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## LATE VINČA CULTURE SETTLEMENT AT CRKVINE IN STUBLINE

(household organization and urbanization in the Late Vinča culture period)

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*Abstract.* – The site Crkvine is situated in the vicinity of the village Stubline in the borough of Obrenovac around 40 km to the southwest of Belgrade (Serbia). In the first section of this work we present the comprehensive report about the investigations carried out so far. The geomagnetic prospection undertaken from 2006 to 2008 covered an area of 32,400 square meters and the obtained results indicate the existence of around 100 houses built in rows around the rather large open areas as well as the trenches surrounding the settlement. The investigations of the house 1/2008 dating from the Vinča culture D–2 period yielded in addition to the data concerning its interior organization also a unique find of the group of 46 figurines with 11 models of miniature tools. In the second section of this work we discuss the prospects, which future investigations of this site and its environment could provide concerning the study of the social organization in the very end of the Vinča culture.

*Key words.* – Neolithic, Vinča culture, settlement, house, geomagnetic investigations, group of figurines, altar, Stubline, Obrenovac.

The site Crkvine is situated in the vicinity of the village Stubline, borough of Obrenovac, around 40 km to the southwest of Belgrade (Serbia). It is located on a small elevation around 500 meters long and 380 meters wide in the west and to 130 meters in the east (44<sup>0</sup>33.765'N; 20<sup>0</sup>7.703'E, elev. 112 m) (Fig. 1) The elevation is surrounded from the north and south by the brooks, which meet under its southeast end while the depression of elliptical shape (80 x 30 m) makes the western boundary of the site. When this site has been previously mentioned in literature it was estimated that it covers an area around 60 ha,<sup>1</sup> while it actually covers an area of around 16.5 ha. The terrain where the settlement is situated belongs geologically to the category of the highest river terrace and it is at the very edge of somewhat higher plateau of the Drenski Vis consisting of

deluvial-proluvial deposits. Along the edge of this very plateau have been recorded, besides Crkvine, four more sites with the latest horizon dating from the Late Vinča culture period: the site Jasenje is located 8 km to the west,<sup>2</sup> site Šarena Česma is 2 km to the northeast,<sup>3</sup> around 4 km to the north is Novo Selo<sup>4</sup> and the site Djurića Vinogradi is 5 km to the northwest<sup>5</sup> (Fig. 2). Until few decades ago the mentioned plateau was surrounded from the north and the northwest by the swamps connected with

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<sup>1</sup> Ристић-Опачић 2005, 84.

<sup>2</sup> Todorović 1967b.

<sup>3</sup> Црнобрња 2005, 77.

<sup>4</sup> Todorović 1970.

<sup>5</sup> Todorović 1969.

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Fig. 1. Location of the site (segment of topographic map, 1:50,000)

Сл. 1. Позиција локалитета (исечак са топографске секције 1:50 000)

the Sava River while its eastern boundary was the Tamnava River, i.e. the swamps resulting from the flooding of the river and its smaller tributaries.

### HISTORY OF INVESTIGATIONS

The Belgrade City Museum conducted small-scale test trench excavations at Crkvine in 1967 and already then it has been concluded that this site offers unique opportunities for the study of architecture and urbanization of the Vinča culture settlements.<sup>6</sup>

The Cultural Heritage Preservation Institute of Belgrade (hereafter Institute) and the Belgrade City Museum (hereafter Museum) had undertaken the test trench archaeological excavations in the end of summer 2006 in order to verify the information concerning the existence of the medieval church and to identify the character of already recorded Late Vinča culture settlement.<sup>7</sup> The area of around 50 square meters has been investigated, the remains of medieval church have not been encountered but the sections of two well-preserved Late Vinča structures have been discovered. Considering that financial resources did not make possible the investigation of the complete structures we gave up the destructive methods of investigations and started planning the detailed prospection of the entire site.

The detailed surface survey of the site Crkvine has been carried out in November 2006 in cooperation with

The Archaeological Collection of the Faculty of Philosophy in Belgrade, the Institute and the Museum. The character of the surface finds and the situation encountered during the site survey indicated the existence of large and well-preserved Late Vinča settlement, so the geophysical investigations of the western periphery of the settlement have started in December 2007. The area of 16400 square meters has been investigated by geomagnetic survey and the map of investigated zones has been obtained indicating possible features.<sup>8</sup>

### INVESTIGATIONS IN 2008

The geomagnetic investigations continued in the autumn of 2008 and on that occasion another 16,400 square meters have been surveyed thus reaching 32800 square meters in total, which is around 20% of the entire site (Fig. 3).<sup>9</sup>

<sup>6</sup> Todorović 1967a, 18.

<sup>7</sup> Симић, Црнобрња 2008.

<sup>8</sup> Crnobrnja, Simić, in print.

<sup>9</sup> The geomagnetic prospection was carried out by the geologists Vladimir and Jelena Miletic from the Center for New Technologies Viminacium. The magnetometer-gradiometer GSM 19gw (of Canadian manufacture) and GPS total station TRIMBLE 5800 (of American manufacture) have been used.

