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## “Macedonian Amphoras” at Kale, Krševica Site – Another Evidence about Chronology of the Iron Age Settlement and Connections with the Hellenistic World

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*Abstract:* Archaeological finds discovered in the course of the investigations at the site Kale near Krševica village confirmed the exceptional importance of that site. Large scale excavations conducted at the site from 2001 to 2018 revealed the remains of the settlement dating from the 4<sup>th</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries BC. Settlement with the acropolis was at the dominant position in the vicinity of Južna Morava. From there it was easy to reach Macedonia and the Aegean via the passages along the Vardar river valley. Many discovered artifacts including metal objects, fragments of Greek painted pottery, large quantity of amphoras, which mainly originate from the vineyard regions around the towns of Thasos and Mende confirm the intensive relations between Krševica and the southeast Europe. For this occasion we selected from the various amphora types only few specimens, which differ from the older ones and are characterized by disk foot, ovoid or baggy body with rounded or angular shoulder, long, thin neck, flaring or projecting rim with sharp ridge well below, strap handles from shoulder to ridge. They are also known as “Macedonian amphora” type and they are related to the Hellenistic period. From the same period dates the remains of the large vaulted structure below the acropolis. Settlement at Krševica had been also known to the Celts. Many pits with large quantity of the Celtic finds were found at the acropolis. The material dates from the 2<sup>nd</sup>–1<sup>st</sup> centuries BC, from the time of clashes between the Celts and the Romans after the fall of Macedonia.

*Key words:* Kale-Krševica, Hellenistic period, Celts, Macedonian amphora

Rather small archaeological investigations have been conducted near the Krševica village in 1966 and the finds discovered on that occasion revealed that the site is of exceptional importance.<sup>1</sup> Larger scale excavations were resumed at Krševica at 2001 and continued for many years. Unfortunately further works were discontinued in 2018 because it was not possible to provide financial means to purchase private land where archaeological site at Krševica probably also extended. Archaeological investigations conducted so far revealed that there were significant remains of the settlement dating from the 4<sup>th</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries BC. Excavations started at the plateau where the acropolis was located and due to strong erosion

many archaeological finds found their way down the slope to the foothill. At the foothill have been discovered numerous architectural remains among other finds also large barrel vaulted structure used as the water cistern. (Fig. 1) These results were promptly published in scholarly literature and in 2012 National Museum in Belgrade organized the exhibition with catalogue where all essential data about investigations at Krševica were published.<sup>2</sup> Further investigations will depend also on the detailed analysis of the large quantity of discovered zoological material and large amount of various pottery vessels, metal objects and other artifacts.

<sup>1</sup>Mikulčić / Jovanović 1968, 355 ff.

<sup>2</sup>Popović 2012, 11 ff.

Settlement was at the dominant position in the vicinity of Južna Morava where from it was easy to reach Macedonia and the Aegean via the passages along the Vardar river valley, and it turned out that there were intensive relations between Krševica and the southeast Europe. It is confirmed by many finds arriving to the settlement at Krševica from the south including metal objects,<sup>3</sup> fragments of Greek painted pottery, large quantity of amphoras, which mainly originate from the vineyard regions like the towns of Thasos and Mende. (Fig. 2, 1-9) For this occasion we selected from the various amphora types only few specimens discovered during excavations at the foothill and at the acropolis and that date from the later settlement. These new type of amphoras differ from the old ones and are characterized by disk foot, ovoid or baggy body with rounded or angular shoulder, long, thin neck, flaring or projecting rim with sharp ridge well below, strap handles from shoulder to ridge. (Fig. 2, 10-14) They are related to the Hellenistic period<sup>4</sup> and they are also known as “Macedonian amphora” type.<sup>5</sup> These amphoras, from the chronological point of view, suggest that there was the late La Tène settlement at Krševica in the beginning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC. It corresponds also with certain finds of painted vessels,<sup>6</sup> as well as the architectural finds from Krševica and from the same period dates the remains of the large vaulted structure at the foothill. As this site has been only partially explored so far, the conducted investigations could not provide all the information about the history of this settlement. It should be added that the settlement at Krševica had been also known to the Celts. Many pits with large quantity of the Celtic finds were found at the acropolis.<sup>7</sup> The material dates from the 2<sup>nd</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup> centuries BC, from the time of clashes between the Celts and the Romans after the fall of Macedonia.<sup>8</sup> (8)

