

# MATERIAŁY I SPRAWOZDANIA



RZESZOWSKIEGO  
OŚRODKA  
ARCHEOLOGICZNEGO

XXXIV

**MATERIAŁY I SPRAWOZDANIA**  
Rzeszowskiego Ośrodka Archeologicznego

Tom XXXIV

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Redaktor

Sylwester Czopek  
(sycz@archeologia.rzeszow.pl)

Sekretarze Redakcji:

Joanna Ligoda, Joanna Podgórska-Czopek  
(archeo@muzeum.rzeszow.pl)

Strona internetowa czasopisma:

[www.archeologia.rzeszow.pl/?page\\_id=337](http://www.archeologia.rzeszow.pl/?page_id=337)

Tłumaczenia

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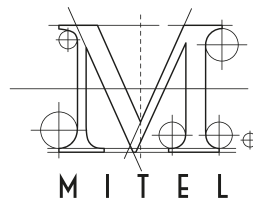
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Urszula Bugaj\*, Predrag Lutovac\*\*, Zbigniew Polak\*\*\*, Maciej Trzeciecki\*\*\*\*

## Relics of masonry structures on Đuteza Hill

### *Relics of masonry structures on Đuteza Hill*

The investigation of fortification relics found on Đuteza Hill (alb. Qyutëtëze) near the village Dinoša in Montenegro was carried out in 2012. The researchers noticed the remains of two defensive circuits located on the culmination of the hill. The outer one consists of where the outer one creates a stone wall built without the use of mortar. The inner circuit consists of a wall of a horseshoe shape with three towers, built of stones bound with mortar. Inside there was a single-nave church. Another defensive circuit was situated on the south-western slope of the hill. Consists of a wall built without the use of mortar. Analyses of building techniques indicate the existence of two phases. The first one – bipartite complex surrounded by a dry wall, can be dated to the third – first century BC. The second phase is represented by the inner defensive wall on the culmination the associated towers and the church. The analogies to this phase are the fortresses built in the eighth – tenth centuries on the territory of principality of Duklja Slavic.

KEY WORDS: Montenegro, Iron Age, Early Middle Ages, fortifications, wall building techniques, ecclesiastical buildings

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The research reported herein was conducted in the spring of 2012 within the framework of “The cultural landscape of Copper/Bronze Age Malesija, Montenegro” project, realized in cooperation by the Polish Academy of Sciences and the Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts. It was a pilot study, the aim of which was to provide data pertaining to the location, character and the state of preservation of the archaeological sites in the area of the village of Dinoša. An introductory survey of the relics of fortifications on Đuteza Hill (Albanian: Qyutëtëze) was conducted as part of this research.

The structures in question are located on the summit and the south-western slope of the hill reaching 203 m above the sea level, isolated from a mountain range stretching to the north and north-west of it. The village of Dinoša lies towards the south-east of the hill, on the gentle slope of the range; further to the south, Dinoško Polje is the northerly edge of the broad Zeta Plain, extending all the way to Lake Skadar. It is transected by the Cijevna River, a tributary of the Morača (fig. 1). Remnants of masonry structures were discovered in the 1980s; until now no excavations have been conducted on the

site. Until the commencement of the research reported here, available were only a concise description of the extant masonry walls and a conjectural interpretation (O. Velimirović-Žižić 1986; see also Č. Marković 2006, s. 271).

Traces of two circuit walls and relics of inner structures were recorded on the summit of the hill. Poorly preserved vestiges of another wall, as well as stone structures (fig. 2) which are difficult to interpret, were discovered on the south-western slope. In the course of research, an inspection of the above-ground sections was conducted, the findings were inventoried, the collective ground plan was prepared, and the photographic and descriptive documentation was made. When warranted, the upper segment of the walls was exposed and small-scale probes were taken in order to determine constructional relations between the relics. Complete information concerning the dimensions, state of preservation and building techniques of individual structures is enclosed in the research report (U. Bugaj et al. 2011). The current text is an integrated summary of research results and an attempt to delineate the chronology, form and function of the fortifications.

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\* Instytut Archeologii i Etnologii PAN, Al. Solidarności 105, 00-140 Warszawa, bugaj.urszula@gmail.com

\*\* Polimski Muzej, Miloša Mališića 2, Berane (Czarnogóra), polimskimuzej@t-com.me

\*\*\* Muzeum Historyczne Miasta Stołecznego Warszawy, Rynek Starego Miasta 28-42, 00-272 Warszawa, polak.z@wp.pl

\*\*\*\* Instytut Archeologii i Etnologii PAN, Al. Solidarności 105, 00-140 Warszawa, misiek042003@gmail.com





Fig. 1. Duteza Hill, view from the north. In the background, the Zeta Plain with Lake Skadar in the distance (photo U. Bugaj)  
 Ryc. 1. Wzgórze Đuteza, widok od północy. W tle Równina Zeta z jeziorem Skadar (fot. U. Bugaj)

## 2. STRUCTURES ON THE SUMMIT OF THE HILL

### THE OUTER CIRCUIT WALL

It consists of a stone wall surrounding the summit of the hill (fig. 3). The area within is an irregular rectangle, its sides c. 70–75 m long. It encloses a space of c. 52 ares. The original length of this circuit wall may have been c. 250 m. Extant stretches of the wall were recorded on the combined length of 116.6 m. Its thickness was from 2.4 m in the eastern section to 3.0–3.4 m in the northern section.

The state of preservation varies between the individual stretches of the wall. In the central part of the southern section, the outer face of the wall is preserved to the height of 2.3 m (fig. 4), in the south-western and south-eastern sections the course of the wall is poorly discernible. The western section of this circuit wall is preserved on the ground level; the upper segment is largely covered with the debris of its destroyed portion. In the north-western and northern sections, single stones were discerned in the layer of the debris, indicating the course of short sectors of the wall's outer face. The north-eastern and eastern sections of the wall are relatively well preserved; on the ground level, the course of the inner and the outer face are both clearly discernible (fig. 5). The course of the wall is entirely broken in the south-eastern section.

The wall was built in the *opus emplectum* technique. The inner and outer face were laid, without the use of mortar, of

horizontal layers of large slabs running parallel to the face, with their edges aligned and with smaller stones fitted in between. Inside, between the faces, the wall was filled with rubble of small stones, also without mortar. Slight obliqueness of the wall's outer face, in keeping with the direction of the slope, is discernible in the southern section of the circuit wall. The building material is hewn stone worked into large rectangular blocks or slabs with clearly visible traces of being processed to obtain an even face. The edges of blocks are evened out to a straight line. Polygonal blocks occur rarely, and only single stones with no traces of processing were discovered (cf. fig. 4–5).

