

NOTE E RECENSIONI

*Joint Archaeological Laboratory Italia Montenegro:
The Doclea Valley*

A Joint Archaeological Laboratory between Italy and Montenegro (ArcheoLab Italia Montenegro) has been opened in January 2017, under the patronage of the Ministry of Culture of Montenegro and thanks to funds of the National Research Council of Italy (CNR) (2017-2018), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI) (2017) and the society Terna Crna Gora d.o.o. (2017)¹.

The CNR “Joint laboratories” initiative, established in 2014, is designed to fund interdisciplinary research projects to be jointly carried out by Italian and foreign researchers who intend to share their skills and research facilities, creating a meeting place, both physical and virtual, with new and improved characteristics if compared to the original single structures of affiliation. Following the tradition of archaeological studies and international missions promoted by CNR (CARVALE 2016), the Joint Archaeological Laboratory in particular has the goal to perform excavations and archaeological surveys, museum materials analysis, technology transfer, participation in international Calls and training of young researchers². The ArcheoLab Italia Montenegro emerged from “Scienze per la Diplomazia” (DIPLOMAzia), a training multi-sectoral program generated by an agreement between CNR and MAECI, aimed at training young graduates and officials from non-European countries³. In 2014 Dr Tatjana Koprivica of the Historical Institute of Montenegro-University of Montenegro (UoM-HIM) was fellow of the Institute for Ancient Mediterranean Studies (CNR-ISMA) during the first DIPLOMAzia course. Afterwards, a bilateral project between ISMA and HIM was established in 2015-2016, when a series of exchanges and joint events were realized both in Italy and Montenegro, during which the idea to perform a new archaeological project in Montenegro has been elaborated and actualized (ALBERTI, SFAMENI 2015).

The ArcheoLab Italia Montenegro focuses on the preliminary assessment of the archaeological landscape around and inside the city of Doclea (near

¹ <https://www.cnr.it/en/esito-bandi-lab-archeologici-congiunti/>. The ArcheoLab researchers are members of CNR-ISMA, UoM-HIM, CNR-ITABC, Centre for conservation and archaeology of Montenegro, and University of Molise: Lucia Alberti, Tatjana Koprivica, Slavko Burzanović, Francesca Colosi, Marilena Cozzolino, Antonio D’Eredità, Vincenzo Gentile, Marija Jabučanin, Aleksandra Lalatović-Džaković, Pasquale Merola, Božena Miljić, Paola Moscati, Olga Pelcer-Vujačić, Carla Sfameni.

² <https://www.cnr.it/en/joint-archaeological-laboratories/>.

³ <https://www.cnr.it/en/diplomazia-program/>. In particular, see the Course 3: Governance of knowledge, management, preservation, enhancement and sustainable use of cultural heritage, and the Facebook profile Cultural Heritage, DIPLOMAzia 2.

Podgorica, Montenegro), a Roman city built in the first century AD within the lowland stretching between the Zeta River, the Morača River and the Širalića. The Roman site has been excavated mostly in the 19th century with few recent interventions in the last decades, while the area around is less known (KOPRIVICA 2013): few Illyrian traces have been found on the hills around the town, but at the moment there is no significant literature available on the long period preceding the Roman settlement.

Doclea, the second-largest town in the province of Roman Dalmatia, was a *municipium* created in the Flavian period, when the main monuments were built: a square-shaped forum, *tabernae* and an aisled basilica, the capitol temple, the temples of the goddess Rome and of Diana, two baths. An important Late antique phase is represented by three churches: Basilica A, Basilica B and a cruciform church.

Thanks to an extensive and systematic survey aimed at collecting geometrical and morphological data at a regional and site scale, the main goal of our research is to undertake a complete historical reconstruction of the cultural landscape of the Doclea valley in order to better understand the history and development of the human occupation of the area from Bronze Age to Late Antiquity and to preserve its cultural heritage environment.

Fieldwork just started in September-October 2017, in collaboration with CNR-ISMA, UoM-HIM and the Institute for Technologies Applied to Cultural Heritage (CNR-ITABC), and consisted in the recording and georeferencing of archaeological features, as well as scattered materials, on the surface, representing their shapes and sizes on digital archaeological maps. Moreover, a more detailed analysis will be conducted on the architectural elements spread on the site, in order to define their shapes and functions, developing reconstructive hypothesis. Information from previous surveys and excavations are integrated with existing and new data based on spatial datasets (topographical maps, aerial photos, satellite images, low-altitude data), in order to provide a first diachronic inventory of the archaeological evidence in the surrounding area of Doclea, from the Bronze Age to Roman times, Late Antiquity and Medieval ages.

The survey is combined with GPS georeferenced data and aerial acquisition by UAV technology integrated into a GIS platform. The generation of digital elevation models provides an effective and rapid assessment tool for the preliminary interpretation of the development of settlement patterns. Spatial analyses will help investigate the relationships between the physical and human landscape systems and provide the starting point for the formulation of new research hypotheses and surveying strategies. A further contribution will come from geophysical prospections, conducted by researchers of the University of Molise.

Great importance is given to the development of an interdisciplinary multimedia information system, supporting all experts involved in the research (archaeologists, historians and epigraphists, art historians, experts in ancient topography and satellite analysis, geophysics) and all phases of data

collection, processing and dissemination, in order to adopt advanced solutions for the exploitation of the geographical, spatial and temporal dimension of the multi-faceted landscape of the town.

Our final goal is the revitalization of an ancient archaeological site neglected for a long time, but very important for the Montenegrin cultural identity. For this reason, Montenegrin and Italian young researchers will be directly involved in the project, in order to create experts both in archaeological survey and landscape archaeology.

At the moment it is possible to follow our activities through the Facebook page ArcheoLab Italia Montenegro⁴.

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CARAVALE A. (ed.) 2016, *Scavare, documentare, conservare. Viaggio nella ricerca archeologica del CNR*, Roma, CNR.
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F. FAVORY, S. VAN DER LEEUW (eds.), *Voyage dans l'archéologie spatiale anglo-saxonne* (trad. J. Gaudey), Les Cahiers de la MSHE Ledoux 25, Besançon 2016, Presses Universitaires de Franche-Comté, ISBN 978-2-84867-567-1.

Il volume, edito nei quaderni della Maison des Sciences de l'Homme et de l'Environnement Claude Nicolas Ledoux, raccoglie un corpus di articoli pubblicati negli anni Settanta, tutti indirizzati alle problematiche dell'archeologia spaziale. Il volume si apre con i tre interventi introduttivi di Frank Braemer ("Voyage dans l'archéologie spatiale anglo-saxonne", pp. 9-10), François Favory ("Genèse de l'archéologie spatiale", pp. 11-19) e Jacqueline Gaudey ("Préface", pp. 21-22).

Frank Braemer, dirigente di ricerca emerito del CNRS, ripercorre le vicende che hanno portato alla pubblicazione dei testi e alla loro traduzione

⁴ <https://www.facebook.com/ArcheoLab-Italia-Montenegro-118260748842253/>.