

## ANNUAL REPORT: STOBI 2019 FIELD SCHOOL

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The Stobi Excavation Field School Project 2019 was held between June 22th and July 20th at the ancient Roman and Late Roman site of Stobi, nowadays in the Republic of North Macedonia. 17 students (7 IFR students) from Canada, USA, El Salvador, China, Sweden and participated in the program. They were trained in the basic excavation and documentation techniques and introduced to the general history of Stobi and Macedonia by lectures and visits of relevant sites and museums. An important input of the field school was the course in advanced digital photography and surveying held by Professor George Bevan of the Queens University (Kingston, Ontario) and his assistant, PhD candidate Kristen Jones. As every year, the team and the students were accommodated at the site's cabins.

In 2019, the excavations continued in the same area where the field school has been held since 2014: between the Theodosian Palace and the so-called "Prison". The research goal is to reveal unexcavated buildings and the infrastructure from the last urban phase of Stobi - the 6th century AD.

During the campaigns until 2017, Building "A" was fully uncovered. In 2018 started the excavations of another building - "B". In 2019 these continued, together with the revealing of the so-called building "C".

The excavations inside Building B resulted with uncovering Room No. 2 with the entrance of the building. A thick destruction layer of rocks was documented in this room, followed by a mud brick layer. A pebbled stone street was revealed along the northern side of the building. It was probably connected to the upper street Via Principalis Superior and the lower street Via Principalis Inferior. Six reused large marble column fragments were discovered at the entrance

of Building B, at the level of the street. They probably were isolating the entrance of the building from the rainwater flowing along the street.

At the eastern side of Building B, another street, also comprised of pebbles was partly uncovered. A destruction layer covered it. A marble sculpture of Dionysus with Panther, dating to the 2nd-3rd century AD was found in between the construction remains. Up until present day, the sculpture is definitely the most representative artifact ever found during the field schools at Stobi. It is preserved in ~50cm in height, its head, right hand, feet, and base are missing. Dionysus is half clothed with a cloak covering his left shoulder and the lower half of his body. The panther is along his left leg. The two figures are leaning towards the thyrsos, which is decorated by spirally fluted grapevine, and hanging grapes. The sculpture was discovered in a secondary context within the remains of a collapsed wall from a house of the 6th century AD. The excavations in Building C, resulted in uncovering of one room (Room No. 1). In the southern end of the room, there was a rectangular structure/platform made of roughly cut stones connected with mud. It seems that the biggest part of this premises was already excavated in the past (probably in the 1930). The lack of data from the previous excavations prevents the exact dating of the complex. Also, its function remains to be defined in the future.