In the southern part of the hill, there is a corridor across the line of the wall, cut in natural rock, 5.1 m long and 2 m wide. Traces of steps hewn in the rock are discernible, if poorly, on the ground level in the area of the corridor (fig. 6). The correlation of the corridor and the circuit wall suggests that this is a vestige of a passage connecting the slope of the hill with the interior of the defensive perimeter.

### THE INNER CIRCUIT WALL

It consists of a wall in shape of a horseshoe, surrounding the summit of the hill on the west, east and north side, towards the south probably contiguous to the course of the outer circuit wall. It is associated with three towers projecting from the

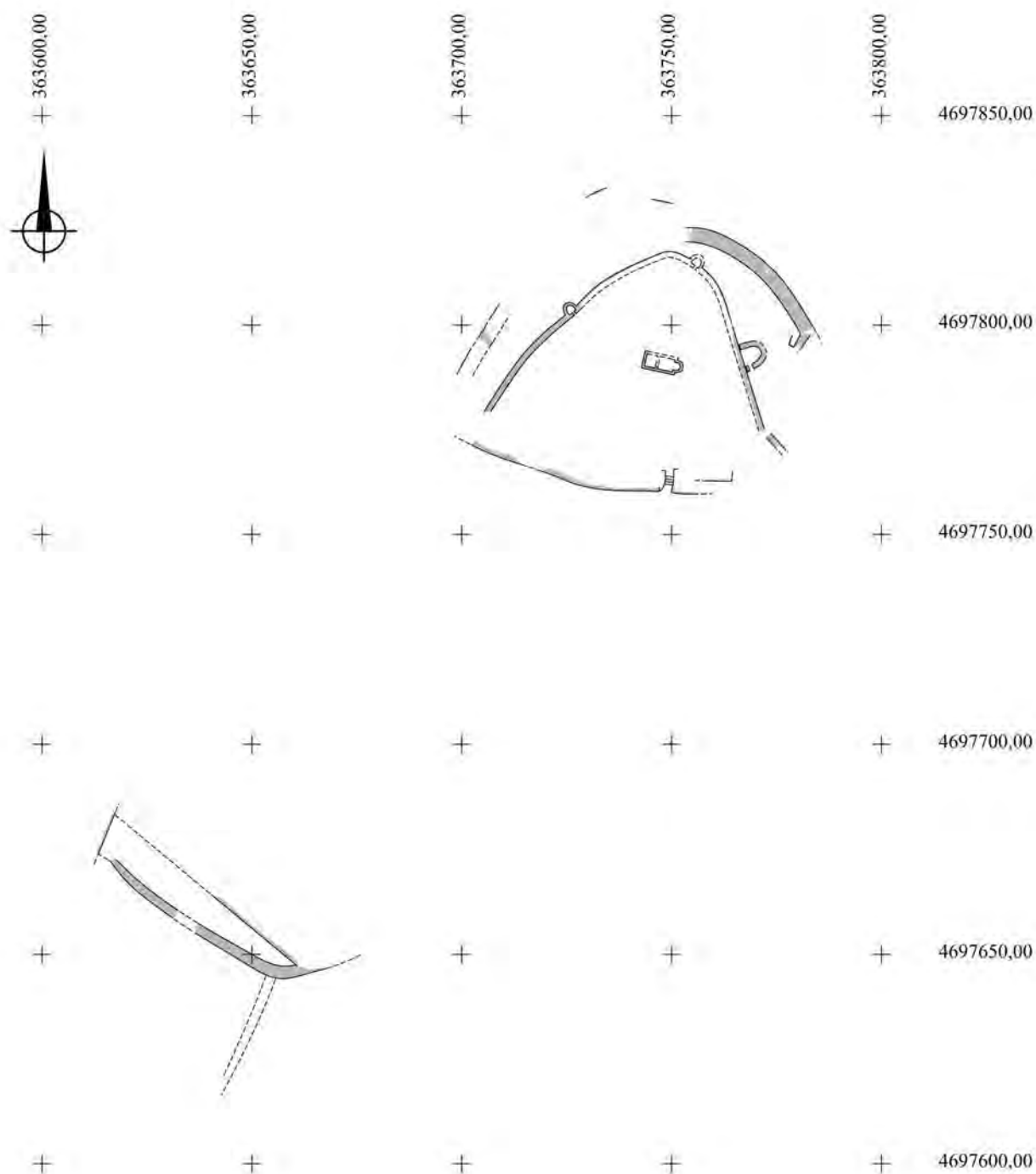


Fig. 2. Duteza Hill – collective ground plan of the relics of masonry structures (by Z. Polak, M. Trzeciecki)

Ryc. 2. Wzgórze Duteza – zbiorczy plan pozostałości konstrukcji murowanych (wg Z. Polak, M. Trzeciecki)

line of curtain walls, which further on will be referred to as the “western”, “northern” and “eastern” tower (cf. fig. 3). Extant stretches of the wall were recorded on the combined length of 116 m; the wall enclosed a space of c. 26 ares.

The upper segment of the wall is discernible on the ground level in the larger part of its course; only in the northern and north-eastern section it is inaccessible due to a modern wall positioned above it. Full thickness of the wall is apparent only in the western section. In the eastern part, the outer face can be discerned; the inner face is covered with the debris and present-day humus. The thickness of the wall was in the range of 1.5 to 1.6 m; its maximum extant height, observable in the

eastern section (inside the “eastern” tower), is c. 1.2 m (fig. 7). In the remaining sections, the outer face of the wall is extant to the level of 2–3 layers of stones.

The wall was constructed of hewn stone, worked into rectangular or polygonal blocks with clearly visible traces of being processed to obtain an even face. Single unprocessed stones occur on the face of the wall. Masonry bond was recorded on the outer face inside the “eastern” tower and in a probe taken at the junction of the wall with the “western” tower. Stones were laid horizontally in layers, according to shape, with their edges aligned, and cemented with lime mortar. Inside, between the faces, spaces between the layers were

