

ANNUAL REPORT: STOBI 2018 FIELD SCHOOL

Director(s): Zaltko Kovancaliev, MPhil, National Institution Stobi (Macedonia)
Co-Director(s): Prof. George Bevan, Queens University (Canada)
Author of the report: Goce Pavlovski, MPhil, NI Stobi coordinator of the Field School



Building A on the last day of the excavations in 2018

The STOBI.EXC.18 Field School Project was held between the 23th of June and the 21th of July at the ancient Roman city Stobi in Macedonia. There were 16 participants from Canada and the USA, three of which were IFR students. The field school was aimed to train the participant in the basic excavation and documentation techniques, and teach them about the general history of Stobi and Macedonia by listening to lectures and visiting sites and museums as part of organized excursions. This field school also has course in advanced digital photography and surveying held by Professor George Bevan of the Queens University in Kingston, Ontario and his assistant Kristen Jones. As every year, the team was accommodated at the site.

The excavations in 2018 continued in the area between the so-called “Prison” and the Theodosian Palace further to the east of the fully revealed Building A in the past seasons. Part of this area had been subject of excavations in the 1930s and it was later covered with soil in the 1990s. As there is no detailed field documentation from the excavations and no record of the covering activity, the previously excavated area had to be reopened. However, this was the goal of one group from the team, while the rest of them excavated in an intact area. The reopening of the old trenches revealed walls from late antique buildings, and the excavations in the undisturbed part opened destruction layers of rocks, levels of use and part of one room from the medieval period (10th -11th centuries AD).

As in past seasons, the excavations and the documentation were done by the students under the supervision of three NI Stobi instructors. The imperative of the instructors is not excavating as much as possible with student labor but teaching of the students as future field archaeologists. The results of the excavations will be published in some of the future volumes of Studies in the Antiquities of Stobi or in a separate publication for the excavations during the Balkan Heritage Field School.