

CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION OF TWO PREHISTORIC VESSELS FROM THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE BURIAL MOUND KNEŽEVIĆA GLAVICA, MUNICIPALITY ZETA



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INTRODUCTION

Knežević glavica burial mound, located in Balabani, Zeta Municipality, represents an important archaeological site from the prehistoric period. During the excavation, numerous ceramic vessels were found, among which two were analyzed in this conservation-restoration study. These vessels are archaeological artefacts made of local clay with the addition of sand as a degreaser, shaped using the manual modeling technique and baked in reducing conditions.

Their state of preservation was poor due to mechanical damage, structural instability and inadequate earlier interventions. The aim of the conservation-restoration procedure was to remove degradation factors, stabilize the material and ensure long-term protection and museological presentation.



MATERIALS AND METHODS

The conservation-restoration procedure was carried out in accordance with international guidelines for the treatment of archaeological ceramics and included:

- **Documentation and analysis** - Detailed photo documentation, damage mapping and microscopic analysis of material structure.
- **Removal of impurities** - Surface impurities were removed with a dry brush and acetone.
- **Desalination** - Immersion in distilled water to remove dissolved salts.
- **Removal of previous joints** - Inadequate synthetic glue (Oho) was removed with acetone and the fragments were properly joined with a suitable fixative.
- **Impregnation** - Stabilization of the structure by applying Paraloid B-72 (5% in ethanol).
- **Reconstruction** - Compensating the missing parts with fine plaster and adapting the texture to the original material.
- **Retouching** - Visual integration of the reconstructed parts is ensured with water-based acrylic paints.
- **Final protection** - Application of a final layer of Paraloid B-72 (10% in ethanol) for long termstabilization.



CONCLUSION

The vessels were in a fragmented and unstable state, with traces of previous inadequate restoration. Through the application of appropriate, reversible materials and methods, they were successfully reassembled, stabilized, and protected. The treatment ensured their structural integrity and suitability for long-term preservation, presentation, and further research.

References:

- Buys, S. and Oakley, V. (1996). The Conservation and Restoration of Ceramics. London: Routledge.
- Kojan Goluža, K. (2019). Conservation and Restoration of Ceramics. Dubrovnik: University of Dubrovnik, Department of Art and Restoration.

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Photo 1 - condition of vessel number 1 before the conservation-restoration procedure



Photo 2 - condition of vessel number 1 after the conservation-restoration procedure



Photo 3 - state of vessel number 2 before the conservation-restoration procedure



Photo 4 - condition of vessel number 2 after the conservation-restoration procedure