

## ANNUAL REPORT: CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION OF ANCIENT POTTERY AND GLASS – MACEDONIA & BULGARIA 2018 FIELD SCHOOL

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The **Conservation and Restoration of Ancient Pottery and Glass – Macedonia & Bulgaria 2018 Field School** consisted of two parts implemented in two neighboring European countries – Republic of Macedonia and Bulgaria. The initial three weeks (June 2 – June 22) took place at the site of Stobi – a Roman and Early Byzantine city, the capital of the Roman province Macedonia Secunda. Stobi was an important Roman city and reached its zenith of power during the 1<sup>st</sup>- 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries CE. The pottery there was provided by the National Institution Stobi (NIS) and consisted of several fragmented Roman vessels discovered during excavations at the site. The second part (June 23 – July 7) took place in Sozopol, ancient Apollonia Pontica, Bulgaria. Apollonia was one of the richest and most prosperous Greek apoikias in the Black Sea region during the Archaic, Classical and Hellenistic periods. The pottery for the workshop represented a collection of several fragmented and burnt vases from a ritual fireplace in the ancient Greek

and Hellenistic necropolis (6<sup>th</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> century BCE) of Apollonia Pontica and was provided by the Archaeological Museum – Sozopol, Bulgaria. The project contributes to the efforts of the both institutions – National Institution Stobi and Museum of Archaeology – Sozopol to conserve and restore artifacts from their collections.

The main goal of this program is to provide students with a comprehensive training and hands-on experience of pottery and glass conservation at two different sites, enabling students to evaluate and compare similarities and differences in conservation techniques, methods, material choice, etc. applied to artifacts from different archaeological contexts and environments. Students began their training with replicas of ancient vessels and then progressed to originals once they reached an acceptable level of skill, accuracy and precision. The training of glass conservation was based only on replicas of Roman vessels.

Under the guidance, supervision and help of the project director Dr. Daniela Cherneva and Ms. Biliiana Yankulovska, the pottery and glass conservator in Stobi, participants passed through all stages of conservation and restoration of glass and pottery: mechanical and chemical cleaning, desalination, consolidation, pottery reconstruction (gluing shards together and filling gaps), retouching, etc. They maintained records of the entire process. By the end of the course, students managed to completely restore 20 Late Roman vessels (8 unguentaria, 4 one handled cups, 4 plates and 4 other vessels), 4 lamps, 7 terracotta figurines, 6 glass vessels, as well as 17 Ancient Greek (Classical Period – 5<sup>th</sup>- 4<sup>th</sup> century) vessels. The Roman artifacts will be exhibited in the Museum of Stobi, while the vases from Apollonia Pontica will be temporally presented in the Museum of Archaeology – Sozopol. The both institutions are working on publications of the restored vessels from the field schools.