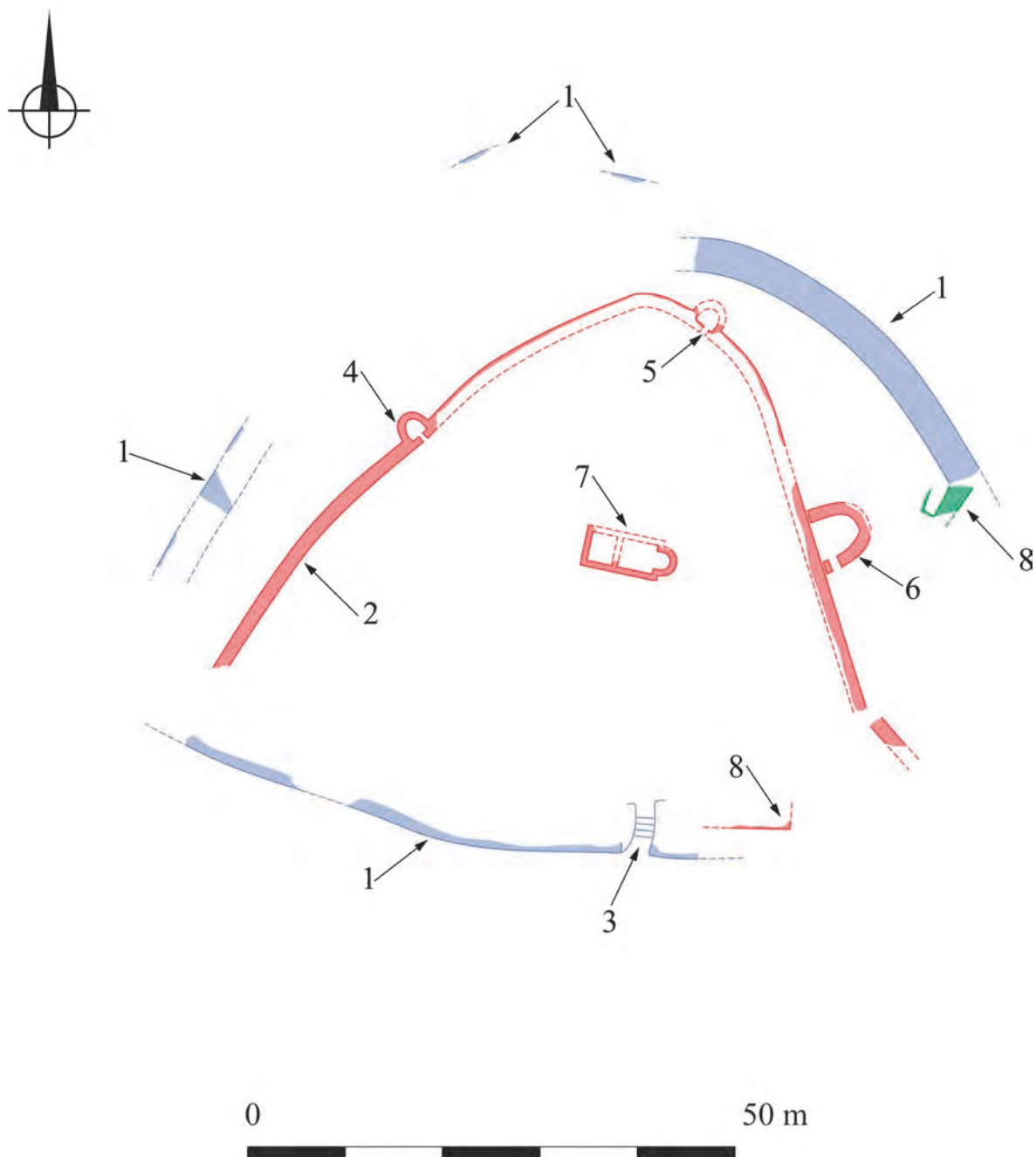


Fig. 3. Duteza Hill – relics of structures on the summit: 1 – outer circuit wall, 2 – inner circuit wall, 3 – gate, 4 – “western” tower, 5 – “northern” tower, 6 – “eastern” tower, 7 – churn, 8 – unidentified building (by Z. Polak, M. Trzeciecki)

Ryc. 3. Wzgórze Duteza – pozostałości konstrukcji na kulminacji: 1 – obwód zewnętrzny, 2 – obwód wewnętrzny, 3 – brama, 4 – baszta „zachodnia”, 5 – baszta „północna”, 6 – baszta „wschodnia”, 7 – kościół, 8 – niezidentyfikowany obiekt (wg Z. Polak, M. Trzeciecki)

filled with stone rubble and flooded with mortar. In places, an alternating arrangement is evident on the face – a layer or two layers of large stones, separated from the next similar layer with a levelling layer of stone slabs and smaller, non-processed stones. Mortar was applied liberally; it is washed out in the upper segment of the wall and in the above-ground parts of the face (fig. 8).

The “western” tower has a horseshoe ground plan; its wall is tied to the outer circuit wall (fig. 9). The tower projects 2.15 m from the line of the wall. It measures 3.3 by 3.3 m; the wall is from 0.7 to 0.8 m thick. From the south east, it is closed with a straight wall, pierced with a 0.54 m wide entrance opening

connecting it with the interior of the complex. Vestiges of steps leading to the area inside of the tower were uncovered. The upper segment of the wall is clearly discernible; in the southern section the course of the wall is partially broken. Its outer face, covered with the debris and present-day humus, was uncovered in a probe taken at the junction of the inner wall with the wall of the tower. The masonry bond, building material and mortar are identical to those seen in the inner circuit wall. Carefully processed large rectangular stones are visible in the corners of the entrance opening.

The “northern” tower is the worst preserved. It most probably has a horseshoe ground plan; its wall is tied to the inner





Fig. 4. The outer circuit wall, southern section, the outer face (*photo M. Trzeciecki*)

Ryc. 4. Zewnętrzny obwód obronny, część południowa, powierzchnia zewnętrzna (*fot. M. Trzeciecki*)



Fig. 5. The outer circuit wall, north-eastern section, general view of the upper segment of the wall (*photo M. Trzeciecki*)

Ryc. 5. Zewnętrzny obwód obronny, część północno-wschodnia, ogólny widok górnego odcinka muru (*fot. M. Trzeciecki*)





Fig. 6. Rock-hewn entrance in the southern section of the outer circuit wall (*photo M. Trzeciecki*)

Ryc. 6. Wejście z ciosanych kamieni w południowej części obwodu zewnętrznego (*fot. M. Trzeciecki*)

circuit wall. Its full outline could not be determined (fig. 10). The upper segment of the wall is clearly recognizable in the southern section; in the northern and north-eastern section the course of wall is most probably broken; in the southern part, the inner face is clearly discernible. From the south east, the tower is closed with a straight wall, pierced with an entrance opening connecting it with the interior of the complex. The width of the tower is 3.42 m, the thickness of the wall – 0.8 m, the width of the entrance opening – 0.66 m. The masonry bond, building material and mortar are identical to those seen in the inner circuit wall.

The eastern” tower is constructed on the horseshoe or polygonal ground plan (the corner of the inner face of the tower’s wall has been discerned). It is adjacent to the inner circuit wall and projects c. 5.8 m from the line of the wall. A 0.96 m wide entrance opening is located in the south-eastern wall of the tower. No traces of communication with the interior of the complex have been discovered (fig. 11). The upper segment of the tower’s wall is clearly recognizable in the southern and northern section; in the north-eastern section it is covered with the debris. The inner face is clearly visible in the in the southern and northern section; the outer face is covered with the debris and present-day humus. The dimensions of the structure are c. 5.8 by 6.7 m, the thickness of the wall is 1.2 to 1.3 m, maximum height of the wall is 1.2 m. The masonry bond, building material and mortar are identical to those seen in the inner circuit wall, although the arrangement of stones in the inner face of the tower’s wall is less precise than

in the case of the outer circuit wall and the “eastern” tower. Carefully processed large rectangular stones are visible in the corners of the entrance opening.

