje ustanovitvi mesta, prav tako pa izstopajo po svoji redkosti v slovenskem prostoru. Podatki arheoloških raziskav dopolnjujejo teze zgodovinarjev, ki temeljijo na preučevanju arhivskih virov. Iz obdobja pred letom 1364 oziroma pred ustanovitvijo mesta se v listinah z okljukom povezujejo lokacije stiškega ali bajnofškega stolpa, Gradca in Markstatta.

### KLJUČNE BESEDE

Novo mesto, Gradec, Kapiteljski hrib, zgodnji srednji vek, 15. stoletje

### ABSTRACT

#### ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS COMPLEMENTING THE HISTORY OF NOVO MESTO

The article presents the evidence for the development of Novo mesto that has been obtained through archaeological research conducted in the last decade of the last millennium. The modest, but so far sole traces of an Early Medieval settlement (9<sup>th</sup>–10<sup>th</sup> Century) within the bounds of modern Novo mesto were discovered on the Kapitelj hill. This is the highest part of the meander, which has been occupied since the Late Bronze Age. Excavation uncovered finds from the 15<sup>th</sup> Century on Cvelbarjeva ulica at the eastern foot of the Kapitelj hill. These finds currently appear to be those closest in date to that of the foundation of the city. They also stand out in terms of their rarity within the bounds of modern Slovenia. The data from archaeological research complement historical theses, which are based on the study of archival sources. Charters link the river meander with the locations of the Stična or Bajnof tower, Gradec and Markstatt in the period prior the town was founded in 1364.

### KEY WORDS

Novo mesto, Gradec, Kapitelj hill, Early Medieval period, 15<sup>th</sup> Century




---

## S U M M A R Y

---

### Archaeological excavations complementing the history of Novo mesto

Novo Mesto is widely known for the large number of prehistoric sites, above all cemeteries with richly furnished burials. The Beletov vrt cemetery that dates to the transition from Late Iron Age to the Roman period is particularly well known. Novo Mesto was founded by Rudolf IV of Habsburg in 1365 within a naturally well-protected meander in the river Krka. He acquired part of the land for the foundation of the town through an exchange of property with the Abbot of Stična. This amounted to an area of six farms with their dependant landholdings in the area »once known as Gradec pri Krki«. Excavations in 2000 and 2004 at the base of the rampart on the summit of the Kapitelj hill revealed linear foundations of large roughly dressed fieldstone. The nature of the structure was of a type, which could only be afforded by demanding and wealthy clients, such as those in monastic orders. It is hypothesised that they may be connected with the so-called »stiški stolp« (Stična tower). However, neither these or succeeding archaeological excavations have yielded small finds, which would permit a more precise date.

Most of those who have investigated the origins of Novo mesto have located the site of »Gradec« on the Kapitelj hill. The excavations in the area of the rampart on the Kapitelj hill have revealed the scant, but sole traces of Early Medieval settlement of 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> Century date in the modern town centre. The occupation layers confirm the existence of the Gradec settlement, mentioned in the written sources, whilst also bearing witness to settlement from the prehistoric to the Medieval period. This most recent information shows that the town was not established

on a greenfield site, nor was it rebuilt, but merely its novelty was strictly related to its formal foundation.

The Habsburgs established the town at the intersection of roads leading from west to east. The variety of the rare, richly decorated pottery stove tiles that were excavated in the remains of the house on Cvelbarjeva ulica bear witness to the vibrant trade along the official route that ran through the Ducal town and the wellbeing of its citizens in the 15<sup>th</sup> Century. The beaker was most probably imported from Italy to west, whilst analogies for the pottery stove tiles in Novo mesto can be found in castles in Croatia, Hungary and the Czech Republic. The house stood in one of the most prestigious locations in the town, on the high street above the modern Pugljeva ulica. No archaeological remains that date to the period prior to the 16<sup>th</sup> Century have been excavated on Glavni trg (Main Square) on the low-lying eastern part of the meander. The most recent and most extensive archaeological excavations were carried out in 2017 and 2018, in advance of the reconstruction of Glavni trg (Main Square). These revealed the remains of Late Iron Age and Roman period settlement in the upper part of Glavni trg. The occupation deposits on the Kapitelj hill and Glavni trg, as well as the Beletov vrt Roman cemetery, point to the existence of a vicus (small town) within the town meander. However, although archaeological excavation has confirmed the location of Gradec and settlement continuity in this period, including the Early Middle Ages, the location of Markstatt (the market) has not yet been determined. Its location will be established by future excavations, which will also finally clarify the connections between the Stična or Bajnof tower, Gradec and Markstatt. Archaeological excavations have shown that the Kapitelj hill provided the optimal conditions for settlement on the meander, because it was occupied in the Late Bronze Age, the Late Iron Age, the Roman Period, as well as in the Early Middle Ages and the Middle Ages.