

## ANNUAL REPORT: MACEDONIA STOBI 2017 FIELD SCHOOL

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*Building A on the last day of the excavations in 2017*

The STOBI 2017 Field School Project was held between 24 June and 23 July at the ancient Roman city Stobi in Macedonia. There were 19 participants from Canada and the USA, one of which was an IFR student. The goal of the field school was to provide the participants with knowledge of basic excavation and documentation techniques in a contextual approach, as well as an introduction to the history of Stobi and Macedonia through lectures and excursions. An additional strong element of the field school was the advanced digital photography and surveying training held by Dr. George Bevan of the Queens University in Kingston, Ontario. As in previous years, the team was accommodated at the site.

The excavations in 2017 continued revealing building A, located in the area between the so-called “Prison” and the Theodosian Palace. Building A is located at the corner between two pebbled streets and according to stratigraphy and context, it dates from the second half of the 6<sup>th</sup> century AD i.e. the last urban phase of Stobi. The excavations in 2017 completely revealed the full extent of the building to its floor levels.

After the excavations of 2016, only room 1 of Building A was completely excavated. It was revealed that the building was located at the crossroad of two pebbled streets, one on the north and the other on the western side of the building. In 2017, the destruction layers of stone, mud brick and roof tiles were exposed, documented and removed. It was revealed that Building A had 4 rooms in total, with floor levels of beaten earth. The small rooms from 1 to 3 are adjacent and located in the south half of the building while room 4 occupies the north half. The entrance of the building is located at the corner between the two exposed streets and it leads into room 4. The sloping floor level, the collapsed roof tiles and the arrangement of several stones as bases for wooden posts suggested that room 4 was a court with a porch. There were a few finds on the floor, **an iron shield boss** was the most exciting. Room 3 is divided into two halves, one of which has sloping stone slabs on the floor. The corner of that half has an opening that leads to a

channel running under the floor of room 4 and finishing with an opening in the north wall of the building. This opening allowed drainage directly to the north street. This arrangement suggests that room 3 was possibly a latrine. Room 2 did not have any finds on the floor. An exciting discovery appeared to the east of Building A where the team revealed the remains of a circular kiln made of bricks. The date of the kiln is unknown but it is likely to be medieval or Late Antique.

The excavations and the documentation were done by the students under the supervision of three NI Stobi instructors. The approach of the instructors is based on teaching of the students as priority number one. The results of the excavations will be published in some of the future volumes of Studies in the Antiquities of Stobi.