#### RELICS OF INNER STRUCTURES WITHIN THE DEFENSIVE PERIMETER

Relics of a small single-nave church were recorded in the central part of the hill’s summit (fig. 12; cf. fig. 3). The structure had a rectangular ground plan, with its longer axis oriented along the NW–SE line. From the north west, it is closed with a straight wall, from the south east – with a semicircular apse (fig. 13). A trace of a division in the form of a straight wall tied to the main wall is discernible in c.  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the length of the interior (fig. 14). The upper segment and faces of the walls have been uncovered to the height of two layers of stones, thus discovering the full outline of the north-western, south-western and south-eastern wall with the apse. Masonry of the dividing wall was uncovered on the distance of 0.6 m at its junction with the south-western wall. The north-eastern wall is inaccessible since a modern wall has been positioned upon it. The length of the north-western and south-eastern wall is 4.2 m, the length of the south-western wall – 8.1 m, diameter of the apse – 3.15 m, depth of the apse – 1.35 m. The building material and masonry bond are identical as in the inner circuit wall and the towers. Stones were cemented with lime mortar with a small admixture of minute brick shards. In the process





Fig. 7. State of preservation of the upper segment of the inner circuit wall in the western section (photo M. Trzeciecki)

Ryc. 7. Stan zachowania górnego fragmentu wewnętrznego obwodu w zachodniej części (fot. M. Trzeciecki)

of uncovering the upper segment of the wall, fragments of flat bricks and ceramic roof tiles were found in the humus cover.

A corner of a rectangular stone structure is discernible on the ground level in the south-eastern part of the summit, within the inner defensive perimeter. Single stones of the upper segment of the southern wall were recorded on the distance of 6.1 m, of the eastern wall – on the distance of 0.8 m; the thickness of the wall was indiscernible.

In the eastern part of the summit, between the outer and the inner circuit wall, the south-eastern corner of a structure (?) currently sunk into the ground has been recorded. The full course of its walls was not uncovered. The walls were positioned partially on a destroyed fragment of the upper surface of the outer circuit wall.

### 3. STRUCTURES ON THE HILL SLOPE

On the southern slope of the hill, below the fortifications on the summit, a circuit wall was recorded, surrounding a natural (?) plateau of c. 40 ares from the south and south-west (fig. 15). The wall was recorded on the combined length of 64.20 m; its thickness was from 1.8 to 2.4 m, maximum height of the outer face reached c. 1 m.

The wall is discernible on the level of its upper segment, covered partially with the debris and partially with present-day humus and vegetation (fig. 16). The outer face, preserved to the maximum height of 5–6 layers of stones, was documented; the inner face is discernible only in places, preserved to the height of 1–2 layers of stones.

The wall was built in the *opus emplectum* technique. The inner and outer face were laid, without the use of mortar, of layers of large slabs, with their edges aligned and with smaller pieces fitted in the free spaces. The bond of the stones in the outer face is chaotic. Between the faces, the wall is filled with rubble of small stones. The building material is hewn stone worked, with varying degrees of precision, into rectangular or polygonal blocks; single stones with no traces of processing are visible in the outer face (fig. 17).

The western part of the plateau is closed with a wall running along a straight line, positioned partially on the upper segment of the southern circuit wall. Its south-eastern face is discern-





Fig. 8. The inner circuit wall, eastern section, the outer face (*photo M. Trzeciecki*)

Ryc. 8. Wewnętrzny obwód obronny, część wschodnia, powierzchnia zewnętrzna (*fot. M. Trzeciecki*)



Fig. 9. The “western” tower – general view (*photo M. Trzeciecki*)

Ryc. 9. Baszta „zachodnia” – widok ogólny (*fot. M. Trzeciecki*)





Fig. 10. The “northern” tower – general view (*photo M. Trzeciecki*)  
 Ryc. 10. Baszta „północna” – widok ogólny (*fot. M. Trzeciecki*)



Fig. 11. The “eastern” tower – view of the tower’s southern wall with the entrance opening (*photo M. Trzeciecki*)  
 Ryc. 11. Baszta „wschodnia” – widok południowego muru wieży z otworem wejściowym (*fot. M. Trzeciecki*)



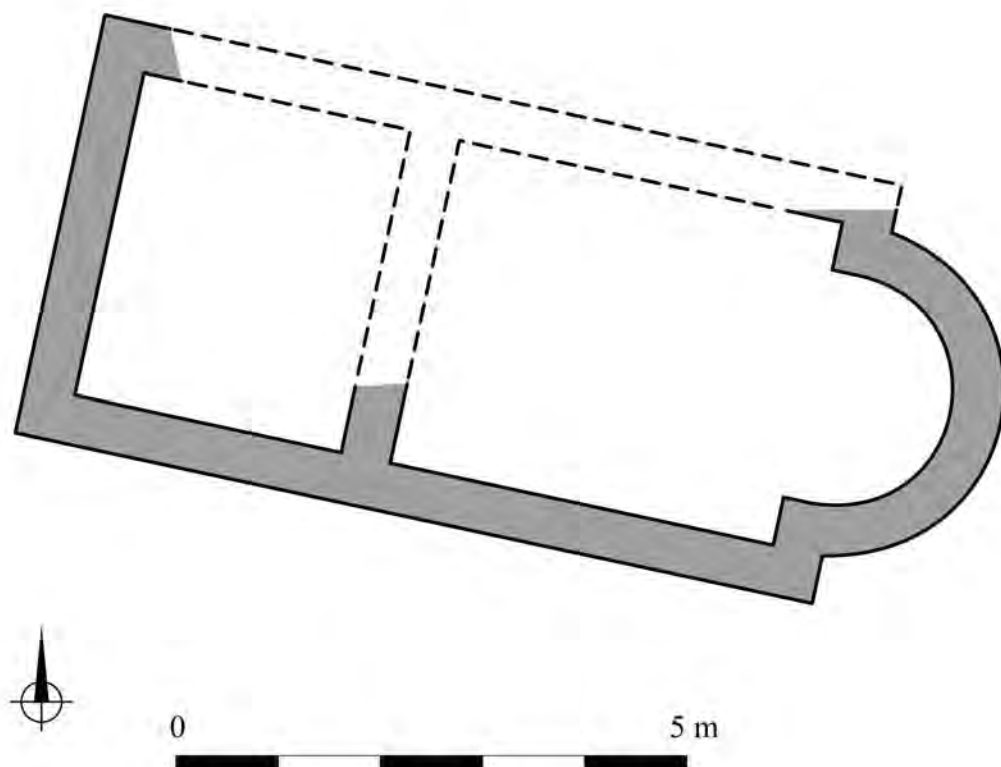


Fig. 12. The church – collective ground plan of the relics (*by Z. Polak, M. Trzeciecki*)  
 Ryc. 12. Kościół – zbiorczy plan pozostałości (*wg Z. Polak, M. Trzeciecki*)



Fig. 13. The church – general view of the eastern part with the apse (*photo M. Trzeciecki*)  
 Ryc. 13. Kościół – widok ogólny części wschodniej z apsydą (*fot. M. Trzeciecki*)





Fig. 14. The church – general view of the western part with the wall separating the nave from the narthex (photo M. Trzeciecki)  
 Ryc. 14. Kościół – widok ogólny części zachodniej z murem oddzielającym nawę od narteksu (fot. M. Trzeciecki)

ible on the distance of c. 14 m. The larger part of its course, being covered with present-day humus and vegetation, is inaccessible. The building material are hewn and natural stones of varying sizes, laid chaotically, without the use of mortar.

