

### VÝROČNÍ ZPRÁVA PROJEKTU SPECIFICKÉHO VÝZKUMU 2021 / THE ANNUAL SV PROJECT REPORT 2021

#### Název projektu/ Project title:

Catacombs and their settlements in South-Eastern Sicily (4th-6th c. AD). Archaeological researches 2021-22 / Katakomby a související osídlení v jihovýchodní Sicílii ve 4. – 6. st. Archeologické výzkumy 2021-22.

#### Doba trvání projektu / Project duration:

2 roky / 2 years

#### Řešitelský tým / Team of investigators:

Mgr. Joan Pinar Gil, PhD

Mgr. Miroslav Pleska

#### Popis a splnění cílů řešení / Description and fulfillment of projects objectives:

1. Preparation of the 2021 archaeological expedition (April-September)

The preparation of the expedition included the purchase of the additional equipment for fieldwork activities and for data storage and the recruitment of the students. The latter has been particularly challenging, as a considerable number (16) of international students from Mainz, Zagreb, Ljubljana, Trento, Riga and Užhorod joined the excavations in addition to the UHK students. The purchase and recruitment processes were successfully closed by July.

In a later moment, the travel, accommodation and logistics, including safety rules and prevention of eventual anti-Covid mobility restrictions, were set up.

The organization of the expedition had a major setback in July, when Dr. Annamaria Sammito, the main partner of the project in Sicily and a very valuable scientific collaborator, suddenly passed away. An extra effort has been made between July and September in order to ensure the feasibility and the suitable conditions for the fieldwork activities, including renegotiating the new permits with Dr. Saverio Scerra, who has taken over Dr. Sammito's duties, and with the owner of the lands in which the site is set.

2. Fieldwork: excavation in the Late Antique hypogea C, D, F and G, Scorrione W, Modica (October-November)

The excavations went on uninterruptedly from October 4<sup>th</sup> to December 3<sup>rd</sup>. The activity was focused inside the hypogeum D, a big funerary chamber preserving traces of 40 graves, and both inside and outside of the somewhat smaller hypogea C, F and G. The excavation team had to face many difficulties derived from fully exceptional, extremely severe weather conditions, including continuous rains, two tropical-styled storms and a strong hurricane. Not even the older people remember anything like that. On the site, the weather conditions caused three full floods in the already excavated areas, greatly slowing down the work schedule and rendering the fieldwork more difficult and unpleasant.

The excellent performance of the excavation team, however, made possible to achieve all the scheduled goals, including the full excavation of the hypogea C, F and G and the excavation of the uppermost wall graves in the hypogeum D, which were not investigated in 2020. As in 2020, the amount of recorded archaeological data is rich and varied, and confirms once more the potential of the site as a reference for Mediterranean rock-cut cemeteries.

The unearthed finds include intact layers and graves, plentiful of artefacts (pottery, glassware, metal accessories, worked stones). They are very consistent with the finds form 2020, and stress the exceptional character of Scorrione in the whole of Sicilian archaeology. As in 2020, traces of the use of the hypogea throughout Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages, including reforms and changes in function, have been collected.

#### 3. Documentation of archaeological finds and training of students (October-November)

Besides the research activity, great attention has been devoted also to the training of the UHK and international students participating in the expedition. Students were not only involved in the excavation, but also in the processing of finds, which improved in a comprehensive manner their skills as archaeologists. Processing of finds included how to clean and document, through cataloguing, photographing and drawing many classes of materials: pottery and glass shards, metal objects, stone items and bones.

This documentation of the finds, parallel to the development of the excavations, has enabled to produce very quickly a good-quality amount of data that has been being used to produce very quickly the first publications deriving from the excavation campaigns, only a few weeks after the completion of the expedition.

In addition, the site and some structures in the surroundings have been geolocalized as a previous step towards the implementation of a powerful GIS of the site and of the surrounding territory, to be completed in the upcoming years. A microregional GIS model containing georeferenced data on all the rock-cut cemeteries south of Modica, developed during the 2021 campaign, is another step taken towards this aim.

#### 4. Scientific contacts, research planning and meetings (October-December)

Constant communication with the Sicilian partners has ensured the best possible development of activities and a strong planning for future research. Several meetings were organised with the personnel of the State Agency for Heritage (Dr. Scerra, responsible person for the area and Dr. Sammito's substitute) and with scholars and restorers from Museums and Universities of the region. Dr. Michelle Beghelli (University of Mainz/University of Zagreb) has taken part actively in the expedition, leading the team of Mainz students and collaborating in the ongoing preparation of publications. Prof. Vasiliki Tsamakda (University of Mainz), who is co-heading with Dr. Pinar Gil a Research Linkage project of

the Humboldt Foundation from 01/01/2022, visited the expedition in November and planned with Drs. Beghelli and Pinar Gil an application for an ambitious bilateral project, whose drafting will start in the next few weeks.