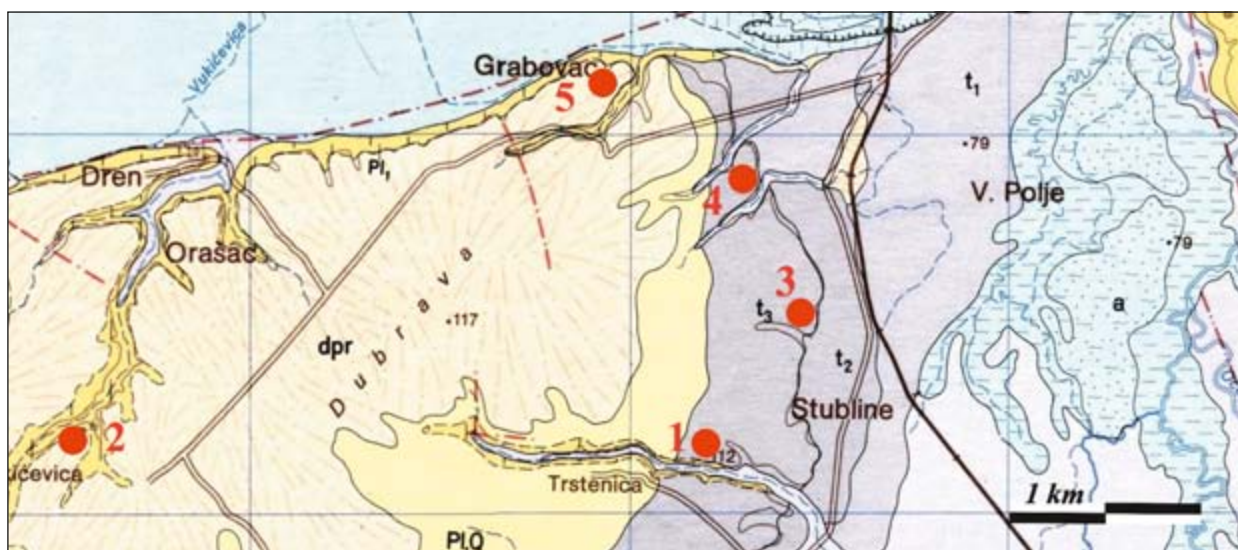


Fig. 2. Location of Late Vinča culture sites at Drenski Vis: 1) Crkvine; 2) Jasenje; 3) Šarena Česma; 4) Novo Selo; 5) Đurića Vinogradi (geological map 1:100,000)

Сл. 2. Позиције позновинчанских локалитета на Дренском вису: 1) Црквине; 2) Јасење; 3) Шарена чесма; 4) Ново село; 5) Ђурића виногради (датио на геолошкој подлози 1:100 000)

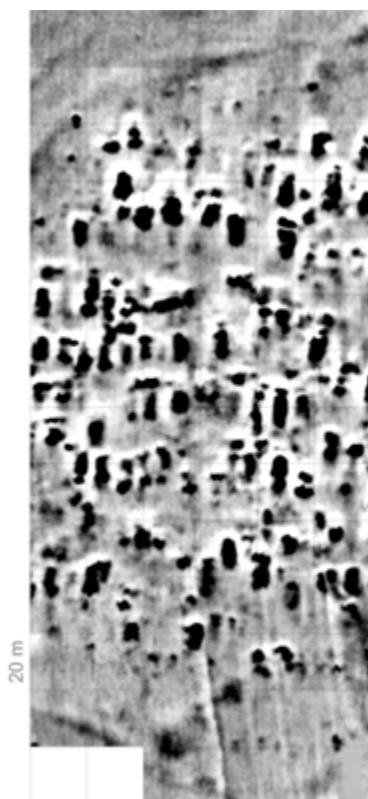


Fig. 3. Geomagnetic reading of the site western periphery (280 m x 120 m)

Сл. 3. Геоматнетни снимак западне периферије локалитета (280 x 120 m)

The north and south boundary of the settlement has been established on the basis of the geomagnetic anomalies. At the northeastern side where the terrain is sloping less the settlement boundary is suggested by the anomaly indicating double trench, while at the steeper southwestern side the boundary is indicated by the anomaly suggesting the existence of one trench. The greatest width of the settlement between the trenches is 265 meters but according to the direction of the trenches somewhat larger width could be expected towards the east, i.e. the central zone of the settlement. Just 120 meters of the 500 meters of the complete length of the settlement established on the basis of the surface finds of the artifact and daub have been investigated by the geomagnetic prospection.

By comparing the intensity of the geomagnetic anomalies (verified by the excavations in three situations) and their dimensions it is possible to assume the existence of the remains of 103 houses within the investigated area.<sup>10</sup> The most of the structures were longitudinally oriented in the north-northeast – south-southwest direction. The supposed houses are arranged in many regular rows extending in the northwest-southeast direction.

<sup>10</sup> When defining the anomalous zones as houses the structures with anomalous values over 8 nT and over 6 meters long have been taken into consideration.





*Fig. 4. Structure ground plan during excavations, from the north*

*Сл. 4. Основа објекта у току ископавања, снимљено са севера*

The rows consists of groups of 5 to 12 structures with longer sides parallel to each other and the distance between them is rather small (space between the houses in a row is mostly narrower than the width of the given houses). The existence of many open areas surrounded on all four sides with structures of which the largest one is 50 m x 24 m in size.

In order to test the meanings of certain values of the geomagnetic anomalies the Institute and the Museum have conducted archeological excavation in the period between October 22<sup>nd</sup> and December 10<sup>th</sup> 2008. The trenches have been laid in such a way that according to the georeferenced geomagnetic images the precise coordinates of the to-be-investigated structures were determined, the positions of the trench corners were defined and then they were determined on the site by GPS total station.

#### **Trench 06/2008**

The trench-sondage, 8 m x 1 m in size, was opened at the location where the geomagnetic prospection suggested the existence of structure whose values were 10 nT on its entire surface. The objective was to determine in the control trench the character of structural remains in order to obtain the key for reading the anomalies of

identical or approximate values at this site. We have excavated only to the surface of the collapsed wall daub of the structure (▼110,70), but without disturbing it. We have encountered the remains of the structure, which did not suffer the high intensity of burning (house 2/2008) and one pithos for storing the cereals was recorded within the structure. The trench has then been filled in.