In the central part of the plateau, a wall running parallel to the southern circuit wall was recorded to the north east of it.

The larger part of its course is inaccessible; its south-western face is discernible on the distance of 34 m. The building material are hewn and natural stones of varying sizes, laid chaotically, without the use of mortar.

#### 4. INTERPRETATION

Works conducted in the spring of 2012 had the character of an introductory survey; however, already on this basis it is possible to determine in general the constructional and chronological connections between the relics.

Analyses of building techniques, as well as the materials and mortars used during construction, indicate the existence of two groups of relics, representing two phases in the functioning of the complex. The first of those includes walls constructed of large stone blocks laid without the use of mortar in the *opus emplectum* technique with stone rubble filling. These are the walls of the outer defensive perimeter on the summit of the hill. In the case of the southern circuit wall surrounding the plateau on the south-eastern slope, an analogous technique of construction has been discerned, although the masonry bond on the face is noticeably different.

It can be assumed, therefore, that in the first phase, a bipartite defensive complex was functioning on the hill. The

summit was surrounded with a more or less rectangular circuit wall, with an entrance hewn in the rock on the southern side. Adjacent to it on the south-west was a lower defensive perimeter, outlined by the course of the southern circuit wall (fig. 18). The potential of dating the structures associated with the first phase is limited. An analogy can be provided only by the comparative analysis of the form of the complex and the technique applied in building the walls.

Defensive complexes surrounded with a broad wall built without mortar appear in the territory of Montenegro and northern Albania in the early Iron Age and are generally described as “Illyrian”. Their characteristic feature is their bipartite structure, consisting of a defensive perimeter on the summit of a hill, often described as the “acropolis”, and an associated defensive perimeter on the slope. The oldest such complexes, the beginnings of which are dated to the late Bronze Age, typically have a circular outline of the “acropolis” walls, and walls



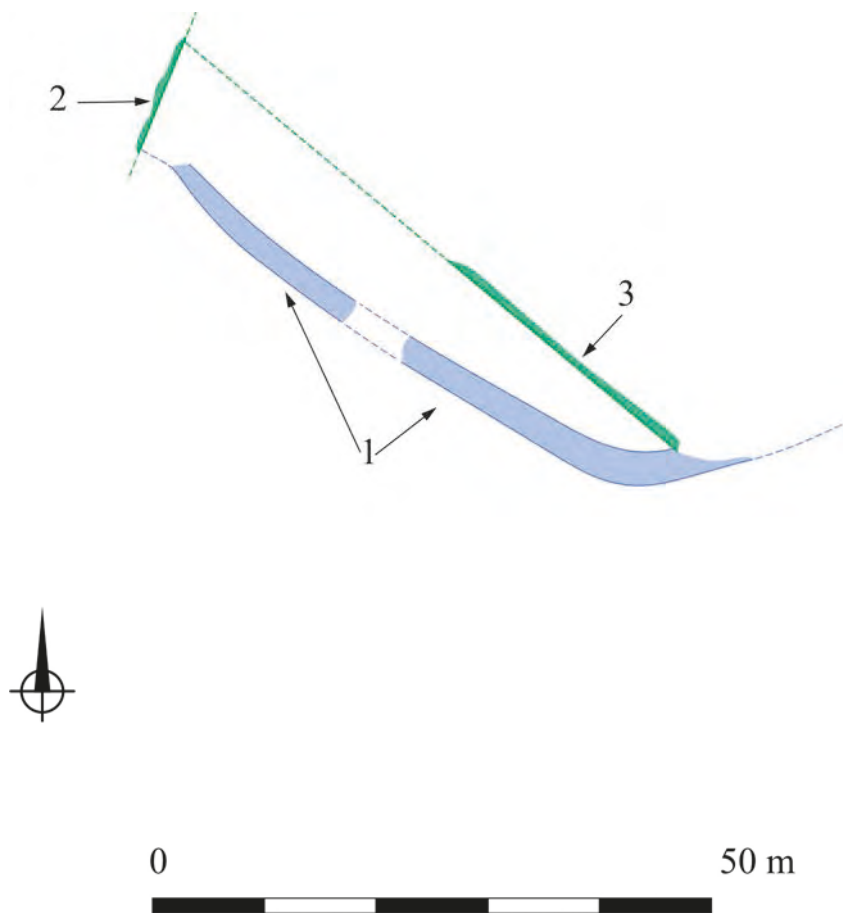


Fig. 15. Đuteza Hill – relics of buildings on the slope: 1 – southern circuit wall, 2–3 – unidentified masonry structures (by Z. Polak, M. Trzeciecki)

Ryc. 15. Wzgórze Đuteza – pozostałości budynków na stoku: 1 – południowy obwód muru, 2–3 – niezidentyfikowane konstrukcje murowane (wg Z. Polak, M. Trzeciecki)



Fig. 16. The state of preservation of the upper segment of the southern circuit wall (photo M. Trzeciecki)

Ryc. 16. Stan zachowania górnej części południowego obwodu muru (fot. M. Trzeciecki)





Fig. 17. Southern circuit wall – the outer face (photo M. Trzeciecki)

Ryc. 17. Południowy obwód obronny – powierzchnia zewnętrzna (fot. M. Trzeciecki)

constructed of unprocessed stone blocks. In the later period, between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> century BC, there emerge complexes with the outline approximating a rectangle, surrounded with walls built of stones worked into large rectangular or polygonal blocks laid with attention to the precise alignment of faces. Location on clearly isolated hills with the summit elevation higher than 100 m above sea level is also characteristic to those later defensive settlements (P. Mijović, M. Kovačević 1975, s. 8–20; O. Velimirović-Žižić 1986, s. 84–85; G. Karaiskiaj 2004, s. 36–56; Č. Marković 2006, s. 240–243, 270–278).

