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metropoli d'Aquileia, Studi di Antichità Cristiana 24 (1958) 18.

¹² L. Bolta, Poznoantično grobišče na Rifniku pri Sentjurju, *Arheološki vestnik* 21—22 (1970-71) 127 ss.

¹³ J. Kastelic, *Slovanska nekropola na Bledu*, Dela 1. razr. SAZU 13 (1960) 14.

¹⁴ I. Erdélyi, *Die Kunst der Awaren* (Budapest 1966) T. 8.

¹⁵ L. Bolta, o. c., 138.

¹⁶ *Ibidem*, 132.

¹⁷ *Ibidem*, 135.

¹⁸ J. Žontar, *Zgodovina mesta Kranja*

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²⁰ B. Saria, J. Klemenc, *Arch. Karte von Jugoslawien, Blatt Rogatec* (Zagreb 1939) 67.

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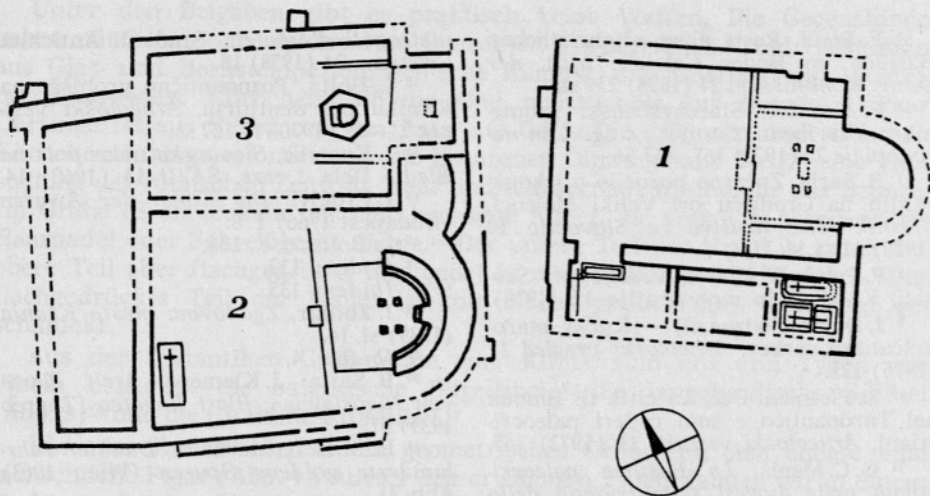
VRANJE PRI SEVNICI

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The control re-excavations carried out by a mixed team from the National Museum in Ljubljana and the Institute for Proto- and Prehistory in Munich, from 1970—1974, at the fort of Ajdovski gradec above the village of Vranje pri Sevnici, have uncovered new data of great importance to archaeology, about the late Roman and early Christian period in the Eastern Alps. At the same time the findings are of significance for the documentation of Slavonic penetration into this region, as they show that the sanctuary lasted from the end of the 4th century to three-quarters through the 6th, when its existence was forcibly terminated and the buildings burnt.

Excavations took in several sections of the surrounding walls of the fort, the walled centre and the cemetery north of the settlement. The walls and cemetery excavations confirmed general conclusions drawn from the results of the original excavations i. e. the grouping, layout and contents of the graves of the Romanized, Illyro-Celtic autochthonous population. Excavations in the central area uncovered a complete early Christian centre, comprising the so-called upper church (13.65 × 7.60 m) with a narthex along the wall, a lower church shrine (13.13 × 8.25 m) with a narthex along the west façade, a built in semi-circular bench for the priests which widened in the centre into a bishop's chair, a separate chapel/baptistry with a hexagonal front and separate rectangular apse where stood an altar with a reliquary containing the bones of martyrs (destroyed during excavations in 1901). By the narthex of the upper



church we found walled graves and the imprint of the two sarcophagi discovered here in 1811; judging by the traces of paving there was probably a sacristy on the north side of the church. At the south-west corner of the lower church we found a tomb containing five skeletons, probably church dignitaries, the last buried of whom was male, aristencephalic by anthropological definition. Because of the finding of scales, bushels, amphorae etc., we decided that the building discovered south-west of the upper church was the home of the church official, as at that time standard measures were kept in the church.

The last excavations uncovered a cistern west of the baptistry and long living quarters beside it.

Establishing the chronology of all phases of life in the settlement is aided by finds of Hallstatt pottery from the 7th century B. C., altars originally dedicated to Herakles in the 1st century and used for other purposes (and a Vespasian coin of the same period) and several coins from the 3rd century; while most of the other excavated articles are dated to the end of the 4th century and beginning of the 5th (scales, weights in the form of busts, cross fibula, glass, clayware, carding combs); to the second half of the 5th century belong the grave containing a three-handled, glazed jug, a female grave containing a silver earring with a basket pendant and a bone comb with animals' heads at the end. The grave containing a belt buckle with inset semi-precious stones and an iron tinder-box belongs to the turn of the 6th century; while the finds of most recent date are from the second half of that century, i. e. a belt buckle with a shield-shaped prong, clay ware decorated with seal impressions and a coin minted at the time of the Gothic ruler Baduil and a Justinian gold piece — finds typical of the material culture of the inhabitants of the region just before the coming of the Slovenes.

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