#### **Trench 05/2008**

The trench 05/2008 has been located above the entire area of the structure whose values were between 10 nT in its southwestern section and 25 nT in the north-eastern section. We have decided on the investigation of this very structure (house 1/2008) for couple of reasons: the results of the geomagnetic prospection indicated that this is one of the smallest structures and that it belongs to the group of around 20% of the worst preserved houses. We also thought that difference in the magnetic values within one structure offers good opportunity for investigation of the reason of this phenomenon in order to be able to make better plans for our future investigations.

The excavations of the entire area of the trench 05/08, 9 m x 9 m in size, revealed the dwelling structure with almost completely preserved ground plan (house

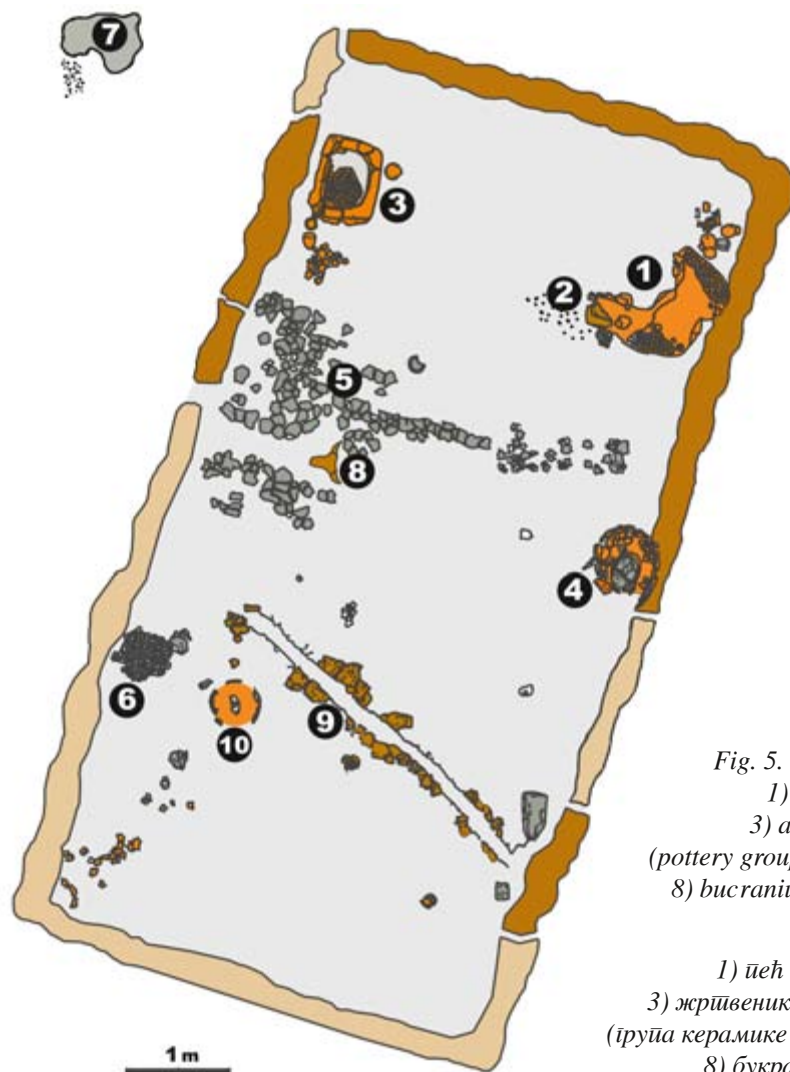


Fig. 5. Ground plan of the house 01/2008:  
 1) oven 2; 2) platform with figurines;  
 3) altar; 4) quern; 5) zone with pottery  
 (pottery group 6); 6) oven 1; 7) pottery group 1;  
 8) bucranium; 9) beam impression; 10) pithos

Сл. 5. Основа куће 01/2008:  
 1) пећ 2; 2) платформа са фигуринама;  
 3) жртвеник; 4) жрвањ; 5) зона са керамиком  
 (група керамике 6); 6) пећ 1; 7) група керамике 1;  
 8) бугранион; 9) ошисак преде; 10) пийос

1/2008).<sup>11</sup> The structure is oriented in the north-northeast – south-southeast direction with slight deviation of 10° to the east (Fig. 4). The orientation of this house corresponds to the orientations of most of other structures recorded by the geomagnetic prospection. The collapsed remains of the wall appear already at the relative depth of 0.30 m (▼111,47). The total investigated length of the house is 9.15 m while its width varies between 4.70 and 4.85 m (Fig. 5). The walls in the north, east and west section of the house are preserved to the height of 0.20–0.40 m. The north wall is almost completely preserved to the height of 0.20 m except in the northwestern corner where also part of the west wall is missing. The remains of daub and other architectural elements have not been recorded in this corner of the house. The west wall is only partially preserved up to the length of 2.40 m. The east wall of the structure is best preserved, up to the length of 3.00 m and its height is 0.40 m. This wall ends

on the outside of the quern discovered inside the structure and one segment of that wall after the interruption of around 1 meter could be noticed in the south section of the house. The postholes of circular shape and 0.15–0.20 m wide have been encountered in the north and east wall and in the northeastern corner. The walls have been coated on the inside with a layer of fine clay without traces of chaff and on the same side the traces of finger trailing were also apparent. The outer surface of the fragments of the collapsed wall discovered on top of the most of the structure was almost totally flat and there was also encountered an additional clay coating between 2 to 5 cm thick, most probably added in the course of

<sup>11</sup> Three graves from the 17<sup>th</sup>–18<sup>th</sup> centuries damaged the structure and elements of the interior and they belong to the larger necropolis recorded during earlier excavations conducted in 2006.





