

7th International Conference on Mediaeval Archaeology
7. međunarodni znanstveni skup srednjovjekovne arheologije

SECRETS OF IRON -
FROM RAW MATERIAL
TO AN IRON OBJECT

TAJNE ŽELJEZA -
OD SIROVINE DO
ŽELJEZNOG PREDMETA

Programme and the Book of Abstracts
Program i knjiga sažetaka

Institute of Archaeology / Institut za arheologiju

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**Ivan Valent:****Traces of iron smelting at the Koprivnički Ivanec – Log-Parag I site**

During the excavation of the Koprivnički Ivanec - Log Parag I site, pieces of smelting slag were found within an Early Medieval context. The poster presents a statistic analysis and distribution of the slag within the excavated pits, as well as of slag found during several field surveys. Based on the pottery material found in the same context, a date for the presumed smelting workshop is given.

Olga Zaitceva, Evgeny Vodyasov:**Medieval burials with blacksmith tools in Siberia**

The report will be devoted to Siberian burials with blacksmith tools from the 1st and 2nd millennium AD. Virtually all the burials in question contain an abundance of weapons, belts, jewellery, crockery, and horse harnesses. Many burials contained unique religious objects that have no analogies. Moreover, some burials are among the 'richest' early medieval burials in the *taiga* zone of Siberia. The discovery in burials of blacksmith tools along with other prestigious items raises a number of questions in relation to the buried people's social status in life and to the functions these very blacksmith tools performed in burial rites. If no blacksmith tools had been found in the studied burial mounds, the status of the deceased would most probably have been defined by researchers as 'social elite', 'warriors of high rank', etc. However, the presence of these tools complicates such an interpretation. In many medieval societies, there existed ideas of a close relationship of military rulers with blacksmithing. For example, the medieval Mongols had a myth about the iron durability of the people, led by the blacksmith leader. The name Genghis Khan (Temüjin) is translated as "blacksmith", although he did not engage in blacksmithing. That is why we cannot exclude the fact that this symbolism of blacksmith tools acting as a marker of a high status and power became reflected in the burial rite of the medieval population of Siberia.

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