This short text is dedicated to dear colleague and friend Blagoje Govedarica

## Nalazi “makedonskih amfora” na lokalitetu Kale – Krševica: još jedno svedočanstvo o hronološkom rasponu naselja i vezama s Makedonijom

Kod sela Krševica 1966. godine obavljena su manja arheološka istraživanja i tada otkriveni nalazi pokazali su da je lokalitet od izuzetnog značaja. Tek 2001. godine u Krševici nastavljena su veća istraživanja koja su trajala više godina. Nažalost dalji radovi su prekinuti 2018. godine zbog nemogućnosti da se finansijski obezbede privatne parcele na kojima se verovatno prostire arheološki lokalitet u Krševici. Zahvaljujući dosadašnjim radovima pokazalo se da se ovde nalaze značajni ostaci naselja iz IV–III veka pre n. e. Iskapanja su započeta na platou uzvišenja gde se nalazila akropola, a pri padini, zbog velike erozije, veliki broj arheoloških nalaza našao je put do podnožja. U podnožju su otkriveni i brojni ostaci arhitekture, među ostalima velika bačvasta ili lučno nadsvođena građevina, kao cisterna puna vode. Ovi rezultati su brzo objavljeni u literaturi, a 2012. godine u Narodnom muzeju u Beogradu organizovana je izložba sa katalogom gde su objavljeni svi osnovni podaci istraživanja lokaliteta u Krševici. Nastavak istraživanja zavisiće i od detaljne analize velike količine otkrivenog zoološkog materijala, kao i velikog broja raznovrsnih keramičkih posuda, metala i svih ostalih nalaza.

Dominantno naselje nalazilo se u blizini Južne Morave, a prolazima duž Vardara lako se stizalo do Makedonije i Egeja, sa kojima su, kako se ispostavilo, postojale intenzivne veze. O tome svedoče mnogobrojni nalazi koji su stizali iz južnih krajeva do naselja u Krševici: metalni predmeti, fragmenti grčke slikane keramike, veliki broj amfora koje uglavnom potiču iz vinskih regiona kao što su gradovi Tasos i Mende. Za ovu priliku, od raznih amfora izdvajamo samo malobrojne primerke koji su otkriveni tokom istraživanja u podnožju i na akropoli, a pripadaju mlađem naselju. Ove nove amfore razlikuju se od starih amfora i karakterišu ih ravno dno, ovoidan ili vrečast trbuh sa zaobljenim ili uglastim ramenom, dugačak, tanak vrat, koso ili horizontalno razgrnut obod sa dosta nisko postavljenim istaknutim zadebljanjem, pljosnate drške od ramena do zadebljanja, koje odgovaraju helenističkom periodu, a nazvane su i “makedonska amfora”. U hronološkom smislu ove amfore ukazuju na postojanje kasnolatenskog naselja na početku III veka pre n. e. To odgovara i nekim nalazima slikanih posuda iz Krševice, kao i arhitekture, a tom periodu bi pripadali i ostaci velike građevine sa lučnim svodom u

<sup>3</sup> Popović 2017, 275 ff.

<sup>4</sup> Rotroff 2006, 86.

<sup>5</sup> Kotitsa 2007, 178.

<sup>6</sup> Popović 2016, 169 ff.

<sup>7</sup> Popović 2011, 151 ff.

<sup>8</sup> Popović / Vranić 2017, 89 ff.

podnožju. Dosadašnja istraživanja nisu mogla da nam daju sve podatke o istoriji ovog naselja, ali ovaj arheološki lokalitet je samo delimično ispitan. Ovome treba dodati da je naselje u Krševici bilo poznato i Keltima. Na akropoli je otkriveno više jama sa mnogobrojnim keltskim nalazima iz II–I veka pre n. e., iz vremena sukoba Kelta sa Rimljanima posle pada Makedonije.