The expedition was visited by Dr. Peter Hejhal and by Mgr. Eva Schimerová (UHK) as well. Together with Dr. Pinar Gil and Mgr. Pleska, they started to plan the increasing of the researches in 2022 with the launching of systematic geomagnetic surveys at Scorrione, on one side, and of a full program of restoration of the Scorrione artefacts, on the other.

5. Preparation and submission of publications and dissemination activities (April-December)

As said, a quick and efficient documentation of the fieldwork finds has led to produce the first published output in schedule, in spite of the numerous problems faced this year (the major one being, of course, Dr. Sammito's loss, as she was expected to be among the main authors of many scheduled publications). Two papers have already been submitted to high-impact international journals (Journal of Roman Archaeology and Archaeologisches Korrespondenzblatt) and a third one has been submitted to an important regional monograph (Hyblae 1). Three further articles are already in the making (two of them targeting significant journals) and a minimum of two further articles should be ready by the end of 2022.

#### Popis změn v řešení projektu / Descripiton of project changes:

In spite of major setbacks (Dr. Sammito's loss), adverse weather conditions and the general context of pandemics, the main aims and structure of the project underwent no significant change.

Stav výstupu: rozpracovaný x dokončený x přijatý redakcí k otištění x otištěn (připojte potvrzení z redakce)/ Project outputs: unfinished x finished x accepted for publishing x published (attach the editorial board confirmation):

Three manuscripts have been already submitted to the publishers:

- 1. J. Pinar Gil, M. Pleska: Two unusual funerary deposits from the Migration Period at hypogeum D, Modica–Scorrione W (prov. Ragusa, Sicily). Submitted to Archäologisches Korrespondenzblatt (Jimp).
- 2. J. Pinar Gil, M. Pleska: Using and reusing rock-cut architecture. The stratigraphical sequence at Modica–Scorrione W, hypogeum D (5th-8th century CE). Submitted to Journal of Roman Archaeology (Jimp).
- 3. J. Pinar Gil, A. Sammito, S. Scerra, M. Beghelli, A. Criscione, S. Fiorilla, Z. Hukelová, M. Pleska, D. Schmidtová: Modica RG. Notizie preliminari sugli scavi della catacomba di C.da Scorrione (C).
- Three manuscripts are already in the making and will be submitted before the end of 2022:
  - 4. J. Pinar Gil, M. Pleska: Rinvenimenti del V secolo a Scorrione, ipogeo D (D)
  - 5. J. Pinar Gil, M. Pleska, M. Beghelli: Visual appearance and spatial organization (Jimp)
  - 6. M. Beghelli, J. Pinar Gil, M. Pleska: Stone working and management (Jsc)
- Two further papers, yet to be defined, will be prepared and, hopefully, submitted before the end of 2022.

- Dr. Pinar and Mgr. Pleska have also presented the first results of the excavations at Scorrione in the international conference "Presenze barbariche nel V secolo in Italia e regioni contermini" (Catholic University in Milano, 10.09.21).
- In addition, the team members have received invitations to present the results of the excavations at Scorrione in the upcoming international conferences in Simferopol', Mainz and Poznań.

## Výsledky publikační činnosti v OBD/RIV (uveď te ID číslo záznamu v OBD) / Project publishing outputs in OBD/RIV (enter the ID number in OBD):

No output has been yet published.

#### Project costs:

	PŘIDĚLENÉ / ALLOCATED BUDGET	ČERPANÉ / EXPENDED BUDGET		
Osobní náklady / Personnel costs	10.000	10.000		
Materiální náklady / Equipment and Consumables	9.500	10.920		
Služby / Services	5.000	0		
Travel costs / Cestovné	278.180	279.901		
CELKEM / TOTAL COSTS	302.680	300.821		

# Zdůvodnění všech změn v průběhu a účelu čerpání finančních prostředků / Justification of all changes in expension:

The project budget has been somewhat altered in its travelling costs section by two reasons. On the one hand, the students taking part in the fieldwork have broken an unusual number of tools, which had to be replaced. On the other, the price of the gasoline has been very high during the whole length of the expedition. These extra expenses have been balanced by giving up on the rental of a mechanical excavator, judged innecessary in view of the abundant manpower in the UHK excavation team.

#### Osobní náklady / Personnel costs:

scholarship for Miroslav Pleska (10.000 czk)

#### Materiální náklady / Equipment and Consumables:

Spotlight accessories and SD cards: 10.920 czk

Služby / Services: -

Cestovné /Travel costs:

Ferry Genova-Palermo-Genoa J. Pinar Gil: 200,01€ Ferry Genova-Palermo-Genoa M. Pleska: 236,67€

Car rental: 1.488,27€

Fuel: 729,73€

Accommodation J. Pinar Gil: 1.000€ Accommodation M. Pleska: 900€ Meal allowance J. Pinar Gil: 3.200,01€ Meal allowance M. Pleska: 2.550€

Fieldwork tools: 432,75€

Vyúčtování dotace – popište hospodaření s prostředky a přiložte výsledovku EIS Magion / Expension Report:

Joan Pinar Gil

V Hradci Králové dne 07.01.22

Jméno a podpis řešitele

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