Upon this basis, the first phase of the fortifications should be associated with the Iron Age and considered to be a remnant of a typical “Illyrian” defensive complex from the period between the early 3<sup>rd</sup> and the late 1<sup>st</sup> century BC. Đuteza differs from the best known settlements of this type, such as Shkodër or Medun, with respect to the wall construction technique. Instead of the typical *moenia aeacia* built of closely fitted, often polygonal stones, it has large, rectangular blocks of hewn stone laid in layers and supplemented with smaller stones. Very interesting in this context are the similarities in the wall construction technique between Đuteza and several other defensive settlements located in the vicinity, especially the second-phase walls of the complex on Samobor Hill on Lake Skadar and the relics of fortifications on Oblun Hill near Podgorica. Both those complexes were founded most probably in mid-3<sup>rd</sup> century BC. Oblun was in operation for a relatively short time, whereas Samobor continued in uninterrupted use until 5<sup>th</sup> century AD (P. Mijović, M. Kovačević 1975, s. 15–19; see also O. Velimirović-Žižić 1986, s. 84–85).

The second group are walls built of hewn stone laid in layers and cemented with lime mortar. These are relics of the inner circuit wall and the “western” and “northern” towers associated with it. A parallel construction technique was recorded in case of the “eastern” tower, adjacent to the circuit wall, and an ecclesiastical building located in the central part of the defensive perimeter. The poorly discernible edifice in its south-western section can most probably be linked with this group. Those structures represent the second phase of construction of the defensive complex.

The course of the circuit wall, curving around the summit of the hill from the west, north and east, defined the perimeter. The southern line of the circuit wall was most probably laid on top of the upper segment of the circuit wall dating from the earlier phase. From the west and north, the line of defenses was strengthened with small horseshoe-shaped towers projecting from the line of the wall and provided with entrances facing towards the inside the perimeter. The “eastern” tower, adjoining to the face of the circuit wall, was provided with an entrance facing the outside. It may have played the role of an entrance, although there is no indication that the rock-hewn gate in the southern stretch of the circuit wall went out of use. In the central part of the area encompassed by the wall there was a small, single-nave church with an apse to the east and with a discernible interior division in  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the length of the nave (fig. 19). In this phase, the defensive perimeter on the south-western slope of the hill was most probably no longer in operation.

The form of the complex and the construction techniques relative to the second phase find analogies in the area of Mon-

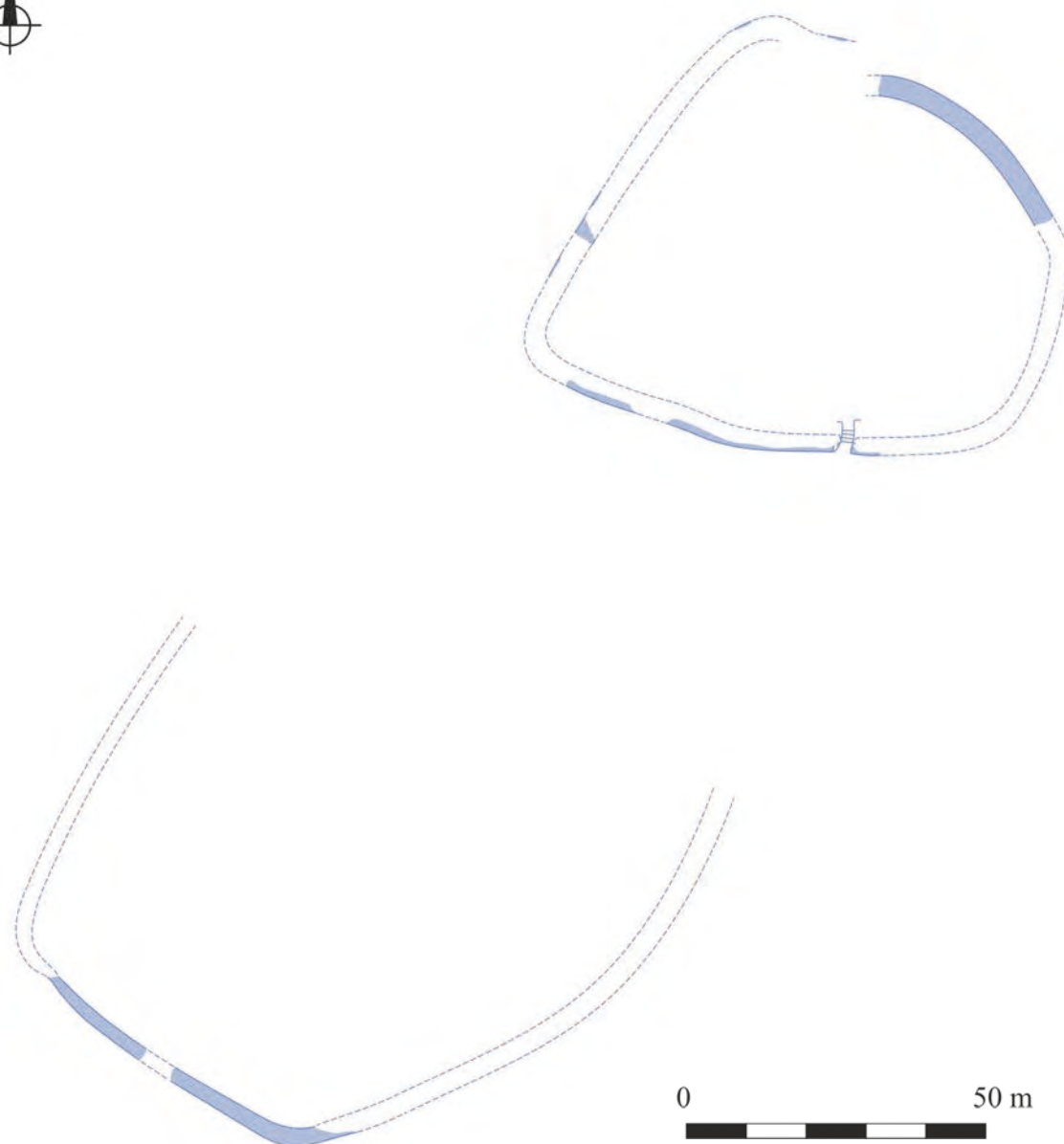


Fig. 18. Conjectural reconstruction of the first phase of the defensive complex on Đuteza Hill (by Z. Polak, M. Trzeciecki)

Ryc. 18. Prawdopodobna rekonstrukcja pierwszej fazy kompleksu obronnego na Wzgórzu Đuteza (wg Z. Polak, M. Trzeciecki)

tenegro and northern Albania. An overwhelming majority of relevant sites has not been excavated; so far, the research was limited to more or less cursory cataloguing and the preparation of a collective ground plan of the relics discernible above ground. On the basis of data regarding construction techniques, those fortifications are generally dated to the late Antiquity or very early Middle Ages (P. Mijović, M. Kovačević 1975, s. 151–159; I. Mikulčić 2002, 58ff; D. Janković 2007, 157ff; G. Karaiskiaj 2010, s. 13–20). In the case of structures documented on Đuteza Hill, several characteristic features can be observed: the layered bond of stones in the wall, liberal application of cohesive mortar, typical forms of towers. The relics of a church discovered inside the defensive walls constitute a separate issue.