Fig. 6. Bucranium after removing from its finding place

Сл. 6. Букранион, након подизања са места налаза

house renovation. Similar method of treatment of the outer wall surfaces has been recorded also at the settlement of the Tisza culture at Matejski Brod.<sup>12</sup> The trace of a beam, which probably fell during the fire, which destroyed the house, was recorded in the south section of the structure (Fig. 5/9). The length of this impression of the beam is 3.10 m and the width is 0.15–0.15 m and on both its sides were collapsed walls turned with external face upwards while under the walls were discovered completely preserved vessels covered with the fallen walls (Fig. 7). The impression of the beam was 6.50 meters to the south of the north wall and was not parallel to it. The floor of the structure was made of packed earth and there were not encountered the remains of small posts *in situ* to suggest the wooden substructure. The area in the north section of the structure where oven 2 and large pottery receptacle (altar?) were discovered was for around 0.20 m higher than the remaining section of the structure in the south. Similar situation, i.e. the de-

Fig. 7. Beam impression in the south section of the structure 1/2008 with discovered vessels in situ, from the west

Сл. 7. Ошисак греде у јужном делу објекта 1/2008 са откривеним посудама *in situ*, снимљено са запада



levelling between two rooms has been recorded also in house 4 at Gomolava.<sup>13</sup> Although at Gomolava the side room was lower than the central one, in both instances the room with oven is around 0.15–0.20 m higher. The pottery material discovered in house 01/08 at Crkvine is contemporary with the material discovered during excavations and site surveying in 2006 and it could be attributed to the phase D–2 of the Vinča culture.<sup>14</sup> Inside the house are preserved the elements of built-in interior features and we will pay special attention to them in this

<sup>12</sup> Рашајски 1952, 110.

<sup>13</sup> Петровић 1992, 25.

<sup>14</sup> The analysis of the pottery material discovered during excavations in 2006 and gathered during the site surveying has been performed by Dr. Dubravka Nikolić, director of the Archaeological Collection at the Faculty of Philosophy in Belgrade and we express here our deepest gratitude for her help.

work and present them going from the north towards the south because it is the easiest way to comprehend the situation within the structure.

#### Oven 2 (Figure 5/1)

The domed oven (Fig. 8) has been encountered in the northeastern corner of the house around 1 meter far from the north wall and 0.20 meter far from the east wall. The top of the dome is damaged so its preserved height is 0.47 m. The preserved oven length is 1.30 m and the width is 1.40 m, it is oriented in the east-west direction and the opening is facing west while its longer sides are parallel to the north wall. Because of the damages inflicted by later diggings the preserved opening of the oven is only 0.20 m wide and its floor is preserved only along the backside of the dome adjacent to

the east house wall. The oven was standing on a platform 0.15 m above the floor level and the massive around 0.20 m long segment of the horseshoe-shaped ash pit was preserved in front of it. Its interior was filled with pottery fragments while next to its northeastern corner, between the oven and east wall, have been found few complete vessels, which had probably been used for preparation and consumption of food (bowls and small beakers – Fig. 9).

#### Platform with the figurines (Figure 5/2)

Rather small »platform« of irregular shape and 0.50 x 0.60 m in size, made of baked clay has been encountered in the area in front of the opening of the oven 2 (its southwestern corner) right next to the ledge of the ash pit. The north section of the platform is damaged because of

Fig. 8. Oven 2, from the west  
Сл. 8. Пећ 2, снимљено са запада



Fig. 9. Vessels in situ between oven 2 and east wall of structure 01/2008.

Сл. 9. Налази посуђа in situ између пећи 2 и источниот зид објекта 01/2008



Fig. 10. Figurines in situ, from the north  
Сл. 10. Налаз фиџурине in situ, снимљено са севера



Fig. 11. Figurines  
Сл. 11. Фиџурине





*Fig. 12. Altar (?), from the east and the northeast*

*Сл. 12. Жрѣвеник (?), снимљено са истока, односно североистока*

already mentioned later diggings. Thirty-eight figurines of identical shape (Fig. 10 and 11) that do not have any closer analogies have been found on the platform. Another 8 identical figurines have been unearthed in the surrounding area covering around 1 m x 1 m. All the figurines are of cylindrical shape with summarily modeled head shaped as bird's beak but without protomes. Their lower segment is of the bell-shape creating thus circular foot for better stability. All the figurines except the central one are between 4 cm and 5.5 cm tall. The more elaborately modeled figurine standing in the center of the composition is 7 cm tall and it is the only specimen with the indication of the shoulders. This figurine has been found in the center of the group consisting of nine smaller uniform figurines surrounding it. In addition to so far unrecorded type of modeling and composition they constitute, this find is also unique because all the figurines have a perforation each at an angle of approximately 45° on the right side (in the shoulder zone). The purpose of these perforations is much more comprehensible if we take into account that 11 clay models of miniature tools with shaft-holes have been discovered next to the figurines. Among these tool models were identified few hammer-axes, object of the pickaxe shape and one mace (or scepter?). Immediately upon the discovery we came to conclusion that perforations on the figurines were used for inserting the hafts (straws) of the tools. One specimen, which vaguely resembles the figurines from Stubline was discovered at the site Medjulužje but without perforations for the tools<sup>15</sup> and from the same site also comes a miniature model of

an axe,<sup>16</sup> but both objects are unfortunately chance finds without context. The miniature tool models have been found also at Kormadin near Jakovo<sup>17</sup> but their photographs have never been published. Besides the figurines, 15 loom weights of identical shape and size (8 cm in diameter) were found right next to the oven. The loom weights were discovered on a pile so we could not draw any conclusions about the location of the possible loom on the basis of the weights distribution.

#### **Altar (?) (Figure 5/3)**

In the northwestern corner of the structure, opposite the oven 2 and around 2 meters far from the clay receptacle with visible traces of many restorations that we preliminary identified as altar was discovered on the house floor (Fig. 12). This feature, 0.85 m long and 0.65 m wide, is of slightly trapezoid almost rectangular shape with elliptical receptacle. The original depth of the receptacle was just 8–10 cm having in mind that its base is separated from the rest of the receptacle and had sunken into the cultural layer. The altar terminates in the west with thin raised wall, 0.38 m high and 5 cm thick and slightly inverting towards the interior of the receptacle. In this section is clearly discernible also the technique of construction, i.e. the building of the sides by adding clay lumps. Rather small shallow bowl with

<sup>15</sup> Петровић et al. 2009, 161, cat. 231.