Nalazi “makedonskih amfora” na lokalitetu Kale-Krševica predstavljaju još jedno svedočanstvo o hronološkom rasponu naselja i vezama sa Makedonijom.

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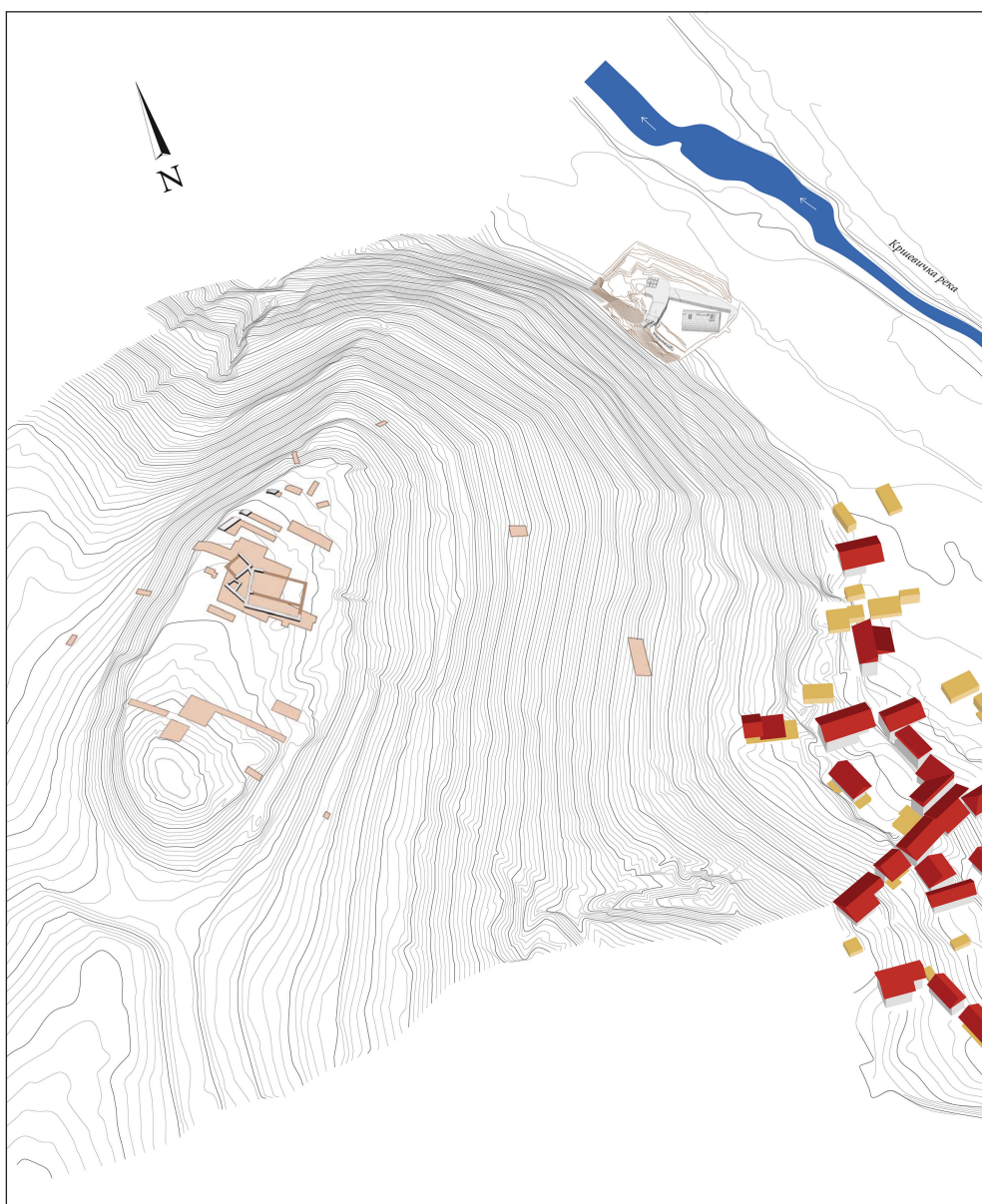


Fig. 1. Kale-Krševica, situation 2011: 1. Acropolis; 2. Water complex with cistern;  
3. Modern village Krševica (authors of plan A. Subotić and A. Nikolić)

