

GORJANI under the sun, under the earth

The northern edge of the Đakovo loess plateau along the lowlands of the upper flow of the Vuka River has been inhabited since ancient times. Ten archaeological sites have been found in the Gorjani Municipality confirming that the area was populated from prehistory to the present day.

Remains of a large settlement from the Neolithic period (Late Stone Age) were found under present-day fields at Kremenjača and Topola sites, along the road towards Tomašanci. The settlement was surrounded by moats that were used for defence and water regulation, as well as to enclose important areas.

Radiocarbon dating of animal bones and charcoal established that the settlement was inhabited between 5200 to 4400 years BCE. Moats with a diameter of up to 500 meters were dug and maintained using tools made out of stone, horn and bone. The shape of present-day tools and the ones used in the settlement does not differ much, except for the raw material used to make them.

The location of the Neolithic Kremenjača site has been known since the beginning of the 20th century, as evidenced by objects and records from the Archaeological Museum in Zagreb. There is even a note about a planned excavation in 1907, which was cancelled because wheat was planted on the site. Archaeological research and geophysical surveys at the Kremenjača site, organized by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of the University of Zagreb, started in 2015. The Topola site was located using aerial reconnaissance and confirmed by archaeological excavations and geophysical recordings.

The remains of Gora/Gara, the medieval fortified settlement, are located in the immediate vicinity of the present-day Gorjani village. The older population still uses the expression *ići na grad* ("go to town") for this location. The first attempts at amateur excavations were recorded at the end of the 19th century, and the Croatian Conservation Institute started systematic archaeological research in 2017. Geophysical

research, carried out on an area of nine hectares, points to a preserved urban structure of a medieval settlement, unchanged by later interventions. Gora/Gara, a larger urban settlement with a parish church, a Dominican monastery and a developed defence system, experienced its peak during the second half of the 14th and the beginning of the 15th century. There was a Dominican monastery of St. Margaret (c. 1500 m²) in the north-western part of the settlement. Archaeological research of the eastern wing with the chapter house and two churches was partially carried out before 2022. So far, evidence of three phases

has been found. The first phase is dated by skeletal burials from the end of the 11th and the first half of the 12th century. A smaller single nave church reinforced with buttresses was built during the second phase (end of the 13th and beginning of the 14th century). The construction of the larger, monumental monastery church (from the third phase) can be dated to the first half of the 14th century. The findings date from the late 11th to the 16th century, with lead papal bulls that stand out because of their importance, and jewellery because of their beauty.

Further development of the settlement, closely connected to the powerful noble Garai family, was irreversibly stopped by the advance of the Ottoman Empire around the mid-16th century.

Since the Ottomans ruled the area, the remains of the medieval Gora/Gara have been demolished and used to build new structures, and the area has been excavated in search of valuables. A special feature is Yahya bey's tower, which was built by Ottoman invaders for military and residential purposes. After the Habsburg reconquest in 1687, the tower changed its purpose several times until the Chapel of the Magi was consecrated in 1837.

Although comprehensive, interdisciplinary research of the current area of the Municipality of Gorjani has lasted only a few years, and the results already point to an abundance of heritage wealth.



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Na sjevernom rubu đakovačkoga ravnjaka, uz nizinu gornjega toka rijeke Vuke, od davnina su naseljavani povoljni položaji. Na prostoru Općine Gorjani smješteno je deset arheoloških nalazišta koja potvrđuju naseljavanje toga područja od prapovijesti do danas.

Ispod današnjih polja na položajima Kremenjača i Topola, uz cestu prema Tomašancima, rasprostiru se ostaci velikoga naselja iz mlađega kamenog doba (neolitika). Naselje je bilo okruženo opkopima koji su se koristili za obranu te za regulaciju vode, a služili su i za ograđivanje važnih prostora. Radiokarbonskim datiranjima životinjskih kostiju i ugljena utvrđena je starost naselja od 5200 do 4400 godina prije Krista. Opkope u promjeru i do 500 metara ljudi su kopali i održavali alatima od kamena, roga i kosti. Oblik tadašnjih alata ne razlikuje se mnogo od današnjih, osim sirovine od kojih su izrađeni.

Položaj Kremenjača poznat je kao arheološko nalazište iz kamenog doba još od početka 20. stoljeća, o čemu svjedoče predmeti i zapisi u Arheološkom muzeju u Zagrebu. Postoji čak i bilješka o planiranom iskopavanju 1907. godine koje se nije ostvarilo zbog posađene pšenice. Arheološka istraživanja i geofizička snimanja na položaju Kremenjača traju od 2015. godine u organizaciji Filozofskog fakulteta Sveučilišta u Zagrebu. Položaj Topole uočen je zračnim rekognosciranjem te potvrđen arheološkim iskopavanjima i geofizičkim snimanjima.

U neposrednoj blizini današnjega naselja Gorjani nalaze se ostaci srednjovjekovnoga utvrđenog naselja Gore/Gare. Za taj položaj starije stanovništvo i danas upotrebljava izraz: *ići na grad*. Prvi pokušaji amaterskih iskopavanja zabilježeni su još potkraj 19. stoljeća, a sustavna arheološka istraživanja pod vodstvom Hrvatskog restauratorskog zavoda provode se od 2017. godine. Geofizička istraživanja, provedena na površini od devet hektara, upućuju na očuvanu urbanu strukturu

srednjovjekovnog naselja, neizmijenjenu kasnijim intervencijama.

Gora/Gara, veće urbano naselje sa župnom crkvom, dominikanskim samostanom i razvijenim obrambenim sustavom, vrhunac razvoja doživjela je tijekom druge polovice 14. i početkom 15. stoljeća. U sjeverozapadnom dijelu naselja nalazio se dominikanski samostan svete Margarete (oko 1500 m²). Arheološki je do 2022. godine djelomično istraženo njegovo istočno krilo s kapitularnom dvoranom te dvije crkve. Dosad su potvrđene tri faze nalazišta. Prvu je moguće odrediti kosturnim ukopima u razdoblje kraja 11. i prve polovice 12. stoljeća. Tijekom druge faze (kraj 13. i početak 14. stoljeća) sagrađena je manja jednobrodna crkva ojačana kontraforima. Gradnju veće, monumentalne samostanske crkve (koja pripada trećoj fazi) moguće je datirati u prvu polovicu 14. stoljeća. Dosad pronađeni nalazi datiraju se od kasnog 11. do 16. stoljeća. Među njima se važnošću izdvajaju olovne papinske bule, a ljepotom primjerci nakita.

Daljnji razvoj toga naselja, blisko povezanog s moćnim plemićkim rodnom Gorjanskih, nepovratno je zaustavilo napredovanje osmanskih osvajača oko polovice 16. stoljeća.

Od vremena osmanske vlasti ostaci srednjovjekovne Gore/Gare rušeni su i raznošeni za nove građevine, a područje je raskopavano u potrazi za vrijednostima. Posebnost je kula Jahja-bega koju su, za vojno-stambenu namjenu, sagradili osmanski osvajači. Nakon habsburške rekonkviste 1687. godine, kuli je nekoliko puta mijenjana namjena do konačnog posvećenja kapele Sveta tri kralja 1837. godine.

Iako sveobuhvatna, interdisciplinarna istraživanja današnjega prostora Općine Gorjani traju tek nekoliko godina, rezultati već sad upućuju na obilje baštinskog bogatstva.