<sup>16</sup> Петровић et al. 2009, 164, cat. 227.

<sup>17</sup> Јовановић, Глишић 1961, 125.





Fig. 13. »Jug-stopper/omphalos« in situ

Сл. 13. Налаз »ѣоклоѣца-затушача/омфалоса« in situ

a spout was found right next to the southwestern corner of the altar and just in front of it the »cult bread« of circular shape, 0.20 m in diameter, made of clay was also discovered. The group of pottery no. 8 consisting of two rather large fragmented vessels and one bowl was encountered to the south of the altar and with them has also been found another object of approximately conical shape. This object had been wrapped in a cloth before drying/firing and the impression of the cloth is visible on its surface (Fig. 13). This kind of object is known from the excavations of M. Vasić at Vinča and he initially explained it as the »jug-stopper«,<sup>18</sup> but in the next publication he identified it as the »omphalos«.<sup>19</sup> Our altar differs in shape from the find discovered at Kormadin near Jakovo<sup>20</sup> but it could be compared to the finds of earlier date from Tumba near Madžari on the basis of the technique of manufacture and the find of the »cult bread«.<sup>21</sup> The altar similar to our specimen but of somewhat smaller size (45 cm x 25 cm) is housed in the National Museum in Valjevo and comes from the site Čučuge–Ilića Brdo.<sup>22</sup> This specimen is, however, greatly damaged and most of it is nowadays the reconstruction, so the comparison with it is uncertain.

#### Quern (Figure 5/4)

The quern structure for grinding cereals has been discovered inside the house, right next to the east wall

and just at the spot where it disappears (3 m from the north wall) (Fig. 14). It is made of clay, the receptacle is of trough shape 0.80 m in diameter and with raised platform in the middle on top of which was affixed a flat stone. The receptacle walls are 5 cm thick and are almost completely preserved. Inside the receptacle has been discovered rather small vessel with thick walls and very narrow mouth. The quern platform is completely connected with the receptacle making a single entity. The grinding process was performed on the working surface (stone) and the ground cereals gathered in the receptacle and then were retrieved by some vessel (possibly the one found *in situ*).<sup>23</sup> The sole parallel from the territory of Serbia is the quern structure found at the site Belo Brdo in Vinča although its greatest part has been reconstructed.<sup>24</sup>

<sup>18</sup> Васић 1936, 44–45, Т. СХ.

<sup>19</sup> Васић 1950, 10–11.

<sup>20</sup> Јовановић, Глишић 1961, 131, 135.

<sup>21</sup> Санев 1988, 19–23.

<sup>22</sup> Анђелковић-Деспотовић, Рецић 1992, 94.

<sup>23</sup> The quern was during the excavations completely preserved, removed in the block of earth and prepared for further conservation treatment.

<sup>24</sup> Тасић et al. 2007.





*Fig. 14. Quern in situ, from the south and from the north*

*Сл. 14. Жрвањ in situ, снимљено са југа, односно са севера*



*Fig. 15. Aerial view of pottery group 6 in situ (to the left are visible remains of the west wall and the altar)*

*Сл. 15. Група керамике 6 in situ, снимљено из ваздуха (са леве стране виде се остаци западне зида и жртвеник)*





*Fig. 16. Floor of oven 1, from the west*

*Сл. 16. Подница пећи 1, снимљено са запада*

#### **Zone with pottery (pottery group 6) (Figure 5/5)**

An irregular zone with pottery, 3.00 m x 2.20 m in size, has been encountered to the south of the altar and within this zone could be distinguished many rows of vessels. At least three rows of vessels were found at different levels, difference in height being approximately 0.15 between the rows (Fig. 15). Large amount of the pottery fragments has been recorded within this zone and as the fragments rarely overlapped the first impression upon the discovery was that it was a sort of paving, i.e. the substructure of the floor. Nevertheless, at the easternmost end of this zone were encountered the remains of burnt thin boards piled on top of each other between the three layers of pottery thus creating a heap around 0.40 m high. It is, therefore, possible to assume the existence of wooden shelf, which collapsed in the fire together with the vessels. In favor of this assumption speaks the mentioned delevelling of the rows of pottery and the fact that similar remains had not been discovered in the other parts of the house. The preliminary analysis of the pottery from this zone confirmed that this group consisted of 10 different vessels at the most.

#### **Bucranium (Figure 5/8)**

The bucranium, 0.20 m x 0.40 m in size, made entirely of clay without animal bones in the construction has been discovered near the south end of the preserved section of the west wall (Fig. 6). The specimens analogous according to the technique of manufacture but not the appearance have been found at Gomolava<sup>25</sup> and at Vinča at the depth of 2.89 m.<sup>26</sup> The bucranium from Stubline has on the backside, like those from Gomolava, a flat panel indicating without doubt that it had been attached to the wall. The bucranium with the nose pointing downwards was found inside the house, around 0.50 m far from the west wall. Such position speaks in favor of the assumptions that bucrania were also placed in the house interiors,<sup>27</sup> particularly those made of unbaked clay.<sup>28</sup>

<sup>25</sup> Петровић 1992, 21–22, сл. 4, 5.

<sup>26</sup> Васић 1936, 50, сл. 85, 86.

<sup>27</sup> Јовановић, Глишић 1961, 138.

<sup>28</sup> Васић 1936, 51.