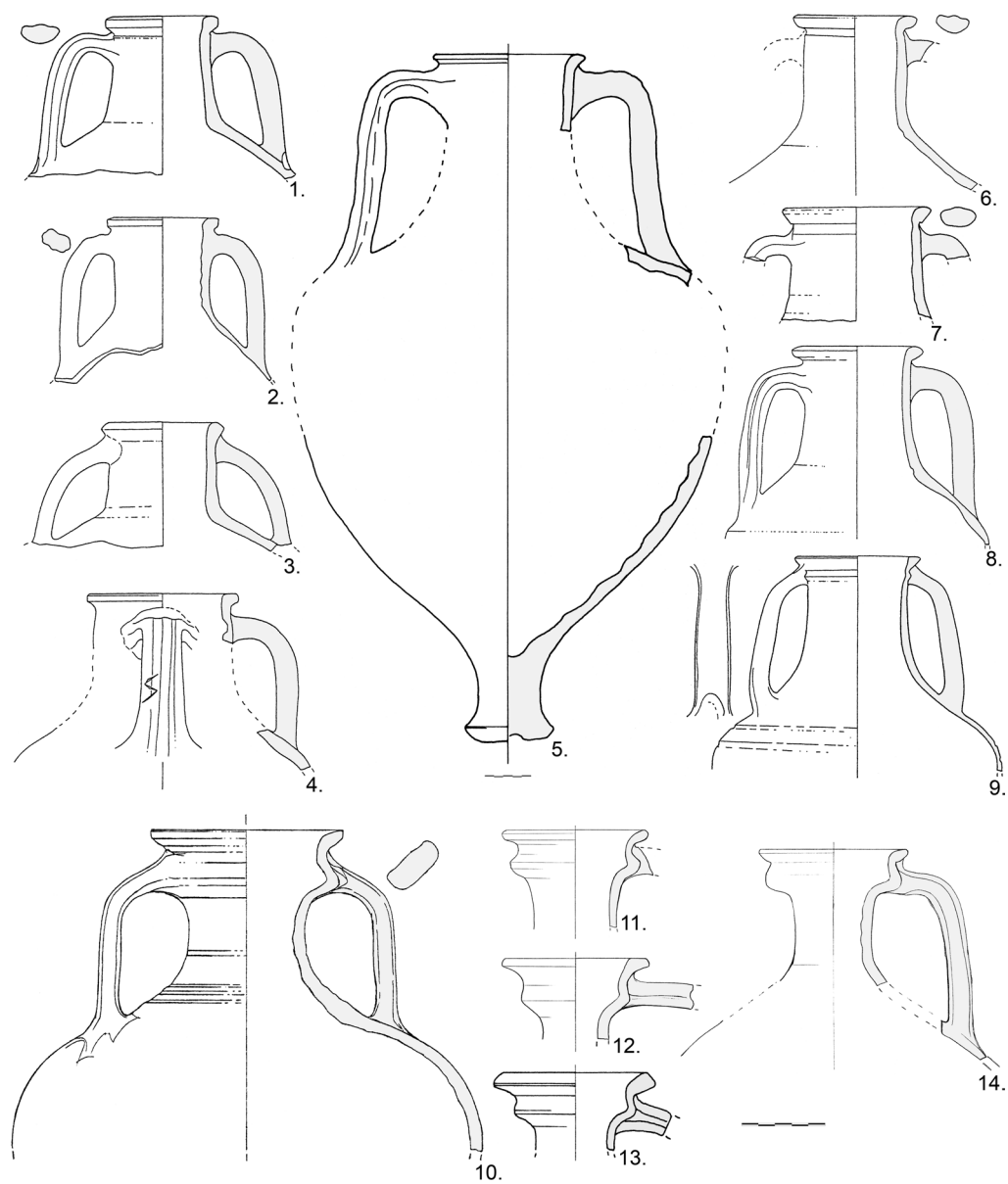


Fig. 2. Amphoras from Krševica (10-14 – “Macedonian amphora” type)  
 (Sketches: 1-9 – A. Kapuran; 10-14 – A. Đorđević)



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