In the late Antiquity, in the territory of the *Praevalitana* province that encompassed the larger part of today's Monte-

negro, defensive architecture is represented chiefly by fortifications of Dalmatian towns and the city walls of the provincial capital Doclea. In use were also a few smaller complexes – forts built close to the main roads, whose structure referred to the Roman military encampments (P. Mijović, M. Kovačević 1975, s. 36–63; D. Janković 2007, s. 171–173; S. Gelichi et al. 2012; M. Živanović, A. Stamenković 2012). The Slav and Avar invasions of the 6<sup>th</sup> century destroyed local administrative structures and caused a temporary or, as in the case of Doclea, permanent depopulation of the majority of towns. In that period, the only defensive structures were the so-called *refugia*, large complexes usually protected only by makeshift ramparts of stone or stone and timber (cf. I. Mikulčić 2002, s. 61–63). An increase in construction was brought about only by the reconstruction of the administrative platform, initiated by the Byz-



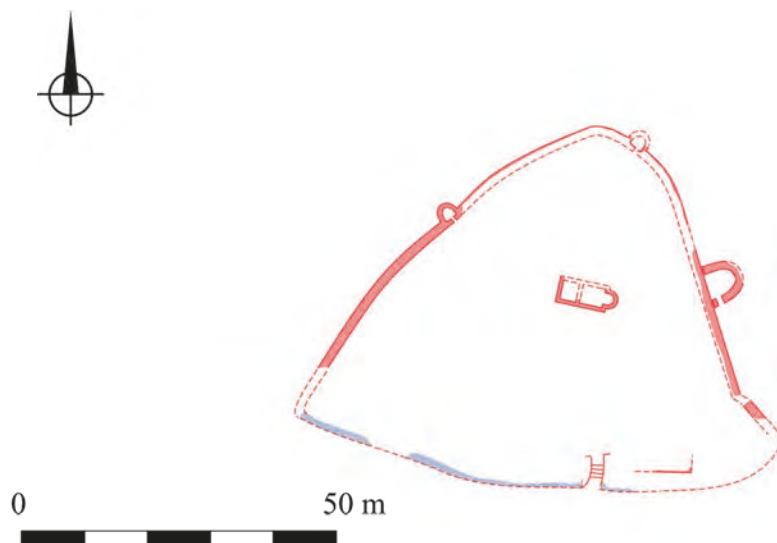


Fig. 19. Conjectural reconstruction of the second phase of the defensive complex on Đuteza Hill (by Z. Polak, M. Trzeciecki)

Fig. 19. Prawdopodobna rekonstrukcja drugiej fazy kompleksu obronnego na Wzgórzu Đuteza (wg Z. Polak, M. Trzeciecki)

antine rulers, which nevertheless did not extend to the area of interest here; in this area, the first tribal dominions of the Slavs began to emerge. Yet, together with Christianisation and the development of state structures, the area was influenced by Byzantine construction techniques, which were not far from the late-Roman traditions and hence easy to adapt (I. Mikulčić 2002, 61ff; D. Janković 2007, 157ff, with relevant literature).

A defensive perimeter consisting of a single circuit wall with towers is a feature shared by Byzantine strongholds, built in considerable numbers in the neighboring Macedonia, and castles built by the first rulers of Duklja. The towers had the outline of a horseshoe, pentagon or triangle and were always provided with an entrance facing towards the inside the perimeter. Gates were usually positioned in the curtain wall, in close proximity to a tower. Location of the main gate in one of the towers, usually in a side wall, is also characteristic to those structures (P. Mijović, M. Kovačević 1975, 155–157; I. Mikulčić 2002, 63ff; D. Janković 2007, s. 169–172). Regarding the fortifications themselves, the construction technique differed slightly from the late-Roman standards. Instead of massive walls built in the *opus emplectum* technique, there appear wall with thickness not exceeding 1.2–1.6 m, built of hewn stone laid in layers and cemented with liberally applied mortar. The use of stone and brick is characteristic to regions under the direct control of Byzantium, the use of stone alone is typical to areas located to the north, including the principality of Duklja (I. Mikulčić 2002, s. 91–99; D. Janković 2007, s. 171). The masonry bonds of the walls do not differ much from the late-Roman civil construction (the closest analogies here provided by the architecture of Doclea); however, they differ considerably from techniques applied in the later phases of the Middle Ages (M. Živanović, A. Stamenković 2012, s. 126–128).

Very close analogies to the second phase of Đuteza fortifications are provided by strongholds built in the 7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> century by the rulers of the principality of Duklja. Among those, particularly outstanding are large complexes such as Shurdhah in

Albania, Svač and Gradina Martinići in Montenegro (P. Mijović, M. Kovačević 1975, s. 115, 131–132; O. Velimirović-Žižić 1986, s. 86–87; D. Janković 2007, s. 159, 165–166; G. Karaiskiaj 2010, s. 244–246). Irrespective of size, they have similar dimensions and wall construction techniques; small, horseshoe-shaped towers are typical to those complexes. The gate complex at Shurdhah may constitute an analogy to Đuteza's "eastern" tower with the entrance leading outside (Karaiskiaj 2010, 95–96, Abb. 36). All the above-mentioned strongholds were provided with ecclesiastical buildings, usually basilicas, which is connected with the mainly residential function of those complexes. The defensive complex on Oblun Hill near Podgorica, dated to the 9<sup>th</sup>–10<sup>th</sup> century and located on the remnants of the Iron Age defensive settlement, is an example of a structure similar to Đuteza in its scale. Its circuit wall enclosed a space of c. 50 ares, and a small ecclesiastical building was located at the centre of the defensive perimeter (P. Mijović, M. Kovačević 1975, s. 120–121; D. Janković 2007, s. 116).

Relics of an ecclesiastical building documented in the course of research reported herein are a vestige of a small single-nave church, from the east closed with a shallow semicircular apse, with a narthex, separate from the nave, but not isolated on the outline of the building, from the west. While the presence of the church points to the importance of early-medieval Đuteza, its form does not provide the basis for a clarification of its chronology.

Small single-nave churches with an apse and a narthex appeared in the late Antiquity, particularly in Dalmatia. The oldest buildings of this type can be dated to 4<sup>th</sup>–5<sup>th</sup> century (P. Mijović 1978, s. 646–647; D. Janković 2007, s. 139–141). In the context of the building discovered in Đuteza, it is especially worthwhile to focus on the single-nave church in Ulcinj, dated to 4<sup>th</sup>–6<sup>th</sup> century, and an analogous church on Beška, an island on Lake Skadar, built in 7<sup>th</sup>–9<sup>th</sup> century (D. Janković 2007, s. 87–88, 124). Geographically more distant analogies include the church on Golem Grad island on Prespa Lake (I. Mikulčić 2002, s. 380, with relevant literature), as well as the so-called

north church and south church, described in the literature as “early-Byzantine”, in the episcopal complex at Studenica Hvostanska, which in the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> century was situated in the Serbian state (D. Janković 2007, s. 133–134).