**Oven 1** (Figure 5/6)

The floor of much damaged oven, 0.50 m x 0.50 m in size, has been discovered one meter to the west from the beam impression in the south section of the trench (Fig. 16). Judging by the assumed direction of the west house wall, which is not preserved in that section, the oven was located right next to the wall. In the vicinity of this oven was discovered the fragmented pithos (Fig. 5/10) half-buried into the floor (▼ base 111.03 m). The diameter of the pithos belly is 0.50 m. Inside the pithos was discovered the burned compact mass of earth with the remains of grains and cereal seeds.

**Pottery group 1** (Figure 5/7)

This pottery group was discovered outside the house, around 1.50 meters to the northwest, above the original ground level and actually looked like the heap of the piled up pottery sherds. Rather small heap of the unworked nodules of various stones (around 500 g) was encountered right next to it. Two flat stones (pounders) with the traces of use on the surface have been found within the pottery group 1. Taking into account that many pottery vessels from this site were made of clay with admixtures of ground pottery and stones it could be assumed that this area was the section of the pottery workshop, i.e. the place for preparation of the necessary raw materials.

### POSSIBILITIES OF INVESTIGATION OF HOUSEHOLD ORGANIZATION AND URBANIZATION IN THE LATE VINČA CULTURE PERIOD

The investigations conducted between 2006 and 2008 at the site Crkvine near the village Stubline indicated great importance of this site and multifold possibilities offered in the course of future investigations. We think first of all about the possibilities to study social organization in the period of the very end of Vinča culture in this area and also at many levels:

- individual houses
- households
- groups of houses
- settlements
- interrelations between various settlements

**Individual house level**

The basic level is the study of an individual house and that was the objective of the 2008 excavations. The obtained results besides already known data about individual structures (houses) from that period also brought

a few new data. The method of building and the basic spatial organization of the structure are within the expected limits. The division of space into two (or possibly three rooms) is common for the given period. Rather interesting for the study of the building method are indications that there was the upper storey structure above one house section. Namely, the zone above the altar as well as above the area between the altar and the oven 2 was covered with extremely burnt layer of earth containing the carbonized cereal remains and with the daub with impressions of small wooden boards mixed with wall daub with the impressions of wattle. Just in this area, according to the geomagnetic results, have been identified the traces of the greatest fire, greater even than the fire produced by the oven 2. Such high temperature could have been the result of burning cereals but also other high-calorie organic materials (dried fruits, nuts). All this perhaps suggests the existence of the upper storey above this part of the house that was used as the additional storage place. Similar board impressions in the daub have been explained in the exactly same way in the interpretation of one house from Uivar.<sup>29</sup>

The oven discovered in the north house section also does not differ from the standard shapes. Something new is the quern structure because the only previously discovered quern with clay structure in our territory got its final shape as a result of the restoration process.<sup>30</sup> On the other hand, the house 01/2008 at Crkvine near Stubline yielded also two unusual finds. The altar (?) already described in this text has no direct parallels. The fine coatings on the surface suggest the prolonged use but also the attention paid to it considering that no visible damages as a result of prolonged use have been noticed. The careful handling of this feature is also indicated by the thin wall at its west end side. The purpose of this feature is not clear but it is indicative that in front of it was the clay »cult bread«, 20 cm in diameter, next to its southwestern corner was a vessel with spout and around 0.5 m to the south were the so-called »omphalos« and three more vessels.

Another exceptional find is a composition of 38 figurines on a platform in front of the oven and eight more identical figurines in the immediate vicinity as well as 11 miniature tool clay models accompanying this group. The detailed study of this group of figurines will be the topic of another treatise but it should be mentioned that regardless if this was the cult group or

<sup>29</sup> Schier 2006, 326, 333, fig. 2.

<sup>30</sup> Тасић et al. 2007.



the game set this exceptional find clearly indicates at least two things:

- the transposition of distinct system of thinking or belief from the level of community to the level of cult practice or game preceded the act of production of this composition
- the existence of 45 figurines of identical shape and one larger and more elaborately modeled specimen that was in the center of the composition suggests the possible existence of the evident hierarchy in the community or the religious system of that community.

The purpose and disposition of the built-in interior elements, the group of figurines and the bucranium also pose the question of the purpose of this house. When the authors discovered many artifacts of assumed cult character within the Neolithic houses they often tended to identify such houses as shrines or cult structures. Despite the fact that in the house at Crkvine there is an apparent zone, which could be identified as of the cult character (room next to the north wall – oven with figurines and the »altar« with accompanying objects opposite it) it must not be neglected that there was also an evidently profane area in the central room (quern structure, assumed shelf with pottery, pithos with the remains of cereals, another oven). It is also necessary to point to even physical merging of the profane and sacred elements within these two rooms. Above the north room could be assumed the existence of the storage space in the attic and quite profane use of the oven, while on the west wall of the central room was the bucranium and another figurine differing from the others found near the oven has also been found. All this agrees with the conclusions of J. Chapman concerning the mutual overlapping of everyday and religious activities that actually relates to the phases C and D of the Vinča culture.<sup>31</sup> Also distinctive is relatively small number of stone tools and just few discovered fragments of animal bones but that could be ascribed to the characteristics of the soil but also to the regular cleaning of the houses.<sup>32</sup>

### Household level

The next level would be the study of one household, which could comprise one or more above ground structures with accompanying features (hearths, pits, waste deposits).<sup>33</sup> We would like to mention here the pottery group 1 for which it could be assumed that it was the storage area for the pottery workshop raw materials. We must also mention that two more structures were recorded 1 meter and 2.5 meters from the house towards east. They were encountered in the process of geomagnetic

prospection and the excavations confirmed their locations. The interrelationship between these structures is unknown to us but the possibility that few such structures could have constituted one functional household must not be excluded. The situations like these should be probably sought in the areas where next to the structures of usual orientation there are also structures deviating from that orientation and few such situations have already been recorded by the geomagnetic prospection.

### Group of houses level

The geomagnetic prospection of this site revealed the existence of several groups of houses concentrated around the so-called open areas covering from 5 to 9.5 ares. The evident repeating of these structures suggests the precise planning, which could but need not be influenced by certain social factors. The construction of the houses in rows and at small distance is known from many Late Vinča sites: Opovo,<sup>34</sup> Gomolava,<sup>35</sup> Banjica<sup>36</sup> and Vinča.<sup>37</sup> But, at Crkvine we can notice for the first time that these rows of houses do not repeat one after the other but they create many rather large open areas (squares?). Just these open areas indicate the zones where communal activities (profane or sacred) could have been taking place but which are also the only available places for daily gathering of the community because the space between the houses was not large enough.<sup>38</sup>

### Settlement level

The geomagnetic investigations conducted so far allow the assumption about some kind of urbanization of this settlement. It becomes clear on the basis of the obtained results that the basic module creating the settlement texture is neither the individual house nor the extensive household but clearly distinguished groups of 5–12 houses surrounding communal open area (square?) up to 9.5 ares in size. Something else that we encountered is the possible existence of the trenches surrounding the settlement. The trenches in the Late Neolithic settlements have been recorded at Kormadin near Jakovo,<sup>39</sup>

<sup>31</sup> Чапман 1981, 62–68.

<sup>32</sup> Трипковић 2007, 9.

<sup>33</sup> Трипковић 2007, 10–11.

<sup>34</sup> Tringham et al. 1992, 366.

<sup>35</sup> Petrović 1982, T. VIII.

<sup>36</sup> Тодоровић, Цермановић 1961, 10–16.

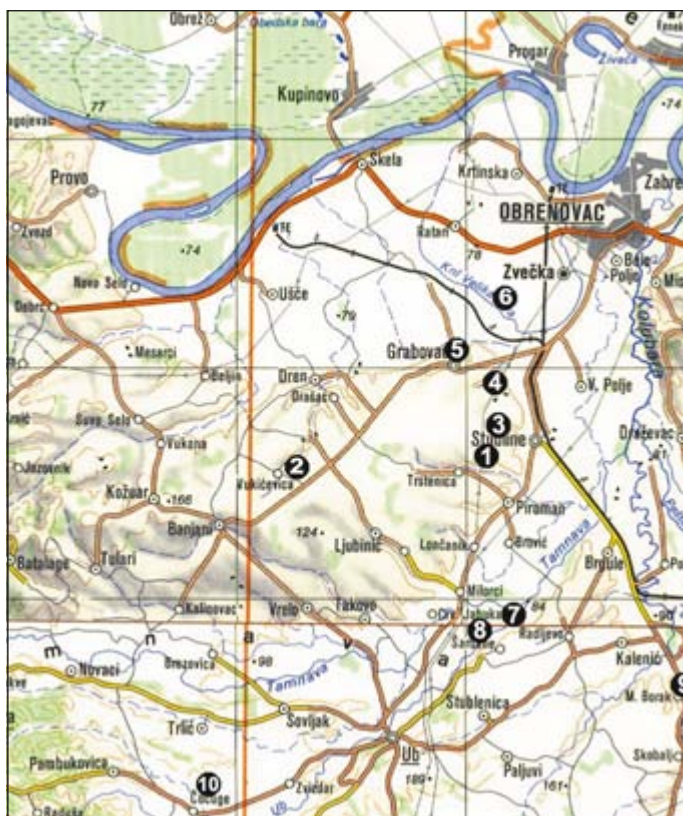
<sup>37</sup> Тасић 2008, 28–29.

<sup>38</sup> Црнобрња 2009, 8–9.

<sup>39</sup> Јовановић, Глишић 1961, 115.

Fig. 17. Location of sites with the Late Vinča culture horizon within 15 km zone in diameter from Crkvine in Stubline: 1) Crkvine, Stubline; 2) Jasenje; 3) Šarena Česma; 4) Novo Selo; 5) Djurića Vinogradi; 6) Nurča 2; 7) Radljevo; 8) Šarbane; 9) Crkvine near Mali Borak; 10) Ilića Brdo, Čučuge

Сл. 17. Позиције локалитетима са позновинчанским хоризонтом у пречнику од 15 km од Црквина у Стублинама: 1) Црквине, Стублине; 2) Јасење; 3) Шарена чесма; 4) Ново село; 5) Бурића виногради; 6) Нурча 2; 7) Радљево; 8) Шарбане; 9) Црквине код Малој Борка; 10) Илића брдо, Чуцуге



Okolište,<sup>40</sup> Uivar.<sup>41</sup> It could be concluded on the basis of high geomagnetic values compared to the excavated finds that most of the houses at Crkvine perished in big conflagration what is also characteristic of the settlements in this period and it has been already discussed in detail.<sup>42</sup> Also worth of our attention is the depression located at the western settlement boundary. J. Todorović assumed that this was the zone where the earth used for the house construction had been excavated and the same situation was recorded at nearby Late Vinča settlement at Vukićevica<sup>43</sup> and this complies with the assumptions of M. Stevanović about the spatial organization of the Late Neolithic settlements.<sup>44</sup> The expected continuation of the geomagnetic prospection will certainly contribute to further comprehension of the settlement entity.