In the light of the above data, the preliminary dating of second phase of the defensive complex on Đuteza Hill can be linked with the emergence of the principality of Duklja; its operation can be dated to 8<sup>th</sup>–11<sup>th</sup> century. The construction of masonry fortifications and the location of a church within their perimeter indicate that it was a centre of a more than local significance (cf. D. Janković 2007, s. 211–212). Concurrently, it cannot be ruled out that it is one of the oldest masonry structures constructed in this area after the breakdown

of the late-Roman structures of administration and settlement. The undeveloped architectural programme of the stronghold and the archaic, “early-Christian” form of the church may indirectly point to this early dating.

In summary, it must be stated that fortification, in local tradition bearing the name “Đuteza”, is a site which has an exceptionally large research potential. It must also be emphasized that the assumptions regarding the chronology and interpretation of the functions of the successive phases of the complex, which have been presented in this report, are no more than conjectures that would need to be verified in the course of excavations.

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Urszula Bugaj, Predrag Lutovac, Zbigniew Polak, Maciej Trzeciecki

## Relikty konstrukcji murowanych na wzgórzu Đuteza

### Streszczenie

Rozpoznanie reliktyw umocnień obronnych na wzgórzu Đuteza (alb. Qyutëtëze) w okolicach wsi Dinoša przeprowadzono wiosną 2012 r., w ramach polsko-czarnogórskiego projektu „The cultural landscape of Copper/Bronze Age Malesija, Montenegro”. Wzgórze stanowi część masywu górskiego zamykającego od północy równinę Zety. W trakcie badań dokonano autopsji czytelnych na poziomie terenu reliktyw, przeprowadzono inwentaryzację, sporządzono plan zbiorczy, wykonano dokumentację fotograficzną i opisową.

Na kulminacji wzgórza zarejestrowano pozostałości dwóch obwodów obronnych oraz relikty zabudowy wnętrza. Zewnętrzny obwód obronny tworzy kamienny mur otaczający obszar na planie nieregularnego czworoboku o powierzchni około 52 arów. Mur wzniesiono w technice *opus emplectum*, lica wykonano z dużych bloków kamiennych układanych bez stosowania zaprawy. Na południowym odcinku muru znajduje się wykuty

w skale korytarz, prawdopodobnie wejście. Wewnętrzny obwód obronny tworzy mur obwodowy na planie podkowy, otaczający od zachodu, wschodu i północy kulminację wzgórza, od południa prawdopodobnie dostawiony do linii przebiegu muru zewnętrznego, zamyka on obszar o powierzchni około 26 arów. Mur wzniesiono z kamieni układanych warstwami i związanych zaprawą wapienną. Z murem powiązane są trzy baszty zlokalizowane w zachodniej, północnej i wschodniej części obwodu. Mają one plan podkowy, baszty zachodnia i północna posiadają wejścia prowadzące do wnętrza obwodu. Baszta wschodnia ma analogiczny plan, z tym że otwór wejściowy znajduje się w jej murze południowo-wschodnim – na zewnątrz obwodu obronnego.

W centralnej części kulminacji wzgórza zarejestrowano relikty jednonawowego kościoła z apsydą od wschodu i czytelnym podziałem wnętrza na 1/3 długości nawy. Wątek

mur jest identyczny, jak w przypadku wewnętrznego muru obwodowego i baszt. W trakcie odsłaniania korony muru, w przykrywającym ją humusie natrafiono na fragmenty płaskich cegieł oraz ceramicznych dachówek. W południowo-wschodniej części kulminacji wzgórza na poziomie gruntu czytelny jest narożnik nieokreślonej prostokątnej budowli kamiennej.

Słabo zachowane reliktu kolejnego obwodu obronnego znajdują się na południowo-zachodnim stoku wzgórza. Zarejestrowano tu mur obwodowy otaczający od południa i południowego zachodu *plateau* o powierzchni około 40 arów. Mur wzniesiono w technice *opus emplectum* z dużych ciosów kamiennych układanych bez stosowania zaprawy.

Analizy technik budowy murów pozwalają wyróżnić dwie fazy chronologiczne. W fazie pierwszej na wzgórzu funkcjonowało dwuczłonowe założenie obronne. Kulminację otaczał mur obwodowy o zarysie zbliżonym do czworoboku, od południowego zachodu przylegał do niego niższy obwód obronny. Mury wzniesiono z dużych bloków kamiennych układanych bez stosowania zaprawy.

Założenia obronne otoczone suchym murem pojawiają się na terenie Czarnogóry i północnej Albanii we wcześniejszej epoce żelaza i powszechnie określane są jako „iliryjskie”. Na tej podstawie pierwszą fazę fortyfikacji należałoby uznać za pozostałość typowego „iliryjskiego” założenia obronnego

z okresu między początkiem III a schyłkiem I w. p.n.e. Istnieją zbieżności w technice budowy muru między Đutezą a kilkoma innymi położonymi w sąsiedztwie osiedlami obronnymi, datowanymi na III w. p.n.e., m.in. na wzgórzu Samobor nad jeziorem Szkoderskim oraz na górze Oblun koło Podgoricy.

Drugą fazę stanowią reliktu wewnętrznego muru obwodowego, powiązane z nim baszty i kościół. Cechą charakterystyczną jest stosowanie kamienia ciosanego, warstwowy układ kamieni w licu i stosowanie zaprawy wapiennej.

Bardzo bliskie analogie do drugiej fazy fortyfikacji Đutezy stanowią twierdze budowane w VIII–X w. na terenie słowiańskiego księstwa Duklji, m.in.: Shurdhah (Albania), Svač, Gradina Martinići, Oblun. We wszystkich tych twierdzach znajdowały się budowle sakralne, z reguły bazyliki, co wiązało się z rezydencjonalną funkcją założeń. Jednonawowe kościoły z wydzielonym narteksem, analogiczne do budowli odkrytej na Đutezie pojawiają się w IV–V w., przede wszystkim na obszarze Dalmacji, rozwiązanie to jest obecne w sakralnej architekturze zachodnich Bałkanów jeszcze w X–XI w. W świetle przytoczonych wyżej danych drugą fazę założenia obronnego na Đutezie można wstępnie wiązać z kształtowaniem się księstwa Duklji i datować jego funkcjonowanie na VIII–XI w. Budowa murowanych fortyfikacji i pomieszczenie w ich obrębie kościoła wskazują, że był to ośrodek o znaczeniu ponadlokalnym.