#### Level of interrelationship between various settlements

We have already stated in the introduction of this work that there are another four sites with the Late Vinča culture horizons on the fringes of the same elevation (see Fig. 2). If we consider somewhat wider surrounding it could be noticed that in addition to those four settlements already mentioned there are five more sites within 15 kilometers distance from Crkvine near Stubline. These

sites with the Late Vinča culture horizon being the final phase of their life include Nurča 2, Radljevo, Šarbane, Crkvine near Mali Borak, Čučuge – Fig. 17). The results of investigations carried at these sites do not allow for the precise chronological determination of the cessation of life at all sites but it is quite certain that life was going on simultaneously at many of them in the certain periods. The extensive site surveying have not been carried out in the mentioned area in order to definitely confirm the existence or nonexistence of one or more Vinča culture settlements. Bearing in mind the discussion concerning the population density in the Late Neolithic period in the territory of Visoko in Bosnia and Herzegovina<sup>45</sup> and the existence of many large settlements within relatively small area between the rivers Sava, Tamnava and Koluvara many questions about the organization, which made possible their coexistence could be posed.

<sup>40</sup> Kujundžić-Vejzagić et al. 2004.

<sup>41</sup> Schier 2006, 332.

<sup>42</sup> Stevanović 1997; Tringham 2005.

<sup>43</sup> Todorović 1967b.

<sup>44</sup> Stevanović 1997, 354–355.

<sup>45</sup> Müller 2007.



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**Резиме:**

АДАМ ЦРНОБРЊА, Музеј града Београда, Београд

ЗОРАН СИМИЋ, Завод за заштиту споменика културе града Београда, Београд

МАРКО ЈАНКОВИЋ, Универзитет у Београду, Филозофски факултет, Одељење за археологију, Београд

**КАСНОВИНЧАНСКО НАСЕЉЕ  
НА ЦРКВИНАМА У СТУБЛИНАМА**

(организација домаћинства и урбанизација у позновинчанском периоду)

*Кључне речи.* – неолит, винчанска култура, насеље, кућа, геомагнетна истраживања, група фигурина, жртвеник, Стублине, Обреновац.

Позновинчанско насеље на локалитету Црквине налази се око 40 km југозападно од Београда (Србија), у близини села Стублине, општина Обреновац. Ситуирано је на благом узвишењу, са севера и југа омеђеном потоцима који се спајају испод његовог југоисточног краја, и заузима површину од око 16 ха (сл. 1). Током 2007. и 2008. године обављена су геомагнетна истраживања на површини од 32400 m<sup>2</sup> (25% укупне површине позновинчанског насеља), на самој западној периферији насеља. Анализа добијених резултати указује на постојање око 100 кућа изграђених у редовима око већих празних површина, а констатовани су и ровови који су са северне и јужне стране окруживали насеље (сл. 3).

У јесен 2008. године Завод за заштиту споменика културе града Београда и Музеј града Београда, предузели су археолошка ископавања са циљем провере значења одређених вредности геомагнетних аномалија. Сонда 06/2008, димензија 8 x 1 m постављена је на месту где је геомагнетном проспекцијом констатована аномалија чије вредности су износиле 10 nT. Ископом вршеним само до површине обрушеног зидног лепа констатовано је постојање објекта (кућа 2/2008) који није горео високим интензитетом. У сонди 05/2008, 9 x 9 m, позиционираној изнад аномалије са вредностима између 10 nT и 25 nT, откривен је стамбени објекат (кућа 1/2008), чија је основа била скоро у целости очувана. Оријентација истраженог објекта, север-североисток – југ-југоисток (сл. 4), подудар се са оријентацијама већине осталих објеката констатованих геомагнетним снимањем. Сам начин градње, као и просторна организација куће, у оквирима су очекиваног за овај период. Укупна истражена дужина куће износи 9.15 m, док ширина варира између 4.70 и 4.85 m (сл. 5). Осим покретних налаза уобичајених за овај период (Винча Д) пронађени су и фиксини делови покућства: пећ са калтотом у североисточном углу куће (сл. 8) и подница уништене пећи у југозападном делу, које такође припадају уобичајеним налазима Новину доносе конструкција жрвња, изграђеног од глине у облику корита са издигнутом платформом на средини на чијем врху је био утиснут раван камен (сл. 14) и глинене реципијент (жртвеник?) ко-

ји је откривен у северозападном углу куће, поред кога су се налазили »погача« од глине пречника 20 cm, посуда са изливником и тзв. »омфалос« (сл. 12 и 15). Посебно треба истаћи налаз композиције од укупно 46 фигурина (38 пронађених испред самог отвора пећи, крај њеног југозападнoг угла, и још осам идентичних у непосредној близини), као и њима припадајућих 11 минијатурних модела алатки од глине (сл. 10 и 11). Овај изузетни налаз указује барем на две ствари: транспоновање одређеног система размишљања или веровања, са нивоа заједнице на ниво културне радње или игре, претходно је изради композиције; постојање 45 обликом идентичних фигурина и једне веће и разуђеније (налазила се у средини групе од 9 мањих фигурина) указује на могућност постојања јасне хијерархије у заједници или религијском систему.

Досадашња геомагнетна истраживања дозвољавају претпоставку о извесној урбанизацији овога насеља. На овоме локалитету уочено је да постоји више група кућа које су сконцентрисане око већих слободних површина (тргова?). Евидентно понављање оваквих структура указује на јасно планирање, које може, али и не мора, да буде условљено одређеним социјалним факторима. Управо те слободне површине можда указују и на постојање простора на којима су могле бити обављане неке заједничке активности (профаног или сакралног карактера), али и које су могле служити као места свакодневног окупљања, будући да је простор између самих кућа исувише мали. На растојању од 15 km од позновинчанског насеља Црквине код Стублина налази се још 10 локалитета са позновинчанским хоризонтом као последњом фазом живљења на њима (сл. 17). Степен њихове истражености не дозвољава прецизно хронолошко одређење прекида живљења на свим локалитетима, али је неоспорно да се на више њих у одређеним периодима истовремено живело. Имајући у виду досадашња разматрања о густини насељености у време позног неолита, присуство више великих насеља у међуречју Саве, Тамнаве и Колубаре, на релативно малој површини, отвара и низ питања о устројству које је омогућавало њихову коегзистенцију.